



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

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

OCTOBER 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

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Nursery Care

9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

10:10 a.m. Youth Group and Adult

Sunday School for all ages



OCTOBER 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 p.m. Quilters	2 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	6	7 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education	8 1:00 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Deacons	9 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir prac. 10:10 a.m. Sunday School Classes Begin!	13 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	14 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations	15 1:00 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	16 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study	17	18 RECYCLE!
19 9:00 a.m. Worship with The Well Youth Center Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir prac.	20	21 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	22 1:00 p.m. Quilters	23 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study Voice Articles due	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir prac.	27	28 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	29 1:00 p.m. Quilters	30 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study	31 Halloween	

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Phone: (507) 524-3141

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Date:	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Greeters:	Mabelle Larson	Sharon Shuck	Hugo and Pat John	Clint Lindemann
Coffee Hour:	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	The Well Youth Center	Board of Christian Education
Head Usher:	Dave Byram	Dave Byram	Dave Byram	Dave Byram

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, October 5th, 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, October 19th, 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.

New and Renewed Member Sunday

On **Sunday, October 26th, 2014**, The United Church of Mapleton will hold a "New and Renewed Member Sunday" in order to welcome new members and members who have renewed their membership in worship.

If you are a new member or a member who has recently renewed their participation in United Church life, please plan to attend!

Thank you for being a part of the life of The United Church. We hope you can join us for this joyful day of worship!

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 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.

Pastor's Corner

The Voice – October 2014

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:11

Each year in the life of the church comes with many expected seasons. Some are liturgical seasons, like Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Some are seasons of life, like births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals. Some are more glamorous and exciting than others, yet all are necessary and part of the rhythm of the life of the church.

Beginning Sunday, September 28th, the season we will be celebrating at The United Church is that of stewardship. Stewardship is usually just a polite “church” term for talking about finances and money, but I think the word is well chosen for two reasons. By their very definition, stewards are those who oversee, manage, and protect that which belongs to others or that which is considered worth protecting and preserving.

Yes, our stewardship season is mainly focused on finances, especially the pledge commitments we will collect in worship on Sunday, October 12th and which will help us plan a responsible budget for 2015. However, to remember that we are stewards of our finances places the emphasis rightly on God, who is indeed the giver of every good and perfect gift that we know and are blessed to enjoy in our lives, including our money. Of course, God isn't the one literally signing our paychecks or managing our assets, yet we are blessed by God to have such resources to manage responsibly, including offering back to God's mission in and through the church.

And the mission of God that we as The United Church of Mapleton are called to is indeed something worth protecting and preserving. This mission, ministry, and calling invite each and every one of us into the role of steward. Our finances are not the only resources we have at hand for this role; we also contribute our time, talents, prayers, energy, and so much more towards the work that The United Church does in our community for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ.

And although we take the matter of stewardship seriously here at The United Church, as well we should, we also undertake budget plans and stewardship seasons with a certain theological mindset intentionally in place. We must always remember that we are stewards in God's economy, which is an economy of abundance and generosity, as stated so well by the UCC resource, *Stewards in the Household of God*.

“As Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann points out, the Bible starts out with a liturgy of abundance – a song of praise for God's generosity. It keeps saying, ‘It is good, it is good, it is good, it is very good.’ Filled with God's generosity, Jesus went around to people suffering from scarcity – of health, of acceptance, of power, of understanding – and replaced it with a gift of abundance. Jesus is well schooled in the transformative generosity of God and in the conviction that if you share your bread with the neighbor, the world will be made new. He knows that generosity isn't something you just think about, it's something you do.

Stewardship presumes blessing and abundance. Jesus sums up the purpose of his ministry this way: that we ‘may have life, and have it abundantly.’ Our job is discernment of the ways in which all of us, including the church, already have ‘far more than all we can ask or imagine.’ Then the real work of stewardship becomes embracing generosity *in the spirit of Jesus* as a way of life. How is this way of life transformative for you?”

In and through this stewardship season, may the Spirit of God transform us as individuals and as This United Church of Mapleton for the building of the Kingdom of God in our community. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

Youth Group Updates

From Pastor Ashley

Youth, youth families, and anyone who might like to volunteer to help with the Youth Group: here's the schedule of Fun and Fellowship activities between now and the end of the year as well as more information about what we're studying in Youth Group Sunday School.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas for the Youth Group, let me know by email (pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org) or phone (381-8199)!

Fun and Fellowship Activities

We plan to average one each month. Events will be in the evening. Dates will be confirmed with families in advance and be rescheduled if necessary. **Youth are always welcome to bring friends!**

- Movie Night (September): Sunday, September 28th, 6:00pm in the Youth Lounge, free pizza provided
- Pumpkin Carving (October): Sunday, October 26th 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, free pizza provided
- Bowling at Wow! Zone (November): Sunday, November 23rd, meet at 5:00pm in the Youth Lounge to carpool to Mankato, free dinner will be provided at Wow! Zone
- Christmas Party/White Elephant Gift Exchange (December): Sunday, December 14th, 6:00pm in the Youth Lounge, free pizza provided

Sunday School

Echo the Story, by Sparkhouse

Sunday at 10:10am, beginning Sunday, September 21st

“From creation to the formation of the church, students enter into each Biblical story imaginatively making observations, drawing, writing, and participating in group dialogue. *Echo the Story 12* is a 12-session overview of the Bible for youth. The complete *Echo the Story* experience helps participants discover meaning and identity in the biblical narrative using a DVD, participant Sketch Journal, and detailed Leader Guide.”

Kids love the bingo prize bin!



**Stan Whitney,
faithful bingo caller**



**Sean
Mallory,
resident comedian**



In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Hutch Cramer, David Keller, Stan Solie, 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
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- Isaac Kolstad, who suffered a severe head injury early on May 11th in Mankato, and has been transferred to a rehab facility in the Twin Cities area. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson. Isaac had a seizure on September 12th and would appreciate our prayers as his doctors do tests and consider treatment options. You can find updates about Isaac at www.caringbridge.org/visit/isaackolstad
- Dawn Dietz, who learned that her lymphoma has recurred.
- Norma Baack, who is recovering from a broken hip at the Masonic Home of Bloomington, MN.

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

Prayers:

- For our friend who has lost his battle with cancer
- For our daughters who are off at college
- For safe journeys to a new home and also for family and friends traveling to San Diego for Tucker Shuck's Marine Boot Camp graduation
- For students and staff as they begin a new school year and that bullying will become nonexistent
- For patience in waiting for answers
- For Al, a janitor at the school and a friend of Lee Jacob, who has some health issues
- For my wife with stomach problems and who is facing hernia surgery
- For healing and strength for the family of a friend, whose father passed away and whose son was injured in an accident
- For recovery from surgery for Dorothy Lindemann
- For David Keller, who was diagnosed with leukemia and who has been in and out of the hospital
- For my Aunt Norma, whose husband died this week
- For Ginger Gerdts, Jeff Gerdts' mother, who is recovering from hip surgery and dealing with other health issues
- Of blessing for Jeff Gerdts' 50th birthday on Tuesday, September 23rd

Thanksgiving:

- For the recent rains that have nourished our growing crops
- To God for the blessing of a new baby boy, Riley Henry Schultz, son of Blair and Jessie, great-grandson of Louisa Belle Shuck
- For new jobs for Ned and Jenn Shuck, son of Sharon Shuck and grandson of Louisa Belle Shuck
- For the opportunity to travel to Florida with my daughter and granddaughter to spend my Dad's 95th birthday with him!
- For Wally Johnson, who is celebrating his 84th birthday on Monday, September 15th
- To God for answered prayers, safe journeys, blessings, and God's love always

Continue

In Our Prayers continued...

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Donna Jean Sharp, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Monday, September 15th in Mankato. The Memorial Service will be held on Friday, September 19th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at The United Church of Mapleton. A visitation will be two hours prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at The Belle of Sterling Cemetery following the Memorial Service.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Franklin Olson, father of Ron Olson, who passed away on Friday, September 19th in New Hope, MN. Franklin was married to Helen Buckholtz and then later married to Elaine Wagner. There will be a private burial for the family at a later date.

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 Gerdt (Chair), Stanley Whitney, Laura Fritz, and Warren Allevan.

Adult Church Choir

The United Church Adult Choir practices each Sunday following the morning worship service.

Please join us! New voices are always welcome!



United Church Fall Work Day

The United Church is planning on a work day at the church following worship service Sunday, October 5th. The congregation is encouraged to wear their work attire to worship service. Please bring rakes for raking leaves and any other helpful tools.

Pizza will be provided to those staying to work.

*"Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is a progress.
Working together is a success."
Anonymous*



Loaves & Fishes Love Item for October:
Peanut Butter

Beginning in October, The United Church will feature a “love item” of special focus for members to donate to Loaves & Fishes. This will help stock the shelves at Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf and hopefully help increase our giving to this worthy and much needed mission in our own town. There will be one Love Item per month that you’re encouraged to look for as you’re out shopping throughout the month, especially if you see a coupon or a sale! These items will usually be part of the Loaves & Fishes standard 25lb box that all visitors receive to ensure that they’ll always be used and needed.

Of course, this doesn’t mean you can’t bring other food items or cash donations. This is just a new way to think about supporting Loaves & Fishes!

Our Love Item for October is peanut butter! Did you know that one serving of peanut butter has 3mg of antioxidant vitamin E, 49mg of bone building magnesium, and 208mg of muscle friendly potassium? It has lots of healthy monounsaturated fat and is a great source of protein at 8g per serving. (*Source: prevention.com*). Please bring jars of peanut butter to help fill the Loaves & Fishes cart throughout the month of October. Also, keep an eye out for our November Love Item, which will be featured in the bulletin beginning the last Sunday of October!

Loaves & Fishes

Open Tuesdays from 3:00—6:00 p.m.
 and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon.
 Volunteers are welcome!



As always, you are encouraged to stop by the food shelf and see your mission field up close. Our hours are 3-6 pm on Tuesdays and 9-noon on Saturdays. Also, we are always in need of volunteers to work a few shifts at the food shelf. Contact your food shelf board member for details. They will be so glad to hear from you!

Because of your generous support, Maple River Loaves and Fishes continues to feed the hungry in our area. Thank you!

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.

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.

The Well Youth Center

The Well Youth Center will be hosting their Harvest Dinner on Sunday, October 12th from 10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. at the T & C Leisure Center.



Menu will include: Turkey, ham, potatoes and gravy, salad, dessert and a beverage. Take out will be available. Proceeds benefit The Well Youth Center.

The Well Youth Center

The Well Youth Center welcomes all youth back to The Well on Tuesday, September 30th. The yearly schedule will continue as always: Tuesdays—Fridays from 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Nominating Committee

It is that time of year when we need to fill positions on several boards. Please start praying about where you could be of assistance to your church! We need people to serve as Deacons, Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Pastoral Relations Committee, Nominating Committee, and a Church Clerk. If you feel you can serve in any of these areas, please contact a member of the Nominating committee: Ella Conrad, Laura Fritz or Jola Walker.

Report of Deacons Meeting

September 10th, 2014

The Deacons meeting was held on September 10th and began at 7:00 p.m. in the Overflow Room at the church. Those present for the meeting were: Ruth Cumming, Dawn Dietz, Pat Carter, Pastor Ashley and Jodie Gerdts. Pat started the meeting off with devotions.

Old Business: We discussed our “Called to Care” people and Pastor will be working on the list to pair up people. There will be a commissioning of the “Called to Care” people held sometime in the month of October. The first visits should hopefully start soon after the commissioning. With the upcoming year, we will have three Deacons who have completed their serving terms. It is time for others to step into this role. Please look within yourself to take the challenge of becoming a member of the United Church Diaconate starting in 2015.

New Business: Pulpit supply will be needed for October 19th as Pastor will be out. A New Member Service is being planned for the near future. At this service, we will be able to officially acknowledge and welcome the new members to the church. Please watch for this date to be announced soon. We discussed the supply of altar candles that we have on hand. We will need to order more candles soon.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 8th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jodie Gerdts

Women’s Fellowship

September 8, 2014

President Louise Webb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mary Beth Fritz gave devotions on John 10:27—learning to recognize his voice. The Secretary report was given and accepted as read.

Mabelle gave the Sunshine report. She sent out two birthday cards, to Stan and Kay Solie; a sympathy card to Mary Beth Fritz and family; a thinking of you card to each Kathy Cox and Cameron Duncanson; and a get well card to Donna Jean Sharp.

Next months coffee hour will be work group 2. We discussed the Quilt, Craft, and Bake Sale. It will be held on October 11th between the hours of 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Mary Beth will be the cashier for this sale. We will set up on Friday and after church on Sunday, October 5th. We made over 120 school kits; 20 baby kits, and 13 hygiene kits.

We are in need of plastic forks. Ruth and Joyce are in charge of the wedding on Saturday. A great lunch was served by Roberta. After lunch we tied and hemmed quilts. Ruth will be in charge of lunch following the October meeting.

Our next meeting will be held October 13th.

Respectively submitted by Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Women’s Fellowship Quilt, Craft and Bake Sale

The Women’s Fellowship will be holding a Quilt, Craft, and Bake Sale on **October 11th from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.** We hope to have a large assortment of crafts including Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas items. We will be accepting items starting on Monday, October 6th.

If you have any questions regarding the sale, please contact Louise Webb at 524-4066 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727.



Board of Trustees Meeting

September 17, 2014

Board Members Present: Dick Dietz, Bob Howieson, Ron Conrad, Patrick Pfeffer, Chad Kunkel, Gary Fritz,
Lisa Shubert Treasurer: Keith McCutchen

Pastor: Ashley Whitaker

Guest: Warren Allevan, Pastoral Relations Committee Representative

Meeting called to order by Dick Dietz at 7:07 pm.

Pastor's Contract Discussions

Warren Allevan brought a recommendation from the Pastoral Relations Committee as to the pastor's overall compensation package. Pastor Ashley spent time discussing her requests in relation to the UCC's recommended salary range for a pastor of Ashley's experience, location and congregation size. She dismissed herself so the board could discuss the requests.

After much discussion, it was decided a formal review needs to be completed before a compensation package adjustment can be made. Dick, Chad and Lisa will meet with Pastor Ashley for the review.

Secretary's minutes from August meeting reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Chad Kunkel and seconded by Gary Fritz

Treasurer's report reviewed.

Bills to be paid were presented.

Motion to approve bills was made by Chad Kunkel and seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. Motion passed.

Old Business

1) Pew Cushion Fund

Dick Dietz was going to order until he saw that Donna Jean Sharp's memorial fund was designated to go to the Pew Cushion fund. The order has been put on hold until at least the end of September when we know what the balance in the Pew Cushion fund will be. We will purchase as many cushions as the fund will pay for.

2) Roof Repair

Patrick Pfeffer met with Joel Jaeger owner of Jaeger and Associates regarding our roof situation. Patrick was very impressed with the knowledge of Jaeger and Associates and the list of references they provided. Joel said the old shingles must be removed (code) and is included in his quote of \$52,000 for steel shingles. Jaeger and Assoc. bid is approximately \$20,000 less than our lowest previous bid. If we would like to put down a layer of insulation between the roof and shingles, it would be an additional \$23,000. Patrick will check with other customers who have done the insulation to see if they feel it is worth the additional cost.

The earliest Jaeger and Assoc. could start the job would be May 2015.

Discussion was tabled until the October meeting.

- 3) Stewardship Drive:
Materials have arrived. Letters will be sent to the congregation at the end of September. Pledge Commitment Sunday will be October 12th.
- 4) Early Budget Review
Budget for 2014 was roughly \$104,000. Current estimated budget for 2015 is approximately \$113,000 (this does not include any compensation increase for the pastor).

Increases in 2015 budget are due to the need for an interim during the pastor's 10 weeks of family leave, utilities and parsonage maintenance. The rest of the budget is fairly consistent to the past year.

To date comparison between 2013 and 2014 actuals:

2013 Income = \$76,277	2014 Income = \$115,072
2013 Expenses = \$83,558	2014 Expenses = \$92,72
2013 Gen Offering = \$69,411	2014 Gen Offering = \$101,698

There is still roughly \$28,000 in unpaid pledges. This is not guaranteed income but gives us an idea of what might still be coming in by the end of 2014.

- 5) Parsonage Egress Window and Basement Bedroom
We received two bids for the project.
Bid #1 = \$2,400 (R. Schultz)
Bid #2 - \$5,050 (T. Jaeger)

Motion to accept the R. Schultz bid on the condition the work could be completed by 11/15/2015 was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. Motion passed. Patrick will contact Ron Schultz.

New Business

- 1) Fall Work Day
This will occur on Sunday, October 5th following church. The congregation is encouraged to wear their work attire to the service. Pizza will be provided to those staying to work. Please bring rakes for raking leaves.
- 2) Television for Youth Room
Pastor Ashley would like to purchase a new (more modern) television for the youth room that has HDMI connections so that a computer can be hooked to it for movies, presentations. She has found a 42" television at Best Buy for \$238.

Motion to allow Pastor Ashley to purchase a 42" television with HDMI hook ups for \$238 was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Chad Kunkel. Motion passed.
- 3) Pianos
There are three pianos at the church. Do we need all of them? After much discussion, the subject was tabled due to lack of consensus as to what should be done.
- 4) Computers
There are old computers in the work room. Can we get rid of them. Tabled until next meeting due to lack of time for discussion.

- 5) Money Counters:
September – Dick Dietz
October – Lisa (Gary will do October 5th)
November – Ron Conrad

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 22nd at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned – motion made by Chad Kunkel at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Shubert, Secretary