



Maple Leaf Parish

Greetings on a gloriously beautiful day! I hope you are having a blessed and joyful day. The theme of the 2026 Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church focused on "joy." Joy is a central theme in our Christian faith as the presence of the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and lives with joy!

Recently while up north on a fishing vacation, I ran across a captivating book in a second hand store (I love second hand stores, junk shops and places where interesting things can be found!) The book was about Rev. Oswald Chambers a pastor and writer who lived in the early 1900s. He was the author of MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST, a classic Christian devotional book published in 1917 during World War One. Sadly, Rev. Chambers died in 1917 at the age of 43 from an appendectomy. He left behind a young wife and daughter. He had only been married for seven years. His wife, who he affectionately called, "Biddy" carried on the mission and ministry he had begun during the war years. Then came World War Two and over 40,000 copies of Oswald Chambers' books were destroyed when German airplanes bombed London, England. However, Biddy Chambers remained undaunted and refused to quit or give up! She was persistent and determined in her faith and ministry.

One night a group of serious, kind of sullen, and somber seminarians joined Biddy and her daughter Kathleen for supper. Biddy was determined to lighten the mood and the supper table and encouraged her daughter to begin shooting cherry pits at a vase on top of the mantle. After several attempts, Kathleen was successful and a "pinging" noise was heard. Everyone began to laugh and giggle and the room was soon filled with sheer joy as all the seminarians began shooting cherry pits at the vase, too!!!

Life is not easy. Sometimes there are real challenges and heartbreaks. Biddy lost her beloved husband. Over 40,000 books were destroyed in a fire. She faced many problems, trials and heartaches in her life, but Biddy refused to give up and she refused to live her life without JOY!

Let's be thinking about the JOY God's Holy Spirit brings into our lives....you know, the deep down abiding joy that goes with us every day through all of life's challenges and troubles. As the book came to an end, the last word on the page was, "ping." For Biddy, "ping" represented the sheer joy of the Holy Spirit. The serious, sullen mood at the table was broken by the power of the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes we all have difficult, hurtful and challenging days. May the joy of the Holy Spirit lift us up and renew our sense of hope and optimism. The theme of the 2026 Annual Conference was joy. Biddy's perseverance and tenacity really spoke to my heart. She refused to give up! She refused to quit! When things got too serious and too dour she and her daughter spit cherry pits at the vase on the mantle and people shared a moment of joy and renewed hope! May our day be filled with joy as we share together in God's abiding love in Jesus Christ and may the joy of the Holy Spirit be with us always!!! PING!!!!

It is a joy to be your pastor and friend and to share in mission and ministry with you all to the glory of God! Mark Woodward

-Contact Information-

Pastor Mark Woodward

☎ 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/](https://www.facebook.com/cherrygrovechurch/)

You can find Faith UMC at:

[https://www.facebook.com/Faith-
United-Methodist-Church-
229920383757905/](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

JULY

*Craig & Cindy Seabright	272-1682
Amanda Boettcher	438-2503
RaNae Clouse	346-2979
Ashley Clouse	
Carol Sanford	259-8833
Louise Marquardt	346-2796
Tom & Kim Mosher	346-7233
Paula Ruesink	346-7189
Naomi Stuckey	754-5919

Cherry Grove UMC Service Group

2026 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
Jessica Kim	507-251-5894
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
Denny & Peggy Brusse	507-765-4489 507-251-6204 (P)

Deadlines

Newsletter: The newsletter deadline is the 21st of every month at 4:00 pm.

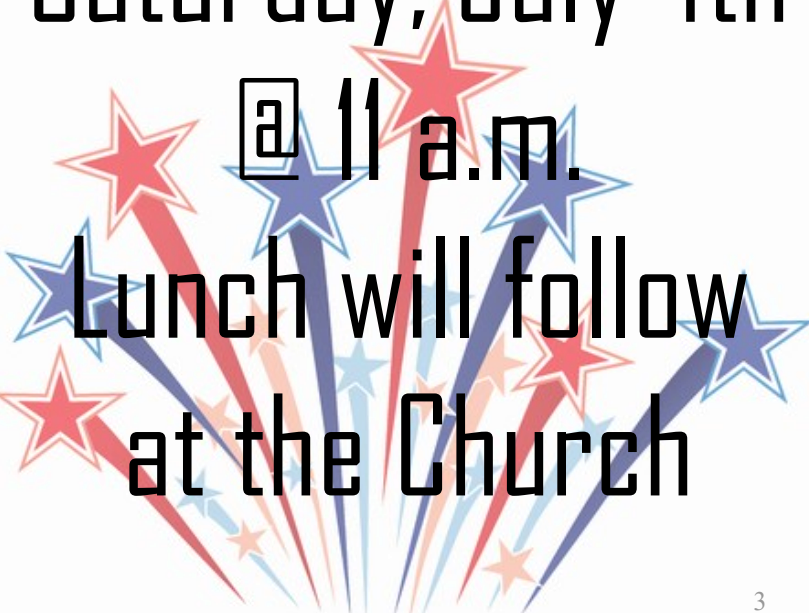
Bulletin: Please submit announcements for the Sunday bulletin by noon on Thursday. Occasionally these dead-
lines may need to be adjusted. Please submit your articles as soon as possible. Thank you for understanding.

4th^{of} July Parade



Cherry Grove
Parade

Saturday, July 4th
@ 11 a.m.



Lunch will follow
at the Church



Join us on
July 5th
at 6 p.m.



”

Do all the good you can,
by all the means you
can, in all the ways you
can, in all the places
you can, at all the times
you can, to all the
people you can, as long
as ever you can.

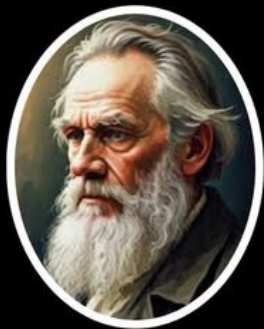
—
John Wesley

Cherries

Pastor Mark's sermon on "Take Heart! I Have Overcome the World" and the importance of JOY in our lives, referring to Oswald Chambers and his widow "Biddy." Spitting cherry pits at the vase on the mantle. The serious mood at the table turned to sheer joy as the seminarians took aim at the vase on the mantle to spit cherry pits!!! Maple Leaf Parish code word for Joy? "PING." The last word in OSWALD CHAMBERS: ABANDONED TO GOD by David McCasland, 1993 is "Ping" as the cherry pits hit the vase on the mantle and all the people at the table went from being very serious and sullen, to becoming people of JOY! Ping!!!!

Rev. Oswald Chambers wrote the classic devotional book MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST. Oswald Chambers died following an appendectomy in 1917 during the First World War at the age of 43. To learn more about this fascinating and inspiring man, please read David McCasland's book, OSWALD CHAMBERS: ABANDONED TO GOD, published in 1993.

(photo by Cherrie Brink)



"If you feel pain, you're
alive. If you feel other
people's pain, you're a
human being."

LEO TOLSTOY

Combined Outdoor Service and Potluck Picnic!!

Sunday, July 19, 10:30 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.**

There will be a 9 A.M. at Faith

Questions? Call 346-2830



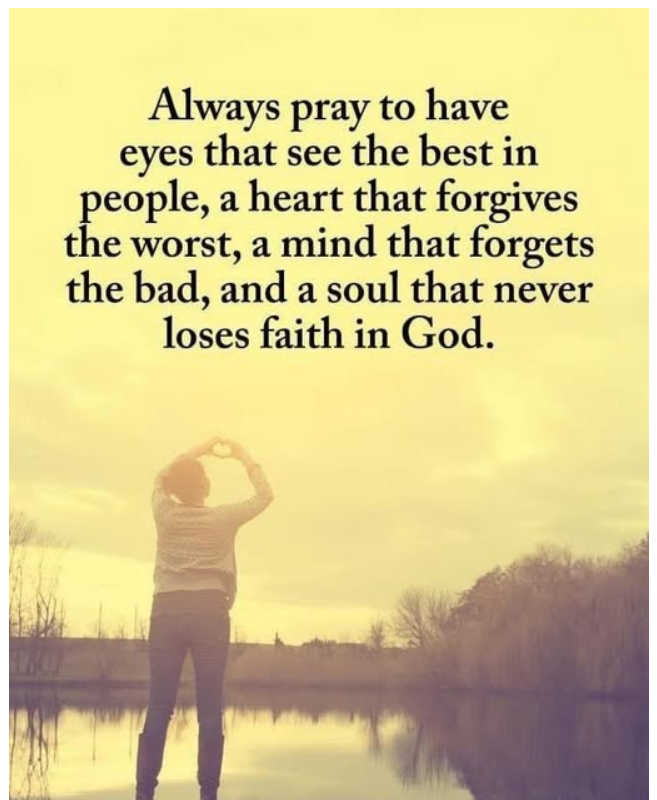
Great Awakening

Pastor Mark is currently making arrangements for another movie day at the JEM Theater in Harmony to see the movie THE GREAT AWAKENING.

Please stay tuned as arrangements and plans come together. THE GREAT AWAKENING is an inspiring movie that lifts up part of our United Methodist heritage.



Always pray to have
eyes that see the best in
people, a heart that forgives
the worst, a mind that forgets
the bad, and a soul that never
loses faith in God.



Beautiful patriotic scene at dusk



Taken by Elaine Boland's brother Chuck Hackenmiller

It was an honor for me to lead the 2026 Kingsland High School Baccalaureate service this year. I am very proud of the Class of 2026 and wish them the very best as their future unfolds. New opportunities, new adventures and new beginnings are around every corner. May these young people always know just how much they are loved.

God's blessings always....

Pastor Mark, Reese Guy, Hailee Warren, Bryn Huebner



When you choose to see the good in others,
you end up finding the good in yourself.



Vacation Bible School

THESE ARE THE PROPOSED DATES FOR AUGUST
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Cherry Grove and Spring Valley will have a joint
VBS on August 17th & 18th

Preston dates to be determined.

Currently, we need additional help and leadership to pull all of this together. Please stay tuned as further details come together. We will use Facebook and group email to make further announcements. Thank you to the folks who have already volunteered... more news is coming soon.

FROM HOPELESS TO AMAZED

a Message from Pastor Mark with insights from Pasquelina Kunyanga (Nairobi, Kenya)

Part of my daily ritual includes reading and thinking about devotional pieces expressed in THE UPPER ROOM. It is a fine devotional book which comes out every two months. The devotional article from May 12, 2026 written by Pasquelina Kunyanga from Nairobi, Kenya really spoke to me and is timely for this time of year when graduates are beginning new opportunities in life. The article based on Jeremiah 29:11 is the same text I used in my morning message on May 10, 2026. "FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE."

Pasquelina Kunyanga lifts up how as a person from a poor family, they were able to go to school and were able to cover the costs for school supplies, fees and other expenses... "God's plans transform our tears of despair into songs of hope."

I sat in my chair and read the article several times and really thought about how it spoke to my life and the lives of people I know.

Sometimes, it becomes easy for me to think pessimistically and negatively. Sometimes the many problems of the world and the challenges of our daily lives can begin to wear on us and feelings of despair take root. When I feel that happening in my own life, I turn to God's Word and I think about the incredible blessings God places in my life everyday.

THE UPPER ROOM article from May 12th provided a renewed sense of optimism, hope and a shining ray of light revealing the continued goodness of God as shown in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. At the end of the article a beautiful and inspiring prayer really lifted my spirits: DEAR LORD, WE GIVE YOU THANKS THAT YOUR PLANS ARE ALWAYS GREATER THAN OUR FEARS. HELP US TRUST YOU EVEN WHEN THE ROAD AHEAD SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE. AMEN.

I would love to meet Pasquelina Kunyanga and learn more about all that God is doing in their life. The passage of Scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 is definitely one of optimism and renewed hope! In all of life, we are reminded to be people of faith who trust in God each and every day even when things get tough and challenging. The devotional piece from THE UPPER ROOM served as kind of a wakeup call for me....a fresh reminder of all the good blessings God brings to our lives every day. I encourage our people to make it a growing habit to read THE UPPER ROOM or some other devotional writing every day. It is so important for all of us to immerse ourselves in God's Word to be uplifted and encouraged by God's presence in our lives, Jeremiah 29:11 is a powerful verse which brings encouragement and hope. Yes! God does have a plan for each one of us and we can be renewed and strengthened in God's love for you and me as we walk with Jesus every day!

....and as Fanny Crosby would say, "To God Be the Glory!"

It is a blessing and privilege to share in mission and ministry with you...

Your friend,
Mark Woodward

THE UPPER ROOM®

THE BIG ANNUAL FISH FRY AND POTLUCK
SUPPER IS

Saturday, August 8th.

Welcome at 3, with meal at 5 p.m.

At the wilderness cabin of
Harry and Elaine Boland, located
approximately, one mile east of the Cherry
Grove turn off on
County Road 14, the number is 19297.



There will be a sign at the end of the road.

Please bring a dish to pass, utensils, lawn chairs
and enjoy the afternoon. A special thanks to
Harry , Elaine and family for this annual
tradition .

You're Invited

United Women in Faith invite you to their
meeting on Wednesday, July 8th to hear Julie
Mlinar give a presentation on her recent
mission trip to the Pine Ridge Indian
Reservation in South Dakota.

She was part of a 24 member team from Ohio
and Minnesota who helped out at a Horse and
Bible Camp.

All are welcome to attend. Coffee and treats at
9:30. Presentation at 10:00.

See you there.

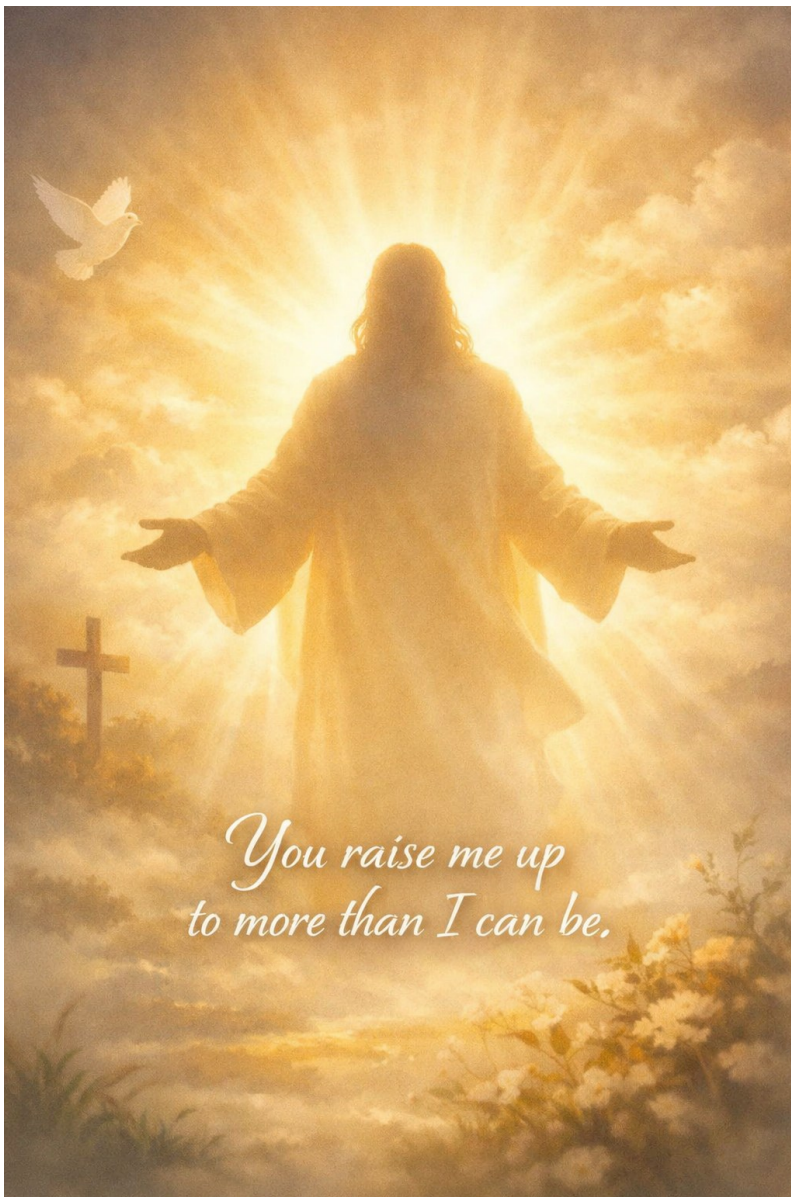


United
Women
in Faith



This is a picture of my grandson Daniel and I
standing in front of Cabin #6 at Dreamers Resort
near Bemidji, Minnesota. It was great spending
time with him even though my fishing skills need
remedial help. It was a happy week spent fish-
ing, exploring, climbing the fire tire tower at
Itasca State Park, walking across the Mississippi
River, eating, relaxing and visiting a junk shop or
two!!! The fishing wasn't the greatest and the
weather was kind of windy and unsettled, but it
was a great time in God's Creation! Thank you
to Harry and Elaine Boland for inviting Daniel
and me to come along with them. We had a lot
of fun.





FROM MY OWN PERSONAL
DEVOTIONS....
THIS SONG BY JOSH GROBAN REALLY
SPOKE TO MY HEART.....

I was having kind of a difficult day and for some reason I stumbled across this song being performed by the Chapelwood United Methodist Church choir in Houston, TX. The words and melody captivated and inspired my heart that day. In the coming weeks, I'd like to use this song in our churches. May God's blessings be your today.

Mark

*You Raise Me Up so I can stand
on mountains.
You Raise Me Up so I can walk
on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your
shoulders.
You Raise Me Up to more than I
can be.*

Here is Norma Merkel nurturing her beautiful flowers. She is known as the "Flower of Child" of Faith in Spring Valley



Faith United Women in Faith

Faith UMC, Wednesday, June 17th 2026

Faith UMW met on June 17th at Norma's cabin for a funday with 8 ladies present. Nancy opened with a devotion. Motion by Mary G. to accept the minutes from May meeting, second by Marilyn, motion carried. Motion by Jan to accept the Treasurer report second by Nancy, motion carried.

Nancy attended Mission Lunch bunch to Rochester. They visited Family Promise, a service given to help families which is a two-story building that serves fourteen families and the Birthright Center that helps women who are pregnant.

Next meeting will be July 8th Julie Mlinar give a presentation on her recent mission trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She was part of a 24-member team from Ohio and Minnesota who helped out at a Horse and Bible Camp. All are welcome to attend. Coffee and treats at 9:30. Presentation at 10:00.

Motion to adjourn by Marilyn second by Deanna, motion carried.

We played a game "Get to Know Your Neighbor". We had to find out 5 items we didn't know about them, everyone enjoyed.

Submitted by Norma Merkel

Preston United Methodist Church

Administrative Council Meeting

June 9, 2026 CANCELED

Faith United Methodist Church

Administrative Council Meeting

June 11, 2026 CANCELED

Cherry Grove United Methodist Church

Administrative Council Meeting

June 21, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Corey Sanford, Phil Hebrink, Todd Kappers, Gene Kappers, Steve Tammel, and other members of the church as the meeting was held following the church service.

The June Administrative Council Meeting was called to order by Phil Hebrink.

There were no Meeting Minutes to review.

There was no Financial Report to review.

Trustees Report:

The sound system is still acting up. Corey Sanford and Phil Hebrink are meeting with Phil Dybing on Monday, June 22 to troubleshoot and hopefully fix the issue.

Ballfield Updates: The dugouts are being updated with new benches and cement. New sand and limestone has been put in the infield. Thank you to Gene & Todd Kappers for the excellent mowing.

Church Foundation – Black dirt will need to be brought in to slop the landscape to keep water from running towards the church. Currently, there are no water issues.

Ad Council Meetings: Discussion was held regarding having more routine meetings. If we would like to continue having them following church or go back to the Monday Evening meetings. More follow-up will be discussed with the Trustees and Pastors to determine when the meetings will be held.

Parish Relations Committee:

4th of July Luncheon – Discussion was held on what to put the proceeds from the luncheon towards this year. A motion was made by Linda Kappers to put the proceeds towards a defibrillator for the church and community. The motion was 2nd by Janice Mensink.

4th of July Parade – The parade will be held at 11:00 a.m. The Grand Marshal is Darla Heusinkveld and Honorary Grand Marshal's are Nate & Misty Heusinkeld. Thank you to the Heusinkveld Family for all you do for the Cherry Grove Community.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Fountain United Methodist Church Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2026

Those in attendance were Michelle Hargrave, District Superintendent, Reverend Mark Woodward, Pastor of FUMC, Phil Hebrink, Certified Lay Minister, and the following members of FUMC: Jim Earley, Jan Earley, Cynthia Alford, Debbie Elliot, Steve Arnold, Sheila Arnold, Jerry Wingert, and Shirley Wingert.

Michelle Hargrave opened the meeting with a prayer.

Michelle Hargrave then asked what the purpose of the meeting was for. Steve Arnold, Chairman, stated the purpose of the meeting is to get the necessary approval to sell the land next to the church.

The following discussions commenced:

Michelle stated that the funds from the sale of an asset can only be used for capital improvements. She asked what capital improvements needed to be made. Jerry responded that the 30 year old furnace may need to be replaced and FUMC did not have savings enough to cover the cost of such an improvement. Sheila stated that an upstairs bathroom would be a nice addition. Jerry also stated that the led water pipes leading to the church will need to be replaced at some point. Someone asked about maybe installing a lift so members could use the basement.

Michelle asked if the gifted property was restricted. Steve Arnold replied that the lots were gifted to the church, by LeRoy Roos, after the house on the lot burned down. Steve stated that he had talked to LeRoy Roos a few years ago regarding the sale of the property. LeRoy Roos had stated the property belonged to the FUMC and the church could do whatever it deemed necessary. Therefore, the gift is considered unrestricted.

Michelle asked Mark Woodward what he thought regarding the sale of property. Mark stated that he would like to look at other options as other options have not been explored. Mark stated that he is working on a proposal for a Wednesday night service to share the gospel, by way of maybe a bible study. Mark stated that there will not be any cost to the church as people have offered to donate the cost of expenses.

Members stated that both the selling of the land and the mid-week service should both be looked at. Mark stated that the service would be a worship experience and innovated.

Michelle stated that the conference has a person that could help with ideas on how to build the church. Michelle stated that she will get in contact with her and put her in touch with Mark. Mark wants the church to flourish.

Many members stated that they love the church and want to see it continue. The FUMC means a lot to its members.

Phil asked if the church closes would all its assets get sold and the proceeds go to the conference. Michelle stated that yes it would be sold. Therefore, selling the land now or if the church has to close, has the same consequences.

Sheila asked if the church merged with another church, would the "new church" receive the funds from the sale of the land or building. Michelle stated that yes, but the funds could only be used for capital improvements. Michelle also stated that the funds could be held in a savings/CD account and the interest could be used for day to day expenses.

Michelle Hargrave, DS called the Charge Conference to order.

She stated that the members were ready to vote on the sale of the church property located in the City of Fountain, MN, at:

Land located - City Lot 13 and Lot 14½

Along Cedar Street and County Road 8

Parcel ID 24.0153.000

Class 915 – SE Church

Proceeds from sale must be used for capital purchases or expenses

Michelle Hargrave, DS, asked how the members wanted to vote. The members unanimously agreed to vote by the raising of hands.

She then asked all members in favor of selling the land to raise their hand. All members unanimously approved to sell the above property

Michelle Hargrave asked Pastor Mark Woodward if he was in favor of selling the property. He stated that if it is what the members wanted – yes, he approved the sale of the property. Michelle stated that she approved of selling the property. Michelle stated that she would forward the approval of the sale of the property to Mark Miller for his approval. He will put it in front of the Board of Church Location and Building for their approval

Michelle Hargrave, DS, then closed the meeting of the Church Conference

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Arnold

Fountain United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
April 27, 2026

Pastor Mark opened the meeting with a prayer.

Those in attendance were Pastor Mark, Phil Hebrink, CLM, Jim Earley, Jan Earley, Debbie Elliot, Steve Arnold, Sheila Arnold, Brittany Payne, Rick Lamen, and Jerry Wingert.

Steve started the meeting off with **old business** of selling the land. Jim Early made a motion to sell the land and Debbie Elliot seconded it. There was a discussion regarding the sale. Pastor Mark stated that he had talked with Michelle Hargrave and she had stated that there is help from the conference for churches that are going through rough times and looking at selling assets. After much discussion a vote was taken to see if members were in

favor of selling the land. A majority of members voted in favor of selling the land, the motion passed. Steve stated that he would follow up with the conference to see what the procedure is. Mark stated that he would like to try other options before selling. Sheila stated that we (church members) could do both, look at other options while seeing what the land would sell for.

New business: Pastor Mark is looking at starting another service on Wednesday nights with a start time of 7:00. Mark stated that it would be a non-traditional service with bible study, group activities, and biblical experiences. Maybe movies in the yard, concerts, something to draw in people. Sheila asked about the cost of the new

worship service such as advertisement or other startup expenses. Sheila also asked who the new service is geared for, teens, empty nesters, or those that like to sleep in on Sunday mornings. Steve had looked into the cost of ads in the Journal. He stated that the cost is \$119.20 for a 2 column 3" ad in black and white with an ad in color it would be \$155.20. Mark stated that he is looking at minimal costs.

Pastor Mark asked Brittany for ideas regarding the service. She stated that she sees the service as community based. Inviting people, friends, to come to church with members, providing food after the services. She also stated that posters could be used to advertise the new service keeping the cost minimal. Sheila stated that Pastor Mark needed to present a written plan for the new service, including projected costs. Once the plan is presented it will go to the board for approval. There was a motion made and passed for Pastor Mark to write up a plan for the second service.

Sheila stated that she and Jan had updated the membership book. Sheila wrote up the list of active and non-active members. Sheila asked for a motion to be made that she and Jan could send out letters to the inactive members, in August or September, to remove those members that don't wish to be members of FUMC. Jerry made the motion to send out the letters and was seconded by Loni. The motion passed.

Debbie asked Pastor Mark to contact some of the inactive members of the church to see if they would come back to the church. Mark stated that he was willing to do that, but he doubted that it would make any difference.

Jim Earley stated that he would like to see what can be done to make the basement stairs useable. Jerry and Jim had a discussion regarding the stairs. It was tabled until the next meeting,

The synopsis of the meeting:

Approval to move forward to see what the selling of the land is worth

Waiting on the plan for adding another service

Send out letters to inactive members

Brittany stated we all needed to ask ourselves the importance of our church

Rick Lamon stated that we (church members) didn't need to do anything and see how it goes

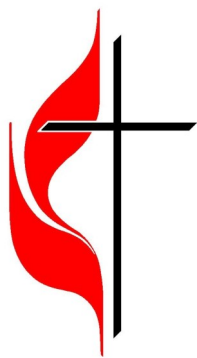
Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Arnold

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day! Cherry Grove Parade- 11 am Lunch @ Cherry Grove UMC- 12
5 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6 pm Cowboy Church	7	7 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am Faith Trustees 6:30	8 Faith UMW- 9:30 am Julie Mlinar Presentation	9 Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	10	11
12 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	13	14 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am Preston Council- 7	15	16	17	18
19 9 Faith Worship 10:30 Combined outdoor service in Fountain 3 Lenora Worship	21 6:00 p.m. Church Night at the Fillmore Cty Fair. Newsletter Deadline	22 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am	22	23	24	25
26 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	27	28 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am	29	30	31	

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