



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

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

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org) 507/524-3141

### **AUGUST 2017**

*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

## 9:30 am Sunday Worship

(1st Sunday of the month Communion by intinction and Sunday Bible Camp during worship for ages 5-10 on 2nd—5th Sundays) **10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship**

*Church Office Hours are Typically, Tuesday—Thursday from 8:00 am—Noon*

# AUGUST 2017

Each Sunday at 9:30 am - Worship for All & Sunday Bible Camp for our children 5-10 years of age on 2nd—5th Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31	1	2	3	4	5
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                     In the case of a pastoral emergency while the Pastor is gone, please contact the church office at 507-524-3141                 </div>		6:30 am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	7:00 pm Search Committee			
Pastor Cindy on vacation						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am Worship w/Guest Preacher Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections		6:30 am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	7:00 pm Search Committee		RECYCLE!	
Pastor Cindy gone on vacation until August 15th						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 am Worship w/Guest Preacher	7:00 pm Women's Fellowship	6:30 am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder  7:00 pm Congregational Relations	7:00 pm Council Mtg.			
Pastor Cindy on vacation						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am Worship		6:30 am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	7:00 pm Search Committee		RECYCLE!	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30 am Worship 10:30 am — Holy Conversation: <i>Defining Our Mission/Purpose as a faith community</i>	Newsletter articles/reports are due into the church office	6:30 am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	7:00 pm Search Committee			

## The Work of Discernment During the Interim Time – a task for all of us!

Taking as our guide the prophet Habakkuk, who urges us to “*write the vision and to make it plain*” (Habakkuk 2:2), our work during a time of transition (interim time) must be bathed in prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit at every step as we seek to **discern** what new thing the Holy Spirit is calling us to do as part of Christ’s Church.

The central word that defines our work is “discernment.” **Discernment** is fundamentally about uncovering the work God is doing in the world and how we are called to join it. **Discernment** is the practice by which we test ideas, face our discomfort, humble ourselves, de-center and de-privilege our own (varied) experiences, and spy glimpses of the handiwork of the Spirit. **Discernment** is the roadmap by which we have trace a path, start walking, discover we are on a wholly different path, and are offered the opportunity to trace a new way. **Discernment** is the means through which we say “No,” “Yes,” and “We aren’t sure yet.” **Discernment** is the tool we use to crack open our assumptions, mess everything up on the table, rearrange it, flip the table over, cry, walk away, pray, and try again.

The United Church needs assistance in knowing how to move forward in this ever-changing landscape we call the Church. Appropriate resources to identify, empower, support and hold accountable faithful, effective, excellent, and healthy leaders (both laity and clergy) is of critical importance. The hardest part is waiting for the unfolding of a vision to be made clear in the midst of the Church’s urgent need for us to be about this work. We are comforted by Habakkuk’s reminder: “*If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay*”(Habakkuk 2:3).

Does this sound familiar to you? So much is changing in churches. If we are lucky, we are in the mess itself, praying and wondering and shepherding and questioning as we go. Sometimes it simply feels very scary to have all this cracking open and messing up and rearranging and flipping over happen in our midst. **Discernment** is what allows us to realize that all this change in the world and in the institutional church isn’t happening TO us, but WITH us – and we can choose how we participate in that.

**Discernment** is not about a set of answers that will solve our problems. It is about mystery, discovery, journey, hope, and community. It is about doing the ordinary, everyday work necessary to understand where God is calling us to go.

Let us have eyes to see, ears to hear and courage enough to stand up and take part in the discernment process we are on during this interim time. Attending worship, participating in *Holy Conversations* (like the one Sunday, August 27th) and completing a survey(s) the Search Committee will be sending out to you are just first steps in discerning where the Holy Spirit is calling us in ministry and mission as a faith community.

*Rev. Cindy Mueller*

### Ministry Schedules & Coffee Hour Hosts

#### **August 6**

Lay Reader: Pam Foster  
 Hospitality Team Lead: Ron Conrad  
 Guitar/Vocals: Laura Fritz, Sheila Samuelson  
 Sound System: Gary Fritz  
 Power Point: N/A  
 Coffee Hour Host: Council

#### **August 13**

Lay Reader: Ginny Kinzie  
 Hospitality Team Lead: Lanny & Kathy Cox  
 Pianist/Organist: Jola Walker  
 Sound System: Gary Fritz  
 Power Point: N/A  
 Coffee Hour Host: Women's Fellowship


#### **August 20**

Lay Reader: Karen Stanton  
 Hospitality Team Lead: Ron Conrad  
 Pianist/Organist: Ann DeWitz  
 Sound System: Gary Fritz  
 Power Point: Kathy Cox  
 Coffee Hour Host: Youth Center

#### **August 27**

Lay Reader: Linda Whitney  
 Hospitality Team Lead: Warren Allevan  
 Pianist/Organist: Kathy Byram  
 Sound System: Gary Fritz  
 Power Point: Jay McCutcheon  
 Coffee Hour Host: Christian Ed.

### Congregational Meeting Notification

 Please Notice This This is to notify the congregation of our next Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, **September 24, 2017 after worship**. The agenda will include discussing the changes to the Church Constitution that reflect the new governance structure we have been working with on a trial basis as previously approved by the congregation.

All suggested changes to the constitution are available for review in the overflow room on the communion table beginning July 24, 2017.  
*Your Church Council*

### Outdoor Worship at Daly Park

The United Church will hold it's annual outdoor worship service at Daly Park on **Sunday, September 10th** at the west side shelter area by the playground equipment.



**Mark your calendars for September 10th!**

### Garden of Eatin' Volunteer Gardeners Needed!



This ministry supplies the local food shelf with fresh produce. Please contact the church office to **help water, weed, harvest and deliver produce** for this ministry to the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

### Troendle Street Project

Since the Troendle Street project has begun, church members are asked to start parking in the East parking lot and entering the East doors at the ramp during weekday hours.



The West door will remain locked during the day. **Please note**, our neighbors will be parking in our lots throughout this project (since they will not be able to access their homes).

**On Sundays you are free to park in either lot and both the East and West doors will be unlocked as usual.**



**PLEASE CHECK BOTH CHURCH  
BULLETIN BOARDS WEEKLY,  
FOR CHURCH AND  
LOCAL COMMUNITY INFORMATION!**

### Contact Information

If you have a **pastoral emergency or need**, please contact Pastor Cindy Mueller—except while she is on vacation (7/31-8/14)- then please contact the church office. **Please check your bulletin each week** for Pastor Cindy's office hours and contact information.



### 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.

### Daily Devotions Online

You may visit the following website for daily devotions: [http://www.ucc.org/daily\\_devotional](http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional)



### Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all items for the **September** newsletter into the church office by **Monday, August 28**.

Thank you!

Thank you for your generous gift to **Heifer International!** Your desire to help others will build hope for future generations.



\$650.12 was received by The United Church Christmas Eve offering.

### Faith Formation for 5-10 year olds

Sunday Bible Camp is offered during worship from 9:30—10:30 am. When you arrive to Sunday Worship, please have children come directly to the Sunday School room. Program elements include: Bible verse, games (inside and outside), story time with prayer and a snack.



Questions? Please call Pam Foster at 524-2185.

This program will take place each Sunday during the summer **except** on the first Sunday of each month when we have communion. It is our hope to have the children join us in communion and participate in this sacrament/ordinance of the church.

### Church World Service Kits/National UCC Initiative School Supply Collection

There continues to be a need of kits for distribution at disaster sites here in MN, our country and around the world. School Supply Kit shopping lists of items needed are available in the narthex.



You can help address this need by picking up a list, going shopping, and dropping the items **back to the church by August 20th**. You may also help by contributing cash donations so we may purchase items to fill out kits and to cover the shipping costs.

Thank you for caring and for your efforts!

### Senior Dining

Sign up for Senior Dining by calling Joann at 524-4868. The best time to call is between the hours of 10:30—11:30 a.m.. If you are unable to call during this time you may leave a message.



This summer the meals are catered by Maggie J's. Call the day before and have lunch with Joann at the Community Center!

### Research Says, "Givers Also Get"

"While most people probably subscribe to the general theory that charity is 'good for the soul,' almost all would be hard-pressed to say why. Many would also be surprised to learn that philanthropic acts are also good for the mind and body. Research is beginning to confirm these claims. These emerging findings can transform the way people live and feel about themselves...philanthropic involvement is *measurably* wholesome for mind, body, and soul."

(Give to Live, Douglas M. Lawson)

Of course, that research is not new information. The Bible has been telling us for two thousand years that to give is more blessed than to receive.



## **The Search Committee has been Actively at Work on Your Behalf!**

We have met six times, including once with representatives from the ABC and the UCC. Our congregational survey is nearly complete, and you should receive yours shortly via email. If you don't have an email address please pick up your copy in the church office or on Sunday morning.

***Please respond promptly so we can use the results to develop the church profile.***

Another way that you can have input into the church profile is by attending the Holy Conversations following the Sunday worship service. The next Conversation will be held July 30th, August 27th and September 17th. Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers.

Search Committee Members:

Karen Stanton; Chairperson, Gary Fritz, Kathy Cox, Louisa Belle Shuck, Jay DeLeon, Annalivia Bair & Carolyn Becker

## **In Our Prayers**

### **Our church prayer list includes:**

- Those members living in Care Facilities: Kathy Cramer, Alberta Samuelson

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

### **Thanksgivings:**

- For a new grand-niece born Friday morning: Saij (Sage) Olivia Denzer
- Blessed with the birth of a new great-grandson, Cory Gordon Prescher, on June 28 in Elkhorn, NE
- Today would be Sharol Madsen's 79th birthday. Praise God for the time she was with us.
- Praise God for the birth of a perfect granddaughter, Olivia Marie, born June 30th

### **Prayers:**

- May God watch over my family and our church family, healing our hearts and filling us with love
- For our Search Committee
- For healthy babies
- For Gary Walters, who has been in the VA hospital for a month
- For Linda Daly, Jola's sister, who found out her cancer has returned
- Bless our 12 year old grandson as he goes to camp this week
- For our daughter and three of her children, who left early this morning to go on a mission trip
- For the construction workers on our street project to keep them safe



Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Norma Blaisdell-Baack**, long time member of The United Church of Mapleton, who passed away July 16, 2017.

A Memorial Service was held at The United Church on Saturday, July 29th.

June 21, 2017

Those Council Members who were present are Underlined: Dick Dietz, Pam Foster, Darleen Fezler, Kathy Cox, Chad Kunkel, Pastor Cindy Mueller, Dave Byram, Keith McCutcheon, Cindy Allevan

**Consent Review and Approval** (all items included in the Council packet for this mtg.)

Pastor's Report

CRC Report

Property Report

Community Outreach Report

**MSP** = (moved, seconded and passed) to accept the consent agenda with the building fee clarification under building use.

**New Business:**

### **Maple River Community Daycare Center**

Mapleton EDA President – Mike Johnson joined us for the meeting.

Options he presented re: it's potential location:

1. Remodel the former location site on Main St. (needs \$50,000 to re-mode).
2. Attach a new building to the existing school
3. Attach to Nursing Home/Heritage House

In the meantime, Mike asked the Council to consider having the Daycare Center housed at the United Church until one of the following is completed. There will be a good amount of fundraising done for any of the options can be considered and acted up.

Request for these funds (or possible relocation) came from the Daycare Center to the City of Mapleton.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> question would be what needs to be improved and the cost. Mike informed us that these costs would be at their expense NOT the church's expense.

Explanation of why the Maple River Community Daycare Center failed was given: due to staffing challenges, poor condition of the building and no breakroom for the employees to get away from the kids. One person opposed – potential maintenance issues – who will do it. Pastor Cindy mentioned that it may mean the Daycare center would have to have their own custodian.

**MSP** - Kathy made a motion to offer UCM as an interim site for the Maple River Community Daycare, Darlene seconded.

### **Insurance Coverage** (renewal date is 6/21/17 – TODAY)

Mike Johnson of M & M Insurance attended the meeting and answered questions regarding our coverage.

Discussion ensued. Mike was dismissed while further discussion ensued.

Two other quotes were presented for insurance from *Church Mutual* and *The Insurance Board* (both non-profit insurers who solely cover churches). Pastor Cindy mentioned how her experience with both these companies was excellent. It was noted that both of these quotes included a good deal more coverage than our current policy and the coverage was more in line with what churches need. **A final decision regarding insurance coverage will be made at the July Council mtg.**

**MSP** to go with the Insurance Board quote unless M&M Insurance can match the level of coverage for the same cost as the Insurance Board. **Dick** will ask Mike if he wants to provide us with a new quote.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Suggestion was made by Dick to look at line item actual /budget in different accounts on a quarterly basis so we can see where we stand with each category before it is too late to make any necessary adjustments.

Discussion of detailed reports handed out by Treasurer.

**MSP** -Dave made a motion to have one copy of the detailed reports in the future available for reference at each Council mtg. along with Keith's one page summary sheet. Chad seconded.

## Money Counters

It was stated that all money counters need to sign confidentially agreements. The schedule of counters was created for 2017.

**Kathy** will contact the people scheduled each week as a reminder.

## Audit of General Operating Fund

**MSP** to accept the Audit Committee's Report regarding the General Operating Account . Motion to approve Darlene made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chad.

## Fire Extinguishers

Were inspected; some needed to be replaced.

## Building Use Policy and Charges Clarification

It was decided that the Custodian fee will be per day for non-members.

Building use fee will be per event / not per day. For non-members – no additional building fee charge for visitation the day before a memorial/funeral service or for a wedding rehearsal.

## Pastoral Search

A questions was raised about when would be the appropriate time to have the necessary conversation of whether to call a Full-time vs. Part-time pastor? Pastor Cindy said it should come before the profile begins to be circulated through our two denominations.

This conversation will be take place as part of the Holy Conversations facilitated by Pastor Cindy.

## Old Business:

### Action Log Items

The log was reviewed. It was noted that we had completed the item regarding updating the congregation on projects related to the Capital Campaign.

## Special Congregational Meeting Set

A meeting was set for **Sunday, 9/24** after worship for the purpose of voting on the changes to the Church's Constitution necessary to allow the new governance structure to become permanent. Notice of this meeting must begin 7/24. A sample of proposed changes will be made to members effective 7/24/17 in the overflow room.

**Pastor Cindy** will see to it that a notice of the special meeting will be placed in the July, August and September newsletters.

## Covenant Committees

Bldg. & Grounds – regarding office air conditioners

Carpeting bids distributed; for the nursery, hallways and steps along with bids for other items listed in the Capital Campaign *Arise!* The total of all bids is less than the amount we already have in the Capital Funds account (current balance = \$52,515). We each prioritized the order of completing these projects and turned in our thoughts to Dave.

**MSP** to replace the air conditioners in secretary's office and purchase a new window unit for the pastor's office out of the General Operating Fund – Darlene motion to purchase out of general fund, Chad 2<sup>nd</sup>  
All capital bids will all be discussed at the next meeting.

## Next month's agenda items

- Job Descriptions for Church Officers will be reviewed
- final vote on insurance coverage will be taken
- review of all bids on capital improvements

## Closing Prayer

**Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, July 19th at 7:00pm**

Submitted by Cindy Allevan; Church Clerk