

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Messenger

AUGUST 2015

Sunday School Kids!  
You won't want to miss this!!



*on Rally Sunday!*

***When? Sunday, August 16 at 9:45 a.m.***

***Where? Maplewood United Methodist Church***

***Who? All Children ages 2 through 5th grade.***

***Bring your friends and bring your parents!***

**SO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?**

***We will have breakfast together***

***Make your own "Mad Faith" lab coat***

***play games and***

***learn amazing things about God***

***through science***

***Your parents are welcome to join us for this extra fun morning. Parents, please bring your child's medical and insurance information in order to register your child for Sunday school this year***

***Shhhh – don't tell everybody, BUT be ready for a special visit from Professor Know-It-All***

# Pastor's Post

Dear Friends,

Several years ago I was riding along in the care with a dear friend. I noticed that my friend was exceeding the speed limit and asked, "Are we late?" The answer was, "No." Then I asked, "Why are you speeding?"

My friend grinned at me and responded very honestly, "Because I can."

Sometimes we need to do things in a hurry or we need to get things done in a hurry, don't we? But often we choose to rush through one thing to get to the next for no other reason than -- we can.

For many of us, Fall is a time when our schedules ramp up speed beginning before Labor Day and reaching a fully frenzy pace on Christmas Eve. We have many conversations about how busy and rushed our lives tend to be at work and at home. Sometimes the fullness of life is a pleasure. Other times, or maybe even most times, life lived at a frenzied pace leaves us tired, stressed, and unfulfilled.

Beginning on August 23 we will begin a series of sermons based upon the book "Addicted to Hurry: Spiritual strategies for Slowing Down." The author of this book, Kirk Byron Jones, admits that there are times when speed is a necessary part of life and even a fun part of life, but it should not be the lord of our life. We will talk about reasons for our addiction to hurry and how it diminishes our lives relationally, emotionally, and spiritually. Then we will identify strategies to help us stop rushing and start savoring life more.

We will probably always have the "need for

speed" in our lives. Hopefully, we will become more intentional about when we speed things up and when we slow down to savor our lives and the relationships that are given to us by God.

I am looking forward to learning and growing in the faith with you.

*Pastor Kim*



## **Rally Sunday, August, will continue into morning worship.**

This is a day for the Church called Maplewood UMC to be present, supporting our Sunday School teachers as they are commissioned for their ministry during the coming year. AND – we also will give all third graders (and any fourth graders who were not included last year) NEW BIBLES! (Be sure to let Pastor Kim know of any 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who are ready for their Bible!)



**Pick up your directory in the narthex behind the sanctuary**



choir corner

**Some words from Amy**

Where did the summer go? It's almost time for choir to start a new year. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00pm.

Hope to see everyone back plus some newcomers. This is fun group that meets every Wednesday evening, singing, learning new music, enjoying fellowship and praising God!

We're in need of altos and sopranos, but will also take tenors and basses. Give us a try. We can be flexible if you cannot make every practice.

We are grateful for the solos provided by individuals throughout the summer. Thank you to our praise band members whose dedication is greatly appreciated. Thank you everyone!

**8/9: Movie Night-"Do YOU Believe?" (Maplewood Baptist Church)**

art/film free kid friendly

Movie Night with Ice Cream!

"Do You Believe?"

August 9th 5:30pm-8:00pm

From the Creators of :

God's Not Dead

Bring the whole family for a fun filled evening including an Ice Cream Social!

Child care provided!

Also visit our facebook page for other events.

[www.facebook.com/MaplewoodBaptistChurchSTL](http://www.facebook.com/MaplewoodBaptistChurchSTL)

or our website:

[maplewoodbaptiststl.org](http://maplewoodbaptiststl.org)



- 2 Jon Schwab
- 3 Ray Jauregui
- 5 Michael Chance
- 5 John Rutledge
- 6 Rachel Ward
- 6 Suzie Ward
- 7 Jonathan Schaffner
- 10 Mike Lodholz
- 12 Julia Schaffner
- 17 Peg Chulick
- 20 Colette Cummings
- 24 Laura Housewright
- 28 Niki Lodholz
- 30 Ebony Jones



8/1 – Peg & Jerry Chulick

8/2/02 – Robert & Ronaleaze Chandler

8/5/06 – Ben & Courtney Stotler

8/12/02 – Mark & Lisa Watkins

8/24/57 – Wayne & Elaine Kidwell

8/25/07 – Amy & Johnny Kampis

**Check out YouTube**

Want to see pictures of the MUMC & Webster First youth mission trip 2015?

A

video has been uploaded to YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1rQDqwjsVc&feature=youtu.be>

# Person to Person

*by David Phelps*

Chef Daniel Klein and camerawoman Mirra Fine traveled to Ethiopia to learn about the farmers who grow the grain teff, for their documentary series “The Perennial Plate.” Teff, also spelled tef, comes from a grass found in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Here in the West, teff is found in health food and grocery stores.

The word “teff” means “lost” in the Amharic language. It refers to the tiny size of the grains, 1/150 the weight of a grain of wheat. If a grain is dropped, it can’t be found again. A farmer can easily hold enough seeds in one hand to plant an entire field. Botanists believe the people of Ethiopia may have been planting and eating teff for thousands of years. Today, it’s a staple of their diet. Teff has a mild, nutty flavor and is high in nutrition. In Ethiopia, teff is made into the fermented bread called injera. It can also be ground into flour.

Klein remarked that the people are incredibly poor but extremely generous. He and Fine were surprised to discover that the farmers insisted on preparing a meal for them before any filming took place. And the local custom is to feed a guest with your hands, the same hands that have just built a fire with cow dung!

These unbelievably poor people are willing to share food—from their own hands—even when they have virtually nothing, and to offer amazing hospitality.

The story of the Ethiopian teff farmers resonates with a number of ideas in the Gospels. First, there’s the teff grain itself, which reminds us of the mustard seed used as an example both of the Kingdom and of faith (Matt. 13:31-32, 17:20, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19, 17:5-6). Second, there’s the willingness of the farmers to share what they have, like the “widow’s mite” (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4) or the words of Jesus when he said “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35b). Third, there’s the hospitality of the wretchedly poor farmers, similar to Jesus’ reference to “the least of these” (Matt. 25:40).

Any of these can be a lesson for us. Jesus used the things of Earth to teach us about the things of Heaven: A mustard plant becomes a symbol for the kingdom, the seed for faith. A widow’s coins become a symbol for devotion. An Ethiopian farmer’s generosity and hospitality become a lesson and a challenge to us.

What is our vision of the kingdom? Is it tiny like a mustard seed or a teff seed? Or is it big and growing like a tree that “. . . puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” (Mark 4:32b ESV)? Is it a tiny seed or a strong refuge?

How big is our faith? As big as a mustard seed? A grain of teff? Smaller than that? Jesus said even tiny faith is enough to accomplish great things (Matt. 17:20). The author of Hebrews wrote “. . . whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” (Heb. 11:6b ESV).

How generous are we? Are we willing to share, even when we have little? Does our abundance hold us back from true generosity? Jesus told the people “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15b ESV).

How extreme is our hospitality? Are we willing to figuratively feed strangers with our own hands? Make them welcome? One of the earliest provisions of the Law of Moses was, “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, . . .” (Lev. 19:34a ESV).

Ethiopia is primarily a Christian nation but whether these farmers were or not, they certainly showed what humility, generosity, and service are about, better than I do. We can learn much from their example.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: . . . Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?” (Isa. 58:6a, 7 ESV.)

Visit Person-2-Person on the Web at <http://person2person.faithweb.com>



*This is the covenant that I will make with them. After these days, says the Lord, I will place my laws in their hearts And write them on their minds. (Hebrews 10:16)*

## **Covenant Bible Study Begins on Tuesday, September 15**

This video-based Bible study consists of three 8 week sessions. The first 8 week session will be led by Pastor Kim and Colette Cummings and will begin on Tuesday, September 15 at 7 p.m. (At that first meeting we will adjust the start time for following sessions if necessary.) You are welcome to attend one of two information/orientation sessions about this new Bible study on Sunday, August 30 Sunday or September 6 both at 9:45 a.m.

There is more information about the study printed below and you can check out the website for yourself ([www.covenantbiblestudy.com](http://www.covenantbiblestudy.com)) to see examples of videos and written material. If you have questions about this new study...please contact Pastor Kim

*“THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF COVENANT speaks to an enduring commitment between God and God’s fruitful people. It’s a promise—to live in a loving relationship with and for each other.*

*So the purpose of **COVENANT BIBLE STUDY** is to engage participants in conversations about this unique and*

*through community—through shared reflection and engagement—that we can best discover the Bible’s transformative power. It is rooted in the simple idea that we live well when we love well.*

*The goal of **COVENANT BIBLE STUDY** is to deepen our understanding of scripture while also helping us respond together in answering God’s call to a faithful life in Jesus. So it embraces a learning experience that builds trust in others and confidence in scripture for each participant—leveraging not just scriptural examples but also personal memories of God’s faithful love.*

*It helps participants, through sharing and conversation, apply the Bible to their personal story.*

*Which not only helps cultivate a lifelong trust in God, it helps each participant discover the Bible as a friend for life.”*



**Mission trippers sharing stories about their trip. Sharing about the worship, the music, the work and the fun.**

news about our family

**Bits 'n' Pieces**

The Watkins family would like to thank Kim and our church family for the beautiful flowers and also the many cards received in the recent loss of our Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Muriel Watkins. Your thoughtfulness and words of compassion were very much appreciated. God Bless You All,

*Skip, Diane and Family*

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*Please pray for*

... Peg Chulick's brother, Loren, who recently had surgery for the replacement of two heart valves. Peg and Jerry have traveled to be with Loren and their other family members. May God's grace, peace, and healing love be with Loren and with Peg and Jerry and their family.

... Serena Mikundra and her family. Serena is home but has a long road before her as she regains her strength

... Ken Cohen and Margie Brammeier as Ken continues his journey of healing and recovery from leukemia.

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Welcome to Skylar Denise McKinney born on July 18 to Jennifer Jefferson and Otis McKinney and sister, Mya. Skylar arrived earlier than expected weighing 1 pound 15 ounces. Last report is that she is eating well on her own and is now up to 2 pounds 2 ounces. She will be at Children's Hospital for several months—possibly until her original due date which is in October.

Skylar, we are so glad you are here! Our prayers are with you as you grow and grow and grow!

**Pictures from the youth mission trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee**



## **The MUMC “Mercy & Justice” work area is continuing to move “From A Day to A Way” as we SERVE**

1

**The Great MUMC Lawn Party for 2015** will be on Saturday, September 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Activities will include working on a project in the community, creating casseroles, packaging beans and rice for Kingdom House and the Second Time Around Shoppe will be open.

Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available for workers and folks in the community. And of course, the ever-popular SNOW CONES will be available for consumption!

This year we are inviting community workers, including police and postal employees, to stop by. The Maplewood Fire Department will be there with the fire truck. **Added this year will be the BOUNCE HOUSE.** And through a generous donation from a couple in the congregation we will all be wearing new t-shirts. Please be sure and mark the date in your calendar.

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2

The **Concert for a Cause**, sponsored by the Maplewood Chamber and MUMC, will be held at Ryan Hummert Park on Wednesday, August 26. MUMC will provide snow cones for cans of food that will be donated to Weekend on Wheels. This is the group that we collect food for on the first of the month and is an outreach program in conjunction with the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District.

3

The mission team has put together a **map** of all the places that Maplewood UMC has sent mission teams past years. Take time to look at where mission groups have gone to do God’s work.



**Maplewood UMC again sat out in front of the church and offered free cold water to all who passed by on their way to Maplewood’s Chamber of Commerce’s annual “Let Them Eat Art” event.**

Kim Shirar, Pastor  
Pastor's Office Hours:  
Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 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](http://www.maplewoodumc.org)



**Don't forget Rally Sunday,**

**Sunday, August 16th at 9:45a.m.**

**It's the Kick Off for the new  
Sunday School year**

**BE THERE!!!!**



Maplewood United  
Methodist Church  
7409 Flora Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63143



**August**

**Sunday School at 9:45 AM  
Worship at 11:00AM**