



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

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

OCTOBER 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

Adult Bible Study
 Tuesdays at 7:00pm
 Thursdays at 3:00pm
G.I.F.T.
(Generations in Faith Together)
 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month
 6:00-7:00pm (including dinner)

October 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Mission Jars this month will go to Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf							1 9:00-Noon Loaves & Fishes Workday
2 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	3	4 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 7:00pm Adult Bible Study	5 6:00-7:00pm G.I.F.T.	6 3:00pm Adult Bible Study	7 RECYCLE! Mid-American Baptist Biennial Gathering First Baptist Church of Ames, IA	8 8:30—10:30am Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran Mid-American Baptist Biennial Gathering First Baptist Church of Ames, IA	
9 9:00am Worship 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00-11:00am Youth S. School	10 7:00pm Women's Fellowship	11 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 7:00pm Adult Bible Study	12	13 3:00pm Adult Bible Study	14	15	
16 9:00am Worship with 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00-11:00am Youth S. School 4:00pm Party of 8	17	18 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 7:00pm Adult Bible Study	19 6:00-7:00pm G.I.F.T. 7:00pm Church Council	20 3:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm PRC meeting	21 RECYCLE! 8:00am items are due into the church office for November newsletter	22	
23 9:00am Worship 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00-11:00am Youth S. School	24	25 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 3:00-6:00pm Loaves & Fishes Workday 7:00pm Adult Bible Study	26	27 3:00pm Adult Bible Study	28	29	
30 9:00am Worship 9:30-10:00am PreK-5th S. School 10:00-11:00am Youth S. School	31						

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Phone: (507) 524-3141

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	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
Lay Leader	If you are interested in serving as Lay Leader during the month of October, please contact Pam Foster				
Hospitality Team Lead	If you are interested in serving as Hospitality Team Lead during the month of October, please contact Chad Kunkel				
Coffee Hour	Church Council	Fall Fling	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.

Mission Jars

Each month a mission will be designated to receive the total of funds from both of our mission jars in the sanctuary.

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!

Contacting 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-1:30 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Wednesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Community Office Hours), 1st/3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT (Generations in Faith Together). *Thursday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Mankato Clergy Cluster, 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!

Pastor's Corner

The Voice – October 2016

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.”

Psalm 24:1-2

Here at The United Church of Mapleton, on October 9th, 16th, and 23rd, we will observe our fall stewardship season. During these three weeks, we will intentionally think about our time, talent, and treasure, and how we faithfully steward those resources for the building of the Kingdom of God. We will be talking about treasures of many kinds – both the ones that we have here on earth, like our financial resources, as well as heavenly treasures, like grace, love, compassion, and joy.

This year, our stewardship season will be centered on the idea of a tree. Like a tree, our faith has roots, stems, and leaves; our faith has a past, present, and future; our faith has seasons; our faith has fruit. As Galatians 5:22-23, says, “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.” How does our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure produce this kind of fruit?

Just as a tree has deep roots that provide it with nourishment and stability, so too does our faith have deep roots that provide us with a heritage and a story to support us in our growth. As Paul wrote to the Ephesians, during this stewardship season, “I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being **rooted** and **grounded** in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16-19)

Just as a tree has a stem and a trunk to draw up the nutrients from the roots and convert them into new growth, so too does our faith have the present moment to afford us the opportunity to change our heritage into our future. Although it is traditionally a passage read during Advent in prophetic anticipation of the coming of the Christ child, this passage from Isaiah reminds us that even dormant or dead seeming stumps and stalks can yet bring forth awe-inspiring new life: “A shoot will come up from the **stump** of Jesse, and a **branch** will grow out of his **roots**. The spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Just as a tree has new fruit and new leaves that blossom in seasons of growth and development, so too does our faith have a future of hope and the potential to develop the fruit of the Spirit. In this season of harvest (both literally, in the fields, and metaphorically, of ministry and stewardship), may we be inspired by this parable: “Jesus also said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would **sprout** and **grow**, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the **stalk**, then the **head**, then the **full grain** in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.’” (Mark 4:26-29)

Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

In Our Prayers



Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, Janie Firstbrook, Marian Mallory, Sean 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: Eli Alvarado, Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- Phyllis Lindemann, who has been undergoing evaluation testing for a double lung transplant at the University of Minnesota. She has been cleared to join the transplant list, but faces potential problems with finding a match to avoid rejection.
- All those affected by the flooding in Louisiana, which killed at least 13 people and left at least 20 parishes as disaster areas.
- All those affected by the earthquakes in Italy, which killed at least 292 people with dozens more still missing.
- Eli Alvarado, Mary Dietz's husband, who had a heart attack last week
- The family of Jacob Wetterling, who disappeared in 1989 and whose remains were recently found
- For all affected by the apparently intentional explosion Saturday, September 17th in New York City, which left 29 injured
- For all affected by the knife attack at Crossroads Mall in St. Cloud on Saturday, September 17th, which left eight injured
- For Sean Mallory, who is recovering from abdominal surgery last week

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

Prayers:

- For victims of earthquakes, flooding, and human failings
- For kids of all ages and teachers as they begin a new school year
- For victims of floods and storms
- For Mike Miller and his family in the loss of his mother last week
- That the healing of 9/11 continue with the acceptance of people of all faiths
- For Molly Lester, who had a fall, and for Lee Lester Dardis, who has thyroid cancer
- For a young friend, struggling with his relationship
- 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 in their homes

Thanksgiving:

- After a year of treatment, I am cancer free!
- And praise to God for the life of Ava
- And celebration at the birth of a new grandson

Children's Pray Ground

will make its debut in the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 18th, 2016

Come and see what it's all about!



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.

Garden of Eatin' Season

Garden Produce Year to Date: 763.5 pounds

Girls Foster Care Home

The Jackson family girls foster care home is now housing eleven teenage girls. An "items of need list" can be found in the entryway, underneath the Ministry Table. Please leave donated items in box provided. **Thank you so much for your generosity** in helping out this home. Most of all, please keep praying for these girls and their families. Thank you!

Fall Fling Sunday School Kickoff!

Worship with Communion



Song



Great Food and Fellowship!



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, October 8th** 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.

Rural Caregiver Support Group

This monthly support group is for friends and family members who are in a caregiver role. The time includes presentations about memory loss with opportunity for sharing. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us for our September session on **Tuesday, October 4th, 3:00-4:30 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, Amboy. There is no charge to attend. Questions? Call Joyce Kolbet (386-5583) at VINE Faith in Action.

Annual Turkey Dinner

St. Matthew's Catholic Church of Vernon Center, MN will host its Annual Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including homemade pie and served family style on **Sunday, October 2nd from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** Take outs are available by calling 507-549-3004.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications for all families interested in homeownership for the 2016-2017 build season in Blue Earth, Sibley, Watonwan, Nicollet, and LeSueur counties. For more information and an application, please call 507-388-2081 ext. 3.

Women's Fellowship

September 12, 2016

President Louise Webb called the meeting to order with 10 members present. Devotions were given by Mary Beth Fritz on loving God and each other, from John 4:19-20. She also read from Ephesians. No minutes were read from our previous meeting.

Sunshine Committee: Mabelle sent out eleven cards, which included, birthday, get well and thinking of you.

Mission Committee: Pat John reported we sent out 61 school kits and 34 hygiene kits. The cost of shipping was \$504.40. The mission committee will be in charge of the brat stand on Friday and Saturday, September 16th and 17th. Volunteers were asked for and several volunteered.

Business: On September 18th the Women's Fellowship will be preparing several egg bakes for the special church meeting.

Group #2 will be hosting coffee fellowship hour on Sunday October 9th.

Our next meeting date will be Monday, October 10th at 7:00 p.m.

A delicious lunch was served by Mabelle. Darlene will be serving lunch at our October meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Quilters Group



The quilters are back at it after taking the summer off! They have several quilt tops ready to be finished off, blocks to be sewn up and a wedding quilt ready to go. A new project is on the go—Touch Quilters—designed for Alzheimer's and Dementia persons to help keep their hands busy and minds active. The Beacon here in Mapleton, plus the bigger unit in New Richland, are very excited about receiving them.

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.

Christian Education Report, 2016 Pam Foster, C E Coordinator

Fall Fling

This annual event, which has always been the Fall kick-off for Sunday School took place on Sunday, September 11th, once again at Daly Park. Prayers for a beautiful day were answered. Over 50 people experienced a meaningful time of worship and communion, good food and fellowship.

Sunday School

The Sunday School Program for this Church Year includes a Pre-K - Kindergarten Class, an Elementary Class for First – 5th Grades, and a Youth Class for those in 6th – 9th Grades. A Nursery is available for infants and toddlers. Curriculum entitled “Living the Good News” for Pre-K through Elementary Grades follows the Lectionary and the Pastor’s Children’s Messages.

The Presentation of Bibles on Sunday, Sep. 18th, during the Children’s time of the morning worship service was great. Children tore into the four layers of wrapping paper: plain brown, newspaper, gold foil and celebratory gift wrap—with excitement and much anticipation, led by Pastor Ashley’s explanation of the symbolism of each layer. I believe Congregants were just as excited to watch, as the children were to unwrap.

Bible Study led by Pastor Ashley began mid-Sept. There are two groups, one on Tuesday evening from 7:00– 8:00 p.m., and a Thursday afternoon group from 3:00– 4:00 p.m. It’s not too late; if you would like to join one of these sessions, please feel free to come.

GIFT

The GIFT ministry program has begun again, and takes place on the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.. The focus is all generations coming together in fellowship, with dining and games. The is open to **ALL**. **Please come and join the fun and fellowship.**

United Church of Mapleton Council Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Minutes taken by Pastor Ashley

Devotion shared by Marissa. Next month will be shared by Dick.

Secretary’s Report was distributed before the meeting in the packet by Dick. Motion to approve by Dave, seconded by Marissa, motion passed.

Pastor’s Report was distributed before the meeting in the packet by Dick. Motion to approve by Chad, seconded by Marissa, motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report was distributed before the meeting in the packet by Dick. Checks need to be corrected and rewritten for pianist/organist payment. Two payments have been made for Capital Campaign projects and \$50,000 has been received into the Capital Campaign Fund from the United Church Foundation from the matching grant. Motion to approve by Dave, seconded by Chad, motion passed.

Proposed Budget Discussion

The numbers for 2017 budget are based on 2016 actuals as compared to 2016 budget as well as how the rest of the year is anticipated to proceed. Dave and Keith will work on a tree with wooden pledge “leaves” with monthly pledge amounts printed on them for congregants to take indicating their pledge for the year. The tree will be up on October 9th, 16th, and 23rd, and these dates will comprise our fall stewardship season.

Property

Kilties will be using the Fellowship Hall on Saturdays again this fall for rehearsals.

Pray Ground will be installed on a trial period using existing material October 9th through mid-November.

The heating system at the church has been flushed and drained by Schwickert’s and will be replaced by mid-October.

Meeting Adjourned