

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

MAY 2014



Special worship is planned for Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day. Be prepared for a beautiful celebration of God's love and goodness as our preschool and elementary children lead worship on that day. You will want to be part of this joy-filled celebration!

Thanks to Rona Chandler for planning and working with the children to prepare the worship service.

Blue Mountain, Jo-Ota, Camp Galilee, Wilderness ... ARE YOU READY?

Summer camp opportunities are available for our children at Missouri United Methodist Camps. Maplewood UMC leaders believe that the summer camp experience can be very meaningful (that includes FUN) for children and have designated scholarship funds for young campers who want to go to camp!

Additional information about camps can be found at: www.mocamps.org. If your child(ren) might take part in camp, please contact Julia Schaffner (merlinst@att.net) who is coordinator for Maplewood UMC campers.

ALL-CHURCH-PICNIC HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

A NEW DATE HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED

On Sunday, June 1 . . .

... we will recognize our graduates during worship. If you, or someone you know in this congregation is graduating this year, please let Pastor Kim know.



Look forward to many BIG things

The ministry team met on Tuesday, April 29 to plans for the next several months. Some exciting events and programs are in the very early planning stages and more information will be shared as those plans unfold. Here is what is being worked on.

BUILD A GIFT: getting volunteers in place to design crafts and oversee the tables while the children work

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: working with costumes to discard, repair and create new ones as needed; exploring & selecting a new script.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: getting teachers recruited to work with children & youth during the summer months

HAVE A VISIONING/DREAMING GATHERING, looking at our children & younger youth ministry. THIS IS DESIGNED FOR TOTAL CONGREGATION PARTICIPATION!! Mark June 24 (6:30 - 8:30pm) on your calendar NOW!!

Supporting our young adults who will be taking advantage of being back in St. Louis TOGETHER and having the opportunity to be together.

BE ON THE LOOK-OUT for ... a movie night (viewing & discussion) and a fun book to read and discuss.

Mission & Justice: participating in "School's Out Café; Serve 2014" with plans for serving in our community.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Easter Sunday celebrations are barely behind us as we move into what seems to be the second most hectic month of the year: MAY!

Before we rush headlong into the next things on our calendars I want to be sure to let you know how much I appreciate the Maplewood UMC congregation and the ways in which you shine like stars in a world that desperately needs God's light.

Thank you for showing up on Sunday morning—for being present as a community of faith!

Thank you for all the planned and spontaneous things you do on Sunday morning to welcome folks into Sunday school and worship so that each person who walks through the doors might experience God's goodness and love. And thank you for those things you do throughout the week to prepare for Sunday morning!

Thank you for taking part in small groups so that we can grow together in our faith.

Thank you for your willingness to grow and change as a congregation.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank for all the ways in which you allow God's love to work in your lives and through your lives, not just at "church", but also in your homes and your schools and places of work.

Each day when you wake up I hope you remember that you are precious in God's sight. 1 Peter 1: 18, (*The Message* version) reminds us that God gave the very best for us—his own son. God did that because God believes we are worth it! Thank you God for loving us so much!

I thank God for you and I thank you for all the ways--great and small, hidden and highly visible--in which you allow your lives to reveal God's love and light.

I am praying for you and hope you will pray for me as we journey in faith and obedience to our call to make God's love known wherever we go.

God's grace, peace, and joy be with you,

Pastor Kim

HELP WANTED

* **Person or persons who are able to install base shoe** have an opportunity for good indoor work in the church nursery, and preschool and elementary Sunday school rooms. If you are interested in serving please contact Jason Watkins at jcblwatkins@sbcglobal.net or 314-646-7116.

* Jerry Blackwell is **painting the window frames on the third floor education wing**. It might be that you are the one to provide Jerry with some company and assistance. Jerry can be reached at jbrx10@yahoo.com or 314-822-4719.

* **Limited Time Offer available** for those of you who would like the opportunity to teach Sunday school this summer. Our regular Sunday school teachers need a break and more of our members need the joy of working with children. At this time we are seeking one or two people to *coordinate* summer Sunday school teachers. Please let Pastor Kim know if you are interested in coordinating teachers or actually teaching a Sunday school class. You **MUST** be Safe Sanctuary certified to teach! Not sure if this is the opportunity for you? Come one Sunday at 9:45 and observe or help with a class.



"He's not in there! Oh, wait - he's changed his status to 'risen' "

From the "New Revised Blogger's Version" of the Bible

Thank you VERY MUCH, to ...

... Madaleaze Cramer for reorganizing supplies in the Preschool Sunday school classroom!

... Jason Watkins for organizing the church cleaning day the first Saturday in April! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to have the church looking great for Easter Sunday!

... Thank you to Tom Cordeal for picking up all the beautiful Easter flowers!

... Larry Schmid and Tom Cordeal and their early morning crew for the fabulous Easter morning breakfast! Everything was sooooooo good!

... all of our musicians & to Amy Cordeal, our music director, for all of the work you did in order to share beautiful Easter music.

... Wayne Kidwell, Jan Harsh, Colette Cummings, Steve Shirar, Peg Chulick, Kyle Kranes, Bryon Stone, and Kathy Schmid, Stacey Schwab and the leaders of the Adult Sunday school class for your leadership of Lenten small groups this year. You were such a blessing!

... Shay Blackwell and Joanne Davis for planning and leading a beautiful Maundy Thursday service.

... Renee McDonough for organizing the Maundy Thursday dinner. Thank you also all the folks who set up, provided food, and did dishes!!

... this congregation for your generosity toward the Easter offering! You have provided lots of meals for hungry people! What a way to make a difference on Christ's behalf.

... everyone who shared Easter eggs and candy for the Easter egg hunt!

... Peg Chulick for new curtains and a well-organized silverware cart in the kitchen as well as more curtains and redecorating in the restrooms! Thank you to Karen Raborn for working with Peg!

Music was a big part of the worship celebration on Easter Sunday. The "Leftovers" were a part of the music that was shared as they have been for over 20 years.



1	Andrew McDonough
4	Madaleaze Cramer
8	Mike Shirar
10	Mike O'Laughlin
19	Diane Watkins
19	Ben Shirar
21	Isabella Ward
26	David Phelps
27	Charlotte Phelps
27	Tony Kunce



5/1/04 – Gary & Rachelle Holt
5/22/94 – Tom & Amy Cordeal
5/28/76 – Dave & Suzie Ward
5/30/64 - Jerry & Shay Blackwell

FOR THE  **HEARING IMPAIRED**

Hearing assist devices are available

One of the parts of the audio visual grant we received was to provide hearing assist devices for the church. In an effort to make worship a better experience for everyone, we have devices available to help those who have trouble hearing all or part of the worship service. If you would like to use one of these devices, see Ray Juaregui or Tony Kunce before worship begins...or speak to the morning greeter.

2014 apportionment update

The choices we've made say "love"

A few months ago, we held our annual Adopt-An-Apportionment campaign. Our total for conference apportionments and vital ministries for 2014 is \$19,136.00. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, \$9,869.00 in apportionments have been adopted so far!!

As of the end of April, MUMC has paid \$8,833.36 (46%) of our total conference apportionments and vital ministries. Of that \$8,833.36 total, \$3,223.00 has come from our adopted apportionment campaign (33% paid). A big "thank you" to everyone who has supported this campaign!

If you feel called to help support this effort, there will be some additional "new" apportionments available for adoption on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take a card & envelope and sign your name in the Apportionment Book. Remember, you have all year to pay on what you've adopted, in as many payments as you'd like.

Thanks, again, for your wonderful giving!!



The traditional pancakes and omelets were served for breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service.

trustee news

Have you ever seen a building be "spiffed up" and cleaned up?

Jason Watkins shared at the Ad Council meeting the many things that have happened since the first of the year to spruce up and maintain our building.

Work day – cleaned up the church and made improvements to the Flora entrance of the sanctuary. The floors in the Fellowship Hall have been cleaned and buffed. The walls at the Sutton entrance, which have suffered from the roof leaking, were re-plastered before Easter Sunday. The new water supply (pipe) from the main water pipe along Flora Ave. to the church has been replaced, thus eliminating the leak by the sidewalk. The wall tile around the sink and cabinets for Memorial Hall kitchen is being attached to the walls.

The last part of our Audio/Visual Grant, received several years ago, was approved at the last Ad Council meeting. This is to place some sound baffles in the sanctuary to improve the sound during worship.

The Educational Grant to buy new furniture, new TVs and DVD players and new window blinds for the elementary Sunday School Classes is process and nearing completion. The TVs and DVDS have been donated. Measuring for the blinds and checking for all needed child-safety features is underway. The amount of money is remaining after the blinds are purchased will determine what furniture can be purchased.

The next big project will be tearing off and replacing the roof on the educational building. Dennis Collins reported we are close to letting the project out for bids. The roof work will also include taking care of a couple of spots on the older building's roof that have been leaking.

The last small amount of the loan the church took out on tuck pointing and new gutters will be paid off by June 1. This will make it possible for the church to obtain a new loan to cover the cost of the new roof.

Person to Person

Dave Phelps

It's time once again for my annual post-Easter meditation. This year, while Pastor Kim was preaching, I thought of--of all things--our dog. For years, Teri, our 11-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix, would miss us terribly when we were gone. It seemed as if she were sure we had abandoned her. When we returned home, she would greet us joyously, jumping up and down and barking furiously. And we would always say, "See, we didn't abandon you. We came back again."

During Kim's sermon, "An Angel, An Earthquake, and 'Do Not Be Afraid,'" she talked about the first Easter morning when "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb." (Matt. 28:1b ESV). They, and the disciples, were sure Jesus had abandoned them, that he was gone forever. But when they got to the tomb, an angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said." (vs. 5b-6a). So they ran to tell the disciples, and Jesus himself met them and said, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." (vs. 10b). Later, the disciples gathered on a hillside in Galilee and Jesus appeared to them there and said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (vs. 20b). In other words, "I haven't abandoned you and I never will."

There have been a number of times in the Bible when people thought God--and later Jesus--had abandoned them. Psalm 22 begins "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Hundreds of years later, Jesus echoed these words on the cross. We can only imagine what David was experiencing that caused him to write these words. We know what Jesus experienced, dying for our sin. Many years after Psalm 22, David or another psalmist would write, "For the Lord will not forsake his people; / he will not abandon his heritage;" (Psa. 94:14 ESV).

One evening, Jesus and the disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee when there was a storm. Jesus was asleep in the stern and the disciples woke him and asked, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38b ESV). "Teacher, why did you abandon us?" But, of course, he hadn't abandoned them. He

rebuked the wind and calmed the waves and then he asked, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" (vs. 40b). "Did you think I had abandoned you? Of course not."

After Lazarus died, his sister, Mary, said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (John 11:32b ESV). She was saying to him, "If you had not abandoned us, my brother would still be alive." Jesus was so overcome he wept (vs. 35). He feels our pain today as he felt hers then. He understands our sorrow. And then he answered Mary and the crowd by telling them to "Take away the stone." (vs. 39a). They opened Lazarus' tomb and Jesus raised him to life. And someday he will do the same for each of us. He hadn't abandoned them and he never would, nor will he abandon us.

Even before the resurrection, Jesus told the disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1 ESV). His words echo down through the centuries to us, his latest generation of disciples: "I will not abandon you."

The words and feelings of these, our spiritual ancestors, mirror our own. We've all felt abandoned, we've all been certain God had abandoned us. Someone in each of our lives is feeling abandoned right now. Someone thinks God is absent, that love is far away. There will always be times of pain, times of feeling abandoned. It can be hard to see the promise through the pain. But we have a message of truth, a message of comfort, a message of unfailing love: "God will not abandon you."

"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." (Matt. 28:5b-7 ESV.)

Check out Person-2-Person on the Web:
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



The fun of finding as many eggs as you can at the annual Easter Egg hunt.



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



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



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