

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2013

SERVE2013 is ready to roll

Saturday, **September 7th** we will join other Methodist congregations in Missouri as we do God's work in our communities. MUMC will have folks working on a senior citizens home in Maplewood, work at L'Arche, the Second Hand Shop will be open, bagging beans and rice for Kingdom House, making casseroles for Shalom House and a Lawn Party for folks in the community on the church lawn. If you are not able to work please come by the church and have a free hot dog. Bring your neighbors with you.



We will celebrate SERVE2013 on Sunday, **September 8th**, as "Dust and Ashes" | (Mary Lou Troutman and Tom Page) lead morning worship.

SERVE2013 will also continue on **September 21st**. as we assist with the Mosaic Run at the MRH track.

It's your choice: coffee & cookies OR cheese & crackers with Pastor Kim

Are you feeling new or "newer" to Maplewood UMC? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member of this congregation? Have you been around Maplewood UMC for a while but have some questions you would like to ask? Please join Pastor Kim at one of three times in September to have a chance to share your story and ask questions about the church. Pastor Kim will share information about small group and other opportunities that are coming up this fall.

--Coffee with Pastor Kim on Sunday, September 8 at 9:45.

--Cookies with Pastor Kim on Tuesday, September 17 at 7 p.m.

--Cheese and Crackers with Pastor Kim on Sunday, September 22 at 12:15p.m.

We will gather in the meeting room next to the church office. Although the menu will change, the content of each gathering will be the same!

Let's all go to the movies ...

Everyone is invited to attend "Lee Daniels' The Butler" on September 10th at the Esquire Theater at 6706 Clayton Road. We will attend the 7 p.m. movie and have dinner/dessert at Applebys and discuss the movie. Hope to see you then.

Don't miss Mosaic Services 5 K Fun Run / Walk on September 21st

Wonderful family event - Fun activities for all ages!

9:00 a.m. - Adult 5K Run/Walk

10:00 a.m. - 100 meter dash for 4 year olds and younger

10:10 a.m. - 1/4 Mile Dash for 5-7 year olds

10:20 a.m. - 1/2 Mile Dash for 8-12 year olds

Registration available on-line

at www.mosaicmrh.org/register.html

For those non-runners, we are extending our Serve

2013 volunteer opportunities to include this event!

finance update

Read the 'books' –this congregation 'gets' giving

On behalf of the Ad Council and "finance team" folks, we'd like to thank the congregation for its ongoing generosity and financial support! All of our 2013 apportionments have been paid or adopted, with over 60% of the pledges collected already. Don't forget, you have until December 31st to pay your adopted apportionment if you haven't done so already.

We have had great support for our mission work so far this year, funding both our youth and adult mission trips, as well as other projects. We sent several children to summer church camp again, and we are poised for an awesome "Serve 2013."

Our financial focus continues to be on reducing our debt, and we are making good progress. As we head into Fall, the next project on our financial plate will be some additional boiler/HVAC repairs that will run approximately \$2,500.

Thank you, again, to our wonderful congregation for your support in all of the critical work of the church and its support of others. God bless you.

children's ministry news

Sunday, September 15 is Rally Sunday!

It's our official kick-off for fall Sunday school! The children will have breakfast and then divide into their age groups for a fun activities. This is a great day to invite friends to come to Sunday school!



Third Graders will receive Bibles during worship on Sunday, September 15. If you are a third grader or know a third grader who will be ready to receive a Bible on that day, please let Pastor Kim know!

Good grant news for children's ministry at Maplewood UMC! Last week we received a letter from the Gateway Board for Mission and Growth informing us that we have been awarded a grant for children's ministry in the amount of four thousand dollars. The presentation of this grant money will take place later in September or October. In the meantime, we are celebrating this gift and looking forward to the good changes that will happen in our Sunday school rooms.

Electronic Angel is at work. Have you noticed a change in the sanctuary? Something similar is happening in our Sunday school rooms. An electronic angel has granted us the gift of some flat screen t.v.s which are being installed in the sanctuary and in the Sunday school rooms. We are grateful for these gifts which will be used for the purposes of intentional faith development! Thank you to our Electronic Angel!



SEPTEMBER

- 2 Nora Baskett
- 7 McKenzie Lodholz
- 8 Suzanne Thompson
- 14 Kim Shirar
- 16 Pickett Lema
- 18 Gabbie Turner
- 20 Melissa McGowan
- 20 Milo Brucker
- 21 Amelia Adams
- 21 Mark Watkins
- 21 Nancy Cunningham
- 23 Monica Phelps
- 23 Matt Cordeal
- 25 Dennis Crone
- 26 Skip Watkins
- 26 Emma Mikunda
- 28 Hope Watkins

ANNIVERSARIES

9/14/85 - David & Charlotte Phelps

choir corner

A new year of choir has begun!

We are looking forward to singing a variety of interesting songs, classic, contemporary, lively and thoughtful. We are grateful to our MUMC Choir and the special music provided throughout the year.

Amy

September Liturgists are in place

- September 1 - Charlotte Phelps
- September 15- Tony Kunce
- September 22- Cari Ford
- September 29- Chris Shirar

Who are we? Where are we going?

“Whatever our religious background may be, most of us long for something more. We catch fleeting hints of a spiritual hunger for a deeper relationship with God....Wherever we are along the journey of faith, we are pestered by the realization that church should not just be where we go, but who we are.

“Wherever the path of our lives is leading, when we remember Jesus said, ‘Follow me!’ to the first disciples we feel an inner tug to rise up and follow him too.”

“But how do we do that? Like disciples who have come before you, you may ask,

- How do I follow Jesus in a real and tangible way?
- What spiritual practices enable me to experience a more vibrant relationship with God?
- Where do I find the practical steps that will lead me along my own pathway of discipleship?
- What difference does it make to live out my commitment to Christ through membership in The United Methodist Church?”

Do any of these statements or questions ring true with you? I bet they do...at least some of them for some of the time.

If they do, I hope you will take part in one of the small group opportunities beginning in October as they use “A Disciples Path: Daily Workbook” in order to learn more about those promises we make when we become United Methodists to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

These commitments are for more than the ways to become “ a good church member”. They are spiritual disciplines which deepen our relationship with Jesus. They help us connect with Jesus so that we can become more like him. That’s what he wants for his disciples, for each disciple to be more and more like him.

So, I hope you will join in “A Disciple’s Path” small group this fall.

Here is what you need to do to take part in a small group:

First, sign up for a group on a day and time that works for you. Sign-up sheets are on the easel in the gathering place behind the sanctuary. Or sign up via the communication card found in a Sunday bulletin. The options for days and times are as follows: (Groups need a minimum of five people in addition to leaders in order to form.)

Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. (tentative start time)

Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. (Sunday school time)

Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.

Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

Second, get your book. You need to have “A Disciple’s Path: Daily Workbook”. If you want to do additional reading then take a copy of “A Disciple’s Path”: Companion Reader.” If it is comfortable for you to do so, we are asking for a gift of \$3-\$5 per book in order to offset the cost of study books.

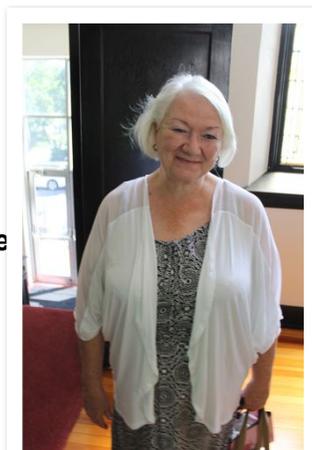
Third, start your reading for the first small group meeting one week before the group begins. Each day includes scripture reading, a few paragraphs of explanatory material, some questions for reflection, and a closing prayer for you to read for yourself.

Fourth, have a great time attending your small group each week!

Just so you know...the Sunday message will coincide with the weekly themes for the small group studies.

If you need more information please contact Pastor Kim (pastor@maplewoodumc.org or 314-651-9999)

Congratulations Madaleaze Cramer on your recent retirement from teaching.



Upcoming Sermons:

Our Methodist Beginnings: Some people consider John Wesley to be the one who founded The United Methodist Church. But Wesley never intended to start a new denomination. His fervent desire was to stir up a spiritual revival the Church of England. For a few weeks in September we will look at the story of John Wesley and how the ways of The United Methodist Church serve to draw our hearts toward God.

September 15: Sam and Susanna: John Wesley's Early Years

September 22: John Wesley: Holy Life/Warm Heart

September 29: Following Jesus—How the United Methodist Church Helps Us Do That!

A Disciple's Path

The Promises We Make when we become members of The United Methodist Church to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, are more than promises that make us "good church members". They are spiritual disciplines which serve to deepen our relationship with Jesus. As we follow Jesus more closely, not only are we transformed, but God can use us to transform the lives of others and the world around us.

October 6: A Disciple's Path: The Way of Grace

October 13: A Disciple's Path: Prayers

October 20: A Disciple's Path: Presence

October 27: A Disciple's Path: Gifts

November 3: A Disciple's Path: Service

November 10 A Disciple's Path: Witness



The annual Charge Conference for Maplewood UMC will be held on Tuesday, October 8 at The Gathering UMC which is located at 2105 McCausland. Several United Methodist Congregations from the Gateway Central District will gather on this evening to sing, pray, and listen to a message from our District Superintendent, Rev. Kurt Schuermann. After that we will divide into our separate congregations to conduct the business of the charge conference.



Linda Kettmann, Shay Blackwell and Colette Cummings model new aprons made by Linda for the "Mouth of Babes" cooking program for teen moms.



Above the "kitchen crew" prepares plates for the guests at the youth mission trip thank you luncheon.

To the left our youth take orders from our guests. We had help from the youth at Webster First UMC who also went on the mission trip. Thanks to all who helped with the luncheon.

Person-2-Person

As I write this, our country has just observed the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech. There are some statements that embody what our country is all about, that document the history of civil rights in America. Among these are the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and of course Dr. King's speech.

But, as anyone knows, the struggle for equal rights is far from over. Recently, a popular entertainer was challenged to do more for the cause of civil rights. His angry response was, ". . . this is going to sound arrogant, but my presence is charity. Just who I am, Just like [president] Obama's is. Obama provides hope. Whether he does anything, the hope that he provides for a nation, and outside of America is enough." I'm certainly glad he knows it sounds arrogant. Frankly, it sounds arrogant because it is. You make the world a better place by existing? Really? Sorry but I beg to differ.

There is only one man who might be said to have made the world a better place by merely existing, and that man is Jesus. When he spoke in the temple in Nazareth, Jesus read these words from Isaiah: ""The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, / Because He has anointed Me / To preach the gospel to the poor; / He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, / To proclaim liberty to the captives / And recovery of sight to the blind, / To set at liberty those who are oppressed; / To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."" (Luke 4:18-19 NKJV).

Afterward, ". . . He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'" (vs. 21 NKJV). But if he had done nothing else, there would have been no good news for the poor, no liberty for the captives, no sight for the blind, no liberty for the oppressed, and no Scripture fulfilled. Instead, he preached good news to the poor, comforted the brokenhearted, stood against the forces of oppression, gave sight to the blind, and forgave sins. And ultimately, he died on a cross and rose again for all of us.

In the book of Isaiah, God commands us to

"Learn to do good; / Seek justice, / Rebuke the oppressor; / Defend the fatherless, / Plead for the widow." (Isa. 1:17 NKJV). There is more than enough good to be done, justice to seek, oppression to rebuke, and helpless people to defend. Jesus told the Jews, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. . . . Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:31b-32, 36 NKJV). If we abide in his word, we will be free and we will proclaim freedom for all in his name.

Paul reminded the Christians in Ephesus that ". . . we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Eph. 6:12 NKJV). Oppression doesn't just mean being in chains, it means being excluded, restricted, marginalized. And it will last as long as the principalities and powers that promote it are allowed to exist.

James wrote, "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?" (Jas. 2:15-16 NKJV). It's not enough for that entertainer to say, "I'm successful. Look at me and be inspired." He has to actually do something for the cause of civil rights. He has to use his success and

position to lift up others. I don't go to the doctor to see how healthy he is, I go because he can make and keep me healthy. This is our commission as well, to proclaim—and to work for—freedom, deliverance, healing and wholeness in Christ. If we expect others to see us being Christians, we have to give them something to see. Baseball great Jackie Robinson observed, "Life is not a spectator sport." Neither is Christianity. It's time for all of us to get in the game.

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; / And what does the Lord require of you / But to do justly, / To love mercy, / And to walk humbly with your God?" (Mic. 6:8 NKJV.)

**"Life is not
a spectator
sport."**

Doing God's work outside our walls

MUMC sponsored the Concert for a Cause on Wednesday, August 28 at Ryan Hummert Park. The MRH Band performed and MUMC provided free snow cones for folks who brought three cans of food for "Weekend on Wheels." Thirty folks from our congregation were there wearing the SERVE2013 t-shirts. It was a great evening for a great cause.

Mission opportunities - reminder about our ongoing mission projects for Joe's Place and Feed and be Fed for the MRH School District. Listed below are the Feed and Be Fed items to bring on the first Sunday of the month (or anytime) as we continue to support this very worthy project.

Joe's Place: trash bags, toilet tissue, napkins, paper towels, aluminum foil, sandwich baggies, saran wrap, lysol wipes, kleenex and dryer sheets.

Feed and Be Fed: Ramen Noodles-all flavors, Tuna and Chicken Helper, canned tuna and chicken, canned corn and green beans, canned pineapple, peaches, fruit cocktail, fresh apples, bananas, oranges, fruit snacks, Mac n Cheese, Boxed mashed, au gratin and hash brown potatoes, family packs of Oreos, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies, pancake mix-water brand, peanut butter, jelly and bread, Cheerios, Cinnamon Toast Crunch and instant oatmeal cereal, Snack items-Cheezits, pretzels, Wheat Thins, popcorn, tortilla chips and dip, bagels, fruit juice, Special K Bars, Granola Bars, Spaghetti and sauce, canned soup including the chunky variety, chili, beef stew, chicken n dumplings, string cheese and Lipton or other brands of flavored rice and noodle packets.



A view of the crowd at the Concert for a Cause

bits 'n' pieces

Here's some news about our family

* Congratulations to Jon and Nancy (Pozzo) Schmid who were married on August 31 at Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Church. Our prayers are with you for a life full of love, friendship, and faith. Jon is still in the military and stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

Hear our prayers, O Lord

Please pray for my nephew Chris Hanley who is having trouble with depression. Pray he'll get the help he needs. Blessings on you all.
Bonnie Jent

"Thank you!" ... do we ever say it enough?

* A BIG thank you to the Mission Trip students and their parents for a great meal after church September 1st.

* "Thank you" to Mike Plonka for keeping our choir area clean and to Ray Jauregui for finding great erasable boards and markers to keep us organized!

* Thank you to Mark Watkins for preparing the floor in Memorial Hall for new tile!

* Thank you to Jan Harsh for her wonderful leadership with SERVE2013. We are looking forward to a couple of great days in September.

* Thank you to our *Electronic Angel*.

Dear Maplewood UMC Folks,

*I want to thank you for the welcome back flowers and for the gift card to the garden store! Jerry Blackwell is right! I do love to dig in the dirt. And I do love serving as the pastor at Maplewood UMC. I am so glad to be appointed with you for another year. Thank you!

Love in Christ, *Pastor Kim*

This is a portion of the pastor's letter from August which was not included in that edition of *The Messenger*

The impending addition of the preschool class in fall of 2012 inspired a major undertaking which involved the repurposing and redecorating of several classrooms in the education wing of the church building. The rooms now used for nursery care, pre-school Sunday school, and elementary Sunday school were cleaned and re-painted from top to bottom. Both adults and children were engaged in a phenomenal effort during a very hot summer to transform these rooms.

The transformation, though, is not yet complete. We are proposing a project which will serve to enhance the both the learning opportunities as well as the learning environment for children in Sunday school as well as children who use these rooms for other purposes. The project has three primary components: " (This list of three components is abbreviated from the original grant)

1. Blinds for the Sunday school classroom windows.
2. Audio-visual equipment which will allow us to make full use of the DVD-based Sunday school curriculum.
3. New furniture and some additional toys for the pre-school classroom and new furniture for the elementary classroom--and the new 4th-5th grade class we are dreaming of starting this fall!

"Expending both the material and human resources to expand and improve our children's ministry is, admittedly, a leap of faith. The Maplewood UMC has a history of taking leaps of faith in stewardship, small group ministries, hands on mission and service, and in being a congregation which is unflinchingly committed to truly receiving every person who enter our doors. It is sometimes a little bit frightening, but as we take each next step that opens up before us we also experience the excitement of seeing what God will do next in and through the congregation.

We know full well that the physical improvements that we make to our children's ministry spaces are not simply something that will be good for those who are already a part of the congregation. They are also tools for ministry to be used to welcome more folks into this faith community so that they too will hear and hopefully receive the

amazing good news of God's life-saving, life-transforming love and grace."

What a wonderful story to share! And of course, another part of the narrative summary included a description of the growth we have experienced in worship attendance, stewardship practices, small group participation, and participation in hands on mission and service, as well as this congregation's demonstrated commitment to welcoming and graciously receiving each person who walks through the doors as they are.

I do hope we are able to receive some grant money in the next few weeks. However, it was so good for me and hopefully good for you, to remember and to celebrate that we have already been "granted" so much as individual followers of Jesus and as a congregation which is so very blessed to see God through this congregation and in this congregation. Grant or no grant, I am excited to see what God will do next! It is a privilege to serve in ministry with you as your pastor.



Woman's Place,
a safe and welcoming drop-in center
for adult women, presents



The long term effects of your childhood experience can create problems in your adult life. We will address the impact of family violence and look at alternatives for successful coping and positive change.

TUESDAYS OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 5:30-8:00PM

A support group where you will
Meet other women with similar experiences
Identify your strengths
Enhance your efforts for healing

Pre-registration is required
space is limited
Call by September 26 314-645-4848

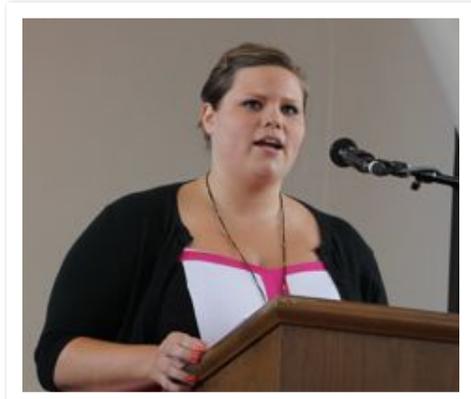
www.womansplacestl.org
8300 Morganford Rd, St. Louis, MO 63123
Woman's Place charges no fees
Donations are appreciated

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



Best wishes to the Findley family as the head to France.

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



Becca Kunce providing special music for Sunday morning worship.



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



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



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