



Maple Leaf Parish

REV. MAXWELL P. GADDIS...METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1855

While attending the recent Annual Conference held in Saint Cloud, Minnesota, I had an opportunity to look at many of the display tables in the hallway. One table had a collection of antique books that were being given away. Many of the volumes were from the 1800's -- books that were duplicates in the Conference library. One of the books dated 1855 was written by Rev. Maxwell P. Gaddis and it was an autobiography of his ministry in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a pastor in the Methodist Episcopal Church of that era. This book caught my interest and it is now a cherished part of my personal library.

In reading portions of this old book, I was intrigued with many of the similarities between the mid 1800s and our world of 2023. Rev. Gaddis lifts up struggles, challenges and obstacles faced by the church of his day as well as divisions and tensions in American society in 1850 leading up to the Civil War. There are similarities and differences between the era of 1850 and our era of 2023.

In 1850 the Methodist Episcopal Church couldn't build church buildings fast enough to keep up with the growing influence of early Methodism on American society. (I wish we had that problem today!) However, even in the glowing days of rapid growth there was growing division, conflict and polarization over the issue of slavery. There were many factors in society and culture that led to opposing views on a variety of topics in the life of the church and soon in 1845 there was a split in the Methodist Episcopal Church. At this point there were now two churches: Methodist Episcopal Church North and Methodist Episcopal Church South. This division would last until 1939 when at last the two churches would reunite as the Methodist Church. Rev. Gaddis goes into much detail about the pain, hurt and conflict of this era.

Often the process of Reformation is not easy or painless. In the 1500's Martin Luther broke from the Catholic Church over a variety of theological issues and in the 1700's John Wesley broke from the Church of England over theological issues as well. In our world today, the process and experience of Reformation continues. Rev. Gaddis even wrote about it in his book from his experiences in 1855. In the midst of all this, President Abraham Lincoln writes that during his day the Methodist Church was one "of the most American of churches."

Today, the United Methodist Church is experiencing a diversity of opinion and belief expressed in a variety of ways. Rev. John Wesley believed that it is important to be united in the essentials (doctrinal beliefs), but there is room for diversity in the things he described as "non-essential" (social issues).

Rev. Gaddis in his day believed in building up the Body of Christ and he urged people to be committed to building up the local church and giving of themselves in commitment, prayer, finances, talent, ability, giving of themselves to really promote the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Maxwell Gaddis was keenly aware of the challenges and difficulties of his day, but he wanted the church to flourish in every way possible to bring people into a personal relationship with Jesus. Despite the challenges of today's world, our Maple Leaf Parish Churches are committed to being vital in ministry in the United Methodist Church and to function in ministry as we always have done as traditional, evangelical churches building up the body of Christ in the world. (This is the position which our churches have recently embraced.)

Yes, Reformation is ongoing, we live in a different world than Rev. Gaddis did. Still, there are similarities which cause us to realize that we are very much a part of the church of Jesus Christ in the world. The world is continually changing, but Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever.

The time is here to promote unity, compassion, and the awesome power of love as disciples of Jesus. We are a part of the Body of Christ in the world committed to building up the mission and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ! Yes, each day will bring new challenges. But, each new day will also bring new opportunities to serve in building up the church to live and share the Good News of Jesus!

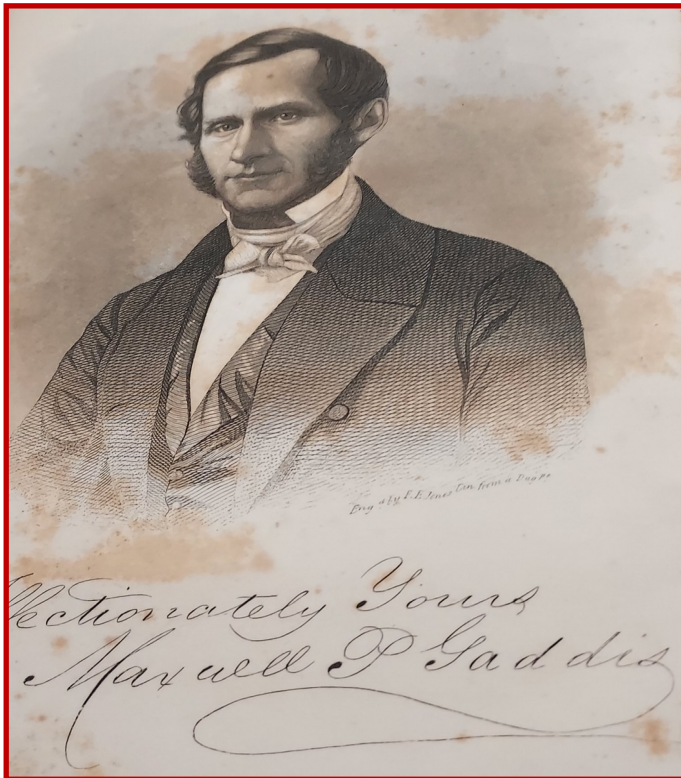
Recently, I talked about the power of God's love and I referenced my ordination banner. I also wrote about it in the Fillmore County Journal. I am convinced that it is the love of God in Jesus Christ that will lead us forward in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's not focus on the things that divide, but rather on the things that bring people together and bring people to Jesus. I sincerely believe that it is love that finds a way! We must be committed to building up the mission and ministry we share together.

Rev. Maxwell Gaddis was a pastor during a turbulent time in our country's history. In reading his book, I am convinced that despite challenges and difficulties it is God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit that leads us forward.

I look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday. We have important work to do. We are a part of the modern day mission field of 2023 committed to bringing people into a personal and growing relationship with Jesus for the transformation of the world!

Ready? Let's roll up our sleeves, put on our boots and open our hearts to Jesus. We are in ministry together to live and share the Good News of Jesus!



Your pastor and friend, Mark Woodward



-Contact Infor- mation-

 **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.faihtsv.net

The more you know...

Did you know we're on Facebook?

You can find Cherry Grove UMC at:

[https://www.facebook.com/
cherrygrovechurch/](https://www.facebook.com/cherrygrovechurch/)

You can find Faith UMC at:

[https://www.facebook.com/Faith-
United-Methodist-Church-
229920383757905/](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://faihtsv.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-

Faith UMC Service Group

JULY

*Craig & Cindy Seabright	272-1682
Amanda Boettcher	438-2503
Ranae Clouse	346-2979
Roger & Carol Sanford	259-8833
Joe & Louise Marquardt	346-2796
Tom & Kim Mosher	346-7233
Paula Ruesink	346-7189
Naomi Stuckey	754-5919

Cherry Grove UMC Service Group

JULY-SEPTEMBER

Chairperson: Phil & Jane Hebrink

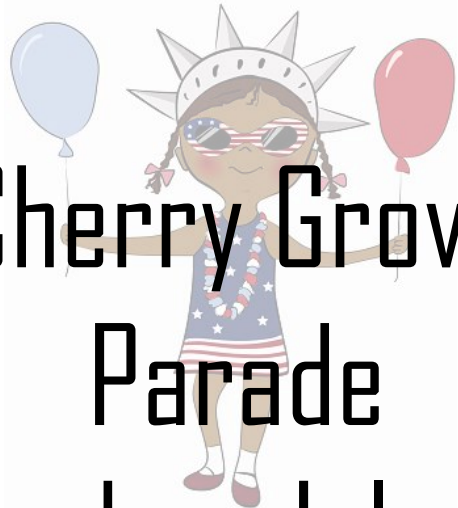
Ronnie & Linda Boland
Tony & Mariah Boland
David & Luann Garrison
Phil & Lynette Grabau
Tom & Mary Lou Howard
Joe & Ermilee Ihns
Janette Kappers
Tom & Marcia Nagel
Steve & Karyl Tammel
Lori Scheevel (Co-Chair)
Richard & Cheryl Serfling
Nathan & Jolene Serfling
Vicki Serfling

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

4th of July Parade



Cherry Grove
Parade
Tuesday, July 4th
@ 11 a.m.

Lunch will follow
at the Church



Join us on
July 2nd
at 6 p.m.
In Cherry Grove
Featured Musician

Faith Outdoor Worship Service



SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Service will be located at the Cross and
Campfire ring.

Bring your lawn chair, blanket, etc.
People are also welcome to drive up
near the cross area.

If you have American flags at home,
please bring some with you to church
on Sunday, July 2nd. It will be a festive
morning....

Be sure to invite your family, friends
and neighbors to come with you....This
will be a happy day celebrating our
freedom as American people and
giving thanks to God for the many
blessings we share together.

Doctrinal Foundation Remains Unchanged

The Doctrinal Foundation of the United Methodist Church remains unchanged.

We live in a country, society and world pummeled with all types of information -- true, false, slanted and bent. The influence of social media is not always positive and the presence of extremism on both sides of the political spectrum is not beneficial. Recently, I have been made aware of misinformation, wrong information relating to the doctrinal foundation of the United Methodist Church.

Nothing has changed. The words of the Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed, and other historic creeds inform who we are. (Please look at the UM Hymnal pages 880 - 889 in the section on Creeds and Affirmations.)

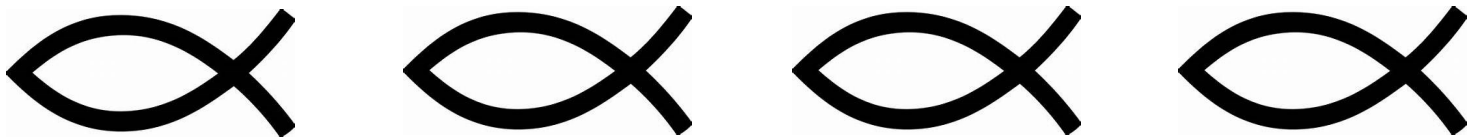
The words of the Apostles' Creed goes a long way in informing who we are as Christian people within the United Methodist Church.

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church (universal), the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen." (Apostles' Creed)

The historic, traditional, doctrinal foundations of the United Methodist Church remain the same and are not changing.

--Pastor Mark



WE ARE A TEAM OF DISCIPLES

ALL FOUR CHURCHES DEPEND ON PEOPLE BEING INVOLVED IN GIVING AND SHARING THEIR TALENTS, GIFTS AND ABILITIES.

FAITH: Needs help and support in the treasury and finance area of the church, also computer technology for streaming worship services and general technology support.

All four churches need help with Christian education in reaching out to provide support for Sunday School and youth ministry.

PRESTON: Needs additional help in cleaning the church building

All four churches depend on people giving of themselves in a variety of ways. We need more people of all ages to step up to the plate and be actively involved in the life and ministry of the churches. We all need to remember our membership vows:

Support the church with PRAYERS, ATTENDANCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, WITNESS.

TOGETHER...WITH TEAMWORK WE CAN MAKE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN.



Cherry Grove Quilt Dedication, May 28

In 1967, the W.S.W. S. (UMW) decided to make a "Name" quilt to be used as a fundraiser for the new church entry. The quilt, called the Friendship Quilt contained the names of the women church members as of January 1, 1967. The names were written on blocks by Lenora Prinsen. Each person embroidered her name and contributed 10 cents for quilt expenses. The blocks are white and set together with blue print. The Friendship Quilt was auctioned off in February, 1968. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Lichty bought the quilt for \$126. Deanna VonLichty donated the quilt to church during a dedication on May 28. Thank you to the Lichty family for preserving and sharing this beautiful Friendship quilt. The quilt will be hung in the church chapel.



Preston UMC has a Facebook page! Search for Preston MN United Methodist Church and please follow! If anyone has something to post, please email Ilene Edwards at ilene6006@gmail.com

Life is
FRAGILE
Handle it with
PRAYER



Combined Outdoor Service and Potluck Picnic!!

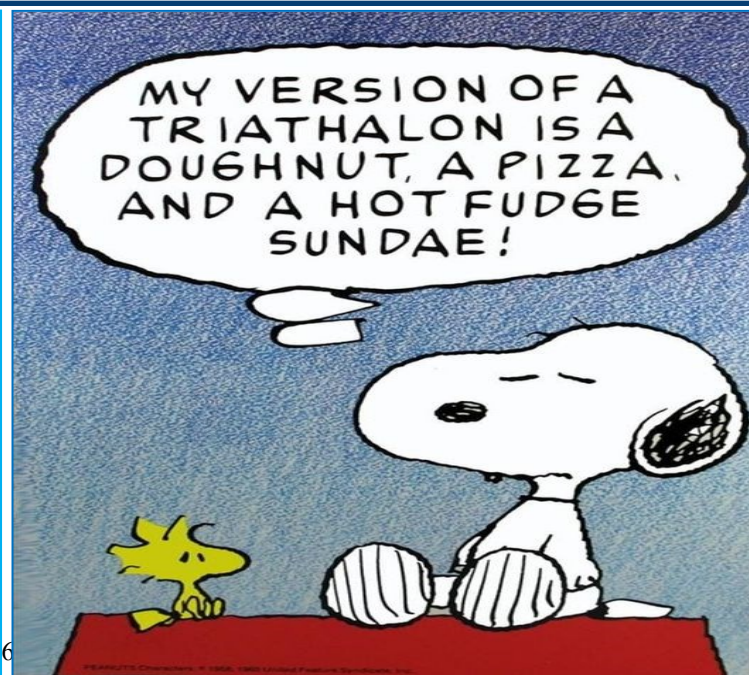
July 23rd, 10:30 a.m.

Fountain Park

Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share!

**No 8 A.M. service in Fountain, 10 in Cherry
or 11 in Preston.**

Questions? Call 346-2830

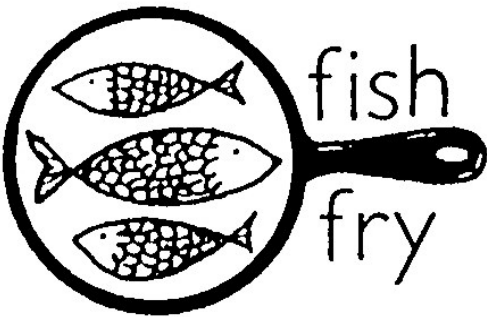
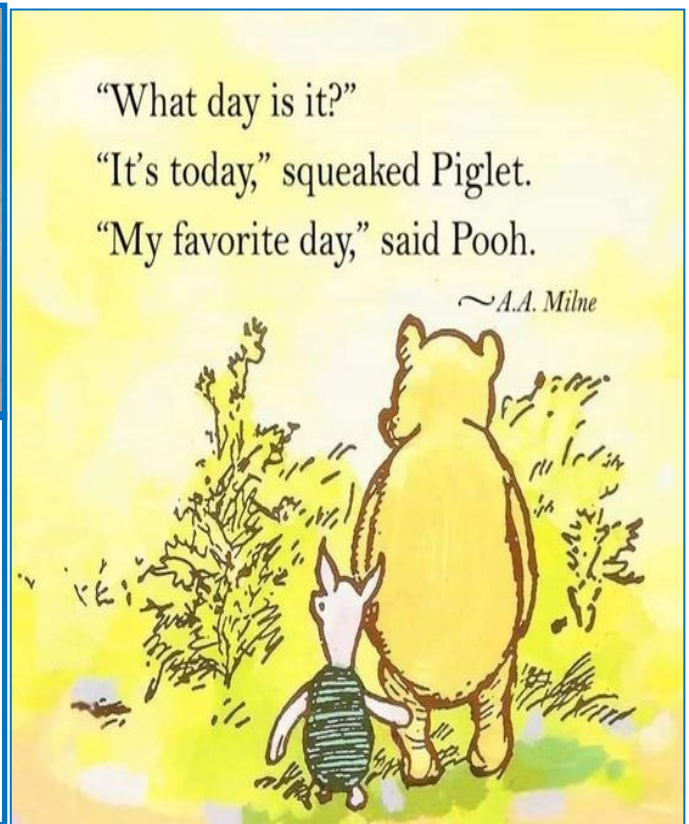




Lenora Church in the 1890's

Join us at **Lenora Church** on
Sunday, July 16 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. If anyone would like more information about the ministry at Lenora, please speak with Pastor Mark.



Saturday, August 26th - 3pm, dinner at 5pm

Mark your calendar for Harry & Elaine Boland's Annual Fish Fry. It will be an afternoon filled with enjoying the outdoors, laughter, games, fun and fellowship... not to mention, amazing fish and BBQ will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Welcome to come at 3pm, dinner is at 5pm!



Thanks to Tom Ramaker for touching up the paint on the sign over the entry to the Faith Church and to Norma Merkel for her assistance with the scaffolding!





Annual Conference Report
Pastors Mark and Deanna Woodward and Preston Church member John Goutcher attended this year's United Methodist Minnesota annual conference meeting in St. Cloud on May 31-June 1. The theme of this year's gathering was "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience." Based on the Emmaus Road story in Luke 24: 13-35, Bishop Lanette Plambeck reminded those present that this story of the two disciples on the road is our story, too, and that the impossible becomes possible through encounters with the resurrected Christ who brings healing, reconciliation and hope. During this challenging time in the United Methodist Church, she invited us to lean in to one another and declare that there is enough love for all of us. She reminded each person: You are loved. You

are a child of God and a person of worth.

Rev. Dr. Michael Beck of Florida was also a featured conference speaker. Beck co-pastors two Florida churches and a network of "fresh expressions" led by laity that gather in various public spaces. "Dinner church" is an easy starting point for a fresh expression, Beck said. Others that he's involved with center around people's shared interests and hobbies and take place in a tattoo parlor, online, at a restaurant, a hair salon, a dog park, and even at an electric car charging station.

Milestones in ministry were observed, including the honoring of 14 clergy who entered retirement. Four pastors were newly ordained as elders, two were commissioned as provisional members, 13 were authorized to serve as licensed local pastors and three local pastors were recognized for completing their five-year course of study.

Resolutions were approved opposing assault-style weapons, addressing the Israeli detention of children, and supporting both a U.S. Regional Conference and the re-wording of language related to human sexuality in the Book of Discipline. Conference members also approved disaffiliation agreements made with 14 local churches that have chosen to leave the UMC. After the vote, the Bishop asked that we pray that even as we part ways, may these congregations continue to live out their faith and serve as beacons of light and hope.

More information is available on the conference website: minnesotaumc.org.

Faith United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Kingsland SACCC program. Your donation will help us continue to provide affordable childcare for working families and fun activities for children attending school age childcare.

We are truly grateful for your congregation's continued support of Kingsland!

Scott Klavetter, Superintendent Kingsland Public Schools





To Faith UMC,
Thank you for your 2023 gift to Spring Valley Area Food Shelf. Your gift in support of services for the needy will be put to use immediately.
The Spring Valley Area Food Shelf is blessed by extraordinary generosity. Faithful supporters such as you make the difference in the lives of many. With your help we strive to build whole and healthy lives in our community. We are grateful to have partners such as you willing to step forward and support those acting to change their lives in the face of life's challenges. Together, we are making a difference for our neighbors in need.

Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness so that all can live in our community with dignity and hope.

Sincerely,

Annette Johnson

Carol Gross, Rita Hartert, Steve Heusinkveld, Sharon Jahn, Maureen Johnson, Gail Rollie, and Pastors Mark and Deanna Woodward



*"Singing Joyful Praises
Unto the Lord"*

Church Night at the Fillmore County Fair

Tuesday, July 18th at 7:00 p.m.

"Big Barn" Fillmore County Fairgrounds

Rev. Mark Woodward

Maple Leaf Parish United Methodist Churches
Spring Valley, Cherry Grove, Fountain and Preston

Sister Luu
Today's Music in Today's World

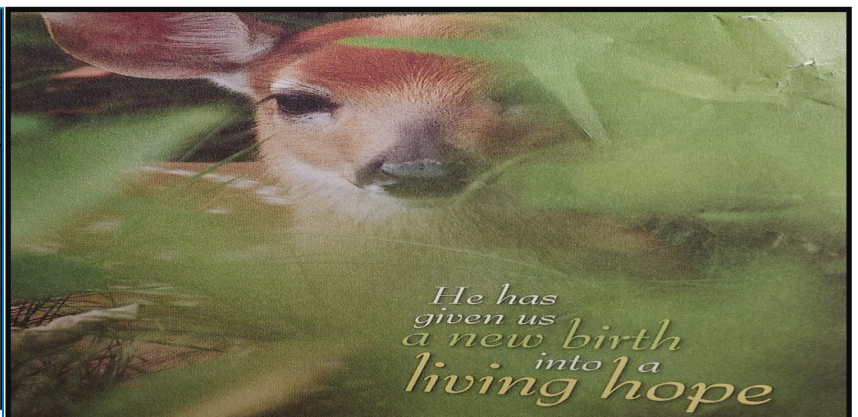


**Free Will Donation benefitting
Preston Area Food Shelf**

Come support the local Food Vendors who will be available before church night.

"We always thank God...when praying for you."

Colossians 1:3





Our parish is sponsoring a one day camp experience at Good Earth Village this year in the **Adventurers** program. Youth in grades K-4 will be able to participate in a one day program on July 25th, from 9am-4pm. The **Adventurers program** is a day-long camp experience. Each camper will get a taste of some typical Good Earth Village camp activities, including worship, Bible study, outdoor games, and water activities. The schedule may be adjusted to fit other camp programs and weather. Lunch and a snack will be provided

Please register no later than July 20th, there is limited availability so you are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

To learn more visit www.goodearthvillage.org

Registration forms are also available on this site or paper forms are available at the Faith church.

Make sure to register for the Adventurers program. The Maple Leaf Parish will finance this day camp experience. Please reach out to Pastors Deanna and Mark if you have questions.

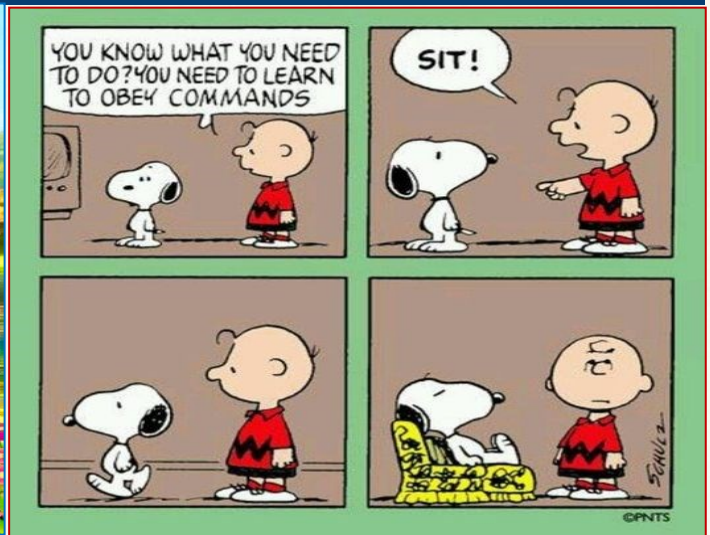
Summer Camp 2023



SOMETIMES IT'S ONLY A LITTLE
THING THAT GIVES US HOPE ...



Faith UMC member Eileen Churchill celebrated her 102nd birthday on June 11th. Happy belated birthday.



**HEY!!!! SOMETHING FUN!!!! SOMETHING FUN FOR EVERYONE.
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS..
CAMPFIRE SING ALONG WITH BRENDA AND MATT STIER**



Sunday, July 30th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Campfire Sing Along with Matt and Brenda Stier, near the new cross at Spring Valley Faith Church....

Bring your lawn chair, blanket, etc. bring your own roasting forks if you'd like to roast hotdogs, marshmallows, etc.

We'll provide lemonade...

Hopefully it will be a beautiful summer evening for singing, and Christian fellowship....

Please help spread the word....and invite folks to come...

(We definitely need rain right now and if it is raining on July 30th this event will be indoors.)



**Faith United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes**

June 8, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Present: Pastors Deanna Woodward and Mark Woodward, Gail Rollie, Gene Halverson, Mary Grems, Diane Howard, Harry Boland, Stu Gross, Jane Baker

SPRC-no items

Church Council- Diane Howard called the meeting to order, Pastor Deanna opened with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Gail made a motion to approve, Gene seconded. Motion approved. Mark made a motion to approve Diane Howard as the new Administrative Council Chair, Mary seconded. Motion approved.

Finance Committee-Deanna explained the current cash flow issue the church is experiencing and reviewed current accounts. Motion was made by Diane Howard to move CDs that will mature at the end of June to First National Bank and renew for 1 year. In addition, to establish a Line of Credit for 3 months and review in the fall. This is to be used only as needed for monthly bills. Stu seconded, motion approved. A collaboration of individuals will work to prepare a communication to be sent to members.

Mark made a motion to appoint Harry Boland and Diane Howard as signatories for bank accounts and checks. Gail seconded. Motion approved

Lay Leadership committee has suggested to invite H&R Block to an Administrative Council Meeting to discuss opportunities they could provide. It was decided to delay until August.

Trustee- Edging on the sign above the church entrance needs to be repainted, need someone to do this. Bill for spraying from Todd Merkel was \$125 instead of \$150, church member made donation to pay this.

United Women of Faith- Kitchen cleaning is being planned for June 15th at 9:30.

Membership Committee-Mary reported the total membership is now 252 due to the withdrawal of Andrea Clement Siewert, Jan and Loren Hammon.

Mission Committee-No report

Education Committee-Meeting scheduled for June 20th to plan for Bible School in August.

Worship Committee-Volunteers are needed to assist with the streaming of Sunday church services. Also, anyone who can assist with troubleshooting issues as they occur. Plan is to continue to provide the streaming service unless we fail to have any volunteers. There is an outdoor service being planned for July 2 and Brad Boice will be here September 24th.

Pastor Report-Father's Day is June 18th, all father's will receive a special gift on that Sunday. Annual Conference report will be included in the July newsletter. There will be a Blood Drive at the Church on June 22 from 1-7 p.m. June 26th Pastors will meet with the District Superintendent who is visiting with clergy throughout the District, with Preston as the meeting place. During Annual Conference the superintendent expressed gratitude to everyone and asked to keep up the good work in the revitalization of the Maple Leaf Parish.

Annual Fish Fry: Hosted by Harry Boland and his family will be on August 26th, rain date is September 23. Gail Rollie made a motion to adjourn, Mary seconded, motion approved. Meeting ended at 8:15.

Faith UMW

Women of Faith met on June 15th for our monthly meeting with six members present. Nancy opened with a reading about restoration with campers and our bodies by Buck Storm. Motion by Mary and seconded by Marilyn to accept minutes of meeting. Motion approved. Treasurer's report was read, motion by Nancy and second by Danette to accept. Motion Approved.

Marilyn asked about Birthday party at Ostrander Care Center. She will talk with Luann Garrison to see when Cherry Grove is doing it and go from there.

Next meeting will be on July 12th, Marilyn will host and Nancy will ask Lois to do opening. Motion to adjourn by Mary and second by Marilyn, motion approved. We adjourned to kitchen, cleaned cupboards, coffee pots and sorted out utensils that we no longer need and put on tables after church for people to take.

Submitted by Norma Merkel

Comments on the Compromise

When a person asks, Just what exactly is the “compromise plan” that is being talked about in regards to the disaffiliation discussion, the response is, the best it can be described, it means the churches of the Parish can continue as they have been. They can have ministers with traditional values, they will not be required to perform same sex marriages, or will not be assigned a same sex pastor. And the churches of the Parish will stay in the United Methodist Conference, a church that still believes in the virgin birth of Jesus, the Son of God, and all of his teachings and resurrection as the foundation of the church. This compromise has been approved and supported by the district superintendent, and the bishop, and these promises are being put into writing.

The compromise is not perfect, it takes a lot of faith to work with it. In fact, the biggest reason to try the compromise may be that it allows the Maple Leaf Parish to continue. There has been much prayer and discussion about this, including, can any one of the churches of the Parish continue on its own? Well, it’s the reason we have a Parish in the first place - the Parish has made all 4 churches stronger than before the Parish, and do we want to see that messed up? What if all 4 churches dis-affiliated? The cost of all the churches in the Parish to disaffiliate is around \$250,000.

We all crave information, this is all the information I have. I am just getting some facts out, again. There are lots of questions that go with this topic. Many church pastors have not even brought up this topic. Ours have been open and encouraged people to ask questions.

The art of the compromise.....

Phil Hebrink

THE TIME IS HERE TO MOVE FORWARD.....

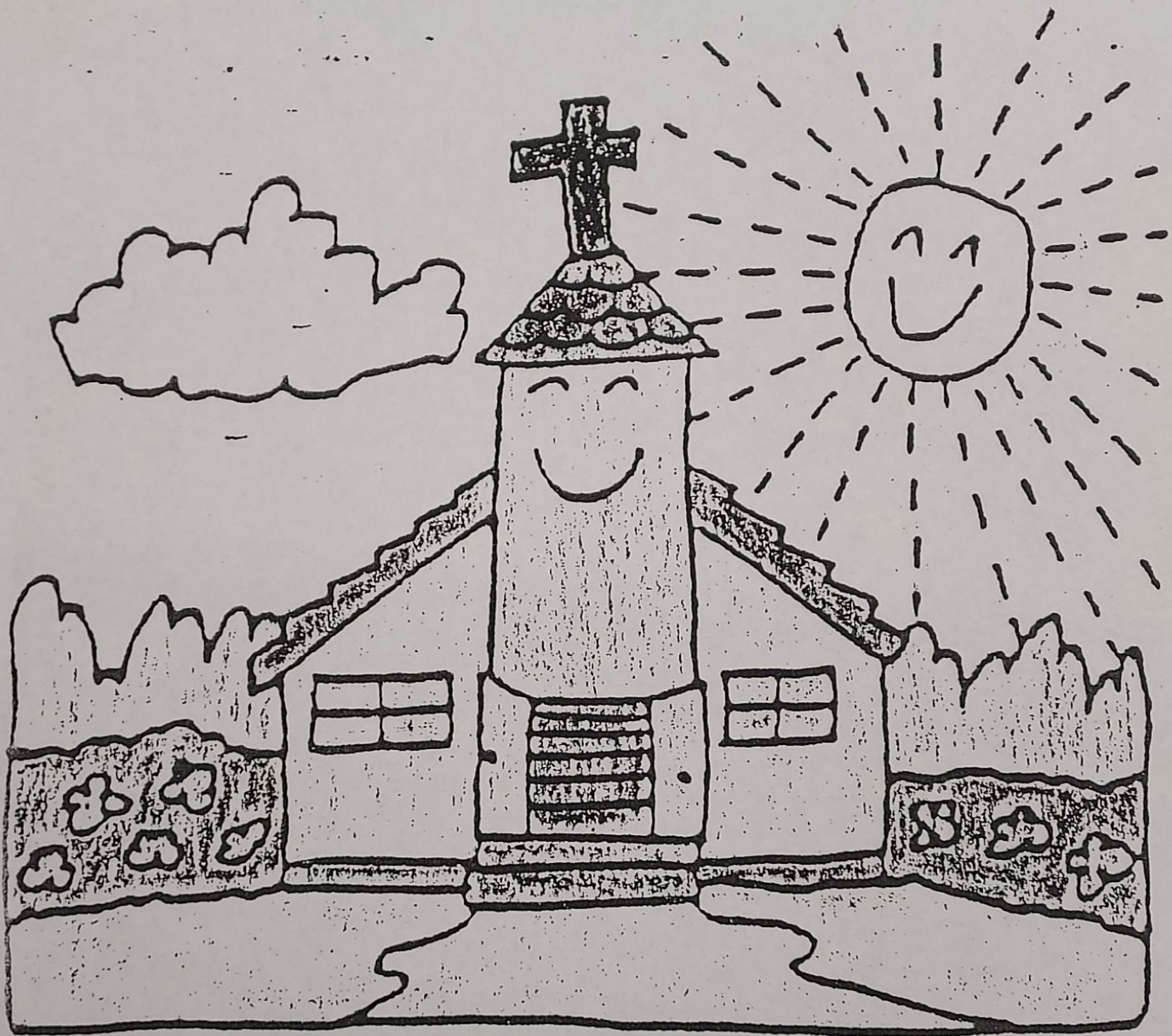
following up on Phil Hebrink's article.....

The churches of the Maple Leaf Parish have embraced the concept put forward by "the compromise" to remain part of the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church but to function as we always have as traditional evangelical churches. (In essence upholding the status quo to function in ministry as we always have.) Bishop Plambeck, and Rev. Hargrave, our District Superintendent, have endorsed, affirmed and given their support to this concept. It has been noted in the church's profile and has been documented in various places.

We are people of faith and commitment who are dedicated to walking with Jesus in mission and ministry in our local communities and throughout the world. The time is here to move forward....to move forward in mission and ministry to live and share the Good News of Jesus! This requires we step forward in faith and trust, believing God will lead us and guide us into each new day! It is my prayer that all four of our churches will move into the future committed to being vitally alive in ministry. Remember, there are no perfect churches and there are no perfect people except for Jesus. As new days unfold, we are committed to walking with Jesus each and every day.

Yes! We are called to be people of faith trusting God to lead us forward!

-- Pastor Mark



The friendly church
is an inviting church!



Maple Leaf Parish
Cherry Grove UMC, Faith UMC, Fountain UMC, Preston UMC

JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11 am wedding, Faith UMC
28:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship-Outdoor Service 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6 pm Cowboy Church Communion	3	4 Cherry Grove Parade- 11 am Lunch @ Cherry Grove UMC- 12	5	6	7	8
9 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	10 CG Council -7	11 Men's Breakfast @ B&B in Preston - 8 am Preston Council- 7 pm	12 Faith UMW- 9:30 am	13 Faith SPRC-6 pm Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	14	15 Root Family Reunion, Faith UMC
16 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Lenora Worship	17	18 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am -Church Night @ Fillmore County Fair 7 pm	19	20 Good Earth Village Day Camp Registration deadline	21 Newsletter Deadline	22
23 9 Faith Worship 10:30 Parish Outdoor Worship in Fountain & Picnic	24	25 Men's Breakfast @ B&B in Preston 8 am Good Earth Village Day Camp 9-4	26	27	28	29
30 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 7 pm Campfire Serv. SV	31					

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

Spring Valley, MN
U.S. Postage Paid
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Bulk Rate

Address Service Requested

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

