



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

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

May 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.

May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection Children's Sunday School during worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:05 a.m. Choir prac.	5 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	6 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	7 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation	8 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room	9	10
11 Mothers Day 9:00 a.m. Worship Children's Sunday School during worship 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. 10:05 a.m. Choir prac.	12 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	13 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	14 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Deacons	15 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room	16	17 RECYCLE!
18 9:00 a.m. Worship with Confirmation/ Graduation Recognition The Well Youth Center Collection Children's Sunday School during worship	19 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	20 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder Voice Articles due	21 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	22	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	26 Memorial Day	27 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	28 1:00 p.m. Quilting	29	30 Last day of school (3 hr. early out) Graduation	31
						

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

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Date:	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Greeters:	Robert and Virginia Clark	Doug and Laura Fritz	Carolyn Becker	Mabelle Larson
Coffee Hour:	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	The Well Youth Center	Board of Christian Education
Head Usher:	Pat Carter	Pat Carter	Pat Carter	Pat Carter

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, May 4th, 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, May 18th, 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.

Summer Communion Sundays

Communion will be served by intinction during the summer months starting June 1st.

Church Directory

Our new United Church directories are here! You may pick-up your directory (one per household) in the narthex area of the United Church.

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

The United Church Prayer Chain is now active! 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.

Adult Church Choir

Thank you to all who participated in the Adult Choir this past year.

The Adult Church Choir will be on summer break after singing on Sunday, May 18th.

The Adult Choir will resume again this fall and we hope you will join us again. New voices are always welcome!

Pastor's Corner

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” John 14:15-21

In the season of Easter, which runs from Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday, we receive an interesting mish-mash of texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for our Sunday worship and preaching. For the first few weeks, we hear what are called the “resurrection appearances” of Jesus. Through different interactions with the disciples, the risen Christ continues teaching them how to now be apostles, sent out into the world.

Martin Copenhaver writes in the UCC Daily Devotional from April 8, 2014 about these resurrection appearances in the Bible. “According to John, after Jesus concludes his public ministry, he spends a considerable amount of time with his disciples preparing them for what lies ahead. As Jesus speaks of his death and resurrection, his disciples have a multitude of questions.

They sound like the questions of children just before their parents go out the door: Where are you going? Do you have to go? Can't we go with you? When will you be back? Who will stay with us while you are away? They are plaintive questions, pressing and immediate.

Jesus responds that God “will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever will not leave you orphaned.” He is promising them the presence of the Holy Spirit. The word translated “Advocate” (sometimes translated “Counselor” or “Comforter”) means, literally, “someone who is called to one's side.”

The Holy Spirit is the one who stands by the disciples even after Jesus departs. And the Spirit is a constant and comforting presence for all those who follow Jesus, an advocate in times of trial, a counselor in perplexity.

The presence of the Holy Spirit, so wonderfully manifest in Jesus, continues to stand by and work through those who continue to follow him after his death and resurrection. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we have Jesus' continued presence at our side always.”

And the interesting part of our Eastertide lectionary is that after we witness these resurrection encounters between the disciples and the risen Christ, we then switch to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and witness how these newly minted apostles live out their faith in the world.

How does a band of confused and afraid disciples, first found by the risen Christ hiding behind locked doors, become apostles who preach, teach, and take the good news of the resurrected Christ to all nations? I believe it's precisely through the Holy Spirit, who continues to counsel, comfort, encourage, and equip us as followers, disciples, and apostles of Jesus Christ even today.

As we live in this Eastertide season and into all the seasons of life and faith that will follow, may we be bold to share the good news of Jesus Christ and serve others in the spirit of Jesus' love through the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Amen!

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

Continue

Youth Group Updates

From Pastor Ashley

Our 2013-2014 Confirmation class will culminate in worship on Sunday, May 18th. Our Confirmands (Carter Bair, Jayden McCutchen, and Cody Walters) have helped plan this worship service and will bring our message that day as they share from the papers they have written about their Confirmation experience and their faith. I am truly looking forward to this unique worship service and hope that you will be able to attend to hear from our Confirmands!

On Sunday, May 18th we will also recognize our Youth Group's graduating senior, Kellie Gerdts. Kellie is graduating from Maple River High School and will be attending University of Wisconsin – River Falls this fall. We are so proud of Kellie and all of her achievements throughout high school and cannot wait to see what she achieves next! She has been a blessing to us at The United Church, and I hope that you can attend worship on the 18th to bless her as she begins the next chapter of her journey.

Youth Group Sunday School is on break until the fall. I hope to plan some fun summer activities so we can keep in touch and keep our relationship with each other and with Jesus Christ strong!

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 recently attended a Pilgrim Point adult leader training event, 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!

Again, thank you to everyone that has supported our UCM Youth Summer Camp Scholarship fundraising efforts! By your generosity, 100% of this year's youth camp costs have been paid for through this fund! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Bill Brice, Stan Solie, 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
- Hutch Cramer, who recently fell and had surgery for a broken hip, is now recovering at the Mapleton Community Home
- Norma Baack, who had surgery for a broken hip on March 12th and who is now recovering at Oak Lawn Nursing Home in Mankato
- Gary McCarthy, Jessica McCutchen's father, as he continues to recover from recent prostate surgery
- Kathy Byram, who recently broke a bone in her leg and who is also recovering from pneumonia
- Donna Jean Sharp, who broke her arm this week and is recovering at home
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 4, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- The family members, friends, and community members of the three people killed at the Jewish Community Centers of Overland Park, KS on Sunday, April 13th. The shooting is being investigated as a hate crime.
- The family members, friends and community members of those aboard the South Korea ferry *Sewol* that capsized and sank on Wednesday, April 16th. At least 108 passengers have died and nearly 200 people are still missing.
- For the families and friends of those affected by the recent shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, which resulted in four deaths and sixteen wounded
- All those affected by the recent tornado outbreak, which killed at least 28 and left many others injured or homeless

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

- Prayers...
 - ◊ For the family of LeAnn Engelby, who passed away recently; prayers are especially requested for her sons, Shannon and Dallas
 - ◊ For healing for all the families dealing with another death
 - ◊ For a friend, Marge, as she copes with the loss of her husband
 - ◊ For Brady Prenzlow, who recently had a bicycle racing accident in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas and had to be flown to Missouri for care. He broke his collarbone, had a concussion and road rash, and needed stitches. The family gives thanks to God because it could have been so much worse and requests prayers as he heals. Brady recently had successful collarbone surgery after this accident.
 - ◊ That the joy of Easter's news be with everyone as we spread the mission of our church to the community and to the world through our prayers, our CWS kits, Treats for Troops, our church school, and our love to all.
 - ◊ Of thanksgiving for our friend Mari-Lize and her family on the birth of her niece on Friday
 - ◊ Of thanks for the gift of God's love and grace
 - ◊ For all youth who are bullied daily. May God protect them and even teach them love for their bullies
 - ◊ For Colleen Lindemann, who is dealing with serious back problems

Continue

In Our Prayers

- Thanksgiving...
 - ◊ For Bruce Stanton's birthday
 - ◊ For Virginia Clark's birthday on Thursday, April 3rd
 - ◊ To God for answered prayers
 - ◊ For Pastor Ashley and Jeff, the United Church of Mapleton, its members, and the work Sheila does
 - ◊ For the Pfeffers who recently helped with cleaning up around the church grounds
 - ◊ To God for answered prayers and for continued strengthening in our faith
 - ◊ For positive test results: ten years cancer free!
 - ◊ To God for the United Church of Mapleton for its rich Christian heritage

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Alice Zimmerman-Madsen, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Sunday, April 27th at the Mapleton Community Home. Alice's funeral was held on Wednesday, April 30th at First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago.

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 Gerdts (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 One: Wednesday 5/28, Sunday 6/1

Session Two: Wednesday 6/4, Sunday 6/8

Session Three: Wednesday 6/18, Sunday 6/22

Session Four: Wednesday 6/25, Sunday 6/29

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!

Ambience Volunteers Needed!

The Ambience Work Group is committed to keeping the Sanctuary looking nice and making sure that there are seasonally appropriate decorations available (for church seasons and calendar seasons both). It's a little bit of work that goes a long way for worship each week! A few more volunteers are needed to make the work easier and lighter. If you're interested in helping out, please let Jodie Gerdts or Pastor Ashley know. Thank you!

LOCAL MISSIONS

The Well Youth Center

The Well Youth Center is open for grades 4th through 12th from 3:00—5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays when school is in session.

We always welcome adult volunteers to help supervise youth or help with fundraising events. Please call (507) 524-3839 or (507) 995-8194.

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.

Order a T-Shirt of The Well Youth Center

The Well will be placing an order for T-Shirts through a local business.

T-Shirts are a deep Turquoise color with a large white imprint of The Well logo on the back and a smaller imprint on the front upper left.



The cost of each shirt will be \$10 (please pay when you order) and may be ordered by contacting or calling Sheila at (507) 995-8194, (507) 524-3839 or by a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board. Please make checks out to The Well Youth Center.

Wearing these T-Shirts is a great way to promote our communities local youth center and a **great encouragement to our youth when they see you wearing them!**

Help The Well Youth Center

In running a nonprofit organization such as The Well Youth Center, we need to ask for adult volunteer help from time to time. We need a lot of help for fundraising events. Please consider signing up to help for the events listed below, especially for Town & Country Days.

Please sign up to help by a call or contact to Sheila at (507) 995-8194 or (507) 524-3839.

You may also sign up on the sheet provided at church.

Jazz in the Park: Wednesday, May 21st. We will serve root beer floats and sell garden plants.

Town & Country Days: Friday, June 13th and Saturday, June 14th running from 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. Adults will serve Taco in a Bag, grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. Our youth run the beverage stand.

Tractor Pull: (T&C Days weekend): Sunday, June 15th from 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. We will be grilling meats and serve customers.

Dietz Brat Wagon: Friday, July 11th and Saturday, July 12th from 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. We will grill brats, hotdogs polish and serve customers.

Dietz Brat Wagon: Friday August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd from 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. We will grill brats, hotdogs -polish and serve customers.

Our organization offers many other fundraisers throughout the year.

As you can see, our Fundraising Committee, Board of Directors, and staff work very hard to keep this wonderful youth center going for our area youth.

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.



The United Church Women’s Fellowship

April 14, 2014

President Louise Webb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with nine members present. Mabelle Larson gave devotions from 1 Corinthians on loyalty, faith, hope and love.

Secretary’s report was given and accepted as read. There was no Treasurer report. Mabelle gave the Sunshine report stating that she sent out thinking of you cards to Norma Baack, Ron Newell, and Kathy Byram; and one congratulations to Bill and Linda Pfeffer.

The Missionary report consisted of Baby and Hygiene kits to be finished, packed and sent out. Treats for Troops will be done in May.

Town and Country Days will be held June 13th and 14th this year. Please plan on bringing items for the Silent Auction. One item mentioned was quilts. We will need to provide 4 people to work the Silent Auction.

The Craft, Bake and Quilt Sale was tabled until later. We need money to pay postage for the mailing of Baby and Hygiene kits.

The meeting was adjourned.

We finished the evening cleaning the kitchen and pantry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Silent Auction—Town and Country Days

The United Church will be involved in our local Town and Country Days Silent Auction on Saturday, June 14, 2014.

We are looking for donations of new or almost new items, theme baskets, talents you have to share. Another way in which you could be involved in this project is to volunteer to work. We need to provide 4 volunteers, so we may cover (2) 1 hour shifts.

If you have any questions, you may call Joyce Johnson at (507) 524-3727.

Report of Deacons Meeting

April 9th, 2014

The Deacons Meeting was held on April 9th and began at 7:00 p.m. in the overflow room. Those present for the meeting were: Ruth Cumming, Dan Prenzlou, Dawn Dietz, Pat Carter, Pastor Ashley & Jodie Gerds. Dawn started the meeting off with devotions.

Old Business: The prayer chain will be re-activated again. Karen Stanton has agreed to lead this ministry for the church. There was a meeting at 6:00 p.m. this evening to discuss this ministry. The updated church directory is still in the works. This potentially would be printed by Easter.

New Business: There are three confirmands this year and confirmation will be held on May 18th, 2014. The Sunday worship service will be led by these three young men.

The United Church will be having "Call to Care" training sessions in the near future. This will be a trained group of people that would be able to go out and meet with congregation members who may need help or support in some way. This is something new that the church will be starting to utilize. There are numerous sessions with varying days to attend. If you are interested in taking part in this new program, please let Pastor Ashley or a Deacon know. Communion will be served for the summer months as intinction. This will start in June.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 14th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jodie Gerds

Board of Christian Education

April 12th, 2014

The Board of Christian Education met after setting up for the Palm Sunday Brunch on April 12th, 2014. Louise, Jeff and Liz were in attendance. The adult Lent study went well with approximately 6-8 people in class each Sunday. May 18th will be the final day of Sunday School until it starts up again in September.

Ashley met with representatives from the other churches to start planning for Vacation Bible School this summer.

Jeff and Ashley are planning on going to Pilgrim Point in Alexandria this summer (last week in July) and taking any youth that are interested with them. Currently we have a possible 2-4 youth interested.

The next Board of Christian Education meeting will be held May 13th.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Bair

Mission Committee

The two missions that we are focusing on right now are, collecting items for Baby and Hygiene kits and Treats for Troops. Please give what you can to help us make up a good supply of all of these kits. It is appreciated and means so much to our troops to receive a box of the goodies we send as well.

We will be packaging and sending the Baby Hygiene kits on Friday, April 25th at 1:00 p.m. Please volunteer to help if you can. The Treats for Troops will be packed and sent on Saturday, May 10th, 9:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton.

Always remember our two local missions, The Well Youth Center and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Sheila and Dawn deserve a big thank you for all they do for the kids at The Well. Please stop in and see for yourself what a wonderful job they do. Once again, thank you, for all you do for the many missions we support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Ward, Mission Chairman

Mission Kits

Thank you to all who donated to the Baby and Hygiene kits and to those who gave of their time and helped pack the kits! Your generous donations will help many in need of these items.

The United Church was able to pack and send 14 Baby kits and 33 Hygiene kits.

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Board of Trustees Budget Update

As I'm sure we've all noticed at home, the cost of natural gas and LP went up dramatically this winter. These cost increases have also affected the bills for The United Church. Along with higher snow removal costs than expected (even though we increased the budgeted amount for this year), our bills for the first three months of 2014 have been much more than budgeted for. We are currently running at a deficit of about \$4,000 for the year. If you are able to give a bit extra to help offset these unexpected costs and balance the budget, it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Important Board of Trustees Giving Clarification

The Trustees, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary would like to clarify how donations are handled. Checks written to "The United Church of Mapleton" will be cashed and handled by The United Church for our budget and ministries.

Checks written to area ministries (such as "Loaves & Fishes" or "The Well") and put in the offering plate will not be cashed by The United Church, but instead passed along to those organizations so that you, the giver, are duly credited for your gift by that organization.

For our quarterly Special Mission Offerings (such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, America for Christ, etc.), checks should be written to "The United Church of Mapleton" with "Special Mission Offering" written in the memo line and/or placed in a specially marked envelope. Cash for Special Mission Offerings should always be placed in a specially marked envelope.

Beginning with our next Special Mission Offering in June, we will no longer use denominationally provided offering envelopes. Instead, there will be a single style of envelope provided in the pew racks. This is to eliminate confusion and emphasize the fact that for each quarterly Special Mission Offering, all money is collected into a single "pot" which is then divided evenly in half and sent to each denomination's Special Mission Offering group.

Recently, several checks have been received made out to "The United Church of Mapleton" with "Mission" written in the memo line. Given the many ways that we do and support mission at The United Church, this can be unclear, and we always want to honor your intent with your donation dollars.

To this end, please be as specific as possible with your memo notes.

For example, if you want to help The United Church support a specific local mission (such as our budgeted commitment to The Well or a special offering for Loaves & Fishes), please write that mission's name in the memo. If it is for that month's Special Mission Offering, please write "Special Mission Offering" in the memo, or use a marked "Special Mission Offering" envelope. If you want to support our Church General Fund budgeted commitment to support our two denominational affiliations giving at a denomination-wide level, please write "Mission Budget" in the memo.

If you have any questions, please ask Keith McCutchen (Treasurer), Ginny Kinzie (Financial Secretary), or Dick Dietz (Chair, Board of Trustees). Thank you!

Continue

Board of Trustees Meeting

April 16, 2014

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

Meeting called to order by Dick Dietz at 7:06 pm.

Agenda reviewed and approved.

Secretary's minutes from March meeting read by Lisa Shubert.

Two corrections were noted.

1) The Ending Balance on March 19th

2) At the March meeting we had voted to pay Jola Walker \$100 for playing for the Lenten (Wednesday) services.

Minutes were approved with the above noted corrections/additions.

Treasurer's report reviewed. Discussion on the following:

Dick suggested that we need to create a budget line item for local missions so when we get requests (like Serteen), we have a line item that it can be attached to.

We are running at about 112% of the budget due to higher heating and snow removal costs.

Quarterly Giving statements are being generated. Unfortunately, we cannot email the quarterly statements.

Chad Kunkel made a motion to provide the quarterly giving statements for pick up at coffee hour. Those that are not picked up will be mailed. Ron Conrad seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Roof repairs – Chad has contacted Jason Klein about fixing the flashing by the bell tower. He is still planning to do the work but is waiting for warmer weather.

Chad brought up the fact that the join of the gutters on the north side of the sanctuary may need some repair. It appears to be leaking during rains.

We discussed items that could be part of a capital campaign and will begin keeping a list of such items. Current list includes:

- a) New roof for the church
- b) Sidewalks need repair (cracking)
- c) Parking lots need to be seal-coated
- d) Chair lift for west entrance
- e) Technology

Parsonage sump pump – has been installed and appears to be running. Jeff and Ashley have also purchased a dehumidifier which seems to be helping with moisture in the basement.

MVAC worksite - Shelby Foster has been hired through the MVAC program. She will be working 7 hours per week.

Designated memorial funds –

- a) Beatrice Rue memorial fund is truly an undesignated fund.
- b) The Greeley Flower fund was designated for flowers.
- c) Grace Preston fund is still undefined. We think it was for music, organ but the sub-committee needs to research this.
- d) Bank CD is still undefined and needs further research by the sub-committee.

Pastor Ashley met with Waggoners Inc. regarding pew cushions. She received a price quotation that is good until 8/1/2014. There were 3 different qualities of cushions that were quoted:

Inspirations - \$243/pew
Classics - \$252/pew
Parlor - \$257/pew

The pew cushion fund is currently at \$2,160.

We discussed possibly asking members if they would like to purchase an individual pew cushion as a way to get more donations. The Board requested an additional bid to see if the Waggoners' bid is reasonable or if there is better pricing. Dick Dietz will check into obtaining a second bid.

New Business

Garden – the church will be creating two raised bed gardens on the Northeast church lawn. The purpose of the gardens are to provide produce to the Loaves & Fishes food shelf. Pastor Ashley has been working with Jon Klenk (food shelf director) to determine what produce we should plant and with Geri Howieson and Carolyn Becker on when to plant various items and where to get the dirt. The two beds will be 2'x4'x16' and will be maintained by volunteers and the MVAC worksite worker (Shelby).

Motion to create these gardens for providing produce to Loaves & Fishes was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Chad Kunkel. Motion passed.

Bedroom in basement of Parsonage – Pastor Ashley and Jeff are requesting to make a guest bedroom in the parsonage basement (northeast room). They will pay for the work. Two concerns were raised:

- a) This room has had water in it before. Are we sure the new sump pump and dehumidifier will take care of the water issues we have had in the past. The Board recommended they wait a few months to see what happens when it rains.
- b) There is no egress window in the basement (let alone the room they would like to make into a bedroom). Ashley will get an estimate on what it would cost to put an egress window in that room as part of the remodel. This would be a cost to the church if we would go forward with the window.

Spring cleanup will be on Saturday, April 26th at 1:00 pm. All volunteers are welcome.

Request for donation by Melissa (Alleven) Johnston for a friend's child who has cancer was denied. The concern was if we began doing this, how we would determine who we donate to and who we do not.

Request to purchase ad space in the Maple River Band calendars. The other local churches advertise in the calendar.

Motion made by Bob Howieson to advertise in the calendar, seconded by Ron Conrad. Motion passed.

Xcel has requested a new key for entrance to the church in order to read our meter. Dick will ask Sheila to contact them.

The United Church signs on County Rd 7 have been put up. Sheila Samuelson paid for the signs and should be given a Thank You for the donation. Dick will take care of this.

Offering counter with Ginny Kinzie will be split between Lisa Shubert and Patrick Pfeffer during the month of May. Lisa will count the first two Sundays and Patrick will count during the last two Sundays. **Next meeting** will Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00 pm. **Meeting Adjourned** – motion made by Ron Conrad at 9:11.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Shubert, Secretary

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