

### Maple Leaf Parish

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7: 14

As I was thinking about what to write this month, part of the above verse popped into my mind, and I consider it a God moment that the Holy Spirit directed me to the complete verse and its location in scripture (after searching a concordance without success), and also an indication that this is what I'm supposed to write about. In last month's newsletter, Pastor Mark wrote about renewal, revival and being open to a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our churches. We've also been reading about the revival at Asbury University in Kentucky, which he mentioned, and had the opportunity to see the new film "Jesus Revolution" in a local theater. If you haven't seen the film, I recommend it for teens and adults, keeping in mind it has a PG-13 rating.

The events in the movie happened when Mark and I were children, but the ripple effects of the Jesus revolution of the early 1970's influenced our faith and vocational paths. We're hopeful that the revival at Asbury U. is the beginning of a much-needed Jesus revolution for a new generation that is dying to know God and for a fresh out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

A book that was also influential for me as a youth was <u>The Cross and the Switchblade</u> by David Wilkerson. Would you believe I found this book in my public high school library—another God moment! Wilkerson was a pastor who ended up working with teenage gang members in New York City. He founded Teen Challenge, which is connected to the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge in Rochester, a successful faith-based drug and alcohol treatment center. Why would a book about God changing the lives of violent and drug-addicted gang members in New York be relatable for a mostly -wholesome Minnesota farm girl? Because I had the same hunger to know God and find meaning and purpose for my life as they did!

One of the things I remember in Wilkerson's story, is that he was directed to work with the gangs as a result of time spent in prayer. As a busy pastor, he was neglecting his prayer life. (Can I get an Amen?!) Where to find more time for prayer? He decided he was wasting a lot of time watching evening TV, so he got rid of his television (wow!) and spent that time in prayer, with miraculous results.

I don't expect to get rid of my TV, though with the quality of programs, I agree that watching it is largely a waste of time and many of the shows do more harm than good. Same for the internet. But even if we don't take Wilkerson's action, I invite you to join me in devoting more of our screen time to prayer. A great revivalist was asked the secret of spiritual revival. "There is no secret," he replied. "Revival always comes in answer to prayer."

The Bible says that whenever the early church prayed, the Spirit was miraculously poured out. The early Methodist revival came in answer to prayer. Early Methodists prayed faithfully from four to five a.m. and from five to six p.m. daily. No wonder the leaders started fires of revival wherever they went!

Please help me with something. When you see me, please ask, "Pastor, what time have you carved out, daily, to spend in prayer?" Please help hold me accountable on this. And consider asking yourself the same question. I would also be open to anyone who wants to meet regularly to pray together. What would happen if more individuals prayed more often, or if a group or groups met to pray? Let's see where God leads as we pray and seek God's face. *God Bless, Pastor Deanna* 

#### -Contact Infor-

mation-

**@** 507-346-2830 507-271-6761

mark.woodward.ponderosa@gmail.com

Pastor Deanna

**@** 507-346-2830 507-765-9856

revdeannaw@gmail.com

Parish Office Info

9:30-4:15 Tuesday through Friday

**⋒**507-346-2830

faithunited@centurytel.net

www.faithsv.net

The more you know...

Did you know we're on Facebook?

You can find Cherry Grove UMC at:

https://www.facebook.com/

cherrygrovechurch/

You can find Faith UMC at:

https://www.facebook.com/Faith-

United-Methodist-Church-

229920383757905/ YouTube Too!!

Just search for- Maple Leaf Parish

**UMC-** Minnesota

Faith Online Giving Instructions

1. Visit the church website at

http://faithsv.net/home/donations/

- 2. Click on the GIVE NOW button,
- 3. Click on the Create Profile

Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your contributions.

#### -Service Groups-

The Service Group handles the Sunday Coffee/Fellowship Hour for the entire month of Sundays.

#### Faith UMC Service Group

#### **APRIL**

*Denis & Nancy Cornell	346-2044
Harry & Elaine Boland	421-8380
Lesa Brusse	346-2845
Theo & Mary Ellen Derby	273-3641
Paul & Rosalie Hagan	346-2061
Dennis & Gwen Howard	259-6957
Linda Lecy	272-6824
Dave & Tammy Schoppers	273-1527
Joanne Shorter	346-2607

#### **Cherry Grove UMC Service Group**

**APRIL-JUNE** 

**Chairperson: Steve & Andrea Atwood** 

Joan Bessingpas

Denny & Peggy Brusse

Sandy Cole

Ryan & Angela Forland

Gene & Linda Kappers

John Kappers

Todd & Dicia Kappers (Co-Chair)

Aaron & Dena Mathison Larry & Irene Mathison Shawn & Megan Merkel

Bryan & Michelle Root Dave & Kim Runde

#### Deadlines

**Newsletter:** The newsletter deadline is the 21st of every month at 4:00 pm.

Bulletin: Please submit announcements for the Sunday bulletin by noon on Thursday. Occasionally these deadlines may need to be adjusted. Please submit your articles as soon as possible. Thank you for understanding.



This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the beloved Christian hymn "Amazing Grace." The hymn was written by English poet and clergyman John

Newton. Over the last 250 years, Newton's hymn "Amazing Grace" has become very popular and is one of the most recorded hymns of all time.

Our series of Lenten services this year will be based on some of the lyrics of this meaningful and much-loved hymn.

#### April 2: Palm Sunday -Holy Communion

Pancake Breakfast At Spring Valley Faith UMC 10 a.m.; Brunch at Cherry Grove UMC 11 a.m. Cowboy Church at Cherry Grove UMC 6 p.m.

April 7: Good Friday Service at 7 p.m. (No soup supper)

Location: Spring Valley Faith UMC "When this flesh and heart shall fail"

#### **April 9: Easter Sunday**

"Bright shining as the Sun (Son)"



#### **Easter Sunday Schedule**

April 9

6:37 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service at

Faith UMC

(Indoors if raining)

\*\*\*7:30 a.m<mark>. Faith UMC</mark> Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. **Fountain UMC** Easter Worship

9 a.m. Faith UMC Easter Worship
10 a.m. Faith UMC Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m. -Cherry Grove UMC
Easter Worship
11 a.m. Preston UMC Easter Worship

#### **Palm Sunday Breakfasts**

At our services on Palm Sunday April 2, we will remember Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week with the waving of palm branches. Following Worship:

Faith UMC Sunday School invites you to a Palm Sunday Breakfast at 10 a.m. featuring pancakes, eggs and sausage and beverages.

Cherry Grove UMC invites folks to a Palm Sunday Brunch at 11 a.m. featuring egg bake, rolls, fruit and beverages.

Proceeds from these meals will go to support the Sunday Schools.





Faith United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday April 9th at 10:00 AM

Following the Service Rain, Shine or Snow!

Our Faith UMC Children and friends are invited to join us for an EASTER Egg Hunt

#### ENTERING A TIME FOR REVIVAL AND RENEWAL "FAITH STORIES"

We are hopefully entering a time for revival and renewal in our churches. We have been reading about the Asbury Revival which has been happening in Wilmore, Kentucky. Revival and renewal can bring about great new beginnings!

I have been thinking about how meaningful it would be to hear stories of faith and renewal in people's lives. I imagine many people in our churches have exciting stories of faith and renewal to share. Would you be willing to share your story? Perhaps in written form in the newsletter or on a Sunday morning? Our churches would be blessed to hear your stories of faith and how God was/ is at work in your life.

Please let me know if you'd be willing and able to tell and share your faith story some time in the near future.

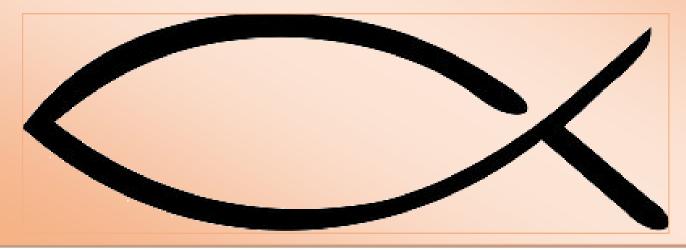
Let's be bold and energized as we share our stories of faith, transformation and renewal in our lives. This very well could be a time of exciting revival and renewal..... Please be in prayer and please consider telling your story of what God in Jesus is doing in your life.

Please let me know if you'd be willing to share your story with the church family..... Spring Valley, Preston, Cherry Grove and Fountain.

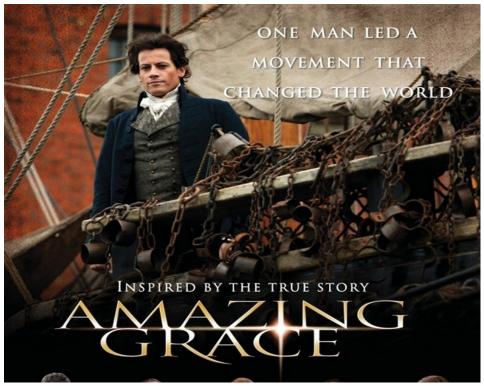
-- Pastor Mark

#### CHRISTIAN SYMBOL: THE FISH

Since the early days of the ministry of Jesus, the Christian fish symbol has been used in significant ways. It is believed that Jesus himself may have used this symbol. I am proposing that we in the Maple Leaf Parish make more use of this inspiring symbol in our daily lives. I am proposing that the fish symbol be used on our Maple Leaf Parish Newsletter on a regular basis as an ongoing reminder that we are part of the World-Wide body of Christian Believers.



#### Amazing Grace April 16 at 2:00 Faith United Methodist Church Spring Valley



Please invite your family and friends to come to this powerful movie on the history of "Amazing Grace." Popcorn will be served before and after the movie... This is the 250th anniversary of the inspiring life-changing hymn by John Newton. People have enjoyed this movie that lifts up William Wilburforce and John Newton at a very important part in English history with the abolishment of the slave trade.

PRESTON CHURCH EMERGING PROJECTS.... Prayer is essential...

The Preston Church Board of Trustees and Church Council are researching some major projects in caring for our church building and property.

- Renewing the Landscaping in front of the church.... estimates are being sought on this project which would involve new rock, edging, some bushes and in general rehabilitating the landscaping in front of the church building
- On the South end of the church building the construction of a small retaining wall to prevent erosion on the steep bank near the kitchen door.
- Overlaying the church parking lot with new asphalt as the current pavement is severely cracked and is breaking up in places. (a previous estimate on this project came in at over \$50,000.00.)

These are three projects currently being examined, researched and prayed about....as we come into the Spring season. We want to be good stewards of our church building and property, but we need to find ways to finance major projects without detracting from the important ministry of our church....So.....please pray about these potential property-related projects as we do our homework and find ways to come up with a plan.

Remember that with God all things are possible. We continue to pray for REVIVAL, RENEWAL and RE-CREATION as we have in mission and ministry together all to the glory of God!

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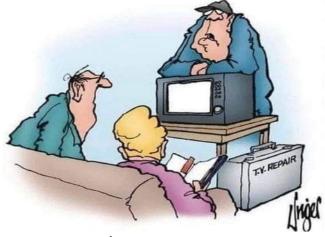
#### **Cherry Grove Church Kitchen to be Dedicated**

On Sunday, April 23, during the 10 a.m. worship service at Cherry Grove U.M. Church, we will be dedicating the newly remodeled church kitchen and consecrating it to the glory of God and for service in the church. The kitchen remodeling has taken several months and involved the work of both volunteers and professional crafts people. We are pleased with the results and have already been putting the kitchen to good use. It will be a wonderful work space for preparing and serving food for God's people for years to come.

Funding for the project has come from memorial gifts and other generous donations. Invitations are being sent to those involved in the construction and to donors and families who provided funding, to join with the congregation on this April 23<sup>rd</sup> morning of celebration. The worship service will include special music and a time of recognition and will be followed by a potluck meal for everyone in the church social







"Folks, the main reason you're not getting a good picture is because you bought yourselves a microwave oven."

Stewartville Civic Center Saturday April 1, 2023 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Families, Individuals, Sunday School Classes, Confirmation Class, Choir, Etc.:

All are invited to sign up for a two hour shift to package food for starving children and

their families. No Experience necessary, just willing hearts and hands.

Sign up sheets can be found on your church's bulletin board.

#### **Clothing Drive and Giveaway**

Kingsland National Honor Society held their yearly clothing drive March 21-31.

Faith UMC is a drop off location for the community to donate clothes.

People may bring clothing donations directly to the Spring Valley Community Center after school on Friday, March 31. Clothes will be picked up between 2:15-4:00 PM on Friday, March 31. The clothing drive will be held at the Spring Valley Community Center from 8:00-12:00 on Saturday, April 1. **Shop for free.** 



#### \_\_ L.I.F.T. "AMAZING GRACE"

At Preston U.M. Church, students and adult volunteers will start a new series of lessons in early April in the LIFT program. LIFT is an after school program on Wednesdays providing Bible lessons, crafts, music and snacks. Kindergarten through sixth graders who sign up for LIFT meet at the church for a time of faith and learning experiences with friends. New students are always welcome and parents are welcome, too!

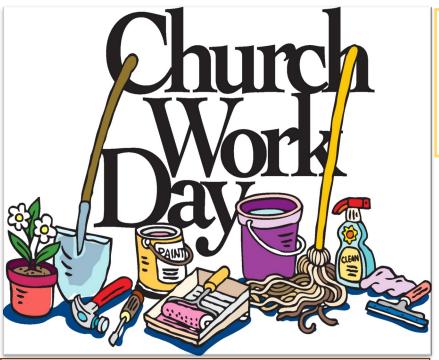
Busing for LIFT is provided from the Fillmore Central School.

For more information, contact Nancy Dahly at 507-765-2480.

#### **April Plans:**

April 5: 250 Years of Amazing Grace— Ephesians 2: 4-5 The Story of John Newton
April 12: Lost and Found— Luke 15 The Lost Sheep, Coin and Son
April 19: I Was Blind but Now I see— John 9
April 26: He will my Shield and Portion Be— Ephesians 6: 14-18
Put on the Whole Armor of God

LIFT=Living in Faith Together



Easter Lily Garden At Faith UMC for Easter Sunday.

If interested in providing a Easter Lily please contact Norma Merkel

@ 507-346-2569

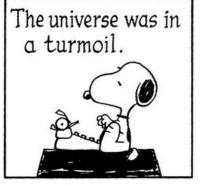
The Trustees at Faith UMC have set
Saturday, April 15th as Clean Up Day.
Everyone is invited to come at 8 am to help
clean up the lawn and
ready our building for Spring!

Please plan to join.

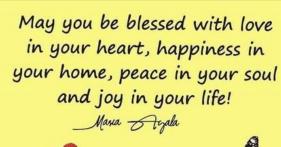


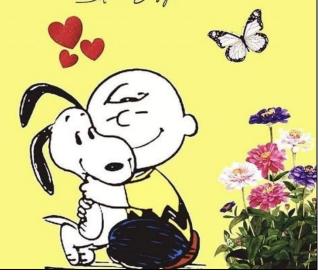


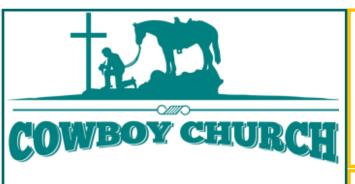












Join us on April **2nd** at **6** p.m. In Cherry Grove

# Preston United Methodist Church Drive-Thru Codfish Supper

Friday, April 14th, 2023 4:30-7 pm (Or until the food is gone!)

#### <u>Menu</u>

Codfish with drawn butter

Meatballs in gravy

Mashed potatoes

Coleslaw

Steamed green peas
Dinner rolls and cake
Tickets \$18.00, will be sold
at the door only.

\*\*Please follow signs
for drive-thru route.\*\*
PUMC, 212 St. Anthony St.,
Preston, MN 55965

Office 507-765-2503

or 507-346-2830

#### THE HISTORIC LENORA CHURCH

Is closed now for the winter season, but it will reopen in May, 2023. Would you like to be a part of the team that guides the ministry at Lenora? Please let Pastor Mark know as some planning meetings will take place early in 2023.

United Women in Faith (UMW) at Faith UMC in Spring Valley invite all women of the Maple Leaf Parish to a gathering at Faith Church on Wednesday, April 12th, with fellowship, education and inspiration. Question?

Contact Nancy Cornell-346-2044

Cowboy Church Musicians Concert & Jam April 30th, 2023 at 3:00 pm Fountain Community Center Fountain, MN

Sponsored by Fountain United Methodist Church

Featuring:
Country, Bluegrass & Gospel
and the musical
talents of:
The ArnoldBradley Band
Leonard Leutink
Paul Schmidt
Gary Froiland
Sarah Peterson
Cindy Seabright
Mary Ann



Free Will Offering will be taken. A portion of the proceeds will be given to Rolling Hills Transit, a service provided by SEMAC. All food items brought will go to the Fillmore County Food Shelf.

Refreshments will be sold by Fountain United Methodist Church. Thrivent Members will provide Action Teams \*Handicap accessible

Schultz

#### **Preston Church Council Meeting Minutes March 14, 2023**

Present: Pastor Mark Woodward, Pastor Deanna Woodward, Jenny Dornink, Greg Dornink, John Goutcher, Dan Miller, Sue Hovey, Jerry Brink, Nancy Dahly.

Greg called the meeting to order on March 14, 2023 at 6:05pm. Pastor Mark led opening devotion and prayer.

Jenny moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jerry. Motion passed.

Jenny moved to approve the Secretary's Report. February minutes were taken by Pastor Deanna. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed.

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, expenses for February were more than income. Expenses have been consistent, although the gas bill has been going up over the winter and there has been more snow removal expense. The MAC radio grant that we received a few years ago was zeroed out and the remaining funds were sent to FC Schools to be used for the milk and lunch program.

From the Finance Committee, Dan reported the average weekly offering for February was under budgeted expenses. Apportionment received to-date was \$185. Average attendance for February was 23. The renewing of CDs was discussed to get better rates upon renewing.

From the Trustees Committee, Jerry reported light bulbs have been replaced in the apex of the sanctuary. Other ballasts will be repaired as needed. The new fridge has been delivered and installed in the kitchen.

From the Worship Committee, Pastor Mark was looking for ideas to bring more people to worship services. The Lenten services have been going well. Dan Miller inquired about having an Easter brunch on Easter Sunday. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex for rolls, juice, etc.

From the Missions Committee, Sue reported food and monetary donations are being collected for the Foodshelf for March FoodShare Month. Pastor Deanna recommended donating \$300 to the Preston Foodshelf from the Good Samaritan Fund.

From Staff/Parish Relations Committee, Pastor Mark handed out the current list of church leadership. Suggested donations for use of church were briefly discussed. The MN Conference is having all churches update their profiles. Pastor Mark handed out copies of the previous profile that was submitted in 2018 and the new form to be filled out. He asked Council members to fill out the form and the answers will be compiled. The profiles are used for matching churches with new clergy members and for the new Conference leadership to learn about the churches in the Conference.

From Evangelism and Outreach Committee, Pastor Mark is looking into putting out information through mailings, newsprint, etc to the area to promote our church and reach out to the community. He encouraged 'intentional promoting' of the church and what is going on in the church.

From the Education Committee, Pastor Mark reported LIFT will be starting again on April 5.

From the UMW, Nancy reported they are planning a UMW presentation during an upcoming worship service.

In Business, Jenny reporting plans are progressing for the Codfish Dinner on April 14. She has been checking prices and ordering food items. The cake sign-up is in the narthex. Letters are going out to congregants regarding information about the Dinner and the Prepping Schedule for the week of Codfish. She contacted the Boys Scouts and they are interested in helping again.

During the Pastor's Report, Pastor Deanna reported Palm Sunday and Communion Sunday will be April 2. On Thursday, March 16, 2023, Pastors Mark and Deanna are planning to attend a statewide meeting in Bloomington with the new Bishop for Pastors of traditional/evangelical congregations.

Jenny moved to adjou<mark>rn the me</mark>eting. Seconded by Sue. Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jenny Dornink, PUMC Council Secretary

#### Cherry Grove Administrative Council March 13, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mark Woodward, Deanna Woodward, Corey Sanford, Holly Sanford, Phil Hebrink, Marlo Mensink, Janice Mensink, and Steve Tammel

The March Administrative Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Deanna.

Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Mark.

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction. The Kitchen Dedication will be April 23, not March 23 as stated in the minutes. Marlo Mensink made a motion to approve and was seconded by Phil Hebrink.

**Financial Report:** The treasures report was reviewed. A motion was made by Corey Sanford and seconded by Steve Tammel to approved the report.

A special Thank You to those that donated towards the kitchen remodel: Gene Rick Family, David Hebrink, Harlan Nagel Family, Hamre Family, Michener Family, Steve & Karen Winter – Leona Nagel Family, Hofner Family, Dotzenrod Family, Sheeley Family – Pixie Nielsen, and John & Sharon Grass.

A special Thank You also to the workers & venders: Steve Atwood, Valley Home Improvement,

Kingsley Mercantile, Howe Countertop, Joe O'Connell Excavating, Sam Myer, and McConnel Electric.

#### **Parish Relations Committee:**

Kitchen Dedication will be April 23 with a pot luck held after the church service. Milk/water/pop will be provided by the church.

Welcome Jane Baker as the new administrative assistant.

Thank you to Gary Michener for removing the snow this winter.

#### **Trustees Report:**

Marlo Mensink reported the church insurance has gone up \$800 for the year.

Denny & Peggy Brusse got a quote for blinds for the kitchen counter from the American Blind Company. The quote was approximately \$233, it was decided to have them place the order.

Steve Tammel will get with Volkerts regarding the church gutters put up and also the inside kitchen windows. Two handicap signs will be place outside of the church.

#### **Pastor's Report**

Palm Sunday Brunch will be April 2.

Lent Services:

March 15 – Lent Services will be held in Cherry Grove. There will be a soup supper at 6:00 p.m.

March 22 – Lent Services will be held in Spring Valley. There will be a soup supper at 6:00 p.m.

March 16 – There is a meeting with the Bishop in the cities. Both pastors plan on attending.

March is Minnesota Food Share Month – please bring donations to the church.

It has been brought up to have a Cherry Grove Women's Group again. More discussion to follow.

April 1 – Food packing at Stewartville. A sign-up will be forthcoming. The Confirmation Class will be participating with this.

Pastor Mark spoke with Brad Boice in regards to singing at Cherry Grove Church. Unfortunately, he has made the decision not to sing on Sundays anymore to be able to attend his own church and spend time with family.

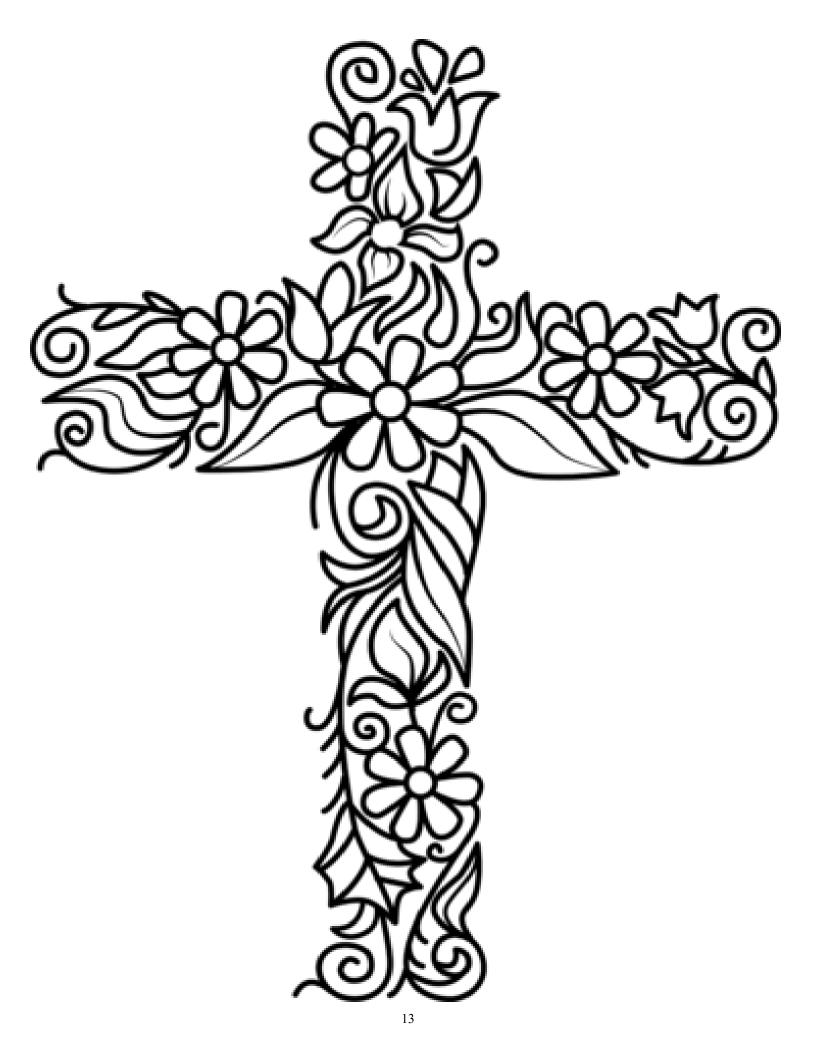
April 30 - Fountain's Cowboy Concert

May/June – We will be honoring our Cowboy Musicians with a supper at Cherry Grove. Date TBD.

A motion was made by Marlo Mensink and seconded by Phil Hebrink to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Deanna did the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for April 10 at 7:00 p.m.





# **April** 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Palm Sunday 8:30 Fountain Worship						8-12 Clothing Giveaway @ SV Com- munity Center Food for Kidz Packing
2 Paith Worship 2 Pancake Breakfast 10 CG Worship Brunch 11 Preston Worship Communion 6pm Cowboy Church	3	4 8 am Men's Breakfast  —Preston Kingsland ACT Testing @ Faith UMC 5:30 pm Worship Committee at Faith UMC	3:15 LIFT at Preston No Confirmation	9	7 Good Friday Service @ Faith UMC 7 pm	8
Sunrise Service Faith UMC 6:37 am 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship-Easter Egg Hunt 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	10 7 pm CG Council	11 8 am Men's Breakfast –Preston 6 pm Preston UMC Council	12 9:30 am Parish Women's Meeting – Faith 3:15 pm LIFT Preston 7:00 pm Confirmation,	6:30 Faith SPR 6:30 Faith Finance 7– Faith Council	Codfish Supper- Preston 4:30-7:00	8 am Clean Up Day Faith UMC
8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 2 "Amazing Grace" Movie	17	9 am Men's Breakfast Preston Kingsland ACT testing @ Faith UMC	3:15 pm LIFT Preston 7:00 pm Confirmation, Faith	20	21 May Newsletter articles due	22
23 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship Kitchen Dedication & Potluck -CG	24	25 8 am Men's Break- fast –Preston	3:15 pm LIFT Preston 7:00 pm Confirmation, Faith	27	28	29
30 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Cowboy Church Concert Fountain Comm. Ctr	Masks	are optional. All ev	Masks are optional. All events are subject to change in light of Coronavirus informațion.	hange in light of C	oronavirus informat	tion.

**Maple Leaf Parish Cherry Grove UMC Faith UMC Fountain UMC Preston UMC** 617 Maple Lane Spring Valley, MN 55975

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## Maple Leaf Parish



Cherry Grove United Methodist Church

18183 160th Street - Spring Valley, MN 55975

Faith United Methodist Church 617 Maple Lane - Spring Valley, MN 55975

Fountain United Methodist Church Cedar Street & County Road 8, PO Box 46- Fountain, MN 55935

Preston United Methodist Church 212 St. Anthony Street, PO Box 247- Preston, MN 55965