

# Maple Leat Parish

### THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

All around us there are signs of new life, recreation and God's amazing presence. A few days ago I was reading a story in the MINNESOTA VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE. The story was about Monarch butterflies and the intricate process of life that unfolds in their development. The article written by Christine Petersen describes the amazing cycle of life experienced by Monarch butterflies going from egg to larva to pupa before becoming a winged adult butterfly. It is really incredible to consider how the Monarch butterfly migrates from Minnesota all the way to Mexico and California. Some Monarch butterflies have been tagged and tracked for over 1,750 miles in their migratory journeys.

In the Christian Church, the butterfly has long been a symbol for resurrection, new life and the beauty of God's creation. Not only is the butterfly a magnificent creature, this colorful insect is tenacious, determined and displays remarkable endurance. In addition, butterflies are beautiful, colorful, delicate and graceful. I love looking at butterflies in the summertime. Watching them fly can be quite entertaining and kind of renewing to watch them flutter gracefully on a summer's day.

In our church yards we are intentional about preserving some of the milkweed plants that are essential in the early feeding of the Monarch butterfly. Out on the Ponderosa I try very hard to avoid mowing off milkweed plants and it has been a blessing to watch as young butterflies emerge on the stems of the milkweed plants. When she worked here, Megan Dahl and her daughter Nora would sometimes go out in the church yard and find Monarch eggs on milkweed plants and then watch as they grew...and it was inspiring to watch as the eggs eventually became beautiful butterflies.

As we come into June, there is so much beauty and wonder all around us. God is an awesome creator of life. It becomes very apparent that there is a definite reason that the butterfly is an inspiring symbol and reminder of resurrection and our new life in Jesus Christ. So this summer when we are out and about camping, picnicking, playing games, fishing, hiking or just being outdoors -- take some time and if you see a butterfly remember that Jesus is alive and that this butterfly is an ongoing reminder of our new life in Jesus Christ. (...and if you see some milkweed plants don't mow them off or pull them out as they are very essential in the new life of Monarch butterflies.)

I hope you have a tremendous summer, take time to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation all around us! Our God is an awesome God! I look forward to seeing you in church. Please tell me about your experiences this summer and all that God is doing in your life, if you see some butterflies remember they are reminding us of the power of the resurrection and our New LIfe in Jesus Christ!

It is a real joy to be your pastor and to share in ministry with you! Tod God be the glory!
Your friend,

Mark Woodward



P.S. I am looking forward to going on a fishing trip to Bemidji with my grandson Daniel in June....not only will we fish, but we'll keep our eyes open for butterflies as well!

June 2025 Newsletter

# -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-

### Faith UMC Service Group

### JUNE

507-346-2149
507-251-3986
507-421-2959
507-346-2094
507-346-2996
507-251-8877
507-273-2727
507-346-1053

### Cherry Grove UMC Service Group 2024 May - August Work Group

Chairperson – Lori Scheevel	507-990-7675
Co-Chair Phil & Jane Hebrink	507-937-3327
Ronnie & Linda Boland	507-937-3338
Tony & Mariah Boland	507-696-4072
Sandy Cole	507-346-7876
Phil & Lynette Grabau	507-352-2841
Tom & Mary Lou Howard	507-937-3419
Joe & Ermilee Ihns	507-937-3172
Janet Kappers	507-951-1875
Steve & Mary Ann Schultz	507-421-8275
Nathan & Jolene Serfling	507-251-3435 (N)
	507-251-2054 (J)
Richard & Cheryl Serfling	507-765-2420
Vicki Serfling	563-313-1073
Steve & Karyl Tammel	507-937-3367
Roy & Marcella Tibbals	507-329-4850
Lynn Tienter	507-937-3563
Denny & Peggy Brusse	507-765-4489 /
	507-251-6204 (Pegg

### 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.

2

WEAR RED CLOTHES ON PENTECOST June 8th.
Our churches will celebrate Pentecost -- the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit on
Sunday, June 8..... Please wear RED clothes on Pentecost Sunday..... Red is the color for Pentecost and it is a great time to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit!



Join us on
June 1st
Music starts at 5:30 p.m.
Service at 6 p.m.
In Cherry Grove
Featured Musicians are
Country at Heart





Cherry Grove
Parade
Friday,
July 4th
I a.m.
Lunch will follow
at the Church



June 15th

# Vacation Bible School

Maple Leaf Parish Vacation
Bible School
We are currently making plans for
August. Please stay tuned for
further information. Your
involvement and support will be
greatly appreciated.



# Join us at **Lenora Church** on **Sunday, June 15th at 3:00 p.m**.

Worship gatherings will take place at Lenora Church throughout the summer and fall on the third Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. If anyone would like more information about the ministry at Lenora, please speak with Pastor Mark.

# CELBRATION OF OUR GRADUATES



In all of our churches there are people who are graduating from high school, college and various places of

learning!!! We lift them in our prayers, and we are thankful for the accomplishments of people young and old at all points of their lives!

Graduates In Maple Leaf Parish
Carson Wolfgram, Steven Moore, Seth
Howard, Max Erdman, Vaira Merkel and
Sam Howard (not pictured) graduating
from
Kingsland High School

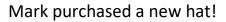
Tyler Suckow of Fountain graduating from Fillmore Central High School



### Rummage Sale at Faith UMC



Spring Valley Faith Church had a rummage sale on May 9-10, 2025 which was a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone who donated "merchandise" and those who helped to organize the event! The United Women in Faith also sold cinnamon rolls and coffee. It was great team work! We earned \$1,052.50 to help pay the bills! Thank you everyone!





# THE CROSS ON THE ROOF OF SPRING VALLEY: FAITH CHURCH TO BE ILLUMINATED IN MEMORY OF PASTOR DEANNA WOODWARD

The cross on the roof of the Spring Valley Faith Church will soon be illuminated in memory of Pastor Deanna Woodward. The Board of Trustees and the Church Council are making arrangements for this project to proceed in coming days. Mr. Tom Ramaker has been in touch with an electrician and details are coming together to make this project a reality. Jesus is the Light of the world and in her ministry Deanna emulated the Light and love of Jesus with her approach to everyday life and in the ways she modeled the life changing love of Jesus Christ. All four Maple Leaf Parish Churches will have illuminated crosses symbolically reminding us of the Light of Jesus Christ! It will be a blessing to see the cross on top of Spring Valley Faith church light up at night in the very near future in memory of Deanna.



# Preston UMC Last LIFT Session for this school year



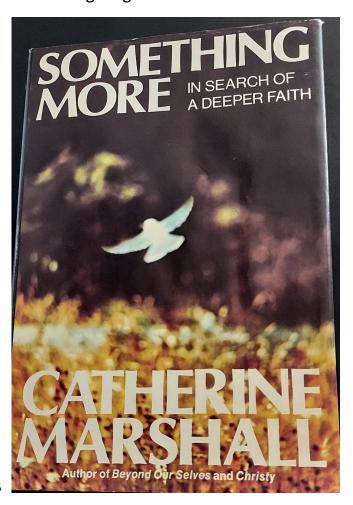




I wanna go fishing but I need somebody to put the worm on and take the fish off.

# OLD BOOK.... REALLY AN UPLIFTING MOMENT!

Every once in a while I like digging through my library. A few nights ago I found an old book that I hadn't seen in years. "SOMETHING MORE: SEARCHING FOR A DEEPER FAITH" Written by Catherine Marshall in 1974. Following the passing of Deanna last October and my recent surgery, I am finding this book to be quite renewing, uplifting and inspiring in dealing with some of the problems and situations of daily living. The author recounts the loss of her husband and the death of two of her grandchildren and how devastating those events were in her life and how she grew in her faith in moving forward. Some of the main themes in the book relate to forgiveness, grace, faith and trusting God with our lives. It is very renewing and inspiring, I blew off the dust and am reading it again! Pastor Mark





Dear Pastors and Congregations of the Maple Leaf Parish:

Thank you for paying 100 percent apportionments in 2025! The River Bluffs District had 53 churches, three more than last year, meeting 80.1% of apportionment payments. Apportionment giving connects us as United Methodists, working together to share the love of Jesus Christ with our communities.

Our newly shaped district includes churches that are rural, town, suburban, and urban working together to grow in love of God and neighbor. We have centrist, progressive, and traditional theologies, with small and large congregations led by clergy and lay people. Your dollars provide training for clergy and lay leadership, support for congregations, and common ministry across Minnesota.

All four Maple Leaf congregations join the others in the River Valley District in paying apportionments in full. Thank you for your steadfast faithfulness to our common ministry. Our apportionments undergird the Minnesota Annual Conference, and the worldwide United Methodist Church, in our witness to Christ. May God continue to work through your church as you bless the world around.

In Christ, Rev. Michelle Hargrave District Superintendent



It was a real blessing to present KAISEN IRISH son of Hunter and Karly Irish with his very own Bible. It was given to him at Cherry Grove Church on May 11, 2025 (Mother's Day.) One can tell by the smile on his face that he's pretty happy with his brand new Bible given to him by the church family.



### Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism. It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.

Submitted by John Riess

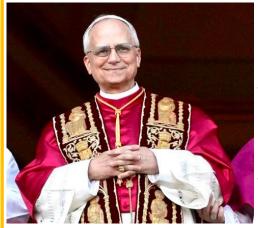
### Beautiful window at Fountain UMC

United Women in Faith (UMW) will meet on Wednesday, June 4th, at 9:30 at Faith UMC. Coffee at 9:30, followed by a short business meeting. The program will be organizing and cleaning the kitchen. Everyone is welcome.





REACHING OUT ECUMENICALLY TO LIVE AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS....WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.... ON THE SELECTION OF POPE LEO XIV.



It is good to be in prayer for the mission and ministry of the entire Christian Church throughout the world. May we all work together for the glory of God in living and sharing the good News of our Savior Jesus Christ. The first words credited to the Pope Leo XIV, "Peace to all of you." In these challenging days may we all be dedicated to the cause of peace in the world today.

# GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF CHURCH PROPERTY..SPRING VALLEY: FAITH CHURCH PARKING LOT CRACK SEALING AND MAINTENANCE IN 2025...

The Spring Valley: Faith Church Trustees and Church Council have made the decision to proceed with parking lot maintenance during the summer of 2025. Cracks will be sealed and the parking lot will be seal-coated during the warm weather of summer. The estimated cost is in the neighborhood of \$15,000.00. Using our Capital Maintenance fund we have approximately half of the expensives covered, however additional donations are needed to complete the project. Additional contributions and gifts are much appreciated.

The Board of Trustees and Church Council believe in preventative maintenance in caring for the parking lot as in the long run it is less expensive.

### Thank you from the Faith UMC Trustees

We are grateful for the wonderful folks who have been supporting the Capital Maintenance Fund. Since the Trustees suggested it last year, it has been a godsend for the Church. The money for the furnaces came to it in one generous donation. Recently, it helped us to decide to do seal coating on the parking lot this summer (see separate article above). We currently do not have all the funds to make this happen, but are proceeding with the hope of future funding for it. This 50+-year-old building is showing its age as can be expected. We have several projects on our to-do wish list. Please keep the Capital Maintenance Fund in mind for donations from memorials, rebates, IRA distributions or other disbursements, or simply for a monthly designation. Thank you.

### Mission Lunch Bunch

Come and join us on Wednesday, June 18th for our first Mission Lunch Bunch adventure. All Maple Leaf Parish members are welcome.

We will visit First Care Pregnancy Center and the Landing both in Rochester- followed by Lunch at a place determined by those participating.

First Care Pregnancy Center provides a variety of free services to those who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, including tests, options, parenting and education support and much more. The Landing exists to build trust, give hope, and support steps toward stability for those experiencing homelessness.

What to bring: your smile and Lunch money. If you would also like to support either or both of these missions:

- First Care is in need of size 4 and up disposable diapers and size 4 and up pull-ups.
- The Landing is in need of colorful men's boxers all sizes.

Plan to leave the Preston UMC parking lot at 8:45 am and Faith UMC parking lot at 9:15. Depending on how many show up, we may need more drivers.

If you plan on attending please let one of the following know: Jane, Faith UMC office 507-346-2830 or Nancy Cornell 507-346-2044 or Shirley Goutcher 507-993-1975.





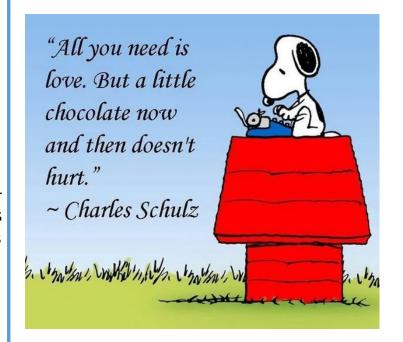
### Members of FUMC,

Thank you for providing a space for the Kingsland Community Food Program (KCFP) to work out of for the weekend food program. It works wonderfully for us. Having a dedicated space to store food and assemble weekly packs is vital. Your commitment to helping feed our families is greatly appreciated.

Geraldine Williams

# PRESTON CHURCH PARKING LOT NEEDS MAINTENANCE ATTENTION POSSIBLE FUNDRAISING PROJECT ??

The Preston Church parking lot is in need of maintenance as it is deteriorating. The Board of Trustees and various people are doing research on possible options for repairing the parking lot at Preston Church. It is not Inexpensive, recent estimates were in the neighborhood of \$60,000. (Ouch!) Suggestions, ideas and creative solutions are needed at this time as we try to figure out ways to move forward. Perhaps we will embark on some form of fundraising project. Please pray about this as we consider various options and ideas.



### Men's Breakfast group celebrating Mark's birthday!





Richard Serfling from Cherry Grove has a new tie!

### Combined Outdoor Service and Potluck Picnic!!

Sunday, July 27th, 10:00 a.m.

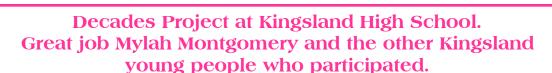
### **Fountain Park**

Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share! (Beverages and tableware provided)

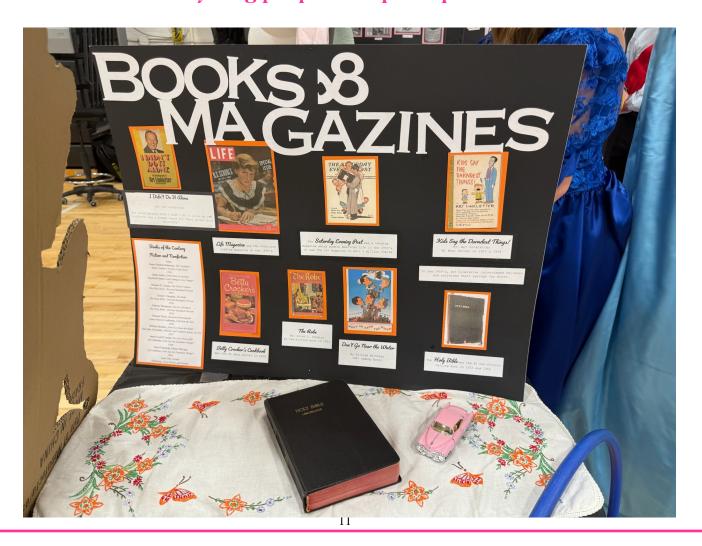
No 8:30 A.M. service in Fountain, 10 in Cherry Grove or 11 in Preston but a service will be held in Spring Valley at 9:00 a.m.

Questions? Call 346-2830

Special Music by Matt and Brenda Stier



Worship in the Park





# TO GOD BE THE GLORY! Sunday School children singing and playing games in the churchyard. It was truly a happy day!

### SISTER LUV: UPBEAT, LIVELY AND FUN MUSICAL GROUP!

May 18 and May 25 Sister Luv sang beautiful, uplifting and joyful music at all four Maple Leaf Parish Churches and Lenora Church, too! Xena, JLee, Shelly and Elsie are from Spring Valley, MN and wherever they go, they bring happiness and joy! Praise be to God!



### Preston Church Administrative Council Minutes—May 13, 2025

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Jenny Dornink, Dollie Acton, Greg Dornink Marlene Peterson, Sue Hovey, Dan Miller, John Goutcher, Nancy Dahly.

Greg called the meeting to order on May 13, 2025 at 7:00pm. Opening prayer was led by Greg. Jenny moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed.

Sue moved to approve the Secretary's Report. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed.

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, March and April expenses remained routine. In March, the church received donations for use of the church from the Preston Historical Society and also from a funeral and a birthday party. Jenny moved to approve the March Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Dollie. Motion passed.

In April, Faith UMC was reimbursed for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter office expenses and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter designated giving for apportionments was sent to the MN Conference. The proceeds from the April Pop-Up Market will also go towards apportionments. Kristi also resolved a past due Form 941 Employee Tax from 2015 and 2016. Nancy moved to approve the April Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed.

From the Finance Committee report, Dan reported the average weekly offering for March was below the needed amount of \$1081.48. Apportionments received were \$40, and \$750 was received for use of the church. Average attendance in March was 22. The average weekly offering for April was slightly below the needed weekly amount of \$1081.48. Apportionments received were \$440. Average attendance in April was 26. At then end of April, 29% of the budget had been spent.

No report from the Trustees Committee.

No report from the Worship Committee

No report from the Missions Committee.

No report from Staff/Parish Relations Committee.

No report from Evangelism and Outreach Committee,

From the Education Committee, Nancy reported 9 LIFT kids, families, and staff will having a send-off pizza supper on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

In Business, Marlene Peterson and Cheryl Dornink have been in contact with Kingsley Mercantile about possibly purchasing some of their remaining wall ovens and stove ovens to replace the "vintage" appliances in the kitchen. One of the stove ovens has a short in it and one of the wall ovens seems to cook hotter than the dial indicates. The Trustees are on board with this project. Nancy moved to approve the replacement of the 2 stoves and 2 wall ovens in the kitchen. Seconded by Jenny. Motion passed. Wayne Frank has been contacted for necessary electrical work and Ron Schroeder has been contacted for the work needed to fit in the new appliances.

Dan moved to purchase a new black & white copier/printer from the general fund to replace old large failing printer in the office. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed.

No Pastor's Report.

John moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jenny. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Respectfully submitted, Jenny Dornink, PUMC Council Secretary

### Faith United Methodist Church Administrative Council Minutes May 9, 2025

**Members Present**: Pastor Mark Woodward, Stu Gross, Diane Howard, Mary Grems, Nancy and Denis Cornell, and Jane Baker.

**Finance Committee**-Jane gave the treasurer report.

**Church Council**-Diane called the meeting to order. Mark opened with prayer. Mary made a motion to accept the March minutes, Nancy seconded. Council reviewed the Finance report.

**Women in Faith**- June meeting will be on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. Everyone is invited to come assist with kitchen cleaning.

**Missions**- Love Offering theme this year is "Love in Action". The offering will go to the Africa University, Immigration Law & Justice Network, OC Ministries-a Minnesota Conference Advance Special supporting schools, medical clinics, churches, agricultural projects and scholarships in several countries. Midwest Mission UMCOR's relief supply chain located in Illinois. The Lunch Bunch date for June will be determined in the near future.

**Membership**- Total membership is 239. Mary has recorded the death of Ruth Kaster.

**Trustees**- Mark reported an estimate for illuminating the cross has been received from McConnell Electric. Diane made a motion for Trustees to move forward if they choose to proceed. Stu seconded.

**Pastor Report**-Currently working out details for VBS for Cherry Grove and Faith churches, it will be held at Faith on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will resume for 2 weeks in May and then on hold for summer. Mark is hoping to plan some field trips and activities during the summer. May 18<sup>th</sup> will be a great day of celebrations; Graduate Sunday, Sister Luv, Celebration Sunday for last day of Sunday School. Date for the annual Maple Leaf Parish Fry Fish at Boland's has not been determined. Mark will be gone the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Brad Boice will cover at Faith and Preston in his absence.

**Sunday School**- Diane thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Palm Sunday breakfast, which was a huge success, \$478 was donated. The last day of Sunday School will be May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mary made a motion to adjourn, Denis seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

### **Faith United Women in Faith**

May 14, 2025 Minutes

The Women in Faith met on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 for regular meeting with 7 women present.

Coffee and sticky buns were served by Norma.

Nancy opened with a reading from Response, "Outside the Box". We have to think "outside the box" to do things different. Also, where does our money go-Miam in India who offer grants, Child marriages changes and Sanitary & Compost project to name a few.

Motion by Deanna to accept the minutes second by Danette. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Danette and second by Vivian. Motion carried.

Rummage sale was held on May 9<sup>th</sup> &10<sup>th</sup>. Cinnamon rolls and coffee sales were a success, sold 60 in two days bringing in \$225, could change price next year if we do it again. We could have more organization in setting up, it did go OK. Took all that was left to Preston to Thrifty Threads. Total sales was \$1052.40.

New business, the Maple Leaf Parish is collecting Onesies, diaper pins, underwear and leather work gloves to be taken to Annual Conference in June. Motion by Nancy and second by Deanna to spend \$150 to purchase items. Motion Carried. Several people volunteered to do the shopping.

The Fall Market will be called a Holiday Market this year. Vendors will pay for a table, more to discuss later. Suggestions for ideas were a Silent Auction, sell tickets. Jan making a quilt for the fundraiser. Also, Change for Change to collect coins a project, more to come.

No other business motion to adjourn with the Lords Prayer.

Submitted by Norma Merkel

# JUNE 2024

Sat			Newsletter Deadline	·	
	_	41	21	28	
Fri	9	13	20	27	
Thu	5	12 Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	19	26	
Wed	4 United Women of Faith , SV 9:30	11	18 Mission 18 Lunch Bunch 8:45 Iv Preston parking lot 9:15 Iv SV	25	
Tue	3 Men's Breakfast @ B&B in Preston- 8 am 6:30 Faith Trustees	10 Men's Breakfast in Preston-8 am Preston Council -7 p.m.	17 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am	24 Men's Breakfast in Preston -8am	
Mon	2	9 Council -7 p.m.	16	23	30
Sun	1 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6pm Cowboy Church	8 Pentecost 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	15 Father's Day 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Lenora Worship	8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship

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