



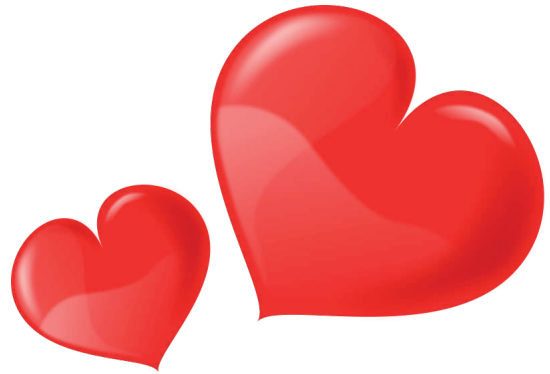
***“The Voice”* Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton**

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

FEBRUARY 2015

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

9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School

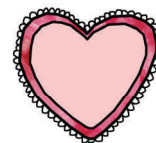
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

10:10 a.m. Youth Group



FEBRUARY 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 a.m. Worship with Comm. and Loaves & Fishes Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir	2	3 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	4 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir	9 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	10 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	11 7:00 p.m. Deacons	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 8:30—10:30 a.m. Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran
15 9:00 a.m. Worship with The Well Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir	16 President's Day	17 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 5:30 p.m. Ambience - (Lenten décor)	18 Ash Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	19	20	21 RECYCLE!
22 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir	23	24 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	25	26	27	28

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

February 2015

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Date:	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Greeters:	Ron and Judy Conrad	Dan and Sue Prenzlow	Mabelle Larson	Clint Lindemann
Coffee Hour:	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	The Well Youth Center	Board of Christian Education
Head Usher:				

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, February 1st, 2015 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.

The Well Youth Center

Sunday, February 15th, 2015 the Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center

The United Church supports this mission in this way each month.

Family Leave Interim Pastor's Corner

Greetings!

It has been a pleasure to be here at United Church for the past few Sundays. Starting at a new church can be a bit intimidating but you have been very welcoming and have overlooked my missteps. Thank you. I hope to have a chance to meet each of you during our brief time together. Please know that you can call or email me anytime.

I look forward to sharing the coming Lenten season with you while we journey with Jesus to the Cross. Let us always remember: Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ shall come again! Amen and Amen.

Peace and Blessings,

Ava

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Shirley Bowen, Benjamin Brockmann, Hutch Cramer, Kathy Cox, Dawn Dietz, Jodie Gerdts, David Keller, Isaac Kolstad, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Marge Walters, Jonathan Ziert
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- The 2015 American Baptist Churches, USA Biennial Mission Summit, to be held June 26-28 in Overland Park, KS.
- The 2015 United Church of Christ General Synod 30, to be held June 26-30 in Cleveland, OH.
- Dawn Dietz, who continues chemotherapy treatment.
- Hutch Cramer, who is recovering at the Mapleton Community Home after a recent fall and hip surgery.
- Jodie Gerdts, who is recovering at home from surgery to remove a tumor on Monday, December 15, which went well.
- All those affected by the disappearance of AirAsia Flight QZ8501 on December 27 while en route between Indonesia and Singapore with 162 people on board
- Warren and Cindy Allevan's daughter, Christian, who gave birth to her daughter, Olivia, on Tuesday, December 30 with some complications in Rochester; now mother and baby are both doing very well.

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

Prayers:

- Of remembrance for our grandson Casey
- Of Thanksgiving for family, friends, good health, and safe journeys. God has blessed us all with His wonderful Son, Jesus.
- For the family and friends of Keith Etherington, who passed away on December 28, 2014
- For recovery of Jesus Serrat, our Cuban friend, who had by-pass surgery on December 31 and is still in ICU
- For Judy who is facing advanced treatment options for return of her cancer
- Of God's love for the parents and a teenager who faces all the struggles that life brings

Thanksgiving:

- To God for the birth of a granddaughter, born December 30th, 2014

Contact Information

While Pastor Ashley Whitaker is on Family Leave and you are in need of or would like pastoral care, please contact **Ava Adams-Morris at (507) 243-3891 or (507) 380-7233; email: kreolelady@aol.com.**

You may reach the Secretary/Administrative Assistant at the church office by calling (507) 524-3141 or email secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org.

The best time to visit the church office is Tuesdays through Thursdays 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Reminder: Bulletin items are due to the church office **by 8:00 a.m., Thursday mornings.** 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.

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, Joyce Johnson and Joe Samuelson.

The Well Youth Center



The local youth center is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 3:00—5:00 p.m. when school is in session.

Loaves & Fishes



Loaves & Fishes open hours are from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:00-noon on Saturdays. We are always in need of volunteers to work a few shifts at the food shelf. Contact your food shelf board member for details. They will be so glad to hear from you!

Greetings from Maple River Loaves & Fishes

2014 was an amazing year, with challenges and enormous growth. Maple River Loaves & Fishes served 232 different families at least once this year.

Here are our final numbers for the year: 1159 actual visits, 137,599 pounds of food, 141 Thanksgiving Boxes, and 145 Christmas Boxes.

Finally, we finished the year nearly even in spending and donations. An awesome feat when you consider the amount of food that was handed out. We thank the Lord for this community and churches! Without so many of you, MRLF could not help feed those needy families in our area. If you have not been to the food shelf recently, please see your board member and volunteer. You will be so glad that you did!

The Well Hotdish Smorgasbord!

The Well Youth Center has planned a hotdish smorgasbord for **Sunday, February 8th from 10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.**

Attending this fundraiser is a great way to support this wonderful mission and give recognition for all the hard work people put into this organization!

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 from **8:30—10:30 a.m.** This is a great way to connect with friends, neighbors and meet people who are new to the community. Hope to see you Saturday morning **February 14th!**



Community Closet

The Closet is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon. 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.



Senior Dining and 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 Maple River School, Mapleton.

Adult Bible Study

An Adult Bible Study will be held on Sunday mornings through this Lenten season from February 22nd - March 29th. More details will be published in the weekly bulletin.



Report of Mission Committee

In December we were receiving mission offerings for The Christmas Fund (UCC)/Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. The amount received was \$255.00. In March we will be receiving offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing. The amount we take in will be divided equally between the UCC and the ABC denominations. One Great Hour of Sharing channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response which is administered by Wider Church Ministries and The Still Speaking Ministry. As you can see, they help in many ways all over the world, so please give generously to this wonderful worthwhile mission. Your giving is another way we can make a difference in our world.

Please do not forget to support our local missions The Well Youth Center and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. A big thank you to all who have given and continue to give to these wonderful missions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Ward, Mission Chair

Women's Fellowship

January 12th, 2015

Nine members gathered at the home of Pat and Hugo John. President Louise Webb called the meeting to order.

Devotions: None were read.

Secretary Report: Given and accepted as read.

Cheer Committee: Chair person, Mabelle, sent out two birthday cards, a get-well card and one thinking-of-you card.

Circle #3 will be in charge of coffee hour in the month of February.

We received four thank you cards from the Christmas gifts we gave out.

We will be serving turkey commercials at our annual meeting which will be held Sunday, January 18th, 2015. There will be no charge for this meal.

Mabelle will bring lunch for our next meeting.

Following the meeting Pat gave us a tour of her nativity sets from all over the world. We then enjoyed a delightful turkey soup and bread pudding lunch. Thank you Pat for your hospitality. Your lunch was delicious and your nativity sets are beautiful!

Our next meeting will be held February 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Report of Deacons Meeting

January 14, 2015

The Deacons meeting was held on January 14th, 2015 and began at 7pm in the overflow room at the church. Those present for the meeting were: Dan Prenzlou, Chad Kunkel, Marian Mallory, Carolyn Becker & Jodie Gerdts. Marian started the meeting off with a prayer.

This was the first meeting of the New Year and with that a new deaconate board was convened. The members of this year's board are as follows and their position is noted: Marian Mallory (Chair and representative to official board), Carolyn Becker (Vice Chair), Jodie Gerdts (Secretary), Chad Kunkel (representative to the official board), Dan Prenzlou & Pat Carter. During our meeting we talked over the many details that need to be handled in preparation of each Sunday service. We sincerely thank the previous members of the deaconate for their service. The three members leaving the deaconate are: Ruth Cumming, Dawn Dietz & Doug Fritz.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 11th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Jodie Gerdts, Secretary

United Church of Mapleton's Board of Trustees Meeting

January 21, 2015

Board Members Present: Dick Dietz, Ron Conrad, Gary Fritz, Lisa Shubert, Sean Mallory

Treasurer: Keith McCutchen

Meeting called to order by Dick Dietz at 7:09 pm.

Secretary's minutes from December meeting reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report reviewed.

Pastor's contract was set from 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015 and approved by Pastor Ashley.

Bills to be paid were presented.

Motion to approve bills was made by Gary Fritz and seconded by Ron Conrad. Motion passed.

Old/New Business

1) Bank Signatories for 2015 – Keith McCutchen still needs to stop by the bank.

2) Piano in basement – no one wants it. It will be offered free to anyone willing to move it.

3) Maintenance

Plumbing - coffee disposal sink has been re-plumbed and is working well. The drain in the furnace room was also cleaned out and is working. This required work by both Jetter Clean and Bill's Hardware so we can expect bills from each next month.

Furnace – Pump #1 appears to be having some issues and squealing rather loudly. It was last replaced in 2003. It is estimated that it would cost \$5,000 to replace all pumps. Recommended to get bids on replacing all or a portion of the pumps, rather than all at once.

Heating – while Pastor Ashley (and Jeff) is on parental leave, the Boards will need to be responsible for turning the heat up/down before and after their meetings.

Lift – this should be inspected annually and has not been done so for a while.

Motion by Sean Mallory to have it inspected, seconded by Ron Conrad. Motion passed.

4) Stewardship Drive

We are at 24 pledge units for 2015. This is down compared to last year's pledge units of 37. We are assuming the reason this number is down significantly is because the drive was not as actively pursued this past fall.

Continued

5) Capital Campaign

With all the large ticket structural repairs and maintenance, we need to start looking at starting a capital campaign. Because of the lack of experience by the members of the Trustees, this discussion (which has been going on for several months) has not really progressed.

Motion by Lisa Shubert to have Keith McCutchen contact our two denominational affiliations for guidance on how to start a capital campaign. Motion was seconded by Ron Conrad. Motion passed.

Additional items to add to the growing list of repairs includes:

- a) change out alter lights for LED lights
- b) siding for the parsonage
- c) HVAC for the parsonage

Motion by Lisa Shubert to have Dick Dietz get estimates on what it would cost for the parsonage repairs (windows, vinyl siding with insulation, gutters and HVAC) so we can prioritize the needs and dollar amounts for the campaign. Motion was seconded by Sean Mallory. Motion passed.

Dick said he would see if Joe Samuelson could give us a rough estimate of the cost for the HVAC repairs for both the parsonage and the church.

6) Money Counters

February – Ron Conrad

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 18th following Ash Wednesday service.

Meeting Adjourned – motion made by Lisa Shubert at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Shubert, Secretary

Please read the letter below and prayerfully consider volunteering for these opportunities. You may call the church office at 507-524-3141 to volunteer.

January 22, 2015

Pastors,



Mid-American Baptist Churches is an *Assisting Region* for the 2015 Mission Summit being held June 26-28, 2015 in Overland Park/Kansas City. Your assistance is needed to help secure volunteers from the *Mid-American Region* to be a part of this event.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas. Please present this need to your congregations. ***Please send me a list of individuals (including address, phone number, email address and task preference) that are willing to volunteer at the Mission Summit.*** If they are just thinking about attending and have not made a decision, please include them on the list so I can contact them at a later date.

- ◇ **Childcare (background check required; need names by Feb 16, 2015)**
 - ◇ 2 Age Groups (Birth – 3 years and 4 – 7 years)
 - ◇ Time commitment – 3-4 hour shift
- ◇ **Youth Program (background check required; need names by Feb 16, 2015)**
 - ◇ 2 Age Groups (8 – 11 years and 12 – 15 years)
 - ◇ Time commitment – All day (possible 2-3 hour shift for evening activities)
- ◇ **Ushers**
 - ◇ Need 7 – 10 ushers are needed from the *Mid-American Region* to provide a rotation so no one has to usher at all 4 sessions. (Include number of sessions they are willing to usher; 1, 2, 3 or 4)
- ◇ **Communion Servers** – Sunday Morning Worship
- ◇ **Registration** (Assist with check-in; Time commitment – 2-3 hour shift)
- ◇ **Prayer Wall**
 - ◇ Be present at all breaks and before and after sessions to assist people who wish to post prayer requests. Monitor prayer wall that no inappropriate messages are posted.

Because of required background checks where children and youth are involved, I need those names by Feb. 16, 2015 or as soon as possible. Other names are needed by March 1, 2015.

Please respond with your lists of individuals to me by email, phone or mail. Thank you for your assistance and to your congregations for helping to make this a great *Mission Summit*.

Coleen Remick
812 E Detroit
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-4419
remickc@juno.com

Individual registration for attendance at the 2015 Mission Summit opens February 2, 2015
www.americanbaptists2015.com