



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

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

**SEPTEMBER 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



**G.I.F.T**

Generations in Faith  
Together!



# 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 (begins 9/20)



## SEPTEMBER 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00 p.m. Quilters	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	7	8 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	9 7:00 p.m. Called to Care and Deacons	10	11	12 8:30—10:30 a.m. Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran
13 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship and Fall Fling</b> at Daly Park	14 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	15 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	16 6:00—7:00 p.m. <b>G.I.F.T.: Generations in Faith Together</b> 7:00 p.m. Confirmand Meeting 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	17 2:00—3:00 p.m. Bible Study	18	19 <b>RECYCLE!</b> 
20 9:00 a.m. Worship with Youth Center Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice Begins	21	22 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	23	24 8:00 a.m. Newsletter articles/reports are due into the church office	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Choir	28	29 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder 1:00 p.m. Quilters	30 6:00—7:00 p.m. <b>G.I.F.T.: Generations in Faith Together</b>			

# The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

August 2015

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Date:	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
<b>Greeters:</b>	Mabelle Larson	Doug and Laura Fritz	Delbert and Ella Conrad	Ruth Cumming
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Bd. of Christian Education
<b>Head Usher:</b>		Bruce and Karen Stanton		

## 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, September 6th, 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, September 20th, 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](mailto: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. *Wednesday* 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The Windmill Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours will change occasionally and be announced in the bulletin). *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon church office. *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 – September 2015

“One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.”

*Psalms 145:4 (NRSV)*

This fall, as children prepare to head back to grade school and young adults head off to college, many churches also prepare to begin classes again. Here at The United Church of Mapleton the past two years, we've celebrated this “back to school” season with fun and fellowship at Fall Fling. This year, Fall Fling will be on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, and we're adding something new – worshipping at Daly Park! Surrounded by the beauty and abundance of God's creation, we'll worship at the western park shelter and celebrate communion together. During worship, we'll bless our three youth as they begin Confirmation: Kylie B., Annalivia B., and Brady W. Please pray for them throughout this incredibly important year of faith formation and discipleship! After worship, we'll enjoy taco-in-a-bag together, play lawn games, and learn more about our church's Christian Education opportunities.

Over the past few months, the Board of Christian Education has been hard at work planning opportunities for this fall. Some things will stay the same: Bible Study on Thursday afternoons at 2:00pm, Worship Bags for children to use during worship on Sunday mornings, and the Family Space in the Overflow Room for families to use if children need to get their wiggles out, but still want to hear and see what's going on in the service. (Of course, wiggly and talkative children are always welcome in the Sanctuary, too – my son is often proud to lead the way in this regard!)

Some things will be changing, too. The Board is proud to announce GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) on Wednesday evenings! On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>, all ages are invited to gather at the church for a meal and Christian Education as one body of Christ. Just as the Psalmist described, all generations will come together to learn of God's good works and mighty acts! We'll meet at 6:00pm, share a meal, and learn together about God's Word and how it speaks to our lives today. (A free will offering will be accepted to help offset the cost of the meal, but no donation is required.) All are welcome!

Our time together will follow a format called *Faith5*: Share, Read, Talk, Pray, and Bless. Around the dinner table, as we eat, we'll Share about our day's highs and lows. Then we'll Read Scripture, Talk about how it relates to our lives, Pray together, and Bless one another. We'll use curriculum called *Living the Good News*, which is based on the Revised Common Lectionary, so it'll be connected to what we experience in worship on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday mornings, children ages 1st grade and older are invited to stay in worship, reflecting the unity of the body of Christ. Two new resources will be available for them: *The Sunday Paper* and card ministry decorating kits. *The Sunday Paper* is a Bible story coloring page, also based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week, there will be two formats available: one for older elementary children, with four different illustrations and Scripture stories, and one for younger children, with one large illustration and story.

Card ministry decorating kits will also be available for children of all ages. These cards will be sent each week to our church's ministry partners, like our at-home members, Mapleton Community Home residents, and Treats for Troops care packages. For children ages Kindergarten and younger, childcare in the Nursery and the Family Space in the Overflow Room are always available. The Nursery is in the process of being updated and refreshed to make it more aesthetically pleasing, safer, and more fun for kids to use. Donations of gently used toys, books, and games are still needed and greatly appreciated.

One of the reasons that the Board of Christian Education decided to introduce GIFT is to be better stewards of our resources, including our teachers' time and our church's financial resources for curriculum. Over the past two years of offering Christian Education for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings, we have struggled with reaching a “critical mass” of students in any age group. By offering Christian Education for all ages together at a time that has the potential to better reach all age groups, both those currently involved in our church as well as those that are unchurched or de-churched in our community, we hope to increase this ministry's impact on our community, both in quantitative and qualitative ways.

*Continue*

This change isn't only practical; it's also deeply theological. Churches and researchers around the country have realized that intergenerational relationships are necessary for "sticky faith," a term coined by Dr. Kara Powell and Dr. Chap Clark in their book of the same name that describes a faith that sticks with children as they become youth and young adults. Over the past few decades, too often children, youth, and adults have been "siloe'd" away from each other at churches and in everyday life, with little to no time available to form relationships across generational lines.

Much ink has been spilled about the declining numbers of "Millennials" in church today. Research has shown that there's no silver bullet to making faith stick as youth become young adults, but "churches that encouraged intergenerational connections and worship, and youth that felt involved and connected to the larger church, had a much greater chance of remaining in church post high school.

Studies by the Barna Research Group and Pew Research Center support the idea that Millennials often leave church because they have no connection to the larger church body, no relationships with adults outside of specialized ministry areas, and no sense of belonging in corporate worship since they've never or rarely attended."<sup>1</sup>

The *Sticky Faith* researchers have shared four intergenerational insights on their blog, based on the research that led to their book. More content behind these insights is available online in their full blog post.

*Intergenerational Insight #1: Involvement in all-church worship during high school is more consistently linked with mature faith in both high school and college than any other form of church participation.*

*Intergenerational Insight #2: The more students serve and build relationships with younger children, the more likely it is that their faith will stick.*

*Intergenerational Insight #3: High school seniors don't feel supported by adults in their congregations.*

One graduate reported that his church "would talk about having students involved, but they never really did." Another reflected that church members "wanted nothing to do with us...I think they see us as kind of scary in that we're the people on the news, you know, who are dealing drugs and getting pregnant and all those sort of things...keeping us separate and treating us like we were a hazard."

*Intergenerational Insight #4: By far, the number-one way that churches made the teens in our survey feel welcomed and valued was when adults in the congregation showed interest in them.*

One student beamed as he said, "We were welcomed not just in youth group; we were welcomed into other parts of the ministry of the church: the worship team on Sunday mornings, teaching Sunday school to kids and helping with cleaning and serving. All these other types of things really just brought the youth in and made them feel like they had a place and even feel like they were valued as individuals."<sup>2</sup>

This is easily the longest newsletter article I've ever written, but I hope that it is received as an indication of my passion for Christian Education for all ages and the importance I ascribe to intergenerational ministry, rather than a lecture. Insight #1 above speaks of worship in particular, but all four insights also relate to all areas of church life, including worship, fellowship, and education.

I hope, pray, and truly believe that these changes to how we do church as The United Church of Mapleton will make our faith more "sticky" and more meaningful for all of us as the one body of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,  
Pastor Ashley

<sup>1</sup> Christina Embree, "Intergenerational Worship Can Anchor Your Church's Youth," EthicsDaily.com. August 24, 2015. <http://ethicsdaily.com/intergenerational-worship-can-anchor-your-churchs-youth-cms-22890>

<sup>2</sup> "The Church Sticking Together," StickyFaith.org. October 17, 2011. <http://stickyfaith.org/articles/the-church-sticking-together>

## 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
- Con Birr, who recently had hip surgery, experienced blood clots in the lung, and is now recovering in the ICU in Rochester
- 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
- All those affected by the explosions on August 12th in Tianjin, China
- All those affected by the bombing on August 17th at Erawan Shrine in Bangkok, Thailand
- All those affected by the shooting on August 26th in Moneta, Virginia of two journalists, who died, and an interviewee, who was injured, on live television.



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

#### Prayers:

- Of happiness for family visiting from South Dakota and Alaska and for their safe travels home
- For the Karels, family of Sharon Shuck, as they celebrate their family reunion next weekend, and also for their safe travel
- For continued healing for my Dad as he recovers from shingles
- For God's peace and guidance for those in troubled marriages
- Of thanks to God and for God's blessing to bring strong faith in God to Gavin, Braxton, and all their family
- For Theo for a quick recovery from his recent surgery
- For safety for students as they begin fall sports
- For Kenny Nagel, who has been sick
- Of thanksgiving for the Women's Fellowship and their service at Jeni and Jeremy's wedding on August 22nd (daughter and son-in-law of Sean and Marain Mallory), and also prayers for Jeni and Jeremy as they begin their life together
- Of blessings for Berneda Ward on her birthday on August 23rd (sister of Irene Cumming)
- Of blessing for Lukas Shuck (grandson of Sharon Shuck, great-grandson of Louisa Belle Shuck ) at his 5th birthday on August 21st
- For our grandson, whose mother passed away early this morning (August 23rd)

#### Thanksgiving:

- For a nice outing last weekend of fun and fellowship at the Mankato MoonDogs game with nice weather and prayers that it will become an annual event
- To the church for sponsoring me at youth camp. It was a lot of fun and I hope to go back next year. (From Nick Shubert)
- And praise to the Women's Fellowship for the beautiful bridal shower for Amber Wilde last weekend
- For wonderful growing conditions for the crops

### 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, September 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 **141 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!

### Items For Taking

FREE! 1-DVD player, 3-computer monitors, 2-computer towers, 2-printers, 2-sets computer speakers, 2-keyboards, 1-27" TV, 1- 14" TV, 1-college refrigerator, 3-desk chairs, 1-Jenny Lind baby changing table, 1-small desk, 1-round table, 1-(painted) coffee table

Please take a look in the basement NW room before September 15th. If you have any questions or before you take the item, please contact Sheila in the church office—between the hours of 8:00 a.m.—noon, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

### 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 **September 12th!**

### 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.

**United Church Worship & Fall Fling**  
**at Daly Park (west picnic shelter)**  
**Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 a.m.**



Worship with Open Communion  
 Fall Fling celebration after Worship  
 Taco-in-a-bag and lawn games  
 Bring your favorite lawn chair  
 Dress casually for fun and games!



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Come and learn about our new G.I.F.T. (Generations in Faith Together!)

Christian Education program for all ages!

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 6:00—7:00 p.m. (including dinnertime)

At The United Church (201 Troendle St. SW)

Begins Wednesday, September 16th.

Free will offering accepted to help cover cost of meal

**Newer Nursery Toys and Books Needed**

The Board of Christian Education and our nursery volunteers are working to update and refresh the nursery. We are looking for donations of new or gently used toys and books for the nursery. If you have any you would like to donate, please call the church at 524-3141, email [secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org), or speak to Pastor Ashley or Sheila Samuelson. Thank you!

**Called to Care**

A Called to Care meeting will be held **Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.** The regular Deacons meeting will be held immediately following the Called to Care meeting.

**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!

### Deacon Report

The Deacons meeting was held on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and began at approximately 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at the church. Those present for the meeting were: Marian Mallory, Chad Kunkel, Carolyn Becker, Pastor Ashley & Jodie Gerdts. Marian opened the meeting with devotions.

Pulpit supply will be needed August 30<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup>. We discussed who may be able to serve three Sundays. We discussed the need for people to help serve the church community. There has been a week to week sign-up sheet for both Lay Leaders and Ushers. Most of the "slots" have been filled using this week to week basis. Sometimes that just works better for people to sign up that way. It is easier to commit one or two weeks instead of a whole month at a time. We are nearing September and the need for more people to sign up.

It was being discussed that the Fall Fling might be held at Daly Park on September 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be something new that would be a great opportunity to try out.

Jodie Gerdts has resigned from the Board of Deacons. After moving out of the community, it is hard to still be connected with it. I don't feel like I am able to do justice to the responsibilities of a Deacon any longer. This is effective as of August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please remember who the remaining Board members are: Marion Mallory (Chair & Rep to the Official Board), Carolyn Becker (Vice Chair), Chad Kunkel (Rep to the Official Board), Pat Carter & Dan Prenzlou.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held before the Deacon Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Pastor gave closing devotions and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Jodie Gerdts

### Mission Report

We had a very good response to collecting items for the baby, hygiene and school kits. We do not have the totals as of yet as we are still collecting until September 1st. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this wonderful cause. These kits go all over the world. If there is a disaster someplace in the world some of the kits will be sent there to help out. Some are sent to help in some of the poorer countries of the world. This is all done through Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter.

Our third quarter Mission Offering collection will be for the World Mission Offering (ABC)/ Neighbors in Need (UCC). This will be collected in September and October. You will be hearing more about this wonderful mission in the coming weeks. Thank you again to all of you who give so faithfully to all of these missions. It is one way we can help and a way of saying thank you to God for all of the blessings we have received.

Respectfully Submitted by Roberta Ward, Chair

### Women's Fellowship

With 12 members present, President Louise Webb called the meeting to order. Pat John gave devotions on Psalms 28:25.

**Secretary Report:** Report given and accepted as read.

**Sunshine Report:** Mabelle sent out three Thinking of You, two Get Well, and two Birthday cards.

**Mission Report:** Pat John and Roberta Ward gave this report. We packed baby, hygiene, and school kits. We need about \$250 for shipping and handling.

**Business:** On August 22nd we will be serving the reception for the Mallory wedding at Daly Park. Nine women volunteered to help.

September 13th will be the Fall Fling, so we are changing our coffee hour to the last Sunday of September.

A thank you note was read from Jessica Allevan for the quilt we gave her.

Louise served the delicious lunch for the evening and we finished packing kits.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Darlene Fezler, Secretary