

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# MESSENGER

MARCH 2014



## Ash Wednesday Worship Service and soup supper set for Wednesday March 5

We will mark the first day of Lent with an Ash Wednesday worship service beginning at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Prior to the service we will have a simple supper of soup, salad, and dessert with an additional PBJ option. The supper is served in Fellowship Hall on an "eat when you arrive" basis beginning at 6 p.m. and ending just before the service. A great big thank you to Pickett Lema and Patricia Trout for organizing the supper. If you would like to assist with set-up, cleanup, or the donation of soup, salad, or dessert, please email Pickett at [pickett.lema@yahoo.com](mailto:pickett.lema@yahoo.com) or Pat at [bpfysh55@gmail.com](mailto:bpfysh55@gmail.com) or sign up on the Communication Card found in the bulletin for the March 2 worship service.

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## Adopt-an-Apportionment Sunday a Success!

Sunday, February 23rd, was Adopt-an-Apportionment Sunday. Thank you to all who were called to participate in this "second-mile" giving campaign. 71 apportionments were adopted for a total of \$7,588.00. What wonderful generosity!

There are still some apportionments in varying amounts available for adoption. If you are interested, please check out the table at the front of the sanctuary. Apportionments can be paid at anytime (and in any amounts) over the course of the year

Thank you, again, for helping MUMC make a difference throughout the world.

Rally your friends, invite your neighbors, recruit your Sunday School classmates, reach out to the 'brainiacs' in the pew next to you, and make a reservation to join us for the

## Youth Mission Trip Trivia Night Fundraiser

Saturday, March 15

@Masonic Lodge

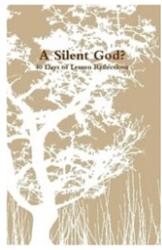
12 E. Lockwood, Webster Groves doors open  
@ 6:00 ... trivia begins @ 6:45

\$80 per table of up to 8 players  
\$12 for individuals (we will match you up with other players)

This fun, family-friendly event will be the "don't miss" event of the Spring season! Registration forms are available in the Narthex, and the Church Office



Children's choir singing during worship, Sunday February 23.



## All Church Lenten Study —“Living Life’s Hard Questions”

For the past six years the Maplewood UMC Congregation has set aside the season of Lent (the approximately six week period preceding Easter) as a time to nurture our souls individually and as a congregation. This year we intend to continue that practice in which we commit to do three things:

- Pray every day.
- Attend worship each Sunday during Lent.
- Participate in a weekly small group.

This year the Sunday morning messages will be focus on the theme of “Living Life’s Hard Questions”\* We will take time to ask those questions in life that may be hard to answer but also help us find meaning and purpose in our lives. These questions we will ask are: Who am I? Why am I here? What are my gifts? When am I a problem? Where is God in life and in death? (Is it possible to die a good death?)

We will seek to find ways to answer these hard questions for our own lives by looking at the lives of the characters we meet in the Old Testament book, Esther.

A book of daily devotions based upon Esther has been written for this particular Lenten study by Rev. Deb LeMoine, an ordained Deacon in The United Methodist Church. This book will be available at the church this coming Sunday, March 2. This devotion book will also serve as the source and guide for weekly small group discussions. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.

The children and youth also will be included in this study with the material adapted for their use.

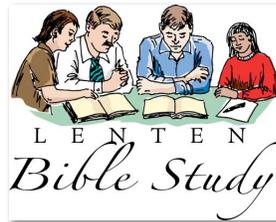
There will be information in the newsletter about days, dates and times for small group studies. I hope you will prayerfully consider being part of Maplewood UMC’s Lenten study and spiritual practices as we journey together toward Easter Sunday.

God’s grace and peace be with you.

*Pastor Kim*

P.S. The introduction to the devotion guide is also included in the newsletter as a way of helping us get ready for Lent.

\*The theme for this Lenten study is based upon a presentation by Dr. Gregory Ellison III PhD, professor of pastoral care at the Candler School of Theology



### Lenten Study small group days, dates & times

### **Pick your study time NOW & mark your calendar**

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

**Wednesday mornings** at 10 a.m. March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

**Thursday evenings** at 7 p.m. March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10 led by Jan Harsh

**Saturday mornings** at 8:30 a.m. March 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12 led by Colette Cummings and Steve Shirar

**Sunday mornings** at 9:45 a.m. on March 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13.

Preschool class led by Stacey Schwab and Kathy Schmid

Elementary children led by Kyle Kranes and Pastor Kim

Junior High led by Bryon Stone

High School led by Jan Harsh

Parents/Young Adults led by Peg Chulick (meet in the Chapel Room)

Adult Sunday School class (meet in the lower level of the Education Wing)



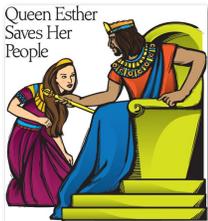
## Lent

Ash Wednesday begins a forty day period of time the church calls Lent. It is traditionally a time to prepare for Easter, and our preparation ought not be rushed. It is a time to read and to reflect, not just on the Easter story, but on our own stories. Easter promises us new life, but what about our lives needs to be made new?

Easter promises us abundant life, but what have we been lacking? Easter promises us resurrection, but what is it within us that has died? If we don't take time to ask these questions, we risk missing the significance of the answers God provides for us. The answers are not always clear. We don't all get burning bushes, choruses of angels, or the voice of a prophet to guide us. How do we see and hear God in the stories of our lives when God so often seems silent?

This season of Lent we look to the only story in the Bible in which God is utterly silent, completely unnamed, and yet somehow ever present. We look to an orphaned girl whose story barely made it into the Bible, yet whose life circumstances and choices call us to reflect on the circumstances and choices of our own lives. This book will provide you with daily readings and reflections, a space for your weekly sermon notes, and discussion guidelines for your small group meetings throughout the Lenten season.

***The story of Esther is incredibly short, about ten pages in a typical study Bible including the notes. Consider reading the entire story as you prepare for the season of Lent.***



## Sermons for Lent:

Sunday, March 9: "Why Bother Asking the Hard Questions?"

Sunday, March 16: "Vashti, The Queen Who Defied Her King: Who Am I?"

Sunday, March 23: "Mordecai, Exiled to the Right Place: Why Am I Here?"

Sunday, March 30: "Esther, Just Another Pretty Face: What Are My Gifts?"

Sunday, April 6: "Haman, The Man Who Wanted a Some Respect: When Am I the Problem?"

Sunday, April 13: Esther and Jesus: If I Perish, I Perish: Where is God in Life and in Death?

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday Services



- 1 Brooke Watkins
- 1 Matthew Housewright
- 2 Elaine Kidwell
- 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
- 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



**"Get me to the church on time!"**

Don't forget to move all clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night March 8th because **Daylight Savings Time begins early Sunday morning March 9th.**

Don't want to be late for church.

## Adult mission trip is set for Waynesville, MO.

The adult mission trip will be from Sunday, Oct. 5 through Friday or Saturday Oct. 10 or 11. So far 7 people from MUMC have expressed an interest in going; about the same number of folks from Webster First UMC will be a part of this cooperative venture.

Interested in being a part of this work effort? Be sure to let Shay Blackwell (314-822-4719) know ... and remember to schedule one of your weeks of vacation for that time.

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### Thank you, thank you, to ...

... each person who has taken the time for Safe Sanctuary Training during February! And a special thank you to Julia Schaffner and Rona Chandler for conducting those training sessions. Just a quick reminder to those of you who submitted forms for background checks. The results of your background check will be mailed to your home. Please bring the form that you receive to the church so that we can have a copy on file in our Safe Sanctuary records.

... the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of Troop and Pack 362 for the wonderful pancake brunch this month!! It was delicious!

... Peg Chulick for the new drapes and chair cushion in the education wing bathroom! They look great!

... our Communication Team folks for all the work that has been done to help upgrade the church internet service!

... to the wonderful family of MUMC for the cards, visits, prayers, AND food (yummy) which have made their way to the Blackwell's since Shay's surgery. What a great blessing God gives us with family. (Love, Shay)

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### Get well soon ...

... to Shay Blackwell who had knee replacement surgery in February. Shay you are loved and your presence is missed. Our prayers are with you and Jerry, your best nurse ever!

## Youth mission trip deadline nears

Twenty five spots have been reserved for the trip to Milwaukee which starts Sunday, July 13 thru Saturday, July 19. **If you want your name on one of those spots you have make that known by Trivia night, March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Any youth who completes 6<sup>th</sup> grade this Spring is eligible to go on the trip. Total cost is \$349 but if you work the fund raisers you get to benefit from funds raised, cutting your cost for the trip. For more information about the trip call Julia Schaffner (314-647-7421) or Jerry Blackwell (314-822-4719).

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### Trivia night to support the youth mission trip is set for March 15

A silent auction of "items & services" and Desserts will be a part of this evening. If you have donations for this, contact Bridgette Krabbe cell 314.546.5177.



Scouts from Pack and Troop 362 served breakfast after worship....which was enjoyed by all.

## Community News

**fund-raiser to benefit**  
**the MAPLEWOOD PUBLIC**  
**LIBRARY**

**Tuesday, April 15, 2014**  
**at McAlister's Deli in Deer Creek Plaza**  
*11 am – 2 pm and 4 pm – 9 pm*

**A percentage of sales will be**  
**donated for the**  
**Library Children's Program**

**you MUST bring a flyer to**  
**participate!!!!**

(Jan Harsh will have flyers available  
starting April 1st.

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bridge bread

### Love can build a bridge ...

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has published a photo essay on Bridge Bread, a ministry at Centenary UMC in downtown St. Louis. See the photos at this link:

[http://www.stltoday.com/gallery/news/multimedia/bridge-bread-helps-homeless-jobless-overcome-problems/collection\\_79a01334-6407-523c-8bfb-f437df16ea34.html#0](http://www.stltoday.com/gallery/news/multimedia/bridge-bread-helps-homeless-jobless-overcome-problems/collection_79a01334-6407-523c-8bfb-f437df16ea34.html#0)

### More of where our apportionment funds go..

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND

#1125

The General Administration Fund pays administrative expenses of GCFA, which underwrites the legislative work of General Conference, funds the work of the Judicial Council to adjudicate questions of church law and maintains United Methodism's official documents and historical artifacts.



Above is the new look of SERVE. Look for more information on how Maplewood UMC will participate in SERVE this year.

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### Our kids are in the pictures for SERVE 2013

All across Missouri during the first weekend of September last year, United Methodist Churches participated in many ways as a part of SERVE 2013. The Office of Creative Ministries has put together a video highlighting the different projects churches participated in. Our church has 3 pictures towards the middle of this video. They are pictures of "our kids", in the fire truck, face painting and helping prepare meals for Kingdom House. The pictures are one right after the other.

Click on this link: <http://youtu.be/AQRoskaVG2I> and it will take you to the You Tube video about Serve 2013

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#### AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND

#1126

This United Methodist university is the first non-government-institution of higher education in Africa. It was established to serve the entire continent of Africa, to offer post-secondary education for students from all of Africa, to specialize in education in schools of agriculture, theology and management and business.

#### INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND

#1127

This fund provides our share of the basic budgets of organizations that relate to the ecumenical responsibilities of the Council of Bishops and of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

# Person to Person

*Dave Phelps*

One day about a month and a half ago, I was driving to work when I saw a sign on the corner: "Best darn wash on this corner." The sign was true as far as it went because there was no other car wash on that corner. There were two vacant lots, a fire station, and the previously mentioned car wash. So this one was indeed the best, but only because it was also the only one.

For many years, Christianity was in a similar situation. The good old U. S. of A. was nominally a "Christian" nation and members of other faiths were essentially in a secondary position. But, as songwriter Bob Dylan observed, "The times they are a changin'." And the change has upset some folks. There was a time when we Christians could have a sense of entitlement about being in the majority and receiving all the perks that came along with it. But not anymore.

Some elements within Christianity have responded by saying very loudly--to anyone who will listen--that "Christianity is under attack." It isn't. Quite simply, the folks who were used to being top dog aren't necessarily top dog anymore and they're feeling a little threatened, a little afraid, getting a smaller share. But this is nothing new. Our spiritual ancestors, the Jews, have always been a minority. Christians were once persecuted and even killed. We're not being persecuted today, at least not in this part of the world, but some folks aren't getting their way like they used to. Instead, others suddenly have rights too. But the Constitution only guarantees "freedom of religion," not "freedom of Christianity."

After Paul arrived in the city of Athens, he addressed the people: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth," (Acts 17:22b-24a ESV). Athens, like our world today, was a pluralistic society. Early Christianity was simply one more sect among many. Paul proclaimed the resurrection of Christ and God's judgment (vs. 30-31), and some embraced the message of the gospel (vs. 34).

Later, he wrote to his young friend Timothy about ". . . my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra--which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," (2 Tim. 3:11-12 ESV). Paul didn't complain, he didn't whine, he simply endured in faith, and continued to proclaim the message of the cross.

Like the folks at the car wash, I can state categorically that ours is the best church on our corner because there isn't any other church on that corner. But our church isn't the "best" church in town, as much as you or I might think so. There's another church just a block away and another United Methodist church about a mile from us. My wife, Charlotte, and I pass several churches on the way to ours. But none of those churches are "home" the way ours is. I wish every church could be just like ours and that everyone would simply come to their senses and agree with me all the time. After all, who wouldn't? But they aren't and they don't.

Instead of thinking of ourselves as being unfairly persecuted, we should think of our new circumstances as a challenge. No, we're not going to get our way all the time anymore, if we ever did. No, we're not necessarily in the majority anymore. But we don't have to surrender. We have something--someone--to offer, someone the world needs. The days of Christian supremacy are over and they're never coming back. But our savior is here to stay and he is supreme. That is the message we bring. That is the gospel we proclaim. Not just when we're winning, not just when we're on top, but all the time.

"To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things." (1 Cor. 4:11-13 ESV.)

Check out Person-2-Person on the web at:  
<http://person2person.fithweb.com>

## Church Officials for 2014 Maplewood United Methodist Church

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Chair	Kevin Watkins	Class of 2016
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Colette Cummings	Class of 2014
Lay Leader	Jan Harsh	Class of 2015

Name	Primary Responsibility/Office	Chairperson?
Class of 2014		
Colette Cummings	SPRC/PPRC	yes
Tami Collins	Trustees	
Ray Jauregui (Financial Sec.)	Finance	
Class of 2015		
Cooper Collins	SPRC/PPRC	
Jason Watkins	Trustees	yes
Courtney Stotler	Finance	yes
Class of 2016		
Madaleaze Cramer	SPRC/PPRC	
Mike Lodholz	Trustees	
Larry Schmid (Treasurer)	Finance	
Ex Officio Members (with vote)		
Rob Chandler (leadership apprentice)		
Julia Schaffner (recording secretary)		

### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastor (Chairperson)	Kim Shirar	
Vice Chair (from Committee)	Rachel Ward	
Lay Leader	Jan Harsh	
<b>Class of 2014</b>	<b>Class of 2015</b>	<b>Class of 2016</b>
Tom Cordeal	Dave Phelps	Michael Chance
Mike Plonka	Kathy Schmid	Steve Findley
	Rachel Ward	Mark Watkins

Secretary	Sally Noel
Adult Worker with Youth	Jan Harsh
Connections Ministry	Mary Downing, Nina Berry
Communications	TBA
Education	Hope Watkin, Rona Chandler, Kyle Kranes
Worship	Amy Cordeal
Missions	Shay Blackwell, Jerry Blackwell
Congregational Care	Joanne Davis, Coordinator
Adult Small Groups	Jan Harsh, Suzanne Thompson

### Quite a story

During Sunday dinner, a mother asked her son what he'd learned in Sunday school that day.

"Well," he said, "our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge, and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, is that *really* what your teacher said?" the boy's mother asked.

"Well, no," he admitted. "But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

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:  
Tues. & Thurs. - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Maplewood UMC phone  
(314) 781-5902  
Maplewood Official Website:  
[www.maplewoodumc.org](http://www.maplewoodumc.org)

malar-triv-ia

some trivia about malaria

### WHY CHOOSE TO FIGHT MALARIA?

Because it IS preventable  
and it breeds poverty and burdens  
health care. Over 650,000 people  
die EVERY YEAR .. lives that can be  
saved ...



The new kitchen in Memorial Hall is coming along.



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....

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