"The Voice" Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton

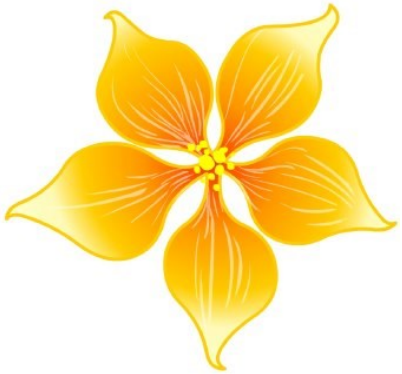
201 Troendle Street SW; PO Box 413
Mapleton, MN 56065
www.unitedchurchmapelton.org

JUNE 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

(First Sunday of the month—Intergenerational Worship Sundays w/ Communion by intinction)

10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship

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

JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 **1:00 pm** Garden of Eatin' Planting **7:30 pm** Bible & Brew Location at Maggie	2 **RECYCLE!**	3
4 ***Pentecost Sunday*** **9:30 am** Intergenerational Worship w/Communion, Commissioning of Search Comm., Baccalaureate and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections	5	6 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	7 **7:00 pm** Search Committee	8	9 Pastor Cindy gone to UCC MN Conference Annual Mtg.	10
11 ***Trinity Sunday*** **9:30 am** Worship Pastor Cindy gone to UCC MN Conference Annual Mtg.	12 **7:00 pm** Women's Fellowship	13 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	14 ***Flag Day!*** **7:00 pm** Congregational Relations Mtg.	15 **7:30 pm** Bible & Brew Location at Maggie J's	16 **RECYCLE!** **7:00 pm** Search Committee	17
18 ***Father's Day!*** **9:30 am** Worship **9:30 am** Sunday Bible School for ages 4-10	19	20 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	21 **7:00 pm** Council Mtg.	22	23	24
25 **9:30 am** Worship **9:30 am** Sunday Bible School for ages 4-10	26 **Newsletter articles/reports are due into the church office**	27 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	28 **7:00 pm** Search Committee	29	30 In the case of a pastoral emergency while Pastor is gone (Thurs., 6/8—6/12) please contact the church office at 507-524-3141.	

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton

Phone: (507) 524-3141

June 2017

All Graduates

We will be honoring our graduates during worship on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

High School Graduates include: **Nicholas Shubert**, son of Robert and Lisa Shubert; **Konnor McCutchen**, son of Keith and Jessica McCutchen; and **Colter Carey-Fritz**, son of Gary Fritz and Suz Carey. Post Graduate: **Myrrhiah Samuelson**, daughter of Joe and Sheila Samuelson. Myrrhiah graduated from North Dakota State, Grand Forks with a B.S. in Health Sciences for Community Nutrition.

Please contact Pastor Cindy or the church office at 524-3141 **before June 4** with any high school and post high school degrees you or a family member received for this year.

Our Search Committee Has Been Formed!

On June 4th – this Sunday – we will be commissioning our Search Committee during worship.

This group has already held its first meeting. As they embark upon a journey of discovery and discernment let us not forget we are there to assist them in any way they might need. So PLEASE say yes when they invite your participate along the way. This will better ensure the outcome of the search will result in a candidate that will be equipped with the skill set needed to advance this faith community into its next chapter of mission and ministry.

Please join us on Sunday, June 4th at 9:30 am and offer your support and thanks to these, the members of our Search Committee –

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

Special Offering Received during June

The Strengthen the Church (UCC) and America for Christ (ABC) mission offering will be received in June. This offering supports missions within the United States. The money received will be divided between our two denominations. The focus of the UCC offering is on planting new churches and awakening new ideas in existing churches, developing spiritual life in our youth and young adults, and ensuring many more people will hear the good news that "God Is Still Speaking". The ABC offering is focusing on cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing communities. Your offering can be mailed to the church or put in the small manila envelopes found in the pew racks at church. Thank you for your generous gifts!

Communion During Summer Months

Communion, by intinction, will be held the first Sunday of each month during these months, June 4, July 2, August 6 & September 3.

Summer Worship Music

The Guitar/Vocal Group, and possibly a pianist usually play on the first Sunday of each month. If anyone has any interest in playing an instrument for worship services please contact the church office at 524-3141.

Troendle Street Project

When the Troendle Street project begins, 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 home).

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

Ministry Schedules & Coffee Hour Hosts

June 4

Lay Reader:	Pam Foster
Hospitality Team Lead:	???
Guitar/Vocals:	Laura Fritz, Sheila Samuelson
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Power Point:	Gary Fritz
Money Counter w/fin. Sec.:	Lisa Shubert
Coffee Hour Host:	Council

June 11

Lay Reader:	Karen Stanton
Hospitality Team Lead:	???
Pianist/Organist:	Jola Walker
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Power Point:	Randy Cumming
Money Counter w/fin. Sec.:	Ginny Kinzie
Coffee Hour Host:	Women's Fellowship

June 18

Lay Reader:	Ginny Kinzie
Hospitality Team Lead:	???
Pianist/Organist:	Ann DeWitz
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Power Point:	Kathy Cox
Money Counter w/fin. Sec.:	Chad Kunkel
Coffee Hour Host:	Youth Center

June 25

Lay Reader:	Carolyn Becker
Hospitality Team Lead:	???
Pianist/Organist:	Ann DeWitz
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Power Point:	Konnor McCutchen
Money Counter w/fin. Sec.:	Mabelle Larson
Coffee Hour Host:	Christian Ed.

Garden of Eatin' Volunteer Gardeners Needed!

This ministry supplies the local food shelf with fresh produce. Neighbors always compliment the church for providing this service to the food shelf.
It is also a wonderful form of evangelism—
by caring for our neighbors.

If you are interested and willing to play a part in making this ministry possible, please contact the church office.

Planting will be Thursday, June 1 at 1:00 pm.

In order for this ministry to continue, we need lots of hands caring for the gardens throughout the growing season. Please seriously consider taking an active part in carrying for the gardens.

*Step 1—**additional dirt and compost** needs to be laid*
*Step 2—**prep the garden** (Dave Byram is doing this for us once the additional dirt/compost is put into the planters)*
*Step 3—**planting***
*Step 4—**water, water, water***
throughout the growing season
*Step 5—**thinning** as needed*
*Step 6—**harvesting** (this is a 3x a week need)*
*Step 7—**clean up the garden***
(Dave Byram has volunteered to do this as well)

Salad Luncheon

The Maple River Youth Center will host a Salad Luncheon on
Monday, June 5 from 11:00 am—1:00 pm
at the Mapleton Community Center.
A free will offering will be accepted.

Meals on Wheels

It is time for the United Church to help with Meals on Wheels.
Please contact Darlene personally, or call 524-3624 and volunteer to help.
Thank you!

Thank you to all who contributed to ***Serteen*** during the month of May with a total amount of **$429.36.**

To Carolyn Becker for gracing the altar each week with beautiful fresh cut flowers!

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. 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

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire".—St. Catherine of Siena

Different Brews & Different Views

BIBLE & BREW

BEER, CONVERSATION, & GOD

Thursday, June 1 and June 15 at 7:30 pm
we'll be offering a new kind of opportunity for adults.
Open to anyone in the community who wish to share in conversation about faith, contemporary issues, God, the Bible or all the above.

Please contact **The United Church at 507-524-3141** for further information.
Location: Maggie J's on Main Street

Greeting from Maple River Loaves and Fishes!

As you go through your week, please keep our clients in your prayers. We were reminded again this past week about the struggles our clients face in their daily lives. Whether it be loss of a job, disability struggles, and even death in the family, these are real families that MRLF (and you!) are helping. The client's lives remind us of God's Grace in our lives. There are so many things to do when you volunteer at MRLF, including behind the scenes work, not to mention the fellowship with other volunteers from your church. For a first-hand experience, find your MRLF board member and help out the week your church is at the food shelf. You won't regret it!

Upcoming Events: Look for us in the Town and Country Days parade on Saturday June 10th. We will be accepting non-perishables and cash donations. Also, MRLF will be promoting a fantastic Garden Tour of 5 amazing gardens in the Maple River area. The cost for the tour is a free will donation. See your board member for information and tickets. MRLF thanks you for your support!! Again, put a special focus in your prayers on our clients, and those in need that haven't walked through our doors.

Town and Country Days Events

Our church has been asked to contribute items for the Silent Auction at Town and Country Days held on Sat., June 10th, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. ***Please bring your items to the church Fellowship Hall by Wednesday, June 7th.*** Place a value on them and designate where you want your bid money to go (United Church, Youth Center or T&C Days Fund—T&C will receive 10% to help with expenses. Items can be hand-made, unique theme baskets, antiques, small furniture and almost new items. Please call Joyce Johnson if you need an item picked up. **In order for the church to receive the bid money, we need to fill 2-one hour shifts (2 persons per shift). Our shifts are 9:00—10:00 am and 6:00—7:00 pm.** Joyce Johnson will be working from 9:00—10:00 am. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce at 524-3727.

Quilt Show: We are currently looking for quilts to display for our Quilt Show during T&C Days from June 8th—11th. Please contact Rita Caron at 524-4234.

Pancake Breakfast: The T&C breakfast will be held Sunday, June 11th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Library Park.

Embracing God's Promise
– a future with hope –

55th Annual Meeting | June 9-11, 2017 | College of St. Benedict

There are so many different parts to the Annual Meeting weekend. It's reunion time but we also put out the hospitality mat for anyone who's attending their first time.

And have we mentioned? We have a great theme this year:

Embracing God's Promise ~ A Future with Hope.

(Can't repeat that too often!)

On Friday, we'll have time to settle into our rooms and find some friends, old or new, for meals, then formally begin our time together with a brief worship service. Through the day, we'll recognize noted guests, celebrate missions, and hear the latest from the Faith Formation minister and from the Racial Justice Taskforce. To end our evening, our keynote presenter will speak about church vitality followed by a full worship experience. To relax at the end of this day, the pub will be open for conversations and snacks.

On Saturday, we start with a Bible Study, get the lowdown on the budget, and have another keynote address followed by tabletop conversations focused on vitality in the church. For your afternoon choices, we thus far have three hearings and 17 workshop options. We have many exhibits upstairs and downstairs for you to check out (some even have chocolate bites available!). The resolution will be presented, amendments discussed, and votes taken and at the end an Evening Vespers Worship Service and, for people who are reluctant to end the day, we'll have a sing-along and a cash bar.

On Sunday, we again begin with a Bible Study, move into celebrations and recognitions of individuals and churches, and end our time together with a Communion Worship Service.
Come and join us, Delegates and Visitors. Experience the faith life of the larger United Church of Christ here in Minnesota Conference. Friends, you are welcome here. And you can register to join us, for part or all of the weekend

Talk to Pastor Cindy if you are interested in joining her at this meeting. We are allotted two delegates and another youth delegate (confirmed age - 20 years old).

American Baptist Churches USA

On behalf of American Baptist Churches USA and the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, we invite your church to attend the Biennial Mission Summit June 30th—July 2nd in Portland, Oregon at the Oregon Convention Center. Information is posted on the church bulletin board. **If you plan on attending, please contact the church office for the registration information.** The United Church may send 2 delegates.

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all items for the **July** newsletter into the church office by **Monday, June 24.** Thank you!

May 9, 2017

President Louise Webb called the meeting to order with eight members present.

Devotions: Were given.

Secretary Report Previous Meeting Minutes: None read

Sunshine Committee: Cards were sent out.

Business:

- Discussion was held on the upcoming Town & Country Days Silent Auction. Joyce will be in charge again. Thank you Joyce!
- Relay for Life survivors supper will be held at our church, Joyce and Louise will be in charge.
- Linda Whitney reported that Hazel Kreuer is getting better.

Next meeting date: Monday June 12th

Meeting was adjourned and followed by a delicious lunch furnished by Ruth Cumming.

Respectfully Submitted, Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Christian Education

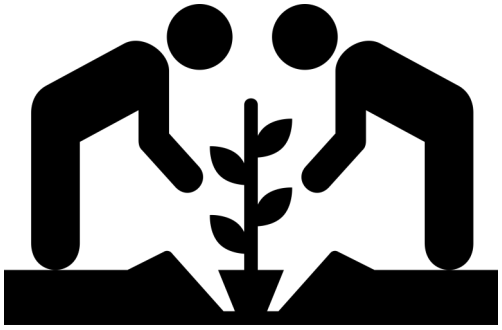
Sunday Bible School

New program for children ages 4—10 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 524-4185.

This program will begin **Sunday, June 18** and continue each Sunday during the summer. We hope to see all your beautiful smiling faces!

To **Full Circle Compost Company** of Good Thunder, MN for donating compost and **Boening Brothers** for donating rich black soil for the Garden of Eatin' - Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf mission project at the United Church of Mapleton.
Also, Thanks to **Dave Byram** for all the hard work of collecting compost and shoveling it all into the garden's.
Such great things happen in our community because of it's beautiful caring, giving people!

Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers or you can grow weeds.



Why try to explain miracles to your kids, when you can just have them plant a garden.

- Robert Brault

Capital Improvement Fund Report

(as of May 1st. 2017)

Church roof: $84,955.40
(Jaeger Associates)

Heat @ Parsonage: $7,200.00
(Schwickerts)

Bathroom Repair (shower): $3,360.00
(Ron Schultz)

Parsonage Remodel (siding, roof & windows): ..... (Ron Schultz) $53,295.00

Blinds @ Parsonage: $2,239.00
(Budget Blinds)

Heat @ Church: $31,245.00
(Schwickerts)

Misc.: $480.00
(Schwickerts)

Sanctuary Lighting: $573.21
(Dave Byram)

Total $183,347.61

Beginning commitment: $245,000.00
($100,000 from the foundation &
$145,000 from pledges)

Remaining difference: $61,652.39

United Church of Mapleton
Council Meeting
April 19, 2017

Attendees: Chad Kunkel, Pastor Cindy Mueller, Kathy Cox, Darlene Fezler, Keith McCutchen, Dick Dietz, Dave Byram, Ruth Cumming, Pam Foster, Gary Fritz

Devotional & Prayer: Darlene

Secretary's Report (March): Report read by members. Motion to Approve, Chad; Seconded, Darlene

Treasurer's Report: Maple River Serteens request for $200.00 dollars – the Church Foundation will help with this request, along with money from the "collection jar" going to the Serteens. Tied in with the Property Report is the future installation of a coffee brewer in the kitchen, which is from memorial money from the Wally Johnson family. Also tied in with the Property Report is the making known that Dave and Keith will be accessing the church/parsonage project list and aligning that along with the projected revenue(s) coming in. Motion to Approve Report, Chad; Seconded, Kathy.

Pastor's Report: The need [request] for church members to be "power point slide operators", perhaps on a rotating basis. The "Bible & Brew" gathering will be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. The project of the Church Profile list, located on the sanctuary door, still has openings to be filled – please check the list. There is a need to update the calendar for who the church pianist/organist will be on any given Sunday.

Pastoral Search Committee: Four members have agreed to be on the committee, three more are needed.

Some of the more immediate things on the Action Log are: audit the Church and Foundation books; Transfer $10,000.00 from Capital Improvement to General Fund – Motion to Transfer, Dave; Seconded, Chad – Keith transferred funds; Getting bids on sanctuary electrical work; Define more accurately what a church member is, and what church functions they can participate in – the CRC will do this and send letters to church members; Review church employee job descriptions; Update the wedding and funeral booklets – Motion to request $250 for the church, $100 for custodial, $50 for audio/visual, musicians are negotiated with by party using the church – Motion to Approve, Kathy; Seconded, Chad.

There is an immediate need for a new copier, as the current one has totally went kaput. Shelia and Pastor Cindy will research the needs and cost of a new copier.

The money from the May "collection jar" will go to "Relay for Life".
The church will sponsor the profiles in the Messenger for the three graduating seniors.
Considering having a church float in the Town & Country Days parade.

Property Report: First off, a big thank you to Dave for all the time spent at city council meetings regarding the upcoming street work and assessment. Property Report, Approved.

Next Council Meeting: May 17, 2017 7pm Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Clerk, Gary Fritz

United Church of Mapleton
Special Council Meeting
April 30, 2017

Attendees: Pastor Cindy Mueller, Kathy Cox, Darlene Fezler, Dave Byram, Dick Dietz, Pam Foster,Gary Fritz, and Chad Kunkel

This meeting was held to approve the following candidates for the Search Committee:
Karen Stanton
Analivia Bair
Carolyn Becker
Gary Fritz
Louisa Belle Shuck
Jay DeLeon
Kathy Cox

A motion was made by Chad Kunkel to accept the slate of candidates for the Search Committee and seconded by Pam Foster. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Alleven, Clerk

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

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

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

Prayers and Thanksgiving:

- We have been blessed for the safe delivery of our great grandson Austin Michael Johnson
- Thank you, God, for the healing of my brother's bronchitis and improved health all around
- For Irene's family. Irene will be missed.
- For our farmers safety and progress in getting the crops planted
- For the healing of Nikki Pucik recovering at the Mapleton Community Home
- For continued healing and growth for Tyson McPhal, baby son of Chris McPhal, friends of Shuck family
- For a good turn out for Sertom's 40th Anniversary today
- For a wonderful All Daughter's Luncheon enjoyed by all who gathered in community together on Saturday in the Fellowship Hall of the church
- For a world that seems to be falling into chaos. Everyday new threats arise.
- For Donna Webb and special thanks for her courage, strength, and joy in life.
- God, bring peace to our world.
- For our granddaughter's 5th birthday
- For my brother who was recently diagnosed with cancer
- For our children, to bring them to know our God's name and will

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of Irene Cumming-Foster, age 97, who passed away May 4th, 2017. A Celebration of Life was held at the United Church of Mapleton on Monday, May 8th at 2:00 pm.

What Does it Mean to be a Dad Today?

When I became a dad I was not ready.
I wasn't ready for the overwhelming feeling of love and protectiveness I would feel.
I wasn't' ready for the energy that my son would require of me.
I wasn't ready for the constant demands my daughter would make on me.
I wasn't ready for the uncertainty I would feel in their presence.
I wasn't ready for the struggle to find balance in my life.
I wasn't ready for the change of values in my life.
I wasn't ready for the joy my daughter's smile would give me.
I wasn't ready for the anxiety and fear I would have for each child's future.

Being a father made me a better man. When my single friends ask me how it has changed my life, I tell them that is has been the most profound change since adolescence. Before my daughter was born I made a number of attempts to quit smoking, but once she arrived I put down the cigarettes for good.

When my son was born I suddenly became connected to my father, and his father and all of the fathers that had gone before me. I felt that they were watching me, and would help me if I needed it. I would recall how my dad would have handled a situation with me and that told me how to raise my child.

Some people look at fathers today as an unnecessary luxury for a child—good if you have one, but in the final analysis optional. But, I've seen how important I am to my son and my daughter. Each shares a bond with me that is different than what is shared with their mother. Some people say that a mother helps a child to survive while a father helps a child to succeed. What I see in our relationship, although continuous, is frequent change, As parents we connect our children to our past and to the world.

Always, always a dad is a partner in parenting each child—DAUGHTER!!!! SON!!!!

Sometimes fatherhood is a daily grind.
But it is also a wordless prayer.
A noble calling.
A gift from God.