



“The Voice” Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton

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

JULY 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

9:00am Sunday Worship
9:00am Nursery Care
10:00am Coffee & Fellowship

Film, Fun & Faith Movie Nights

(Fellowship Hall)

- Every Wednesday of the month: 6:00pm
- Free Popcorn and Root Beer Floats!
- Bring a lawn chair or blanket
- Guess movie and be entered to win a door prize!
- All movies PG or G rated
- All are Welcome!

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 RECYCLE!	2
3 9:00am Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection	6	5 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	6 6:00pm Film, Fun & Faith Movie Night	7	8	9 8:30—10:30am Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran (held in Chapel Lounge for summer months)
10 9:00am Worship	11 7:00pm Women's Fellowship	12 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	13 6:00pm Film, Fun & Faith Movie Night	14	15 RECYCLE!	16
17 9:00am Worship with Youth Center Collection	18	19 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 6:00pm Personnel 7:00pm Church Council	20 6:00pm Film, Fun & Faith Movie Night	21 7:30pm CRC Congregational Relations meeting	22	23
24 9:00am Worship	25	26 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 8:00am The Voice articles for August are due into the church office 3:00-6:00pm Loaves & Fishes workday	27 6:00pm Film, Fun & Faith Movie Night	28	29 RECYCLE!	30 9:00am-noon Loaves & Fishes workday
31 9:00am Worship						

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

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	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Lay Leader	Marian Mallory	Pam Foster			
Hospitality Team Lead		Don Foster			
Coffee Hour	Church Council	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Christian Education	Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

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, July 3rd, 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, July 17th, 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 – July 2016

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ... I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation." *Psalm 40:1, 10*

I think that summertime is officially here, and the season brings with it many perennial traditions and realities of life. Town & Country Days was hotter than I can remember it ever being (though I feel like we say that every year, don't we?), the fireflies are out at dusk every night, and the swings at Heritage Park squeak faithfully until 9:00pm, when the sun finally thinks about setting, even though the birds chirp on.

Another tradition is summer camp for many youth and children, like Fa Ho Cha, Celebrate Me, Forest Lake, Dayton Oaks, Green Lake, or Pilgrim Point. (By the way, mark your calendars – we will be blessing two youth campers from The United Church in worship before they leave for Pilgrim Point camp on Sunday, July 17th!) When I was a chaperone at Pilgrim Point two years ago, I learned about something called Pow Wow How, a tradition Rev. Molly Baskette explains in her recent StillSpeaking Daily Devotional from June 27th, 2016.

"I learned a new twist on an age-old spiritual practice called the Ignatian Examen at youth group the other day. It's called Pow Wow How. The kids use it to check in with each other and with God. Pow! reveals a recent struggle. Wow! tells of something they are grateful about. And How? tells the group how the speaker saw God at work in their life that week.

The efficacy of both practicing gratitude and cultivating 'emodiversity' (including acknowledging negative emotions) has been widely documented by researchers in positive psychology. That is, doing both these things makes us happier. And as for looking backward in your life for God, Jesus did say, "those who seek, shall find." After all, most spiritual insight is hindsight: like Moses, most of us see God best after She's gone by already.

Summer's coming, and with it, many of us get unmoored from our communities of faith and regular spiritual routines. Consider taking a practice of POW~WOW~HOW with you on the road, and notice what happens to your heart, mind, soul and strength."

May we each take a spiritual practice of reflection, gratitude, and supplication like Pow Wow How on the road with us this summer, wherever our roads and journeys of faith and life may take us during this summertime season. Wherever and whenever you may travel, know that God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer go with you always.

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
- All those affected by the mass shooting in Orlando at Pulse Nightclub on Sunday, June 12th, including the 49 killed and 44 injured. The shooting is being classified as a LGBTQ hate crime and act of domestic terrorism.



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

Prayers:

- For the family of Les Mutch, who passed away on Saturday, May 28th
- For a friend, Glen, whose uncle passed away this week
- For my daughter and grandson who are facing difficult challenges
- For the 71 graduates of the Maple River High School Class of 2016
- For the family and friends of Muhammad Ali at his death
- For all fathers and all they have done for their children

Thanksgiving:

- To all those who have given their lives for our freedoms!
- For our awesome volunteers who help at Loaves & Fishes. We couldn't do it without you!
- For Irene Cumming-Foster, who is 97 years young on Sunday, May 29th.
- To God for answered prayers, May God continue to bless and answer our prayers.
- To God for all those that help and serve, especially all those that serve during Sunday morning worship
- To God at Chris Murphy's 29th birthday and best wishes and prayers for his new year of life. Chris is the grandson of Hugo and Pat John.
- For Pam's beautiful music. God has given her a special talent, and we give thanks!

The Prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of *Sylvia More*, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Friday, June 34d, 2016. Graveside service will be held at a later date for the family.

The Prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of *Roger Fredrikson*, father of former United Church pastor Rev. Joel Fredrikson, who passed away on Thursday, June 16th. Roger's visitation was held on Thursday, June 23rd, and his memorial service was on Friday, June 24th, both at First Baptist Church of Sioux Falls.

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 Alleven, 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!

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, July 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 months of June, July and August. You may also look for us on Facebook.

Women's Fellowship

June 13, 2016

President Louise Webb called the meeting to order. There were 8 members present.

Devotions: Mary Beth Fritz gave devotions from John 4:14-16 and 23-24 on truth.

Sunshine Committee: Mabelle Larson sent out a total of 13 cards consisting of birthday, get well, and thinking of you.

Business: Joyce Johnson reported on the Town and Country Days Silent Auction. The attendance was down from last year's auction.

Women's Fellowship is in charge of coffee hour on July 10th.

We discussed quilts for foster girls in Albert Lea, MN.

Ruth Cumming will be providing lunch for our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on July 11th.

Respectfully Submitted, Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Call to Ministry and Ministry Table

Beginning the first Sunday of June, if you would like to share a Call to Ministry at the beginning of worship, please be in touch with 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 (next to the East doors and the Sanctuary doors) will have information about church ministry opportunities, sign-ups, and community events. Some information will be moved from the bulletin or from the bulletin board in the hallway to this table for easier, more prominent access.

Film, Fun, & Faith!

Every Wednesday during June and July the United Church will host a family movie night (**Film, Fun, & Faith**) in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 p.m. There will be free popcorn and root beer floats! Bring a lawn chair or comfy blanket to sit on. You may make a guess of the title of the movie each week and be entered to win a door prize!. Watch flyers around town for the clue each week! All movies are PG or G rated. Bring your family, friends and neighbors! All are welcome!



Garden of Eatin' Season

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.** This garden has been a great success in the past couple of years. Let's continue to grow and show love in our community with this great mission!



Call to Ministry: Sunday, July 10th

Jeannie Jackson and her husband are a foster care home for young girls in the Albert Lea area. They currently have 8 girls within their home 24/7 and provide respite care for 2 other girls. I found out about this home from a young friend of mine who let me know about the girls limited resources and need for personal items. My hope is that our church, who always shows so much love and compassion to those in their time of need, may help this home and the girls in any way we can through Christ's love, and may we continue a long-term connection. Thank you! Sheila

Greetings from Maple River Loaves and Fishes!

As you go through your week, please keep our clients in your prayers. We were reminded again Saturday about the struggles our clients face in their daily lives. Whether it be loss of a job, disability struggles, and even death in the family, these are real families that MRLF (and you!) are helping. Here are some of the events from Saturday:

We spoke to a new client that lives close by who said he only had a pizza and a jar of peanut butter in his house (3 younger kids). He was reluctant to take very much, saying he didn't want to take food that others could really use. Needless to say, we loaded him up above and beyond the amount he should have received. When I watched him and his boys unload the shopping carts at their house, one boy yelled "yeah, milk!" I tell the short version of the story here, because even typing it brings tears to my eyes. It's a reminder of what really matters and how lucky all of us are! But for the grace of God, there go I. (John Bradford)

While I was watching the boys unload the carts, an older man was walking by. He asked "where are my groceries?" (Smiling) I told him through those doors if he needed some. He said he didn't but asked more about the food shelf, even implying that most clients should just get a job and are taking advantage of things. (He's not alone in that thinking in our community). About that time, the boy was yelling "yeah milk!" It was a perfect opportunity to educate someone about the real needs in the community. He's a WWII vet, and it was such an honor to spend some time, outside on a nice day, talking about his service and also the food shelf. Hopefully, educating him just a little.

Another client talked to us about a recent death in the family, and how each day is a struggle. It was yet another reality check for me.

I share these stories with you not only to demonstrate God's Grace in our lives, but also to give you just a little glimpse into what goes on every Tuesday and Saturday at MRLF. For a first-hand experience, find your MRLF board member and help out the week your church is at the food shelf. You won't regret it!

MRLF thanks you for your support!! Again, put a special focus in your prayers on our clients, and those in need that haven't walked through our doors.

United Church Of Mapleton

Council Meeting

June 14, 2016, 7:10-9:15 p.m.

Attendees: Dave Byram, Chad Kunkel, Keith McCutchen, Pastor Ashley Whitaker, Dick Dietz, Pam Foster, Gary Fritz

Devotional and Prayer given by Dave

July Devotional: Gary

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 19th

May Secretary/Clerk Minutes read. Approved Keith, Seconded Chad

Treasurer's Report read. Approved Chad, Seconded Dave

- Need for updates on stewardship and capital campaign giving.
- Funds from the Church Foundation may be needed soon.
- Possible “reminder letters” from Ginny/Council to go out to church members on the status of their pledge giving. Included in the letters, besides pledge status, would be trends of the church's financial status for the past 3 years, and stewardship. Said letters to be crafted by members of the council, then reviewed by all council members, and sent out with the quarterly report included.

Pastor's Report: Approved Dave, Seconded Chad

Film, Fun & Faith is going “ok” though it is hoped more come in the next weeks.

Vitality Report: Tabled

Organist: Ads were placed in the Home magazine and the Messenger. Contact is being made with other churches, and Jon Ek, on sources for an organist.

Foundation Update: Bruce and Jola are meeting and then will meet with the council.

The church retreat is “not happening”.

Stewardship Team: To meet to start planning for fall campaign.

May implement Stewardship Tree(s). One for giving and one for time & talent.

Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial Lay Leadership, October 7th & 8th in Ames, IA.

Please consider attending.

Church Logo: Logo to en-wrap a tree. Selections will be voted on.

Property Report: Approved

Art Show: Possible art show to include church members and the community.

Snowflake Dazzle: November 30th. Church providing living nativity scene/actors. During the parade promote “Parents Night Out”.

Ideas started for future visual/video (and media) enhancement of church services and church activities. Including video information of the church in the narthex and monitors placed on sanctuary walls.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Fritz, Clerk