



Maple Leaf Parish

Greetings on a really hot summer day! This article is being written on a very hot, steamy, smoke-filled day at the end of July. Minnesota is shrouded in smoke and haze from fires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. We pray for everyone involved in fighting these terrible fires and for the people whose lives are directly affected. This has been a season of severe weather in various parts of the United States. Intense heat, tornadoes, drought, flooding, hail, damaging winds, etc. It seems that Mother Nature is not in a good mood, and now smoke from wildfires blankets our state making it difficult to breathe. In the midst of all this there remains God's gifts of hope and love.

Recently, a Catholic Church in Highmore, South Dakota experienced damage in a severe storm. This is an inspiring picture of how the ceiling of the church was parted by the power of the wind. In this dramatic photo, light from the crack in the ceiling shines down in an inspiring way upon the cross of Jesus. After the storm passes, the damaged roof allows light to shine in.



In our lives we experience storms and "wind damage", too. Sometimes we get tossed around, and we feel broken and damaged just as the church roof! In all of the "storms of life," how can the Light of Jesus shine upon us and how do we radiate the Light of Jesus back into the world?

When I saw that photo, I thought about some of the storms in my own life and how I can let the Light of Jesus shine in me each day. Something for us all to think about.... The Light of Jesus shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it....

"You'll Never Walk Alone" from "Carousel" by Rodgers and Hammerstein reminds us no matter what the storm might be, we never walk alone when Jesus goes with us every single day. Through all of life, let's walk hand in hand with Jesus each day.

*When you walk through a storm, Hold your head up high, And don't be afraid of the dark,
At the end of a storm, There's a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark, Walk on through the wind, Walk on through the rain,
For your dreams be tossed and blown*

*Walk on, walk on, With hope in your heart, And you'll never walk alone, You'll never walk alone,
Walk on, walk on, With hope in your heart, And you'll never walk alone, You'll never walk alone*
Praise be to God.

I am blessed to share in mission and ministry with you living and sharing the Good News of God's redeeming grace and love. Your friend, Mark Woodward

-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

AUGUST

*Gail Rollie	507-272-6882
Barbara Bush	507-346-7653
Tom Fenstermacher	507-346-2628
Rhett Krahn	507-346-2789
Brandon & Sara Stackhouse	507-273-8196
Joyce Warren	507-346-7832
Carol Rippentrop	715-768-5217
Pam Shaw	507-990-9012

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

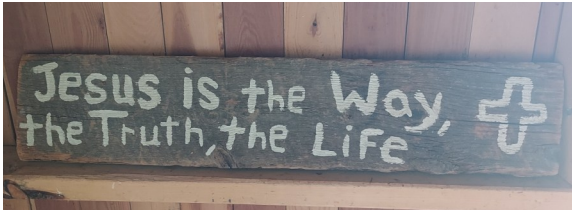
Newsletter: The newsletter deadline is the 21st of every month at 4:00 pm.

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

Worship

gathering at Lenora Church on the third Sunday of the month, **August 16** , at 3p.m. Lenora Church is located at 38571 Dove Tail Road in Lenora.

Bible Verse inside front door at Lenora Church



Join us on
August **2nd**
at **6 p.m.**
In Cherry Grove

THE BIG ANNUAL FISH FRY AND POTLUCK SUPPER IS Saturday, August 8th.

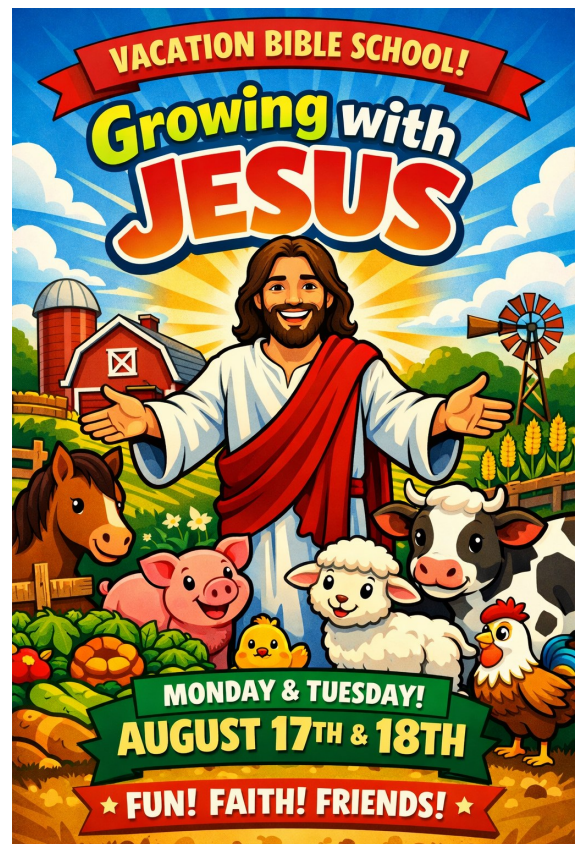
At the Harry and Elaine Boland cabin which is located approximately, one mile east of the Cherry Grove turn off on County Road 14, the number is 19297. Welcome at 3, with meal at 5 p.m.

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 .

Maple Leaf Parish
United Methodist Churches
617 Maple Lane, Spring Valley
Monday, August 17th &
Tuesday, August 18th
9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.
Ages 4-12





Pictured are Clayton, Caroline and Claire Hellickson with Richard and Cheryl Serfling. Cheryl originally made the outfits for her family (Richard, Nathan, Vicki and Lori) to wear in the bicentennial parade in Cherry Grove in 1976. Fifty years later they are still wearable and required only minor alterations. They also wore the outfits to Cowboy church on July 5th and posed with Gary Froiland.

Cherry Grove Parade!



A light hearted portrayal of George & Martha Washington and Thomas Jefferson



Cowboy Church Float

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE KEEPING
OUR CHURCH YARDS LOOKING GREAT
THIS SUMMER!

Spring Valley Faith, Preston, Cherry
Grove and Fountain Churches are looking
great this summer! We are thankful for
all the lawn mowers, weed pullers, bush
trimmers, sidewalk edger's, etc. who give
of themselves in making our churches
look great! THANK YOU....



ANNUAL MAPLE LEAF PARISH OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AND PICNIC AFFECTED BY WEATHER AND SMOKE

Sadly, the 2026 Maple Leaf Parish annual picnic and
worship service were negatively affected by heat
and smoke on July 19, 2026. We have had this an-
nual event for the last several years, but attendance
and participation have been in a steady decline.
Pastor Mark and Lay Minister Phil wonder if perhaps
we need to explore a new idea for 2027.

We are thankful for all
the people who came
and for the beautiful
music of Walter Brad-
ley and Steve
Arnold. All in all, the
people who were
there had a good time.



Conference Superintendent Gordon Deuel was
on hand for Rev. Norman Witt's funeral.
Pastor Witt served Faith Church from
1980-1989.

Pictured here, Rev. Gordon Deuel our new
Conference District Superintendent was in
Spring Valley at Faith Church for the funeral
service for Rev. Norman Witt who served Faith
Church 1980-1989. Rev. Deuel presented Rev.
Witt's family with the Clergy Medallion com-
memorating Norman Witt's pastoral ministry.
This medallion is presented to the United
Methodist clergy at the time of their passing.
Pastor Mark Woodward was honored to be
asked to officiate the funeral service for his good
friend Norm.

Thank you to all the people who came together
to celebrate the life and eternal life and eternal
life for Norman Witt. We will keep his family in
our prayers.

Jesse and Beth Pérez
4192 Rodanthe Circle
Florence, SC 29501
(B) 507-259-4553
(J) 507-259-4552

July 6, 2026

Dear Pastor Mark and Phil,

Would you be so kind as to share this with the Faith, Cherry Grove and Fountain Congregations (**Preston was not part of the Maple Leaf Parish yet.**)

Dear Friends at Faith UMC, Cherry Grove UMC and Fountain UMC

Often, in the middle of the night, I sit in our screened-in porch, wrapped in a beautiful purple Prayer Shawl that was given to me by one of my dear Faith Church friends. I look out into the night and observe all the wonders of the night; the stars, the moon, the occasional commercial plane zooming through the sky. If our powerful God can gift us with such beauty, our powerful God can heal me and return me to the joyful person I was in Christ before the cancer diagnosis. Don't get me wrong, I'm waiting for my healing; my faith is strong! God can do that for you as well.....give your struggle to God. Let your faith bring you peace. The healing that will come in due time will be due to the prayers of my Prayer Warrior Friends from MN.

I am so grateful to each and every one of you for the calls, the texts, the cards, the gifts.....but mostly for your **Prayers**. I received numerous cards signed by so many of you. I cherish every signature and the adventures in ministry we shared; the good and (some of the difficult) times we had to work through. I'm especially grateful for how God blessed us in every possible way and always stepped in and helped us find a solution.....and increased our love for one another. So, thank you! May God continue to be present in the life of these beloved churches.

I also want to extend a special word of thanks to Pastor Mark Woodward for the phone calls, for making me laugh when I wanted to cry, for telling me his corny jokes....but, mostly for providing pastoral care when he didn't have to.

I am still getting Chemo treatments. The Drs say we are headed in the right direction. Chemo makes me clumsy.....so Jesse keeps an eye on me so I won't fall. My hair is gone.....thank God for wigs. On occasion, I display chemo-brain....I forget words and Jesse has to help me out. It is a difficult journey, but I'm making it with the strength that God alone can give. I wrap myself in the prayers you all send and take the next step to healing. The cancer will not win! I will notify all of you when I "ring the bell" cancer free!

We are assured by our Holy Scriptures, Jeremiah 33:6 "Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security."

I await my healing!

We found an amazing United Methodist Church in Florence, SC. We were welcomed with open arms. The Pastor is a vibrant young woman who is so talented! She's a great preacher and loves God and all God's people. The congregation is very diverse and we have an amazing Praise Band. We praise God with heart and soul and voices! I leave church with a heart filled with joy and hope.

I wanted you all to hear from me altogether because there are just too many cards to respond to personally. So here is my Thank-you Card to all of you. Included are my prayers for each of you and for the ministries of my beloved Faith United Methodist Church, Cherry Grove United Methodist Church and Fountain United Methodist Church.

Before I close, I ask for another favor. Please keep my daughter, Laura and her husband Chris in your prayers, as well. Chris and Laura were in a motorcycle accident and received severe injuries.

We trust that God holds all of us close and in loving arms and hears our prayers.

Jesse and I send our love in Christ,

Beth and Jesse Pérez



Fountain UMC had this park bench designed in memory of Deanna. It was recently installed in the park in Fountain. Thank you to Jerry Wingert for organizing the installation of the bench and Brandon and Kayla Amundson for donating the concrete.

Thank You Fountain UMC

Seated on the bench with Mark are Deanna's daughter Amy Cahill and two of her grandchildren, Connor and Sophia Cahill.



THE CHERRY GROVE SOFTBALL FIELD.... A FANTASTIC MINISTRY TO, WITH AND FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE...

STEVE MCCALLSON WRITES FOR THE UPPER ROOM WAY TO GO, STEVE!

Preventive Maintenance

I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. -Proverbs 8:17 (NIV)

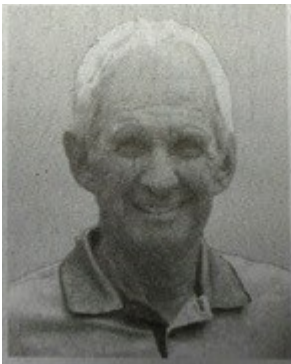
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

What can I do today to maintain a healthy relationship with God?

In the agricultural industry, we use a variety of equipment that comes with an abundance of moving parts. It is inevitable that something is going to break down. This happens at the most inconvenient time. When a piece of equipment cannot be used, we call this *downtime*. Downtime is costly because if the wheels are not turning the necessary tasks are not getting done.

However, we have a preventive maintenance program in place that reduces a fair number of these breakdowns. We bring equipment to the mechanic before we need it so they can check things over and repair it before it breaks. Being proactive saves a lot of frustration and stress.

Life has many struggles, and having a relationship with and learning to trust God makes it easier to accept God's comfort and wisdom. Shaping this relationship through devotion, prayer, worship, and fellowship with believers is like a preventive maintenance program for our spiritual lives.



Steve McCallson Minnesota, USA (From the Upper Room, July - August p. 60)

Prayer Focus: Mechanics

Steve McCallson who regularly attends Fountain United Methodist Church wrote this inspiring devotional piece for THE UPPER ROOM. Well done, Steve! The Maple Leaf Parish is very proud of you! We extend an invitation for others to consider writing for THE UPPER ROOM, Steve could offer advice and guidance. Go for it!

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE REID BAUMANN AND HEIDI HELLER WRITE AN INSIGHTFUL ARTICLE ABOUT LAURA INGALLS WILDER



The article by Baumann and Heller titled: "Little House (and Little Church not quite) on the Prairie" lifts up some of the story of Laura Ingalls Wilder and her families' involvement in the mission and ministry of the Spring Valley Methodist Church, Fillmore County.

The article is too long to reprint in this newsletter, but it can be found on the Minnesota Conference United Methodist Church website, www.minnesotaumc.org

Please pray for firefighters and all the people affected by the terrible wildfires currently burning out of control in Northern Minnesota.



We would like to thank our Church family for their prayers, cards and kindness shown while Jim was in the hospital and recuperating at home

Jim and Danette Steinmetz

THANK YOU



THANKFUL FOR OUR FARMERS

When I first came to serve the Maple Leaf Parish in 2019 many farmers in the area told me about how excellent their corn crops were.... I believe this might be a picture of a young Larry Terbeest showing off an ear of corn from a previous harvest. We are thankful for all of our farmers and we keep them in our prayers this summer season as we move closer to harvest in the fall!



Thank you Farmers for all your hard work and dedication!



HERE WE ARE..AUGUST ALREADY....PLANS BEING MADE FOR FALL....
SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH MINISTRY, LIFT PROGRAM, CONFIRMATION
NEW MISSION AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES.....

In these "dog days" of August people are beginning to think about getting ready for the autumn season, summer is flying by and soon yellow school buses will be cruising around our streets and roads! Various sports teams are already beginning their practices!

So, THE MAPLE LEAF PARISH IS GETTING READY, TOO, FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON.

In these fleeting days of summer, let's be making plans and coming together for the events and activities of fall. Let's find ways that all of our churches can be supportive of our children and youth, Sunday School, youth ministry, LIFT program, and Confirmation classes, also perhaps some learning opportunities for adults. Together let's make great things happen in the lives of our churches.

WE NEED YOU TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME, TALENT AND ABILITY AS WE SHARE IN MINISTRY TOGETHER
TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

ENJOY THE REST OF SUMMER, BUT WE ARE BEGINNING TO GET THINGS ON TRACK FOR
SEPTEMBER, 2026!!!



MISSION LUNCH BUNCH

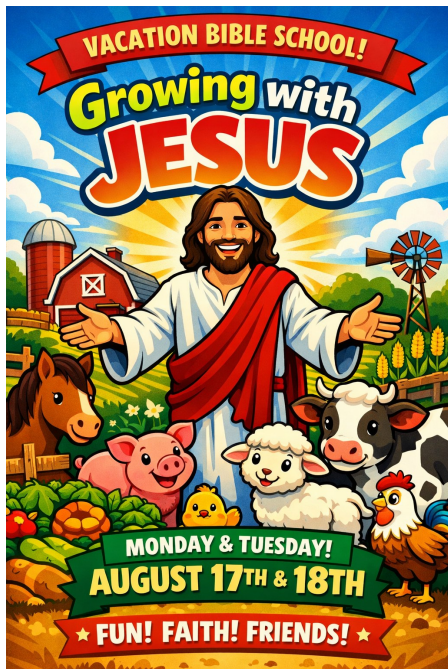
The Mission Lunch Bunch had another trip to Rochester. The first stop was at Birthright. This organization started in Canada 58 years ago to help women with unplanned pregnancies. Now this organization has spread to the United States and also to Africa. They offer pregnancy testing, maternity clothes, baby and small child items. They offer support throughout the pregnancy and after. Connecting referrals are made for medical, housing and counseling services. Most of the workers are volunteers.



The second stop was at Family Promise, formerly Interfaith Hospitality. The Organization started in Rochester 27 years ago and people formerly slept in church basements for a week at a time with a daily meal provided by the church. They provide housing for homeless families in or two room units that can accommodate up to 13 families a night. They are allowed to stay for 30 days and this can be extended in 30 day increments if necessary to find other stable housing. Kitchens, laundry, living areas, and bathrooms are shared with at least one other family. The goals are to prevent homelessness and end homelessness.



Our day ended with lunch at the Pizza Ranch



**Maple Leaf Parish
United Methodist Churches
617 Maple Lane, Spring Valley
Monday, August 17th & Tuesday, August
18th
9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.
Ages 4-12**

Return bottom portion to Faith UMC, 617 Maple Lane, Spring Valley, MN 55975 or email: faithunited@centurytel.net by August 10th

Student _____ Age _____

Parent _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Emergency Number _____

E-mail contact _____

Child allowed to be picked up by _____

Allergies/Medical conditions _____

FUMC has permission to publish pictures (no names) of my child enjoying V.B.S.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE note (on back) any information you feel may be helpful for us to know about your child.

Faith United Methodist Church
Church Office: 507-346-2830
Email: faithunited@centurytel.net
Pastor Mark Woodward



**Faith United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes**

July 9, 2026

Present: Don Lanning, Stu Gross, Denis Cornell & Nancy Cornell, Mary Grems, Gail Rollie, Pastor Mark Woodward and Jane Baker

Finance-Jane gave finance report.

Mark called Administrative Council to order and opened with prayer. Jane reviewed the Finance report. Mary made a motion to approve the secretary report Denis seconded.

Women of Faith- Wednesday, July 8th Julie Mlinar gave a presentation on her recent mission trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Missions-Nancy reported \$200 was collected for the Love Offering

Membership-Total membership is 244 per Mary.

Trustee-Door project is progressing; the order is ready to be placed. It will be approximately 8-10 weeks before the work begins. They are looking at options for replacing restroom toilets with water saving features.

Pastor report-UMC Conference Offices are in the process of relocating. Gordon Deuel is the new District Superintendent for the River Bluffs District. He attended the Cowboy Church Service on July 5th. The Fillmore County Tractor Ride is going through Spring Valley on September 20th. Faith UMC has been asked to serve them the noon meal. Gail Rollie will begin working on a menu. July 14th Rev. Normas Witts funeral will be here. July 19 is the Maple Leaf Parish Picnic, Walter Bradley and Steve Arnold will be the musicians.

Sunday School- Mark reported they are planning Vacation Bible School.

No new business

Gail made a motion to adjourn, Nancy seconded.

United Women in Faith

July 8, 2026

The United Women in Faith meeting for July was a wonderful presentation given by Julie Mlinar on her recent trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. We did not have a business meeting. Norma Merkel



Congratulations to Sheila Craig for receiving the
Outstanding Fillmore
County Citizen award. We are very proud of you and your
many positive contributions to Fillmore County. We are
thankful for you!

Wednesday, July 22 was Sheila Craig Day at the Fair.



**Preston United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
July 14, 2026**

People in attendance Danny Miller, Susan Hovey, Marlene Peterson, Mark Woodward
No major issues or topics were addressed.

Brief overview:

Building use fees.... fees for building use with regard to funerals and events such as these.
Granted approval for parking in the parking lot during the Fillmore Country Fair for commuters.
Discussed popup markets to be supportive of Ilene Edwards
Possible church rummage sale for this autumn season
New medical equipment ministry...great idea...
Sound system upgrades are on hold for now due to significant expenses.
Vacation Bible School will be held in August in conjunction with Cherry Grove and Spring Valley: Faith Churches... Theme: Growing With Jesus....a farm related theme...
Movie night possible for August to see THE GREAT AWAKENING at the Harmony JEM Theater.
Pastor Mark is investigating ...more new to come....
Rev. Gordon Deuel is our new Conference Superintendent....
Brief overview of the meeting provided by Pastor Mark Woodward
Jenny and Greg Dornink were out doing farm related work!
All is good to the glory of God...

**Cherry Grove United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
July 20 @ 7:00 p.m., 2026**

Members Present: Mark Woodward, Phil Hebring, Corey Sanford, Holly Sanford, Todd Kappers, & Gene Kappers.

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

There were no Meeting Minutes to review.

Financial Report: The financial report was reviewed and approved as read.

Trustees Report:

Corey Sanford and Phil Hebrink along with Phil Dybing met on Monday, June 22 to troubleshoot and fix the issue.

Church Foundation – Black dirt will need to be brought in to slope the landscape to keep water from running towards the church. With all the rain the past month, there are no water issues. Thank you to Todd Kappers and Lori Mathias for doing some landscaping in the front of and the east side of the church.

It was suggested to put grab bars in the women's bathroom.

Parish Relations Committee:

4th of July Luncheon was very well attended. Thank you to everyone who made a donation or helped make it a success

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on August 10 at 7:00 p.m.



Summer Word Search

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

FLOAT

HAMMOCK

SPRINKLER

OCEAN

BEACH

SNOWCONE

WATERMELON

VACATION

CANOEING

HIKING

BARBECUE

SUNGLASSES



AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6 pm Cowboy Church	3	4 Men's Breakfast @ B&B in Preston 8 am Faith Trustees- 6:30	5	6	7	8 Boland Fish Fry meal at 5 p.m
9 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	10 CG Council -7	11 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 am Preston Council-7	12 Faith UMW- 9:30 am	13 Faith Finance-6:30 Faith Council-7	14	15
16 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Lenora Worship	17 Maple Leaf Parish VBS-9 a.m.-2 p.m.	18 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 am Maple Leaf Parish VBS-9 a.m.-2 p.m.	19	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22
23 & 30 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	24 31	25 Men's Breakfast in Preston-8 am	26	27 Blood Drive Faith UMC 1:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.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