



Maple Leaf Parish

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

I hope you'll look through this newsletter at all the happy, smiling pictures of the boys and girls and people who were involved in Vacation Bible School this year....

A couple weeks before Vacation Bible School, someone asked, "How many children are enrolled?" I responded by saying, "None!" Then within a matter of a few days, registration and enrollment shot up from zero to 35 children! Wow!!! People came together to make something really great happen for our children.

I am absolutely thrilled with the VBS ministry offered by the Maple Leaf Parish in 2026! "GROWING WITH JESUS" was the theme and various aspects of farming were lifted up. The boys and girls enjoyed goat races in the church yard, a pony, duck races and tractors parked out in front. The kids learned the stories of Jesus: seeds on rock, a hard path, among weeds and in good soil and the story of the mustard seed....We learned about growing.... nurturing one another, supporting one another and what it means to grow in relationship to God in Jesus Christ.

Rev. John Wesley during his ministry insisted the early Methodist ministers care for and minister to boys and girls. Wesley asserted that was essential to being a Methodist minister. I hope our children and youth know how much I care about each one of them. In their growing up and in their adolescence, I want to be supportive of all of them....In many ways, these are difficult days to be a kid as there are many pressures and stresses on being a kid. The world is a complicated place with many things beyond our ability to understand.

In his ministry, Jesus always reached out to the children... "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them." His ministry included the children and youth and Jesus had a special connection with children and youth.

September will bring about the beginning of Sunday School, LIFT and some new emerging ministry for children and youth in our churches. Please join with me in keeping our children, youth and young families in our prayers as the autumn season approaches. Let's continue to reach out to the children and youth in our communities and live and share the Good News of our Savior Jesus. Together with God's help, let's make some great things happen as the autumn begins remembering "WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!!!"

Let's Rally together this Autumn season and live and share together in worship, fellowship and mission as it is so essential for Christians to encourage and support one another as a family of believers! In many ways, that's what church is all about, being a team of believers who work together to make a positive difference for what is good! Amen!!!

I look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday as we worship and share in mission and ministry together.

I'm thankful and blessed to be your pastor and 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/>

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.

Faith UMC Service Group

SEPTEMBER

*Stuart & Carol Gross	507-346-7113
Amber Merkel	507-951-2470
Bob & Donna Conlan	507-259-9890
Andrew & Paisley Baker	507-251-3653
Geoffrey & Melissa Erdman	507-352-5678
Max & Walker Erdman	
Dan Terbeest	507-251-7316

Cherry Grove UMC Service Group

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

Chairpersons: 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)
Debi Kappers	507-251-4463

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.



Join us at **Lenora Church** on
Sunday, September 20 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.



Join us on September
6th at 6 p.m. in
Cherry Grove

Change in Date
Faith UMC Holiday Market
will be November 7th.





Celebrating the Christian baptism for Asher James Atwood, surrounded by his family at a recent worship service at Cherry Grove Church. We keep this little boy and his family in our prayers.



Children's time at Cherry Grove one Sunday morning. Photo by Mary Ann Schultz. It was a happy morning to celebrate with the boys and girls and give thanks unto God. Children are a special gift from God! Sunday School begins soon. Lets make it a priority to be involved in the life and ministry of our churches. Jesus loves the little children and invites us all to join together in worship and fellowship and to grow in our faith together



Pictured here are Vivian Drinkall and her two brand new twins... Liam and Loretta. This is such an inspiring blessing for Vivian and her family. Praise be to God!





MAPLE LEAF PARISH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "GROWING WITH JESUS."

WE LOVE OUR
CHILDREN!

Ministry to, with and for children is essential in the lives of our churches! Rev. John Wesley often stressed how important it is to live and share the Good News of Jesus with our children. Vacation Bible School for 2026 came together in a beautiful way and we are very thankful for all of the people and the boys and girls for having such a wonderful time together. Pictured in the bottom left is Farmer McDonald (Don Lanning) who was really good with the "Chicken Dance!!"

Pictured under the chicken, boys and girls are doing the "Chicken Dance" in front of Faith Church. They are flapping their wings together all to the glory of God!!!





Here are some happy pictures from the Maple Leaf Parish Vacation Bible School held August 17-18, 2026. Just look at all these happy faces!!! About 35 children attended and learned about "GROWING IN JESUS." It was a farming related theme and proved to be a lot of fun!

Profound thanks and praise for all the wonderful people involved in the planning and leading of VBS for this year.....One leader remarked, "This was the best Vacation Bible School ever!"





Thank You



To our Faith Church Family

Many thanks for all your prayers, cards and kind word's of sympathy at the death of my Sweet Sister Marsha Kay Winch. It was truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Lynette & Tom



My Church and I
Harold W. Ruopp

I am part of the church, one among many, but I am one.
I need the church for the development of the buried life within me; the church in turn needs me.

The church may be human in its organization, but it is divine in its purpose. That purpose is to point me towards God.

Participating in the privileges of the church, I shall also share in its responsibilities, taking it upon myself to carry my fair share of the load, not grudgingly but joyfully.

To the extent that I fail in my responsibility, the church fails; to the extent that I succeed, the church succeeds.

I shall not wait to be drafted for service to my church; I shall volunteer, saying, "Here am I, send me!"

I shall be loyal in my attendance, generous in my gifts, kind in my criticisms, creative in my suggestion, loving in my attitudes.

I shall give to my church my interest, my enthusiasm, my devotion— most of all, myself.

Rev. Harold W. Ruopp was an active and dedicated pastor in the former Methodist Church prior to the merger in 1968. He was an active Elder in the 1940s. Nevertheless, his writing remains timely and pertinent today! Something to think about.....



Cherry Grove Sunday School

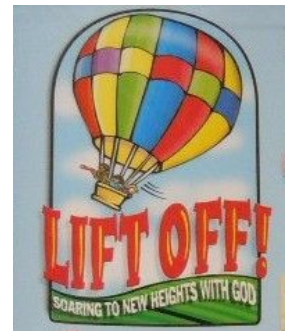
Sunday School in Cherry Grove will begin at 9 a.m. on **September 13th**. Parents, grandparents, boys and girls, please mark this date on your calendars. Volunteers to help with crafts, music or serve as substitute teachers are needed.

Faith Sunday School

The Faith Sunday School will be getting underway on **September 13th**. Come for church at 9 a.m. and Sunday school begins right after the service. This is a special invitation to all of our boys and girls, youth and their families to be involved this season!!! We invite people to share their talents and

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

Preston Church will begin its Wednesday after school ministry for a new session this fall. Plans are underway to pull this unique ministry together. It is a tremendous way to reach out to the boys and girls in our communities. Volunteers are needed as we begin to get ready for this new 6-week season. Please reach out and invite boys and girls grades K-6 and youth helpers to be involved! L.I.F.T meets after school from 3:15-5 p.m. Please stay tuned.. and help us get the word out to the community.



- FAITH UMC HOLIDAY MARKET
Saturday, November 7th
We need everyone to contribute!
- ◆ QUILT SHOW AND SALE
 - ◆ STRETCH THEME BASKETS
 - ◆ HOME MADE BAKED GOODS
 - ◆ SWEDISH MEATBALL MEAL
 - ◆ VENDORS

*New this year-lovely doll display from 1800's & early 1900s.
Start planning your theme basket
EVERYONE CAN HELP-and have fun!!
Please talk with Jan Lanning to learn more! 651-54-0732*



2026 Boland Family Fish Fry and Picnic held at the Boland Cabin



Approximately 80 people from the Maple Leaf Parish and friends gathered in August for a mouth watering treat. A few Lutherans who were there remarked, "Those United Methodists sure know how to have a good time!!!"

Profound thank you to Harry and Elaine and their family for hosting this event now in its 26th year... Stay tuned for number 27 coming in 2027...it will be a great time!!!!

GETTING THINGS READY FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON....TRYING SOME NEW IDEAS...

Here we are in September. Another summer has flown by. As we begin the Autumn season, let's be thinking about ways we can reach out to invite new people, encourage one another and ways to really go about the important work of building up the Body of Christ in the world!

Let's be creative in coming up with some new ideas for mission and ministry. Innovation can really be a lot of fun! All four of our churches would benefit from creativity, stepping out in faith and experimenting with new forms of outreach and evangelism....

Here are some new ideas:

Outdoor campfire Bible study

Indoor Bible study

Movie and game nights

Sunday afternoon field trips to special places

fun fellowship events...bringing people together

Promoting mission projects and events...

In all things let's think creatively and with innovation as we come into this fall season and let's reach out to welcome people and reach out with enthusiasm and optimism to live and share God's Love in Jesus Christ!

REMEMBER FOR AN OPTIMIST: THE GLASS IS HALF FULL!

FOR A PESSIMIST: THE GLASS IS HALF EMPTY!

TOGETHER LET'S BE OPTIMISTS LIVING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE EVERY DAY!



Coming Soon Medical Equipment Loan Closet

Located at the Preston United Methodist Church!

Logistics are still in the works but we're hopeful to be up and running by early Fall. Deb Knoepke had several medical equipment items, previously used by family members, in storage but hated to part with them knowing there could be need for them right here locally.

Chatfield has the closest functioning Loan Closet and we have been communicating with them to obtain information on their operations.

We currently have 3 seated walkers, 2 regular (fold up) walkers, a commode, a shower chair, a gait belt, several reachers and a cane. It's a small start but we're hoping that others consider donating to our loan closet. Use of this equipment is absolutely free of charge. Deb has volunteered to clean, inspect and repair (with help from Steve) and be the contact for this resource. More information to come! Any question please call Deb Knoepke, 507-251-3864.



Milkweed plants growing in front of Faith Church in Spring Valley. Most likely several new Monarch butterflies were born here during the summer months. Monarch butterflies are currently in decline across the country...we're doing something to help support them as we care for God's good gifts in being good stewards of God's beautiful creation.... "This is my Father's world."



Update on the New Doors at Faith UMC



The new exterior doors have been ordered, and we anticipate installation to begin in approximately 8-12 weeks. We are grateful to share that these doors were fully funded through donations from members-no money was taken from the General Budget. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

In addition, a private donor has contributed funds to replace the interior doors at the same time. With the exterior project already underway, it felt timely and wise to accept this gift and move

forward with updating the interior doors as well. Thank you for your continued support and care for our church home.

Faith UMC Trustees

APPORTIONMENTS...AN EXPRESSION OF
MISSION MINISTRY

As we come into September, we come to the last four months of 2026. All four Maple Leaf Parish Churches have been moving forward in many ways during the year. Good things have been accomplished in mission and ministry as we reach out in Christian love. We can feel good about our accomplishments in 2026.

Cherry Grove, Fountain, Preston, Spring Valley: Faith are all committed to paying our apportionments (Christian Service Fund) for 2026. This is the fund which supports mission and ministry beyond our local churches. Apportionment support was of tremendous help to the Maple Leaf Parish during the rough patches of this past year....It is essential for all United Methodist Churches to uphold their covenant as part of the larger church. Together we are doing the work of Jesus on a global scale....

So as we come down the home stretch of 2026, let's continue to strive toward paying our share of supporting the global mission and ministry of the church. God is doing great things in our churches and this is the power of optimism and faith working together in love.

United Women in Faith
August 12th, 2026

The United Women in Faith at Faith UMC met on August 12th at 9:30 with 7 members present. Jan L. served coffee and goodies. Nancy opened with a reading by Jenny Kellar.

New business-what are we charging for non-member funerals? (Topic of charges is under discussion at this time by the Administrative Council.)

September 20th is a Tractor coming through Spring Valley. Faith UMC has been asked to serve a lunch at noon to approximately 120 people. We will be serving chicken and biscuits and apple crisps or cherry with toppings.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's by Deanna and seconded by Danette. Motion carried.

The Fall rally is September 12th in St. Paul. Shauna, from Emma Norton will be one of the speakers. They will be collecting coats.

Old business-Continue to collect "Change for Change". Holiday Market will be on November 7th. Some ideas discussed were to have vendors pay \$20 per table, baskets, quilt show, doll display, bake sale, coffee & cinnamon rolls. Dinner will be Swedish meatballs, potatoes, gravy and vegetable. Date not set for pie sales. Motion to adjourn by Marilyn to adjourn, seconded by Nancy. Motion carried.

Submitted by Norma Merkel

Cherry Grove United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
August 10, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Phil Hebrink, Mary Ann Schultz, Corey Sanford, Holly Sanford, Beth Mulhern, Todd Kappers, & Gene Kappers.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by M. Schultz to approve and seconded by C. Sanford.

Financial Report: There was not financial report.

Trustees Report: Grab bars will be put in the women's restroom.

Discussion was held regarding meeting times. It was decided during the summer months, the meetings will be held at the regular scheduled Monday night times. During the winter months, it will be discussed if it is better to have after church. Meetings will be held upstairs and not in the fellowship area due to it is hard to hear in the fellowship area.

Parish Relations Committee:

Note – The first Cherry Grove 4th of July parade was in 1974, started with Dawn Ruesink friends and family. There were four people in the parade and by 1976 the parade was exceptionally larger.

Mary Ann Schultz is going to work on a new sign for the Cowboy musicians to use during parades.

The Cowboy Appreciation meal was discussed.

Cherry Grove Softball was well attended this year. There are three age groups, (6-9, 10-12, & 13-15). The 10-12 age group won the year end tournament.

Bible school will be held at Faith Church on August 17-18.

Mary Ann Schultz is working on updating the membership list with addresses and telephone numbers. She will have a working copy with her at church, please get with her to review your information.

Faith United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes
August 13, 2026

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

Finance-Jane gave finance report. Stu shared info regarding two CDs that are due for renewal. Stu recommended renewing both CD's. Jane will check with FNB on current rates.

Diane called Administrative Council to order and Mark opened with prayer and a devotion from the Upper Room. Jane reviewed the Finance report. Stu made a motion to approve the secretary report Nancy seconded.

Women of Faith- Continuing with "Change for Change" to go towards updates in church. Monday, August 24: 9:00 a.m. Faith UMC members are invited to an egg bake breakfast at church. Men and women are invited. No charge but bring your suggestions and ideas for this year's Holiday Market to be held on Saturday, November 7th. The next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, September 8.

Missions-

Membership-Total membership is 242. Recorded the deaths of Judy Vreeman and David Warren.

Trustee-New doors have been ordered and paid with 100% donations; the General budget has not been affected. Administrative Council thanks the Trustee Committee for all their work.

Pastor report-Vacation Bible School starts Monday, August 17 with approximately 35 children.

Sunday School- Diane and Pam are starting to organize Sunday School.

New business-reviewed the General Fund Guidelines. It was recommended to remove the McKenzie Endowment. If changes need to be made to the Guidelines the Administrative Council will approve. Also reviewed the fees for building use for non-members, this was tabled until a future meeting.

Denis made a motion to adjourn, Mary seconded.

Preston United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes
August 11, 2026

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

Pastor Mark called the meeting to order on August 11, 2026 at 7:05 pm. Opening devotion and prayer was led by Pastor Mark.

Jenny moved to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed.

Nancy moved to approve the Secretary's Report. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed.

In the Treasurer's Report prepared by Kristi Anderson, income during July was slightly more than expenses. July expenses remained consistent with previous months. At the end of July, 56% of the budget had been spent. John moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Marlene. Motion passed.

From the Finance Committee, Dan reported the average weekly offering for July was above the needed amount to meet budgeted expenses. Apportionment received in July was \$420. Average attendance for the 3 Sundays worship was held in the sanctuary was around 20.

From the Trustees Committee, Pastor Mark reported Wayne Frank is still on deck to replace some burned out lights. They have also been doing some yard maintenance and eliminating weeds. The Spring Valley Kiwanis Club has generously decided to donate their parade trailer with a globe on it to PUMC. Pastor Mark thought this was a neat idea as John Wesley quoted "the world is our parish." Pastor Mark will offer the old church choir music in the Conference Want Ads for anyone who is willing to pick it up.

From the Worship Committee, Pastor Mark reported Suz Eberle and Kristi Shorter will be doing a Special Music Sunday on August 16 during the church service.

No report from the Missions Committee.

No report from Staff/Parish Relations Committee.

From the Evangelism & Outreach Committee, Pastor Mark & Phil Hebrink recently had lunch with our new District Superintendent, Gordon Duell. Pastor Mark wants to put another flier in the upcoming Preston Utilities bill. He is also working with the Jem Theatre to show "The Great Awakening" for a parish activity.

Nothing further from the Education Committee.

In Business, there was discussion about the current suggested donations for use of the church. John and Marlene will do some research and bring the data to the next meeting to update the list of use donations.

During the Pastor's Report, Pastor Mark reported the Boland Fish Fry went well and had about 80 people in attendance. The parish picnic on July 19 was low in attendance, possibly due to the smoke, heat, & humidity. Walter Bradley and Steve Arnold did a wonderful job with the music. John moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jenny. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

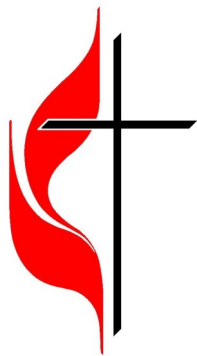
Respectfully submitted, Jenny Dornink, PUMC Council Secretary



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 6 Cowboy Church	7  LABOR DAY	8 Men's Breakfast @ B&B in Preston- 8 a.m. United Women in Faith-9:30 a.m Preston Council- 7	9	10 Faith Finance- 6:30 p.m. Faith Council-7 p.m.	11	12
13 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	14 Cherry Grove Council -7 p.m.	15 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 a.m.	16	17	18	19
20 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship- Tractor Ride lunch 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship 3 Lenora	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 a.m.	23	24	25	26
27 8:30 Fountain Worship 9 Faith Worship 10 CG Worship 11 Preston Worship	28	29 Men's Breakfast in Preston- 8 a.m.	30			

Maple Leaf Parish
Cherry Grove UMC
Faith UMC
Fountain UMC
Preston UMC
617 Maple Lane
Spring Valley, MN 55975



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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