



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

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

July 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.

						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	2 7:00 p.m. Called to Care Session 5	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:10 a.m. Called to Care Session 5	7	8 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder 3:00—6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes Work Day	9 7:00 p.m. Deacons	10	11	12 9:00 a.m.—Noon Loaves & Fishes Work Day
13 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	14 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	15 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	16 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	17	18	19 RECYCLE!
20 9:00 a.m. Worship with The Well Youth Center Collection 10:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting Coffee Hour after meeting	21	22 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder Voice Articles due	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	28	29 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	30	31		

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

July 2014

Page 3

Date:	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Greeters:	Bob and Geri Howieson	Randy and Linda Cumming	Mabelle Larson	Mike and Julie Johnson
Coffee Hour:	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	The Well Youth Center	Board of Christian
Head Usher:				

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, July 6th, 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.

The Well Youth Center

Sunday, July 20th, 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.

Communion Sundays

Communion will be served by intinction during the summer months.

Head Ushers Needed!

The United Church is in need of Head Ushers for the months June through October. Please consider signing up to help by calling the church office at 524-3141.

Church Financial Envelope

For privacy and ease, please make a notation on the front of your envelope of:



c/o Financial Secretary. Thank you!

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call Karen Stanton at 524-4956 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.

Pastor's Corner

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 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. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:12-15

What does it mean to be American Baptist?
 What does it mean to be United Church of Christ?
 What do these two denominational affiliations mean for us as Christians and as members of The United Church of Mapleton?

Through my nearly twenty months here as your pastor, I’ve noticed that in many ways we’re very committed to our two denominations. We give generously to our Special Mission Offerings, ensure that they’re divided evenly, and we even committed to giving at a higher level for our budgeted general denominational support this year. I hope that, through my sermon series this summer, we can all learn more about our two denominational affiliations and also gain a greater appreciation for our rich heritage through these two Christian bodies.

My four sermons on The American Baptist Churches, USA (ABC) will be based on a classic Baptist book, Walter Shurden’s *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*. This book has long been a staple of Baptist history and polity classes for seminarians across the country! According to Shurden, our four freedoms as Baptists are Bible freedom, religious freedom, soul freedom, and church freedom. Each freedom provides us with many blessings and liberties as well as responsibilities and obligations.

However, I haven’t yet found a United Church of Christ (UCC) book that lends itself to a four-week sermon series so well! My four sermons on the UCC will include a greater learning curve for me.

Although my ordination has now been officially recognized by the MN-UCC for dual standing, I still have a lot left to learn about what it really means to be UCC. Some UCC distinctives that I plan to incorporate this summer include the “God is still speaking” emphasis, what it means to be Congregationalist, and the importance of unity in the UCC.

I look forward for this opportunity for us to continue to learn together more about our heritage, our present identity, and the future of who and how we will be The United Church of Mapleton.

Blessings,
 Pastor Ashley

Continue

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Bill Brice, Colleen Lindemann, Stan Solie, 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
- Hutch Cramer, who recently fell and had surgery for a broken hip, is now recovering at the Mapleton Community Home
- Louis Fritz, who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Radiation treatment has ended and chemotherapy will begin in late July, after a period of rest for Louie.
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- Isaac Kolstad, who suffered a severe head injury early on May 11th in Mankato, was recently transferred to a rehab facility. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson. You can find updates about Issac at www.caringbridge.org/visit/isaackolstad
- Tucker Shuck, Sharon Shuck's grandson, who has begun thirteen weeks of US Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, and for his family during this time of limited communication with him
- Oliver Mohwinkel, Sheila Samuelson's grand-nephew, who was kicked/buffed by a large steer and suffered a concussion

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

- Prayers...
 - For Louis Fritz and family as undergoes treatment for his brain tumor
 - For Karen Stanton's cousin's family at the recent death of a 58-year old family member due to a heart attack
 - For Colleen Lindemann, who continues to cope with back pain
 - For Regan Husfelt, the great-grandson of Ruth Cumming, who is facing hernia surgery
 - For Dwayne Goodrich, who was burned on the face and hands at his farm in Mapleton and who is now hospitalized in the Twin Cities area for treatment
 - For Maureen Springer and Gertrude O'Connor, who are coping with cancer
 - For Rachel of Lake Crystal, age sixteen, who had her colon removed on Thursday
- Thanksgiving...
 - To God for the graduation of a great-grandson
 - To God for Irene Cumming's 95th birthday
 - For all cancer caregivers
 - And praise to God for giving us people whose minds are capable to find and develop techniques and understanding ways to help your people

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.

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 current PRC members are Jeff Gerdtts (Chair), Stanley Whitney, Laura Fritz, and Warren Allevan.

Called to Care Visitation Training

One of the goals and needs that came out of our visioning process was a trained lay pastoral care visitation team to help make sure that all of our at-home members and members with long-term care needs receive the care and support they deserve from The United Church. Pastor Ashley will be leading training sessions based on the "Called to Care" curriculum for all who would like to become caregivers in this context. The Diaconate will coordinate this ministry with Pastor Ashley. There are five training sessions, and caregivers will need to attend all five sessions to be commissioned. Each hour-long training session will be offered twice: once on a Sunday after worship and once on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. **The schedule is as follows:**

Session Five: Wednesday 7/2, Sunday 7/6

If you have any questions or are interested in Called to Care, please talk to Pastor Ashley or Ruth Cumming. Thank you!

Garden of Eatin’ is Growing!

Our new raised vegetable garden beds have been planted and are growing strong! These vegetables will be donated to Loaves & Fishes to help provide nutritious options for families in the Maple river community who visit the food shelf.



Your help is needed to water the garden and pull weeds! A sign-up calendar and instructions sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider giving of your time and energy to make our newest community service ministry successful! If you have any questions, please call the office at 524-3141. Thank you!

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The Official Board has endorsed proposed Constitutional amendments to be voted on by the congregation as a whole. These amendments mainly concern membership clarifications, numbers of committee/board members, and board/committee member terms. A special meeting for consideration of these amendments has been called for Sunday, July 20th immediately after worship in the Sanctuary.

The proposed amendments are available in hard copy in the narthex and online at www.unitedchurchmapleton.org under the “Resources” tab. If you have any questions, please speak to Dick Dietz, Moderator.

Irene Cumming-Foster’s 95th Birthday!



Open House Bridal Shower

An Open House Bridal Shower will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the United Church for Jacob Fritz and Tricia Gunsolus on Saturday, July 26th from 9:30—11:30 a.m.



The couple is registered at Kohl’s and Target, but would always welcome gift cards to Lowes and Menards.

LOCAL MISSIONS

The Well Youth Center

The Well Youth Center is closed for the summer months. The center will resume in the fall.



Loaves & Fishes

Open Tuesdays from 3:00—6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon. Volunteers are welcome!

Community Closet

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.



Vacation Bible School 2014!
Workshop of Wonders—Image & Build with God

Decorating boxes for Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf



Youth Group Updates

From Pastor Ashley

We have **FIVE** youth registered to attend Pilgrim Point Summer Camp in Alexandria, MN from July 27 – August 1. They are Carter Bair, Jayden McCutchen, Konnor McCutchen, Nick Shubert, and Cody Walters. Jeff and I will be attending as adult volunteers. Jeff and I also attended a Pilgrim Point adult leader training event back in the spring, and it was a great experience! We're really excited about all that Pilgrim Point has to offer our youth and we can't wait to experience it together! Please pray for our youth that are attending camp this summer, that they may grow in their faith and be strengthened in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Three of our youth helped out with one last fundraiser before we go to camp this summer. Jayden, Konnor, and Cody did an excellent job manning the Dietz Brat Stand on Saturday, June 21st during the lunch rush and raised \$190!



Report of Deacons Meeting

June 11th, 2014

The Deacons Meeting was held on June 11th and began at 7:00 p.m. the overflow room at the church. Those present for the meeting were: Ruth Cumming, Pat Carter & Jodie Gerds. Ruth started the meeting off with devotions.

Old Business: The prayer chain has started up again. Karen Stanton has agreed to head this up. The “Call to Care” training meetings have started with sessions on Wednesday evenings and Sunday after worship. Currently, there are approximately 15 members attending the sessions. If you are interested in taking part in this new program, please let Pastor Ashley or a Deacon know. Confirmation on May 18th went very well. All three young gentlemen (Carter Bair, Cody Walters & Jayden McCutchen) did an excellent job with conducting the worship service that day.

New Business: We again discussed the dates that Pastor Ashley will be “out of the office” for various conferences and vacation over the summer months and what dates pulpit supply will be needed. We discussed Ashley’s visitation schedule of those members that she has visited recently. There have been many members visited as of late. We are in need of ushers for the months of July, August, September & October. If you are able to help out with heading this up for a month, please let a Deacon know.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 9th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jodie Gerds

Women's Fellowship

June 9, 2014

The Women's Fellowship meeting was called to order by President Louise Webb. There were six members in attendance. Devotions were given by Devotion Chairperson Mary Beth Fritz. Devotions were based on 1st Corinthians Chapter 13:2. The topic was love. Mabelle Larson is serving lunch this evening. Mabelle sent out three greeting cards. A card was sent to Louis Fritz, a birthday card to Irene Foster, and a card to Norma Baack.

A bridal shower is being planned for Tricia Gunsolus, bride to be of Jacob Fritz. The bridal shower will be held Saturday, July 26th from 9:30—11:30 a.m. Joyce Ann Ireland, Geri Howieson, Ruth Cummings, Louise Webb, Mabelle Larson, Joyce Johnson and Darlene Fezler will be helping with the bridal shower.

The date for our Craft, Quilt and Bake Sale will be October 11th from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Circle 2 will be in charge of coffee hour on July 13th.

Our next meeting will be held July 14th. Lunch will be served by Louise Webb. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Thank You for Silent Auction Items!

Thank you to all the person who donated auction items for Town and Country Days!

Thanks to the Quilting Group who were so generous with the quilts they have made. Thank you to Karen Stanton Dave Byram, Jodi and Jeff Gerdts, Mabelle Larson, and Louisa Belle Shuck. Also a big thank you to Judy McGregor, Darlene Fezler, Ruth Cumming and Karen Stanton for working our two shifts at the Silent Auction.

As soon as I get information on our total dollar amount, I will let you know.

Joyce Johnson, coordinator

Mission Committee

A big thank you to everyone that gave to our America for Christ/Strengthen the Church Mission Offering. The amount collected through June 22nd is \$470 and we still have Sunday, June 29th to collect donations,

Our next Special Mission Offering will be the World Mission Offering that will begin in October. In giving to these missions it is one way we can give back and say thank you for the many blessings we have been given.

Please remember to support our local missions, The Well Youth Center and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Any monetary amount you can give to them or any time you can volunteer to help will be much appreciated. This is a way we can help people in our local community.

Again, thank you to all who have given in any way to support our missions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Ward, Mission Chairman

Board of Trustees Meeting

June 18, 2014

Present: Bob Howieson, Ron Conrad, Chad Kunkel, Gary Fritz, Keith McCutchen, Pastor Ashley Whitaker, Lisa Shubert, Dick Dietz

Meeting called to order by Bob Howieson at 7:06 pm.

Secretary's minutes from May meeting read by Keith McCutchen.

Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report reviewed.

Bills to be paid were presented.

Motion to approve bills was made by Ron Conrad and seconded by Chad Kunkel. Motion passed.

Old Business

- 1) Roof repairs – since Jason Klein has not been able to complete the project, we need to find a new contractor who can. Chad will contact Joe Samuelson for ideas on contractors who might be able to fix it.
- 2) The pew cushion fund is currently at \$6,004.94 (if we include the Beatrice Rue memorial fund). The quote for the Inspirations cushions was \$8,120 and to add the high density foam would bump the price to \$8,570. Ideas for raising the additional money included “purchase a pew cushion” and a “pew cushion testing/voting”. The Waggoners, Inc price quotation expires August 1st.
Motion to approve the purchase of pew cushions for the entire sanctuary (less the choir loft and pastor's pews) was made by Chad Kunkel and seconded by Gary Fritz. Motion passed.
Motion to raise additional funds for the pew cushion fund through a cushion test free will donation was made by Chad Kunkel and seconded by Ron Conrad. Motion passed.
- 3) Egress window for the parsonage – this will be added to the Parsonage Wish List.

New Business

- 4) Garden – we no longer have our MVAC employee to tend to the garden so we are looking for volunteers
- 5) Time Off Requests – Pastor Ashley requested the following time off.
July 22-23, 2014 (Tuesday/Wednesday) – Continuing Education/Delegate work in Portland, OR
September 3-4, 2014 (Wednesday/Thursday) – Continuing Education/Delegate work in Phoenix, AZ
Motion to approve these dates as Continuing Education time off was made by Chad Kunkel and seconded by Gary Fritz. Motion passed.
Pastor Ashley requested the Trustees consider allowing her to use the two remaining CE Sundays in her contract be allowed as PTO. Due to the nature of her profession, continuing education workshops and meetings are rarely done over Sundays. Therefore, if she is not allowed to use these days for CE, she will lose 2 days.
Motion to move the two remaining continuing education Sundays to PTO was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Ron Conrad. Motion passed.
August 28, 29 and 31 (Thursday, Friday and Sunday) – Personal Time Off
Motion to approve the three days off as personal time was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Chad Kunkel. Motion passed.
- 6) Pastor Ashley has received dual standing in the UCC. She is considering pursuing a Privilege of Call in the UCC as well.
- 7) Pastor Ashley has asked that an “eventual work” list be created for the parsonage. She will submit ideas of work she feels the parsonage needs as far as maintenance. These will not be immediate needs but more long term projects to keep in mind for budgeting purposes. Here is the start of that list.

Continue

Continue

Upstairs windows need replacing – very drafty
Oven is very old and small
Exterior paint is chipping on west side of the house
Add an egress window to the NE room in the basement

- 8) During the massive rains over the past week, there was water in the basement. It appears the water came through the NE door (“Jola’s door”) since there was mud down the steps as well. The thought is that the drain outside was possibly plugged by debris and the water flooded through the door. Since we have never had this problem in the past and hopefully the rains were a rare occurrence, we will wait to see if there are more problems before further investigating the problem. During the latest rain storms, there were some minor water problems in the parsonage due to a power outage and the sump pump being able to run. Pastor Ashley requested a battery backup be purchased or the purchase of a small generator. Dick commented that a battery backup would generally not last as long as would be needed during a power outage (they generally only last about an hour). Since this again is not a necessity at this time, the board recommends that Jeff and Ashley purchase a small generator if they would like the assurance and security for the rare occasions of power outages. This would belong to them and would be a tax write-off.

- 9) Budget plan for gas – Keith received notification to sign up for the budget plan for Northwest Gas.
Motion to sign up on a budget plan for both the church and the parsonage was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Chad Kunkel. Motion passed.

- 10) Money counters on Sunday – we are having problems getting people to count money after church on Sundays due to our current policy of not allowing anyone who has the ability to sign checks to count the money with Ginny Kinzie.

Discussion was table until the next meeting. Lisa will contact Ginny and count on Monday/Tuesday of the next week.

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 17th at 7:00 pm. Note the day change as it is Festag on Wednesday, July 16th.

Meeting Adjourned – motion made by Bob Howieson at 9:36.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Shubert, Secretary