Maple Leaf Parish

Laying Down One's Life "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life..." John 15: 13

On the recent Martin Luther King holiday, I watched a television program on the life of Dr. King. At the time King was killed, I was a child, and so all I knew of him was fuzzy memories from news stories and what I had read in history books. What impressed me from the recent documentary was how young King was when he took up the struggle for civil rights. He was only in his mid-twenties when he helped to lead the Montgomery bus boycott. Up to that point he had been in graduate school and preparing to follow in his preacher father's footsteps as pastor of his home church. And he was only 39 years old at the time he was killed, having been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and helping to pass civil rights and voting rights laws here in the US.

Dr. King was a natural leader and an eloquent speaker and writer. I've been very inspired reading some of his messages and watching films of his speeches. And he was famous and had spoken to large crowds and met with U.S. Presidents and international leaders. But his life was not easy and his goal was not personal glory. He was doing the work that God had given him to do, and he and his family suffered many hardships. Though he led nonviolent protests, he and his associates were the objects of others' hatred and violence. King himself had been beaten, jailed, his home bombed, and he received death threats every day. He was sure that he would be killed one day, and yet he refused to abandon the work that he believed God was directing him to do. He laid down his life for the cause of justice and equality for black Americans.

For whom or what would you lay down your life? Is there a cause, an idea, or a person or people so dear to you that you would be willing to die for them? This month we enter the church season of Lent. We travel again with Jesus in his last days of earthly ministry as he made his journey to the cross. Jesus also was a young man doing the work that God the Father had given him to do. Jesus was nonviolent, a preacher and a healer, and yet he was the object of others' hatred and violence. He knew he would be killed one day, and yet he bravely set his face to go to Jerusalem and carry out God's plan for him, laying down his life and then rising again, for the salvation of the world.

There's an old tradition of giving up something for Lent. Laying down one's life does not only mean physical death but also living in a sacrificial way. Caregivers who look after a spouse, a child, the elderly and the disabled are laying down their lives for others. Police, firefighters and people who do service work to protect and help others, are laying down their lives. As a follower of Christ, what is God calling you to do? Are there selfless actions, big or small, that God is directing you to do in order to spread God's love and justice and work for good? No one knows how much time we have, but let us use our time for good purposes. As Dr. King wrote, "We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right."

God bless you and guide you, Pastor Deanna

February 2024 Newsletter_

-Contact Information-

Pastor Mark 507-346-2830 507-271-6761 mark.woodward.ponderosa@gmail.com

Pastor Deanna

\$07-346-2830
 \$07-765-9856
 revdeannaw@gmail.com

Parish Office Info

9:30-4:15 Tuesday through Friday
\$507-346-2830
faithunited@centurytel.net www.faithsv.net

The more you know ...

Did you know we're on Facebook? You can find Cherry Grove UMC at: https://www.facebook.com/ cherrygrovechurch/ You can find Faith UMC at: https://www.facebook.com/Faith-United-Methodist-Church-229920383757905/ YouTube Too!!

Just search for- Maple Leaf Parish UMC– Minnesota

Faith Online Giving Instructions

1. Visit the church website at

http://faithsv.net/home/donations/ 2. Click on the **GIVE NOW** button, 3. Click on the Create Profile Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your contributions.

-Service Groups-

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

Faith UMC Service Group

3

FEBRUARY

| *Dan & Denise Montgomery | 352-4375 |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Linda Jacobson | 352-2582 |
| Ben & Carla Leslie | 251-4975 |
| Ross & Trisha Montgomery | 612-214-335 |
| Ryan & Katie Montgomery | 352-5550 |
| Scott & Kristie Shorter | 259-9548 |

Cherry Grove UMC Service Group JANUARY-APRIL

Chairpersons – Corey & Holly Sanford 507-273-7172/507-937-3645 Co-Chair Ryan & Angela Forland 507-272-7698 Marlo & Janice Mensink 507-346-1771/507-259-3533 Jeff & Natalie Atwood 507-951-9501 **Deb Curry** 507-259-3871 **Chuck Forland** 507-696-2231 Gene & Beth Mulhern 507-346-7511 **Pixie Nielson** 507-937-3392 John Kappers 507-251-6852 Joan Bessingpas 507-251-2822 Justin & Shelby Antoff 507-421-0867 **Todd & Dicia Kappers** 507-251-6515 Shawn & Megan Merkel 507-251-5756

612-208-4159

Deadlines

Derek Mensink

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.

MAPLE LEAF PARISH LENTEN SCHEDULE

(volunteer soup and sandwich makers needed...)

Ash Wednesday, February 14

in Fountain at 7 p.m. February 21 at Spring Valley Faith 5:45-6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service with dialogue message on "Christ, Our Example in Temptation" February 28 at Preston UMC 5:45-6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service with dialogue message on "Christ, Our Example in Faith" March 6 at Spring Valley Faith 5:45-6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service with dialogue message on "Christ, Our Example in Love" March 13 at Cherry Grove UMC 5:45-6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service with dialogue message on "Christ, Our Example in Strength" March 20 at Spring Valley Faith 5:45-6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service with dialogue message on "Christ, Our Example in Power" Friday, March 29 Good Friday service at SV Faith UMC beginning at 7 p.m. Please invite your friends, neighbors and families to join in these special events during the Lenten season. We hope this will be an inspiring and meaningful time together as we share in our

Christian journey.

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

In February we enter the season in the Christian year known as Lent. It is a time when we remember the earthly ministry of Jesus and prepare ourselves spiritually to observe his crucifixion followed by his glorious resurrection on Easter. You are invited to attend a series of worship services during Lent this year, preceded on several evenings by soup suppers.

The theme for our Lenten services is "Onward: Following the Example of Christ" based on a series of dialogue messages written by E. Morris Pierce. Each week we will explore how we can follow Christ's example in a different area of our lives. Topics will include the areas of temptation, faith, love, strength, power and humility.



What has a bigger impact than a trio of 300 lb linebackers bearing down on a quarterback? YOU!! The Souper Bowl Of Caring is a national movement working to fight hunger in our communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.



At our Churches from now until February 11th, we will be collecting donations of canned soups and crackers, and monetary donations for our local food shelves. Let's team up to tackle hunger in our communities!!

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

UMCOR Sunday February 18, 2024

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a lifesaver for many around the world. The number of needs increases every day with natural disasters, conflicts, diseases, famine... and the list goes on. UMCOR is ready to help with your support.

The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. The offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and

recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters in the US and around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

Through your generous gifts, you share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Please make checks payable to your church and write "UMCOR" in the memo line. Thank You.



CONGRATS TO ALL FOUR MAPLE LEAF PARISH CHURCHES...

on 100 percent payment of apportionments for 2023!! Our apportionments relate much to our share of mission giving and for a variety of ministries on a state, national and world wide scale. Our apportionment along with numerous UM churches throughout the world share the Good News of Jesus in a variety of ways.

This money also goes to support many UM institutions, schools, colleges, etc. We did it for 2023! All Four Maple Leaf Churches can be very proud of this accomplishment. To God be the glory!



Faith UMC Fall Mini Market History

(More Mini Market History)

Rollers and Friers

The year is 1990 and doughnut making is about to begin. Friday afternoon, October 12th, Hope Briggs, Jo Baker, Marion Lingenfelter, and Myrtle Carson mixed eight batches of dough using about 25 pounds of flour. Saturday, the 13th starts early for the "Apple Basket" Mini Market. At 5:30 am, Hope and Maggie Gragert are heating the lard and setting up for rolling and frying. The rollers and friers come at 6:00.

Rollers

Arlys Terbeest Milly Maloney Milly's sister-in-law Hazel House Marge Simpson Barb Page Della Rasmussen Della's daughter <u>Friers</u> Maggie Graggert Laura Klomps Eleanor Bernard Shirley Kappers Marion Lingenfelter

Eileen Churchill

Delores Sheldon

Linda Lecy



Hope mixed up another 25 pounds of flour making a total of 16 batches- totaling 1600 doughnuts!!! I don't know what the doughnuts sold for but the coffee, doughnuts and other baked goods brought in about \$450.00.

A suggestion for the 1991 Mini Market was to fry the doughnuts the day before instead of the early morning of the event. Today we have cinnamon rolls instead of doughnuts and one person bakes them. Our recent bakers have been Vivian Drinkall, Georgie Nolte and Gail Rollie.

Maple Leaf Parish Youth Event.... February 21st come for Lenten soup, and Lenten service at 5:45 p.m. and stay for a youth program on "Hobbies." Bring your hobbies with you and share with us some of the fun activities you like to do..... We'll have a fun time sharing with each other and getting to know each other's interests

Maple Leaf Parish youth event... Bowling at the B and B Bowling Alley.



Fountain Church at Christmas

Popcorn popper given to Faith Church by Harry and Elaine Boland... thank you for this kind gift.







JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 4TH AT 6 P.M. IN CHERRY GROVE



During the month of March, we will be participating in MN FoodShare. This is a great opportunity to help stock our area food shelves by donating

food or cash, which is even better. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



THE HISTORIC LENORA CHURCH

Is closed now for the winter season, but it will re-open in May, 2024. Would you like to be a part of the team that guides the ministry at Lenora? Please let Pastor Mark know.



Thank you all for your generous giving for the Advent/Christmas offering at Faith. The Kingsland backpack program received \$468.75 and Church World Service received \$156.25.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, February 14th, at Faith UMC at 9:30 am. We will discuss our role in World Day of Prayer, which will be held on Friday, March 1st, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church. New members are always welcome to our meetings.

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

Preston United Methodist Church *Charge Conference Meeting and Administrative Council Meeting Rescheduled to February 13th*

| Preston UMC Finance Committee | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| December | |
| Amount needed each week | \$1000.16 |
| Average weekly offering | \$1284.00 |
| Over budget for December | \$283.84 |
| | |

All Apportionments have been paid for 2023

Attendance for December:

| Dec <mark>emb</mark> er 3–21 people | \$1032.00 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dec <mark>ember,</mark> 10-25 people | \$1980.00 |
| Dec <mark>ember</mark> 17-31 people | \$1303.00 |
| December 24–24 people a.m. service | \$720.00 |
| December 2447 people p.m. service | \$549.00 |
| December 31-19 people | \$836.00 |
| Attendance for January: | |
| January 8-19 people | \$1382.00 |
| January 14-14 people (COLD!) | \$1365.00 (most of offering via mail) |

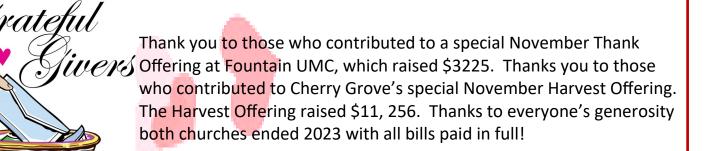
We miss seeing everyone in church, EVERYONE is welcome! We have a coffee hour a 10:00 a.m. and worship service at 11:00 a.m. We would like to get the MYF group in Preston started up again, if there are any teenagers that are interested let Pastor Mark or Deanna know. Submitted by Danny Miller



Thanks to all who contributed warm clothing in December to Mitten trees at Cherry Grove, Fountain and Preston UMC's. Clothing was given to the Fillmore Central Elementary School, SEMCAC in Preston, and the Landing in Rochester. Faith UMC



collected clothing in October which was given to Kingsland Public Schools.



Cherry Grove United Methodist Church Charge Conference Meeting and Administrative Council Meeting January 8, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Woodward, Deanna Woodward, Corey Sanford, Holly Sanford, Marlo Mensink, Janice Mensink, John Grass, Sharon Grass, Phil Hebrink, and Gene Kappers

Charge Conference Meeting

The Charge Conference meeting was called to order by Pastor Deanna.

The compensation packet for Pastor Deanna was reviewed with no changes recommended. A motion was made by Marlo Mensink and seconded by Corey Sanford to approve the compensation packet.

The compensation packet for Pastor Mark was reviewed with no changes recommended. A motion was made by Phil Hebrink and second by Gene Kappers to approve the compensation packet.

The household furnishings for Pastor Deanna was reviewed with one minor change, the amount was listed at \$1,960.00 and should have been \$19,600. A motion was made by Phil Hebrink and seconded by Marlo Mensink to approve the household furnishings report.

The household furnishings for Pastor Mark was reviewed and approved with no changes recommended. A motion was made by Marlo Mensink and second by Corey Sanford to approve the household furnishings report.

It was noted the district superintendent strongly recommended the pastors use their vacation time. The Church Council strongly recommended this also.

The membership report was reviewed and discussed.

The 2023 Missions Reports – Form 13 – was reviewed and approved.

The 2023 Certified Lay Speaker Report – Form 2 – was reviewed and approved. Cherry Grove is very

fortunate to have Phil Hebrink as our Lay Spea<mark>ker and th</mark>e committee affirms Phil to continue his missions.

The clergy reports from Pastor Deanna and Pastor Mark were reviewed.

The Committee List Report was reviewed with minor changes made. A motion was made by Phil Hebrink and seconded by Gene Kappers to approve the committee list.

Administrative Council Meeting

The January 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. A motion was made by Marlo Mensink and seconded by Gene Kappers to approve.

Financial Report: The financial report was reviewed. The harvest offering letter was once again a success. Thank you to everyone who sent a harvest offering to help us continue as a strong church. A

motion was made by Janice Mensink and seconded by Mark Woodward to approve the report.

Trustees Report:

The kitchen project was a success. There have been no issues with mold since the remodel was complete.

The locks on the church had been acting up. The front and back door locks have been replaced.

Parish Relations Committee:

Baking baskets were delivered to Spring Valley and Preston Food Shelves the beginning of December.

The Quarterly Committee list was updated. We will now have 3 workgroups instead of 4 quarterly workgroups, as some of the groups were getting quite small.

There was discussion regarding purchasing an AED for the church.

Pastor's Report

Jane Baker will be on vacation from January 14-25, 2024. Wishing her a good time off.

January 14 – Youth Group Bowling – 5th grade and up – at B&B Bowl in Preston at 1:00 p.m.

Lent begins on February 14 – Ash Wednesday

Souper Bowl of Caring is a collection for the food shelf. Bring your food donations to the church until February 11.

FOUNTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL January 10, 2024

A Fountain U.M. Church Administrative Council and Church Conference meeting was held on January 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Those present were Steve and Sheila Arnold, Mitchell Walbridge, Sheila Walbridge, Jerry and Shirley Wingert, Loni Wingert and Revs. Deanna and Mark Woodward.

Chairman Steve Arnold called the Administrative Council meeting to order. The November minutes were reviewed and approved on a motion by Loni, second by Jerry. Motion carried.

Loni presented the Treasurer's report. There was a net profit of \$3,832 of income over expenses in 2023. 2023 conference apportionments have been paid. Insurance payments are due early in the year. Sheila A. moved and Jerry seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business: There was discussion about investing some monies in a certificate of deposit at a higher rate of interest. Sheila W. moved and Jerry seconded the motion to invest \$5000 from the general fund in a six month CD at the Fountain Bank. Motion carried.

Concerning the church's galvanized pipes, Mitchell checked with the Fountain city clerk and the city is not currently being required by the state to have residents and businesses upgrade pipes, so no action is needed at this time.

New Business: Jerry moved and Sheila A. seconded the motion that Ron Reisner be given \$500 for lawn care and snow removal. Motion carried. Loni moved and Jerry seconded the motion that the Fountain Fire Dept. be given a donation of \$20. Motion carried. Jerry moved and Sheila A. seconded the motion that Mitchell Walbridge and Luann Jones each be given a \$150 gasoline gift card for serving as pianists. Motion carried. Mitchell declined his gift, choosing as a member to donate his services.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Deanna mentioned the "Souper Bowl of Caring" food shelf collection extending through Feb. 11. Youth bowling is this Sunday, Jan. 14 in Preston. Our parish admin. assistant, Jane Baker, will be out of the office Jan. 14-25. Ideas for the Lenten schedule were also discussed and firm plans will be announced soon.

Rev. Deanna convened the Church Conference portion of the meeting. Rev. Mark offered a prayer.

Sheila A. moved and Jerry seconded the approval of the 2024 pastoral compensation budget for Deanna Woodward. Approval of the pastoral support budget was given by unanimous vote. The home furnishing and appurtenance allowance was approved on a motion by Steve, second by Loni. Motion carried.

Revs. Deanna and Mark both presented their 2023 clergy reports, thanking the lay leadership for all they do to help carry out the ministry of the church. It was a bumpy year in general for our parish, with losses due to deaths of members and division in the denomination, but there are many glimmers of hope and we are looking for God to open new doors in 2024. Thank you to many for their continuing support.

The 2023 missions report listed the church's efforts to care for others through food shelf drives, providing winter apparel for school children and adults in need and giving to disaster relief through UMCOR.

The membership report was presented with no one currently listed on the inactive or recommended for removal lists. The slate of officers and committee members was presented. Loni moved and Sheila A. seconded the election of the slate of nominees. Motion carried.

With business concluded, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Loni, seconded by Steve. Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Woodward, acting secretary

Faith United Methodist Charge Conference and Administrative Council Minutes January 11, 2024 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Pastors Deanna and Mark Woodward, Diane Howard, Gail Rollie, Gene Halverson, Don and Janice Lanning, Denis and Nancy Cornell, Harry Boland, Mary Grems and Jane Baker

Charge Conference Meeting

Deanna opened with prayer.

Mark reviewed the Pastor Compensation forms for 2024. Mary made motion to approve the Pastor compensation and expense breakdown. Gail seconded. Motion carried.

Nancy made a motion to approve 2024 Housing Allowance, Diane seconded. Mary Grems reviewed the Inactive/ Unresponsive Membership report. The checklist on Church Finance was reviewed. Nancy gave the report for the Missions and Mark and Deanna summarized the Clergy reports.

Budget for 2024 was explained, Diane made a motion to approve, Gene seconded. 2024 Leadership was discussed and vacancies were discussed. Mary made a motion to approve. Gail seconded.

Administrative Council Meeting

Diane Howard called meeting to order. Gail made a motion to accept minutes as written. Denis seconded. M/C Finance Committee: 2023 Apportionments were paid in full. Recommendation was made to internally transfer funds from one of the accounts to the general account.

Membership Committee-Total membership is 247. Recorded the transfers of Pam Shaw and Andrew Baker to Faith UMC.

Suggestion was made to revitalize the Congregational Care committee

Women of Faith: No report, next meeting is February 7th. Nancy read Isaiah 33:2 from the Daily Prayer Guide and said a prayer for Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Missions: Christmas offering totaled \$625, 75% will be donated to the Back Pack Program. 25% will go towards the Christian Service Fund.

Education Committee-Diane reported the Sunday School Program on December 17 was a success. A special thanks to Kathy Moore and Paisley Baker for assisting. Sunday School materials that Deanna orders have been working well. Worship Committee: No Report. Mark and Deanna asked for suggestions for Lenten services.

Pastor Report: January 14 is Youth Bowling event in Preston. Jane will be gone from the office January 16th-25th. Souper Bowl of Caring starts January 14th through Super Bowl Sunday. Donations will go to the Food Shelf. Volunteers are needed to undecorate the church.

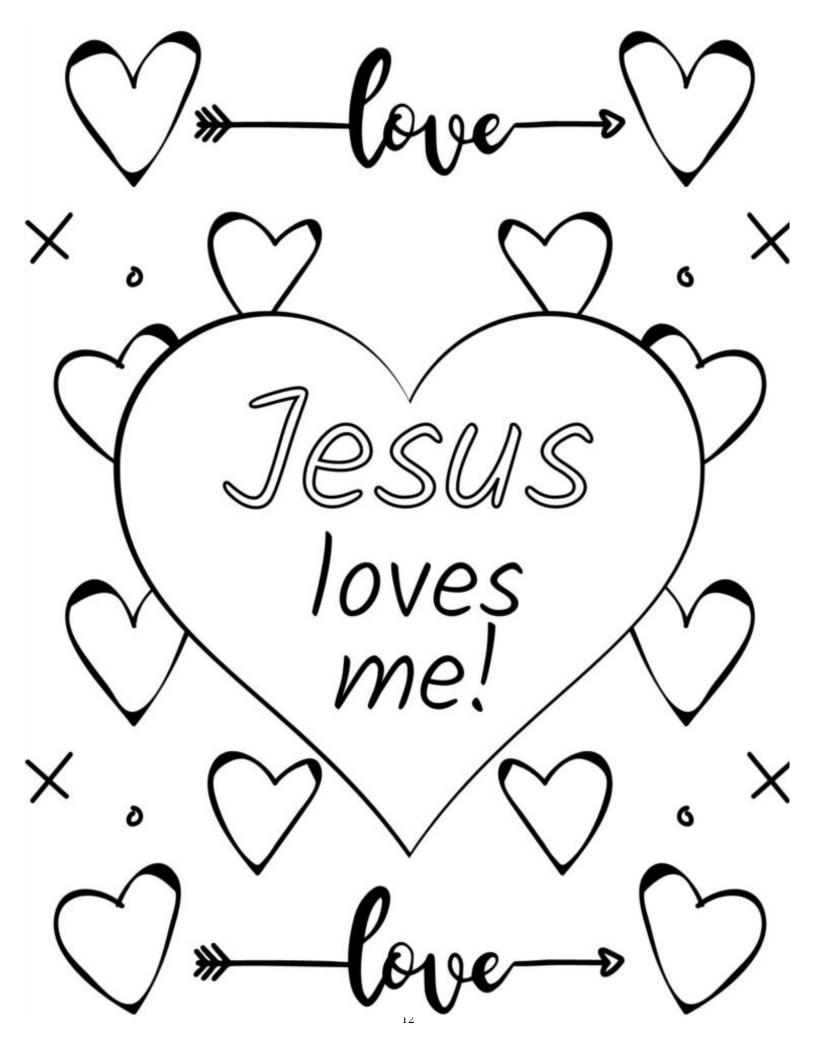
Harry Boland inquired about date for Annual Fish Fry, he is proposing to hold it in July this year. Everyone was in agreement.

Gail made a motion to adjourn, Denis seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Thank you all for coming to my Birthday Bash, for the gifts and all the birthday wishes. It was great. I am blessed with Church family and Friends! God bless you all.



Norma Merkel



| Sun | Mon | FEBR Tue | RUARY 2024 Wed Thu |)24 | Fri Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|---------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 4 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6pm Cowboy Church | ц | 6 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Faith Trustees– 6:30 pm | 7 LIFT in Preston– 3:15 Faith Bell Choir Practice-6:30 pm | 8 Faith SPRC-6 pm Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7 | 10 |
| 11 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship | 12 Cherry Grove Council -7 pm | 13 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am Preston Council & Church Conference 6 pm | 14 Faith UMW – 9:30 Ash Wednesday Service @ Fountain UMC– 7PM | 15 | 16 17 |
| 18 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship | 19 Faith Bell Choir Practice-6 p.m. | 20 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am | 21 Newsletter Deadline Lent service Spring Valley Faith 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30-Worship | 22 | 23 24 |
| 25 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship | 26 Faith Bell Choir Practice-8:00 pm | 27 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am | 28 Lent service Preston UMC 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30-Worship | 29 | |

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

Address Service Requested

Spring Valley, MN U.S. Postage Paid Permit #62 Non-Profit Bulk Rate

Maple Leaf SParish



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