



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

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

NOVEMBER 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 *Pray Ground in Sanctuary during worship
9:00am	Nursery Care (Nursery Room)
9:30-10:00am	Children's Sunday School (PreK-Kin) & (1st-5th)
10:00am	Youth Sunday School (6th-12th)
10:00am	Coffee & Fellowship

Mission Jars this month will go to the **Jackson Foster Home**

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00-7:00pm G.I.F.T. <i>(Generations in Faith Together)</i> 7:00pm Called to Care	3	4	5 9:00-11:00am Kilties Wedding of Karmeron Duncanson and LeAnna Kram
6 9:00am Worship with <i>Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection</i> 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00-11:00am Youth S. School Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder Election Day	9	10	11 RECYCLE! Veterans Day	12 8:30-10:30am Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran 9:00-11:00am Kilties
13 9:00am Worship 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00am Congregation Annual Budget Proposal and Election mtg	14 7:00pm Women's Fellowship	15 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	16 7:00pm Church Council	17	18 6:00pm Party of 8 Fellowship Event	19 9:00-11:00am Kilties
20 9:00am Worship 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00-11:00am Youth S. School	21	22 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 RECYCLE! 8:00am items are due into the church office for December newsletter	26 9:00-11:00am Kilties
27 9:00am Worship 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00-11:00am Youth S. School 1st Sunday in Advent	28	29 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 3:00-6:00pm Loaves & Fishes Workday	30 Snowflake Dazzle Community Event			Saturday, December 3rd 9:00-11:00am Kilties 9:00am-Noon Loaves & Fishes Workday

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

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	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
Lay Leader	Hugo John	If you are interested in serving as Lay Leader during the month of November, please contact Ron Conrad		
Hospitality Team Lead	Ron Conrad	Stan Whitney	If you are interested in serving as Hospitality Team Lead during the month of November, please contact Ron Conrad	
Coffee Hour	Church Council	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Christian Education

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!

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.

Mission Jars

For the month of November the mission jar donations will go to the **Jackson Foster Care Home**.

G.I.F.T. (Generation in Faith Together)

Our final G.I.F.T. session will be held Wednesday, November 2nd, 2016.

The Artist & Craftsmen Show slated for Saturday, November 19th, 2016 has been canceled.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

Quilters Group

All are welcome to come and join in the fun! Many talents are needed. We quilt at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and stop at 3:00 p.m. for a "Tea and Crumpets" social time.



It's Time to Fall Back!

Daylight Saving Time Ends: Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 a.m.



Pastor's Corner*The Voice* – November 2016

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” *Philippians 1:3-6*

Dear United Church of Mapleton Family,

Since you called me four years ago, we have done some incredible ministry together. People of all ages have come to know the abundant love of Jesus and more about building the Kingdom of God, even here and now. We have helped and been present with many through hard times, and we have reached out and served the community around us with the love of Christ. We have surrounded people with love and the feeling of family. We have said hello to many and goodbye to a few.

It is with a heavy heart that I must now say goodbye to you. You all have been such an amazing congregation to serve and a great place to find my identity in ministry throughout this first call. I have made some mistakes along the way. I ask for your forgiveness in the ways my leadership or myself have let you down or hurt you. Please be assured that I have learned much from you. I pray that you have also learned from me, and that we both enter into the next phases of our ministries stronger for our time together, and are ready and willing to focus on the purpose of church: to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to offer God's gracious love to the world.

You all have been such a gift to my family and me. We have loved living in Mapleton; we have appreciated the quietness, the small town relationships, and seeing the stars at night. You have been an amazing community for Isaac to be born into, and for his first impressions of church to develop in a positive way because of your loving, grace-filled community. I have loved you deeply and given you the very best of what my ministry had to offer. I am so grateful for all the ways you encouraged, supported, and made room for my creativity, especially in worship leadership, intergenerational education, and preaching.

I am sad to be leaving you, but also hopeful that your ministry can grow and change in new ways with strong lay and pastoral leadership. Leaders all bring different kinds of gifts, and I am excited to see what new, creative, life-giving ministries you can do for God with a different leader. I pray that you will be as supportive of your lay and pastoral leaders as you have been of me, by affirming their gifts and working together for the good of the church, and ultimately, the Kingdom of God.

The process of leaving might be hard, but it is important to me to do it well. Over the past month, we have had time to celebrate with one another, cry with one another, and ask for and receive forgiveness from one another. On Sunday, November 6th, my last Sunday with you, we will do this in a special way during worship through a *Liturgy of Farewell*. I will certainly grieve leaving this place, and hope to do so in a way that enables us both to be free to fully engage in God's call for our lives.

After November 6th, except for things related to moving out of the parsonage, I will be unable to have significant contact with you. This will be in accordance with the guidelines established by both the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ for clergy transitioning out of a pastoral role with a congregation. It will be mostly my job to maintain those boundaries, so please understand when I direct you to your new lay and/or pastoral leadership for many kinds of conversations. I will also have to remove myself from connection and contact with you in all forms of social media; again, this is an issue of ministerial ethics, not an indication of a lack of concern or affection. It is because I care about you and the future of this congregation that these steps are necessary.

I leave you all with sadness about going, but also with great hope for the future of this congregation. I believe you will proclaim the Gospel in, with, through, and around one another and your new lay and pastoral leadership, so that all people may know about God's eternal love for them, about Jesus' grace-filled good news, and about the all of the ways the Holy Spirit is an active part of our lives each and every day and in every place and space. May the love, grace, and abundant life of the Lord our God send us from here into a future full of hope.

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

In Our Prayers



Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma B., Kathy C., Janie F., Jeannie J., Phyllis L., Marian M., Lloyd M., Stan S.
- 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: Eli A., Larry B., Jack M., Sean M.
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East

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

Prayers:

- For safe journeys for Jayden Karels and his teammates as they play football at the Viking Stadium
- For all the farmers hoping to get their crops in, and for all the water logged/flooded people and their homes
- Of happiness for family here from Alaska to stay—Jimmy Karels and family, nephew of Sharon Shuck
- For secure jobs and financial stability for those in need
- For a nephew, Bill, recovering from a motorcycle accident
- For the community of Lake Crystal, where a 37 year old teacher died suddenly last week
- For Carter Bair who recently turned 16 years old
- For my brother and his wife as they become foster care providers for their four grandchildren.
- For a family member going through a very tough time in her life
- For Larry Barott, who is dealing with a kidney stone
- All those affected by Hurricane Matthew, especially the nearly 500 killed in Haiti
- For the Jackson family foster home
- For Tim and Phyllis Lindemann
- For Dorothy, who slipped and cracked ribs
- For farmers and their families
- For single parents striving to create safe, loving environments for their children
- For Chelsea Wingen, who is undergoing cancer treatment
- For safe travels to GA/FL this week for a girls' vacation
- For the family of Jacob Strobel
- For calm in a world that is becoming more and more chaotic
- For a mother and daughter undergoing severe addiction problems
- For my co-worker's son, Matt, recovering from a dirt bike accident
- For my sister's husband and children, as they face a life without her
- For the families of suicide victims
- For my sister, Linda D., as her cancer has returned

Thanksgiving:

- To God that our son, Keith and family in Florida were spared any major problems from Hurricane Matthew
- And prayers for the birth of twins into the family. Due to early delivery, there are some health concerns, but the best care of medicine is in place
- And for your prayers while I, Clint Lindemann, was in the hospital. Special thanks to Hugo for taking my place a couple of weeks ago.

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!

Call to Ministry and Ministry Table

If you would like to share a Call to Ministry at the beginning of worship, please contact 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 has information about church ministry opportunities and community events.

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. This is a great mission to be a part of and a great way to get to know people in the community! Please call Debbie Jaeger at 524-3784 or the St. John Church office at 524-3615 if you would like to volunteer or help serve. See you **Saturday, November 12th** from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

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. You may also look for us on Facebook. Meals will be provided by Maple River School. When school is closed Maggie J's will provide meals.

Community Closet

Come in and take a look, Saturdays from 9:00-Noon. Also, if you have any groups at your church that would like to earn extra money, please call Gay Rice, 524-4040, to set a date.

Caregiver Support Group

This monthly support group is moving from Amboy to Mapleton. The group is for anyone who provides care to a family member or friend with a progressive illness. It is informal and meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us for our next session on **November 1st, 3:00-4:30 p.m., at St. Teresa Catholic Church in Mapleton.** Please use the north entrance near the parking lot. Topic: Managing caregiver stress over the holidays. There is no charge to attend; pre-registration is not required. Questions? Call Joyce Kolbet at VINE Faith in Action (386-5583).

**Notice of Congregational Annual Budget
Proposal and Election Meeting**

The Annual Budget Proposal and Election meeting will be held immediately following our Sunday morning worship service on **Sunday, November 13th, 2016** to approve the 2017 budget and officer nominations.

Other business can be considered at this time. Please inform the Moderator if you wish to place an item on the agenda. Everyone is invited to come and participate.

Women's Fellowship

October 10, 2016

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

Devotions: Mary Beth gave devotions titled *Begging for Waffles*. November devotions will be given by Louisabelle.

Sunshine Committee: Mabelle reported that she sent out a total of 8 cards which included get well, thinking of you, and birthday.

Old Business: October minutes were read and accepted. Bills were read and paid. *Motion made by Mabelle and Joyce, accepted.*

A suggestion was made that Women's Fellowship pay for quilting supplies. *Motion made by Darlene and Louisabelle, accepted.*

New Business: Circle #3 will host coffee hour on November 13th, 2016. It was decided to give our shut-ins poinsettias again this year for Christmas. *Motion made by Joyce and Ruth, accepted.*

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Congregational Meeting

September 18, 2016

Dick Dietz, Moderator, initiated the meeting for review of the new (trial) church structure. This meeting is to promote the understanding of the new church model. Congregational Worship and Fellowship coordinator, Chad Kunkel, felt that the new structure was working; Community Outreach Coordinator, Marissa Pfeffer, also felt that the new model was working, as did Christian Education Coordinator, Pam Foster, and Property Coordinator, Dave Byram.

Key to the ability of the new structure to work, and continuing working, is communication between church members and Church Council and Committee members.

Have benefits of the new structure been achieved? Perhaps, as there have been new worship attendees that are or may become new church members, due to the (new) image of the United Church. It was brought up that we need to **invite** people to come and worship at the United Church, to "give us a try," and not just be idle and wait for people to come through the door. Following that, how do we continue welcoming and integrating new and potential new members.

Motion by Hugo John to continue to use the new trial structure, and for it to become the permanent church structure, and to prepare the church constitution for the permanent changes.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk, Gary Fritz

Council Meeting
United Church of Mapleton
 October 16th, 2016

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

Devotional and Prayer: Pastor Ashley

November Devotional: Dick

Snowflake Dazzle: November 30th

September Secretary's Report: *Motion to approve, Chad; seconded Marissa; Approved.*

Treasurer's Report: *Motion to approve, Chad; seconded, Marissa; Approved*

October pay and November honorarium for Pastor Ashley: Due to Pastor's contract ending now October 31st, Pastor Ashley will be paid through October and an honorarium will be given for the 6 days of November that she is in service to the United Church. *Motion to approve, Chad; seconded, Pam; Approved.*

Pastor's Report: *Motion to approve, Marissa; seconded, Chad; Approved.*

November 5th, wedding of Kameron Duncanson and LeAnna Kram.

Discussion: Two current Council members should “vacate” their positions to allow 2 new members to join the Council so that there is not a complete change over of Council personnel at the end of their current tenure. This would facilitate a rotation of officers, with “on board” members helping the new members make the transition and become acclimated.

November 13th will be a church meeting.

Discussion of there being co-chairs for some Council positions.

Proposed: Electing 5 members a year to fill Council positions.

The Talent Team will need to meet first to discuss the co-chairing of positions, and having 5 new members replace current Council officers.

Pastoral Relations and Personnel committees will meet soon.

Personnel committee will initiate criteria for the interim pastor. Meeting to be after November 13th.

The interim pastor would start after January 1st, 2017.

New members for the United Church: Brian Johnson, Greg & Nici Bruegger, Beverly & Shannon Ehlers. *Motion to approve new members, Pam; seconded, Chad; Approved.*

Property Report: The new heating plan for the church is almost complete. Helpers are needed to rake leaves to the street.

The “Giving Tree” is at the back of the sanctuary and will be made mentioned of during service.

The “Pray Ground” will be mentioned and explained during service.

Arts & Craft Fair: Waiting for potential responses from potential participants as there has been little interest shown so far. If no more interest is shown the fair will be canceled.

Church Logo Update: Sam Shubert submitted 4 potential designs. Some of the designs were well received, though it was decided that a “tweaking” of a design or two was needed and that if there were any more design submissions from Sam those would like to be viewed also. Thank you Sam.

Motion to Adjourn, Marissa.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Clerk, Gary Fritz