



***“The Voice”* Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton**

201 Troendle Street SW; PO Box 413
Mapleton, MN 56065

AUGUST 2016

Address Service Requested

*“The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship
of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated
to the Maple River community.”*

The United Church of Mapleton
PO Box 413, 201 Troendle St SW
Mapleton, MN 56065



THE UNITED CHURCH OF MAPLETON

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m. Nursery Care
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	3	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship with <i>Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection</i>	8 6:30-8:30pm Community-Wide Vacation Bible School at St. Teresa and St. John churches 7:00pm Women's Fellowship	9 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 6:30-8:30pm Community-Wide Vacation Bible School at St. Teresa and St. John churches	10 6:30-8:30pm Community-Wide Vacation Bible School at St. Teresa and St. John churches	11	12 RECYCLE!	13 8:30—10:30am Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran <i>(held in Chapel Lounge for summer months)</i>
14 9:00am Worship 6:05pm Mankato Moon Dogs Game	15	16 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 7:30pm Pianist/ Organist meeting	17 7:00pm Church Council	18	19	20
21 9:00am Worship with <i>Youth Center Collection</i>	22	23 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	24	25 8:00am items for September newsletter are due into the church office	26 RECYCLE!	27
28 9:00am Worship	29	30 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	31			

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

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	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Lay Leader				
Hospitality Team Lead		Jola Walker	Cindy and Warren Allevan	Darlene Fezler
Coffee Hour	Church Council	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Christian Education

Church Financial Envelope

For privacy and ease, please make a notation on the front of your envelope: **c/o Financial Secretary**. Thank you!



Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call **Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168** or **Joyce Johnson at 524-3727**. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not you would like your request included in the church's public prayer list or if you'd prefer the request be kept privately within the prayer chain.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, August 7th, 2016 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission. The United Church supports this mission on the **first Sunday** of each month.

Loaves & Fishes hours are Tuesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00-Noon. The food shelf is always in need of volunteers to work. Please contact your church food shelf board member to volunteer!

The Maple River Youth Center

Sunday, August 14th, 2016 the Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at the youth center. The United Church supports this mission on the **third Sunday** of each month.

Sign-Up for Lay Ministries!

Please sign-up for **Lay Leader, Hospitality Team Lead, and Communion Servers** on the Ministry Table. Thank you in advance for your service!

How to Contact Pastor Ashley

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org. Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours) Every Wednesday 6:00-7:30 p.m. Film, Fun, & Faith *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

Pastor's Corner*The Voice* – August 2016

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:43-45

It's impossible to ignore the fact that our nation is in the midst of a highly contentious presidential election cycle. As I write this column, the Republican National Convention just concluded and the Democratic National Convention has just begun. Regardless of your political beliefs, many people are saying that this election cycle has become too fractious and emotionally charged to endure, and yet endure it we must, since becoming a well educated and engaged voter is our civic duty.

However, I believe that one antidote to the frustration we may feel in the midst of the 24/7 sensationalist news cycle is prayer. I don't say that lightly; too often, people refer to prayer as a way to sidestep true commitment and engagement, when in reality, prayer quite often accomplishes the exact opposite. If we follow Jesus' exhortations regarding prayer, especially prayer for those we dislike or may even view as our enemies, we may indeed find some unexpected, life-giving, life-changing spiritual fruit. Rev. Vicki Kemper, in a recent UCC Stillspeaking Daily Devotional, puts it this way:

“I've never found "because I said so" a very compelling reason to do something. But whenever I resisted my parents' instructions or talked back or asked why, "Because I said so" was the answer I got. "I'm the boss of you," in other words. Yes, I know: Sometimes it's the last card remaining in an exasperated parent's hand. And it's almost always for our own good.

But Jesus wasn't interested in being anyone's boss. (As far as we know, he never said, “Argh! Because I'm the Lord, that's why!”) He came that we might have life, and his radical love showed us what that is. Still, he realized some of his teachings would strike us as impractical, impossible, or just plain ridiculous. He knew we would balk and ask why: “I'm supposed to love a mass murderer, Jesus? Really? I'm supposed to pray for a racist bully? You've got to be kidding. And that person in church who annoys me to no end? Come on.”

But Jesus doesn't play the boss card—or even the savior card. Instead, he offers explanations, incentives, and his own life. "So that," he says. Love your enemies so that resentment and bitterness won't eat you alive. Love your enemies so that you might be delivered from the prison of us-them thinking. Love your enemies so that all the faults you project onto others might be healed within yourself. Love your enemies so that God might find a dwelling place in you.

Pray for those who persecute you so that you might come to realize how much they're like you: wounded, frightened, precious, hungry for love, and usually doing the best they can. Pray for them so that you can live more fully as a beloved child of God. Pray for them that we might be one, siblings all.”

Lord, may it be so. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Marian Mallory, Sean Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- The people of Britain, as they seek the way forward after Thursday's vote to exit the European Union
- The people of West Virginia whose lives have been devastated by recent flooding
- For the families of Philando Castille, Alton Sterling, and the five Dallas police officers killed in the past week
- All those affected by the attack in Nice, France on July 14th during Bastille Day celebrations, leaving at least 84 people dead and over 300 wounded
- All those affected by the coup d'état attempt in Turkey on July 15th and 16th, leaving over 265 dead and 1,400 wounded
- Phyllis Lindemann, who has been undergoing evaluation testing for a double lung transplant at the University of Minnesota. She has been cleared to join the transplant list, but faces potential problems with finding a match to avoid rejection.
- Mary Dietz, who is experiencing health difficulties due to high stress
- All those affected by the explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan on Saturday, July 23rd in the midst of a peaceful demonstration by members of a Shiite minority group, which left 80 dead and at least 260 wounded.
- All those affected by the shooting in Munich, Germany on Friday, July 22nd, which left ten people dead (including the gunman) and 27 wounded.



The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during last month's worship services include:

Prayers:

- For Donna Webb for health concerns
- For safe travel for summer vacationers
- For God's blessing on The United Church family
- For God's calm in the midst of crisis for those affected by the West Virginia flooding
- For friend, Debbie, dealing with heart issues
- For traveling mercies for our daughter, Jeni, traveling to New York for a wedding
- For Jeannie Jackson, her husband, and all of their foster daughters. May they all continue to grow in God's loving care.
- For my family and foster family to know how much they mean to me
- For my mother to get well from addiction and for my family to be rejoined and happy. I also pray that my grandmother made it safe to heaven and is free of pain.
- For my family to be well and for me to be happy and smile! And also for my mom to not be sick.
- That my great-grandma is better in heaven and is no longer in pain (she passed 7/19/15). I also pray that my mom would stay happy.
- For peace to our nation and for healing and understanding each other
- For healing of all wounded spirits
- For all the families that have lost their kids to violence
- That, in our hour of turmoil, we would not judge, but prayerfully seek discernment
- For healing hearts and bodies after a loss
- For families, that they would be brought closer in your love
- For Tim and Phyllis Lindemann, who are en route to the U of M for five days of testing to see if Phyllis is a candidate for a double lung transplant
- For safe travels for a great-granddaughter who is en route to Springfield, MO
- For all who seek God's love and guidance; let it be a joyous adventure

Sunday Morning Wheelchair Assistance

If you are in need of wheelchair assistance on Sunday mornings, please let us know by calling the church office at (507) 524-3141 ahead of time to make arrangements **or** you may have an usher assist you on Sunday morning when you arrive at the church.

There is a ramp located on the east side of the church which can be utilized by parking in the east parking lot. If it is too difficult for you to push a wheelchair up the ramp, please feel free to contact an Usher or Deacon for assistance.

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations committee (PRC) exists to foster healthy and clear communication between pastor and congregation. PRC meetings are a regular and confidential means of support and accountability for the pastor.

PRC members keep their ear to the ground in the congregation to help keep the pastor in-the-know about possible issues or concerns, and they can bring constructive and addressable concerns to the pastor from the congregation.

Our PRC members are Laura Fritz, Warren Allevan, and Joyce Johnson.

Pastoral Care Connections

If you or a family member is ill, in the hospital, is homebound, would like a pastoral care visit for any reason, or would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, **please let the church know!**

Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office to let us know so that we may serve you.

Pastor Ashley's phone number is: (507) 381-8199 and the church phone number is: (507) 524-3141. Thank you!

Call to Ministry and Ministry Table

If you would like to share a Call to Ministry at the beginning of worship, please contact Marissa Pfeffer or the church office no later than Wednesday evening before that Sunday. The same timeline is requested for bulletin or Ministry Table information. The Call to Ministry time will be reserved for one announcement that is both informational and a call to action and should be directly related to The United Church of Mapleton's mission and ministry. The Ministry Table in the entryway has information about church ministry opportunities and community events.

Garden of Eatin' Season

Garden Produce Update: 86.9 lbs.

There are sheets posted for you to sign-up and volunteer throughout the season to tend, water, pick and deliver produce. **On any given week, produce can be delivered Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.** Let us continue to grow and show love in our community with this great mission!



Foster Care Home for Girls

Please, let us help the 8 girls from the foster care home who visited us on July 10th! Check out the handmade quilts, hanging on the back pews, that are going to these girls which were lovingly made by the United Church Quilting Group. Thank you Quilters! Any other donated items may be placed in the bin located in the narthex or given to Sheila Samuelson, as she will deliver them. Thank you!

Church World Service

It's the time of year when there are good buys on school supplies. It is also the time of the year when we help Church World Service meet the escalating demands for **School Kits and Hygiene Kits**. We will not be assembling Baby Kits this year. We will be assembling Kits from now until mid-August. Take advantage of all the sales. A list of Kit materials can be found in the foyer and in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Call Pat John. Thank you!

Community-Wide Vacation Bible School

(children who finished Kindergarten, those going into 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and those who finished 5th grade)

August 8th, 9th and 10th
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

6:30-8:30 p.m.

St. John Lutheran and
St. Teresa Catholic churches



Free Community Breakfast

On the second Saturday of each month, everyone in the community is invited to a free breakfast held at St. John Lutheran Church. See you **Saturday, August 9th** from 8:30-10:30 a.m. **During the summer months we will be in the Chapel Lounge.**

Senior Dining/Meals on Wheels of Mapleton

You are invited to dine at the Town & Country Leisure Center! Nutritious and delicious **Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m.** The cost of a meal is \$4.00, as a suggested donation for those 60+. Low-salt and diabetic meals are available. Stay afterwards to play cards or games and to enjoy the company of others.

Meals on Wheels is also available for those who wish to eat at home. Call Darlene at (507) 524-4868 for more information or to reserve your meal.

Meals are being furnished by Maggie J's for the summer month of August. You may also look for us on Facebook.

Mapleton VFW Auxiliary

Mapleton VFW Auxiliary will sponsor the Annual Pillow Cleaning on **Friday, August 5th from 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** at the VFW building on Main Street, Mapleton. Again, this year we will be open Thursday, August 4th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for dropping off pillows. Feather and polyester pillows can be cleaned with new ticking.

Caregiver Support Group

This group is for friends and family members who are in a caregiver role. There will be opportunity for sharing and education about memory loss. Join us for our August session on **Tuesday, August 2nd, 3:00-4:30 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, Amboy. There is no charge to attend. Questions? Call Joyce Kolbet (386-5583) at VINE Faith in Action.

Women's Fellowship

July 11th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Louise Webb with seven members present.

Devotions: Mary Beth Fritz gave devotions on Romans 2 regarding directions.

Sunshine Chairperson: Mabelle Larson sent out 12 cards.

Business:

We will be cleaning ovens at the next meeting. After some discussion Joyce Johnson made a motion that Women's Fellowship give the United Church Capitol and Improvement Fund \$1,000. This was seconded by Mary Beth Fritz and all were in favor.

Our next meeting will be held August 8th and our next coffee hour will be August 14th. Circle #1 will be in charge.

Meeting Adjourned.

A delicious lunch was served by Ruth Cumming

Respectfully Submitted,
Louise Webb, President

**United Church of Mapleton
Council Meeting
July 19, 2016**

Attendees: Dave Byram, Keith McCutchen, Pastor Ashley Whitaker, Pam Foster, Marissa Pfeffer, Ginny Kinzie, Gary Fritz

Devotional and Prayer: Gary; August: Pam

(Decided that if anyone had a report that needed the council's attention prior to the meeting to send said report directly to each council member when the report was completed.)

Secretary's/Clerk's Report: Read prior to meeting by members; Approved Keith, Seconded Marissa

Treasurer's Report: Read prior to meeting by members; Approved Marissa, Seconded Gary

Pastor's Report: Read prior to meeting by members; Approved Pam, Seconded Marissa

Vitality Discussion: Tabled

Property Report, Dave: Update on the parsonage renovation, which is progressing well. A warranty was attained for the roof for 50 years.

Will probably re-stripe the parking lots at a cost of approximately \$300.00 for paint, with donated labor from Dave and Jay, and anyone who can help.

Painting in Fellowship hall. Sheila has volunteered to do this but could use more hands to help.

Dave installed shelving in a closet for banner storage.

Organist: A pool of 6 to 7 people is being formed for rotating as church organist.

Sam Shubert will "work up" prototypes for a church logo, to get the process rolling for consideration of design, color and hue, and the meaning/epistle that the logo/church emanates.

Stewardship Team: Letterheads, etc., to be brought to the next meeting by Ashley.

The old office computer could still have a use for Gabe Samuelson. Motion to donate computer to Gabe; Approved Marissa, Seconded Gary. Computer will be donated after it is "wiped clean" of church information.

Artist and Craftsmen Show sponsored by the church: Saturday, November 19th from 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Items may be for display only or for display and sell. Notify (all) local artists, handicrafters, and the public of the show. Notify participants soon.

Church to the Moondogs: Sunday, August 14th, 6:05pm. 3 options for seating. Pre-sale by Chad and Ashley.

November 30th – Snowflake Dazzle

The church calendar and ministry can be found in the mailroom.

Summer (community) Bible School: August 8th, 9th, 10th. 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Participants are the United Church, Lutheran church, Catholic church, and Faith Bible church. Activities will be held at the Lutheran and Catholic churches.

End of the month statements will include a letter concerning church finances.

August 17th is the next council meeting, 7:00pm.

Report Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk, Gary Fritz