



Maple Leaf Parish

"A 'no' is just another opportunity to go back for a 'yes'." --Mark Maust

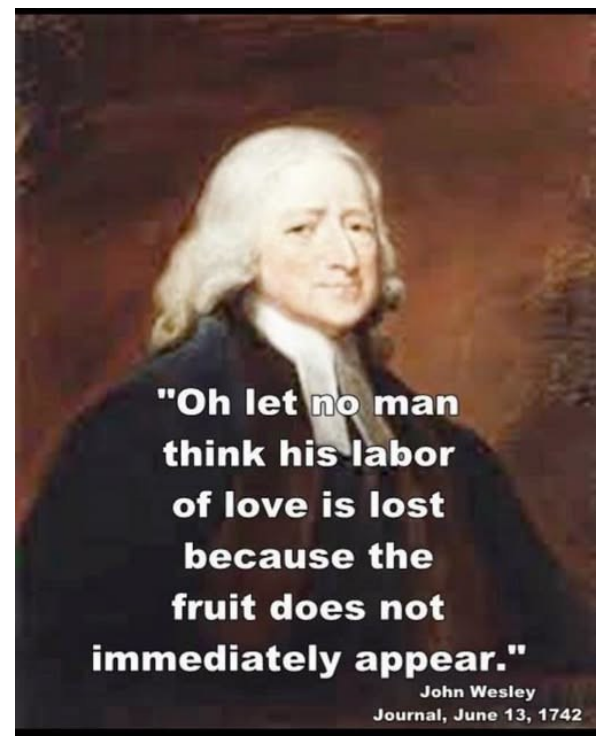
Recently, I had the opportunity to share a delicious meal with some good friends at the Branding Iron restaurant. It is always a pleasure to sit at a table with good friends, good conversation, good fellowship and good food. In the course of the evening there was plenty of laughter, smiles, stories, memories and all of the things good friends do. During the meal, my good friend, Mark Maust was telling of some of his experiences in the field of tire recycling. He told of how he sometimes gets told 'no' by a potential customer and how the customer often reconsiders and comes back with a 'yes'. Mark Maust went on to say, "A 'NO' IS JUST ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GO BACK FOR A 'YES'."

His statement really got me thinking. It got me thinking about determination, commitment, persistence, faith, optimism, and total trust in Jesus. The Bible is full of stories, experiences and examples of faith. Nevertheless, Christians sometimes have moments feeling discouraged, frustrated, defeated and on occasion sad. Christians can get tired of 'no'. Christians need to be uplifted and encouraged from time to time. This is one of the reasons the Christian community is so very important. Christians encourage one another and build one another up in faith and love. Sometimes, when the world says 'no', we need to keep going forward to be persistent and determined in our faith to seek out the 'yes' that will reveal the power of God at work in our lives. When we live by faith, we are not content with 'no', we need to always be seeking the 'yes' remembering that with God all things are possible for those who love the Lord.

After the supper was over, I went home to my house on the Ponderosa and got to thinking about what my good friend had said. There was a lot of truth in what he said. I get discouraged from time to time...I feel lonely, I have moments when I don't know what to do next. Just then, Jesus steps in and says, "keep going...don't stop now...I'm with you always...I will never leave you...." I believe that through all of life's challenges, problems, and hardships, through all of life we must always do our best to live by the inspiring power of faith, trusting in Jesus every step of the way. Hebrews chapter 11 is a prime example of people living by faith, determination and commitment.

So...when we hear 'no', too much, let's be persistent in working toward 'yes' in bringing people -- all people into a close relationship with Jesus -- through faith, determination, persistence. Good things happen when we follow and walk with Jesus! Remember, "With God all things are possible!" I am thankful to be in ministry with you and to be your 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/>

You can find Preston UMC by searching for Preston MN United Methodist Church

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.

NOTE CHANGES

Faith UMC Service Group

OCTOBER

Paul & Suzanne Eberle	507-346-7147
Larry & Mary Grems	507-346-2424
Julie Howard	507-259-2658
Larry & Jennifer Lee	507-346-9925
Mark & Deb Larson	507-251-2006
Rick & Janelle Rowe	507-251-4060
Claire Rowen	507-346-1701-(H)
	507-951-9153-(C)

Cherry Grove UMC Service Group

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

Chairperson:

Debi Kappers 507-251-4463

Co-Chairs:

Steve & Andrea Atwood	507-254-4023 (S)
	507-517-0574 (A)
Joe & Bonnie Austin	507-352-4441
Karly Irish	507-272-6367
Brooke Carr	507-272-6365
Roger & Luann Jones	507-951-9671
Lois & Chanda Nagel	507-937-3485
Kaylin Thomson	507-676-5213
John & Sharon Grass	507-324-5805(H)
	507-440-9095(C)
Dave & Kim Runde	507-324-5923
Darrol & Judy King	507-937-3619 (H)
	507-990-3194(D)
	507-696-7459 (J)

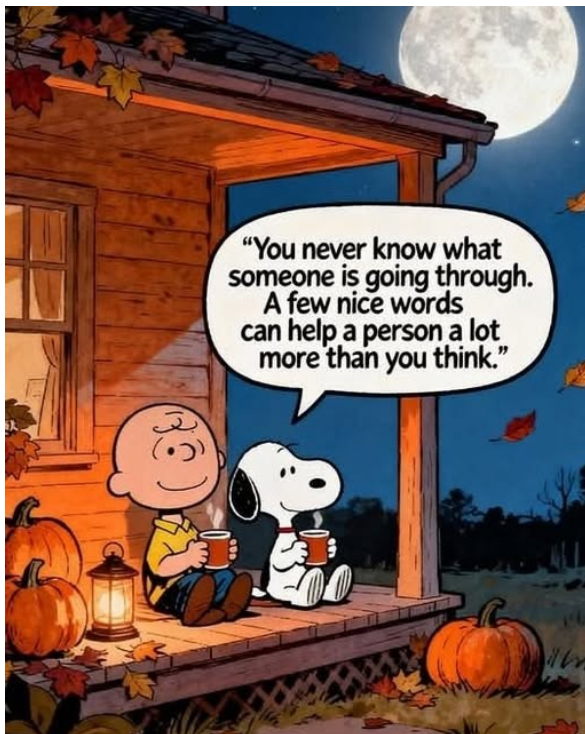
Deadlines

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.

Join us on
October 4th
In Cherry Grove
For Cowboy
Church! Musicians
begin playing at
5:30, followed by
the service at 6



"And God said, let there be light....and the light came forth...and behold God said it was very good."

Happy Halloween



Join us at **Lenora Church** on
Sunday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Worship gatherings will take place at Lenora Church throughout the spring, 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.

Recently I was asked about the historic Lenora Church located near Canton in the small village of Lenora. The Lenora United Methodist Church was begun in 1856 by circuit rider Rev. John Dyer and the building was actually built in 1865 led by Circuit Rider Rev. Moses Mapes.

Major restoration began in 1985. The church is owned by the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church and is listed on the National Register of Historic buildings. It is also a United Methodist Historic site.

An ecumenical group of people known as The Lenora Pioneer Church Society cares for the church. This organization is officially 501c3 tax exempt. Today, ministry takes place at the old church and special services are being planned for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

--Pastor Mark



Come and Join Us For Trunk Or Treat

Faith UMC- Sunday, October 25th at 10 a.m. after worship service.

If you would like to decorate your trunk and pass out candy please do!!

Preston UMC- will participate in Trick or Treating on Halloween

Gather all your ghouls, princesses, superheroes, etc. and come join us!!

A FRESH BATCH OF "LITTLE JESUS" WILL SOON BE ARRIVING



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE
FILLMORE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THERE'S A CURRENT OUTBREAK OF MEASLES

Measles is a very contagious disease caused by a virus. It can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children. Protect your family and your community.



Measles spreads through the air when a sick person coughs or sneezes. The virus can stay in the air for 2 hours after a person with measles leaves the space. It is so contagious that about 9 out of 10 people who come near a person with measles and are not protected by vaccination will also become infected.

Measles symptoms appear 7 to 14 days after contact with the virus. Common measles symptoms include:



High fever
(may spike to more than 104°F)



Cough



Runny nose



Red and/or watery eyes



Rash
(breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin)

Measles can cause severe health problems, including:



Pneumonia



Swelling of the brain
(encephalitis)



Possibly even death

They may color through the sermon, fall asleep during worship, or ask a hundred questions.

Bring them anyway.

They don't have to understand faith today. Your job is to plant the seed. God will grow it in His time.

Keep bringing them.
Keep showing them.
Keep planting:



GRACEWORKSPH



The best way to protect against measles ...

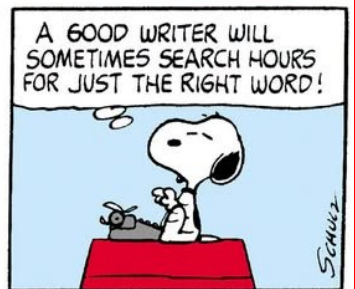
is with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. It's never too late to get vaccinated. Vaccination helps protect you, the people around you, and your community. If you are not vaccinated, consider staying at home or away from crowded areas until measles cases in the area decrease, especially to protect people in your family that could get very sick.

If you think that you or someone in your family have measles, stay away from others and call a healthcare provider, urgent care, or emergency room.

BE READY FOR MEASLES
cdc.gov/measles



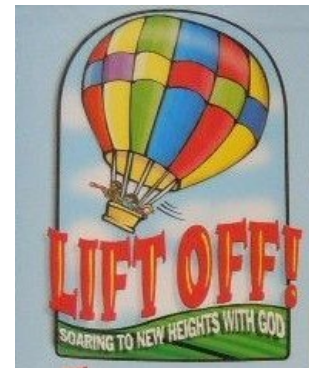
Pastor Mark writing his article for the
Newsletter!



© PNTS

PRESTON CHURCH TO BEGIN L.I.F.T. MINISTRY THIS FALL

Preston Church will begin its Wednesday after school ministry called: LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER for a new session on **October 7th**. It is a tremendous way to reach out to the boys and girls in our communities.



Additional volunteers are welcome as we begin this new season. Please speak with Pastor Mark if interested. Also, please reach out and invite boys and girls grades 1-6 and youth helpers to be involved! L.I.F.T meets Wednesdays after school from 3:15-5 p.m. Please stay tuned and help us get the word out to the community.

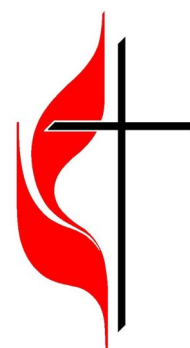
COMING DOWN THE HOME STRETCH APPORTIONMENT MISSION MINISTRY FOR 2026

As United Methodists, outreach and mission and ministry are very important to us. We are part of a team of believers throughout the world. As we work together great things happen in the name of Jesus. Rev. John Wesley always thought that it is important to be united in the essentials of our faith to live and share the Good News of Jesus. Each United Methodist Church makes a covenant promise to uphold its fair share in doing its part in the team of believers.

This is money that makes ministry happen on a global scale in the United Methodist Church....It represents teamwork as many United Methodist Churches work together for the glory of God in living and sharing the Good News of Jesus! In support of our shared mission and ministry.

- * Missionaries
- * Schools
- * Colleges and Universities
- * Seminaries pastoral training
- * Minnesota Conference Staff
- * Mission projects

and the list goes on.... all to the glory of God!



Another and perhaps more appropriate term for apportionments is "The Christian Service Fund." Together we are involved in Christian service in living and sharing God's love with those around us and throughout the world.

THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN....

THE MAPLE LEAF PARISH WILL HAVE CHARGE CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 21, 2026

Our churches will participate in a cluster charge conference meeting to be held on NOVEMBER 21, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Spring Valley: Faith Church. Our Superintendent Rev. Gordon Deuel will lead the meeting.

Appropriate forms will be reviewed, discussed and approved at this meeting including financial arrangements and other decisions in the lives of our churches and parish. Our Administrative Assistant Jane Baker will be distributing forms to the churches.

Other United Methodist Churches outside of our parish, but part of the district may also attend this cluster charge conference.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS CLUSTER CHARGE CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 21st at 9 a.m. AT SPRING VALLEY: FAITH CHURCH.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES AND PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH, MISSION AND MINISTRY TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND WORLD AROUND US....

Invite someone to come to church with you...

Give someone a ride....

Make it a priority to come to church....

Reach out to someone who is lonely...

Find a way to encourage someone in their faith...

Teach Sunday School....tell a child and a youth you care about them....

Tell someone you care about them... tell someone about God's love...

Model the ministry of Jesus...

Be kind to someone today...

Invite someone to come to church today...

Share your talent and ability in building up the Body of Christ in the world...

In all things let's make it a priority to remember the ministry to which we are called and remember our promise to support our church with our

PRAYERS, ATTENDANCE, GIFTS, SERVICE and WITNESS as we live and share the Good News of Jesus!

NEW MINISTRY...TO, WITH AND FOR KIDS AND YOUTH!!!!

John Wesley often stressed how important it is to be in ministry with children and youth... Here are some ideas that relate to a dream and an idea of mine to be in ministry with our children and youth. Included below is the information that was sent out to the youth. If you know someone that age and they are interested but did not receive the email please contact the church office.

Greetings!!!

As the Autumn season gets underway, I am working to pull together a new ministry for upper elementary and middle school youth....kind of a cross between Confirmation classes and youth ministry.

Initially, we would try to meet about two times a month for a particular topic and some kind of an outing which would relate to various Christian topics. We would blend learning, fellowship, mission, ministry and fun together to form a balanced experience. I do not have all of the ideas together yet, but I wanted to have your response. I was thinking of sometimes on Wednesday evenings and other times on Sunday afternoons. (field trips and outings, movie theater, places of interest, mission projects, etc.)

I am committed to being in ministry with our young people and I am hoping this might be an innovative experience for upper elementary and middle school youth.... Let me know what you think... I tried this program once in a previous church and the kids loved it...I'm open to your insights and ideas....

I think it would be fun to try something new....

God's blessings and have a wonderful day! Your friend, Pastor Mark

FAITH UMC HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday, November 7th- 8:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

Cinnamon rolls and Coffee

QUILT SHOW AND SALE

STRETCH THEME BASKETS

HOME MADE BAKED GOODS

VENDORS

SWEDISH MEATBALL MEAL

New this year-lovely **doll display** from 1800's & early 1900s

Start planning your theme basket

EVERYONE CAN HELP-and have fun!!

What we need from our church members:

Volunteers to work

Theme Baskets

Vendors

Bake Sale items

Pies for the lunch





SUNDAY SCHOOL IS OFF TO A
GREAT START IN
SPRING VALLEY: FAITH AND
CHERRY GROVE CHURCHES!!!!

These pictures were taken on
Sunday, September 13th as
Sunday School was getting
underway for the new season.
Our churches are committed to
our children and we are thankful
for them.

Please pray for the teachers,
leaders, helpers and children of
the new season.

Happy! Joyful
Rejoice in the Lord Always!



2026 Grand Marshal

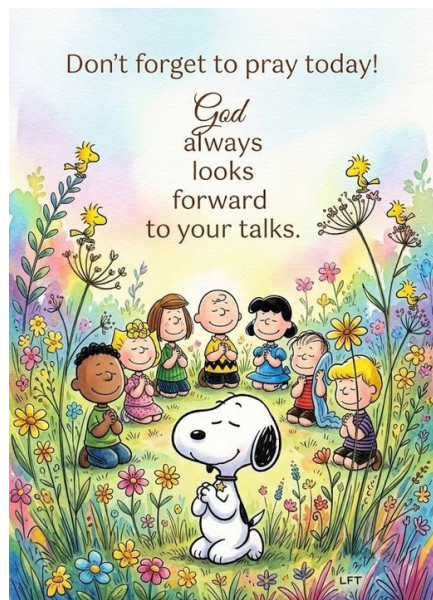
JOHN BAKER

John Baker has worked part time for the city of Wykoff for a total 29 years. If you need to know anything about the streets, sewers, parks, or goings on in Wykoff, just ask John! John and his wife Jane have lived in Wykoff for 40 years. Prior to his concrete retirement he owned John Baker Concrete Construction. They have two sons; Tyler and his wife Mandi who live in Wykoff with two children: Emerson and Raeni. Andrew and his wife Paisley live near Ostrander and have three children: Mamie, Briggs and Millie.



JOHN BAKER GRAND MARSHALL OF THE WYKOFF FALL FEST PARADE!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO John and Jane Baker on John being the Grand Marshall of the Wykoff Fall Fest Parade. John is very involved in many projects in the Wykoff Community and he is always willing and able to give of himself in so many wonderful ways. We are so thankful for both John and Jane in the life of Spring Valley Faith Church...John serves on the Board of Trustees and Jane is the Maple Leaf Parish Administrator. Both John and Jane are two wonderful people. God's blessings always! We're proud of you John for being the Grand Marshall for the Wykoff Parade!



PHIL HEBRINK and MARK SANDER PRESENT ELLIE THE CELLO

On September 15, 2026 Phil Hebrink and Mark Sander did a beautiful job presenting the story of ELLIE THE CELLO. Phil told the story of Ellie the Cello in an inspiring way. It is hoped that in the near future Phil and Mark will present the story of Ellie the Cello in our churches. Please stay tuned as arrangements are made...

September 15th was an inspiring moment at the Spring Valley Library when Phil and Mark presented the story of this historic instrument.



VOLLEYBALL Audrey Montgomery



The Kingsland girls volleyball team had a very busy week with two SEC West Division matches followed by a weekend tournament in Austin. A lot of girls were able to get some playing time

along the way and the team would see one of their younger players really step up as Audrey Montgomery made huge impacts in their matches. The freshman was a force at the net during the team's 3-2 win over Glenville-Emmons with eight total blocks to go along with four kills, two digs and two serving aces. She also delivered three more aces during a loss at home to Southland and finished with 13 kills, 13 digs, two aces and 0.5 blocks in the five matches in the Austin Tourney. Audrey has given the Knights a major boost with some much-needed height at the middle hitter position and has been making an great impact with her ability at the serving line.

KINGSLAND ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

The freshman made huge impacts in their matches and was a force at the net. CONGRATS AUDREY ON THIS AWESOME ACHIEVEMENT! WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF YOU!!! GOD'S BLESSINGS ALWAYS!

Tractor Ride

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED WITH THE PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BIG TRACTOR LUNCH SERVED AT FAITH CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 20TH....
WHAT AN AWESOME COLLECTION OF TRACTORS DRIVING ALL AROUND FILLMORE COUNTY AND STOPPING AT FAITH CHURCH IN SPRING VALLEY!



THANK YOU TO GAIL ROLLIE AND HER
AWESOME TEAM!!!



This is in the brick
sidewalk in front
of the Preston
Historical Society
Depot Station





Lincoln Jay Leutink, son of Jay and Shayra Leutink, and Thatcher James Claytor, son of Jolene and Tayler Claytor were baptized at Cherry Grove UMC on Sunday, September 20th . We will surround these boys and their families with Christian Love and nurture them in their journey. We look forward to watching them grow and to share the Good News of Jesus with them.



Women of Faith-UMW

The women met on September 8th with eight members present. Nancy opened with a reading on the "end of summer".

Motion by Deanna C. to accept the Secretary report, second by LuAnn. Motion carried.

Treasury report was given, motion by Deanna to accept, second by LuAnn. Motion carried.

We received a letter from the Emma Norton Executive Director who is stepping down as director. Old business-the Holiday Market date is changed to November 7, starting with coffee and cinnamon rolls at 8:30 -10:30 a.m. Peggy Merkel will do the rolls. We will have craft vendors; \$20 per table. We will need more pies this year, last year we sold out, maybe add bars or cake. Jan Lanning will make banners and flyers, also making a Faith quilt. We also need to be thinking of theme baskets for the silent auction. Lunch will be homemade meatballs, potatoes, gravy, corn or carrots and desserts. Prices to be determined.

September 20th the women will be serving a noon lunch to the Preston Historical Society Tractor Ride. Approximately 150 people will be attending. Serving chicken and biscuits, carrots and various kinds of crisps.

Out next meeting will be September 29th at 9:30.

Motion by Marilyn to adjourn, second by LuAnn.

Submitted by Norma Merkel

Faith United Methodist Church

Thursday, September 10, 2026 Administrative Council Canceled

Cherry Grove United Methodist Church

Monday, September 14, 2026 Administrative Council Canceled

***Preston United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes
September 8, 2026***

Present: Pastor Mark Woodward, Greg Dornink, Jenny Dornink, Marlene Peterson, Dan Miller, John Goutcher, Sue Hovey.

Pastor Mark called the meeting to order on September 8, 2026 at 7:05 pm following birthday cake for Greg's birthday. Opening devotion and prayer was led by Pastor Mark.

Jenny moved to approve the agenda with one addition. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed.

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

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, income in August was more than expenses. August routine expenses were consistent with previous months. The church received a donation from a church member designated towards updating the sanctuary sound system.

Following an anonymous donation to PUMC for church use, Jenny moved to authorize Kristi to initiate a 6-month CD at the F&M Bank. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed with one objection.

From the Finance Committee, Dan reported the average weekly offering for August was above the needed amount to meet budgeted expenses. Apportionment received during August was \$40.

Average attendance during August was 18.

From the Trustees Committee, Pastor Mark had no major issues to report. He passed out various report forms for the Conference Report so we can get started early on the reports.

From the Worship Committee, Pastor Mark reported the music worship service led by Suz Eberle and Kristie Shorter was very well received! The teamwork during recent events at the church has been wonderful!

From the Missions Committee, Sue offered up a few area organizations to consider for donations. Dan moved to donate \$100 to the Preston Fire Dept. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed.

From Staff/Parish Relations Committee, Marlene reported United Way did not meet at the church in August. They are hoping to keep United Way working in Fillmore County and may be meeting at a different location.

From the Evangelism & Outreach Committee, Pastor Mark reported some boards from past Sunday School events may be re-purposed.

From the Education Committee, Pastor Mark reported the LIFT committee will be meeting on September 9 to plan the upcoming LIFT session.

In Business, Marlene and John reported on the information they gathered from other area churches on their respective church use suggested donations. John proposed an application process that a 3-person committee would evaluate and follow up on after each event. More feedback is being sought before any actions are taken.

During the Pastor's Report, Pastor Mark has nothing further to add.

Jenny moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Marlene. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jenny Dornink, PUMC Council Secretary





OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6 p.m. Cowboy Church	5	6 Men's Breakfast @ B&B in Preston- 8 a.m. Faith Trustees- 6:30 p.m.	7 LIFT in Preston- 3:15 p.m.	8 Faith Finance- 6:30 p.m. Faith Council-7 p.m.	9	10
11 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	12 Cherry Grove Council-7 p.m.	13 Men's Breakfast in Preston - 8 a.m. Preston Council- 7	14 LIFT in Preston- 3:15 p.m.	15	16	17
18 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Lenora	19	20 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 a.m.	21 LIFT in Preston- 3:15 p.m. Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24
25 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	26	27 Men's Breakfast in Preston 8 a.m.	28 LIFT in Preston- 3:15 p.m.	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