



Maple Leaf Parish

FAITH AND FUEL

“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” Ephesians 6: 10

At Preston U.M. Church I have the privilege of leading the music for the LIFT children’s after school program that operates periodically during the year. We sing a number of songs—some with actions. One of the songs is:

“Give me oil in my lamp,
Keep me burning, burning, burning.
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp,
Keep me burning, burning, burning
Keep me burning til the break of day.”

And the chorus is: “Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of Kings. Sing, hosanna, sing, hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.” Do you remember this song from Sunday School or summer camp?

Some of the song verses that we use are “modernized” and rather silly, such as “Give me gas for my Ford, keep me truckin’ for the Lord,” and “Give me gas for my Chevy, cuz my load is awful heavy,” or “Give me wax for my board, keep me surfing for the Lord.” As you can tell, we have fun with our music.

We are now in the church season of Easter, a time of new life, new beginnings and fresh starts. It is a time of joy, lightness, and laughter as spring arrives and we celebrate the fact that God played the biggest joke that was ever played on the devil by raising Jesus Christ from the dead! As TV’s Gomer Pyle used to say, “Surprise, surprise, surprise!” And because Christ lives, we who believe in Him have the gift of everlasting life. How blessed I am as a pastor to be able to share this good news with others. In fact, sharing this good news is something every Christian can do.

I’m grateful for my Christian calling. I could have been...a parachutist, but nothing ever opened up...a truck driver, but I just couldn’t go that route...a bank robber, but I got alarmed...an author, but it just wasn’t “write” for me...a trapeze artist, but I couldn’t get the hang of it...a violinist, but I was too high-strung...a professional bowler, but it wasn’t up my alley...a librarian, but I shelved that idea...a plumber, but that was just a pipe dream...a police officer, but I suddenly copped out...an elevator operator, but the job had too many ups and downs.

Kidding aside, blessings on the people who do the various jobs mentioned (not the bank robber.) I didn’t choose to be a pastor by default, and the world does need Christ-followers in every vocation. Remember that we all serve a God who brings new life from death and makes the impossible, possible. When you run out of gas, God’s still got a full tank. When you can’t do it, God can. Depend on God, for if you have the faith, God has the fuel.

Keep on trucking, 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-

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

Faith UMC Service Group

APRIL

*Denis & Nancy Cornell	346-2044
Harry & Elaine Boland	421-8380
Lesa Brusse	346-2845
Theo & Mary Ellen Derby	273-3641
Paul & Rosalie Hagan	346-2061
Dennis & Gwen Howard	259-6957
Linda Lecy	272-6824
Dave & Tammy Schoppers	273-1527
Joanne Shorter	346-2607

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

Food for Kidz

**Stewartville Civic Center
Saturday April 6, 2024
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Families, Individuals, Sunday School Classes,
Choir, Etc.:

All are invited to sign up for a two hour shift
to package food for starving children and
their families. No Experience necessary, just
willing hearts and hands.

Sign up sheets can be found on your
church's bulletin board.

**A GRANDFATHER WAS WALKING
THROUGH HIS YARD WHEN HE HEARD
HIS GRANDDAUGHTER REPEATING THE
ALPHABET IN A TONE OF VOICE THAT
SOUNDED LIKE PRAYER. HE ASKED HER
WHAT SHE WAS DOING. THE LITTLE GIRL
EXPLAINED: 'I'M PRAYING, BUT I CAN'T
THINK OF EXACTLY THE RIGHT WORDS, SO
I'M JUST SAYING ALL THE LETTERS, AND
GOD WILL PUT THEM TOGETHER FOR ME
BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT I'M
THINKING.'**

Spring Valley Faith Church Planning a rummage sale

The church council approved taking on a fun project as a spring fundraising and fellowship event in May.... a rummage sale with the proceeds going to the mission and ministry of Faith United Methodist Church

Needed:

- ◆ People to coordinate it
- ◆ It will be held in conjunction with the Spring Valley City Wide Rummage sale event on May 11, 2024
- ◆ Items to sell (there are some things we won't be able to sell, computers, TVs...)
- ◆ Drop off to begin the week of April 14th.
- ◆ If possible please price your items. We may need to re-price items unless marked "firm".
- ◆ Unsold items will be available for purchase on Sunday, May 12, following the sale, before and after Church. If you want your unsold items back, PLEASE reclaim them after the Church service on Sunday.
- ◆ A winning, positive spirit as we do this project to the glory of God!

We Need: You to be involved....

More information to come in upcoming bulletins and the May newsletter.

This could be a lot of fun!!!!

Spring Valley: Faith Finances.....

We need people to be aware of the financial picture of Faith Church.

The church is very frugal in spending money, but we need to find effective ways to improve our cash flow....to avoid situations of scraping the bottom of the bowl....to provide some financial cushion .

Here's an example: The first two Sundays of the month can be quite good and provide a good boost, but the last two Sundays of the month can often be quite skinny and this is where the problem comes in....too little “wobble room.”

The Finance Committee is looking for ways to improve the cash flow and to better inform and encourage the congregation.

Here are some questions to consider:

Am I supporting the mission and ministry of Faith Church?

How can I improve and increase my giving?

Am I upholding my membership vows to support Faith Church?

In what ways could I do better?

How could I help the mission and ministry of Faith Church to flourish?

If Faith Church means a lot to me, how can I demonstrate my commitment?

Please pray for the mission and ministry of Faith Church....how can we be involved in ministry to the glory of God during these challenging days?

I WILL SUPPORT MY CHURCH WITH PRAYERS, ATTENDANCE, GIFTS, SERVICE AND WITNESS.
(United Methodist membership vows.)



L.I.F.T.

Change Your Hearts and Lives

After a several week break, the LIFT program will resume in Preston on April 3rd. Living in Faith Together—LIFT---is an after school program for elementary school children that meets on Wednesdays at Preston United Methodist Church. The theme for the spring session of LIFT is “Change Your Hearts and Lives” and focuses on St. Paul and other early Christians. Children from kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome, and each week the group enjoys snacks, a bible lesson, craft and music time. Bussing is available from the Fillmore Central School. For more information, contact Nancy Dahly at 507-765-2480.



Clothing Drive

Clothing Drive and Giveaway



Kingsland National Honor Society will hold their yearly clothing drive April 8-12. Faith UMC is a drop off location for the community to donate clothes. We will also be collecting at Fountain and Cherry Grove

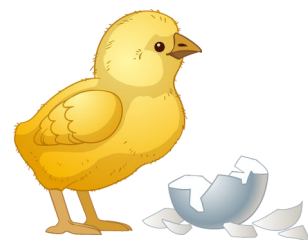
UMC's from March 24-April 7th. The clothing should have no tears and be clean. Clothes will be picked up between 3:00-4:30 PM on Friday, April 12. People may also take clothing donations directly to the Spring Valley Community Center from 3:30-5:00 on Friday, April 12, The clothing drive will be held at the Spring Valley Community Center from 8:00-12:00 on Saturday, April 13.

Renewal of the Soul
Gertrude Rudberg

Easter is to everyone
Renewal of the soul
When spring bursts forth with songs of birds
After winter cold.
It fills our hearts with hopefulness;
Its promise is sublime
Of life renewed and souls restored
In earthly clime.
It lights the way in caverns dark,
Where fear we've felt and seen,
And melts the frozen rivulets
Of doubting in between.
It paints the heavens bright with blue,
Embroiders them with lace,
Where we recall our risen Lord
Ascended to in grace.

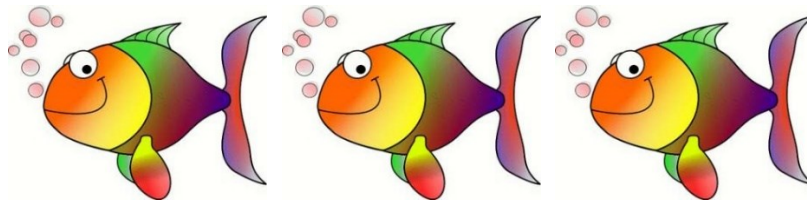


On Palm Sunday, March 24,
some baby chicks made a visit to the Cherry
Grove UMC!



Preston United Methodist Church
Drive-Thru
Codfish & Meatball Supper
Friday, April 5, 2024
4:30-7:00pm

(Or until the food is gone!)



Menu

Codfish with drawn butter
Meatballs in gravy
Mashed potatoes
Coleslaw
Steamed green peas
Dinner rolls and Cake

Tickets: \$18.00

Tickets will be sold at the door only.

**** Please follow signs for drive-thru route.****

PUMC, 212 St. Anthony St., Preston, MN 55965
Office 507-346-2830

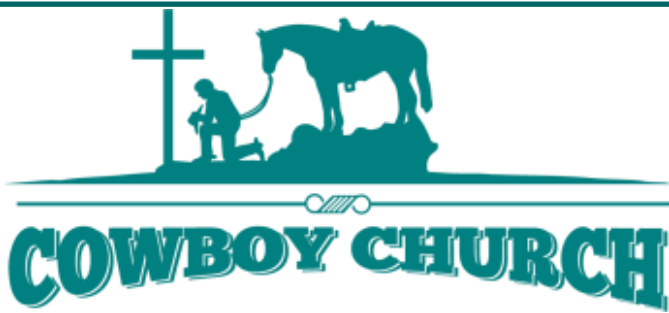
United Women in Faith (UMW) at Faith UMC in Spring Valley invite all women of the Maple Leaf Parish to a gathering at Faith Church on Wednesday, April 10th at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship, education and inspiration.



Questions?

Contact Nancy Cornell-346-2044





JOIN US ON
APRIL 7th
AT 6 P.M.
IN CHERRY GROVE

THE HISTORIC LENORA CHURCH

Scheduled to
reopen on
May 19, 2024.
Service at
3:00. Every-
one
Welcome!



Sunrise Service

Reginald Holmes

*I shall worship in my garden
When the grass is wet with dew,
In a special sunrise service
When the Easter skies are blue.
There will be no massive pulpit
And no richly vested choir,
Just an altar built by nature
And a towering maple spire.
There will be no organ playing
With its loud and vibrant notes;
But a hymn of praise will echo
From a hundred songbird throats.
There I'll kneel in supplication
In a setting calm and still
And sip lightly from the chalice
Of a golden daffodil.*



Due to a complicated schedule and staff vacations coming up in April, the May edition of the Maple Leaf Parish Newsletter will be delayed. Articles, etc. should be turned in by May 1st due to a possibility that we will have a May-June edition....



The Maple Leaf Parish office will also be closed April 22 - 30th, but Jane will be checking messages remotely. Pastors Bill Rowen and Wane Souhrada will be on call for emergency pastoral situations. Pastor Bill Rowen and Phil Hebrink are our guest speakers for April 21st at our Maple Leaf Parish churches.

Our normal schedule will resume at the beginning of May.

Preston
Administrative Council
March 12, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Mark Woodward, Pastor Deanna Woodward, Jenny Dornink, Marlene Peterson, Dan Miller, Greg Dornink, Dollie Acton, Cherrie Brink, Sue Hovey, Jerry Brink, John Goutcher.

Greg called the meeting to order on March 12, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Devotion and prayer was led by Pastor Mark.

Jenny moved to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Jerry. Motion passed.

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

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, the expenses in February were consistent with previous months. Income was about \$435 more than expenses. The gas expense has been significantly less this winter with the warmer temps. \$310 was given to the Fillmore County Food Shelf from designated giving. At the end of February, 16% of the budget had been spent. Jenny moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed.

From the Finance Committee, Dan reported the average weekly offering for February was \$1019.25 which was slightly more than the weekly needed amount of \$1000.17. Apportionment received in February was \$340. Average attendance during February was 23.

From the Trustees Committee, Jerry reported he changed batteries in the smoke detectors. He also cleaned the burners by the kitchen and tested them so they are ready for the Codfish Dinner.

From the Worship Committee, Pastor Mark reported the Lenten Services & Soup Suppers have been going well. Average attendance has been about 30.

From the Missions Committee, Sue reported March is Food Share Month. Monetary donations and food contributions are being collected for the Preston Food Shelf. Pastor Mark recommended giving \$300 from the Good Samaritan Fund to the Preston Food Shelf during March Food Share Month. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed. F&M Bank is collecting donations for Family Promise Rochester for families experiencing homelessness in Rochester. Anyone wishing to make donations can drop them off at the bank.

From Staff/Parish Relations Committee, Marlene reported there are no issues.

From Evangelism and Outreach Committee, Pastor Mark reported the next session of LIFT will start again in April. He is working on a flier to go in the Preston Utilities bill in the next couple months.

In Business, Cherrie, as our insurance representative with North Star Mutual, presented upcoming changes to insurance rates. The church policy will renew on May 1 and rates will be going up 23% due to multiple natural disasters nationwide over the past few years. With a \$2500 deductible, the monthly rate will go up about \$103/month.

Dollie inquired if there was a senior center or senior activities in Preston. More research will be done.

Jenny reported Codfish preparations are well under way with the big Codfish & Meatball Dinner on Friday, April 5.

During the Pastor's Report, Rev. Bill Rowen will be the guest preacher on April 21 while the Woodwards are on vacation. The District Superintendent, Michelle Hargrave, will be here on May 19 for the service. Fillmore Central Baccalaureate will also be at PUMC on May 19.

Jenny moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jerry. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jenny Dornink, PUMC Council Secretary

Preston United Methodist Church
Finance Committee

January:

Average Weekly offering \$1,022.50 (\$290.00 of this is Apportionments)
Amount needed each week \$1,065.56
Under budget \$(43.06)

February:

Average Weekly offering \$1,094.24 (\$340 for Apportionments and \$300 Food Shelf)
Amount needed each week \$1,065.56
Under budget \$28.69

Attendance

January:

7- 20 people \$1382.00
14-15 people \$1365.00
21-20 people \$345.00
27-32 people \$998.00
Total people-87 with average of 21 per Sunday

February

6-24 people \$1609.00
11-22 people \$1273.00
20-24 people \$725.00
25-24 people \$770.00
Total people-93 with average of 23 per Sunday
30 people-February 28th Lenten Supper & Service

*Editors' note: This article was submitted by Dan Miller, the financial secretary for the Preston Church. Financial information is also available for Fountain, Spring Valley: Faith and Cherry Grove Churches upon request.

Hymns for Your Occupation

The Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
The Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall be Showers of Blessings
The Contractor's Hymn.....How Firm a Foundation
The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
The Gossip's HymnIt is No Secret
The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
The Pilot's Hymn.....I'll Fly Away
The Paramedics Hymn.....Revive Us Again
The Waiter's Hymn.....Fill My Cup, Lord
The Mail Carrier's Hymn.....Deliverance Will Come
The Nurse's Hymn.....Rescue the Perishing
The Fisherman's Hymn.....Shall We Gather at the River?
The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop



Cherry Grove
Administrative Council
March 11, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

The Cherry Grove Administrative Council met at the church on March 11, 2024 at 7 p.m. Chairman Denny Brusse called the meeting to order. Rev. Mark opened with prayer. The February secretary's report was available in the parish newsletter.

The treasurer's report was prepared by Lori Scheevel. Payment has been made to sponsor a house to be built in the Dominican Republic. After review, the treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Marlo, second by Peggy. Motion carried.

Trustees' report: Marlo reported on a premium increase for church property insurance. An alternative, lower cost proposal was also received from Essig. After discussion, Phil moved and Steve T. seconded the motion to go with the lower cost proposal. Motion carried.

Thank you to Harlan Lichty for another donation for lights for the ballfield. Gene asked about sweeping rock out of the church lawn. Phil owns a sweeper and offered to work on this. Phil reported that the rate has increased for church trash removal. He will ask about a discount.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: no report.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Deanna reminded the group of the Lenten supper and service in Cherry Grove on Mar. 13, Palm Sunday brunch on March 24 and Good Friday service in Spring Valley on March 29. The Kingsland National Honor Society has their clothing drive coming up and we will be collecting items from March 24-April 7. We also have a sign-up posted for a food packing event in Stewartville on April 6. Phil Hebrink will be the preacher on April 21 during pastors' vacation.

Gene moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jan seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.



**Faith United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes
March 14, 2024**

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

Finance Committee: Jane gave report. Cursillo Fund was revisited, it was decided it was appropriate to keep this money separate and available for any FUMC member who chooses to attend a Unidos en Cristo or Walk to Emmaus retreat.

Deanna reviewed the special Finance meeting held on March 5th. It was agreed to reach out to all FUMC members via a postcard. There was a lengthy discussion on ways to raise awareness of finances with all members. Currently, donation statements are biannual. A decision was made to send out statements on a yearly basis in January for the previous year. If individuals need a statement during the course of the year they can reach out to the church office to request one. Input is need to determine where Memorial funds could appropriately be used. If interested in providing input please volunteer to be on the Memorial Committee.

Church Council: Diane called the meeting to order. Deanna opened with a prayer. Gail made a motion to accept February minutes, Mary seconded. Motion carried. Finance committee suggested to have a church rummage sale when the City of Spring Valley holds their city wide sales in early May. Volunteers are needed to help organize. If interested please contact the church office.

UMW: No report

Missions: Deanna reported during month of March we are collecting food for MN FoodShare, members will be participating in the Food for Kidz food packing event in Stewartville on April 6th and FUMC is a drop off site for the Kingsland National Honor Society clothing drive March 24th - April 12th.

Membership Committee: Total member is 248.

Education Committee: Sunday School membership is consistent but not growing. Palm Sunday the committee will be holding a breakfast following the service. Several individuals have volunteered to assist. Children will be singing during the service that day. No Sunday School on Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the worship service. Diane and Gail are organizing serving cinnamon rolls and coffee following the sunrise service.

Trustee Committee: Tom Ramaker has removed several diseased trees from behind the church.

Pastor Report: Mark and Deanna will be away April 21st -27th. Bill Rowen will be preaching on April 21st. Jane is also away during that time. The church office will be closed from April 23rd to April 26th. Jane will be monitoring phone messages during that time, and Bill Rowen will be on call for pastoral needs.

March 20th Lenten service will be held at FUMC in addition to the Good Friday service on March 29th at 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 19th , District Superintendent, Michelle Hargrave will be speaking at FUMC and Preston UMC worship services.

Gene made a motion to adjourn. Gail seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.



Spring

BUDS
DAFFODILS
FLOWERS
GRASS
RAIN

RAINBOW
SEEDS
SPRING
TULIPS
UMBRELLA

G F S Q O I I S L S U R
E D U R Y G N D M B K V
B T A P T I Q E K D I F
S K N F A G H E H P B C
P T D R F B W S Q P R J
I S R E W O L F D T L S
L F H Z F G D S A N U M
U X U U F R R I D J T Z
T H C U Z A J A L U T V
U M B R E L L A S S B M
B N S M G N I R P S M K
R A I N B O W D J A C P



APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6 p.m. Faith Bell Choir Practice	2 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Faith Trustees- 6:30	3 LIFT 3:15 at Preston UMC	4	5 Codfish Supper in Preston UMC 4:30- 7:00	6 Food for Kidz 11:30-3:30 in Stewartville
7 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6pm Cowboy Church	8 6 p.m. Faith Bell Choir Practice Cherry Grove Council -7	9 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Preston Council -7	10 Faith UMW-9:30 LIFT 3:15 at Preston UMC	11 Faith SPR-6 Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	12	13 Kingsland NHS Clothing Giveaway SV Community Center 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Leona Nagel Funeral- Cherry Grove
14 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	15	16 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am	17 LIFT 3:15 at Preston UMC	18	19	20
21 Guest Preachers 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	22	23 Church Office Closed Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am	24 Church Office Closed LIFT 3:15 at Preston UMC	25 Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	29	30 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am				

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
Permit #62
Non-Profit
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