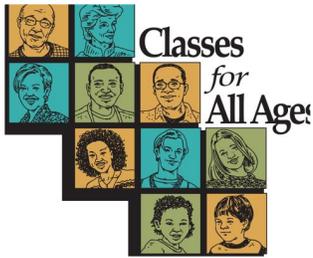


MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

January 2013



Older elementary class to begin

Sunday, January 20, an older elementary class will begin gathering on Sunday mornings.

This group will meet in the newly reclaimed space directly under Pastor Kim's office and will be taught, initially, by Steve Shirar and Bryon Stone.

It's music, music, music in the adult Sunday School class

Sunday mornings during Advent the class studied the 'back stories' on both familiar and 'new' pieces of Christmas music, including pieces from the 'Halleluiah Chorus' to 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer'. Beginning Sunday January 13 the class will look at the origins and background of hymns and gospel music. Come join us in the Gathering Place in Memorial Hall.

Calling All Parents!

On Sunday, January 27, at 9:45 a.m. (Sunday school time) all parents are invited (and encouraged!) to attend a meeting with Pastor Kim and the leaders of the Children and Youth ministry areas. This gathering will be a time for you to share your hopes and desires for our ministries with children and youth and your ideas about how the church can support you as you engage in the wonderful and challenging adventure of raising children. ALL parents and grandparents of children who range in age from birth through high school age are welcome to take part in this gathering. Your children will be engaged in Sunday school activities at this time and light breakfast will be served. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Kim.

Looking forward to Lent....

For the past several years the Maplewood UMC congregation has taken part in an all church Lenten study. During Lent we invite everyone who is willing to commit to three particular practices which are to:

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

At the close of last year's Lenten study several people requested that this year rather than reading what others say about the Christian faith and the Bible it would be good to read and discuss a book of the Bible for ourselves. So, this year we will be looking at the Gospel of Luke, to see what it says for ourselves. There will be a study book and there will be several different options for small group gatherings on different days and times of the week. The specific dates and times are still being finalized, but in just a couple of weeks it will be time to sign up.

If you are interested in learning more about the all church Lenten study, please contact Pastor Kim. In the meantime, please pray for the planning and preparation that is happening for the Lenten study and of course, please prayerfully consider how you will take part in this spiritual growth opportunity.



Special music during worship before Christmas

Summer Camp Registration for 2013 began on January 7, 2013!

If your child is interested in church camp please check out the Missouri UMC Conference and Retreat Ministries website at www.mocamps.org.

Maplewood UMC offers scholarships for campers and sometimes for friends of campers depending upon the number of children from the congregation who are attending camp.

Julia Schaffner (merlinsc@att.net or 314-647-7421) has agreed to help coordinate campers from this congregation so that children can go together if they would like to do so. If your child is interested in going to camp please let Julia know which camp/dates that they would like to attend.

New 'open' schedule for 2nd Time Around Shoppe

In addition to being open for business every Thursday, the '2nd Time Around Shoppe' has added the first Saturday of every month as a business day. Hours for both Thursday and Saturdays are 9 am - 2 pm. Being open the first Saturday in January made it possible for folks to shop who have been unable to get here on Thursdays; a few people who did not know the Shoppe was here noticed our Saturday signs and stopped in. We are, of course, looking for a few more good people to help staff the Shoppe on Saturdays or Thursdays. Contact Bonnie Jent or Bob Harsh with your work preferences.

Donations are accepted all the time: winter sweaters, coats, men's & women's shoes, scarves, gloves, hats, sweatshirts, pants, cold weather gear, kid' clothes, household goods.



Welcome new members Steve & Linda Kettman!

youth mission trip

There's a new date set for mission trip

Our youth are invited to be a part of the mission trip with the youth from Webster First UMC this summer. The basic information was sent out earlier in an email to the church but there has been a date change. The date of the mission trip is now from Sat. June 8 through Sat. June 15.

The mission location is in West Virginia, about a 10 hour drive from St. Louis. Participants will leave on Saturday, stop about half way (spending the evening in a local church) and then drive on to West Virginia on Sunday. The group work 4 days, have one play date and return home on Sat. June 15th.

Cost of the mission trip is \$399 for the week with an additional \$125 to \$150 to cover gas and meals while on the road. The mission trip is sponsored by Nextstep Ministries, an organization specializes in mission trips for youth. Webster First worked with this group last summer and had an amazingly positive experience! You can get more information by going to their website: nextstepministries.com. Money-making events are in the planning stages and we can be a part of those with Webster First. (MUMC will need to send two adults on this trip with our youth; we currently have one adult who expressed an interest.)

Timeline: We have to know fair soon (like in February) if you are interested in going. Webster has about 10 youth going (ages include those entering 7th grade through senior in high school are eligible to participate.) Early in February participants will need to make a \$50.00 deposit to hold space for the trip.

Need more info? Check with Jerry Blackwell or go to the website. We can have a meeting to share information and answer questions.

*You are cordially invited
to share coffee and cookies
before/after church
refreshments are located in the
Narthex, by the church office.*

heifer craft sale huge success

Do you realize how AMAZING you are?



Through your extremely generous support of this year's craft fair more than \$630.00 was raised with all proceeds going to Heifer International

www.heifer.org. These funds will be used to purchase a Heifer, a Goat and a flock of Chicks. Heifer International 'gifts' animals to families giving them food and income revenue generating opportunities. Once families are established, Heifer anticipates they will 'gift' to other families. Thus our gifts will continue giving indefinitely!

A very special thank you to all who donated items to the sale: Linda Kettmann, Marjorie Brammeier, Sally Noel, Kay Cammarata, Bonnie Schallenberg, Ann Rutledge, Madaleaze Cramer, Jerry & Shay Blackwell, Henry & Courtney Stotler, and Jason & Colleen Watkins. (If by accident I omitted anyone ... my most sincere apologies!)

Also, a special thank you to our biggest supporter, Bob Harsh. We hope you'll start saving those pennies again, Bob!

Finally, a HUGE thanks to the entire congregation for embracing this project! You truly are an AMAZING group of people!

neither slaps nor shouts

New anger management class is underway

Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm folks are gathering to do what they call 'anger work'. These are folks who either believe they have anger issues with which to deal or who have been court mandated for this work. This class will meet for six weeks. If you have any questions or just want a bit more information, contact Shay Blackwell, deaconess.

MUMC Does It Again!

2012 marks the 6th consecutive year that Maplewood UMC has paid a total of all of its Apportionments - and the 2nd year that we have paid MORE than 100%! For the 2nd year in a row, MUMC actually paid 110% of our Conference Apportionments. That's a total of \$16,040.20 paid towards Conference Apportionments for the year. In addition, MUMC paid 100% of our District Apportionments (totaling \$704.00), as well as supported 21 Vital Ministries (totaling \$2,100.00). That's a grand total of \$18,844.20 that MUMC gave to help the programs and ministries of the United Methodist Church on a local, national, and international basis. (And this is in addition to all of our other Mission giving and work throughout the year!)

On behalf of the "Finance Folks" and Ad Council, we want to thank the congregation for their faithful and generous giving which has enabled us to make such a contribution to these programs and ministries - and to make a difference throughout the world! And extra-special thanks to those who participated in our 2012 Adopt-An-Apportionment Campaign - we could not have achieved this without you!

Thank you, again, and may God bless you as you have so generously blessed others.



JANUARY

- 3 Jan Harsh
- 4 Kris Hewitt
- 5 Jenny Shirar
- 12 Robbie Chandler
- 12 Victoria Chandler
- 12 Bertha Brown
- 14 Caroline Haines
- 18 Stacy McCarter
- 21 Larry Schmid
- 22 Jonathan Schmid
- 22 Samantha Schaffner
- 25 Tyleah McCarter
- 25 Margarita Urbina
- 26 Marty Corcoran
- 27 Brian McGowan
- 31 Michael Casey

Singers & 'litterers', take note

January Liturgists

- Jan. 13 - Kevin Watkins
- Jan. 20 - Bryon Stone
- Jan. 27- Rona Chandler

Choir Corner

Choir is meeting again at 7:00pm every Wednesday night. We will be working on some interesting, new songs. Newcomers are welcome!

Prayer Request

Keep Bpnnie and Liston Jent in prayer as they travel to the funeral for their brother-in-law.



We Are on Facebook....

just go to....

<http://>

www.facebook.com/mumcstl and like us.

Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

Late last year, less than two weeks before Christmas, a young man walked into the previously-unknown Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut and shot and killed twenty children and six school employees. He had previously shot his mother and then gone to the school with guns that his mother had legally owned. In the hours and days following the incident, there were numerous calls to "do something."

Some wanted to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines, such as the young gunman had used. Others reacted by dismissing such bans as an infringement of their Constitutional rights and said the focus should be on violent video games. Over the next few days, they announced plans to arm teachers and other school employees. Still others said there should be more spending on mental health since the young man was clearly disturbed. In the end, as conservative commentator Charles Krauthammer observed, we're all going to have to give up something if there is to be serious change.

One gun proponent said that since the disciples carried swords Jesus would probably want citizens to be armed today. But people of that time also owned slaves, stoned adulterers, and considered women and children property. Surely that doesn't mean Jesus would want us to do the same today. The more important point is whether Jesus would be for or against "gun control." I'll try to keep my own biases out of it but let's look at some of what the New Testament actually says about disciples and swords. Jesus said "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword." (Matt. 10:34b ESV). What I believe he meant by that was that people would either follow him or not and there would be conflict between the two divisions, which there was and still is. "Sword" here is only a symbol for conflict.

The night he was betrayed, Jesus told the disciples, "And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: "And he was numbered with the transgressors." (Luke 22:36b-37a ESV). The Common English Bible renders the middle part of verse 37 like this: "And he was counted among criminals." It seems that the reason he wanted the disciples to have swords was so that they could be considered lawbreakers. The disciples said to him, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." (vs. 38 a ESV) and he replied, "It is enough." (vs. 38b ESV). Two swords were enough for a dozen people to appear to be lawbreakers. Later that night, when the authorities had come out to arrest Jesus, Peter, who apparently

had one of the two swords, cut off the ear of the high priest's servant (John 18:10) but Jesus rebuked him and said, "Put your sword into its sheath;" (vs. 11b ESV). Peter had missed the point. Or perhaps Jesus knew what Peter would do and that was the lawlessness to which he referred. Surely he allowed the notoriously short-tempered Peter have a sword for a reason. Two of twelve people carried swords as what appears to have been a symbolic gesture, hardly a mandate for us. And when Peter actually used the sword, Jesus rebuked him.

Other mentions of swords are references to the Word of God. Paul referred to it this way to the Ephesians: ". . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," (Eph. 6:17b ESV). And the author of Hebrews wrote, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the

heart." (Heb. 4:12 ESV). By studying the Scriptures, we can know how to respond to the things that happen around us.

The real problem isn't too many or too few guns. It isn't too much or too little mental health care. The problem is in the human heart. Too little God. Too little peace. Too little of God's Word.

Too few Christians armed with "the sword of the Spirit," and ready to speak out in truth and love. I pray that each of us will always be ". . . a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15 ESV).

"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. . . . and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel," (Eph. 6:16-18a, 19 ESV.)

One gun proponent said that since the disciples carried swords Jesus would probably want citizens to be armed today.



Sunday School children Christmas caroling during Sunday School the Sunday before Christmas

Christmas 'Thank you' wishes to the people known as MUMC

Thank you so very much for the generous Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated and I am looking forward to using it well. Thank you also for the gift of serving in ministry with you as your pastor. I am truly blessed.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Kim

Your Christmas gift is greatly appreciated. It is a blessing to be appointed as 'you deaconess'. Thank you so much for being both my place of service and my place of worship. Shalom, Shay

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. Thank you for all the love and support for our music program throughout the year. MUMC is such a blessing in my life. Amy

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PASTA DINNER-BY L'ECOLE CULINAIRE, WINE/
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FRIDAY, FEB 1, 2013 AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CHURCH, MAPLEWOOD, MO 6-10PM.
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT DENA
(dena63124@yahoo.com)

or call L'Arche at 314-781-4410

L'ARCHE ST LOUIS IS A 501C-3, INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF
ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES AND ASSISTANTS, SHARING LIFE WITH THEM
IN LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP.

From Epworth Children & Family
Services

Thank you for sharing

First of all, thank you so much for sharing your blessings with our youth and families this Christmas! All 363 children, youth and families served by Epworth had a brighter holiday because of you. Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU for stepping up to the plate when we needed you! (We also had more general wish list items, wrapping paper, and gift cards donated than ever before.) We are overwhelmed with gratitude by your generosity to help kids and families.



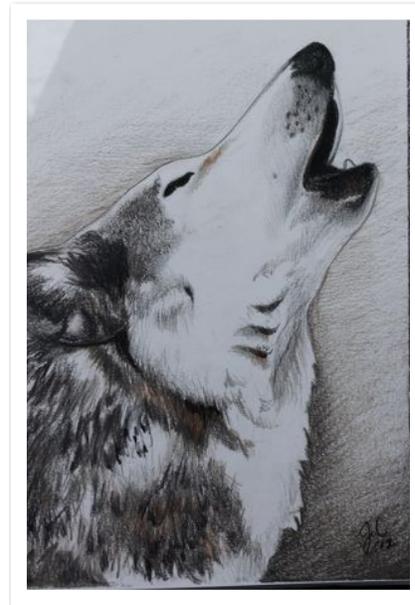
Secondly, we are always looking for ways to improve our Christmas program. There are many moving parts, and sometimes we do not see what donors, clients or staff sees. We would very much appreciate your ideas and feedback to improve the program for everyone involved.

Once again, thank you so very much, and we hope you will participate again for Christmas 2013!*

Laura

Laura Derickson, MEA, CFRE
Director of Development

*Wish lists will be available Nov. 1, 2013



Josie Cammarata chose a gift tag from the Epworth-provided family at Christmas ... a grand-father who liked wolves. This is the sketch she created and framed as his Christmas gift.

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 4 Sundays during Advent., families took turn lighting the Advent candle.



Display showing the damage sustained at our adopted church in New Jersey as a result of the superstorm Sandy



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



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