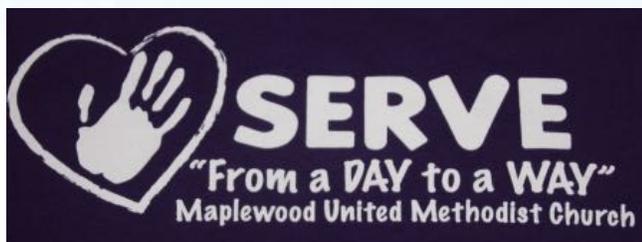


MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER

September 2015



**The SERVE Lawn Party and
Workday in the Community
Saturday – September 12th**

Listed below are the opportunities for
service –

Lawn Party – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m

- Set up
- Serve food and drinks
- Supervise Bounce House
- Take down

**Staff “Second Time Around” Shop
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Work in the community (two sites) -
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

One site will be yard work and second
site will include yard work and
painting.

Please sign up Sunday on the sheets at
church where you would like to work. Be
sure to wear your new t-shirts for the event.

Special thanks to Jan Harsh for contacting
everyone to get sizes for the SERVE shirts
and to Dave and Suzie Ward for helping in
getting all the shirts to the right people.

**An additional
service
opportunity -**

The Mosaic Fun Run
will be Saturday,
September 19th at
the MRH Track –
8a.m to 11 a.m.

Folks will be needed to help set-up/take
down and route marshals.
Plan to arrive about 7:30a.m.



**Rally Day Sunday Schoolers gather and
watch some of the “magic” from
Professor Know-It-All (Kyle)**

FROM
PASTOR
KIM



Dear Friends,

One of my our sons sent me this cartoon today. It made me laugh...a little bit...but mostly it made me cringe—because this joke speaks more of the truth than I would like to admit about the Church.

Common sense tells us that if you are a person who is “stranded” in some way like the whale in the cartoon, all the brochures, invitations and well articulated prayers aren’t going to save you from your immediate trouble, unless the prayers inspire someone to roll up their sleeves and their pant legs and push you back in the water.

John Wesley was a strong advocate for acts of piety. If you were part of the Methodist movement you were going to pray, read scripture, attend worship and meet in small groups. Noncompliance with these expectations earned you a visit from the leaders of your small group! Wesley was firm in his belief that spiritual practices are essential to our faith as means of grace. They connect us with the God we know in Jesus Christ.

Wesley firmly believed having a good relationship with God encompassed having a good relationship with others that was evidenced by works of mercy—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting those who are in prison. In a Wesleyan way of thinking saving the world includes doing the things that bring God’s Kingdom ways to earth in the present time. It means we care for people who are not part of our faith community, going to them,

meeting them where they are rather than asking them first to become “one of us” at 11 a.m. on Sundays. And of course we may share our faith and pray for people asking God to meet their physical needs and their need to be in a relationship with Jesus—to know in their hearts that the life-saving, life-transforming gospel is Good News for them.

I have been thinking about the amount of service that we will have been up to in late August and early September. I marvel at how much serving a congregation the size of Maplewood UMC accomplishes. It’s a lot! I appreciate the sacrifice of time and energy that each of you make to express God’s love and grace in tangible ways to the people in our local community. Thank you for being part of God’s saving work in this very real way. You are making a difference on behalf of Jesus as you do what he did—meet people where they are and serve them according to their physical and spiritual needs.

I am grateful to be in ministry with the people of Maplewood UMC. Of course, I will continue to pray for you...and hope to see you on Sunday at 11 a.m.

God’s grace, peace, and joy be with you.
Pastor Kim



Small Group Opportunities

Covenant Bible Study Begins Tuesday, September 15:

Covenant Bible study is a 24-week study which is divided into three 8-week sessions. The goal of Covenant Bible study is to deepen our understanding of scripture through reading the Bible, thinking about how it applies to our life story, and talking about it with other people in the study group. The first 8 week session, "Creating", will begin on September 15 at 7 p.m. and will be led by Pastor Kim and Colette Cummings. You are welcome to participate in this first 8 week study and then choose whether or not you will continue with the next study. There will be an information/orientation session for this study on Sunday, September 6 at 9:45 a.m. Samples of the participant workbook are on the easel in the gathering space behind the sanctuary.

Beginning on October 1: Thursday evening small group discussion centering on Faith and Racial Justice on October 1, 8, 15, and 22. The discussion will center around the book "Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community" by Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, a professor at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves.

Saturday morning small group led by Steve Shirar and Tom Cordeal will meet on **Saturday mornings from October 3 through November 7** at the Bread Company located near Big Bend and Clayton Road. The specific meeting time and book will be decided soon.

choir news

Just a reminder

MUMC Choir Rehearsal begins this Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. Ages Junior High and up are welcome to join us. This includes sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, and not-for-sures :) Here is your assignment: mark CHOIR REHEARSAL on your calendar for Wednesdays; make supper prep and clean-up easy and quick; head for MUMC with your "pipes" ready to sing!!! We WILL have fun.



- 2 Nora Baskett
- 7 McKenzie Lodholz
- 8 Suzanne Thompson
- 14 Kim Shirar
- 16 Pickett Lema
- 18 Gabbie Turner
- 20 Melissa McGowan
- 20 Milo Brucker
- 21 Amelia Adams
- 21 Mark Watkins
- 21 Nancy Cunningham
- 23 Monica Phelps
- 23 Matt Cordeal
- 25 Dennis Crone
- 26 Skip Watkins
- 26 Emma Mikunda
- 28 Hope Watkins

Anniversaries

9/14/85 - David & Charlotte
Phelps

New updated Church Directories are available.

The new colorful directories at available on a table in the narthex.

Person to Person

Dave Phelps

Retired Postal worker and U.S. Air Force veteran Doug Lehman is a member of the Kansas Patriot Guard. The Guard was formed in 2005 as a response to a group that stages protests at military funerals.

“With all the families are going through,” Lehman says, “they shouldn’t have to deal with disturbances at that solemn moment.” He recalls one occasion when he and more than 100 other Patriot Guard members on motorcycles led a funeral procession that was miles long through a rural area, watched by farmers and their children who stood by the road and waved flags.

Once at the cemetery, the Patriot Guard forms a barrier between the protesters and the family of the fallen soldier. Lehman says, “Any comfort we can give the family to help them get through this tough time, I just feel that I owe it to them.” They also serve the families of Police and Firefighters killed in the line of duty.

The protesters claim to be Christians, acting in the name of God. Lehman’s religious affiliation, and that of the rest of the Kansas Patriot Guard members, is unknown, although they are to “. . . strive to remain humble and reverent, keeping in mind the purpose of the mission.” But I know which group is *acting* like Christians. One group is adding to the misery of grieving families; the other is showing respect. One group is acting out of selfish motives, for cheap publicity; the other is remaining in the background. Everyone has heard of the protesters who seek to disrupt military funerals; but even though the Kansas Patriot Guard has been in existence for ten years, I’d never heard of them until recently.

Some of us could learn a great deal from the Kansas Patriot Guard. When Jesus taught in the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30), he read from what we know today as the book of Isaiah. We’re all familiar with the passage he read that begins “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,” (Luke 4:18, Isa. 61:1) but immediately after the portion Jesus read, it says “. . . to comfort all who mourn;” (Isa. Vs. 2b ESV). Comfort for those who mourn, not confront them, and not add to their pain.

The Bible also has much to say about respect. Mostly, it refers to respect for God, persons in authority, and elders, but it also refers to respect for neighbors and

others. Paul told the Philippians to “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Phil. 2:3 ESV). We are called to be witnesses for Christ, and we need to defend our faith at times but we don’t need to be *offensive* in our *defense*. Peter wrote, “Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience,” (1 Pet. 3:14b-16a ESV). Gentleness and respect are two things that are sorely lacking from the protesters at military funerals, and to me they give other Christians a bad name.

They certainly don’t believe what I do or, apparently, read the same Bible. I pray that my conduct and example help to draw others to Christ rather than to repel them. We have a God who “. . . heals the brokenhearted / and binds up their wounds.” (Psa. 147:3 ESV) and who commands us to do the same. Jesus told the people, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.” (Mark 4:24b ESV). In the same way, the comfort and healing we show is the comfort and healing we can expect to receive (Mark 12:31). If we can’t show love for others, who we can see, how can we say we love God, who we can’t see (1 John 4:20). We have a savior who gave everything for us (1 John 3:16; Gal. 1:3-5); the very least we can do in response is to show love, compassion and respect for others. By our actions, we can show that Christ rules in our lives and that we have his love in us.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Cor. 1:3-4 ESV.)

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

Are we TOO 'loosey-goosey'?

Not really; but ... sometimes we just aren't as careful as we should be about returning items where we found them.

We have this fantastic "what's yours is mine; what's mine is yours" policy here at MUMC. Instead of locking up every supply area around the church, materials are left available for whomever has need of them ...BUT we all fall short when it comes to returning what we have borrowed to the place it actually belongs. This shortcoming, which fits into the area known as **s t e w a r d s h i p** is one we all can work on and improve.

Right now, however, there are a few things borrowed but not returned that really could be used in their "rightful" place. (1) Spray bottles of cleaner purchased for and kept in the elementary Sunday school need to be brought back home (2) A fan (quite an old one) which was being shared by the crafters and the teen Sunday school class (3rd floor) has disappeared and cannot be found anywhere in the church ... and (3) the elementary class recently divided their markers with the preschool class because the preschool markers were missing. The Quilter/ Crafter also has been "hit" and has tools/ supplies missing.

Let's see how much better we all can do oh, and if we borrow something and use it all, let's be sure to get a replacement.



back to school dance #2

It was a wonderful night!

Seventh & eighth graders in the MRH School District, on Friday evening, August 28th, gathered at MUMC for a Back to School Dance. Approximately 75 youth walked through our doors, danced, sang, snacked and consumed a LOT OF CAFFEINE!

For admission to the dance, students brought non-perishable food items for donation to Weekend On Wheels.

Thank you to "Get Happy Productions" (AKA The Green Family) for donating their professional DJ services for the event. And many thanks to all who donated snacks, drinks and their time for set up, chaperoning and clean up!



Above, some of the 7th and 8th graders at the dance. To the left is the food collected for Week-end on Wheels

Joe's Place

As in past years the congregation will support Joe's Place with paper goods, cleaning products and food/kitchen needs. Below is a list of items needed.

Paper goods – paper towels, toilet paper and facial tissues

Cleaning Products – dish detergent, dishwasher pods, Clorox wipes, toilet bowl cleaner and bleach

Food/Kitchen Needs – SaranWrap, Cliff Bars and Gatorade/Power Ade

To see a wonderful video on a young man who lived at Joe's Place the last few years check out mrhschools.net and select MRH Alumni Earns Ava Grace Scholarship. Preston graduated from MRH this past May.



...and this teen shall lead us ...

In lieu of birthday gifts from friends attending his birthday party in August, Jonathan Schaffner requested donations for Joe's Place. His very generous friends embraced the idea and brought all of these paper products plus \$40 in cash / gift cards! He delivered the items to Joe's Place the first week of school / move in week. **We are proud of you Jonathan!**

[News about Joe's Place](#)

A unique home that is changing lives

On Sunday, August 30th the items brought into church for donation to Joe's Place by Maplewood UMC's congregation were delivered. Left-over unopened snacks from the Middle School Dance were also given to the family. Jeremy and Rachel Mapp, houseparents at Joe's Place, were speechless. It was truly amazing how quickly the congregation responded to the new/revised list of needed items received just a couple weeks ago. Jeremy kept repeating how touched he was by the support and to please pass along their heartfelt thanks to the congregation.

Please know how much your generosity is appreciated by this unique home that is changing lives.

I also want to share this story about a 2015 graduate from MRH and Joe's Place. This is a very well-deserved scholarship for a young man full of talent, promise, and determination. [MRH Alumni Earns Ava Grace Scholarship - MRH School District](#)



MRH Alumni Earns Ava Grace Scholarship - MRH School ...

A Maplewood Richmond Heights graduate (class of 2015), Presten Pinnell was

recently awarded the Ava's Grace Scholarship.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

—Mahatma Gandhi (paraphrasing Jesus)

bits 'n' pieces

Keepin' up with the family

* **McKenzie Lodholz** has been installed as the **Grand Worthy Advisor** for 2015 for Missouri at the Grand Assembly of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. McKenzie is part of the St. Louis Assembly #3 of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls which meets in Kirkwood. McKenzie just began her freshman year at Missouri State University. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

* **Muriel Watkins memorial service** will be held on Sunday, September 6 at 2 p.m. There will be a reception in Fellowship Hall immediately after the service for those who would like to stay and greet Muriel's family.

* **Following the death of Helen Love:** to the Congregation of Maplewood United Methodist Church, During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives and old connections really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangement. The Maplewood Church was a huge part of our lives. Sincerely, *Mike Love, Marilyn Love Hoemann, and Families*



Eating breakfast on Rally Sunday



And the "thanks" go on

* **Thank you everyone for the beautiful flowers and chocolates** in honor of my retirement from Special School District, and to Pastor Kim for your prayer. I am enjoying the breezes right now and more time with Larry, as well as getting to know my recliner better, as I think about what's next! *Kathy Schmid*

* Thank you to **Jan Harsh** for coordinating the Maplewood UMC support of the Concert for a Cause in Ryan Hummert Park.

* Thank you to **Julia Schaffner and Colette Cummings** for putting together and very fun Middle School Welcome Back to School Dance! Approximately 75 middle school students danced the night away in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped with set up, clean up, chaperoning, and providing snack. A special thank you to **GET HAPPY PRODUCTIONS** for the music and D.J. services.

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers when Jon was serving in Afghanistan. He and Nancy will be off to Ft. Sill, OK, in September, after a week's vacation in Jamaica to celebrate their 2nd anniversary. *Kathy & Larry Schmid*

* **Rally Sunday, Mad Faith: The Science of God was AMAZING!** Thank you to **Rachel Ward and Kyle Kranes** (aka: Professor Know-It All) for their leadership, to **Hope Watkins** for the most scientific snacks, to **Rona Chandler** for Mad Faith lab coats, and to **Madaleaze Cramer** for mastering the computerized check in system. Sunday school is off to a great start!

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



**Our third graders
receiving their new
Bibles from Pastor
Kim**



MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



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