



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

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

February 2014

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
Mapleton, MN 56065



THE UNITED CHURCH OF MAPLETON


www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

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

Choir Practice 10:05 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages -
During Worship and After Worship

February 2014

						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Groundhog Day 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection <i>Choir Sings!</i> Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:05 a.m. Choir	6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Ed	1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation	3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room <i>Cookie order s due!</i>		9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties
9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 RECYCLE!
9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:05 a.m. Choir <i>Pick up Cookie orders</i>	7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Deacons 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation	3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room		
16	17 President's Day Washington's Birthday	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 a.m. Worship with The Well Collection <i>Choir Sings!</i> Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:05 a.m. Choir	6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder 3:00—6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes work day at St. John's	1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation	3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room Voice Articles due		9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties 9:00 a.m.—Noon Loaves & Fishes work day at St. John's
23	24	25	26	27	28	
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The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

February 2014

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Date:	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Greeters:	Stan and Linda Whitney	Dan and Sue Prenzlow	Mike and Julie Johnson	Doug and Laura Fritz
Coffee Hour:	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	The Well Youth Center	Board of Christian Education
Head Usher:	Wally Johnson	Wally Johnson	Wally Johnson	Wally Johnson

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, February 2nd, 2014 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 Loaves & Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

We have received the Loaves & Fishes Annual Report. This report is posted on the church bulletin board if you would like to read it.

The Well Youth Center

Sunday, February 16th, 2014 our Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

Community Closet

If you have a non-profit group that would like to take advantage of profits from the Closet, please call Gay Rice at (507) 524-4040 for more information.

Church Correspondence

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

Reminder from our Diaconate

The Diaconate requests your help in filling out and submitting your Membership Information sheets which were sent to you by mail. Filling these sheets out in a timely manner will help our Deacons proceed with the work they are doing in updating our church membership files.

Thank you again for your help.

Ambience Work Group

A **2014 Flower Chart** is posted on the hallway bulletin board. You are welcome to sign up to bring in a floral arrangement for your special occasion or memorial.



How to Contact Pastor Ashley

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. In the afternoon, I may be in the office, or I may be out in the community for pastoral care or outreach. If you'd like to stop by to visit another time, just email or call. Monday and Saturday are my days off.

My email address is: pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org. If I'm not in the office, my phone number is (507) 381-8199.

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!

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.

"Sweets for Your Sweet"

Cookie Fundraiser

Heart-shaped hand-decorated-by-youth cookies!

Proceeds will benefit The United Church
Camp Scholarship Fund.

This year, we plan to attend Quest Youth Camp
in Green Lake, Wisconsin in June.

Your order will help our Youth Group attend
this life-changing camp!

Cookies are \$5/dozen.

Orders are requested to the church office
on or before Thursday, February 6th

Cookies pickup in the Fellowship Hall
on Sunday, February 9th
Please plan to pay at pickup.

If we have extras, they'll be on sale at church
on Sunday, February 9th!
Thank you!



Bible Study

Announcing The United Church of Mapleton Bible Study! The study group will meet on Thursdays from **3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** in the Overflow Room with Pastor Ashley. All are welcome!

Adult Church Choir

The Adult Church Choir practices on Sunday mornings at 10:05 a.m. following the morning worship service. The Adult Choir usually sings twice per month during worship service with practice that morning at 8:30 a.m.

Please come and join us! New voices are always welcome!

The Well Youth Center

106 Main Street NE
Mapleton, MN 56065
(507) 524-3839

“Hotdish Smorgasboard” Fundraiser
Sunday, February 9th
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



Greetings from Maple River Loaves & Fishes!

If you haven't visited, would like to volunteer, or need our services, please call the food shelf at (507) 524-3046, or stop by when we are open. **Our hours are Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.—noon.**

Community Closet

The Community Closet thrift store, located above the Plaid Piper in Mapleton, will continue to be open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. We will be continuing to offer the \$3 bag sale on clothing and shoes. In doing so, we are able to have a faster turnover in merchandise so the customers will have new things to look at regularly. We accept donations of gently used clothing of all sizes and shoes in good condition, as well as household goods, linens, toys, games, puzzles and books. If you are able, please take your donations to the top of the stairs by the door. Sorry, we can not accept any electronics or furniture (unless it is very small). Come in and take a look at items that are the lowest prices anywhere.

If you would like to volunteer as a worker at the Closet, we are there every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and can always use your help.

If you have a non-profit group that would like to take advantage of profits from the Closet, please call Gay Rice at (507) 524-4040 for more information.

Minnesota Lake Ambulance Service

The Minnesota Lake Ambulance Soup and Pie Supper will be held on Sunday, February 9th, 2014. Serving will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Minnesota Lake.

This fundraiser will help defray some of the expenses of equipment and training for the ambulance personnel.

Report of Deacons Meeting
January 8th, 2014

The Deacons Meeting was held on January 8th and began at 7pm in the Overflow Room. Those present for the meeting were: Ruth Cumming, Dan Prenzlów, Dawn Dietz & Jodie Gerdts. Dan started the meeting off with devotions.

Old Business: There were about 90 people that attended the Christmas Eve Service. This number was down a little, but there was bad weather. Dawn has continued to work on the altar candles. There will be two baptisms on 1-26-14.

New Business: Worship service was cancelled on 1-5-14 because of the dangerous and extremely cold weather. It was a very smart idea to cancel service, but had to communicate in a short amount of time. This day was our regular date for communion, but January will be skipped and have the next service on February 2nd.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 12th, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodie Gerdts

Annual Meeting Notes

January 19th, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Moderator D. Ward at 10:26 a.m. in the basement of the United Church. Agenda was approved with no changes as presented on screen. Moderator led us in a prayer. Moderator asked for a motion to accept slate of new officers and committee members as nominated at our fall meeting along with suggested new term lengths. T. Madsen made that motion. Seconded by G. Howieson. Motion passed. D. Ward handed the Annual Meeting over to D. Dietz. D. Dietz thanked D. Ward for his wonderful service.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were read by Moderator. Minutes were accepted as read. Moderator went through stats for 2013. He was astonished at no weddings being held at all in 2013. Moderator read the minutes from the November 10th, 2013 Congregational Meeting. Minutes accepted as read.

Moderator asked each committee to give their report updates (see Annual Report Packet). All reports were approved as presented. Moderator thanked the Vision Committee for all their hard work and promised that he would personally help to continue what they had only begun in the end of 2013 for building the health of our church. He hopes all will continue to support and to help with implementing our goals.

Old Business: Moderator reviewed 2014 Proposed Budget numbers. He noted that almost everything stayed the same with little change. He did note that there was an increase in the amount being designated for the two denominations. He asked if there were any questions. Discussion. Board of Trustees made the motion to accept the 2014 Proposed Budget as presented. Motion carried.

New Business: None.

Moderator thanked everyone for making this year such a success. D. Ward made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Madsen, Church Clerk

The United Church Women's Fellowship

Monday, January 13, 2014

President Louise Webb called the meeting to order with 6 member present. Louisabelle Shuck gave the devotions base on kindness. Secretary's report was given and accepted as read. Mabelle Larson had sent out 3 birthday cards, and has sent get well cards to Norma Baack and Kathie Treanor.

Women's Fellowship received four thank you cards from Ginny Kinzie, Sheila Samuelson, Pastor Ashley, and one from the daughters of Ramona Swann.

We are inviting Jay DeLeon to come and show his wares on February 23 from 3:00—5:00 p.m. The public will be invited to attend. We will be advertising this event as soon as possible. Pat will ask Jay what to put in the advertisement.

In April, the Treats for Troops are to be sent out again. In May kits for the missions will be packed. Our church will be in charge of Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf on February 18th and 22nd.

The meeting was adjourned and a delicious lunch was served by Louise Webb.

Respectively submitted,
Darlene Fezler, secretary

Quilting Group of the United Church of Mapleton

The Quilt Group meets every Wednesday at the United Church from 1:00—3:00 p.m. ending with a fellowship gathering of coffee, tea and snacks.

Anyone is welcome to join and share their talents or you may come and learn the art of sewing and quilting.

(Pictured left to right)

Sitting: Mabelle Larson, Geri Howieson, Irene Foster

Standing: Pat John, Kathy Cox, Pastor Ashley Whitaker.

Not pictured: Norma Baack, Shirley Bowen, Joyce Johnson, Linda Whitney, and Mary Beth Fritz



Pastor's Corner

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.” Colossians 3:14-15

Each time I go to a conference or gathering of some kind where pastoral self-introductions are made, it's always an interesting experience for me as the pastor of “The *United* Church of Mapleton.” During the first week of January, I had the opportunity to travel to Orlando for the American Baptist Churches Ministers Council Conference, a biannual event, which involved many such self-introductions and conversations about the churches we serve. To serve a “united” church is a unique experience that often piques people's curiosities, especially for those who have no experience of federated or multiply aligned churches. “How *in the world* does *that* work?” they seem to ask.

I think we do it well! For one, we've got a lot of experience under our belts. Our federation began in 1918 and our true unity began in 1930. What's more, we know where to put the emphasis – not on “federation” or “being ABC” or “being UCC” but on being “United.” “We are United,” our Vision Committee tagline proudly states.

I receive a daily devotional email from Father Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest and the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. Even if I'm having a hectic day or my brain is in a scattered state, these little meditative messages give me the chance to pause and reflect on how God is at work in the world around me.

Ever since becoming the pastor of The United Church, messages about “unity” always catch my attention, especially if I think they can help me be a better pastor to our “United” church. I think Richard's brief message is a brilliant reminder of the essence of unity. As we begin a new year of ministry after last month's annual meeting, may we keep this reminder of true Christian unity in mind.

“Many teachers have made the central but oft-missed point that *unity is not the same as uniformity*. Unity, in fact, is the reconciliation of differences, and those differences must be maintained—and yet overcome! You must actually distinguish things and separate them before you can spiritually unite them, usually at cost to yourself (Ephesians 2:14-16). If only we had made that simple clarification, so many problems—and overemphasized, separate identities—could have moved to a much higher level of love and service.

Paul already made this universal principle very clear in several of his letters. For example, “There are a variety of gifts, but it is always the same Spirit. There are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord, working in all sorts of different ways in different people. It is the same God working in all of them” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). In his community at Ephesus, they were taught “There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God who is Father of all, over all, through all, and within all; and each of us has been given our own share of grace” (Ephesians 4:5-7).”

May we be blessed in our unity as we are United in serving and following Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Bill Brice, Stan Solie, Ramona Swann, Lorraine Stanton, Alberta Samuelson
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Pastor Deb Celley of First Congregational UCC of Mankato, who is now receiving home hospice care after fighting two kinds of lymphoma for nearly a year. We pray for Pastor Deb and her family (husband Richard and daughters Julia and Jennifer).
- Bruce Stanton, who continues to recover from surgery on his ribs after a fall
- For Norma Baack, who continues to recover from a fall and recent hospitalization
- Kathie Treanor, who is recovering from a recent accident at work

The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during December worship services include:

- Prayers...
 - For the Potter family of Springfield (relatives of the Clark family) and for the town in their recent loss of two young men
 - For Pastor Ashley's speedy recovery (with back pain)
 - In memory of Troy Schultz
 - For the Pfeffer family in the loss of Lillian Pfeffer
 - For Melissa and Willie Urban. Willie was transferred to St. Mary's Hospital with lung problems.
 - For Virginia Clark's sister, Karen, who is home after recent surgery and is doing well. The family requests prayers for her healing and strength.

Thanksgiving

- For the many years of service to the health of our community along with service to our church; may Dr. Carolyn Becker have a fruitful retirement
- For Caden Clark's 8th birthday on Friday, January 3rd
- To the Lord for wonderful memories to hold dear to our heart
- For having two new healthy babies in the family (Collin Urban and Jack Ward) and for their baptism on Sunday, January 26th
- To God for the glorious spectacle of baptism
- For remembrances of many years of fellowship with Richard Shuck and his family

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Esther Weigel, sister of Ella Conrad, who passed away on Thursday, December 26th in the Twin Cities area. Her funeral was Tuesday, December 31st at Epiphany Catholic Church of Coon Rapids.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Richard Shuck, who passed away on Monday, January 20th. Richard was a lifelong member of The United Church. His funeral was Thursday, January 23rd at The United Church.