



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

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

OCTOBER 2015

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

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
 9:00 a.m. Nursery Care
 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

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



OCTOBER 2015



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 2:00—3:00 p.m. Bible Study	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	5	6 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	7 6:00—7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T.: Generations In Faith Together	8 2:00—3:00 p.m. Bible Study	9	10 8:30—10:30 a.m. Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran
11 9:00 a.m. Worship	12 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	13 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	14 7:00 p.m. Deacons	15 2:00—3:00 p.m. Bible Study	16	17 RECYCLE! 
18 9:00 a.m. Worship with Youth Center Collection 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	19	20 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	21 6:00—7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T.: Generations In Faith Together 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	22 2:00—3:00 p.m. Bible Study	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Worship	26 8:00 a.m. Newsletter articles/reports are due into the church office	27 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	28	29	30	31 Halloween 9:00 –11:00 a.m. Kilties meeting

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

October 2015

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Date:	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Greeters:	Mabelle Larson	Mike and Julie Johnson	Clint Lindemann	Dave and Kathy Byram
Coffee Hour:	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Bd. of Christian Education
Head Usher:	Pat Carter		Wally and Joyce Johnson	

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, October 4th, 2015 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 Maple River Youth Center

Sunday, October 18th, 2015 the Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at the youth center.

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* noon--1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours may change occasionally and will be announced here), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon 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!

Sign-Up for Lay Readers and Ushers

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service.

If you would like more information, please contact Marian Mallory or any member of the Diaconate.

Pastor's Corner – October 2015

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

James 1:17-18 (NIV)

When Jeff and I got married just over six years ago, we had a blast creating our wedding registry at Target. One of the things I remember registering for and receiving was a slow cooker. We moved to Denver a month after our wedding and set up our first home in an apartment with convenient access to light rail so I could commute to seminary without having to deal with Denver's notoriously bad traffic.

One day, as cooler fall weather began to set in, I decided to use my brand new slow cooker to make some chili. In the morning, I dumped all the ingredients into the crock pot, set it to run for eight hours, and spent the day imagining just how great that chili would taste for dinner that night, made all the tastier by just how simple it was to make.

The only drawback to taking light rail is that it often took me a little longer to get home than it took Jeff, since there were quite a few stops in between my seminary and our apartment. I walked into our apartment that evening, expecting to smell good spicy smells, but instead was greeted by smoky smells and frustrated noises coming from Jeff in the kitchen.

Apparently, when you're cooking at Denver's "mile high" altitude, you need to either add more liquid to your recipe or cook your food for less time than you would cooking at sea level—something that Denver-born-and-raised Jeff knew, but his Kansas-raised wife did not. By leaving my chili to cook for eight hours with no extra liquid, I had doomed my chili to turn into a blackened, burned crisp in my nice, new slow cooker. Despite Jeff's best efforts to salvage the appliance, both our slow cooker and our dinner were toast.

Not one to admit defeat easily, I went out and bought a new slow cooker – this one with a handy “set it and forget it” feature. With this helpful feature, you can set your cooker to cook for a certain number of hours and automatically switch to “warm” afterwards (a feature our first cooker didn't have). Now, thanks to “set it and forget it,” I can't blame any cooking mishaps on the slow cooker anymore!

Recently, I was a part of an online conversation with some of my UCC clergy colleagues about how we each determine how much we give. It's stewardship season in many churches, and like every other person in the pews, pastors also spend time in prayer and discernment as they fill out their pledge cards. Through this conversation, I was reminded that giving money is not like my slow cooker. It's not a “set it and forget it” kind of thing. It changes over time.

As time goes by and our life circumstances change, so too does our giving. Many folks are learning to give for the first time. Others are dealing with major financial transitions, like the birth of a child, the loss of a job, going back to school, graduating from a degree program, retirement, or the loss of a partner or spouse. With all of these transitions comes the question, “What can I give now?”

But even without facing these major financial transitions, I think it's a good thing to truly engage with that question “What can I give now?” on a regular basis. In the church, our annual budgeting process leads us to ask people to think about this at least once a year.

Just with any other faithful church member, the annual stewardship season is my chance to ask myself (along with Jeff, of course), “How is my giving transforming the world in a positive way? How am I living into my covenant with my church through my financial giving? Might I be called to consider increasing my giving this year by a percentage or two of my income? Do I notice what I've given away? Is it substantial enough that it's a bit of a challenge to stay committed at this level?”

And the bigger questions, for me, relate to how my giving transforms my own life and spirit: “How is my giving re-shaping my attitudes about money? Is my giving a spiritual practice that reminds me of who and whose I am? Does my giving reflect Jesus Christ and his teachings about money?”

This is the time of the year when you are invited to sit with these questions. I know that it can be difficult and uncomfortable. But considering our financial giving is a lot like other things in life, I think: we get out of it what we put into it. It's a challenge, but what we gain from the experience is rewarding.

Continue

As we prepare to dedicate and consecrate our pledge cards in worship on Sunday, October 18th, I would encourage you to remember you are not alone in pondering these questions. There will be a letter coming soon to all members from the Board of Trustees talking about how they have been prayerfully considering the budget and our church's mission and ministry for the next year. Also, as always, I am more than happy to meet with you privately or simply keep you (and our whole church family) in my daily prayers.

May the God of every good and perfect gift bless us as we seek to be a blessing to the whole world, changing lives and bringing the Kingdom of God more and more, even here and now. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, David Keller, Dawn Dietz, Stan Solie, Marge Walters, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen, Jaine Firstbrook, Aubrielle Howley
- 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
- Marian Mallory's father, Bob, who was recently diagnosed with shingles
- Former President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist, who announced that he has cancer in his brain and is undergoing treatment
- Gabe Samuelson, who is in basic training for the Army Reserves
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- All those who continue to be affected by the aftermath of the September 11th, 2001 attacks on our nation, especially all those who lost their lives, their loved ones, and all of the first responders
- Darlene Fezler, who is traveling to visit family
- Mary Beth Fritz, who is recovering from a successful surgery



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

Thanksgiving:

- For a nice evening last night for a 5k glow run benefitting Camp Sweet Life for kids with Type 1 diabetes
- To everyone who made it possible to meet our goal on the Capital Campaign pledge drive
- For 63 years of marriage for Wally and Joyce Johnson
- For 56 years of marriage for Dave and Roberta Ward
- To God that my sister, Linda Daly, who had cancer surgery on Friday and that the surgeons go it all. Thanks be to God!
- To all those within our congregation for the outstanding support of the Church World Service (CWS) kit program

Prayers:

- For the youth of our community that they may find strength in faith in God
- For this new school year, especially college freshman, and particularly that bullying would end
- For a friend whose father is having heart problems
- For all those whose world is fallen apart in war, that they may find help to start a new life
- For my father, who suffers with the challenges of his advancing age
- For my sister, Linda Daly, who was diagnosed with uterine cancer
- For my niece, Callie, who will be undergoing shoulder surgery
- For farmers harvesting
- For all those in need of hope
- Of healing for the Fredrick family for the loss of a close friend

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of Wayne Dietz, longtime United Church members, who passed away on Tuesday, September 22nd. Wayne's memorial service will be held Tuesday, September 29th in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

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.

Quilters Group

The Quilters Group will begin meeting again starting **Tuesday, October 1st.**

Anyone is welcome to join the Quilting Group. We meet on Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m., ending each work day with coffee and fellowship.

If you wish not to sew, no problem, we also need people to tie quilts. If you would like to learn how to sew quilts, we will help you learn this creative craft.

Garden of Eatin' Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced **259.2 lbs.** of fresh raw vegetables for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Thank you to all who are helping make this much needed local mission such a success!

If you would like to send Gabe Samuelson a card to encourage him during his Army Reserves Basic Training, please do so at the address below. Gabe would love to hear from you!

**PVT Samuelson, Gabriel
1st Platoon (OUTLAWS)
Bravo Company, Lightning BN (Prov)
REGT 165th IN BDE
10788 Hampton Parkway
Fort Jackson, SC 29207-6819**

Please keep Gabe in your prayers while he is away from home!

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes open hours are from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:00-Noon on Saturdays. We are always in need of volunteers to work a few shifts at the food shelf. Your church food shelf board member would be happy to hear from you!

Maple River Youth Center

A mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month for this local mission.

Community Closet

The Closet is 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.

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 from **8:30—10:30 a.m.** Hope to see you Saturday morning **October 10th!**

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.

Meals are being furnished by Maple River School, Mapleton. You may also look for us on Facebook.

Pictures from Worship Service and Fall Fling Celebration at Daly Park

Confirmation students:
Cody Walters, Annalivia Bair, Kylie Black



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, Joyce Johnson and Joe Samuelson.

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!

Women's Fellowship

September 14th, 2015

President Louise called the meeting to order. 8 people were present.

Devotions: Joyce Johnson gave devotions from Proverbs about the words we use.

Secretary Report: Read and approved.

Mission Report: Pat John reported that we collected 75 school kits; 22 baby kits; and 65 hygiene kits.

Sunshine Report: Was given by Mabelle Larson

Business: Thanks to the ladies who helped at the Mallory wedding . We provided workers, snacks and lunch at the Blood Mobile on September 8th which was held at St. Teresa's church.

Circle #1: Provides for coffee hour on October 11th.

Our next meeting: will be held October 12th.

Kathy Cox provided a dessert after our meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Cox, Acting Secretary

Mission Report

The Mission Committee sent 75 school kits, 65 hygiene kits, and 22 baby kits giving a total of 162 kits The United Church sent to Church World Service. The value of these kits would be \$2,633 and the cost for shipping and handling was \$852. So, as you can see this is a big project. We did receive a grant from the Foundation and the UCC. We also ran the Brat Stand at Dietz one weekend and we were able to get all the kits sent. These kits will go to help people all over the world who have suffered a disaster or who live in poverty. This is a wonderful way we can help, even if we buy items for only one kit, we are helping someone who is less fortunate than we are. Thank you to everyone who gave to this wonderful mission!

Our World Mission Offering will start in October and this too is a wonderful mission, as they send Missionaries all over the world to tell people God's saving message. Please give generously as this is another way we can help get God's word spread to people everywhere.

Thank you again for your support of our different missions through the year. Please do not forget our local missions, The Maple River Youth Center and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

Respectfully Submitted by Roberta Ward, Chair

United Church of Mapleton's Board of Trustees Meeting

August 19, 2015

Board Members Present: Dick Dietz, Ron Conrad, Gary Fritz, Lisa Shubert, Patrick Pfeffer, and Dave Byram
Treasurer: Keith McCutchen

Meeting called to order by Dick Dietz at 7:17 pm.

Nursery Remodel

A changing table and paint have been donated. The carpeting really needs replacing. The room is 15' x 17'. To re-carpet based on a few samples Sheila showed us would cost approximately \$500. We could wait on the carpeting until we have a better cash flow with money from the capital campaign.

*Motion to move forward with the remodel except for new carpeting was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. **Motion passed.***

Water in the northeast Basement Stairwell

We are not 100% sure where the water is coming from. Because we just experienced some significant rain, we will keep an eye on the issue.

New Computer in the Business Office

Dawn Dietz generously donated a brand new computer for the business office to be used by the secretary, the financial secretary and the treasurer. Thank you Dawn!!

Secretary's minutes from July were unavailable.

Treasurer's report reviewed.

Bills to be paid were presented.

Kenneth White Law Firm submitted a bill for \$525. This was for researching the Church Foundation's constitution. The foundation said they would pay the bill. Dick will need to let the Foundation know that we have paid it so they can reimburse the church

Good news, the first six months expenses are right in line with our budget.

Capital Campaign

15 pledges for \$62,280. We have already collected \$29,814 of pledges.

*Motion to approve bills and the Treasurer's report was made by Dave Byram and seconded by Gary Fritz. **Motion passed.***

Roofing project

Jaeger Associates donated the price of upgrading to a better gutter guard.

During the tear off of the old shingles, the roofing company discovered some bad decking above the nursery and with the bell tower. They replaced the damaged decking.

We will need to replace the wood slats on the bell tower to keep the birds out.

Payment for the Roofing project

Because we have not received all pledges or even all the cash needed from the capital campaign, we discussed how to handle the cash flow in order to pay for the completion of the roofing project.

*Motion to move the Beatrice Rue fund into the Capital Improvement Fund and cash in the CD at the bank was made by Dave Byram and seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. **Motion passed.***

Stewardship Drive is coming up.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned – motion made by Lisa Shubert at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Shubert, Secretary

United Church of Mapleton's Board of Trustees Meeting

September 16, 2015

Board Members Present: Dick Dietz, Ron Conrad, Gary Fritz, Lisa Shubert, Patrick Pfeffer, Dave Byram, Sean Mallory

Treasurer: Keith McCutchen

Guests: Bruce Stanton, Jola Walker, Ginny Kinzie

Meeting called to order by Dick Dietz at 7:00 pm.

Secretary's minutes from August meeting reviewed.

*Motion to approve the minutes made by Dave Byram, seconded by Gary Fritz. **Motion passed.***

Treasurer's report was reviewed.

Bills to be paid were presented.

*Motion to approve the Treasurer's report and the bills to be paid was made by Dave Byram and seconded by Sean Mallory. **Motion passed.***

Signatories for Safe Deposit Box

We need to replace former Trustee Board members who are signatories on the safe deposit box with current members.

*Motion to have Dick Dietz, Dave Byram and Keith McCutchen as signatories for the safe deposit box was made by Ron Conrad, seconded by Lisa Shubert. **Motion passed.***

Capital Campaign

We have received 33 pledges and met the Foundation's matching goal.

The roofing project has been paid in full.

Discussion – how much and how soon should we request a check from the Foundation?

With the exception of the parsonage main bathroom repairs/remodel and possibly the alter lighting project, the rest of the projects on our campaign list could wait until we have more paid pledges before starting them.

With the amount of cash we have in the Capital Campaign account at this point, is there any reason to take money out of the Foundation at this point. Especially after the market drop in the past two weeks, it may be prudent to leave that money where it is if we do not have any "immediate" needs.

*Motion to leave the matching funds in the Foundation funds until at least January 1, 2016 and work with the cash flow from paid pledges to complete the parsonage bathroom repair/remodel and the alter lighting project. The only deviation from this plan would be an unforeseen circumstance that would necessitate the need for additional cash flow. Motion made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Gary Fritz. **Motion passed.***

Alter Lighting project

We have discovered there is a short in a circuit for the alter lighting which has moved this project up on our campaign projects. We are currently getting bids to fix the short and to replace the incandescent alter lighting with LED lighting. We are requesting the project to be completed before Christmas.

Stewardship Drive is ramping up. Dick Dietz is working on composing a stewardship drive letter to be sent to all members. The focus is to maintain the giving that was pledged last year. We are on budget so far this year. Pledge Card Sunday will be October 18th. Pastor Ashley will work stewardship into her sermons for both prior Sundays.

Microphone replacement

We had to replace our microphone used for worship. The cost was \$300.

Organist assistance

Jola Walker has been a faithful servant in her dedication to providing music for our worship services. It is, however, time for someone to take over this responsibility enormous responsibility so Jola can be guilt-free when she needs to be gone on a Sunday. Some options to consider are:

- 1) College student internships
- 2) Hire someone (Schiedle Music may be able to help)
- 3) Use the talents that exist within our church (guitar, recorded music, piano, etc.)

Dick Dietz and Pastor Ashley will work with Jola to put together a job description.

Continue

Fall Work Day

Items to be done during the fall work day include:

- power wash dirty spots on building
- clean out window well

rock around south side of building – Patrick won an auction bid for some curbing that he would like to donate.

No specific date was set for this but requesting people to work on the projects as they have time.

Money Counters for October

Duties will be divided between Dave Byram and Gary Fritz.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 pm. This may need to be adjusted if Maple River is in football playoffs that night.

Meeting Adjourned – motion made by Lisa Shubert at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Shubert, Secretary