

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2014



Come to brunch after worship

Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 362 and Cub Scout Pack 362 will be worshipping with us on Sunday, February 16.

Following worship they will host a pancake brunch as a gift to the entire congregation. Everyone is welcome. *(You REALLY don't want to miss this!)*

imagine no malaria

And KNOW what you have done

Under the "guidance" of our Sunday School kiddoes, this congregation has raised about \$2,800, dollars that will be used to work toward eradicating malaria from this world. There is a list on the no-malaria-net at the back of the church that summarizes what various amounts of dollars can make happen. For example – our \$2,800 could supply 280 nets!

While our main money-raising effort for INM has been completed, there are going to be two more chances to increase our offering. Number one is happening THIS MONTH (that would be February – the month of cupid, love)

AS A UMC VALENTINE SPECIAL

WE ARE PROVIDING YOU WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE JEWELRY FOR ALL YOUR LOVED ONES.

This line of body candy has been special designed for INM (but NOT one of a kind)

Check in with Rona Chandler at church and she can put you in touch with one of our amazing young jewelers, ready to help you providing a lasting symbol of affection for your loved ones.

February 23 is Adopt-an-Apportionment Sunday

Our Adopt-an-Apportionment campaign will be held on Sunday, February 23rd during worship. This has become an annual "tradition" of second-mile giving at MUMC. Our Conference apportionments and Vital Ministries total \$19,136.00 for 2014. By paying our apportionments, we are able to join with other churches to support important programs of the Conference, as well as mission and ministries that are local, national, and international.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider "adopting" an apportionment during this campaign. There are a variety of amounts as well as ministry areas that will be available. Payments on pledges can be made any time throughout the year. The continued generosity and support in this congregation is a strong witness to the growing faith and faith journeys of our people.



Pastor Kim sharing her Christmas present from the nursery with the congregation.

Safe Sanctuary trainings scheduled

Are you one of those folks who has been working with children, youth or vulnerable adults here at MUMC? Or perhaps you think you might want to do that in the future, or maybe you plan to help with some of those "one shot" opportunities. OR, you may be a part of the staff here at MUMC.

THIS IS FOR YOU

Three Safe Sanctuary trainings have been scheduled for February: Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 PM, Saturday, Feb. 22 at 9:30 AM and Sunday, February 23, right after church (bring your own bag lunch.) You may call the church office OR indicate on the back of the Sunday morning worship registration card which date will work best for you.

PLEASE BE AWARE

Everyone has been working on a "pass" lately while we researched and tested to determine *how* we are going to train our folks. **THAT PASS NO LONGER IS VALID. YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN S.S. TRAINING & BE CERTIFIED** to work with our children, youth or vulnerable adults.

Here are some notes from the Choir Corner

We are so glad to have Joann Davis join our soprano section - a prayer answered. For anyone interested, our adult choir meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm. We are a lively group that enjoys singing a variety of music and fellowship.

The Children's Choir is going to be singing on Sunday, February 16th. We will gather at 10:00 am on 2/9 and 2/16 to practice.



Mary Kunce has a helper with her job as communion steward.



FEBRUARY

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

Ash Wednesday Worship Service and Soup Supper Wednesday, March 5



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the approximately 6 week period preceding Easter. Christians traditionally have marked this as a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth with the goal being to grow spiritually and to more fully celebrate the joy of Easter Sunday.

At Maplewood UMC we will have an Ash Wednesday Worship during the evening at 7 p.m. Worship will be preceded by a soup supper in fellowship hall which will begin at 6 p.m. and will be available on an "eat when you arrive" basis until the worship service begins at 7. In the next few weeks there will be an opportunity for folks to sign up to help with the supper by setting up, providing food, or cleaning up. In the meantime, we are looking for one or two people who will coordinate this meal. If you are willing to do so, please contact Pastor Kim.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends.

Once again we will be offering the opportunity for everyone to journey together during Lent by committing to three things:

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

I am very excited about this year's small group study which is being written *just for Maplewood UMC* by Rev. Deb LeMoine who is a Deacon in The United Methodist Church.

As in years past this year's small group study will be connected with Sunday messages. The theme for Lent this year is "Living Life's Hard Questions": Who am I? Why am I here? What are my gifts? When am I (or others) a problem? What does it mean to die a good death? *

We will reflect on these important but difficult questions by reading the Old Testament book, Esther. One of the reasons we chose to ask these hard questions by looking at Esther is this book in the Bible never mentions the name, God. Not one time. We have to look for God as we read Esther, much like we have to look for God in our own lives.

I hope you will consider setting aside the time now to take part in the Lenten small group study, weekly worship, and daily prayer.

The small groups will meet five times during Lent. These are the tentative dates and times for small group meetings:

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

Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. or (if there is interest) at noon for brown bag lunch and learning: March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

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

Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. March 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12

Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Children and youth will be included in this study.
March 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13.

If you have questions or are interested in leading or co-leading a small group, please contact me in person, by email (pastor@maplewoodumc.org) or by phone 314-651-9999.

Blessings, *Pastor Kim*

ANY QUESTIONS?

- * **About Maplewood UMC or**
- * **the United Methodist Church or**
- * **baptism or church membership or**
- * **other topics connected with church life and faith?**

You are invited to for

Coffee with Pastor Kim on Sunday,
February 16 at 9:45 a.m.

OR Cheese and Crackers with Pastor Kim
Sunday, March 2,
a few minutes after worship.

Both of these gatherings will have the same format. We will introduce ourselves and talk about any questions that you might have. If there is time and interest, Pastor Kim will share information about the story of Maplewood UMC and our United Methodist beliefs. Information will be made available about the all church Lenten study. Signing up on the communication card or emailing Pastor Kim to say you plan to attend will help us be well prepared but it's just fine to show up on either Sunday.

Youth Mission Trip planned.

This year's youth mission trip will be to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Youth from Maplewood and Webster First are invited to sign up for the trip. Youth are eligible to go if they have finished the 6th grade. The dates for the trip are from Sunday, July 13 through Saturday July 19th. The cost is \$349 for the week but if you participate in the fundraisers, that cost will be less. If you would like to go, a deposit of \$50 is needed soon. Let Jerry Blackwell know if you are interested.(314-822-4719)

Our pipe organ has needed repair for a very long time

Amy Cordeal

Many stops and features no longer work and are simply avoided when playing.
(ed. note: and Amy still makes beautiful music with it!)

Recently, we had two organ companies come out to inspect our organ and give us their evaluations. Both companies agreed that repair and restoration at today's costs is not advisable; our beloved instrument has passed its useful life. Replacement is recommended by both companies.

A digital organ is the choice of many churches around us in Missouri and Illinois. A new digital organ offers impressive pipe-organ sound at a fraction of the cost of replacing a pipe organ, an approximate range of \$18,000-\$25,000. An entry level digital organ is described as having 108 pipe organ stops, 104 additional voiceable USER/MIDI voices, 89 pipe organ voices, 15 orchestral voices, which is an equivalent of 340 pipe ranks. The affordable price is attractive, but most of all, it is the brilliant sound produced that is the deciding factor in why so many churches now are purchasing these organs.

Choosing how we go about finding the best solution for our organ needs will take much discussion and planning. By lifting up this need, I'm asking that the conversation begin on how we go about being good stewards of our musical instrument, a decision that will impact the next 50-60 years in the life of our church. Below are the websites of the two organ companies:

<http://www.rodgersorgansofstl.com/index.php/component/content/article/9-uncategorised/74-installation-of-the-month>

www.midwestmusicstl.com



Maplewood Lions Club is sponsoring a pancake breakfast ...

... at the American Legion Hall (3212 Sutton Ave) on Sunday, February 16th from 8:30am to Noon. Price for ages 11 thru Adult = \$7.00, children 5 to 10 = \$5.00, under 5 eat free.



... Mike Plonka, Ray Jauregui, and Bob Harsh for all the work you have done to keep the church sidewalks and stairs clear of snow and ice in January!

... the sermon discussion group leaders for the 'People Like Us' sermon series: Suzanne Thompson, Mark Ostendorf, Joanne Davis, and Steve Shirar.

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Thank you very much for the Christmas gift, and thanks for all the nice comments, notes and support throughout the whole year. I'm so blessed to be a part of Maplewood United Methodist Church.
Amy

Opportunity for service in the Maplewood community:



To Our Community Partners:

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides many services for the needy within the cities of Maplewood and Richmond Heights: emergency food, rental and utility assistance, furniture vouchers, home visits, and a weekend food pantry. The food pantry operates out of Immaculate Conception Church every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Currently the pantry provides food and toiletry items for between 20 and 30 families every Saturday morning.

We would like to ask for your assistance in helping us provide this needed service to our neighbors. The Pantry is always in need of donations of nutritious food and cleaning supplies. Also, volunteers (12 and older) are needed between the hours of 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings to bag groceries for our clients. Volunteers (of any age) also are needed to stock the pantry during the week between the hours of 9: a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to volunteer, or to donate, please contact SVDP President, Karen Lightfoot at 314-719-2929 or Immaculate Conception Office Manager Anne Arias at 314-645-3307.

Thanks so much! *Karen Lightfoot*

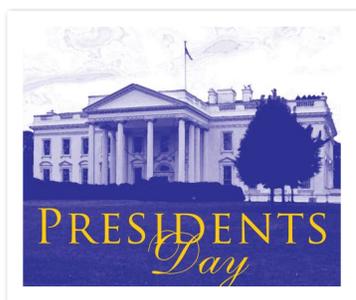
Time for Dinner – another way MUMC works with the community

On Tuesday, January 28th a group of ten volunteers from Maplewood United Methodist gathered at Time for Dinner to prepare 16 delicious and nutritious dinner entrees for Joe's Place. Joe's Place offers homeless teenage boys in the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District a supervised, caring home environment, supporting them in graduating from high school and creating positive futures for themselves. Dan and Alyssa Reeve, the very busy houseparents at Joe's Place, greatly appreciate the community support and find the home-made meals from Time for Dinner to be ultra convenient, nutritious and often expose the boys to new tastes.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers: Katie McKenzie, Ken Cohen, Courtney Stotler (yep - Courtney was in an apron!), Renee McDonough, Rachel Ward, Karen Nevins, Hope Watkins, Samantha Schaffner, and Jonathan Schaffner. And, thank you to our wonderful church for funding the costs of this endeavor as part of its mission budget. It's a blessing to be in a community that supports homeless teens and a part of a church that cares about and supports the community!

You are invited to take a look

If you have not visited the Maplewood UMC website lately, stop by at: www.maplewoodumc.org. Our web-master, Mary Kunce, does a great job of keeping the website up to date with the latest information. In addition to what is happening at Maplewood UMC, you can access the church newsletter and church calendar from the website.



Monday, February 17th

the most recent update for the 2014 adult mission trip ..



shares that the Yellow Box Mission Team WILL be heading to Waynesville, MO the week of October 6 thru 10th, 2014. At the time of publication, the *MESSENGER* has learned that there already are seven probable participants from MUMC as well as another contingent joining from Webster First MUMC.

NOW is the time to check your calendar, determine that you can/would like to go and try to get arrangements in place. That would include talking with your employer about vacation dates.

The group making these plans has worked very hard to find a time slot that might be workable for more folks: it's not in the summer heat; it is relatively close to home; it does conflict the the beginning OR the ending of the school year, it does not hit Christmas or Spring breaks. Mark YOUR calendar for the October adult mission trip and email Shay (shaybwell@sbcglobal.net) to add your name to the folks who will be helping homes damaged in flooding,



Where women find safety, hope & healing

Grieving Relationship Loss

Why does this loss hurt so much?

A Personal Empowerment Workshop Exploring:

- ☞ The pain of a loss not recognized by others
- ☞ Grieving a relationship that 'was bad for me'
- ☞ Healing strategies for moving through loss

Woman's Place, 8300 Morganford Road, 63123
9:00 am to noon
Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014
All women are welcome
Pre-registration is required.
 Please call 314-645-4848 by February 11 to register
 There is no fee for this workshop;
 however, donations are greatly appreciated!

Woman's Place now has 2 locations:

8300 Morganford Road (behind St. Mark Church) St. Louis, MO 63123 314-645-4848	4116 McClay Road Tri-County Outreach Center St. Charles, MO 63304 636-373-7911
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www.womansplacestl.org

Woman's Place works to end violence against women by providing compassionate crisis intervention, facilitating women's transition to safety and healing, and educating the community.

Person to Person

Dave Phelps

Our church has been growing for the last couple of years and there are some folks who don't know the story behind "Person-2-Person." I'd like to take a paragraph or two and review a bit for the benefit of anyone who isn't familiar with this little project of mine. First, at least some folks have wondered why I write "Person-2-Person." Actually, I wonder that sometimes myself. Seriously, several years ago, in the spring of 1995, our then-pastor, Rev. Margie McDaniel Woods, spoke to me and my wife, Charlotte, about writing a series of short articles for the "Messenger" newsletter about "personal evangelism." Charlotte came up with the name and we originally took turns writing but eventually I took over writing the column full time. I believe it's a small ministry through which I've been called to serve.

Another recent question was, "Where do you get your ideas?" The short answer is "From God." The longer answer is that I observe things or things happen and I get inspiration from them. Jeremiah saw a potter's wheel (Jer. 18:1-11). Jesus saw a widow with two small copper coins (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4). God constantly provides illustrations and learning opportunities, for me and for you. I see or hear these things and, when I'm paying attention, God speaks to me.

For example, one day recently I woke up and couldn't find my watch. I looked all over but I couldn't find it. I looked on the night table where I normally put it, under the bed, on the edge of the sink in the bathroom, on the computer desk, on the microwave cart in the kitchen, and on the table in the living room by the couch but there was no watch. I was beginning to get frustrated. I don't wear an expensive watch; I got it on clearance at a local department store. But, as Charlotte will tell you I'm fond of saying, "It's the principle of the thing." I was resigned to buying a new watch when I finally found it under my pillow, a place where I never put it. Normally, my watch is either on my wrist or on the night table by the bed. When it's not in either of those two places, it's on the edge of the sink in the bathroom. So I'm not sure how it got under my pillow.

The Bible is filled with stories of people and

things that were lost: Lost sheep (Matt. 18:10-14; Luke 15:3-6), lost coins (Luke 15:8-9), a lost son and brother (Luke 15:11-32), and lost souls (Matt. 10:5-6; Luke 19:10). Against all reason, a shepherd abandons ninety nine sheep to search for one that is lost. A widow tears her house apart looking for a lost coin. A father waits day after day for the return of a lost son. And a loving God sends his only son into the world "... to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10b ESV).

The psalmist wrote, "I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, / for I do not forget your commandments." (Psa. 119:176 ESV). He wasn't the only one. I've gone astray, so have you, and so has everyone. The prophet Jeremiah wrote "[God says] My people have been lost sheep. . . . They have forgotten their fold." (Jer. 50:6a, 6c ESV). Most people today have also forgotten the fold of God, or they never knew it at all. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:10b-11 ESV). God has gone to incredible lengths to ensure the eternal well-being of God's sheep, including you and me. Jesus came for all of us. He told the twelve disciples to go "... to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"" (Matt. 10:6b-7 ESV). Just as they were commissioned to go into their world to God's "lost sheep," we are commissioned to go to God's "lost sheep" in the world around us and proclaim God's kingdom.

"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. . . . There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God." (Ezek. 34:11-13a; 14b-15 ESV.)

Everybody oughta know this but in case you don't....

Every United Methodist contributes to the "big" church in the form of apportionments. These apportionments pay for the administration of the church, the mission programs, education institutions, educational and training programs for the local church and much more. Also there are "vital ministries", which are more local ministries supported by some of our weekly offerings. During this year we will highlight several of these apportionments and vital

WORLD SERVICE

#1121

This fund is the heart of our denomination-wide ministry, underwriting Christian mission and ministry worldwide. It supports all boards and agencies and:

- strengthens evangelism efforts
- stimulates church growth
- expands Bible studies, and
- enriches spiritual commitment.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

#1122

The United Methodist Church has 13 seminaries to train clergy. This fund provides assistance to those who are in seminary. A portion of the fund is used by the Board of Ordained Ministry for working with those preparing for ministry and for continuing education and other pastoral support for current clergy.

EPISCOPAL FUND

#1123

Bishops serve the annual conferences and provide leadership to the entire denomination. This fund supports salaries, benefits and expenses. It is apportioned to the Missouri Conference from the General Conference. Bishops are an important connection among the annual conferences, central conferences, the general church and the world.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND

#1124

United Methodism supports 10 black colleges and a medical school that maintain an ongoing relationship with the denomination. It helps to provide well-equipped buildings, solid academic programs, strong faculties a nurturing environment to encourage students in each new generation and to affirm and celebrate African-American heritage and culture.

PASTORAL EXCELLENCE

#3300

This fund helps support educational opportunities for pastors, Conference Leadership Development Committee, Lay Missioner Training and Learning and Leadership.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

#3360

The fund helps the Ordained Ministry Team with Pastoral Counseling, processing new pastors and Student Aid.

MISSION, SERVICE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

#4400

This fund helps with the Global Connections Team, Office of Creative Ministries, Mozambique Initiative, Social Justice Team and the Values Team.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

#5500

This fund is comprised of Camping & Retreat Ministries, Central Methodist University, Youth Council, Communications Commission, Safe Sanctuaries, Conference Staff and Congregational Ministries Team.

More will be shared 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

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

Just \$20.00 covers the cost of
food and treatment of
anemia in a pregnant women
with malaria



The communion table in the United Methodist Church is an open table to all.



MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



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



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just go to....

<http://www.facebook.com/mumcstl>