



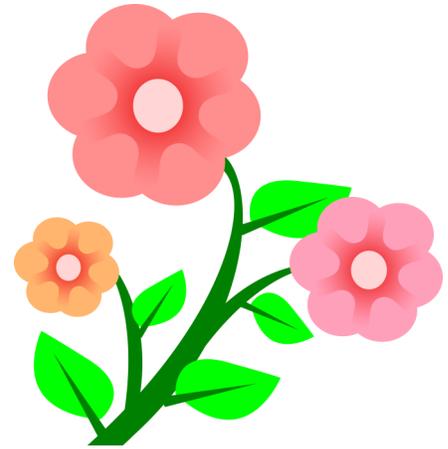
***“The Voice”* Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton**

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

MAY 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
 9:15am PreK– 2nd Grade Sunday School
 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month: 6-7pm
G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together)
A meal will be served.

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection 10:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Garden of Eatin' meeting 10:00am Conf. Class	2	3 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00pm Quilting	4 6:00-7:00pm GIFT: <i>Generations In Faith Together</i> 7:00-8:00pm Confirmation Faith Conversation Group	5	6	7
8 9:00am Worship 10:00am Conf. Class	9 7:00pm Women's Fellowship	10 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00pm Quilting	11	12	13	14 8:30—10:30am Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran
15 Pentecost 9:00am Worship with Confirmation and Youth Center Collection	16	17 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00pm Quilting	18 6:00-7:00pm GIFT: <i>Generations In Faith Together</i> 7:00pm Church Council	19	20 4:30-6:00pm Relay for Life Dinner in Fellowship Hall	21
22 9:00am Worship with	23	24 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 8:00am The Voice articles for June are due 1:00pm Quilting 3:00-6:00pm Loaves & Fishes	25 7:30pm Pastoral Relations	26	27	28 9:00-Noon Loaves & Fishes workday
29 9:00am Worship	30	31 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00pm Quilting				

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

May 2016
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	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Lay Leader	Ginny Kinzie	Hugo John	Karen Stanton	Louise Webb	
Hospitality Team Lead					
Coffee Hour	Church Council	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Christian Education	Loaves & Fishes

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, May 1st, 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, May 15th, 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) 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *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!

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

Acts 2:1-4

I think that Pentecost is one of the most underrated and under-celebrated holidays of the Christian church. Everyone in our American society, whether they are an active member of a church or not, knows at least a little bit about Easter and Christmas. However, far too many people, regardless of their religious observance, may know little to nothing about Pentecost!

“Pentecost was the second of the three great feasts in Hebrew society [the other two being Pesach, or Passover, and Sukkot, or the Festival of Tabernacles/Booths]. It was originally referred to as the Feast of Harvest and later as the Feast of Weeks. The day was the culmination of a seven-week agricultural season that concluded with a one-day festival held on the first day after the seventh Sabbath after Passover. In its original setting (Numbers 28:26), it was a sacrificial presentation of the first fruits of the harvest. In Jesus’ time, the holiday took on a more festive tone with a final communal meal to which the poor were invited.

Pentecost is often referred to as the forgotten holy day in the church's liturgical calendar. Aside from preaching on the text (Acts 2:1–21) and singing songs emphasizing the theme of the Holy Spirit, many churches go along with “worship as usual.” Consider all the aspects of the Pentecost story:

- Expectant disciples are caught up in a cacophonous whirlwind of flames;
- Filled with the Holy Spirit, they begin to praise God in a variety of languages;
- The crowd of Jewish foreigners assembled for the Feast of Weeks hears these Galileans speaking in their own tongues;
- Some in the amazed crowd have a skeptical answer to this language riddle — the disciples must be drunk;
- Peter, emboldened by the Holy Spirit, denies the charge and proclaims God's act of salvation through Christ;
- At the end of Peter's Pentecost sermon, three thousand people join the new religious movement.

If ever there is a day for Christian churches to shout “Alleluia, Amen!” this is it! Pentecost is, quite literally, the birthday of the Christian church.” The beginning of the Christian church happened in an era that was full of change, just as our modern era is. The apostles’ world was filled with wonder, excitement, and challenges alike. Our world may look and feel much different than theirs, but both the first century and the twenty-first century contain the fullness of the Holy Spirit’s power, the potential of a global mission field, and opportunities for faithful risk-taking.

Christ’s disciples, both ancient and modern, are called by the Holy Spirit and by the holy day of Pentecost, to take Jesus’ good news of life abundant and grace upon grace to all people. May we answer the gospel call of Pentecost!

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, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian 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, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Roberta Ward
- 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 bombing in Brussels, Belgium on Tuesday, March 22nd, including 17 children, and the more than 300 people injured
- All those affected by the bombing in Lahore, Pakistan, including the 72 people who died, including 17 children, and the more than 300 people injured



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

Thanksgiving:

- To God as we celebrate Earth Day. May we praise God for the beautiful and bountiful Earth given to us as a trust from the Lord.
- And prayers for blessing on Alberta Samuelson's 90th birthday!
- To God for the anniversary of Karson and Amber and prayers for many more
- To God for great singers, such as the Riverblenders, and to the member of our church, Ron, who sings with them
- To God to have Wally and Jack with us again in worship
- For answered prayer for my dear friend in her workplace; it is once again a happy environment
- In celebrating a granddaughter's 3rd birthday and a grandma's birthday!

Prayers:

- For a world filled with hate, want, and natural disasters
- For a world where those who love need encouragement in righteousness
- For safety for the farmers planting
- Of healing for Bernedea Ward, who is in the hospital
- Of healing for Mary Jacob Bublitz, who is recovering after surgery
- For sister, Carol, who is now on hospice care
- For the family of Joanne Huisman, who passed away last week
- For Sue Weingartz, for the loss of her husband, Gerry Weingartz
- For brother Tom and sister-in-law Deb who both have serious health issues. Deb was taken by ambulance to Rochester last week.
- For the poor and hungry. May God reach into our hearts to help those in need.
- For Jenna and family. She suffered a brain bleed following a fall and was taken from life support.
- That the joy of the Risen Christ bring the Spirit of love and forgiveness to each throughout the following year
- For a friend, Alan Olson, who is dealing with medical issues
- For continued healing for those who have been ill

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, May 9th**, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Quilters Group

Quilters Group will be quilting every Tuesday afternoon  from 1:00-3:00 p.m. There is no need to be an experienced quilter as the group will be happy to teach you! You may tie quilts if you do not wish to sew.

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 Maple River School, Mapleton. 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.

Mission Kits

Please bring your items to the church by **Thursday, May 5th** and place donated items in the boxes provided in the narthex/entry area. Thank you so much!

Women's Fellowship

April 11th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Louise Webb with 10 ladies present. Devotions were given by Darlene Fezler on Joy.

Secretary Report: Given and accepted as read.

Sunshine Committee: Mabelle reported she sent out 13 greeting cards for Easter and birthdays.

Mission Report: We discussed mission kits to be packed and sent.

Business: There is a Mid-American Baptist Women's and Girls retreat in Waverly, Iowa. We discussed the stoves needing repair. We gave Louise gas money for delivering bandages to the cities. Relay for Life Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall again this year. We prepared mission kits to be packed and sent. We discussed Town and Country Days. Mabelle served a delicious lunch. Louise read a thank you note from Marge Walters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Christian Education Report

April 26, 2016

Sunday School Update:

Sunday School will continue through the end of May. Attendance has been on average 3 children (ranging from 1 – 5 children) each Sunday, ages 3 - 8. We are still in need of additional volunteer teachers, so please check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you feel called to work with young children. Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered.

There has been some discussion about continuing to offer Sunday School through the summer months. This would of course require more volunteers to participate in our program. Perhaps another possibility would be to offer a lighter version of Sunday School such as a children’s activity time during worship. Please let me know your thoughts.

Looking ahead to other activities:

During the April Council meeting, inquiries were made re any future plans for continuing with Bible studies. Please let me know your thoughts and ideas about Bible study/Prayer group gatherings. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pam Foster, CEC

Email: blackpearl5335@yahoo.com

Cell phone: 515 326-0463. Use also for text messages

P.S. I am forming a CE Advisory Team. Please let me know if interested. Thank you.

In an effort of transparency from the Church Council, we’ve agreed to publish quarterly updates of the Church’s financial status in *the Voice*.

You’ll notice that we are over budget so far this year. While this causes us concern, over the years we’ve noticed that during the winter months tithing and offerings drop and then slowly pick-up during the rest of the year. The council will monitor the situation and continue to follow our monthly budget and publish our quarterly financial status. If you have fallen behind on your offerings please take this opportunity to catch up in the next few months.

If anyone has questions about the financial status of the church, please ask Dick Dietz, Moderator, or Keith McKutchen.

1st Qtr Financial Summary 1/1/16 to 3/31/16

	General Fund	Capital Fund
Beginning Balance	\$ 20,036.90	\$ 21,366.73
Tithes & Offerings Total	\$ 31,247.80	\$ 15,036.00
Year-To-Date Expenses	<u>\$ (31,589.19)</u>	<u>\$(10,560.00)</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 19,695.51</u>	<u>\$ 25,842.73</u>

1st Qtr Budget Summary

	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	% of Budget
January	\$ 11,600.87	\$ 12,953.61	\$ (1,352.74)	111.66%
February	\$ 11,600.87	\$ 13,844.33	\$ (2,243.46)	119.34%
March	\$ 11,600.87	\$ 15,133.87	\$ (3,533.00)	130.45%
Total	<u>\$ 34,802.61</u>	<u>\$ 41,931.81</u>	<u>\$ (7,129.20)</u>	<u>120.48%</u>

**United Church Of Mapleton
Council Meeting**

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April 20, 2016

7:08pm to 9:25pm

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

Devotional and Prayer by Marissa
(next month by Dick)

Clerk/Secretary's Report: Printed copy read by members. Approved by Chad, Seconded by Keith

Prayer Support Group for persons with mental health issues, and Community Support Group discussion was tabled again.

Treasurer's Report: Approved by Dave, Seconded by Marissa.

In May information regarding the church's financial standing will be presented to the congregation.

Church's financial standing will be put in the "Voice" along with reminder about pledges and tithing.

Pastor's Report: Approved by Dave, Seconded by Chad

Decided that everyone is to print out, on your own, the meeting agenda, your own report, and any other reports you want discussed at the meetings.

Personal Committee: May form a sub-committee to procure an organist.

23 Signs of A Non-Numerical Church: What we are doing well, what we can improve upon.

The worship/church service arrangement may be changed by eliminating the spoken announcements and having "mission moments" only when needed.

Time and Talent Surveys: Not all have been returned. Reminders will be sent out to people asking that the surveys be completed and returned.

Confidentiality Agreements: This will be purveyed and then determined as to who needs to sign one.

Parsonage and Church Projects: Dave is procuring bids for the projects and they are expected to be returned soon.

Ambiance Group: Tabled discussion.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on September 18, 2016 to vote on adopting, or not, the proposed church constitutional amendments.

"All Church Retreat" to the camp on the island at German Lake on September 9th and 10th, 2016: There will be an inquiry of church members as to who and how many would like to participate.

"Film, Fun and Faith" movie night is to happen each Wednesday during the summer in the church fellowship hall. The Wednesday movie will then be tied in with the upcoming Sunday message/sermon.

The church calendar is being developed.

May 18th is the next Council meeting.

Proposed future Council meetings: June 14th and July 19th.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk, Gary Fritz