

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER

February 2016



Soup-Er Fund-raiser

On Sunday, January 31st, the Middle School Sunday School class came together to make dry potato soup mix. After the worship service, single serving packets of the soup were sold by the class for \$2 each, with all proceeds going to the MRH Weekend on Wheels program. Through sales and donations, the youth raised \$119.00, and sold out of all their soup inventory!

If you missed out - don't worry! The youth will be making more soup mix to sell on February 7th, Soup-er Bowl Sunday!

Lent is a time to return to God, to refocus our lives to be more in line with Jesus ... 40 days of changing lifestyle and letting God change the heart.

Wednesday, February 10th

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship Service



In our relatively “new” tradition, a soup-supper, will be available in the Fellowship Hall from 6 p.m. – 6:50 on Wednesday, February 10th. Food is set up and served on an “eat when you arrive” basis, taking pressure off folks trying to get to MUMC from work or any other commitment.

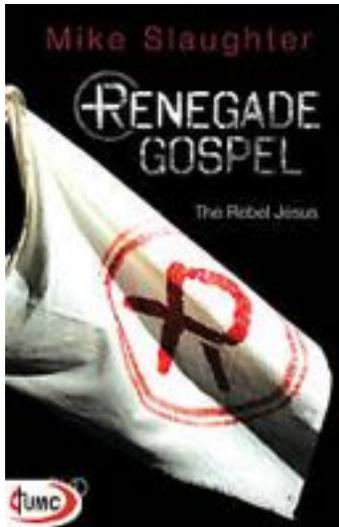
Ash Wednesday worship service will begin at 7 pm in the Sanctuary

And now for the part where we all work together to make this meal happen: there is a sign up sheet in the gathering space behind the sanctuary for those who plan to attend the supper AND for those who will assist with the supper by helping with set up, clean up and by providing food. THIS needs to happen this coming Sunday, so be ready!!

we need your info

It's now or never (?)

If your email address has changed, or the church does not have your email address, please let Sally, our church secretary, know. Call the office (314) 781-5902 or email (sally@maplewoodumc.org)



Lent – the season of the Christian year when we focus on simple living, prayer & fasting in order to grow closer to God.

All Church Lenten Study

For the past several years Lent has been set aside as a time for this congregation to focus more intensely on spiritual growth. We ask people to practice these three spiritual disciplines:

1. Pray every day.
2. Attend worship every Sunday during Lent.
3. Participate in a weekly small group.

This year the small groups will use the book, Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus as a guide for discussions. The

Sunday morning messages will connect with the themes from the book as well. There are a variety of days and times scheduled for small groups. Everyone is invited and **encouraged** to take part in a small group. Here are the small group meeting dates and times. Unless otherwise specified all groups will meet at the church.

Small Group Opportunities:

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. (February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20)

Pre-school, Elementary, Middle School, and High School Sunday school classes will meet as Lenten study groups

Adult Lenten Study group will meet in the Chapel Room, led by **Colette Cummings**

Mondays at 7 p.m. (Feb. 15, 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21) led by **Rev. Jeff Carr**

Thursdays at 7 p.m. (February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17) led by **Jan Harsh**. At the first meeting the group will decide on subsequent meeting locations.

Saturdays at 8 a.m. (February 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12 and 19) meeting at St. Louis Bread Company on Clayton Road east of Big Bend; leaders coordinated by **Steve Shirar**

(If you have questions about any of these groups you are welcome contact Pastor Kim.)



Samantha Schaffner along with Andrew Stith and Cooper Collins preparing meals for Joe's Place.



Lenten Lunches are back in town

These community lunches are hosted by local congregations in Maplewood on each Wednesday during Lent. This is an opportunity for the members of the community to gather together, share a meal, and join in a brief time of worship together. The lunches begin at noon and last one hour, including a simple meal followed by a brief devotion shared by the host pastor.

Everyone is invited to attend and there is no need to make a reservation. While there is no charge for the lunches, a free will offering will be taken at each lunch; money from these offerings will be given to the Weekend on Wheels food pantry at the MRH High school.

Here are the **dates and locations** of the Lenten Lunches for this year:

Wednesday, February 10 at Maplewood Baptist Church,
2806 Marshall Ave, Maplewood, MO 63143 Phone:(314) 781-3582
Host Pastor: Rev. Steve Moseley

Wednesday, February 17, at Christ Church UCC, 2200 Bellevue Ave,
Maplewood, MO 63143 Church phone: (314) 644-3033
–hosted by The Pentecostal Church of God (Pastor Phil and Mary Centers)
and Anointed Hands Ministries (Sister Rose and Brother Andre Washington)

Wednesday, February 24, at Concordia Lutheran Church, 291 Sarah Ave,
St. Louis, MO 63143 Phone:(314) 647-1215; Pastor Matt Wood.

Wednesday, March 2, at Christ Church UCC, 2200 Bellevue, Ave,
Maplewood, MO 63143, 314-644-3033, Host Pastor: Rev. Betty Sue Sherrod

Wednesday, March 9, at Maplewood United Methodist Church, 7409 Flora,
314-781-5902 Host Pastor: Pastor Kim

Wednesday, March 16, TBA

Wednesday, March 23, at Evangel Temple, 2736 Sutton Blvd., Maplewood,
MO, Host Pastor: Rev. Harold Maxey



you REALLY don't want to miss this event

The annual Youth Mission Trivia Night is March 5th

Mark your calendars now and gather your friends for the annual Youth Mission Trip Trivia Night (with Silent & Dessert Auctions) on Saturday, March 5th! All funds raised support the 2016 joint Maplewood UMC and First UMC of Webster Groves youth mission trip. Doors open at 6:00pm and Trivia begins at 6:30pm. The event will be held at the Christian Life Center at Webster Hills UMC, 698 W. Lockwood (corner of Lockwood & Berry), Webster Groves, MO 63119. Tables seat 8 and cost \$120. Registration sheets are available by both the Sutton and Flora street entrances. If you are interested in playing but do not have a full team, please indicate your name and contact information on the sign up sheet on the easel.

We are looking for donations of baked items for the Desert Auction and goods, services or gift cards (any denomination is fine!) for the Silent Auction. For questions or to donate to the auctions, please contact Julia Schaffner at 314-440-3119 or Merlinsc@att.net.



- 2 Rachelle Douglas-Holt
- 4 Adree Ostendorf
- 6 Pascale Perraudin
- 14 Rona Chandler
- 21 Henry Stotler
- 25 Kathy Schmid
- 25 Bryon Stone
- 27 Joyce Brucker

CAMP JO-OTA REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 1st.

More information to come soon about each camp listed below....along with registration information and pricing. Hope to see you this summer back at camp!

2016 Camp Jo-Ota Schedule

May 28-30	Family Camp	Adult(s) & any age(s)	Daren & Melinda Griesbaum
June 10-11	FROG Camp	Age 4-5 plus adult	Melissa Dalton
June 10-12	Ted E. Bear Camp	Grade 1-3 plus adult	Rhonda Smith
June 13-18	Spirit Camp (Sr. High)	Grade 9-College Fresh	Rev. David Israel
June 20-24	Spirit Camp (Jr. High)	Grade 6-8	Rev. David Israel
June 27-July 1	Discovery Camp	Grade 3-5	Rev. Eric Anderson
July 11-15	Fishing Camp	Grades 6-12	Rev. Steve Martin
July 18-23	Connect Camp	Grade 6-8	Rev. Carl Knapp
July 25-29	Music, Art, Drama	Grade 6-12	Rev. Mark Dumas
Aug. 1-6	Time of Your Life	Grade 5-6	Rev. Paul Smith
Aug. 8-12	Lighten Up!	Grade 6-8	Rev. Denzil Thomas

*For the safety of campers, all camp staff are safe-sanctuary certified.
Grade is the grade entering in fall 2016.*

**Owned and operated by Jo-Ota Methodist Association
No Conference or District apportionments used at this facility**

Person to Person

Dave Phelps

Note: This edition of Person-2-Person describes a very disturbing incident. If you're accustomed to sharing Person-2-Person with children, please exercise caution.—DP

A 15-year-old Pakistani boy cut off his own hand to prove he wasn't guilty of blasphemy. A cleric leading a celebration of the birth of Muhammad whipped the crowd into a state of frenzy. At one point, he asked, "Who among you doesn't believe in the teachings of the Holy Prophet? Raise your hands!"

The boy didn't hear clearly and raised his right hand. Immediately, the cleric accused him of blasphemy in the presence of approximately 100 worshippers.

The boy went home and, hoping to prove his love for "the Prophet," put his hand in a "grass-cutting machine" and chopped off the offending hand. Then, bleeding severely, he picked up the severed hand, placed it on a tray, and carried it back to the nearby mosque before he lost consciousness.

He later said, "When I raised my right hand unwittingly, I realized I had committed blasphemy and needed to atone for this . . . The hand that commits blasphemy should be chopped off." Despite all he has been through, if he hadn't "atoned," he may have endured a worse fate at the hands of a violent mob.

As I heard what had happened, I was sickened and revolted. I couldn't help comparing his situation with our experience as Christians. He felt compelled to prove his love for "the Prophet." But we have a God who proves his love for us: "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!" (Rom. 5:8 Holman Christian Standard Bible). The one who had no need to prove anything to us gave his only son.

As Christians, we're familiar with the verse "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell!" (Matt. 5:30 HCSB). But we also know Jesus was speaking figuratively. We are

supposed to shun sin, not mutilate ourselves. But we don't do it for God's benefit or to "prove" anything but rather for our own spiritual growth. We don't need to cut off body parts or otherwise harm ourselves to prove we're sincerely repentant.

Instead, we "prove" our love for God by our obedience. Jesus told the disciples, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23b HCSB). One of God's greatest commandments is that we love others (Lev. 19:18b; Matt. 22:39). Jesus told the disciples, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35 HCSB). When we obey God and love others, we show that our profession of faith is genuine.

But we do these things as a witness to others, not as a demonstration to God, because God knows our hearts. Jeremiah wrote that "I, Yahweh, examine the mind, / I test the heart" (Jer. 17:10a HCSB). God knows and tests each of us, and knows the content of our hearts. God knows our motivations, and looks at why we do what we do, and not just what we do.

That brave, devoted boy sacrificed his hand to prove his love for "the Prophet." As we enter Lent, many of us will consider giving up something, making a "sacrifice." What will we sacrifice to show our love and gratitude to God? Will we give up criticizing our coworkers, as I'm inclined to do? Will we give up gossip? How will others see Christ in us? In me? May our light shine brightly into our world each day (Matt. 5:16).

"Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. "You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; You are not pleased with a burnt offering. "The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. God, You will not despise a broken and humbled heart." (Psa. 51:15-17 HCSB.)

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



words don't seem to be enough, but they are what we have

And so we say "thank you" ...

* "Thank you to everyone for the kind thoughts and prayers I received after the passing of my dear mom. I'm very fortunate to be part of this church family." Many thanks, *Ray Jauregui*

* Thank you so very much to Colette Cummings, Renee & Erin McDonough, Ray Jauregui, Tony Kunce, Chris Shirar, Kathy & Larry Schmid, Madaleaze Cramer, Kevin & Hope Watkins, and Brittany Buxton for all the work you did for preparing for, inviting, publicizing, setting up, providing snacks and cleaning up for Family Movie Night! There were about forty-five children and adults in Fellowship Hall to watch the movie "Inside Out." *Special thanks to Christi Brandenstein* from Crossroads Counseling Center to lead discussion about family and feelings.

* Thank you to Madaleaze Cramer for updating the Sunday School Bulletin Board.

* Thank you to Suzanne Thompson and Kathy Schmid for leading the discussions of The Other Wes Moore. We appreciate your leadership!



Andrew Stith and Cooper Collins getting ready to prepare a meal for Joe's Place at Time for Dinner.

wow! what an honor!

Guessin' they know Julia like we know Julia ...

Julia Schaffner has been chosen as the Missouri State Direct Support Professional for 2016. She has been with the Arc for 26-years and currently oversees 'Capable Kids and Families®', along with 'Go the Whole 9' prevention program.

Julia was nominated for her unwavering commitment to people with disabilities and their families. In addition to her nomination, two Arc families whose children have received support from Julia submitted touching recommendation letters on her behalf.

Julia will be recognized by ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) at their annual conference in Chicago, IL on May 3.

Be sure to congratulate Julia about this amazing highlight in her career. (We are SOOOOOO proud of you, Julia.)

Looking ahead Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday – March 19

Maundy Thursday
Seder Meal - March 23 - 6 PM

Easter - Sunday, April 5
7 a.m. Early Service
7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Church Council for 2016

Council Chair	Kevin Watkins	
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Colette Cummings	
Lay Leader	Julia Schaffner	
Pastor Parish Relations Committee	Colette Cummings, Chair Mark Watkins Jerry Blackwell Peg Chulick	
Trustee Committee	Mike Lodholz Tim McDonough	
Finance Committee	Courtney Stotler, Chair Larry Schmid, Treasurer Ray Jauregui, Financial Secretary	
Committee on Nominations:	Kim Shirar, Chair Julia Schaffner, Lay Leader	
<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>
Michael Chance	Tami Collins	Rachel Ward
Steve Findley	Andrew Stith	Kathy Schmid
Mark Watkins		Joanne Davis
Adult Worker with Youth	Jan Harsh	
Administrative Assistant	Sally Noel	

Time for Dinner for Joe's Place

Many thanks to Beth Abeln, Cooper Collins, Colette Cummings, Samantha Schaffner and Andrew Stith for spending their Tuesday evening with the four young men from Joe's Place making delicious meals at Time for Dinner.

These dinners were taken back to the Joe's Place home for freezing and future easy nutritious meal prep. These meals are always appreciated by the entire Joe's Place family (can you imagine feeding four teenage boys?!). Meal making with Joe's Place is one of the community based Mercy & Justice outreach programs Maplewood UMC supports. Houseparents Jeremy and Rachel Mapp also attended and shared the wonderful news they are expecting their first child in mid-April! **(See pictures throughout this issue.)**

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:
Thursday 9a.m. - 4p.m.
Maplewood UMC phone:
(314)781-5902
Maplewood UMC Official Website:
www.maplewoodumc.org



Beth Abeln & Colette Cummings preparing dinners with 3 young men from Joe's Place.



MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143

February
2016

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