

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**MESSENGER EXTRA**

NOVEMBER 2014



**Hanging of the  
Greens Sunday,  
November 23....be  
there.**

Just a reminder we'll be decorating the church after worship on Sunday, November 23rd. Please stay for a lunch of pizza and we'll begin decorating at 1:00 in the sanctuary.

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**shall we gather at the theatre?**

**All Is Calm, the musical play about  
the 1914 Christmas Truce ...**

... is back at Fontebonne. **We can go as a group and get discounted tickets for Sun. Nov. 30 at 2 p.m.** (Tickets will be \$20 instead of \$30.) If you wish to go, please let me know as soon as possible so I can have the tickets saved. Last year they sold out and had to turn people away. The play is free to veterans, but you do need to reserve the tickets. The play is very moving and a great way to start advent. Our phone is (314) 647-0748. Leave a message if we're not there... and we'll see you Sunday.

*Bonnie & Liston Jent*

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**Calling all children**

Children's Christmas pageant will be held during worship on Sunday, December 14. **All Children are welcome to participate.** The costumes will be provided at church. The children will prepare for this (nearly) no rehearsal pageant during Sunday school on Sunday, December 7 and December 14 (right before the pageant begins.)

**Christmas 2014  
Giving Tree  
Project**



There are some changes being made in our Giving Tree Project this year, and we are excited about them! Everyone on the committee attended the Toxic Charity discussion series and became very passionate about the principles of do no harm, and promote self sufficiency. At the same time, we realize that there are those who are not able to achieve that level at this point in time, and those who despite their best efforts constantly struggle.

So you may see a mixed bag of tags for your family unit to pull off the little tree. Pastor Kim is gathering the names of families and she is asking them some very specific questions: Would you prefer we give you gift cards and cash and you do the buying? Do you need shopping transportation and or/help? Or do you need us to make the purchases? Will you pick up the gift cards/cash or packages here at the church? Or do you need us to bring them to you?

As the names are being gathered, please hold the project in prayer. Pray that givers and receivers partner in such a way that real needs are filled, joy is shared, and dignity upheld.

Suzie and Dave Ward  
Shay and Jerry Blackwell  
Pat Trout

**Food due Nov. 23 for our  
Thanksgiving baskets**

ALL FOOD FOR OUR THANKSGIVING GIFT BASKETS MUST BE RETURNED TO MUMC THIS Sunday, November 23, 2014.

## FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

*Giving gifts is  
great fun.  
Choosing just the  
right gift for just*

*the right loved one, wrapping the item  
beautifully, and giving the gift in hopes of  
blessing someone is a wonderful thing.  
Surely this is how God watches as we  
receive the baby born in a manger in  
Bethlehem. God waits with eager  
anticipation to see our reaction and our joy.*

*As we prepare to receive this  
amazing gift, the season of Advent gives us  
time to reflect and pray, inviting God to work  
in our hearts. (from the "Under Wraps" Devotional  
Guide Introduction)*

I remember a few times on Christmas Days past when we have had a mild crisis in the house. A part of brand new gift was lost almost as soon as it came out of the box. It might have been the car for the racetrack, or the baby sheep for the toy barn, or the baby alligator from the House of Reptiles. (Heaven help all those who have had to search for Barbie shoes on Christmas morning!) I can't remember what was lost and then later found. I just remember that we always searched through the piles of wrapping paper first, because that was usually the fate of the missing piece! It had gotten buried under a pile of wrapping paper!

The Advent/Christmas season can be such a good time of year! Spending time with friends and family, putting up the Christmas tree, shopping, cooking and eating what is cooked! It's all so much fun! But if we aren't careful we can get too busy, or too stressed, or so deep into our gift buying and gift wrapping or perhaps even our food comas that we forget to watch for

God. God can get buried in all of the celebrating—like gifts can get buried under a pile of wrapping paper on Christmas Day.

I hope that this Advent and Christmas season, rather than letting the best Christmas gift ever—Jesus—get buried in the celebrating, I hope we each take that we give focused time and energy to unwrapping the gift God has given us, so that this precious gift might truly change our hearts and our lives.

Our Advent sermon series and corresponding Sunday morning adult study, "Under Wraps" beginning on Sunday, November 30 will help us "unwrap" the gift of Jesus and what he means for our lives. Study books for the adult small group are available at church. There are also daily devotional guides that can be used at home, whether or not you are part of the small group.

We will also have the sanctuary open on Wednesdays from 5 – 7 p.m. on December 3, 10, and 17 for anyone who needs a few moments of quiet to come in for prayer or reflection. A written prayer and meditation guide will be available for those who find it helpful but there will be no structured worship service during that time. I will also be available during that time to talk and pray.

I am looking forward to sharing this Advent journey with all of you. My prayer for each of us is that we are able to truly treasure the gift of Jesus in a way that changes our lives beyond Advent and Christmas.

God's grace and peace be with you as we wait the coming of Jesus once again,

*Pastor Kim*

advent schedule

**Come now, people, come together**

**Sunday, November 30 – *First Sunday in Advent***

9:45 “Under Wraps” Adult Small group meets; Children and Youth Sunday school  
11 a.m. Worship Advent Sermon Series “Under Wraps” begins today! **“God is Expectant”**

**Wednesday, December 3** 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer

**Saturday, December 6** 10 a.m. – 12 noon Build A Gift for children ages  
3-12 years

Contact the church by phone or email to register by **December 2)**

**Sunday, December 7 *Second Sunday in Advent***

9:45 a.m. “Under Wraps” Adult Small group meets  
Children begin preparing for pageant  
11 a.m. Worship Advent Sermon Series “Under Wraps: **God is Jealous”**

**Wednesday, December 10** 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer

**Sunday, December 14 *Third Sunday in Advent***

9:45 “Under Wraps” Adult small group  
Children prepare for Christmas pageant  
11:00 Worship Advent Sermon Series “Under Wraps: **God is Dangerous”** and  
**Children’s Christmas Pageant!**

**Wednesday, December 17** 5 – 7 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer

**Sunday, December 21 *Fourth Sunday in Advent***

9:45 a.m. “Under Wraps” Adult small group and Children and Youth Sunday school  
11 a.m. Worship Advent Sermon Series “Under Wraps: **God is Faithful”**

**Wednesday, December 24** 5 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service**

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**get your method of transportation cleaned up for the holidays:**

A **VERY** special deal...Nina Berry shares the information that her son, Seth, is an auto detailer who currently is not working. Seth is trying to get “side jobs” for now – a way to support himself and for YOU to get a great deal! Normal charge for a complete ‘detail job’ on your car interior (trunk included) is \$120. Seth will get this taken care of for you for \$35 per car or truck (Yes, \$35) or \$%40 for van or SUV. This is a great deal and Seth does excellent work. For more information, or to make an appointment, you can Seth Berry at 636-234-4100 OR Nina Berry at 314-229-8347.



### **Build-A-Gift**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014  
10:00 A.M. to NOON**

We will open the church to children from the age of 3 to 12 to come and make hand crafted gifts for family members. We provide the instructions, materials, and assistance with making the crafts. This is an "all hands on deck" event for our congregation so mark your calendar and start praying now for the event and for how you might participate. If you know how you would like to take part in Build-A-Gift, please sign up at the easel in the back of the church. If you have questions contact Hope Watkins at [kevinhope@msn.com](mailto:kevinhope@msn.com) or 636-207-1496.

Supply list has been posted. Be sure to sign up for what you will be able to donate ... and remember to get your donations to the church ASAP. **Registration is due Tuesday, December 2. Registration forms are available at church.**

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### **Read all about it; get all excited!**

*Under Wraps: The Gift We Never Expected* is a four-week Advent study which will begin the week of November 23. From the back cover of *Under Wraps*... "From the beginning, the Bible tells of a love story between God and his people. AS the story works its way through the Old Testament into the New Testament, there are twists and turns but the ending is always clear—God's plan is to rescue his people. And so God sent Jesus. God actually gift-wrapped himself in human flesh and was born in a stable..."

*Under Wraps* is an exciting Advent experience that explores four characteristics of God described in the Old Testament and then revealed perfectly and completely through Jesus: *God Is Expectant - God Is Dangerous - God Is Jealous - God Is Faithful*



### **Advent sermon series begins Sunday November 30**

Long ago, God was getting ready to change the world through one very special gift, a gift he had planned from the very beginning. Just as the first gift beneath the Christmas tree heralds a new season, so Jesus' birth announced God's plan to redeem the world. God gift-wrapped himself in all his fullness, in human flesh, and was born in a dusty stable. Jesus is God under wraps.

Please be part of this four week sermon series during Advent in which we explore these ways of understanding God:

1. God is Expectant
2. God is Jealous
3. God is Dangerous
4. God is Faithful

We observe Advent because God expects something amazing to happen in our lives at Christmas...and we can expect that too!

Invitation cards are available at church for you to share with your friends.

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### **Advent Small Group for Adults!**

The group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45 on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 in the lower level of the Education Wing and will be led by Pastor Kim.

We will discuss the book, "Under Wraps". These books are available in the gathering space behind the sanctuary. Please let Pastor Kim know you intend to take part by signing up on the communication card during worship or by email ([pastor@maplewoodumc.org](mailto:pastor@maplewoodumc.org))

## Metamorphosis: Memorial Hall Kitchen

The Memorial Hall kitchen area has been entirely redone, it was completed at the end of October through the effort of Mike Lodholz with the assistance of several volunteers that happened to walk by the work area, including his son Grant, Jason Watkins, Kevin Watkins, Mark Watkins (also known as the Watkins Brothers moving company) and Ray Jauregui.

The idea started when gently used kitchen cabinets became available and the concept was floated by Mike Lodholz, who went ahead with the planning, developed the layout, and provided most of the labor. Various items were donated throughout the project, including the electric range, which was given by John and Ann Rutledge and the refrigerator given by Kevin and Hope Watkins.



**Original kitchen area**



**Kitchen area cleared out**



**Mike Lodholz at work in the kitchen area**



**Completed kitchen**

Thanks are extended to the folks at the Second Hand Shop, who had to put up with the inconvenience of not having the facilities they were accustomed to having, not to mention the construction debris, construction materials and equipment that was in their customary workspace.

## Our prayer quilters help us “be” in many places

Remember saying a prayer as you tied a knot in our two most recent prayer quilts? Those have been delivered, one to Michael O’Laughlin and one to Courtney Stotler. What a wonderful way to remind them how much we love them.



### Choir Corner

We are practicing for Advent and Christmas, come join us for the month of December. We meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. We're especially in need of altos, but sopranos, tenors and basses will be welcomed. Please note: the choir will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 25th at 7:00pm instead of Wednesday, Nov. 26th.



\*\* This past week I can't stop thinking about the generosity this congregation has displayed in the past several weeks. It is truly amazing. In just the past few weeks you have responded to so many opportunities to give: Raise the Roof, Consecration Sunday, supplies for the "Holiday Happenin'" Craft fair and Build a Gift as well as food items for the Thanksgiving baskets. Your generosity is truly extravagant. The people of Maplewood UMC are inspired and inspiring! God's goodness shines through you so very brightly!

Thank you for all that you do and all that you are,  
*Pastor Kim*

\*\* Thank you to Rona Chandler, Donna Reynolds, and Madaleaze Cramer for their leadership and hard work in organizing the "Holiday Happenin'" Craft Fair. What an incredible undertaking this was! You all did such a great job!

\*\* Thank you to each and every person who took several hours of precious Saturday morning time to set goals and plan for MUMC's ministry in 2015! This group's planning, fueled by God's Spirit (and plenty of M & M's) will be a blessing to our congregation for the coming year. Thank you to Jerry Blackwell, Dave and Suzie Ward, Charlotte and Dave Phelps, Colette Cummings, Julia Schaffner, Tom and Amy Cordeal, Diane Watkins, Mike Chance, Ray Jauregui, Rona Chandler, Kevin Watkins, Mike Lodholz, Jason Watkins, Tami and Dennis Collins, Madaleaze Cramer, and Donna Reynolds for all of your wisdom and hard work! Thank you to Tom and Amy Cordeal and Steve Shirar for the good food you shared!

\*\* Thank you to Kevin Watkins, Julia Shaffner, Jan Harsh, Courtney Stotler, Ray Jauregui, Larry Schmid and especially SALLY NOEL, our church secretary, for all the work you did toward our Consecration Sunday celebration!

\*\* Big thank you to the angels who cleaned the choir room during the roof project. By the time I saw it, everything was spotless. THANK YOU!!!!!

*Amy*

**The ministry of Maplewood UMC makes a difference in the lives of people in our community in a wide variety of ways.**

Here are the words from a thank you letter and cards that we have received over the past few weeks. You are a faith community that is making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you!

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\*\*\* Dear Maplewood UMC,

On behalf of the Maplewood Community Betterment Foundation (MCBF), thank you for your donation of \$250 in support of our 2014 Summer Concert Series, which wrapped up last week.

This year’s concert series was another huge success! Our bands, representing a wide variety of musical genres, including a local Maplewood performer, offered something for everyone throughout the summer. At each concert, a strong spirit of community was felt as neighbors gathered to catch up with each other, kids swarmed the playgrounds, and the Maplewood police and fire departments were onsite with their vehicles to greet and talk with residents and children.

For the third year in a row, the MCBF partnered with the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District and utilized one of the concerts as a platform to hold a food drive to benefit local families. This year’s ‘Concert For a Cause’ collected well over 1,000 food items.

We are always mindful that the Summer Concert Series wouldn’t be possible without sponsors like Maplewood United Methodist Church, something we remind our guests of at each event. Once again, thank you for your support of the Maplewood Community Betterment Foundation’s 2014 Summer Concert Series!

Sincerely,  
Jeanine Beck, Executive Director

p.s. Thank you so much for all the extra support for ‘Concert For a Cause’! It was awesome!

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\*\*\* Several people helped at Phyllis house with yard work on our September SERVE Day. From a card Phyllis sent to the church...“Two simple words to express a heart full of gratitude” Thanks to all of you.”

*Phyllis Hughes*

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\*\*\* Many of you met Rachel and Jeremy Mapp, the new house parents at Joe’s place last week when they were guests at the Consecration Sunday worship service. Maplewood UMC supplies paper products for Joe’s Place throughout the school year. Here is a note from Rachel after a recent delivery from the church...

Maplewood Methodist Congregation...

We want to thank you so much for all your support and continued efforts to make Joe’s Place a possibility. My husband and I have been so overwhelmed with the community support we have received as house parents. This is an amazing program and you all have stepped up to the plate and have continued to be a part of the village that raises these young men! Thanks again for collecting and donating all the household items. You all are awesome! Rachel Mapp (house parent)

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Editor’s note....originally this “EXTRA” edition of the Messenger was to include more pictures of the Blue Mountain Retreat and the mission trip to Joplin. There was not even room to share pictures from the Craft Fair. All this is because we have so much going on and that is GOOD. Look for pictures next month.

**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](mailto:pastor@maplewoodumc.org)

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**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)

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### **Say "Thanks" all grateful people!**

Today is Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. That means there are seven days before we gather to feast and to say "Thank-you". Find a jar or a bowl, and have each person in your family write their thanks for one thing each day for the next week ... and then share them on Thanksgiving day. You might be surprised at what shows up.

## **MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

7409 Flora Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63143



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