

Maple Leaf Parish

Over the years I have much appreciation for Charles Schulz and his Peanuts characters. On Facebook I enjoy "Snoopy's Everybody's Best Friend." Now as summer moves ever closer to Autumn, I saw a Peanuts cartoon which kind of spoke to a late summer afternoon. We see Charlie Brown and his pals gathered around on what could be a late summer's day. Lucy is watering sunflowers with the hose, Linus is sitting in the doorway with his blanket, Sally is smiling, Snoopy is taking a nap and Charlie Brown and Woodstock are enjoying some watermelon. The fan is blowing a cool breeze and everyone seems happy and content. It is a peaceful picture depicting a late summer theme.... As I look at this picture, I think to myself, "Wouldn't it be awesome if people everywhere could enjoy the gentleness, happiness and peace of a late summer's afternoon?"

Charles Schulz as a cartoonist often depicts theological and biblical themes. In the Peanuts characters, one finds various storylines that portray themes of Christian faith and the Christian journey as disciples of Jesus. A few days ago, it was really hot outside, the pool was closing and my little grandson Connor and I decided to watch a movie together. We turned on "It's a Charlie Brown Christmas" and watched as the Peanuts characters told the story of the birth of Jesus. It was a blessed afternoon.

It is almost September. It is time to think about autumn activities and events and to reflect back on the beauty and wonder of summer as the season draws to a close.

It is time to give thanks for those beautiful blessings that we share together....the blessings of family, friends, community, church, faith, love, sunflowers and watermelon.

Charlie Brown and his friends were gathered together on that summer's afternoon. They were sharing together in the goodness of life and the goodness of God's love surrounding them in the simple blessings of life. As summer moves ever closer to Autumn, let's take time to think about the blessings we share together and find ways that we can help and encourage others around us. There is a certain peace and simple beauty depicted by Charles Schulz -- the Peanuts characters together - on a late summer's day. In all things, let us give thanks to God for the blessings we share together and may we be people who build up and encourage others as we live and share the Good

News of Jesus.

Lucy is watering the sunflowers, Sally is smiling by the door, Linus is cuddling his blanket, Snoopy is taking a nap, Charlie Brown and Woodstock are enjoying some watermelon and the fan is blowing a cool breeze. Life is good and we are blessed. Let us share our blessings with others all to the glory of God!

God's blessings always, Pastor Mark Woodward The Maple Leaf Parish



- September 2023 Newsletter-

-Contact Information-

Pastor Mark

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@ mark.woodward.ponderosa@gmail.com

Pastor Deanna

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@revdeannaw@gmail.com

Parish Office Info

9:30-4:15 Tuesday through Friday

507-346-2830

@faithunited@centurytel.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/

You can find Preston UMC by

searching for Preston MN United

Methodist Church

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

SEPTEMBER

*Stuart & Carol Gross	346-7113
Andrew & Paisley Baker	251-3653
Geoffrey & Melissa Erdman	352-5678
Caleb & Jenna Fischer	251-0582
Mark & Deb Larson	346-2374
Dan & Kim Terbeest	346-7482

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.

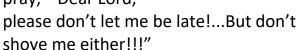
A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class.

As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her

clothes dirty and tearing her dress.

As she got up, brushed herself off, and started running again, she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord,







August Cowboy Church



Rampant wildfires on the island of Maui, Hawaii, coupled with hurricane winds have caused devastating loss to the community of Lahaina. The Lahaina United Methodist Church was destroyed. Monetary gifts for community recovery efforts may be placed in the offering, with checks

written to our local church and "Hawaii Relief Fund" on the memo line.



GIVING PRAISE AND THANKGIVING TO GOD.... 50th Anniversary of the Spring Valley: FAITH CHURCH building Consecrated to the glory of God on May 13, 1973.



On Sunday, September 24th there will be a celebration at Spring Valley: Faith United Methodist Church commemorating the 50th anniversary of the church building which was consecrated to the glory of God in 1973. The plans leading to the building of Faith Church started in about 1969 following the uniting of Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church, Methodist Memorial Church, and First United Church of Christ in Spring Valley. Pastors John Payne and Paul Bosshardt served the Spring Valley Church at that time.

In September of 1969 land was found for the eventual construction of the new Faith United Methodist Church. Construction on the new church began in May, 1972. The cornerstone was laid in November, 1972. The congregation moved into the new church building on May 6, 1973 with the service of consecration taking place May 13, 1973.

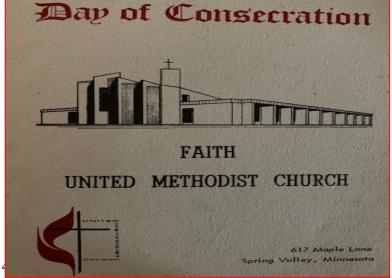
(It should mentioned that The Reverend John Payne was noted for building church buildings! In 1967 he was pastor in Preston when the new Preston United Methodist Church was consecrated following his ministry in Preston, Rev. Payne moved West and soon began the process for building the Spring Valley Church building.)

People are invited to bring photos, clippings and other items as we get ready to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Faith Church building. Arrangements will be made to bring the old John Deere walking plow back to Spring Valley for the celebration, this was the same plow used for the ground breaking ceremony.

Many things have changed since 1972...some good -- some not so good, but nevertheless we are still a people of faith who are committed to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ! Much has happened in the last 50 years, but through it all Jesus remains the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever.

Let's gather together on September 24, 2023 to celebrate and give thanks for the blessings we share as Christian people. We give thanks unto God in Jesus Christ for the mission and ministry to which we are called.





Real Hope For The Hungry Food Packing Event

A Real Hope for the Hungry food packing event will take place on Wednesday, September 20 at the United Church of Grand Meadow. We will have sign-up sheets at our parish churches for 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. shifts.

Youth and adults are welcome and should sign up by Sunday, September 17. Packets of dried foods will be assembled and boxed for shipment to be distributed to people in need in the U.S. and countries all over the world.



Antique lamp hanging from the ceiling at historic Lenora Church. Worship gathering at Lenora Church on the third Sunday of the month, **September 17**, at 3p.m. Lenora Church is located at 38571 Dove Tail Road in Lenora.

September 24 in Spring Valley:

Faith Church at 2 p.m. as part of the 50th anniversary of the Faith Church building which was built in 1972-73. This will be a fun celebration, including an ice cream Social.

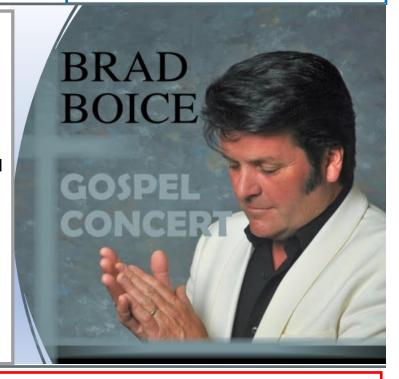
October 22 in Preston:

Preston Church 2 p.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





celebrating his 90th
birthday!
Everyone is
invited to a party on
September 17th from 2-5
p.m. at Faith UMC in
Spring Valley

Darrelll Drinkall is



Newsletter Information

Due to a recent increase postage increase, it now costs \$128 to send out the monthly newsletter. This is an increase in \$56. We are looking at some options to reduce costs:

- Not interested in receiving the newsletter? Please email the church at faithunited@centurytel.net to be removed
- ◆ Did you know it is available online @ https://faithsv.net/
- Are you interested in receiving it via email? Please email the church office with your email address @ faithunited@centurytel.net



August Newsletter crew-Mary Grems, Norma Merkel, Carol Gross

PAPER PRODUCTS NEEDED

United Women in Faith in Spring Valley are collecting paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, and Kleenex) for Emma Norton Services in St. Paul now until Sunday,

September 17th.

Emma Norton Services is one of 100 UMC mission institutions in the US and the only one in Minnesota. They are a trauma informed organization that promotes healing and recovery, operating at a scale that brings a full array of resources to women, individuals, and families who have experienced homelessness. Housing and services are exemplary, offered in collaboration with key community partners.

This is a request for all of Faith UMC

members.



Let's provide a trunk load of paper products. These items will be taken to the River Valley District United Women in Faith Gathering in Rochester on September 23, 2023.



ANNUAL FALL GATHERING September 23, 2023 Christ UMC, Rochester 8:45 AM - 2:30 PM Cost - \$20

The River Valley District United Women in Faith invites all women to

attend the Fall Gathering in Rochester. Michelle Hargrave, River Valley District UMC Superintendent, will be the main speaker and will give insight on "Tending the Garden of the Soul". Enjoy morning coffee, fellowship, displays, singing, resources, lunch, installation of officers, opportunity to make a jeweled cross and the Lord's Prayer bracelet and honor our sisters who have gone to their heavenly home in the Service of Remembrance. Come and be inspired, uplifted, and embraced.

To register, contact Nancy Cornell (346-2044) or Norma Merkel (346-2569)





Cherry Grove Sunday School

Sunday School in Cherry Grove will begin on **September 17th**. Volunteers to teach lessons, crafts, music or to serve as substitute teachers are needed.



Faith Sunday School

The Faith Sunday School will be getting underway very soon as we come into the autumn season. This is a special invitation to all of our boys and girls, youth and their families to be involved this season!!! We are hoping for a wonderful Sunday School experience for our young people, and we will need the help of the

entire church family. We invite people to share their talents and abilities in teaching, helping and supporting our Sunday School ministry. Faith Sunday School will begin on September 17th.

PRESTON CHURCH TO BEGIN LIFT. MINISTRY THIS FALL

Preston Church will begin its Wednesday after school ministry called: LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER for a new session on **October 4th**. Plans are underway to pull this unique ministry together. It is a tremendous way to reach out to the boys and girls in our communities. Volunteers are needed as we begin to get ready for this new season. Please speak with Pastors Mark and Deanna as plans come together. Also, please reach out and invite boys and girls grades K-6 and youth helpers to be involved! L.I.F.T meets after school from 3:15-5 p.m. Please stay tuned.. and help us get the word out to



Our Maple Leaf Parish is beginning a group for "tweens" and young teens. Starting Sunday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. at the Faith Church campfire ring, kids entering 5th, 6th and 7th grades and their parents are invited for a time of learning, food, fun and friends as we make plans for this pre-confirmation group. Students from our Maple leaf Parish churches, and their friends, are invited. Our intention is to meet together about twice per month, usually on either Sunday or Wednesdays, to grow together in Christian faith and friendship through occasional field trips, mission projects, game nights,

together in Christian faith and friendship through occasional field trips, mission projects, game nights, devotional and learning times, food and fun!

Contact the church office at 507-346-2830 for more information, or if you can't attend on Sept. 10. Our

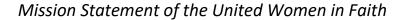
next gathering will be on Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Faith Church to carpool to Grand Meadow for a food packing mission project (See article elsewhere in this newsletter). Parents are always welcome.



A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for morning breakfast. "Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer wondering where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard". Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat the farmer continued "Lord, you know I don't care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable. Then the farmer added, "but Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to relax

and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits! Amen".

Within that prayer there is a great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. Stay strong, my friends, because our Lord is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something better is going to come when he is done with it. Amen. Shared by Vivian Drinkall



United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

MW- Women In Faith

United Women in Faith met on August 9, 2023. Norma opened with a reading about "no children" and how sad the world would be and also "Guest of Honor" by Martha Bolton. Seven members were present. Motion made by Vivian and second by Marilyn to accept the July minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Lis and second by Nancy to accept treasurer report as presented. Motion carried.

New Business-Mini Market to be held the first Saturday in November. Motion by Nancy and second by Norma to have a quilt show, asking individuals from church and also quilt club members. Motion carried. Other business-August 26th Fish fry at the Harry and Elaine Boland cabin. Fall Gathering on September 23rd in Rochester at Christ Methodist. September 24, Brad Boice at Faith.

Next meeting on Wednesday September 13th, Danette will serve coffee. No other business, motion to adjourn by Vivian and second by Nancy. Motion carried. Closed with the Lords Prayer.

-Submitted by Norma Merkel



Faith AED has arrived and is installed! Training will be held in the near future!

Faith United Methodist Church Administrative Council Minutes

August 10, 2023 6:30 p.m.

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

SPR-no items

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

Finance Committee-Diane has initiated establishing a Line of Credit at the First National Bank, to be available if needed.

Trustee- no items

United Women of Faith- August 3rd women served at the Ostrander Care Center celebrating August birthdays for the residents. Plans to hold a Mini-Market with a quilt show on November 4th.

Membership Committee-Mary reported the total membership is 252.

Mission Committee-Nancy reported she is continuing to pursue options for the church to raise funds for children of Ukraine. Several options were discussed including a "noisy" offering and incorporating into the Sunday School education.

Education Committee-Mary Grems orchestrated several volunteers in a major cleaning and reorganization project in the Sunday School and Education rooms. Thanks to Mary and Larry Grems, Gail Rollie, Pastors Mark and Deanna and Jane Baker. Discussion regarding revitalization of the Sunday School program, involving more individuals to teach or assist. Open to all options, teaching the entire year, semi-annually or quarterly; assisting with crafts or music, updating bulletin boards, or substitute teaching. Pastors are working on a pre-confirmation class for upper elementary and middle school age children, open to all in this age group. Ten children from the Maple Leaf Parish attended the Good Earth Village day camp in July.

Worship Committee- no items

Pastor Report-Pastors will be away on August 27th, Mark Rader will be preaching at the Faith service. Brad Boice will be here September 24th at 2:00, as part of the 50th anniversary of the Faith Church building including an ice cream social. Flyers advertising this event will be posted and available for everyone to share. September 20th The United Church in Grand Meadow is holding a food packing event, Pastors are planning to include youth to assist.

Council was in support to not have a float in the Ag Days parade. Donation will be made to Food Shelf. Annual Fish Fry: Hosted by Harry and Elaine Boland and family will be on August 26th, rain date is September 23.

Gail made a motion to adjourn, Denis seconded, motion approved. Meeting ended at 7:45.

Noisy Offering at Faith

Coming during the month of October, a "Noisy Offering" every Sunday for the Children of Ukraine. Faith Sunday



School and Missions Committee are teaming up to make this happen. There are more than 100,000 Ukranian children living in orphanages who need a tremendous amount of help. Start saving your noisy and less noisy change for this worthwhile and much needed project.

Cherry Grove United Methodist Church Administrative Council August 14, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Woodward, Deanna Woodward, Corey Sanford, Holly Sanford, Marlo Mensink, Janice Mensink, Pixie Nielson and Phil Hebrink

The August 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 approves with one change, the date should have been July 10, not July 20. Marlo Mensink made a motion to approve and was seconded by Corey Sanford.

Financial Report: The financial report was reviewed. Four kids attended the day camp at Good Earth village, this will be paid for out of the Sunday School Fund. Marlo Mensink made a motion to approve and was seconded by Corey Sanford.

Trustees Report:

The basement windows need to be painted inside and out – Phil Hebrink said he will paint them.

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

Pastor Mark got two quotes to replace the road signs. A motion was made by Phil Hebring and seconded by Corey Sanford to use Linda Carr from Spring Valley to make the signs and to use money from the memorial fund to pay for them. The signs will be a little bigger than what the old ones were. The price of the signs will be approximately \$730. It was also suggested to put a sign for Cowbow Church by the Forestville State Park turn. Marlo Mensink will check with the owner of the property to see if we can put a sign up before we have one made.

Propane has been contracted for the winter.

Pastor's Report

The quilt that was donated to the church needs to be hung up yet.

August 26 – Boland's Fish Fry

August 27 – Phil will bead 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 on the same day as others.

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

Cherry Grove sign replacement project is underway! Thanks Marlo Mensink and Justin Attwood.



Preston United Methodist Church Administrative Council Minutes August 8, 2023

Present: Pastor Mark Woodward, Pastor Deanna Woodward, Jenny Dornink, Greg Dornink, John Goutcher, Dollie Acton, Marlene Peterson, Dan Miller, Nancy Dahly.

Greg called the meeting to order on August 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Opening devotion and prayer were led by Pastor Deanna.

Jenny moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Pastor Mark. Motion passed.

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

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, the income in July were about \$2000 more than expenses. Expenses have remained consistent with previous months. John moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Jenny. Motion passed

From the Finance Committee, Dan reported the average weekly offering for July was \$922.40, which was slightly less the weekly needed amount of \$1000.17. Apportionment received in July was \$190. At the end of July, 58% of the budget has been spent. Average attendance during July was 20, not counting the all-Parish Service on July 23.

From the Trustees Committee, Pastor Mark reported the landscaping project is complete and the plants are being watered well. The landscaping plants are under warranty for a year. The committee is continuing to do research on the parking lot project.

From the Worship Committee, Pastor Mark reported Brad Boice will be singing at PUMC on October 22 in the afternoon. Sister Luv will also be performing this fall but a date has not been set. Mark Rader will be the guest pastor on August 27 to fill in while the Woodwards are on vacation.

No report from the Missions Committee.

No report from Staff/Parish Relations Committee.

No report from Evangelism and Outreach Committee. There was discussion on how to reach out to the community.

From the Education Committee, Pastor Deanna reported the new session of LIFT will start in October.

No report from the UMW.

In Business, Greg reported the church received the invoice for the landscaping project for around \$10,560. There has been about \$5500 donated toward the landscaping and the remaining balance will be paid with Memorial Funds. Donations may still be made toward the project.

During the Pastor's Report, Pastor Deanna reported the UMC in Grand Meadow will having a be food packing event this fall and there will be sign-ups. All are invited to the Boland Fish Fry on August 26. Pastor Mark discussed about updating contact info (email addresses, cell phone numbers, etc) for church members.

Mission Opportunities:

Fillmore Central Schools are now accepting monetary donations to the school, which they will use for school supplies, milk break, and the healthy snack program. If anyone would like to send in a donation to the school, please send your contribution to Fillmore Central Schools, P.O. Box 50, Preston, MN 55965, or you may drop off a donation to the Preston school office. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to Sue Hovey.

Fillmore County Food Shelves are in desperate need of donations



FALL

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•	apple	hay	oak	rake
	cool	jump	owl	red
	corn	leaf	pears	tree
	crow	maze	pie	web
	fall	nuts	pile	yellow





Sat	2	ത	16	23 8:45-2:30 Women of Faith Fall Gathering in Rochester	30
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Thu		7	14 Faith SPRC-6 Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	21 Newsletter Deadline	28
Wed		9	13	6 & 7 Food Packing Event in Grand Meadow	27
Tue		Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Faith Worship Committee—5:30 Faith Trustees- 6:30	Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am Preston Council - 7	Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am	26 10 am-Ministerial Assoc. @ Cherry Grove
Mon		LABOR LABOR	11 Cherry Grove Council -7	18	25
Sun		8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6pm Cowboy Church Communion	8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 5 pm Grades 5, 6, 7 Group -Faith	178:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Lenora 2-5 Darrell Drinkall's 90th Birthday Celebration- Faith	24 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 2 Brad Boice and Ice Cream-Faith

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