



Maple Leaf Parish

Pastor's Article....

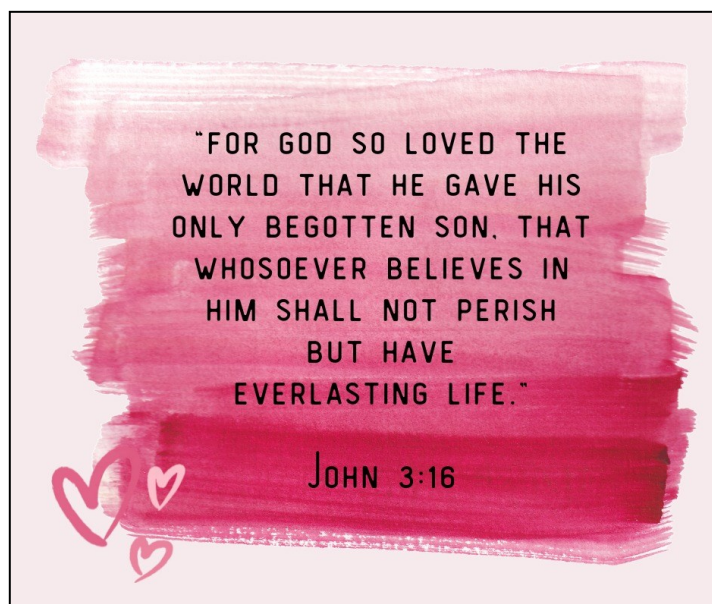
A few nights ago I was doing some Bible reading at home. I had no meetings or commitments that night. It was bitterly cold outside and it was just a good night to stay home. I lit a fire in the fireplace, and turned on some beautiful music on the radio, wrapped myself up in a blanket in my favorite chair and began to thumb through the Bible. It was a soothing night as the fire crackled in the fireplace.



As I thumbed through my Bible, I was inspired by the beautiful stories of faith, hope and love. They were stories of God's people and how God moved in their lives and guided them through their journeys. I read stories in the Old Testament, in the Psalms, in the Gospels and in the New Testament Epistles. I got up a few times to put more logs on the fire and to watch as the flames danced and crackled. I found myself having a holy evening, beautiful music on the radio, warmth from the fire and God's Word to inspire my heart. As the evening went on I found myself reading and rereading John 3:16. It was really a beautiful moment, I invite all of us to take time once in a while to sit back and have a quiet evening to read and think about the stories and experiences told in the Bible. God's Word is truly alive and it can speak to us every day!

God's blessing always...

It is a joy to be your pastor and friend,
Mark.



-Contact Information-

Pastor Mark

☎ 507-346-2830
☎ 507-271-6761
@ mark.woodward.ponderosa@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

March (NOTE CHANGES)

Terry & Diane Howard-Leaders	507-346-7829
Jim & Kathy Casady	507-440-7494
Christina Howard	507-251-4273
Dan & Natasha Howard	507-346-1882
Joel, Jennifer & Arik Huebner	507-346-7199
Sandy Merkel	507-346-2597
David & Pat Warren	507-346-7490
Emma Crowson	507-735-2810

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
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
Derek Mensink	612-208-4159

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.

**MAPLE LEAF PARISH
LENTEN SCHEDULE**

March 5, Ash Wednesday
7 p.m. Fountain UMC

March 12 at Spring Valley Faith
5:45-6:30 Soup Supper
6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service
"We Are Not Alone "

March 19 at Preston UMC
5:45-6:30 Soup Supper
6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service
"No Need to Be Afraid"

March 26 at Cherry Grove UMC
5:45-6:30 Soup Supper
6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service
"God Created Love"

April 2 at Spring Valley Faith
5:45-6:30 Soup Supper
6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service
"God is Always With Us"

April 9 at Preston UMC
5:45-6:30 Soup Supper
6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Service
"You and Me Are Created by God"

Sunday, **April 13** Palm Sunday

April 18 Good Friday 7 p.m. at
Cherry Grove UMC
A Service of Darkness

April 20 Easter Resurrection Day
Sunrise Service At Spring Valley FUMC
Service of Resurrection at each Church

Schedule for Palm Sunday

April 13th

8:30 Fountain Worship

9 Faith Worship-

**10-Palm Sunday
Breakfast**

10 Cherry Grove Worship-

11 Brunch

11 Preston Worship



Schedule for Easter Sunday

April 20th

8:30 Fountain Worship

9 Faith Worship

**Easter Egg Hunt to
follow service**

No Sunday School

**10 Cherry Grove
Worship**

No Sunday School

11 Preston Worship



*Easter
sunrise service*

Spring Valley: Faith Church.....
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE BEING
PLANNED... JESUS IS ALIVE!!!!

We are planning an outdoor Easter Sunrise
service at sunrise on Easter morning near the
Cross and campfire area at Faith
Church. Bring lawn chairs. Please Invite
people to come join in this special event. (If
the weather is inclement...the service will be
held indoors)

This will be a festive morning please help us
in spreading the word.

**March is Minnesota
FoodShare Month**

For 44 years MN FoodShare has worked to address food insecurity and poverty by engaging communities throughout the state. With soaring food prices and inflation, we all feel the pinch, but some more than others.

- * 537,890 Minnesotans are facing hunger 34% are under the age of 18
- * Minnesotans made an estimated record breaking 9 million visits to food shelves in 2024. Up 20% from the previous record in 2023
- * Annual visits to food shelves are now 150% higher than they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our local food shelves are included in those seeing increases in usage and expenses.

During the month of March we will be collecting food donations, especially high protein items (like canned meats, dried beans and lentils), baby food, wipes and diapers, feminine hygiene products and Depends.

CASH is even better. Our food shelf dollar can buy more at Channel One Food Bank than your dollar at the grocery store. Make checks payable to your church and write "Food Share" in the memo.

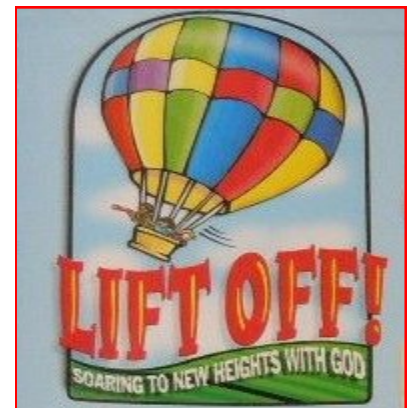
We can help our neighbors.
Start when you grocery shop.
Many are counting on us.

Share

And thank you in advance for your efforts.

**LIVING IN FAITH
TOGETHER TO RESUME IN APRIL AT PRESTON UMC**

After a several week break, the LIFT program will resume in Preston on April 9th . Living in Faith Together—LIFT— is an after school program for elementary school children that meets on Wednesdays at Preston United Methodist Church. 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 507-951-2705.



Food for Kidz
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Stewartville Civic Center
9:30 - 4:00

This is the 21st year for Kiwanis sponsored food packaging in Stewartville with over 2 million meals packaged with your help. This year the goal is 94,000 meals costing \$15,980.00 for ingredients. It takes about 300 volunteers to accomplish this.

All ages are welcome. You will have a choice of standing or sitting. Invite your friends, family, ball team, confirmation class, 4-H club etc.

It's fun! Be counted as one of the 300. Sign up at your church for a 2 hour shift starting at 11:30 or 1:30. Earliest shift already taken.

PS Also needed- muscles. People to carry filled boxes and to fill ingredient containers. And if you would like to help with expenses, make check payable to Food for Kidz and drop in offering plate or church office by March 16th.

Questions: Contact Denny or Nancy Cornell

Food for Kidz

Clothing Drive



Kingsland National Honor Society is holding their yearly clothing drive April 7-11th this year.

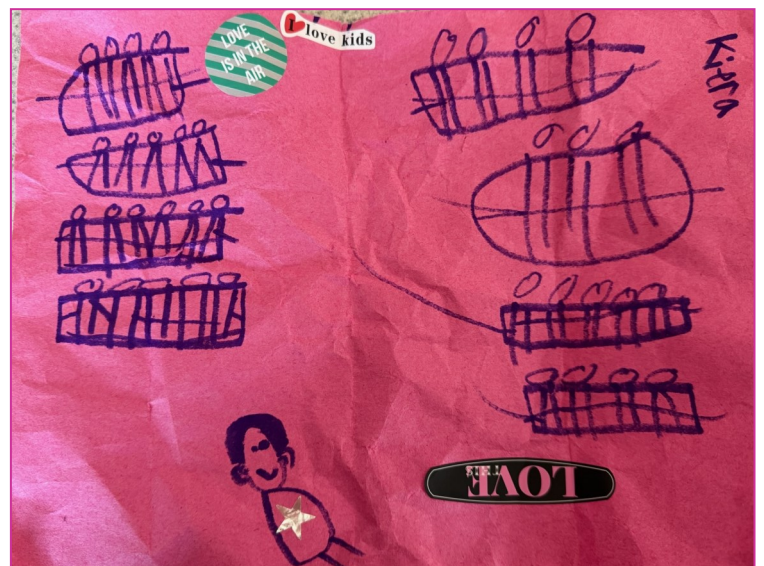
Faith UMC will be a drop off location for the community to donate clothes. Gently used clothing can be dropped off the week of April 7-11. Clothes only. No dirty or torn clothing. People can bring donations directly to SV community center on April 11 after 3pm.

The clothing drive will be held at the SV community center from 8 am - 12pm on Saturday, April 12. Shop for free.

THE POWER OF LOVE.... Art drawn by Kiera Montgomery

This is an inspiring piece of art drawn by Kiera Montgomery.

It features Pastor Mark speaking to the church family on a Sunday morning talking about love. "Love is in the air." Thank you Katie and family for sharing this beautiful piece of love-filled artwork drawn by Kiera!
(Mark with the star and church members in the pews!)



THE SOURCE OF MY STRENGTH

In 1944 Rev. Charles Stanley wrote an inspiring book titled THE SOURCE OF MY STRENGTH. In the book Stanley addresses a variety of themes and topics that relate to our life's journey. We find that our humanity is strengthened by the powerful presence of God's love in Jesus. The book is one of optimism, renewed hope, spiritual vitality and Christian love. It is a book that reminds us that Jesus goes with us each and every day, even when the road gets bumpy and steep he is with us to guide us and uphold us, to renew our strength! During the Lenten season, I would like to draw on some of the uplifting themes Stanley describes as we think about our relationship with Jesus and one another. When we think about Jesus as being the source of our strength we experience a renewed optimism that fills each day with a new sense of joy and peace. I thought the book would be timely as it addresses some of the emotions people experience in the course of a day.

Feelings such as loneliness, fear, rejection and insecurity fade in relation to the awesome power and presence of God's love in Jesus. The author reminds us that we do not succumb to that which is negative, but we are renewed by that which is full of the power of the Holy Spirit as Jesus guides us and upholds us. Jesus is the source of our strength guiding us forward through all of life. There is a sense of optimism that comes by being strengthened in our faith and commitment!

So during Lent let's be open to being renewed and strengthened by Jesus going with us each day. It is Jesus who lifts us up and calls us his very own by the awesome power of his love and speaking of love, it is the love of Jesus Christ. Let's share that love with one another and with the world around us! We rely on the life changing power of Jesus Christ because he is our strength today and everyday! During Lent let's think about and consider for ourselves, Jesus the source of our strength.

It is a joy and blessing to be your pastor,

Mark Woodward



YIKES!!!! It is bone-chilling cold outside, but it is warm inside! Spring Valley Faith Church expresses profound appreciation for the new furnaces that are keeping our church building warm! We are truly blessed and thankful! This church is warmed by the Holy Spirit and also by seven new furnaces installed by the Rubin Mechanical of Spring Valley. It might be -20 outside, but warm as toast inside!

Estimate for the 7 furnaces was	\$28,000	MN Energy Rebates	\$2,450
Discount for buying all seven	-\$1000	The rebate dollars will be placed in	
Additional cost to fix the airflow problem	+\$500	Capital Maintenance Fund for	
End Balance	\$27,500	future needs.	

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

On February 5, 2025 I had my annual physical at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. After a variety of tests, it was determined my PSA level was too high. Additional tests including an MRI and a biopsy revealed that I have early stages of prostate cancer. I believe this is hereditary as my dad had it as well. While I am not happy with the news, I feel very blessed that this health issue has been diagnosed and addressed in an early and timely way.

I have met with Mayo Clinic urologists and skilled physicians to proceed with a treatment plan. Currently, I have received medical advice stating that surgery most likely would be the best treatment option for me. I am extremely blessed to have the resources of a world class medical institution so close to home.

If I go the route of surgery which has been recommended by Mayo Clinic, I will be recuperating for a few weeks and this will affect some of the activities and events in our ministry. I am currently listed for surgery on April 23rd. I have asked the Reverend Wane Souhrada to provide pastoral guidance during my time of healing. I will do my level best to keep the church family up to date. I am grateful for your prayers, your support and your friendship. While a cancer diagnosis is not happy news, there is happy news in early diagnosis and treatment, for which I am thankful. I will share more later as I know it. I am thankful to be your pastor and I will do my best to guide our churches and to uphold my ordination vows to be a faithful pastor in mission and ministry as a disciple of Jesus.

Please keep my family and I in your prayers in the coming days as the direction for my treatment becomes clearer. I am thankful for the bond of Christian love and friendship we share together all to the glory of God.

Your friend,
Pastor Mark Woodward



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the visits and cards during my recent surgery and recovery. I am currently home and doing well.

Sincerely,
Linda Jacobson

Ralph Waldo Emerson

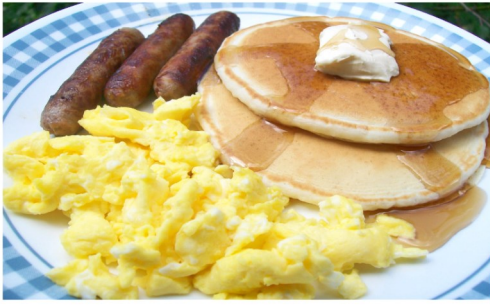
“Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.”

Please plan to attend:

Education Committee's Palm Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser at
Faith United Methodist Church
10 a.m. Sunday, April 13th following
Palm Sunday Services

MENU:

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage and Beverage
Free will donation



Think Spring!!!

Cherry Grove Ball field waits for the first pitch!



The LORD is my Shepherd.

New banner at
Fountain Church
given in honor of
Jerry and Shirley
Wingert

Psalm 23



**JOIN US ON
MARCH 2nd
AT 6 P.M.
IN CHERRY GROVE**

THE HISTORIC LENORA CHURCH
Is closed now for the winter season,
but it will re-open in May, 2025.
Would you like to be a part of the team
that guides the ministry at Lenora?
Please let Pastor Mark know.

**World Day of Prayer
March 7, 2025**

Faith UMC is hosting World Day of
Prayer on Friday, March 7th
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Treats
10:00 a.m. Program

Blood Drive at Faith UMC. Thursday, March 27th
1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Make an Appointment by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS
or visit
RedCrossBlood.org

SAVE A LIFE



Need a tropical getaway? Come join us
as we travel to the Cook Islands in the
Pacific Ocean. See the tropical paradise
and hear the ocean waves. The women of
the islands have prepared a wonderful
service of singing, sharing and prayer as
the 97th anniversary of World Day of
Prayer.

The theme is "You are
Wonderfully Made".
All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

**Friday April 4
4:30p - 7p
Preston United Methodist**

**Codfish and
Meatball Dinner**

delicious!



Spring Market



**Preston United Methodist Church
212 St. Anthony Street N
Preston, MN**

April 12, 2025 10am-2pm

**crafts baked goods
health & beauty home goods
Easter goodies
Lunch available
hosted by Preston Pop Up Market**



JESUS IS EVERYWHERE!!

Something kind of fun, looking for Jesus...you never know where he might appear!!!
Keep your eyes open!

Over the next few weeks, please keep your eyes open and see if you can find Jesus in our church buildings, Jesus is everywhere! We're going to have a little fun with these small Jesus figures and see how and where they might appear in our church buildings. A few nights ago our confirmation students found Jesus in various places in the Faith Church sanctuary, soon Jesus figures will appear in all four of our churches! Keep your eyes open and see if you can find Jesus some Sunday morning when you come to church!



if

Heifer International Collection

Through the generous donations of the Faith United Methodist congregation and the Faith United Methodist UMW, the Sunday School students were able to select various projects to support. The donations collected totaled \$360 and will be used in the following ways.



Flock of Chicks

A starter flock of 10-50 chicks will grow to provide nutritious eggs, as well as income through selling extra eggs.



Flock of Ducks

Donate ducks to help reduce world hunger and poverty. Your flock of ducks gift donation helps families in need with eggs for nourishment and a reliable income.



Give the Gift of Clean Water

Your Gift of Clean Water will help families install treadle pumps, practice water conservation and use organic fertilizers to protect drinking water to improve their health.

If you are unfamiliar with Heifer International, it all began in 1944, when Dan West began outlining a simple but groundbreaking plan to tackle hunger around the world. West, a farmer from the Midwest and Church of the Brethren member, had recently returned from feeding weary refugees during volunteer service in the Spanish Civil War.

He'd seen firsthand that giving people food was a short-term solution, whereas providing them with animals offered a steady supply of nutritious food for an entire family.

His philosophy still inspires Heifer's work today. Partnering with farmers across a range of different livestock and crops, we create unique solutions to local challenges. Together, we build inclusive, resilient economies, so communities can develop effective ways to end global hunger and poverty in a sustainable way.

Heifer International is working to end world hunger in 19 countries across four continents. Heifer works in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, the United States of America and Zambia.

If you are interested in learning more about Heifer International, please visit their website at:

<https://www.heifer.org>



Faith UMC will be having a Church wide Rummage Sale again in May. Start setting aside items as you begin your Spring cleaning. More details in the April Newsletter.



Last night, someone broke in to our house and took a dozen eggs. They also left a saucepan filled with warm water. Police believe it was poachers. 🍳

William Thomas Gilsdorf, son of Michael and Courtney Gilsdorf was baptized at the Cherry Grove UMC on January 19! We wish him a life filled with blessings and love.



Cherry Grove United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
February 10, 2025 Meeting Cancelled

Preston United Methodist Church
Charge Conference Meeting
February 11, 2025 Meeting Cancelled

Faith United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes
February 13, 2025 Meeting Cancelled

**Women of Faith
February 12**

Faith UMW met on February 12, 2025 with six members present. Norma read from Mornings with Jesus for February 11th about Valentines Day where the women made Valentines and gave them to the elderly in church wishing them a Happy Valentines Day. Thank you for making their day!

Motion by Marilyn to accept the Secretary report, second by Danette, motion carried. Motion by Jan and second by Nancy to accept the Treasurer report. Motion carried.

Motion made by Nancy and second by Jan to give Pastor Mark \$100.00. Motion carried, Norma to deliver.

Old business-Noisy Offering went to the Heifer program from Sunday School. They had \$360 to put toward 2 flocks of Chicks-\$40, 1 flock of Ducks-\$40 and 1 gift of clean water-\$300.

World day of Prayer is March 7th at Faith UMC, will need flowers for decorating. Other churches will also participate.

April 5th Spring Rally in Rosemount.

Discussion for Rummage Sale during May City wide. UMW will set up, start announcing now.

Jan Lanning volunteered to head up our Holiday Market (Mini Market) in November. Motion by Marilyn and second by Nancy to have Jan be the leader of the Market. Motion carried. Motion to adjourn by Norma, second by Nancy. Motion carried

Submitted by Norma Merkel

Wouldn't it be embarrassing to find out that when Jesus said the entire Bible is summed up by "*Love God. And love your neighbor as yourself,*" he really meant it. I mean, I've spent so much time thinking so many other things are important - **that just aren't.**

JARED BYAS

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash Wednesday

Holy Thursday

Forty Days

Sacrifice

Good Friday

Jesus

Almsgiving

Holy Saturday

Passover

Prayer

Easter

Foot Washing

Fasting

Palm Sunday

Resurrection

Lent

Purple

Holy Week

Palm Branch



MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6pm Cowboy Church	3	4 Men's Breakfast @ B&B in Preston- 8 a.m. Faith Trustees- 6:30	5 Ash Wednesday 7 p.m. Fountain UMC	6	7 World Day Of Prayer at Faith UMC.. 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Treats Program at 10	8 Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
9 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	10 Faith Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m. Cherry Grove Council -7 p.m.	11 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am Preston Council - 7 p.m.	12 Lent service Faith UMC 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30-Worship	13 Faith Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	14	15
16 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	17 Faith Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.	18 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am	19 Lent service Preston UMC 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30-Worship	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22
23 & 30 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	24 Faith Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m. 31 Faith Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.	25 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am	26 Lent service Cherry Grove UMC 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30-Worship	27 Maundy Thursday Blood Drive at Faith UMC-1 p.m.-7p.m.	28	29

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

