



# Maple Leaf Parish

June is traditionally a month for weddings, and Mark and I and many other couples celebrate wedding anniversaries in June. We were married in a church ceremony and the Christian Church itself has been described as being the “bride” of Christ.

A well-known hymn says “The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the Word; from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.” The Church is not perfect because it is made up of imperfect human beings, but it is created and loved by God and millions have been blessed over the ages by being a part of it.

We recently celebrated Pentecost Sunday, which is known as the birthday of the Church. Acts chapter 2 tells us that when the Holy Spirit visited the disciples who were gathered in prayer after Jesus’ ascension into heaven, Peter was inspired to preach and three thousand new believers were added to their number that day. Acts 2:42 goes on to say “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

The new believers immediately became part of the Christian community and devoted themselves to the fellowship. When we think of fellowship today, we may picture people drinking coffee and eating desserts. These are great tools to lead to fellowship, but it goes deeper than that. The early Christians shared spiritual experiences together, shared resources, worshipped, and broke bread together—both communion and other meals, and in the process they rejoiced, cried and prayed with each other.

I was not raised in a church-going family, but when I became a new Christian, I knew that in order to become spiritually mature, I needed and wanted to be a part of the Church. Besides that, I was hungry to learn more of God and spend time with other believers! This was years before I thought about being a member of the clergy. And I have been and continue to be blessed by knowing so many beautiful Christian souls over the years! More than once I have been asked, “You can be a Christian without going to church, can’t you?” The answer is that it is Jesus who saves us, but we won’t mature or persevere in the faith without the fellowship of other Christians.

One night another pastor visited a member of his church who had stopped attending services. It was a chilly evening, and the man was at home alone, sitting before his fireplace. Welcoming his pastor in, the man offered him a comfortable chair near the fire. After some quiet minutes together, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it on one side of the hearth all alone. As the lone ember’s flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Later, the pastor picked up the cold, dead ember with the tongs and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave after their visit, the host said “Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the ‘fiery’ sermon. I will be back in church this Sunday.”

I am the Church. You are the Church. We are the Church together.

See you in church,

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/>

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.

## 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.

## -Service Groups-

### Faith UMC Service Group

#### JUNE

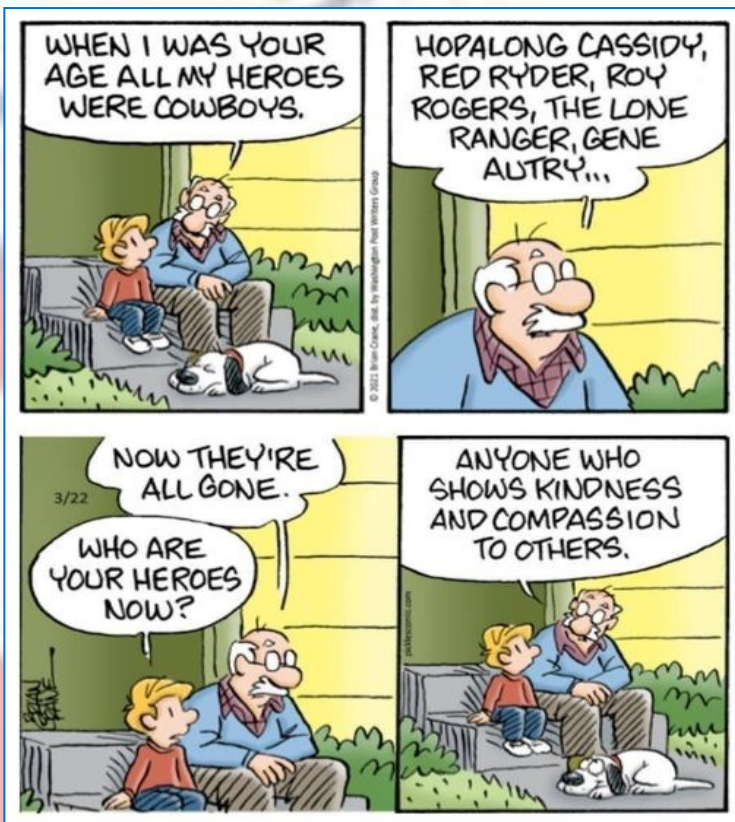
Chairperson\* Deanna Capelle 346-2149  
Brian & Amanda Miner 251-3986  
Mike & Bridget Ramaker 421-2959  
Tom & Lynette Ramaker 346-2094  
Gene & Gayle Reiland 346-2996  
Gerald & Judy Vreeman 251-8877  
Marti Warren 273-2727  
Rick & Julee Warren 346-1053

### 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



# 4th of July Parade

Cherry Grove  
Parade

Tuesday,

July 4th

@ 11 a.m.

Lunch will follow

at the Church

**PLEASE  
JOIN US ON  
JUNE 4TH  
AT 6 P.M.  
IN CHERRY GROVE**





Fun was had by all at Preston Trout Days parade



Fountain Cowboy Concert and Jam on April 30th at the Fountain Community Center was a great success! Thank you



# 2023 Graduate!

## CELEBRATION OF OUR GRADUATES...

In all of our churches there are people who are graduating from high school, college and various places of learning!!! We lift them in our prayers and we are thankful for the accomplishments of people young and old at all points of their lives!

Zac Shorter Faith UMC



### Graduates In Maple Leaf Parish

Zac Shorter– Faith UMC

Austin Lee– Faith UMC

Riley Cambern-College graduate-  
Fountain UMC



Cherry Grove graduates (l-r) Kadrian Scheevel, Jerome Storlie, Josie Sanford, Justin Atwood being congratulated by Rev. Deanna. Not pictured Luke Mensink

**JOIN US AT  
CAMP DO GOOD.**

*Give Blood.*

 American Red Cross

**Blood Drive**  
**Thursday June 22**  
**1:00 p.m.-7 p.m.**  
**Faith UMC Fellowship Hall**





# Confirmation



*Congratulations to the Faith UMC 2023 Confirmation Class*

*Cody Howard, Blake Krahn, Conner Merkel, Ben Wolfgram, Travis Moore, Meadow Hinze, Mylah Montgomery*



THE FISH...A CHRISTIAN SYMBOL...  
THANK YOU, KIEL ANDERSON

Special thanks to Mr. Kiel Anderson of Preston Church for making some beautiful wooden fish on his band saw.... These fish were given to recent Confirmation students this spring. They are a powerful reminder of our shared Christian faith. Thank you, Kiel, for making these inspiring fish as a gift for our young people....Kiel also made some fish for LIFT kids as well...Perhaps Kiel will make more of these fish in the future.... They are truly inspiring.

## PRESTON CHURCH TO BE RE-LANDSCAPED BEGINNING THIS SUMMER....

It needs it! Yes! The Preston Church building will receive new landscaping in the summer of 2023. The Tree House Nursery, a local nursery and landscaping company has been hired to complete the new landscaping which was presented in church a few Sundays ago. Here are some projected photos of how the completed project will look. Currently, as of May 24th, the landscaping is looking kind of forlorn with many weeds, stumps and bare spots, but soon it will look really sharp! Thank you to those who are making this project possible!



God never sends you into a situation alone. He goes before you. He stands beside you. He walks behind you. Whatever situation you are in right now, be confident...

He is with you.  
AMEN



June 18th

# Happy FATHER'S DAY



DAY

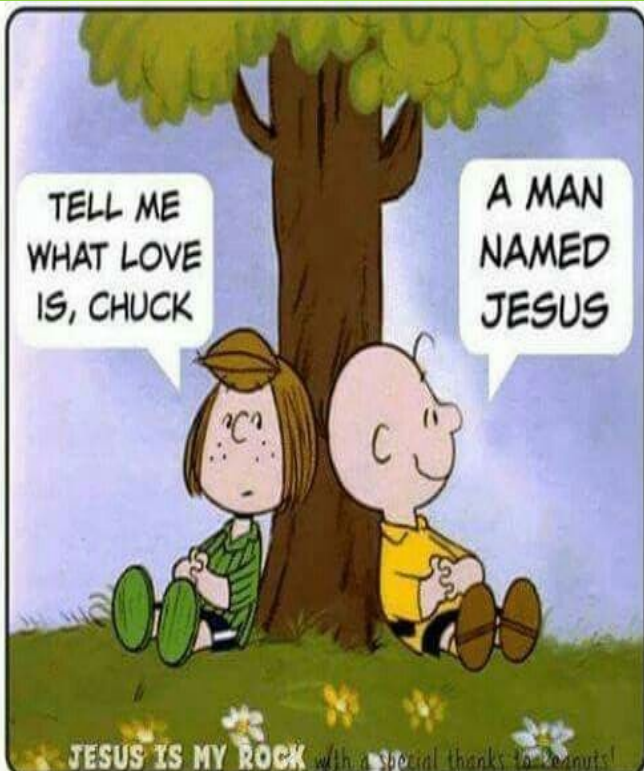
Join us at **Lenora Church** on **Sunday, June 18 at 3:00 p.m.**

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.

United Women in Faith (UMW) will meet on Thursday, June 15th, at 9:30 at Faith UMC. Coffee at 9:30, followed by a short business meeting. The program will be organizing and cleaning the kitchen. Everyone is welcome.



# Spring Cleaning



TELL ME WHAT LOVE IS, CHUCK

A MAN NAMED JESUS

JESUS IS MY ROCK with a special thanks to Beantits!

# Happy First Day of Summer

June 21st



Hey! This summer, in the midst of summer fun people are often on the move.....people are out and about enjoying the beauty and wonder of Minnesota weather.....

Camping, hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, parades, festivals, picnics, all kinds of fun summer things!!!!

Don't forget your church! Invite people to come join in our mission and ministry! Give of yourself in time, commitment and financial resources...

Let's promote the mission and ministry of the Maple Leaf Parish!!!!

SPRING VALLEY....CHERRY GROVE...PRESTON....FOUNTAIN.....



**Cherry Grove United Methodist Church  
Administrative Council Meeting  
May 8, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Members present: Denny Brusse, Pixie Nielsen, Marlo & Janice Mensink, Steve Tammel, Phil Hebrink, Gene Kappers, Pastors Mark & Deanna Woodward

Chairman Denny Brusse called the meeting to order. Rev. Mark opened with prayer. The April minutes were presented and approved on a motion by Marlo, seconded by Phil. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was prepared by Lori Scheevel. After review the report was approved on a motion by Phil, second by Gene. Motion carried. Trustees' report: Steve T. shared an estimate from Travis Volkert of \$1000 for new gutters and \$1000 for caulking windows and wrapping them with metal siding. After discussion, Steve will work with Travis on additional details. Denny contacted a repairman concerning the chimes. The chimes are 50 years old and due to the high cost to restoring them and the scarcity of replacement parts, it was advised not to repair them. The organ is also past its life expectancy and if it broke, the chimes would not work either. After checking with organists Luann Jones and Lois Nagel, the council agreed that the chimes should be taken down for safety reasons. Tony Boland will be setting up the air conditioner for the season. Gene K. will check with the Dalco Company on the repair or replacement of a soap dispenser. Pastor-Parish Relations Committee report: Phil commented that the compromise plan of staying in the United Methodist denomination as a traditional congregation is the best plan for Cherry Grove Church. After additional discussion, Phil moved and Pixie seconded the motion that Cherry Grove Church stay in the United Methodist denomination and continue to function as we currently are—as a traditional, evangelical congregation. Motion carried. Pastors' Report: Administrative Assistant Jane Baker will be out of the office May 12-20. May 21 is graduate recognition Sunday. On May 28, Deanna LichtyVon will be presenting a quilt. The pastors will be attending the Annual Conference in St. Cloud May 31-June 1. Rev. Mark Rader will be guest preaching on June 11. We will honor our cowboy musicians with a supper on June 25. The July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend was discussed. The consensus was to have Cowboy Church on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. The parade will be on Tuesday, July 4 at 11 a.m. with lunch following at the church. If available, the cowboy musicians may also have a jam session at the church at 1 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Phil moved that the meeting be adjourned. Marlo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Deanna Woodward, acting secretary



### **Fountain Administrative Council**

The Fountain UMC Admin. Council met at the church on May 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. with Steve and Sheila Arnold, Beezie Cambern, Loni Wingert, Joel and Sheila Walbridge, Jerry Wingert and Revs. Deanna and Mark Woodward attending. Chairman Steve Arnold called the meeting to order. Rev. Deanna opened with prayer. Minutes from the January Council meeting were read and approved on a motion by Jerry, seconded by Sheila A.

Treasurer Loni Wingert gave the financial report. The church insurance premium was paid in full in April for the year. Pandemic funds are being used up, leading to a lower general fund balance. Jerry moved and Beezie seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Trustee chairman Jerry W. reported that he is still waiting for an estimate from the local plumber on the replacing of galvanized pipes. There was discussion on the use of some Memorial funds for this work. The state may also provide some funds. Thanks were also given to Ron Reisner for putting new ends on the eaves spouts.

Old business: The April Cowboy Concert was very successful. The lunch receipts totaled \$610 and the concert offering was \$376. Several pounds of food and supplies were also given for the food shelf. Beezie moved that \$200 of the proceeds be paid to Rolling Hills Transit, with the remainder to the church building and general funds. Jerry seconded the motion. Motion carried. About 140 people attended the concert. Thanks go to Steve Arnold, Loni Wingert, to the many musicians and other volunteers and to the community for providing the hall.

Pastor Deanna asked if the congregation was ready to move away from using the sealed cups and wafers for communion. After discussion, Loni moved and Sheila A. seconded the motion to return to other methods of doing communion, using disposable communion cups. Motion carried.

New Business: The Council set July 23rd as the date for a Parish outdoor service at the park, with a potluck meal following and Fountain Church providing beverages. Steve Arnold and friends will lead the music.

Pastor's Report: Graduate recognition this Sunday, May 21. Wear red for Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Annual Conference is May 31-June 1 in St. Cloud. Rev. Mark Rader will guest preach on June 11. Fountain will host the Relay for Life again in July. The 60 mile garage sales are Sept. 15-16. The meeting was adjourned. Rev. Mark closed with prayer.

### **Faith UMW**

The Women in Faith of Faith church met on May 10<sup>th</sup> with 8 guests present. Nancy opened with a devotion. Motion by Lois and second by Nancy to accept minutes from April meeting. Motion carried. Motion by Marilyn Matson and second by Nancy to accept the treasurer report. Motion carried. Danette Steinmetz spoke about the Backpack program giving food to families for weekend meals. Anna Merkel started this program. We are honoring the graduates of 2023, Austin Lee and Zac Shorter on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Norma will order cake and also a gift for them. Next meeting June 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> with cleaning of the kitchen. Motion by Marilyn and second by Lois to adjourn. Motion carried. -Submitted by Norma Merkel

## Preston Church Council Minutes—May 9, 2023

Present: Pastor Mark Woodward, Pastor Deanna Woodward, Jenny Dornink, Marlene Peterson, Greg Dornink, Dollie Acton, John Goutcher, Jerry Brink.

Pastor Mark called the meeting to order on May 9, 2023 at 6:10 pm. Opening devotion and prayer was led by Pastor Mark.

Jenny moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed. Pastor Mark moved to approve the Secretary's Report. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed. In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, the expenses in April were less than income. There was a \$3000 donation designated for landscaping. April general expenses have remained consistent with previous months. The first quarter reimbursement was paid to Faith UMC. Property insurance will have an annual increase of \$47.96 per month, making the total annual premium \$4750. There was discussion about the CDs, renewal dates, and renewal rates. John moved to have the appropriate persons investigate the finance structure of the CDs and determine where the best place to renew the CDs might be and report back at the next meeting. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed. From the Finance Committee, it was reported the average weekly offering for April was \$734.40, which was less the weekly needed amount of \$1000.17. Apportionment received in April was \$40. At the end of April, 37% of the budget has been spent. From the Trustees Committee, Pastor Mark reported the committee met recently. They are continuing to research the landscaping project on the west side of the church and around the south side to the kitchen door. The Trustees are favoring the bid from The Treehouse. The current annual maintenance charge is \$150. There was a question about the payment schedule. Jerry will find out about payments. From the Worship Committee, Pentecost Sunday is on May 28. Mother's Day is coming up on May 14. Pastors Mark & Deanna will be on vacation in June. There will be a guest pastor on June 11. Plans are in the works for the Trout Days float, they are looking for a row boat. No report from the Missions Committee. No report from Staff/Parish Relations Committee. No report from Evangelism and Outreach Committee. From the Education Committee, Pastor Mark reported the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of LIFT ended and there were favorable reviews from kids and parents. No report from the UMW. In Business, Jenny reported the Codfish Dinner was a success! There was great help that made the day go very smoothly. We served about 450 people. During the Pastor's Report, there will be a funeral lunch at PUMC on May 19 for a relative of the Gilsrud family. Their family member is being buried at the Veteran's Cemetery. Fillmore Central Baccalaureate will be May 21. Pastor Mark will be helping with Memorial Day activities in Preston. Annual Conference will be at the end of May. John moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Jenny Dornink, PUMC Council Secretary*



## Faith United Methodist Church Administrative Council Minutes

May 11, 2023 6:30 p.m.

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

**SPRC**-no items

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

**Finance Committee**-Two CD's at First State Bank are coming due the end of June. Gene and Gail will check local Spring Valley bank rates to determine most beneficial for renewal and locate the documents.

Mark presented a proposal from H&R Block to manage the payroll and bookkeeping for the church. The cost for this would be \$4500 per year. Decision was made to table until a new Treasurer and Finance chair are found.

Last month when the committee approved to proceed in leasing a new copy machine from E.O. Johnson the bid presented did not include a stapler. Gail Rollie made a motion to move forward in leasing the copier with stapler option, Gene seconded. Motion approved.

**Trustee**- Mary made a motion to accept a bid from Todd Merkel to spray the church lawn for \$150, Denis seconded. Motion approved

Received a bid to remove and dispose of Ash trees. Nancy made a motion to accept the bid, Gail Rollie seconded. Motion approved.

**United Women of Faith**- UMW met on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Kitchen cleaning is being planned for June 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership Committee**-Mary reported the total membership is now 255 with the addition of the 2023 confirmation class; Meadow Hinze, Mylah Montgomery, Conner Merkel, Ben Wolfgram, Cody Howard, Travis Moore, and Blake Krahn.

**Mission Committee**-No report

**Education Committee**-Volunteers did a great job with Sunday School and Confirmation this year. Currently working on plans for the summer.

**Pastor Report**-Pastor's Report: During these tender days in the UMC, Pastor Mark expressed his commitment to uphold his vows of ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church and to do his best to emulate the mission, teaching and life of Jesus. He further expressed his commitment to working for unity of purpose in mission and ministry during these challenging days. Pastor Mark is eager to move forward in mission and ministry in building UP the Body of Christ in mission and ministry in Fillmore County. The Four Maple Leaf Parish churches have much to offer when they work together in living and sharing the Good News of Jesus. Mark wants our churches to grow in vitality and energy in trying new ideas and reaching out to share the life and ministry of Jesus. Deanna-Lay Leadership Committee is meeting to determine replacements for Jan Hammon which includes Treasurer, Finance Chair and individuals to count weekly offering. Jane Baker will be away May 12-19. Mother's Day is this Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be gifts for all Mother's. May 21<sup>st</sup> is Graduate Recognition day, there are two seniors, Zac Shorter and Austin Lee. May 23<sup>rd</sup> Pastors are attending an Annual Conference Clergy meeting via Zoom and May 28<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. Pastors will be attending Annual Conference in St. Cloud May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mark will be presenting at the Memorial Day service at the Veterans Cemetery in Preston.

Harry Boland reminded everyone of the Annual Fish Fry that his family will be holding. Tentatively planning to have it on August 26<sup>th</sup>, but are very open to suggestions on a date/time that works.

Nancy and Denis recently attended a church service in New Prague, which was held on a Wednesday evening. The service included a meal, activities for children and communion. The recommendation was made to present to the Worship Committee.

Gail Rollie made a motion to adjourn, Mary seconded, motion approved. Meeting ended at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary,  
Jane Baker

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



# JUNE 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| Sun  | Mon                              | Tue  | Wed                                      | Thu   | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|---|-----|-----|
|  |                                  |  |  | 1<br>Annual Conference,<br>St. Cloud, MN<br>7 p.m. Faith<br>Finance Committee | 2   | 3   |
| 4 Communion<br>8:30 Fountain Worship<br>9 Faith Worship<br>10 CG Worship<br>11 Preston Worship<br>6pm Cowboy Church          | 5                                | 6<br>Men's Breakfast in<br>Preston- 8 am<br>5:30 Faith Worship<br>Committee<br>6:30 Faith Trustees | 7  | 8<br>Faith SPRC-6<br>Faith Finance-6:30<br>Faith Council-7                    | 9   | 10  |
| 11:30 Fountain<br>Worship<br>9 Faith Worship<br>10 CG Worship<br>11 Preston Worship<br>Guest Preachers                       | 12<br>Cherry Grove<br>Council -7 | 13<br>Men's Breakfast in<br>Preston - 8 am   | 14<br>United Women of<br>Faith , SV 9:30 | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18 Father's Day<br>8:30 Fountain<br>Worship<br>9 Faith Worship<br>10 CG Worship<br>11 Preston Worship<br>3:00 Lenora Worship | 19                               | 20<br>Men's Breakfast in<br>Preston 8am  | 21<br>Newsletter<br>Deadline             | 22<br>Red Cross Blood<br>Mobile at Faith<br>1:00-7:00 pm                      | 23  | 24  |
| 25 8:30 Fountain<br>Worship<br>9 Faith Worship<br>10 CG Worship<br>11 Preston Worship<br>5 p.m. Cowboy<br>Appreciation-CG    | 26                               | 27<br>Men's Breakfast in<br>Preston- 8 am  | 28                                       | 29  | 30  |     |

**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