"The Voice" Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle Street SW; PO Box 413
Mapleton, MN 56065
www.unitedchurchmapleton.org 507/524-3141

SEPTEMBER 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
(Communion is held the 1st Sunday of each month)
10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday School (SS) during worship beginning September 17th		September Mission Jar Funds go towards: *The Maple River Back Pack Program*			1	2
3 **9:30 am Worship** Communion / Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections	4 ***Labor Day***	5 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	6 **7:00 pm** Search Committee	7	8 **RECYCLE!**	9 **9:15 am** Transport worship items to Daly Park west shelter for tomorrow
10 **9:30 am Outdoor Worship** at Daly Park	11 **10:00 am** Talent Team **7:00 pm** Women's Fellowship	12 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder **1:00 pm** Quilters	13 **7:00 pm** Search Committee	14	15	16 **Mapleton City-Wide *Fall Clean-up Day***
17 **9:30 am Worship** **10:30 am / SS** *Holy Conversation: Where is God Calling us—a new mission/purpose?*	18	19 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder **1:00 pm** Quilters	20 **7:00 pm** Council Mtg.	21	22 **RECYCLE!**	23
24 **9:30 am Worship** **10:30 am / SS** Special Congregational mtg.	25 **Newsletter articles/reports are due into the church office**	26 **6:30 am** Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder **1:00 pm** Quilters	27	28	29	30

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

for The United Church of Mapleton

When: **Sunday, September 24th, 2017**
Immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Where: **The United Church of Mapleton Fellowship Hall**

Why: **To approve our new governing structure**

All are welcome to participate

Are You Interested In Bible Study?

We are looking into the possibility of beginning a weekly Bible Study. **Please let us know if you are interested** in participating by emailing Pastor Cindy at pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org or leaving a message at church 507/524-3141. **We also need to know when you are NOT available** so we can set a time and day/evening to offer the Bible Study. The Bible Study will be open to our members as well as others in the community.

We need to hear from you no later than Sunday, September 17th .

Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletins for updated information.

Holy Conversations: What Is God Calling Us to Be and Do as a Community of Faith?

Our next edition of these conversations will take place after worship in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, September 17th.**
Please join us in addressing this critical question as the Search Committee attempts to complete our congregational profile which will be circulated among interested clergy.

Harvesting God's Many Gifts

This is our theme for the month of October. In preparation, we are in need of several people sharing various items to grace our chancel area in the front of the church. **Here is a list of possible things to share with the church:**

Pumpkins, dried wheat bundles, a bushel of apples (or at least a bunch), a bale or two of hay/straw, bundles of corn stalks (tied in such a way that they can stand on their own), potted mums, baskets of plastic fruit and any produce you are willing to share.

The harvest display will grow each week so keep in mind we need all these items throughout the month of October. The display will be completed on the final Sunday in October - 10/29. On that day we will celebrate the *Harvest of God's Many Gifts* and all we have to share by offering to God our own *Estimate of Giving for 2017* through this faith community.

Contact Pastor Cindy or Sheila in the office if you are willing to donate the afore mentioned items or any other appropriate harvest items for display in church this October. Thank you for your consideration.

May our display exhibit the abundance God has blessed each of us with!

With the Greatest of Hope,

Pastor Cindy

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all items for the **October** newsletter into the church office by **Monday, September 25.**
Thank you!

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 how to reach her.

Ministry Schedules & Coffee Hour Hosts

September 3

Lay Reader:	Carolyn Becker
Hospitality Team Lead:	Dave Byram
Pianist/Organist:	Kathy Byram
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Power Point:	Gary Fritz
Coffee Hour Host:	Council

September 10 ~ Outdoor Service at Daly Park

Lay Reader:	Lisa Shubert
Hospitality Team Lead:	
Pianist/Organist:	Jola Walker
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Coffee Hour Host:	Women's Fellowship

September 17

Lay Reader:	Jack Madsen
Hospitality Team Lead:	Karen & Bruce Stanton
Pianist/Organist:	Ann DeWitz
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Power Point:	Kathy Cox
Coffee Hour Host:	Youth Center

September 24

Lay Reader:	Darlene Fezler
Hospitality Team Lead:	Ron & Judy Olson
Pianist/Organist:	Jola Walker
Sound System:	Dick Dietz
Power Point:	Konnor McCutcheon
Coffee Hour Host:	Christian Ed.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, 9/24 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 old communion table

Your Church Council

Sunday, September 10th Outdoor Worship Service & Potluck at Daly Park

We'll gather at the west side shelter area by the playground equipment.

We need assistance transporting chairs and various items needed for the service and potluck meal.

If you are available to pick up items at the church and transport them to Daly Park, please contact the church office 524-3141 no later than Thursday, 9/7. Thank you!

Please bring either a salad, bars, chips/dip, or fruit.
Beverages, tableware and sandwiches will be provided.

Feel free to bring personal lawn chairs, and any lawn games to share.

Keep watching the bulletin for updates.

Garden of Eatin' Help Needed

Total produce to date: 20.13 lbs.

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 housed at St. John's ELCA in Mapleton.

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

Women's Retreat – "Living Sanctuary"

September 22-24, 2017

Join with women of all ages from around the Minnesota Conference UCC at the Annual Women's Retreat!

It promises to be a God-filled weekend as we experience the stunning beauty of Pilgrim Point Camp on the shores of Lake Ida in Alexandria, MN.

With the help of artist Dawn Carlson Conn, Commissioned Minister of the Arts, we will explore more deeply how we as women are vessels of sanctuary. What — and who — do we harbor within?

Dawn will engage us with a community art project and an opportunity to work on individual pieces. We will also be incorporating some light movement into the weekend, as we delve into the embodiment of sanctuary.

Register Here, Today!

When: Friday, September 22 at 3pm (dinner at 5:30pm) until Sunday, September 24 at 11am

Where: Pilgrim Point Camp, 2059 Pilgrim Point Rd NW, Alexandria, MN (directions)

Who: Women of all ages from around the Minnesota Conference UCC
Minors must be accompanied by an adult

Cost: $110/person | Partial scholarships available. Contact Zac if you are in need of a scholarship

Deadline to Register: September 15 (or September 13 if by paper form)

Questions about registration? Contact the registrar at zacn@uccmn.org or call (612) 871-0359

Questions about program or accommodations? Contact Lori at loria@uccmn.org or call (612) 871-0359

Mid-American Baptist Churches Gatherings

All men, women & young people are invited to attend! Saturday, October 14
FBC Indianola, IA, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 15
Bridge Community Church, Albert Lea, MN
2:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Matt Lundgren, Executive Director
Friendship House of Christian Service, Billings, Montana

Cost: $7.00 per person
Please contact Pastor Cindy if you are available to attend with her. She will plan to drive.

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.

Senior Dining

Sign up 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!

Daily Devotions Online

You may visit the following website for daily devotions:

http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

We need your help!

We would like photographs of the church and congregation to include in the church profile. If you have any to share, please give them to a Search Committee member - or better yet, send them electronically. Thank you!

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:

Prayers:

- For our children who are on vacation and on the road
- For healing of hearts and body for all my family. Keep them safe in al they do.
- God help us to forgive those who brought forth fear and terror in our country. Let our prayers be for those who hate, that they may come to know God's love and grace.
- For Chris, as he transitions to an apartment in Mankato
- For Phyllis Lindeman, as she is not doing very well
- For the family of Sara West, who died of breast cancer on Thursday at the age of 65
- For world peace
- For our friend and fellow Tuesday morning breakfast attendee, John Brindley, as he is facing severe heart issues
- Let the love of Jesus obliterate hate
- Prayers for all those suffering and healing from hurricane Harvey
- Safe returns to family and friends
- May the God given skill of doctors help those in pain

Money Talks... about Our Inner Attitude

Special Offering: "Gratitude is the stethoscope that monitors the strength of our spiritual heart. We are not to give as a grudging obligation but as a joyous cooperation with God who delights in cheerful givers. They emulate God's own heart. To enable our giving, God has all the power to provide abounding blessings so we will have an abundance for good works. Those good works include introducing people to Christ, feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, and participating in projects to expand God's kingdom. We give our tithes to churches and ministries involved in these good works and the exciting thing is that God provides beyond this for giving to special challenges to meet the needs of people.

"Indeed, money talks. Sometimes its message is about the false security we've placed in it. But it can also say that we've decided not to miss the blessing of blessing other." (*Silent Strength*, Lloyd John Ogilvie)

Christian Education

! Attention All Families with 1st—5th Graders !

Sunday School/Faith Formation will begin on September 17th

As in the past, children will go to their class immediately after the Faith Forming Moment. *However*, on the first Sunday of each month – Communion Sunday - the children will move to the Overflow area following the reading of scripture where activity stations related to the scripture lesson will be available with supplies for children to engage in hands-on activities provided at the stations.
Fun at the stations will happen during the sermon.
On those Communion Sundays, the children will be invited to assist in preparing the communion table by bringing the cloth, bread and juice forward at the start of communion which follows the sermon.

Sunday School/Faith Formation curriculum for the 2017-2018 year will follow the same lectionary readings Pastor Cindy shapes the service around. The curriculum is named *Seasons of the Spirit*.
Sharon Shuck will be serving as the lead teacher.

Logos, a new after-school program for grade school children,

and offered by is being planned St. John's Lutheran Church. We at UCM have been included in a recent planning meeting and are encouraging our children to join in this program. It is open to all grade school students, grades 1—6, in the Maple River area. This program will be held at St. John's every Wednesday afternoon after school, beginning October 4, and will run for 9 weeks. There will be a winter break from the program and then it will resume in the spring for an additional 9 weeks. A detailed letter explaining the Logos program has been mailed out to parents of our grade school children here at UCM. If you no longer have your letter or did not receive one, a copy can be obtained at the church office.

Bible study is being considered for the fall of this year. See details in a separate article on page 1 of *The Voice*.

Sincerely and in Christ's love,
Pam Foster, CE Coordinator

Women's Fellowship

Meeting Minutes ~August 14, 2017

President Louse Webb called the meeting to order with six members present.
Devotions: Mabelle gave devotions
Previous Minutes: Darlene read minutes from June meeting.
Business
Joyce reported on the Town and Country Days Silent Auction. We had a good report. Mabelle donated most of the objects for this auction.
We served lunch for the Norma Blaisdell-Baack memorial service. We discussed the upcoming Veteran's dinner in November.
Meeting adjourned.
Lunch was served by Darlene. Ruth will be in charge of lunch at our next meeting.

Submitted by Darlene Fezler, *Secretary*

Church Council Minutes
July 19th, 2017

Present: Chad Kunkel, Pam Foster, Darlene Fezler, Kathy Cox, Dave Byram, Keith McCutheon, Pastor Cindy, Dick Dietz

Guests: Hugo John and Mike Johnson

Absent: Cindy Alleven

Dick called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Pastor Cindy reported that Connie Will and Norma Blaisdell-Baack passed away. Their services will be held at UCM.

Devotional and Prayer: offered by Darlene. Dave will offer next month's devotions.

Consent Agenda: June Council minutes correction—pg. 2 Bldg. use charges—changed this to read *"Building use fee will be per event, not per day."* Pastor's report and approve tonight's agenda. ***MSP****; Dave and Darlene passed to approve the Consent agenda.*

New Business

Treasurer's Report: Reports were passed out and reviewed/discussed. ***MSP****; Chad and Pam passed—to accept Keith's reports.*

Insurance Coverage: Our coverage came up for renewal 6/21/17 with M&M Agency of Mapleton. Mike offered a new bid. Discussion ensued regarding bids received to date. Mike will be looking into if our coverage covers the Foundation and its assets. ***MSP****; Dave and Chad passed to remain with M&M Agency for our insurance.*

Membership Review; Updating our rolls: Annually our constitution requires that the church membership roll be reviewed and updated. In order to complete this task the CRC sent letters to a large number of households listed as either a *member, affiliate member or associate member* in June. Folks were given 1.5 weeks to tell us if they wanted to remain members. We told them if we didn't hear back from them we would put them on the inactive roll. Only 3 households responded. The following people will be placed on the inactive roll where they will remain for one year. Two names bolded will be taken off the membership roll and not placed on inactive but be categorized as "None" per their request and remain in our database.

Jessica Alleven, Dean Barott, **Julie Boertje, Kevin Boetje**, Ally Bruegger, Abby Bruegger, Greg Bruegger, Morgan Bruegger, Nici Bruegger, Bailie Christian, Judy Conrad, Greg Doering , Kris Doering, Mackenzie Doering, Beverly Ehlers, Shannon Ehlers, Shelby Foster, Loretta Gansen, Kellie Gerdts, Matt Hawker, Nicole Hawker, Janet Hughes, Joyce Ireland, Lauren Ireland, Jane Klenk, Jon Klenk, Lindy Knewtson, Carl Lassahn, Dalton Lassahn, Jennifer Lassahn, Jordon Lassahn, Tanner Lassahn, Anthony Passmore, Doris Ratzlaff, Mark Ratzlaff, Cynthia Reding, Patti Schultz, Ned Shuck, Rebecca Stanton, Bette Thistle, James Thistle, Kathryn Treanor, Twyla Treanor, Jeremy Walters, Kimberly Walters, Matthew Whitney, John Ziegler, Kyle Ziegler, Lynn Ziegler

After taking this action, this leaves us with 110 members after removing Norma Blaisdell-Baack.
MSP*; Chad and Darlene passed to remove the members listed here from our membership list and place them on the inactive roll for one year after which time they will be fully removed (but not deleted from the database).* ***MSP****; to remove Julie and Kevin Boertje from the membership list per their request.*

Continue to next page

Council Minutes Continued…

Proposed Constitutional Changes: After having suspended the Constitution in order to try out a new governance model we said then that we'd vote on making that model permanent in September 2017. In an attempt to bring our constitution in line with our new governance structure many changes needed to be made. Discussion ensued regarding proposed changes.

A congregational meeting has already been called for 9/24/17 after worship (per constitutional requirements).

***MSP**; Darlene and Keith passed to accept the changes as amended with those additional changes made tonight. Pastor Cindy will verify the actual name of the church from the original articles of incorporation to ensure the constitution states our legal name. Pastor Cindy will place a copy that shows all the proposed changes in the overflow room for members to review plus a copy will be included with the electronic August and September newsletters.*

Job Descriptions of Volunteer positions: Assistance Fund process was discussed—see revised process in proposed constitution. Purpose of having job descriptions is to be clear what is expected of people who come into these duties. Discussion ensued. ***MSP**; to approve all volunteer job descriptions as presented.*

Old Business

Additional Bids for Kitchen, parking lot lights and replacing ramp: Dave shared more bids with the council to review. We will discuss next month what to do about replacing the parking lots. Dave talked about parking lot being redone. Pastor Cindy mentioned we need to remember we are still in debt to ourselves at $17,906.55 (we borrowed from our designated funds and haven't replaced it all yet). *Dick and Dave will talk to Roxanne at the Nursing home and also the city (Patty Woodruff) regarding getting them to pitch in on resurfacing the parking lot.*

Women's Fellowship: Is proposing the purchase of new cooktops, stainless steel inserts. $1,000 in memorial money has already been promised for this project. Darlene will check with Women's Fellowship on whether they will be paying the balance.

Pastoral Search Question: If the final candidate places a condition of accepting a call the serve UCM to include not living in parsonage can they consider this? It would require a housing allowance being paid instead. Discussion ensued. The Council would approve of such a scenario if the parsonage was then sold. ***MSP**; Dave and Darlene passed to give the SC permission to offer a final candidate the option of buying their own home which would then mean we would sell the parsonage and offer the candidate a housing allowance.*

Meeting ended at 10:15 pm

Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm

Submitted by Kathy Cox, *temporary clerk*