

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2012

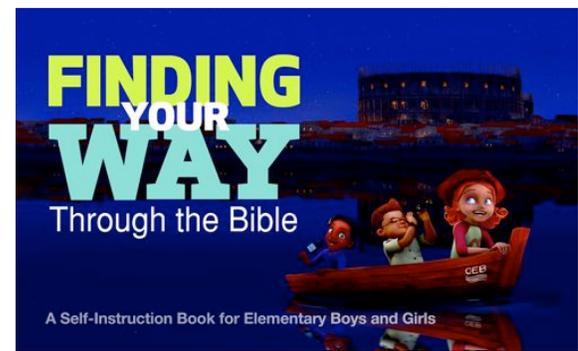
According to the USDA in an article in the Post-Dispatch last Thursday "a record 17.9 million U.S. household didn't have enough food at all times last year to sustain active, healthy lives for all family members." ...and now

The cupboards at MUMC are bare

After delivering food to MRH last week for Weekend on Wheels, there is no food left in the cupboard. All the paper products have been delivered to Joe's Place. ***This is just a reminder to include items for these projects on your next trip to the grocery store.*** Listed below are items for both these projects.

Joe's Place: trash bags, toilet tissue, napkins, paper towels, aluminum foil, sandwich baggies, saran wrap, lysol wipes, kleenex and dryer sheets.

Feed and Be Fed: Ramen Noodles-all flavors, Tuna and Chicken Helper, canned tuna and chicken, canned corn and green beans, canned pineapple, peaches, fruit cocktail, fresh apples, bananas, oranges, fruit snacks, Mac n Cheese, Boxed mashed, au gratin and hash brown potatoes, family packs of Oreos, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies, pancake mix-water brand, peanut butter, jelly and bread, Cheerios, Cinnamon Toast Crunch and instant oatmeal cereal, Snack items-Cheezits, pretzels, Wheat Thins, popcorn, tortilla chips and dip, bagels, fruit juice, Special K Bars, Granola Bars, Spaghetti and sauce, canned soup including the chunky variety, chili, beef stew, chicken n dumplings, string cheese and Lipton or other brands of flavored rice and noodle packets



Small group for children being led by Pastor Kim

New Small Group for children in third grade or older on "Finding Your Way Through the Bible". The group will be led by Pastor Kim and will meet for three weeks on Tuesday, October 2, 9, and 16 from 4:30 -5:30 p.m. We will talk about how the Bible is arranged and how to look up books, chapters, and verses in the Bible.

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 6th
MUMC Second Time Around Shoppe
will be open from 9 AM – 2 PM
as a part of the tri-city garage sale.

And while we have your attention, it is "in the works" to have the Shoppe open on the first Saturday of every month. We need a cadre of folks to take a turn on those Saturdays, so.... everyone who is interested, contact Bonnie Jent or Shay Blackwell. (Shhh-don't spread it around, but this is another of those "equal opportunity" opportunities- men and women may both staff the shop.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

We are just about a month away from election day as I write this note for our newsletter. As I watched the coverage of the Democratic and Republican conventions a few weeks ago I heard talk of how each party developed their own platform which describes their stance on particular issues that our nation faces at this time.

I thought about this practice of developing "platforms" and I began to wonder what would be on God's party platform if God were to develop such a thing.

It is presumptuous to think that anyone can list all the things that are important to God. But we do gain some good starting points for understanding God's priorities as we read scripture. One of the passages from scripture which reminds us of those things which are important to God is Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

In the next three weeks during worship we will talk about first what it means "to do justice", "to love kindness", and "to walk humbly with God".

I am eager to learn and grow as I prepare to preach about these things. They are big subjects which are, according to scripture, important to God. I ask that you hold me in your prayers as I will be praying for you.

Before I close this note, I want to let you know that on the last Sunday in October we will celebrate All Saint's Day. On that Sunday we will name those who are dear to us as we share in Holy Communion. This is a precious Sunday in the life of the church as it reminds us of the gift of the lives of those we love and of the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The lives of those who are no longer with us on this earth are not lost but are kept safe and whole in the eternal love of God. If you would like to have a loved one (family member or friend) who has died in the past year named in the All Saint's Day service, please write me a note (on paper or by email) with that person's name and your connection with them. Please be sure to sign the note so that I can reach you with any questions that might arise.

It is such a blessing to share this journey of faith with you.

In Christ's hope,

Pastor Kim

SENIOR LUNCH SERIES at Immaculate Conception Church Parish Hall 7240 Anna

Monday, October 29 11:30 a.m. "Don't Make Me Laugh, It Might Make Me Feel Better" presented by [Lee Ann Coats](#) from Lutheran Senior Services

Lunch and Programs are free. Registration required by Wednesday before each program. To register call Kathleen O'Reilly, Parish Nurse @314-644-6805. Leave your name and phone number in your receive her voice mail.



SOUP SUPPER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 20th

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

All money raised will go toward the cost of replacing our Boiler system.

\$5.00 Suggested Adult Donation

We have the opportunity for a matching gift (up to \$5,000.00) of monies raised. We've already raised \$1,000.00, so please join us for some fellowship and help us toward our goal.

If you are willing to make a batch of soup or chili for the dinner, please contact Courtney Stotler at (314) 644-2795 or c.stotler@sbcglobal.net.

All Church Retreat at Blue Mountain Camp, Oct 12-14

For many fun filled years, church retreat has been a fabulous time of campfires, wading for tadpoles, pillow fights, staying up extra late and generally having a great time.

We have been going to Blue Mountain for almost 20 years. Join us this year and find out what has kept people coming back year after year after year. Come for a day, a night or for the whole weekend. The sign up sheet for meals and rides is on the easel in the back of the church. There is no cost to attend Church Retreat. For more information contact Mary Kunce at marykunce@yahoo.com or 314-283-6953.

Be prepared to relax, have fun and experience God at Blue Mountain

Annual meeting of Metropolitan Congregations United is Oct. 14

Metropolitan Congregations United will host its annual public meeting, "The Fire of Faith" on Sunday, October 14, 3pm at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 36 Union Hall, 2319 Chouteau Ave. at Jefferson. This year's issues will include fair hiring practices by MSD, payday loan reform, federal budget sequestration and preservation of retirement security. The political leaders and the candidates have all been invited and so are you. For more information, call Rev. Susan Sneed, 314-367-3484



OCTOBER

- 2 Sue Baskett
- 4 Andrew Stith
- 6 Charlie Cunningham
- 15 Steve Shirar
- 16 Mary O'Neal
- 17 John Taylor
- 20 Diane Hatcher
- 22 Geneva Keller
- 24 Ramohra Carter- Spencer
- 30 Sophia McCarter <http://>

Special dates

- World Communion Sunday, *October 7*
- Columbus Day Observance, *October 8*
- All Saint's Sunday, *October 28*



wait for it, wait for it

Here it is – KID'S

QUARTERBACK TIME FOR YOU!!!!

You have a real love and concern for our children and for their education on Sunday mornings, but you are not at a place where you can commit to **teaching** every Sunday?

Think about becoming a Kid's Quarterback on Sunday mornings.

Here's a brief (very brief) sketch of how this will work:

- 1-One person is needed each Sunday morning (and this doesn't need to be the same person each Sunday)
- 2-The **QB** will be the extra hands, feet, eyes, ears available to assist the teachers and caregivers on Sunday morning
- 3- This is an equal opportunity for male or female participants
- 4- Folks who are QBs will need Safe Sanctuary training (and we will be glad to schedule trainings for folks who need it!)
- 5-Diane Watkins (314-781-4718 OR 314-440-7390) is coaching this position and can provide details and scheduling. **JUST GIVE HER A CALL. ASAP!!!**

Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

In the motion picture "[Minority Report](#)," based on the science fiction story by Philip K. Dick, Captain John Anderton (actor Tom Cruise) is the head of the Washington, D.C., PreCrime police force. The unit uses psychics, known as "precogs," to predict murders that haven't happened yet. They then arrest the would-be murderers and prevent their crimes.

Everything is going well until Anderton is himself accused of the future murder of a man named Leo Crow. Anderton goes on the run, pursued by a man named Danny Witwer from the Department of Justice. Anderton discovers that there are three "precogs" and that their predictions don't always match. The one that doesn't match is labeled the "minority report" and discarded. Anderton attempts to arrest Crow but Crow grabs his gun and is killed in the resulting struggle. Witwer realizes there has been no "murder," just a tragic accident.

Witwer reports his findings to Anderton's boss, Lamar Burgess, who then kills Witwer and frames Anderton for that murder. Anderton is eventually able to prove his innocence and Burgess' guilt. The PreCrime force is shut down and the "murderers" imprisoned because of it are set free.

This story is reminiscent (at least to me) of the story of the prophet Micaiah in the Bible (1 Kings 22:1-40; 2 Chr. 18:1-34). Micaiah is not a well-known Bible figure. He only appears twice in the whole Bible and those are different versions of the same story. Talk about a "minor prophet"! His name means "who is like God." He doesn't have a "book" of the Bible named after him, like Isaiah, Ezekiel, or Jeremiah but he is still a prophet.

King Ahab of Israel wanted to go to war against Ramoth-gilead. There was an alliance between Israel and Judah at that time so Ahab asked Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, to go to war with him. But Jehoshaphat said, "Inquire first for the word of the Lord." (1 Kings 22:5b ESV). Ahab called for his "tame" prophets--four hundred of them--and they all promised glory and easy victory (vs. 6, 10-12). He had surrounded himself with "prophets" who would tell him whatever he wanted to hear. Jehoshaphat must have "smelled a rat" because he asked "Is there not here another prophet of the Lord of whom we may

inquire?" (vs. 6b ESV). Ahab replied, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah the son of Imlah, but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil." (vs. 8b ESV). Micaiah was summoned with instructions to "Let your word be like the word of one of them [the other prophets], and speak favorably." (vs. 13b ESV). But instead, he predicted that Ahab would be killed in battle (vs. 17, 19-23). Ahab went into battle in disguise but an arrow pierced his armor. His body was propped up in his chariot and he died at sunset.

Talk about a "minority report!" Micaiah alone of all the prophets--four hundred of them but only one of them--told Ahab what he didn't want to hear, that his plan was doomed to fail. Ahab had Micaiah placed in prison for speaking the truth (vs. 26). We don't know what would have happened to Micaiah if Ahab had survived but we can be sure it wouldn't have been pleasant. But God was with Micaiah. After Ahab died, his son, Ahaziah, became king in his place (vs. 40) but we don't know what became of Micaiah; he is never heard from again.

The late writer and editor Christopher Morley once wrote, "Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, everyday, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to continually be part of unanimity." Those of us who are Christians are constantly asked to do "silly" things: Turn the other cheek? Go the second mile? Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you? What kind of silly ideas are those? Certainly not ideas any sane person would follow. Yet they are the heart of our response to the gospel. In the movie, the "minority report" was ignored. Micaiah's "minority report" was ignored as well. There are myriad voices speaking today but the voice of God must be the one people hear. We are not all prophets but we are all called to speak out. Our "minority report" might be ignored but we are called to do it anyway. Someone, sometime, somewhere will listen. Until then, we are called to be the hands, feet and voice of God in our world.

"But Micaiah said, '**As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that I will speak.**'" (1 Kings 22:14 ESV.)

Our thanks

... to Hope Watkins and her crew for a fun-filled Rally Sunday event. It was a fun way to begin the Sunday school year! AND ...

... to the adults who planned a great morning—complete with a bacon and pancake breakfast, fun activities, and some of the most FABULOUS FACE PAINTING one would ever hope to see wear!

... to Jan Harsh for her leadership with SERVE2012. Under Jan's organized leadership we doubled our days of service this year. On Saturday, September 8, we sent folks to paint the basement at the L'Arche Community home in Maplewood, we held a super lawn party at the church complete with hotdogs, snow cones, a Bounce House for the children, a visit from the fire department, and a hands-on service project AND on Sunday, September 9, Dust& Ashes led our morning celebration. On Saturday, September 29 several Maplewood UMC folks served as the support crew for the Mosaic Services Fun Run/Walk and some served as participants in the race. Thank you to each person who prayed, planned, and participated in SERVE2102.

...and Jan adds to this: THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU to all who helped make our SERVE2012 such a success. We are already looking forward to next year.

... for the worship leadership of the “Yellow Box Mission Team!” Thank you for sharing with us about the power in the relationships that grow on a mission trip, for the reminders that we are to be people who may not fix the whole problem, but will always bring hope, and that God calls us sometimes to places where we are comfortable and God calls us to places where we are not comfortable.” Shay Blackwell was not present with the group but was certainly present in the planning and participation in the trip as well as the planning of the worship service.

Maplewood UMC is now on Facebook. All you have to do is “Like” us and you will be kept up to date on what is happening at MUMC.

Charge Conference was held at the church on September 25th

District Superintendent, Rev. Kurt Schuerman conducted the required business items which included electing the church leadership for 2013. Rev. Schuermann shared a DVD about a man who experienced God's Spirit in a life-changing way as he traveled to Haiti to install water filters in homes which desperately needed clean drinking water.

Kurt challenged us to keep our eyes and our hearts open so that we are ready and willing to respond when we hear God's call to encounter the pressing need that presents itself before us.

If you were not able to make it you need to check out the report. It is amazing to see what our congregation accomplished the past year. God is using folks at MUMC in so many ways to “Gather, Grow and Go.”

ask, and it shall be given **Lord, hear our prayer**

Please lift up Mike and Juanita O'laughlin and her mother, Margarita, as they grieve the loss of Juanita's father, who died this past week after a long illness. Also lift up Juanita's sister, Maya, and her brother, Junior, as they travel back home from the funeral through areas of Mexico plagued with violence. It is particularly fearful, dear God, because the violence has recently claimed the lives of Juanita's cousin, Juan, and his family. Please hold Juanita's family in your hearts this week for strength, comfort, and healing.



Receiving third grade bibles on Rally Sunday

some news about the family
Bits 'n' Pieces

* Congratulations to Jenny Shirar and her dancing partner, Christian Frommelt, who are featured in October's St. Louis magazine for their work in founding Lindy Hop St. Louis and the Nevermore Jazz Ball that kicks off November 1st - 3rd. Their goal is to preserve St. Louis' swing-era music and dance and provide an opportunity for people of all ages with no prior dance experience to enjoy learning to dance. They also host regular Tuesday-night classes and dances in the Grandel Theatre's Grand Hall. Go to nevermorejazzball.com or lindyhopstlouis.org for more information. And hey, Jenny, where'd you get them fancy feet?

* Congratulations to Amy & Tom Cordeal!. granddaughter Millie Ann has arrived – and is she a pretty baby!!! Here's to years and years of good times with little Millie.

* Congratulations to Serena, Rich and family on the birth of Rich Coswell, Jr.



SERVE 2012...bagging rice and beans



SERVE 2012...kids bouncing and food being prepared



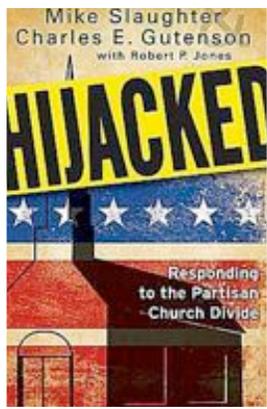
Rally Sunday...painting wall hangings



Rally Sunday...face painting



SERVE 2012...full house in the fire truck



October small group preview!

**Will meet on
Thursday, October
18, 25 and November
1 at 7p.m. at the
church**

The November elections are coming—and so is “conversation” about the elections. Over the past few decades the Church in the United States has engaged in political conversation in a variety of ways. Sometimes we like what folks who claim to be Christian say and do in the political arena. To be honest, there are other times that we cringe when our brothers and sisters in Christ speak about God and government. It’s sometimes difficult to know where the boundary between political ideology and Christian faith can be found in these conversations. For those who are interested, there will be a chance to talk about these questions.

Jan Harsh and Suzanne Thompson will be leading a discussion about faith and politics using this book, “Hijacked”, as a launching point for the discussion. Several copies of the book are available at the church if you would like to take a look at one or if you would like to take one and read it. If you have questions about this small group opportunity, please contact Jan at bjharsh@att.net.

The paragraphs below describe how the book, “Hijacked: Responding to the Partisan Church Divide” came to be written.

“When Pastor Mike Slaughter invited friend Chuck Gutenson to interview for a position on the pastoral team at the mega-church [Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church](#) in Tipp City, OH, he was completely unprepared for the concerns expressed by his church’s Leadership Board over Gutenson’s politics. (Gutenson was the COO at [Sojourner’s Magazine](#) and a politically left-leaning

Evangelical.) The word that immediately came to Slaughter’s mind during the energetic discussions surrounding Chuck’s interview was “hijacked.”

The Board’s reaction, in his opinion, was another symptom of the church being hijacked by partisan politics. At the extreme, a hijacked church can forget and has forgotten its true identity as a Christian community called to follow the way of Jesus, rather than a particular political party. Galvanized by this real-life encounter with how politics can infiltrate the Church, Slaughter teamed up with Gutenson to write [Hijacked: Responding to the Partisan Church Divide](#).

(taken from: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/takeandread/2012/03/hijacked-a-qa-with-mike-slaughter/>)



Mary Downing and Mike Plonka cleaning the basement at L’Arche



Tom Cordeal and Larry Schmid painting at L’Arche.

Kim Shirar, Pastor
Pastor's Office Hours:
Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Cell Phone: (314) 651-9999
E-Mail: pastor@maplewoodumc.org

Sally Noel, Secretary
Secretary will be in the office:
Tues. & Thurs. - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Maplewood UMC phone
(314) 781-5902
Maplewood Official Website:
www.maplewoodumc.org



Mosaic Runners....Jonathan Schaffner and the Kevins Watkins



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



Every Sunday
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship