



# Maple Leaf Parish

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6: 9

According to Greek mythology, a character named Sisyphus cleverly cheated death twice. As punishment, Zeus condemned him to push a large, heavy boulder up a hill. When Sisyphus and his rock reached the top, the rock always rolled back to the bottom, and Sisyphus had to begin his task all over again. This assignment was to be repeated over and over again, for all eternity. So a repetitive, frustrating, seemingly endless job is sometimes referred to as a “Sisyphean task.”

There are plenty of jobs we do in life that are repetitive. Mowing the lawn—unless we have a drought—is usually a weekly summer exercise. Shoveling snow has to be done every time there is a winter snow storm. Weeding the garden is necessary because the weeds are relentless. Parents of tots are changing diapers and straightening up messes throughout the day, until the little cherubs go to bed. There are meals to be cooked, dishes to be washed, laundry to be cleaned, floors to be mopped, gasoline to be pumped, cows to be milked, crops to be planted, tended and harvested. These are just a few examples of work that needs doing over and over to keep life running smoothly, and this is not to mention factory and other types of employment that involve repetitive activities.

But if we think about it, even within the repetitive “grind” there are many blessings. My maternal grandmother had a plaque on her kitchen wall that said, “Thank God for dirty dishes; they have a tale to tell. While others may go hungry, we’re eating very well. With home, health and happiness, I shouldn’t want to fuss. By the “stack” of evidence, God’s been very good to us.” Now I have this saying on our refrigerator at home and it reminds me of Grandma Dora, and also of the blessing of having food to serve the family when others are not as fortunate.

Having dirty laundry means that we have clothing to protect us from the elements. Changing diapers and cleaning up messes means that we are blessed with children and family. Caring for a home, a yard, a car, a farm, means that we are blessed with all of these when so many others are not. Repetitive tasks on the job mean that at least we are employed! And in our day and age we can be grateful for the many labor saving devices that our ancestors didn’t have.

In our churches, we are so grateful for the people, both paid and volunteer, who help with the tasks that keep our wheels turning. In many areas, we are in need of more volunteers to help take care of the blessings God has given us. Some jobs are repetitive, involve commitment and don’t always receive the recognition they should. But all are important as we look after the people, both children and adults, the property and the soul saving work that God has entrusted to us. And as we each participate, there will be a time when we can look back at what we have accomplished, and then (unlike Sisyphus) go on to the summit and take our rest beside the Rock of Ages, who will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Onward and upward, Pastor Deanna

## -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/](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://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-

### Coffee Hours have resumed!!

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

## Faith UMC Service Group

### AUGUST

*Gail Rollie	272-6882
Barbara Bush	346-7653
Tom Fenstermacher	346-2628
Rhett Krahn	346-2789
Brandon & Sara Stackhouse	273-8196
Joyce Warren	346-7832
Carol Rippentrop	715-768-5217

## 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  
Roy & Marcella Tibbals  
Art & Lori Scheevel (Co-Chair)  
Richard & Cheryl Serfling  
Nathan & Jolene Serfling  
Vicki Serfling

## Deadlines

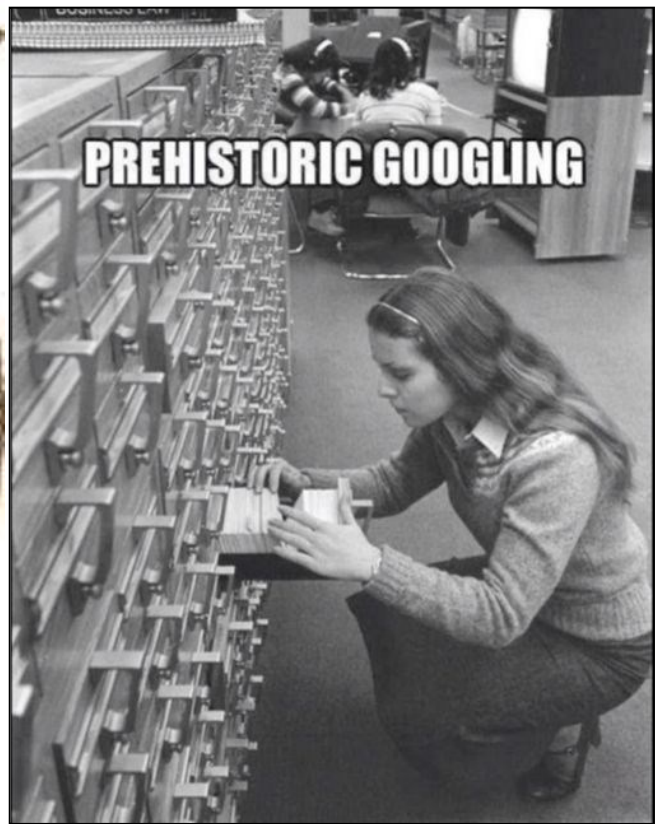
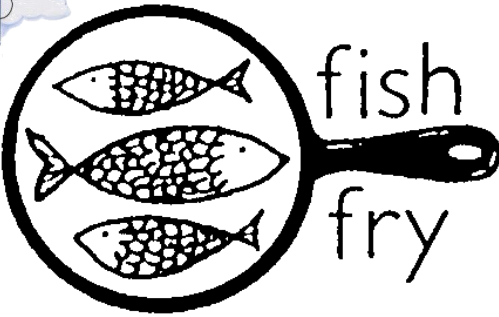
**Newsletter:** The newsletter deadline is the 21st of every month at 4:00 pm.

**Bulletin:** Please submit announcements for the Sunday bulletin by noon on Thursday.

Occasionally these deadlines may need to be adjusted. Please submit your articles as soon as possible.

Thank you for understanding.



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

THE BIG ANNUAL FISH FRY AND POTLUCK SUPPER IS COMING.

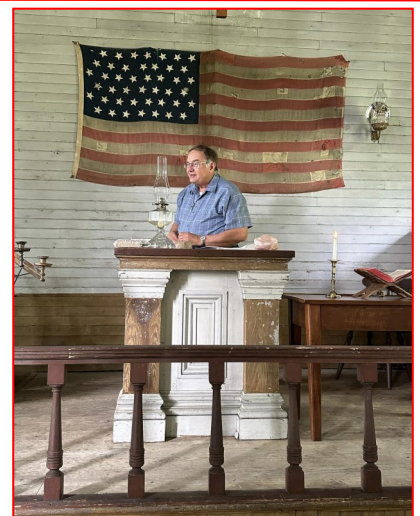
At the wilderness cabin of Harry and Elaine Boland, located approximately, one mile east of the Cherry Grove turn off on County Road 14, number is 19297. There will be a

sign at the end of road.

Everyone is invited to this fun annual event! People won't want to miss this special event. Please bring a dish to pass, utensils, lawn chairs and enjoy the mouthwatering, delicious fish. Thank you Harry and Elaine for this fun, happy annual tradition at your cabin in the woods

Join us at **Lenora Church** on  
**Sunday, August 20 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.





OUR CHURCHES NEED MORE PEOPLE TO BE INVOLVED  
IN SHARING  
THEIR TALENTS AND ABILITIES.

As we come into autumn, we realize the changing of the seasons. In the life of our churches the seasons are changing, too. We are in a time of moving to new beginnings, new opportunities and fresh approaches to ministry and being God's people as disciples of Jesus. We need people to step up and give of themselves in new ways to make new ministry happen in the course of a changing world.

Needed:

- ◆ Sunday School teachers and leaders in all of our churches...people who enjoy working with children and youth in ministry.
- ◆ Finance and treasury team in the Spring Valley Church
- ◆ Computer technology people in the Spring Valley church

Wouldn't it be great and awesome to have a rotating Maple Leaf Parish Praise Band team that could play contemporary Christian music in all four churches? Drums, guitars, vocalists, instrumentalists....

People willing to give of themselves in new ways....worship, fellowship, special events, etc. Let's make Fall, 2023 a time to branch out into new beginnings in the life of our four Maple Leaf Churches...God is calling our churches to some new beginnings to step forward TRUSTING in God's leading all the way. This very truly is a time for new beginnings as we share the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS! We must not focus on the things that are negative, but rather on the things that are positive and uplifting bringing people together for the common good. TOGETHER...LET'S BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST HERE AT HOME AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!



"Country at Heart" concert and Free Ice Cream

All are invited to the South Park Pavilion in Spring Valley at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 20th for a concert and ice cream. As part of the Ag Days celebration, the singing group "Country at Heart" will share their musical talents, followed by free ice cream for everyone at 3 p.m. Music and refreshments are compliments of the Spring Valley Area Ministerial Association. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for a fun afternoon!





**BRAD BOICE INSPIRING GOSPEL SINGER  
COMING TO SING THIS AUTUMN**

**September 24 in Spring Valley:**

Faith Church at 2p.m. as part of the 50th anniversary of the Faith Church building which was built in 1972. This will be a fun celebration, including an ice cream Social.

**October 22 in Preston:** Preston Church 2p.m. This, too, will be a special time to celebrate!

**November 5 at Lenora Church** beginning at 3:00 p.m. Brad really fills the old church with joyful music!

For all of these special events please help us in spreading the word and inviting people to come. Brad Boice is a really fun singer and there is never a dull moment! Very uplifting and inspiring!



REBIRTH AND THE NEW CREATURE 383

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us  
 \*5. In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
 step from the past and leave be - hind  
 to show and share what love can do,  
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

\*Alternate text for Holy Communion

**AS SUMMER BEGINS TO WANE, WE GET  
READY FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON**

Let's make this a great autumn season as we begin a new ministry and new mission in the life of the Maple Leaf Parish.

"THIS IS A DAY FOR NEW BEGINNINGS"  
 With God's help, let's make some great things happen in the Maple Leaf Parish! Please read the words of this powerful hymn found on page 383 of the UM Hymnal. God is doing some great things as we move forward with TRUST AND FAITH. It is by trust and faith that we move forward to embrace new opportunities and new ways to be in ministry....in all things always pray for your church and for the ministry to which we are called.

A NEW IDEA EMERGING  
A MINISTRY TO, WITH AND FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH  
WE'D LOVE YOU TO BE INVOLVED...

Kind of a pre confirmation class for young people upper elementary school and into middle school.

This innovative idea is still forming, but it would be for 5th, 6th, 7th grade young people who are on the verge of Confirmation. It would be a gathering of youth for learning, doing and experiencing. All of the details of this group have not yet come together, but it is a way to reach out to adolescent youth and their families to offer something kind of special in the area of Christian education and learning. Do you have a young person who would enjoy this experience? Please let Pastors Mark and Deanna know as we are beginning to plan this ministry now. This class or group would involve many different aspects of mission and ministry. Field trips, doing projects, going places, exploring, talking/visiting, worshipping together. It is currently planned to meet about twice a month. Let us now if your young person would like to be involved this could be a lot of fun for everyone.

NEW IDEAS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

In these post pandemic days we are looking for new ideas and new ways to lead our Sunday School, Christian education and youth ministry forward.

We need the involvement of more people giving of themselves to make great things happen for our boys, girls and youth.

What might Sunday School and Christian education look like in our churches this fall? How could more people be involved in giving leadership and giving of themselves? What would the schedule look like? Sunday mornings? Wednesday evenings?

Special activities? Events? Experiences?

We are looking at innovative and creative ways to make Sunday School and Christian education a lot of fun for this coming school year. We need more people to step up to the plate to make some great things happen for our boys and girls. We need to try new approaches to for more involvement and

participation for all ages.

Please stay tuned. We'd like to see some type of Christian education in all four of our Maple Leaf Churches. How could we make this happen? We need people in our churches to help and come up with an innovative approach for Sunday School and Christian education in our Maple Leaf Parish churches. We'd love to hear your ideas...we need to work together as a team for our children.





# SPRING VALLEY AG DAYS COMING UP AUGUST 19TH. WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE AG DAYS PARADE FLOAT

Help is needed with Faith Church's Ag Day Parade Float...

We need you to be involved! We could use a pick-up, tractor or some vehicle to pull our entry?  
Please speak with Jane in the church office and/or Mark and Deanna if you could be  
This year the money usually spent on parade candy will be given to the Spring Valley Food Shelf.



Maple Leaf Parish Outdoor Worship  
Service and  
Picnic. Held in the Fountain park on  
July 23rd. It was a Happy Day!



## Things We Learn From A Dog

- ◆ Have a happy attitude
- ◆ Greet everyone with enthusiasm
- ◆ Delight in the simple
- ◆ Don't hold grudges
- ◆ Explore everything
  - ◆ Be supportive
- ◆ Take plenty of rests
  - ◆ Accept treats
- ◆ Show passion with guests
- ◆ Be yourself
  - ◆ Love unconditionally





## WHERE DOES THE ROAD LEAD? LIVING BY FAITH, TRUST AND LOVE...



During these days, it is so important to live by faith and trust and to keep God's love in our hearts. We are on the journey of life together not knowing where the road leads... Nevertheless, in all of life we are called to live by faith trusting in God's presence each and every day. Sometimes the road is smooth and other times bumpy. Sometimes the road is straight and other times curvy. At other times the road can be full of detours and dead ends. During these summer days, please take time to think, pray, and read God's Word. This is a part of what it means to live by faith, trusting in God with us and living with

God's love in our hearts. The journey lies before us and we are called to live by faith and love trusting God each step of the way. --Mark

## HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

~~A Friend Invited Me - 86%~~

Organized Visitation - 6%

Invited by the Pastor - 6%

Advertising - 2%

churchgrowth.org



Invite a Neighbor to Church

## HEY! THE TIME IS HERE! BE SURE TO INVITE NEW PEOPLE TO COME JOIN US IN MINISTRY...

During the summer people are often on the move... "For Sale" signs go up and they are replaced by "Sold" signs. Let us be in the business of welcoming new people and inviting them to come to church with us! Each of our churches is committed to reaching out to invite and welcome new people... so, now is the time! Be sure to invite and welcome that new person -- that new family in your neighborhood and invite them to come to church with you as we reach out in Christian love.



**Cherry Grove United Methodist Church  
Administrative Council  
July 20, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Mark.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Marlo Mensink made a motion to approve and was seconded by Phil Hebrink.

**Financial Report:** The financial report was reviewed. Pastor Mark made a motion to approve and was seconded by Marlo Mensink.

**Trustees Report:**

The basement windows need to be painted inside and out.

The Brusse Family will be having a family reunion on October 7 in the church basement.

Pastor Mark noted that we need to update the road signs as they are getting very faded.

This needs to be done before winter.

**Pastor's Report**

July 23 – Outdoor service in Fountain at 10:30 a.m. with a picnic to follow. There will be no services in Cherry Grove that day.

August 26 – Boland's Fish Fry

August 27 – Phil will lead church in Cherry Grove as both pastors are on vacation.

There was discussion regarding the Pork Dinner. A motion was made by Marlo Mensink and seconded by Phil Hebrink to have the dinner. Date to be determined as we need to check with other events to make sure we don't have it on the same day as others.

A motion was made by Marlo Mensink and seconded by Corey Sanford to adjourn the meeting.

**Faith UMW-**

Women in Faith met on July 12, 2023 with six women present. Nancy called the meeting to order, Lois lead the opening with a poem by Ellen Gates, "Your Mission". Motion by Marilyn and second by Danette to accept the minutes from the June meeting, motion carried.

Motion by Lois and second by Nancy to accept the Treasurer's report, motion carried.

New business; Ostrander Care Center birthday party on Thursday, August 3rd 3 p.m. Marilyn is checking to determine what to serve and will let Norma know after talking with the Care Center. Nancy will ask Rosalie to play the accordion.

Marilyn reported they have 21 residents and 10 staff, and suggested they serve Lemon Lasagna. Care Center will furnish the plates and drinks. We will serve dessert and furnish napkins. Other new business a discussion to give a donation to the Ukraine children, Mark Lindquist, a motivational speaker from Fargo, recently presented on this topic. Nancy made motion to give \$100 to Ukraine children, second by Danette, motion carried. Nancy will give Norma information regarding where to send the check. Next meeting August 9th at 9:30, Nancy will check with Vivian for coffee and goodies. Norma will do opening.

Motion to adjourn by Danette, second by Nancy, motion carried.



# Preston Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2023

Present: Pastor Mark Woodward, Pastor Deanna Woodward, Jenny Dornink, John Goutcher, Sue Hovey, Nancy Dahly, Jerry Brink, Marlene Peterson.

Pastor Deanna called the meeting to order on July 11, 2023 at 7:09 pm. Opening devotion and prayer was led by Pastor Mark.

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

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

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, the expenses in May were less than income, while expenses in June were slightly more than income. In May and June, \$700 was received to be designated for the landscaping project. General expenses have remained consistent with previous months. John moved to approve the May and June Treasurer Reports as presented. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed.

From the Finance Committee, Dan reported the average weekly offering for May was \$1104, which was more than the weekly needed amount of \$1000.17. Average weekly offering for June was \$1075.75. Apportionment received by the end of June was \$1075. Apportionments received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter have been sent into the Conference, for a total apportionment paid to date of \$1299. At the end of June, 53% of the budget has been spent. Average attendance during May was 25, and average attendance in June was 23 people.

From the Trustees Committee, Jerry reported he recently changed the furnace filters. The landscaping project started on July 10 and is looking remarkable so far. Pastor Mark proposed getting one more winter's use of the current parking lot and doing research in the meantime so the project could possibly be done in 2024.

From the Worship Committee, Pastor Mark reported July 23 will be the combined services of the Maple Leaf Parish at the Fountain ball park. Potluck to follow the 10:30am service. Church night at the Fair will be July 18 at 7pm in the Big Barn with Sister Luv providing music. August 26 is the annual fish fry at Harry and Elaine Boland's.

No report from the Missions Committee.

## PUMC Finance Committee Report

### May

Amount needed each week \$1000.16

Average weekly offering \$1104.00

Total over budget to date \$103.84

May average attendance-25

### June

Amount needed each week \$1000.16

Average weekly offering \$1075.75

Total over budget to date \$75.79



## Faith Administrative Council Minutes

July 13, 2023 6:30 p.m.

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

### **SPR-no items**

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

**Finance Committee-** CDs were renewed at First National Bank. Diane and Jane will work with First National Bank to establish a Line of Credit. Finance Committee is in need of new members.

**Trustee-** Edging on the sign above the church entrance was repainted by Tom Ramaker. Toilet paper holders were replaced and installed by Harry and Elaine Boland.

**United Women of Faith-** Kitchen cleaning was completed on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30, with six women assisting. Women will be hosting a Birthday Party at Ostrander Care Center on August 3. Decision was made to donate \$100 to the children of Ukraine.

**Membership Committee-** Mary reported the total membership is 252. Don and Jan Lanning wedding on July 1 is documented.

**Mission Committee-** Nancy reported she is pursuing options for the church to raise funds for children of Ukraine.

**Education Committee-** Discussion regarding the Sunday School program and need to recreate. Options discussed were involving more individuals and possibly engaging more cross-generational individuals.

**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. Outdoor service was held on July 2. Brad Boice will be here September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00, more details to come.

**Pastor Report-** July 30<sup>th</sup> is the outdoor campfire sing a long with Matt and Brenda Stier. Need to finalize plans for Ag Days float for parade. Harry Boland volunteered the use of his trailer again this year. Suggestion was brought up instead of purchasing candy to donate those funds to Food Shelf.

### **Open Your Heart Summer Challenge:**

Monetary contributions given to the Spring Valley Food Shelf during July will be matched through a challenge grant program. Make checks payable to the church with "Food Shelf" on the memo line. Help meet the rising food needs in our community.

Denis reported the AED is on back order and it could be several more months before it arrives.

Annual Fish Fry: Hosted by Harry and Elaine Boland and family will be on August 26<sup>th</sup>, rain date is September 23.









# AUGUST 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Worship Comm SV 5:30 Trustees SV 6:30	2	3 Faith UMW Birthday Party at Ostrander Care Center 3 p.m.	4	5
6 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6pm Cowboy Church Communion	7	8 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Preston Council- 7	9 Faith UMW- 9:30	10 Faith SPRC-6 Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	11	12
13 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	14 Cherry Grove Council -7	15 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am	16	17	18	19
20 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Lenora	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am	23	24	25	26 Parish Picnic @ Boland's Cabin Starts @ 3 Dinner @ 5
27 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship Guest Preachers	29	29 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am	30	31		

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

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U.S. Postage Paid  
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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