

Maple Leaf Parish

Power Pole not a thing of beauty, but certainly something for which to be thankful....

There was an intense blast of winter weather in Fillmore County on April 16, 2023 just one week past Easter, we went from temperatures in the 70's - 80's to a wild mix of snow and wind and freezing weather. Deanna and I drove on Highway 16 in the midst of blowing snow and treacherous road conditions, we crept along the road driving quite slowly. When we finally reached our home out in the country, we noticed the yard light was off and the house was very dark -- something was wrong. Sure enough the electricity was off. After going into the house and lighting a few candles, I found my flashlight and did some investigating. Out in the front yard the electric power pole was lying in the snow. It was snapped off at the base due to heavy tree limbs which fell on the wires. After assessing the situation and thinking about it for a bit, I called the Preston Public Utilities emergency number to report the broken power pole. Within a half an hour the crew was gathering in the front yard. They came together in the midst of inclement weather on a Sunday evening with expressions of kindness, friendship and courtesy. One of them hollered out to me, "Hey Pastor Mark we'll get this fixed, we're happy to be of help!" I explained they could wait until morning to do the repairs as I felt bad about them being out in miserable weather on a Sunday night.. They continued with determination, efficiency and professionalism and by 3:00 a.m. the electricity was back on again and a new pole was put up.

There are so many things in life for which to be grateful. In the midst of crummy weather, people gave of themselves to help us in our situation. I have been thinking about this quite a bit since that evening. As Christians it is part of our ministry to be the kind of people who help others, encourage one another, and show compassion and kindness. It's also our job and our mission to be grateful and appreciative of all the blessings we share together. The mission and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ, in my opinion, is to be a Body of Believers who live and share the Life of Jesus in the world today. Sometimes it is easy for people to complain or lament and I believe we are all guilty of this from time to time. Sometimes it is easy to be negative, pessimistic, judgmental, critical, and bitter, but those are not the ways of Jesus.

As I looked out the front window that dark night with the snow blowing around in the yard, I saw a group of talented, professional and dedicated guys working together to bring light and energy once again to our house. There is much to be said here that could relate to the message of our Christian faith. Because people worked together for the common good, once again Light was shining in the darkness! There are numerous parallels here to the Good News of Jesus!

Deanna and I are very grateful for the dedicated and efficient work of the Preston Public Utilities crew. They even came back later the next day to see how things were. The new pole is standing and soon another talented person, Mr. Wayne Frank, our electrician, will come back to finish the job.

In all of life, be grateful, be kind, be uplifting, be gracious, be gentle, be dependable, be involved, and be able to share your talent and ability to the glory of God! And in many ways, the Light of Jesus will shine in the darkness all to the glory of God. That night was dark only for a short time and soon as people gave of themselves out of compassion and kindness the Light was shining in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it!

Thank you profoundly for those who gave of themselves to help us that stormy night! Now may we be grateful people giving of ourselves as disciples of Jesus to live and share God's unending love.

Yes!!!! The Light does shine in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it! Praise be to God!

I am grateful to share in mission and ministry with you all to the glory of God!





Contact Information

Pastor Mark

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

MAY

* Georgie Nolte	346-7567
Scott & Becky Aarsvold	923-5952
Darrell & Vivian Drinkall	346-2302
Gene & Mary Halverson	346-1295
Anna Mensi <mark>nk</mark>	951-6306
Don Lanning	951-0465
Karen Heyer	346-7445

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 Kappe<mark>rs</mark>

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 lines may need to be adjusted. Please submit your articles as soon as possible. Thank you for understanding.

dead-

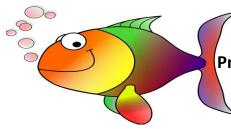


Annual Conference 2023

This year's Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will take place May 31-June 1 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN. Drawing on Luke 24: 13-35, the theme of this year's gathering is "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience."

The Conference will include:

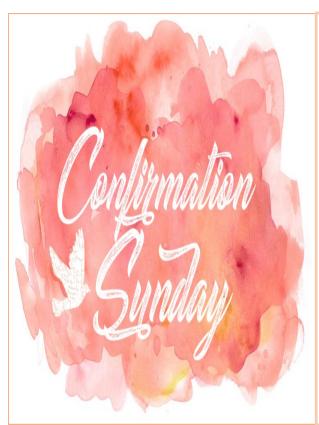
- -an Episcopal address from the new Bishop, Lanette Plambeck
- -guest speaker, Rev. Michael Beck, a Florida pastor and director of an organization which combines traditional church with innovative forms of ministry -celebrations of Ministry Milestones
- -voting on the conference budget and other business



Thank You for a successful
Preston Codfish & Meatball Supper that was
held on April 14th, 2023

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Codfish & Meatball Dinner a success this year! Thank you for all of the cakes! Thank you to all of the workers that came on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday! And thank you to those who came for a meal and supported our Codfish Dinner! What a wonderful church/parish community to belong to!!





On Sunday, May 7th, the Spring Valley Faith confirmation class will celebrate confirmation day at the 9 a.m. service. This group of students will have the opportunity to declare their faith publicly through vows of confirmation and membership. They will be asked to renew the solemn vows and promises made at their baptism and to be loyal to the church and uphold it with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service and their witness.

This will be a special service in which each confirmand will come forward and kneel as pastor and family members lay hands on them and pray for them. It will also be a time when everyone present can reexamine their own walk with Christ and commitment to the Church. At 10 a.m. following the service, everyone is invited to a cake and beverage reception in honor of the confirmands.

We will be rehearsing the service with the students during our last class session on Wed., May 3rd. We will also be taking group and individual pictures of the class that evening. Please pray for our students and families as they take this important step in their Christian faith. A group photo and list of confirmands will be featured in the June parish newsletter.



Our churches plan to formally recognize the 2023 graduates on Sunday, May 21 during the worship services and in our fellowship hour. If you know of any graduate we can recognize... whether high school or college please contact the office by May 12th. We couldn't be happier for these individuals as they walk on to another avenue in their life's journey.

Congratulations.

Planning for Spring – Summer Youth/Sunday School activities and events...

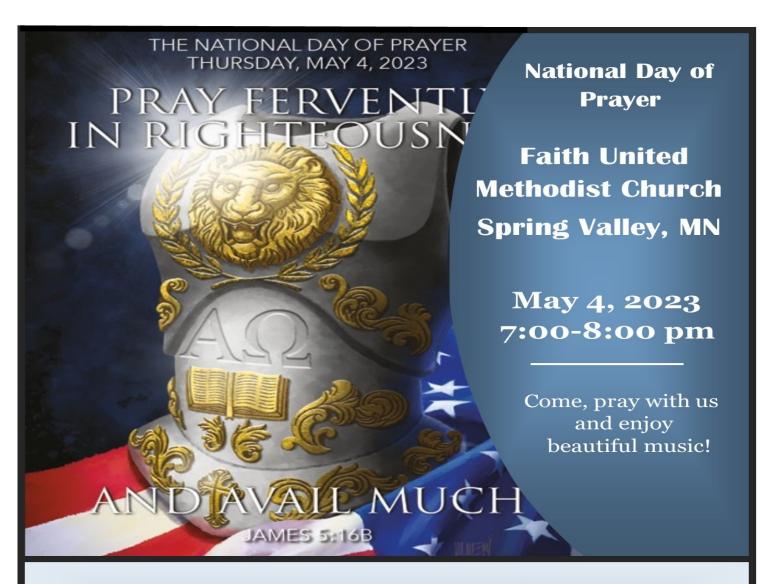
We are currently doing some planning and brain storming for some spring/summer Youth and Sunday School events and activities. Please let Pastors Mark and Deanna know of some possible events/activities you might like to be a part of. For example: picnics, hotdog roasts, miniature golf, camping, visiting places of interest, Summer VBS, etc. We'd like to plan some activities and events that families, children and youth could participate in together. Please keep us informed about some ideas and things you'd like to do as part of our Maple Leaf Parish family. Let us know: mark.woodward.ponderosa@gmail.com or 507-271-6761, 507-346-2830 or 507-765-9856. Let's make this a fun summer living and sharing together in Christian fellowship.



Preston Trout Days Parade...

Hey! We need your help in putting together a float of some sort for the Preston Trout Days parade May 20th. Please speak with Pastors Mark and Deanna if you are able to help out with something to put in the parade. People coming together as a

team make great things happen!



Individuals will lead us in prayer for our nation; as well as in the areas of education, children, families, veterans and the military, government, church, law enforcement, business/farming entertainment and the media.

Enjoy the music of Suz Eberle, Cindy Seabright and Sister Luv!

Collections to benefit the Spring Valley VFW Post 4114 & Auxiliary





DURING THESE DAYS.....LOVE FINDS A WAY...

As most of you are aware, the churches of the Maple Leaf Parish: Spring Valley: Faith, Cherry Grove, Fountain and Preston have been in a time of discerning and praying about their future and how to move forward in mission and ministry in light of complicated and polarizing topics relating to various social issues and theology. It is clear that our churches represent diversity of opinion and belief. However, it is also clear that our people want to see our churches be strong, vital and actively involved in mission and ministry. Many people have expressed that they want to move forward to the glory of God and live and share the Good News of Jesus.

With all of this in mind, it becomes clear that we need to be respectful and compassionate in ministry. Let's face it, we will not all agree on everything, but as John Wesley once said, we need to be united in the essentials of our faith, but not be overly concerned with topics on the periphery. In the sanctuary of the Spring Valley: Faith Church there is a banner which hangs on the South wall: LOVE FINDS A WAY surrounded by both a crown of holly and a crown of thorns....representing the birth, life and suffering of Jesus.....John Wesley ardently believed that LOVE is at the very core of Christian faith and life.

So..... during these days, how best do we allow Love to find its way forward, to be people of faith who follow Jesus? How best do we do mission and ministry together in building UP the Body of Christ in the world today?

The following information was shared at a recent Confirmation class session. It bears reprinting here in this newsletter because it describes who we are as Christian people. (This information was printed by the United Methodist Publishing House, Cokesbury.) This describes who we are....the time is here to move forward to the glory of God in Jesus Christ. Yes....love does find a way.....

Our United Methodist Beliefs

United Methodists share a common heritage with Christians of every age and nation

God created humanity to live in covenant with God.

As sinful creatures, we have broken that covenant and stand in need of redemption. Because God truly loves us, God acted through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to bring us salvation and the hope of eternal life.

* God's love comes alive in us by the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit works in both our personal experience and in the common life of the church.

We are part of Christ's universal church.

We enter the church through baptism. In Holy Communion, we celebrate the presence of Christ and find strength for Christian living.

- * We believe that the reign of God is both a present and future reality.

 This prospect gives us hope in our present actions.
- * We believe that Scripture contains everything necessary for salvation.

 We believe in justification by grace through faith in Christ and in the general ministry of all Christians.
 - * We believe that the church is one in Jesus Christ.

We express our unity in hymns and liturgy, in the historic creeds, and in the belief in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

United Methodists also have distinctive emphases, a legacy of our founder, John Wesley:

* Prevenient Grace

God's love surrounds us even before we are aware of it. It leads us to want to please God, to discover God's will, and to an awareness of our sin.

* Justification and Assurance

God reaches out to the repentant believer with accepting and pardoning love. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are justified-forgiven and restored to God's favor. This experience of conversion can be sudden and dramatic or gradual.

Wesleyan theology emphasizes that we can know we are saved.

Sanctification and Perfection

God's sanctifying grace helps us grow more loving toward God and neighbor, drawing us toward God's gift of Christian perfection, being perfect in love.

* Faith and Good Works

Faith in God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ is the only response to God's love we need. However, we express our salvation in good works, sharing God's love with others.

Mission and Service

Salvation always involves Christian mission and service to the world. Personal religion, evangelical witness, and social action go hand in hand and build on each other.

* Nurture and Mission of the Church

The church nurtures our personal faith and equips us for mission and service in the world.

From the United Methodist Publishing House

Sunrise Service



PLEASE SHARE YOUR PARISH PHOTOS

We'd love to have photos from all four Maple Leaf Parish churches featured in our newsletter. Please take photos and submit them to Jane Baker in the church office at Faithunited@centurytel.net

Here are some photos from Easter.... They are really beautiful in color, but sadly we cannot print them in color in the newsletter.....

New Cross put up on Holy Thursday near the campfire area at Faith Church.... Thank you to Harry and Brian Boland for making this new cross and thank you to the crew who helped put it up.... Tom Ramaker, Harry and Elaine Boland, Jane Baker, Mark and Deanna Woodward. This cross was dedicated to the glory of God on Easter Sunday, 2023 at sunrise.

Preston Sanctuary and LIFT project



Faith new cross and Sanctuary





Cherry Grove had a special Easter guest! A real live lamb courtesy of the Serfling family









Join us on May **7th** at **6** p.m.



WEAR RED CLOTHES ON PENTECOST MAY 28TH

Our churches will celebrate Pentecost -the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit on
Sunday, May 28th..... Please wear RED
clothes on Pentecost Sunday..... Red is the
color for Pentecost and it is a great time to
celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit! Praise be to God!





The historic **Lenora Church** re-opens on **Sunday**, **May 21 at 3:00 p.m**. Worship gatherings will take place at Lenora Church throughout the spring, summer and fall on the third Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. (This is a rare photo of the Lenora Church congregation from about 1890.) If anyone would like more information about the ministry at Lenora, please speak with Pastor Mark.



The Results Are In At Faith UMC

MN FoodShare
103 pounds and \$310 donated

Lenten/Easter Offering

\$685.00 was donated for the School Age Child Care (SACC) program at Kingsland.

Thank you all for helping make life a little more pleasant for families in the Spring Valley Area.

Preston Church Council Minutes—April 19, 2022

Church Council Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2023

Present: Pastor Mark Woodward, Pastor Deanna Woodward, Jenny Dornink, Marlene Peterson, Dan Miller, Sue Hovey, Jerry Brink, Dollie Acton, Nancy Dahly.

Pastor Deanna called the meeting to order on April 11, 2023 at 6:05 pm. Opening devotion and prayer was led by Pastor Mark.

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

Pastor Mark moved to approve the Secretary's Report. Seconded by Jerry. Motion passed.

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, the expenses in March were about \$466 more than income. March general expenses were consistent with previous months. February snow removal was \$250. The gas bill has been going down with the arrival of warmer weather. \$290 was received and sent in for UMCOR. The apportionment of \$595 that was received during the first quarter was sent in. Dollie moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed.

From the Finance Committee, Dan reported the average weekly offering for March was \$848.69, which was less than the weekly needed amount of \$1000.17. Apportionment received in March was \$220. At the end of March, 29% of the budget has been spent. Average attendance during March was 22.

From the Trustees Committee, Jerry reported there were bids returned for landscaping around the church from The Treehouse and The Rustic Rose. The bid from The Treehouse was more detailed with a lower price than The Rustic Rose. The Treehouse also provided a picture of the proposed finished project. There was discussion about the 2 bids and funding for the project. Jerry also received a bid for cleaning the mildew on the church exterior for \$1550. The trustees will review the bids, prioritize proposed projects, and discuss financing with Memorial/Finance. This will be followed up on in a future meeting with hopes a decision can be made soon to get the project done this year. Preston Clean-Up Day will be April 22 and there was discussion about cleaning around the church on the same day. More details to come.

From the Worship Committee, Pastor Mark reflected on the Lenten series on the 250th Anniversary of the hymn Amazing Grace.

From the Missions Committee, Sue reported the donations of food and money were taken to the Preston Foodshelf. The \$300 donation for March FoodShare Month from the Good Samaritan fund was also delivered. She also submitted the rebate for the new fridge and our account will be credited.

From Staff/Parish Relations Committee, Marlene reported the church profile was updated and sent to the Conference to have on file.

No report from Evangelism and Outreach Committee.

From the Education Committee, Pastor Deanna reported the 3rd session of LIFT started April 5 and there were about 12 kids participating.

No report from the UMW.

In Business, Jenny reported Codfish Dinner is rapidly approaching and everything is falling into place. Meatball prep will take place on Wednesday, fish packing on Thursday, with the culmination of the Dinner on Friday.

During the Pastor's Report, Pastor Mark reported that he and Pastor Deanna attended a meeting with the new Bishop Lanette Plambeck and District Superintendent Michelle Hargrave, along with 30-40 other pastors that are also wrestling with the current topics going on within the Conference. A compromise proposal would be put forth to remain part of the UMC Conference but function as a traditional Methodist Church, as we are now. Bishop Plambeck and DS Hargrave affirmed this proposal.

Jenny moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jerry. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm. Respectfully submitted, Jenny Dornink, PUMC Council Secretary

Faith United Methodist Church Administrative Council Minutes April 13, 2023

Members Present: Pastors Deanna and Mark Woodward, Gene Halverson, Barb Paul, Gail Rollie, Jan Hammon, Denis Cornell, Mary Grems, Harry Boland.

Finance Committee: The 2023 Apportionments were discussed and it was decided to send out reminder letters in a future Newsletter. Deanna shared a letter from the Spring Valley Business Alliance inviting the church to become a member of the group. Decision was made to join for \$25, Denis Cornell volunteered to be the representative.

Church Council: Pastor Deanna led with a prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Mary made a motion to approve, Gail seconded. Motion approved.

Trustees: Clean Up Day at church on this Saturday, April 15th. Denis made a motion to approve Don Lanning as a new member to the Trustee Committee, Harry seconded. Motion approved. **Membership**- Mary Grems reported the total membership is 248.

Pastors Report-Sunday School numbers continue to increase. Confirmation is scheduled for May 7th. There will be a Bicycle Rodeo in the church parking on May 1 from 4-6. Mark and Deanna attended a meeting with the Bishop Lanette Plambeck and several other traditional pastors and presented an update from the meeting. Barb Paul read a statement regarding the compromise proposal. Denis Cornell moved that a poll be taken of the congregation to better understand where the congregation stands on this issue, Gene Halverson seconded. Motion was defeated two in favor, five opposed.

New Business- Contract for the Toshiba printer expires in July, Megan/Jane received quotes from 3 companies, E. O. Johnson was lowest bid and we are currently contracted with them. Gail made a motion to keep contract with E.O. Johnson, Barb seconded. Motion was made by Gene Halverson to authorize Jane Baker to make deposits and pick up the money bag from First National Bank, Mary Grems seconded. Motion approved. Decision was also made for Jane Baker to cover Jan Hammon absences.

Old Business-AED has been ordered per recommendation from Sue Puffer. Brenda and Matt Stier have volunteered to purchase the machine. Sue will provide any training needed to interested individuals.

Jan Hammon resigned as Council and Finance chair.

Gail made a motion to adjourn Gene seconded, motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Jane Baker

Special Faith United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting

On Thursday April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. District Superintendent Michelle Hargrave met with the Administrative Council to answer questions and hear comments regarding our current discernment process and compromise proposal.

Cherry Grove United Methodist Church Administrative Council April 10, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Woodward, Deanna Woodward, Denny Brusse, Peggy Brusse, Corey Sanford, Holly Sanford, Marlo Mensink, Janice Mensink, and Steve Tammel

The April Administrative Council Meeting was called to order by Denny Brusse.

Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Deanna.

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Marlo Mensink made a motion to approve and was seconded by Peggy Brusse.

Financial Report: There was no treasurer's report to review.

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.

Trustees Report: The blind has been put in the kitchen window.

Two handicap signs were placed outside of the church.

The organ chimes need some work, they are starting to fall off the wall. We are looking for someone who has knowledge on how to fix them.

It was decided that Sam Myer is not going to strip and polish the basement floors. There are too many cracks in the floors and this will cause more issues.

A motion was made by Peggy Brusse and second by Marlo Mensink to pay Gary Michner \$100 for snow removal. Steve Tammel is working with Volkerts regarding gutters for the church.

Pastor's Report: On March 16, Pastors Mark and Deanna along with 35-40 other pastors met with the Bishop in the cities. The Bishop stated they will do everything within their power to make the compromise proposal work.

April 12 – SV Women's Group has invited the Cherry Grove women to attend their meeting at 9:30 a.m. April 15 will be Bernie Finke's funeral at Cherry Grove Methodist Church. Continued prayers for her family and friends

April 30 – there will be 4 baptisms in Cherry Grove!

April 30 - Fountain's Cowboy Concert

May 21 will be Graduate Sunday. Please come celebrate with these Seniors!

May/June – We will be honoring our Cowboy Musicians with a supper at Cherry Grove. Date TBD – Deanna will get with Cindy Seabright to find a date.

A motion was made by Peggy Brusse and seconded by Marlo Mensink to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Mark did the closing prayer.

Faith UMW April 12th, 2023

The Women in Faith met on April 12th, 2023 for our regular monthly meeting with nine guests present. Coffee and cinnamon rolls were served by Vivian and Norma. A video was shown on self denial with an offering. There is a Spring gathering at Northfield on April 29th at 9:30 a.m., and topic is on Racial Justice. With nothing else to discuss motion by Nancy and seconded by Marilyn to adjourn.

Celebration of Baptisms

Cherry Grove

March 26th –Scarlett June Antoff, daughter of Justin and Shelby Antoff
April 30th-Devin Christopher Carr, Ellyana Kaye

Carr, Kobe Joseph Carr and Konan Thomas Carr, children of Michael and Brooke Carr.

Spring Valley

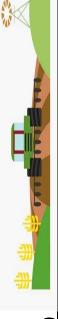
April 30-Hazel Fay Kloempken, daughter of Tim and Erin Kloempken.

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MAY 2023



Sat	9	13	20	27	
Fri	S	12	19	56	
Thu	4 Elwood Brusse graveside service- Preston 2 pm National Day of Prayer Service 7 pm Faith	Faith SPRC-6 Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	18	25	
Wed	3 Confirmation @ Faith—7 pm-Photos Rehearsal	10	17	24	31 Annual Conference @ St. Cloud May 31-June 1
Tue	2 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Faith Worship 5:30 Faith Trustees- 6:30	9 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Preston Council –6	16 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am	23 Men's Breakfast in Preston 8am 9 am Annual Conference clergy session (online)	30 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Ministerial Association Faith @ 10
Mon	1 Bicycle Rodeo Faith Parking Lot 4-6 pm	8 Cherry Grove Council -7	15	22	29
Sun		7 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship Confirmation 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6pm Cowboy Church	14 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship Mothers Day	218:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship Newsletter Deadline Graduate Recognition	8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship Pentecost
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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