

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

JULY 2015



Here's the summer schedule for Sunday school

Preschool and Elementary School Sunday school classes are on 'summer break' during July and on August 2 and 9. Middle School and High School Sunday school classes will continue to meet all summer – NO summer break!

The nursery will continue to be http://download.newsletternewsletter.com/artlinelibrary/t/te/teacher_12682c.jpg available every Sunday this summer during the Sunday school time. During worship for children who are in Kindergarten and younger, are welcome to be in the nursery.

And be ready for Sunday, August 16th! This will be *RALLY DAY* and the regular Sunday school schedule for ALL classes will be in effect.

http://download.newsletternewsletter.com/artlinelibrary/t/te/teacher_12682c.jpg

Ok, one more time now, all you 'safe sanctuary' folks

We now have to procedure to gather information about your background checks, BUT would you all do ONE MORE SEARCH to be sure you do not have a letter-response to YOUR background check somewhere at home. If you do, please bring it to church and share it with Shay. This will cut down on the number of names we will need to check ... and possibly cut down on creating any confusion. Hey, we're almost there ... http://download.newsletternewsletter.com/artlinelibrary/t/te/teacher_12682c.jpg



Teacher Workshop Are you ready Sunday School Teachers?

A Sunday school teacher meeting for **returning** and **new** Sunday school teachers is scheduled for Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m. If you are interested in teaching or helping with Sunday school for any age from preschool through 12th grade during the 2015-2016 school year, please plan to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend this meeting but are interested in teaching Sunday school please contact Pastor Kim.

Pastor's Post

Dear Friends,

Summer seems to be flying by—faster (and wetter) than ever!

Many of you have traveled or plan to travel this summer. I hope that the change in pace and the trips to visit new places or familiar places or family and friends are refreshing and renewing! We need those times of rest, relaxation, and fun! I hope that you find that time this summer.

When you are home, it is great to worship with you on Sunday mornings! Over the next two weeks we will explore more parables: The Parable of the Talents on July 12 and the Parable of the Seed Growing Secretly on July 19. I am always taken by surprise at how these short stories that Jesus told make us think and see things in a new way. By the way, the parable of the seed growing secretly was selected as the most interesting parable when the folks in worship voted on the first Sunday in June.

After that we will be having “Summer Sunday School” during worship! Since Sunday school is on hiatus for our younger children, we will be using the lesson plan from their curriculum for our worship themes. We will be looking at scripture stories from the July Sunday school theme, “Never Too Young.” These stories are about young people we read about in the Bible—David, Namaan’s servant, Jeremiah, and Timothy. No matter what our age is now, we will ask what can we learn and from these young characters for our own faith journeys. I’m planning on having some fun while we do that!

I do want to thank you for your prayers for

me and my family, for the cards and food you have sent, and for the kind words of caring and encouragement that you have shared while I have received chemotherapy since the Monday after Easter. In case you haven’t heard, Monday, June 22 was the last day for chemotherapy! I am feeling better and should continue to feel more energetic every day. When I see the doctor next week, they will check to make sure my white blood cell count is back to normal. Once that happens I will be cleared to make more visits in healthcare settings. As far as further treatment plans go, the plan right now is that I will continue to receive a target therapy drug intravenously every three weeks until March 2016. This medication has minimal side effects compared to traditional chemotherapy. It’s mostly just a matter of showing up to get the medicine. So, in a nutshell....the rough stuff is over! I am glad! So is my family!

Steve and I are so grateful for your support and caring. Everyone has been very patient and understanding during this time when I haven’t been at full capacity. Being able to work while having the flexibility I needed to take care of myself has been a true blessing. I can’t thank you enough for being such a gracious congregation.

God’s grace and peace be with you,

Pastor Kim

The art of delegating

(God) seems to do nothing of himself which he can possibly delegate to his creatures. He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what he could do perfectly and in the twinkling of an eye. ...Creation seems to be delegation through and through. I suppose this is because (God) is a giver.

-C.S. Lewis, *The World’s Last Night*

'gift' MUMC

Share YOUR musical gifts this summer!

The Choir's summer break begins after the service today! If you would like to share special music during the remainder of June, or in July or August please contact Amy Cordeal at 314-922-0297 or amcord6018@att.net. Both vocal and instrumental pieces are welcome!



T-Shirts are sooo "in" you know and ...

new Maplewood UMC t-shirts are coming by early September! The cost of the t-shirts has been covered by a gracious donation. Please let us know what size(s) you (and your children) need on the Communication Card during worship or by contacting the church office.



- 1 Michael Plonka
- 6 Jerry Blackwell
- 6 Jason Watkins
- 8 Amy Kampis
- 12 Joe Raniero
- 12 Rita Hanley
- 19 Danny Findley
- 20 Jeremiah Allen
- 20 Ben McGowan
- 20 Luke Watkins
- 21 Ben Stotler
- 22 Jim Baskett
- 25 Juanita O'Laughlin
- 25 Mary Downing
- 26 Anna Baskett
- 27 Colleen Watkins
- 27 Ryan Cramer
- 31 David Kunce
- 31 Wayne Kidwell



- 7/23 – Dennis & Tami Collins
- 7/25/98 – Kevin & Hope Watkins
- 7/30/83 – Mike & Dorleta Lodholz
- 7/31/09 – Rachel & Dustin Ward

We missed one June anniversary... Brent and Cari Ford's anniversary was June 18th.

Person to Person

by David Phelps

One weekend last month, my wife, Charlotte, and I were actors in a local short, low-budget film project. At one point, I asked, facetiously, “What’s the troll’s motivation?” (Yes, that’s right, the troll. I was the troll guarding the bridge the heroine had to cross in order to save her sister. And no, sorry, you won’t see it in your local theater any time soon.)

Actors are concerned with the motivations of their characters. The reason someone is doing or saying something influences how the actor plays the character or the scene. As Christians, we’re also concerned with motivations, why we do the things we do.

Not long ago, a report by the Pew Research Center revealed that people—especially younger people—are less likely to be affiliated with churches, particularly mainline denominations like the United Methodist Church, than in years past. As you would expect, there was a fair amount of hand wringing and wondering how we, as Christians, should react. “What can we do?” a lot of good folks asked. “What *should* we do?”

But most reactions were focused on “What can we do to save our denomination/the church/etc.?” rather than “What *should* we do to bring souls to Christ/make sure people aren’t turning away from God?” As much as I love being a United Methodist, I know our denomination or our local congregation isn’t “the church.” The church is the body of believers and Christ is the head (Col. 1:18), and our first allegiance is to him.

Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col. 3:17 NRSV). We don’t serve God to accomplish our own ends and goals; we do it to bring about God’s purpose. Things might happen that disturb or perplex us but we can have faith that God’s purpose is unfolding as it should and that it cannot be defeated (Rom. 8:28). Paul also wrote to the Christians in Corinth, “Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:58 NRSV). If we labor for God, according to God’s will, we won’t labor in vain.

And when we ask “What should we do?” we’re in good company. The people asked Jeremiah, “Let the Lord your God show us where we should go and what we should do.” (Jer. 42:3 NRSV). Jeremiah answered “Do not be afraid . . . says the Lord, for I am with you,” (vs. 11a & c). Trust in God. When the people asked John the Baptist “What should we do?” (Luke 3:10, 12, 14 NRSV), he answered “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. . . . Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you. . . . Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” (vs. 11, 13, 14b). In other words: Take care of your neighbor and do what is right. Three years later, on the day of Pentecost, when the people asked, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37b NRSV), Peter answered, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” (vs. 38a). And, as a result, “. . . about three thousand were added to their number that day.” (vs. 41b). That’s what we can do: Trust in God, take care of our neighbors, do what is right, share the gospel and promote repentance. And if we do, the church will grow. Jesus said, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matt. 6:33 NRSV). Seek God and God’s will first and God will take care of the rest, growing and sustaining the church. You know, it’s just crazy enough it might work.

“I have told the glad news of
deliverance in the great
congregation; . . .

. . . I have not hidden your saving help
within my heart,

I have spoken of your faithfulness and
your salvation;

I have not concealed your steadfast
love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.” (Psa

VOLUNTEERS



change lives

Let us serve God together, here at home

The Early Childhood Center of Maplewood Richmond Heights Schools has asked Maplewood UMC if we might have 3 or 4 adults who will commit approximately one hour per week to serve as a tutor/friend for a student. Students at the ECC range in age from pre-school through second grade. The day and time for each tutor will be negotiated with the individual tutor and the child's classroom teacher. If you are interested in learning more about this please contact Pastor Kim.

Breaking bread together happens in many ways

We have an immediate need

Serina Mikunda is in the hospital. Geri Redden, Serina's mom, will be caring for the children quite a bit in the upcoming weeks. Kim has talked to Geri and has offered one meal a week from the church for the next 5-6 weeks. If you are willing to make a meal and deliver it to Geri please choose a week below and get back to me.. Contact Geri on Sundays and find out which day she would like a meal delivered.

Geri's contact:

2407 Bellevue, 63143
314-922-6299

You can get hold of Geri by phone or by text

Oh yes ... it is only 170 days until we celebrate the birth of Christ (from today, July 9th)

There are even fewer days when it comes to planning for the Christmas 'Giving Tree'. So, here it is. We need two folks to serve as coordinators for the Christmas Giving Tree this year. The process for the Giving Tree is in place. Support will be provided. If you or you and a friend feel called to lead this ministry, please contact Shay Blackwell (shaybwell@sbcglobal.net) You can get in touch with her yesterday or tomorrow would be ok, too.



Items gathered by two of our youth for the Animal Protective Association. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this great cause.

news about our family

Bits 'n' Pieces

*** Our prayers for comfort and peace for**

... the family of Muriel Watkins, Skip Watkins mother, who died at the age of 90 shortly after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Our prayers are with you, Skip and Diane, Kevin and Hope, Mark and Lisa, Jason and Colleen, Brooke, Kevin, Paige, Lilly, Luke, and Chase

... for Andrea Clark, Amy Cordeal's daughter, upon the death of her husband, Jim Clark. We ask God's sustaining love to be with Andrea; Andrea and Jim's young children, Millie and Patrick; and with all of Jim's family members and friends, and with Tom and Amy as they support Andrea, Millie, and Patrick.

For those who would like to share, memorials to the Clark Children's Educational Fund, in care of Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home & Crematory, 601 Indiana St., Lawrence, KS, 66044

*** Dear MUMC family,**

... Thank you so much for always supporting me, believing in me, and showing me God's never ending goodness through his people! I will do my best to serve as a Christ follower in my home and work life. Love You all, *Kelly Berry*

... Thank you for all your love and support during this difficult time. We deeply appreciate the beautiful flowers, cards and encouraging words. We're so grateful for our church family. Love, *Tom & Amy*

*** Thank you to ...**

... Steve Findley for playing the piano for worship on July 5! We appreciate your willingness to step in to provide the gift of wonderful music! And so the beat goes on ...

... Thanks to all who had their cars washed and gave \$1.00s to get the youth mission trippers back home. Enough money was raised on the travel map to get us there and back. The money raised was a combined effort of Webster First UMC and Maplewood UMC....thanks.

*** And congratulations to ...**

... Betty Rhodes, Grandma to Sophie and Allen McCarter, and Mom to Stacy, reached her 30th year milestone at the Steak 'n' Shake Restaurant recently. Congratulations, Betty, on your many years of service!



Colette Cummings sharing with the congregation some of the highlights of this year's Annual Conference.



**it's
nearly here! it's nearly here!**
**Youth Mission Trip begins on
Sunday, July 19...**

Youth and adults from Maplewood UMC and First UMC in Webster Groves depart early on Sunday, July 19 to serve for a week in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. We will commission the mission team on Sunday, July 12. God tends to do a funny thing during mission trips....the people who think they are helping and serving find that they were the ones who benefitted the most from the people they were supposed to be serving. Of course pray for everyone... those who go to serve and those who lead the service teams, and those who are being served, but also serving.

Thank you for your prayers and thank you for your generous giving toward the cost of this mission trip, which is funded through your regular giving and your second mile giving. We are all part of this trip!

Youth and Adults from Maplewood UMC include: Brooke Watkins, Emily Baskett, Lauren Wismann, Melanie Brucker, Noah Buxton, Samantha Schaffner, Paige Watkins, Sue Baskett, and Jerry Blackwell.

Youth and Adults from First UMC in Webster Groves include: Jacob Blackwell, Nate Blackwell, Josh Krakos, Rachel Krakos, Kalsie Davis, Mia Murphy, Chris Brookshier, Sophia Schwind, John Krabbe, Matt Dohle, Camille Nunes, Lily Nunes, Nicki Wroblewski, Miranda Hoh, Collin McKee, Dylan Szydlowski Mary Blackwell, Jackie Krakos, Joel Kichline (Mission Team leader), Kurt Schwind, Sarah Dierker.

And on the NEXT day ...

McKenzie Lodholz departs on Monday, July 20 for a mission trip to Haiti. Please be in prayer for McKenzie and her mission team that they will make a difference in the lives of children and that they will remain safe.



Mission trippers getting ready for the mission trip by painting and installing base board on a "practice night" at Maplewood UMC.

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



A group from Webster First UMC sharing information and a skit about a run which was raising money for "No More Malaria. This run raised about \$15,000



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



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