

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# MESSENGER

MARCH 2015

## What to expect during Lent, Holy Week and Easter

The Lenten sermon series and all church study, focusing on the ministry of Jesus, will continue through March with the following themes:

- March 8—Jesus Proclaiming the Kingdom
- March 15— Jesus Calming the Storm
- March 22—Jesus Calling the Outcasts and the Poor his Friends
- March 29—Jesus' Final Week (Palm Sunday)
- April 5—Easter Sunday!**

In addition to Sunday worship, daily prayer, and taking part in a small group, here are ways you can be involved in the life of the church during Lent and Easter:

Beginning on Sunday, March 22—Donate wrapped candy for filling Easter eggs for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Donations can be left in the designated basket in the gathering space behind the sanctuary.

Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. – noon (approximately) Take part in cleaning up the church for Easter. Dress in your work clothes. You are welcome to bring your favorite gloves or cleaning supplies. The Chore List ranges from lighter to heavier duty. There will be something for everyone to do! Light breakfast will be provided.

Consider inviting a friend to one of the following services or events...

Sunday, March 29, 11 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship. All children will be invited to parade with their palms during the worship service.

### Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday Service and Supper

- 6 p.m. Light supper will be served
- 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary

### Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday

- 6 a.m. Easter Breakfast cooks arrive!
- 7 a.m. Early Worship Service
- 7:45 a.m. (approximately) Easter Breakfast served by the MUMC Men and friends
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Easter Egg Hunt (All children are welcome)
- 11:00 a.m. ***Easter Worship***



**Adopt an Apportionment Sunday..a great success**



Dear Friends,

I do not have words to describe my gratitude for your care and concern for me and for my family

in the past few weeks. Thank you for the beautiful flowers that arrived a few days after surgery. When I think about all of you who showed up in pink on the Sunday after my surgery and the Sunday before Courtney's surgery, it still brings tears to my eyes.

Your prayers, cards, hugs, words of encouragement, and your patience with the change in the way things are happening at church for the time being are precious to me. As I said one Sunday in worship, I am so very grateful for the way God works through people who provide medical care to treat and cure all kinds of illnesses. I also firmly believe that your prayers, which place my family and me—where we need to be the most—in the light of God's love—serve to keep us whole. I cannot thank you enough!

It is always OK with me if you approach me directly with questions about how things are going. In order to make checking in a little simpler though, I will be setting up a page on Caring Bridge. If you want to find the page go to [www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org) and type in my name as you are directed.

For the next three to four months it will be more difficult than usual for me to predict when I will be in the office on a regular basis. If you would like to meet for any reason, I do hope you will email, call, or text me so that we can make an appointment to get together.

Once again, thank you for all of your care and your prayers. I am truly blessed

beyond measure and so grateful for the Maplewood UMC faith community.

In Christ's love,  
*Pastor Kim*

## Confirmation preparation has begun!

We have eight young people who are part of the Spring 2015 Confirmation class! In alphabetical order by first name they are: Becca Chance, Brooke Watkins, Danny Findley, Jack Abeln, Jon Schaffner, Noah Buxton, Paige Watkins, and Trevor Darden.

Please hold these absolutely wonderful young people in your prayers as they seek to learn more about the Christian faith in order to make the decision to claim the faith as their own.

## Flowers for Easter

Flowers are available for purchase for Easter.

- \_\_\_ Lilly (\$8.50)
- \_\_\_ Tulip (\$6.50)
- \_\_\_ Hyacinth (6.50)

Fill out the information on the back of the Communication Card at Sunday worship and place in the offering plate or call Sally in the church office.



**Who will take the cross? - a Lenten drama**

## It's not to late to participate in a small group for Lent

Sunday, 9:45 a.m.

Preschool—led by Kathy Schmid  
K-5 children and adults—led by Chelsey Hillyer and Kyle Kranes  
Middle School—confirmation class  
High School—led by Jan Harsh  
Adult Study led by Colette Cummings in the Chapel Room

Tuesday, 7 p.m. led by Mike Chance (2/24 – 3/31)  
Thursday, 7 p.m., led by Suzanne Thompson (2/19 – 2-26)  
Saturday, 8 a.m. led by Tom Cordeal (and Jerry and Colette)



### MARCH

- 1 Bonnie Schallenberg
- 1 Brooke Watkins
- 1 Matthew Housewright
- 2 Elaine Kidwell
- 4 Elexia Allen
- 5 Vanessa Moruzzi
- 8 Paige Watkins
- 8 Abigail Rachel Ward
- 9 Allen McCarter
- 10 Sylvia Stallman
- 11 James McPheeters
- 12 Amy Cordeal
- 12 Rebecca Kunce
- 13 Serina Mikunda
- 16 Melissa Lorenz
- 16 Lindsay Stith
- 17 Steven Mikunda Jr.
- 21 Julianna Raniero
- 24 Grant Lodholz
- 25 Tim McDonough
- 27 Ann Rutledge
- 28 Julie Taylor
- 28 Jessica Raniero
- 31 Mark Ostendorf

#### choir corner

### Come sopranos and altos, come tenors and basses

*Amy Cordeal*

We have an absolutely wonderful opportunity for YOU to become part of the choir at MUMC! All voices are welcome; we especially need altos and sopranos.

Currently we are working on some beautiful music for Lent and Easter. Come, join us on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM AND on Sunday mornings for 11:00 AM worship.

### UMM NIGHT (?) AT THE BALLPARK

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 3:15 PM

CARDS vs. KANSAS CITY ROYALS (AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPS)

All tickets are only \$15 (Regular price for these seats are \$45) and are in sections 365 and 363, down the 3rd base side in the Left field Pavilion.

THE 4 TOP SELLING CHURCHES WILL HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE FIELD AND ONE LUCKY PERSON WILL THROW OUT THE 1ST PITCH.

For more information contact Rom Correnti at [UMMBall@swbell.net](mailto:UMMBall@swbell.net) or 314-631-3994

## Person to Person

*Dave Phelps*

Earlier this year, a group of us from church watched the motion picture *Selma*, about events in the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement. I was struck by the savage cruelty of the segregationists and even more so by King's response. At times, watching the movie, I wanted men with machine guns to mow down the oppressors or for helicopters to rain fire down on them. But that wasn't King's way. Instead, he employed the same nonviolent resistance Mohandas Gandhi had used three decades earlier. He and his people refused to fight but instead allowed themselves to be beaten. And Jesus says it isn't supposed to be our way either: "You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you that you must not oppose those who want to hurt you. If people slap you on your right cheek, you must turn the left cheek to them as well." (Matt. 5:38-39 Common English Bible). Jesus told people to let those in authority take advantage of them and hurt them, and not to resist or try to get revenge. The old "an eye for an eye" rules were no longer valid.

Paul wrote to the Romans, "Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. . . . Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. . . . Instead, If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head. Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good." (Rom. 12:14, 17, 20-21 CEB). The idea wasn't to do good things for your enemies to make them miserable. It was simply to do what Christ would do in the same situation, to forgive, and do good in love.

Dr. King had the same idea as Jesus and Paul. He didn't want the civil rights movement to be connected with violence. He wanted to "defeat evil with good." But, to be honest, I can't imagine doing what he did. Whenever someone offends me, I want to get back at him or her. I don't want to "turn the other cheek." I want revenge and I want it now. And I know I will never experience anything near what Dr. King and his people did.

The light of Christ can be hard to look at and the standard of his life is difficult to bear. But it's there to let us know just how far we are from being sinless. Sometimes we're closer to his unapproachable example than others but mostly we're pretty far from it. Rev. Dr. King wasn't perfect. He was a sinner, flawed and broken in many ways, just like the rest of us. But in terms of not repaying evil for evil, he was far better than I am.

Isaiah 53:7 was thought by early Christians to be a description of Christ: "He was oppressed and tormented, but didn't open his mouth. Like a lamb being brought to slaughter, like a ewe silent before her shearers, he didn't open his mouth." (CEB). As he was led to the cross, Christ didn't resist. When one of the disciples (Peter, according to John's gospel) drew a sword to try to prevent Jesus from being arrested, Jesus said "Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword." (Matt. 26:52b CEB). Instead, Jesus let himself be mocked, beaten and, ultimately, crucified.

I confess it's easier for me to pick up a sword, metaphorically speaking, than to submit to someone who would try to hurt or take advantage of me. I would make a very poor Gandhi, a very poor Martin Luther King and an even worse Jesus. But fortunately, I don't have to be any of them. But I do have to be a follower of Christ and so do you. And part of being a follower of Christ is to do as he commanded. And that means turning away from the old human ways of living and doing things, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and turning toward the way of Christ, who gave his life for us all.

"You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you that you must not oppose those who want to hurt you. . . .

". . . You have heard that it was said, You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 5:38-39, 43-45a CEB.)

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



## Thank you very much to...

... Peg Chulick for sharing her artistic gifts—from painting the walls to organizing the “Whose Cross is it Anyway” drama. Thank you, Peg! (You really should check out the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bathroom ... she has made a dreary bathroom come alive with color.)

... everyone who set up, shared food, and cleaned up for the Ash Wednesday supper AND Peg Chulick for coordinating this delicious meal!

... Paige Watkins for her lovely piano solo on Apportionment Sunday.

... Jerry Blackwell for repairing hymnals and for producing our newsletter every month.

... Jan Harch & Colette Cummings for researching small group possibilities.

... Bonnie Jent & Bob Harsh for keeping the 2<sup>nd</sup> Time Around Shoppe up and running smoothly.

... Shay Blackwell for continuing to see that the Middle School Sunday school/ Confirmation Class’ new room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Education Wing is being cleared away so there is space for learning!

... Mary Kunce for our web page!

... Dorleta Lodholz & Nina Berry for coordinating our Sunday morning hospitality table.

## Thanks from....

...Thank you for all the prayers, flowers, visits and flowers while Liston was in the hospital and recovering. Blessings one and all,

*Bonnie & Liston Jent*



Twelve volunteers from Maplewood UMC, Concord Trinity UMC and Plainfield UMC (near Indianapolis, IN) spent a week at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL.

The women sorted through over 40 barrels of hospital gowns and the men worked on school desks. These items are part of a larger shipment to Norfolk, VA where they will be placed US Navy Hospital Ship bound for Central and South America.

## **BASIC AND ADVANCED LAY SERVANT CLASSES OFFERED**

Gateway Districts are announcing a couple of opportunities to take Basic and Advanced Lay Servant classes this Spring. Class size will be no more than 20 people per class. Registrations will be on a first come, first serve basis.

- **Hillsboro UMC** (4810 Highway B, Hillsboro, MO 63050) will host Basic and Advanced Lay Servant classes on Saturday, March 28. Classes will run from 8:00am - 4:00pm with a 30 minutes lunch break (lunch provided) and 2 additional breaks. The cost will be \$10 plus the cost of the book. Registration closes at Noon on March 20.
- **Gray Summit UMC** (204 Ford Street, Gray Summit, MO 63039) will host the Basic Lay Servant class on Saturday, April 25 and Advanced classes on Saturday, May 2. Classes will run from 8:00am - 4:00pm with a 30 minutes lunch break (lunch provided) and 2 additional breaks. The cost will be \$10/day plus the cost of the book. Since Advanced classes are offered the following week, graduates of the Basic class on April 25 can attend an Advanced class on May 2. Both classes should be chosen at the time of registration. Registration closes at Noon on April 10.

Registration for both locations can be done through the Lay Servant page on the district website, [www.gatewaydistricts.org/LayServantMinistries](http://www.gatewaydistricts.org/LayServantMinistries). To register for the Hillsboro classes, click the link in the section about Hillsboro. To register for the Gray Summit classes, click the link under the section about Gray Summit. Please note that there are 2 different registration pages so make sure you are registering for the correct location. Each registration page has details on the courses offered, the deadline date for registration and the address to send registration fee payments. You can also pay using PayPal. That link is below the registration form on each page.



youth mission trip 2015

### **Trivia Night Fundraiser was a BIG success!**

Thank you to everyone who turned out to support the mission trip for youth from both Maplewood and Webster UMCs. Seventeen youth from both churches, plus a few friends, and many adults worked hard to provide a fun evening for nearly 100 people.

The event raised \$2800 toward the trip! Thank you to the Webster Groves United Methodist Church for the hosting this great event! Thank you to everyone who braved a cold, snowy night to support our youth in mission!



**Some of the Maplewood UMC brain trust at the Trivia night.**



*"In the hours and days after disaster, those who survive are looking for anything to give them hope. ERT's can provide the kind of immediate response that restores hope, builds faith, and encourages those who are looking to their neighbor for support."*

*Reverend Tom Hazelwood  
Assistant General Secretary  
UMCOR*

## **EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) TRAINING** **March 13 and 14, 2015** **at Manchester UMC**

Early Response Teams fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster. They clean out flood-damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes, and help to prevent further damage while providing a caring Christian presence.

### **BASIC ERT TRAINING** **Friday, March 13, 6 - 9pm**

### **CHAINSAW, TARP AND SKIDLOADER TRAINING** **Saturday, March 14, 9am - 3pm**

It is strongly preferred that you sign up for *both* training events in order to be fully certified.

Total cost for both classes is \$60 for materials.  
(Scholarships are available; do not let cost prohibit your participation.)

**Sign up today at [MANCHESTERUMC.ORG/UMCOR](http://MANCHESTERUMC.ORG/UMCOR).**

FOR MORE INFO ON THE ERT MINISTRY AT MUMC, contact  
Dave Bertolino at [dave.bertolino@yahoo.com](mailto:dave.bertolino@yahoo.com)  
John Himpel at [john@jlhimpel.net](mailto:john@jlhimpel.net)  
David Watson at [watsondp@aol.com](mailto:watsondp@aol.com)  
or email [missions@manchesterumc.org](mailto:missions@manchesterumc.org)

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)

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](http://www.maplewoodumc.org)



The  
importance  
of  
remembering  
by wearing  
pink.



# MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7409 Flora Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63143



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