



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

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

JUNE 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!

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00pm <i>Film, Fun & Faith</i> Movie Night	2	3 RECYCLE!	4
5 9:00am Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection	6	7 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	8 6:00pm <i>Film, Fun & Faith</i> Movie Night	9	10	11 8:30—10:30am Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran (held in Chapel Lounge for summer months)
12 9:00am Worship	13 7:00pm Women's Fellowship	14 Flag Day 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 7:00pm Church Council	15 6:00pm <i>Film, Fun & Faith</i> Movie Night	16	17 RECYCLE!	18
19 Father's Day 9:00am Worship with Youth Center Collection	20	21 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 8:00am The Voice articles for July are due 7:30pm Personnel meeting	22 6:00pm <i>Film, Fun & Faith</i> Movie Night	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship	27	28 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	29 6:00pm <i>Film, Fun & Faith</i> Movie Night	30		

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

June 2016

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	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
Lay Leader	Darlene Fezler	Bruce Stanton	Laura Fritz	Louise Webb
Hospitality Team Lead				
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, June 5th, 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, June 19th, 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, Communion Servers and Sunday School Teacher** on the bulletin board outside the main office. 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 – June 2016

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.” *Ephesians 2:19-22*

Recently, an online discussion started among a group of pastors on what the role of the church is and also what it should be. However, it's not simply *our* job, as seminary graduates, pastors, or public theologians, to answer these questions. It is the job of *the whole church together* to reflect on our role in each generation, era, and unique context.

So I pose these questions to you, my sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ and co-workers in building the Kingdom of God. What say you? What makes us, as the church, unique and necessary? Let me know your answers, and I'll share some in the next newsletter! (Along with my own answer, of course!)

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Serious Question: What do you think the church is supposed to DO?

Plenty of non-profits exist that serve the marginalized in the world. Websites like Meetup and other community activities can help you find groups of people to "fellowship" with. Professional and amateur musicians are ubiquitously available to listen to and experience beautiful art that makes you contemplative.

The Internet is chock full of TEDTalk style teaching that challenges and informs you. You can find places to teach you meditation and centering techniques, like yoga, tai chi, etc. You don't need to go to church to experience any of that. Many times, the church doesn't even do those things well when they try.

So, what is the church's DISTINCT calling? What about church is specific and NECESSARY to the world?

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One colleague said, “The Church is called to be the Body of Christ in the world. In the words of St. Teresa of Avila, ‘Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.’”

Grace Pritchard Burson (Episcopal priest and the daughter of *The Sunday Paper* author Gretchen Burson), said, “My mom said it best: The church is called to gather around the story of God and God's people, hear it, connect with it, and let it change them.”

Another colleague shared a quote from *Searching for Sunday* author Rachel Held Evans: “The purpose of the church, and of the sacraments, is to give the world a glimpse of the kingdom, to point in its direction. When we put a kingdom-spin on ordinary things - water, wine, leadership, marriage, friendship, feasting, sickness, forgiveness - we see that they can be holy, they can point us to something greater than ourselves, a fantastic mystery that brings meaning to everything.”

How would you answer this question? *What is the distinct calling of the church?*

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: Kathy Byram, Jack Madsen
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- Jennifer Sickler, cousin of Jeremy Walters and granddaughter of Marge Walters, who is very ill



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

Thanksgiving:

- In celebrating a granddaughter's 3rd birthday and a grandma's birthday!
- For those who have contributed to the kits mission and for those who lovingly pack them
- For all those who are so willing to serve as Lay Leaders, Hospitality Team Leads, and Sunday School teachers
- To God for a great group of Confirmands and for all who made this worship service possible

Prayers:

- For continued healing for those who have been ill
- For Glenn, recovering from surgery
- For the musical genius Prince that he might rest in peace, and in thanksgiving for his humble giving to help others to succeed in life
- For families all over the world, torn apart by natural disaster, war, and hunger
- For healing for my sister-in-law, Linda Karels, who had surgery on Friday, and for her spouse, Jim Karels
- Of blessings for my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren
- For our Confirmands, that they will continue on this journey of faith the rest of their lives and know that God is always there for them
- That the Spirit will come into our hearts so that we are fired up to follow Jesus' life
- That God will inspire those who have escaped the peril of fire in Canada and tornadoes in the South to prayer for and help in any way they can those who have suffered great loss
- Of healing for all who are ill
- To God in memory of Michelle Lindemann and for her family. May 23rd was her birthday.
- For safe traveling in the weeks and months ahead
- For strong faith in all who seek God
- For the Carol Anderson family, who passed away in California at age 96. Carol was a sister of Pat John and sister-in-law of Louisa Belle Shuck.
- All those affected by the EgyptAir plane crash on May 19th, including the family and friends of the 66 people on board

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Jennifer Sickler, cousin of Jeremy Walters and granddaughter of Marge Walters, who passed away on Thursday, May 12th, 2016. The funeral was held at The United Church of Mapleton on Wednesday, May 18th at 11:00 a.m.

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!

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, June 11th**, 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.

Mid-AB Women's Ministries Annual Conference for Women and AB Girls

June 24-25, 2016

Wartbury College, Waverly, Iowa

Please refer to poster on the bulletin board.

Women's Fellowship

May 9th, 2016

President Lousie Webb opened the meeting. Devotions were given by Mary Beth Fritz from Galatians 5:4 on forgiveness.

Secretary Report: Given and accepted.

Sunshine Committee: Mabelle Larson reported that she sent out 2 birthday cards and 1 get well card.

Business:

We mailed out 27 baby and 45 hygiene kits. We are paying for the shipping of these kits.

Joyce Johnson reported on what we are going to participate in during Town and Country Days. We will be working the Silent Auction from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m. Donations should be to the church by June 8th.

The Relay for Life Survivor and Caregiver supper will be held in the Fellowship Hall here at the church with Joyce J., Louise and Lousiabelle supervising.

Our church is delivering meals for Meals on Wheels.

Meeting adjourned. Louise served a delicious rhubarb cake. Mary Beth will be bringing lunch next month.

Respectfully Submitted, Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Town and Country Days Silent Auction

Our church has been asked to contribute items for the Silent Auction at Town & Country Days which will be held **Saturday, June 11th from 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.** Please bring your items to the church Fellowship hall by **Tuesday, June 7th**. Place a value on your items and designate where you want your bid money to go (United Church, youth center or T&C Days fund). Items can be hand made, unique theme baskets, antiques, small furniture, and almost new items. If you need to have an item picked up, please call Joyce Johnson.

In order for our church to receive the bid money, we need to fill two one hour shifts. Volunteers have already filled our 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m. shifts, for which I thank them. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Special Mission for June

During the month of June our special mission will be America for Christ (ABC)/Strengthen the Church (UCC).

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.

We will be trying out these two new ways of worshipping and communicating during the month of June and evaluating at the end of the month. Thank you!

Donations Needed!

We are looking for donations for our June and July **Film, Fun, & Faith** movie nights. **Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office at 524-3141** to donate pails of vanilla ice cream and 2-liter root beers. Thank you!

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!



All-Church Retreat: Interest Needed!

The United Church has the opportunity to reserve Camp FaHoCha (on an island at German Lake) Friday, September 10th—Saturday, September 11th for an all-church retreat of fellowship, worship, and fun. Are you interested? Please let us know on the interest sheet in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting the church office before Tuesday, June 7th! Without sufficient interest, we will have to pass up this opportunity. Thank you!



**United Church Of Mapleton
Council Meeting
May 18, 2016**

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

Devotional and Prayer: Dick
Next Month: Dave

April Minutes: Approve, Dave; Seconded, Chad

Treasurer's Report: Approve, Chad; Seconded, Marissa

Discussion of financial reporting and how to (clarify) church financial status so that all congregational members understand all of the nuances in the financial report.

Discussion of combining and/or dissolving the "dedicated funds".

Tabled: Financial transparency discussion.

Pastor's Report: Approve, Chad; Seconded, Marissa

Tabled: Church Vitality Discussion

[Prayer Support Group and Community Support Group for persons with mental health issues]

Decided that Pastor Ashley is/would be the United Church's contact person to assist and direct persons seeking help with mental health issues to sources of help in the region.

Organist: Develop a pool of organists and pianists.

Bulletin: Mission Moment/Ministry Moment

Mission Moment to be put in the bulletin. Changes to be noted in the bulletin and the "Voice".

Church information, that would be available to visitors, is to be developed.

Talent Team: Mailings of surveys are being returned, though not all are back in.

Confidentiality Reports: Signed by attendees of this meeting. Others will sign one in the future.

Building Report: Dave reported on the bids that have so far been returned for the (near) future projects to be done at the church and parsonage.

Ambiance Group: Banner storage discussed. Further ambiance group discussion was tabled.

Church Retreat: No feedback has been received. A deadline date for feedback has been set as June 7th.

Discussed moving electric piano to the choir loft.

Remember: Film, Fun and Faith on Wednesday nights!

Church Calendar: Tabled. To be published for future element placement.

Next Council meeting will be June 14th.

July Council meeting to be on the 19th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk, Gary Fritz