

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

APRIL 2014



and you can help
All Church Work Day!
Saturday, April 5, 9
a.m. - ???

We will be getting the church building ready for Easter!

There are opportunities to clean, repair plaster, replace ceiling tile, paint, install cove base, or work outdoors in the yard. For questions or more information please contact our Trustee chairperson, Jason Watkins at jcblwatkins@sbcglobal.net or 314-646-7116.

Oh, yeah, doughnuts and/or lunch will be provided.

PREVIEW: Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship & Celebration

PALM SUNDAY April 13

- 11 a.m. The children will parade bringing palms into the sanctuary as we sing

MAUNDY THURSDAY April 17

- 6 p.m. soup supper in Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY April 30 -

- 7 a.m. "Sunrise" Worship Service
- 7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast served in Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Easter Egg Hunt **held rain or shine!**
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship

Here's another opportunity for Safe Sanctuary Training

There will be a Safe Sanctuary training following church on April 6th. Don't miss your chance to become trained before all of the warm weather activities begin! Safe Sanctuary is an important ministry for all churches and EVERYONE is encouraged to attend a training session. Safe Sanctuary provides for the safety of our children and our adults.

Safe Sanctuary Training Opportunity, Sunday, April 6 after worship. If you intend to work with children or youth **in any capacity you must have this training.** Please make a note on the Communication Card if you plan to attend. The training will last approximately one hour. (Please be aware that you will NOT be able to work with children and youth if you are not trained!) You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch if you want to have lunch during the meeting.

Questions can be directed to Rona Chandler (rona@cupcaketreestl.com or 314-303-0187)

Easter Breakfast helpers are wanted and needed

If you would like to take part in helping with Easter Sunday breakfast, make a note on the communication card during Sunday worship or contact Tom Cordeal (tomcordeal@gmail.com/314-518-7769) or Larry Schmid (larry.schmid@sbcglobal.net/314-323-7754)

Plastic Easter eggs needed now

They can be filled or unfilled. Candy for filling the Easter eggs is needed for Easter Sunday. Please place these items in the basket in the gathering space behind the sanctuary.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

There are so many channels for getting the word out about Easter worship services and inviting people to attend. Churches will be creating radio and television ads. Churches will be posting flyers and signs and posting on Facebook. Churches will mail postcards to all the families in their general area. They might even hand postcards or flyers door to door in their communities. Maplewood UMC will probably do some of these things as well. In fact we MUST do some of these things. The message of the hope we have in Jesus Christ is too great to keep to ourselves.

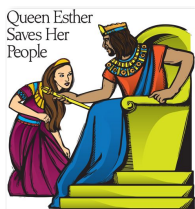
There are many, many ways to invite people to Easter Sunday worship. But only one of them is the best. That one way is YOU!

I hope you will personally invite your friends to come to church with you on Easter Sunday. You can tell your friends that we have an Easter Egg hunt that is open to all children in the community. It begins at 9:45 a.m. After the Easter Egg Hunt they are welcome to stay for worship which begins about an hour later at 11:00 a.m. Tell them they can wear whatever they want; that their children are welcome in worship; and they can even bring in their coffee if they haven't finished it before worship.

I certainly believe it will be a great day to experience God's love, goodness, and joy! What better gift can you offer to a friend?

God bless you during this holy season of Lent as we journey in Easter hope.

Pastor Kim



Sermons for Lent:

Sunday, April 6: "Haman, The Man Who Wanted a Some Respect: When Am I the Problem?"

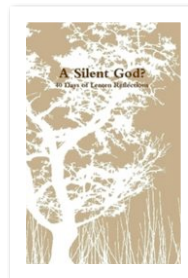
Sunday, April 13: Esther and Jesus: If I Perish, I Perish: Where is God in Life and in Death?

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday Services



Maundy Thursday Soup Supper is Thursday, April 17

Supper is served beginning at 6 p.m. and is served on an "eat when you arrive" basis until just before the worship service at 7 p.m. Please indicate your willingness to provide soup, salad, or dessert, or assistance with set-up or cleanup on the communication card.



Lenten Study small group days, dates & times

It's not too late to participate...

Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. on March 11, 18, 25, April 1 and 8

Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10 led by Jan Harsh

Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. March 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12 led by Colette Cummings and Steve Shirar

Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. on March 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13.

Preschool class led by Stacey Schwab and Kathy Schmid

Elementary children led by Kyle Kranes and Pastor Kim

Junior High led by Bryon Stone

High School led by Jan Harsh

Parents/Young Adults led by Peg Chulick (meet in the Chapel Room)

Adult Sunday School class (meet in the lower level of the Education Wing)

Is this a ministry opportunity for you?

A team of two or three folks is needed to keep the children's busy bags resupplied after worship. This can be accomplished in about 20 - 30 minutes at any time during the week, as long as they are ready by 10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Supplies will be provided.

One person is needed to help parents of summer campers coordinate schedules and rides to camp. This role can be fulfilled primarily through email and with some phone calling. This camp coordinator will also communicate the number of children who are going to camp to our Finance Team for budgeting purposes.

Choir Corner

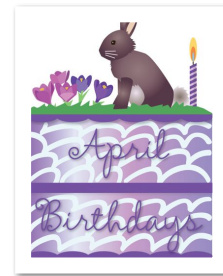
The choir is learning some new music for Easter and the following weeks. We meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings, newcomers welcome. We have a special need for altos at this time, but would welcome any sopranos, tenors or basses too.

Trivia Night was a great success

The youth mission trip trivia night raised over \$4000 to go toward the expenses of the mission trip to Milwaukee, WI this summer. Maplewood UMC had two tables and one of the tables tied for 3rd place.



Ask about the PRINGLES



APRIL

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Dustin Ward |
| 1 | Brent Ford |
| 3 | Nancy Whitney |
| 3 | Sally Noel |
| 4 | Ann Hurley |
| 4 | Margie Brammeier |
| 5 | Cooper Collins |
| 9 | Jeff Carr |
| 11 | Robert Chandler |
| 12 | Courtney Stotler |
| 14 | Joshua Moruzzi |
| 16 | Lilly Watkins |
| 22 | Annie Schmid |
| 23 | Liston Jent |
| 28 | Ray Norris |

Anniversaries

4/18/87 – Tim & Rene McDonough

HELP! HELP! HELP!
We have a mosquito infestation in the sanctuary!



A suggested donation of \$1 - \$5 will allow you to take one mosquito out of the sanctuary. These donations can be placed in the red treasure chest or in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. They will be given directly to Imagine No Malaria, an initiative of The United Methodist Church with the purpose of eliminating malaria in Africa.

Thank you to the children of Maplewood UMC for reminding us to help our neighbors!

HELP! HELP! HELP!

For your caring and your actions, THANK YOU to ...

... Peg Chulick for making our restrooms more hospitable! Peg has provided curtains for the main and lower floor education wing and has spiffed up the restrooms in the "old" part of the building. Next on her list is the third floor education wing restroom.

... Tony Kunce and Ray Jauregui for researching, purchasing, and installing the equipment for assistive listening devices in the sanctuary!

... Mary Downing for leading an anger management class in March and for a few weeks in April. Thank you also to all of you who have provided food for the classes!

... all those that took part in clearing the snow from the church sidewalks this past winter including, Mike Plonka, Bob Harsh, Tony Kunce, David Kunce, Jason Watkins, Liston Jent and Ray Jauregui. May those aches be gone by now and, being optimistic, those snow shovels can be put away until next winter!



Summer Camp Schedules are available

... on the table under the screen in the gathering place behind the sanctuary. Maplewood UMC offers significant financial support for children who are taking part in summer camp. If your child or children are interested in taking part in summer camp, please let Pastor Kim know. The web address for Missouri United Methodist summer camps is: www.mocamps.org.

malar-triv-ia

some trivia about malaria

Did you know that the Methodist Church was well prepared to become a part of the partner who could help deliver malaria prevention, treatment and education in Africa? We have over 300 hospitals, health clinics and outposts working on the continent.

Community News

fund-raiser to benefit the MAPLEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tuesday, April 15, 2014
at McAlister's Deli in Deer Creek Plaza
11 am – 2 pm and 4 pm – 9 pm

**A percentage of sales will be
donated for the
Library Children's Program**

**you MUST bring a flyer to
participate!!!!**
(Jan Harsh will have flyers available
starting April 1st.

Here are the Zumba dates, April - June 2014

These are alternating Mondays @ 6:45pm:
4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26 (No Class, Holiday), 6/9,
6/23.

Classes take place in the Fellowship Hall at
Maplewood UMC.



The church water leak is almost repaired. A new pipe has been run from the main water line into the room next to the kitchen. All that remains is an inspection and the hook up. The only casualty was the bush...it was in the way of the new line.

Person to Person

Dave Phelps

In a sad bit of irony, I have an update on the gas station that proclaimed itself the "Best darn wash on this corner" (see Person-2-Person, March, 2014). One day, after I had written last month's installment of Person-2-Person, I drove by the place again and the sign had been changed. Now it said "Thank you and goodbye." The car wash had gone out of business. A couple of weeks later, there was no sign at all and the property was surrounded by a chain link fence. I noticed how faded the paint on the exterior walls was and how forlorn the place looked. One day after that, the building had been demolished. Just a few weeks earlier, it had been the "Best" and now it was virtually gone.

John wrote what we know as the book of Revelation to ". . . the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." (Rev. 1:11b ESV). All but two of these churches had fallen short in some way. In particular, Sardis ". . . [had] the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God." (Rev. 3:1b-2). Like the church at Sardis, the car wash appeared to be alive and vibrant but it was dying as a business, just as Sardis was dying as a church.

Earlier this year, when the country made the change to Daylight Saving Time, I took advantage of the opportunity to make sure my watch was accurate. Fortunately, it was essentially keeping good time, off by only a matter of seconds. In the same way, we need to check our attitudes and actions against sound teaching, to make sure we're not spiritually ill or dying like the church at Sardis but are following the example of Christ and the law of love.

Nehemiah lived near the end of the time when the people of Israel were captive in the country that was known as Babylon. After their return to Jerusalem, the leaders of the people read the Law of Moses and found that they had strayed far from their ancestral traditions (Neh. 13:1). Offerings were not being handled properly (13:9), Temple workers did not receive their due (13:10), people were violating the Sabbath

(13:15), and many men had married women who were not Jews (13:23). Nehemiah ". . . cleansed them from everything foreign," (13:30a ESV) and restored them to right fellowship with God.

The author of Hebrews wrote "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it." (Heb. 2:1 ESV). He knew the danger of becoming "out of sync" with God. He had probably seen it firsthand (3:12) and he certainly knew examples from the Old Testament (3:15-19). He further wrote, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another," (Heb. 10:24-25a ESV). This is one way we "synchronize" ourselves, by gathering together with other believers for study, hearing God's word, and prayer. Lent is a time for reconnecting with our God and remembering the price of our salvation.

None of the seven churches in Revelation exist today except as ruins. Sardis and the rest are long gone. All but Smyrna and Philadelphia strayed from God's will and from Christian teaching and they are no more. They didn't stay "synchronized." If we don't keep in tune with God, we will likewise suffer spiritual death. We don't set out to wander away from God. We don't deliberately have ". . . an evil, unbelieving heart, leading [us] to fall away from the living God." (Heb. 3:12b ESV). It's simply our nature (Isa. 53:6). But it's also God's nature to draw us back again (John 6:44). We don't have to go it alone, we're part of a community of believers and we have a God who wants to have fellowship with us (1 Cor. 1:9).

"Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." (Heb. 2:1-4 ESV.)

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

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

malar-triv-ia

some trivia about malaria

Have you wondered just what IS 'Imagine No Malaria'? This is extraordinary effort by the United Methodist Church to end preventable death from malaria in Africa. Just think: no more children dying from a disease that REALLY CAN BE PREVENTED. And YOU can help!



MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



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



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