

**2024 ~ Sixty Years of Worship & Service**

# *The Messenger*

***A Newsletter for the Members & Friends  
of Maplewood Presbyterian Church  
Greensburg, PA***

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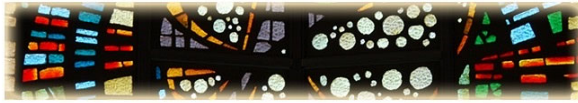
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*Welcome, Spring!*



## **STAFF & CONTACTS**

### **PASTOR:**

Steve LaSor 724-836-3784

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### **Elders & Committees:**

#### **Stewardship/Finance**

Sharon Elkettani, Chair

David Hileman

Carol Limegrover

Diane West

#### **Missions/Membership**

Bobbie Johns

Joe McNamara

#### **Personnel**

Sharon Elkettani

#### **Property**

Dana Ferry

#### **Worship/Christian Edu.**

Mike Cerilli, Chair

Donna Costelnock

Dave Hileman

#### **Clerk of Session**

Sharon Elkettani

#### **Deacons Chair**

Bonnie Peebly

#### **Treasurer**

Arlene Troster

David Hileman, Assistant

#### **Financial Secretary**

Diane West

Carol Limegrover, Assistant

#### **Webmaster**

Bob Bereit

#### **Messenger Staff**

Katy Doran-McNamara, Editor

Marie LaSor

Joe McNamara

Arlene Troster

## **From Our Pastor**

### **Risen to Life in the Spirit**

The story of Jesus' resurrection is at the very core of our faith. It is a tale of triumph over darkness, of life emerging from the tomb, and of love conquering death. As we are moving through this Easter season, we are reminded that even in our own lives, there is hope beyond despair, light beyond shadows. The stone that was rolled away, revealing an empty tomb, speaks to the eternal truth that death does not have the final say. Christ's victory over death gives us hope, even in our darkest moments, that new life is coming. Let us hold fast to this hope, knowing that our own stories are woven into the grand narrative of redemption.

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate Pentecost—the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples like tongues of fire. This divine outpouring empowered Christ's disciples to boldly proclaim the Gospel, bridging language barriers and cultural divides. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, our Advocate, and our Guide. He ignites our hearts, inspires our prayers, and equips us for the work of the Kingdom.

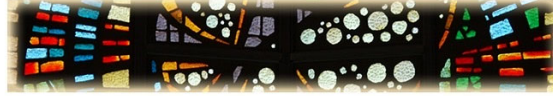
As we await Pentecost, let us prepare our hearts to receive the Spirit anew. Like sails catching the wind, may we be filled with the breath of the living Christ, moving us toward acts of healing, wholeness, compassion, and love. The same Spirit that hovered over the waters at creation now hovers over us, inviting us into deeper communion with the Triune God.

Allow this Easter/Pentecost season to be a reminder that hope is not passive—it is a force that propels us forward. It calls us to action by reaching out to a broken world. And so, as we witness the blossoming trees and flowers, as we hear the early morning songbirds in this springtime of new life, may we also hear the whisper of the Spirit, inviting us to participate in the ongoing work of resurrection and God's Kingdom!

Let us live in hope, knowing that Christ is risen, the Spirit is near, and the story of redemption continues. May our lives be a living testimony to the transformative power of faith, hope and love as we share this good news of Jesus Christ with a world hungry for a life unburdened from all that harms.

In faith and anticipation,

*Steve*



## 2024 ~Reflections on Sixty Years of Maplewood Presbyterian Church

### Photo Archives to be featured in slide shows of Maplewood History

Each month during this, our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, special “60<sup>th</sup> Moment” slide shows of photos from the past will be included in our normal congregation events, such as coffee hours, the Agape Dinner in May, etc. The shows will feature pictures from 1964 to the present of our congregation members and the many events that made Maplewood a vibrant, loving church and major positive part of Greensburg and beyond.

The 60th Committee has gathered and reviewed almost 4,000 digital photos of the past 60 years, from which the slide shows will be developed. The first show was presented at our recent March activity, Palm Sunday Brunch. 103 photos were featured and enjoyed by all. (Uh, some may not have actually “enjoyed” a pic or two, but at least found them interesting...) Many thanks to **Nathan LaSor** for his creative repeating loop presentation of the slides selected for this month.

Next up for April is a new slide show of 113 photos not included in the March show. The April slides will also feature our groundbreaking in late 1963 and construction of our church building in 1964... and more oldies and goldies of Maplewood members, many of whom are still active today.

As an added benefit for our members, if anyone wants a digital copy of one or more slides they enjoyed in the show, simply contact **Joe McNamara** and provide him a flash drive for the photos.

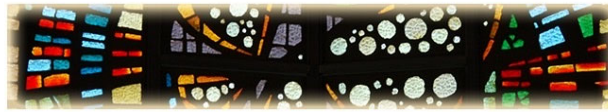
### March 24<sup>th</sup> - Maplewood’s Annual Palm Sunday Brunch:

The annual Palm Sunday Brunch was held after Service, with approximately 65 members attending. The meal was excellent, with the traditional ham and eggs, coffee cake, fruit cups and cookies!! A donation collection was taken, and a generous \$296 was raised to help defray the brunch cost. Thanks to all who worked to make the meal a great success: the Mission & Membership and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committees, organizer **Bobbie Johns**, our cooks and cookie makers **Mike Cerilli, Matt LaSor, George Limegrover, Carol Limegrover** and **Diane West**, set-up, servers and clean-up volunteers **Bonnie Peebly, Penny Labeka, Carmella and Tina McCormick, Bob Harlan, Mary Ellen Neff** and **Joe and Katy Doran-McNamara**.

The “60<sup>th</sup> Moment” slide show focus was on our membership from the past & present . . . who they were, how the youngest of them have grown up (and too often, moved away), the many familiar and beloved faces of those who have passed into the arms of our Lord, in keeping with His promise on that Palm Sunday of long ago.

### Coming in April - “The Creative Hobbies/Crafts/Artistic Talents of Members”:

A display that will feature samples of the creative hands & minds found within the family of Maplewood’s membership, including woodworking, fabric arts, folk art, etc. If **YOU** have such skills and would like to share them, please contact **Doris Bogert**.



## NEWS from SESSION in MARCH:

There were no ACTION items.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** As of Sunday, March 24, \$2,255 had been received in special donations for the new Communion service. This has greatly exceeded the cost of the service at \$720. Since Session approved all extra money to be used for the 60th Anniversary celebration, the Mission and Membership Committee will have those funds available for future anniversary events.

**New Business:** Elder D. Costelnock raised the issue of how should our church reach out to the community, noting that Maplewood used to be known for its strawberry festival and, at that time, the community knew who and where MUPC was. After much discussion, ideas such as having a "neighbor day" inviting local neighbors to a function at the church to celebrate the 60 years we have been part of the community, inviting viewers of our YouTube page to come to church, reaching out to members who haven't been to church or its activities lately, and reaching out to the campus ministry program at U Pitt Greensburg, were sent to the Mission and Membership Committee for consideration.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Worship & Education** – Elder M. Cerilli reported that the new Communion service has been received. The committee is focusing on planning for the Agape meal at Pentecost on May 19 and the Teacher/Choir Appreciation Sunday on May 26.

**Finance** – Elder S. Elkettani provided the February 2024 financial overview. Also, S. Elkettani reported that the online giving application has been submitted to the Presbyterian Foundation to establish an online giving program for MUPC. We have been notified that the application was received and is being processed.

**Missions/Membership** – Elder J. McNamara reported on the following committee activities:  
\*\*Planning for upcoming events: Agape Meal on May 19, future 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.  
\*\*One Great Hour of Sharing is ongoing through Easter Sunday.

Session News continued:

\*\*The Palm Sunday brunch was a successful event with 65 people in attendance, \$296 collected in donations, and many favorable comments on the slide show during the brunch. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and worked on the event!

\*\*High quality video of Pastor Steve's sermons continues to be produced and posted to the current website and Facebook page, with over 200 views the past week. New website content has been loaded and tested in preparation for the new site to go live.

**Property** – Elder D. Ferry reported that AARP continues to use Fellowship Hall for Tuesday and Thursday tax preparations for seniors and disabled people. Donations collected from those using this service have netted \$876 to date. D. Ferry also reported that the new color copier has been installed and he provided information on the machine.

**Next Session Meeting April 15, 2024.**

### **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:**

**Lay Reader:** Jean Gletitsch

**Communion Prep (Intinction):** Mike Cerilli, Penny Labeka

**Communion Servers (Intinction):** Carol Limegrover, Mike Cerilli

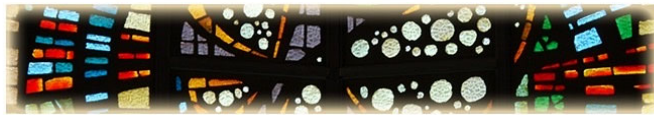
**Upstairs Greeters: All month** – Bonnie Peebly, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>-Carol Limegrover, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – Diane Konop,

**Downstairs Greeter:** Dave Hileman

**Ushers:** Marie LaSor, Jane Myers

**Acolytes: 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>** – Marie LaSor, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – Joshua French

**Prayer Team: All month** – Bonnie Peebly, 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – Carmella McCormick, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> – Marie LaSor



## ***In Need of Prayer . . .***

Fern Benson  
Bob Bereit  
Rosemary Fry  
Alice Markovich's brother, Russell  
**Mary Lou Constable**  
Joe McNamara's daughter-in-law, Renee  
**Pastor McPherson: for Jerusalem, Haiti, Nigeria, Ukraine**  
Katy Doran-McNamara's son-in-law, Jason Reeher  
Roy & Jane Myers' neighbor, Chris  
**Allan Neville: Friends with cancer – Bob Montgomery, Dan Barber & Kate Middleton**  
**Ann Ryan: Neighbor Bill**  
John Scales' daughter, Laura  
Nancy Woodward  
**Bill Young: wife's brother**

*Thank you for  
Praying*

Prayers for members of our congregation and others who are struggling emotionally at this time of the year, from the loss of loved ones, health issues, or other concerns.

Prayers for comfort and peace to members/friends who are shut-ins, in care facilities/nursing homes: *Mary Lou Constable, Nancy Gosser, Wayne Lash, Evalinda Rose, John Scales*

The people of Ukraine & Russia; all who live within the zones of war & conflict.

All the innocents who live within the zones of war & violence in Israel & Palestine; those stranded in Afghanistan & those who choose to remain there to spread the Gospel.

For all our service men & women.

Prayers for Maplewood and all churches, for our community/nation/world in these troubling times.

*Newest Additions in BOLD*

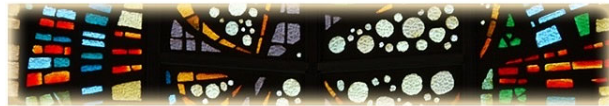
***Please contact Katy Doran-McNamara to have requests added or removed from the list.***

**FROM the PEWS:**

**Share our love with this Beloved Friend!**

**Gene Vogt's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on April 16!!**

Address: Gene Vogt  
2985 North G Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92405



## From the Emergency Planning Group (EPG)

### Food for Health and Healing By Karen Bouknight

Welcome to the April update for the Emergency Planning Group! Our March “Scenarios” class had some new faces and just as importantly, some fantastic discussion. Our next Scenarios class is scheduled for May if you are interested in a “discussion format.” The April 21 class will be the normal topic-based format.

The EPG is starting its third year here in the Spring of 2024. As in years past, we again encourage everyone to grow a portion of their own food. Now is the time to ready your seed and prepare your beds. Now is the time to add fruit bearing trees and bushes. It’s a wonderful feeling to grow, share, and enjoy food as God intended. It’s also a great feeling to not shell out so much money for food at the store.

In this month’s class, we’ll discuss growing common herbs and spices and using them fresh or drying them yourself. Whether you’re growing them in your garden, in pots on your deck, or in containers on your windowsill – herbs are an easy way to add flavor to your food.

In addition to the obvious use in preparing food, we are also going to examine some of the medicinal uses and health benefits of certain herbs. We will cover some common herbs and spices, such as oregano and ginger, and also plants that aren’t really herbs but have great health benefits such as garlic.

Even beyond health benefits though, we are going to examine a few supplements that have specific medicinal uses. One such supplement is called mullein. This plant cleanses our lungs and increases respiratory health. Have you had that cough that won’t go away for weeks? Mullein may help you clear your lungs even more effectively than a steroid. Another interesting supplement comes from the moringa plant. It has tremendous anti-inflammatory properties, numerous vitamins and minerals, and amino acids. We’ll discuss benefits and drawbacks, and of course, none of this is medical advice – be sure to consult your doctor, especially if you are already taking medication.

In this age of processed food and drive-thru nutrition, it is good to get back to things that God made and intended for us to eat and use for good health. Come to class to learn and give thanks to God. Maranatha!

#### **Upcoming EPG Classes:** (subject to change)

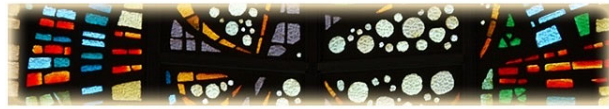
**Apr 21:** Herbs: For Food and Medicine – Class

**May 26:** Scenarios Class Part 2 – Interactive Class

**Jun 30:** Finding or Building a Safe Shelter – Class

**Jul 21:** Buy, Sell, and Trade – Class

**August:** No Class



**60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMBER INTERVIEW**

**CARMELLA MCCORMICK**  
by Doris Bogert

Carmella was baptized in the Calvary Presbyterian Church in 1943. She has been active since her childhood. She taught Sunday School to preschool children, where the flannel board was a favorite.

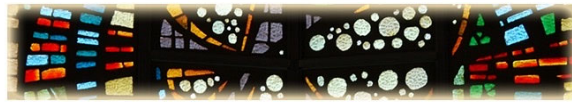
After the merger of churches, Carmella remembers the wonderful spaghetti dinners served at Maplewood with her mother and others making spaghetti sauce from scratch.

She met her late husband, Roger McCormick at Maplewood and had their wedding there with Rev. Lee Page performing the ceremony. They raised their 5 daughters in the church: Mellanie, Jamie, Jennifer, Tina & Freda. She now has 8 grandchildren.

Carmella remembers events at Maplewood such as the Pentecost celebration, which featured a petting zoo and luncheon on the lawn. The girls joined Reach Out & Children In Song at the Strawberry Festival and other events led by Nancy Burke.

She has held many positions in the church, from Elder, Deacon and served on many committees, even portraying Mary "*just a few years ago!*" during several Christmas seasons (seen in the Anniversary slide show) She has been making & giving Christmas ornaments to all our members, distributed at our Annual Christmas Family Dinners.

Carmella is a very generous & active member of Maplewood and feels she has been blessed by God.



# Maplewood Happenings

## Martha Circle

Martha Circle met on March 20th in Fellowship Hall. Our hostesses were Carmella and Diane with a devotion by Mary about Grace and unconditional love. Our guest speaker was Alysha, a representative for **The Blackburn Center**, who was very informative about the needs they meet for people among us each day:

***A 24-hour Hotline, emergency shelter for victims of partner violence, support groups, counseling and therapy, supportive emergency room visits and legal advocacy in legal proceedings of specific types of victimization, community education programs, student awareness programs and in-service training.***

She answered our questions and left us with pamphlets on elder abuse and phone scams along with info which will be here at the church should we encounter a person in need of assistance or referral.

\*\*Doris is collecting samples of various hobbies from members of Maplewood, to be displayed at the April coffee hour . . . a 60th Anniversary representation of “who we are” at Maplewood.

\*\*Tonya, Jean, and Donna are working on the High Tea that will serve as our May meeting. Don't forget your fancy hat!

\*\*For our annual Fathers' Day coffee hour in June, we will, once again serve assorted pies in honor of Maplewood fathers.

\*\*Donna will be exploring a group trip to the annual Butterfly Release at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve.

Our next meeting will be on **April 17** at **9:30** in the Fellowship Hall. Katy and Penny will hostess with devotions supplied by Claudia. The meeting was closed with prayer.

***Donna Costelnock & Claudia Wolfe***

## L.I.F.T. Group

We continue to go through our “Praying Woman” study. Lots of good information has peaked our interest and questions as well as discussions.

We are looking forward to hosting the April Coffee Hour and hope everyone will be able to join us!

Happy Spring!  
**Marie**



## DEACONS CORNER:

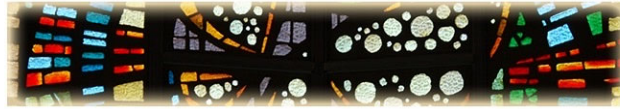
The Deacons wish you all a joyful Easter with many blessings.

In March we shared Home Communion with 4 of our members. The next Home Communion will be taken to members in June.

Please let your deacon know if there are any ways we can be of help to any of our members.

Blessings,  
**Bonnie Peebly**





## A Page of Some Importance

### COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

**April:** Coffee Hour - LIFT – April 28

**May:** Agape Meal on Pentecost – May 19 -  
Worship

**June:** Pie Coffee Hour - Martha Circle – June  
16

**July:** Coffee Hour - Choir – July 28

**August:** Church Picnic – August 18 -  
Mission/Membership

**September/October:** Agape Meal on World  
Communion Day – Oct. 6 - Worship

**October:** 60th Anniversary Events – dates  
and times to be announced

**November:** Hanging of Greens – November  
24 - Martha Circle & Deacons

**December:** Annual Family Christmas Dinner  
Missions/Membership

### 2024 OFFICERS, ELDERS, DEACONS:

#### Officers

President – Dave Hileman

Vice-President – Mike Cerilli

Clerk of Session - Sharon Elkettani

Financial Secretary - Diane West

Assistant Financial Secretary - Carol Limegrover

Treasurer - Arlene Troster

Assistant Treasurer - Dave Hileman

Director of Music - Rich Anthony

Deacon Moderator - Bonnie Peebly

#### Elders – Class of 2024

Mike Cerilli

Bobbie Johns

Diane West

#### Elders – Class of 2025

Donna Costelnock

Sharon Elkettani

Joseph McNamara

#### Elders – Class of 2026

Dana Ferry

Dave Hileman

Carol Limegrover

#### Deacons – Class of 2024

Molly Hileman

Diana Konop

Mary Ellen Miller

#### Deacons – Class of 2025

Karen Bouknight

Carmella McCormick

Bonnie Peebly

#### Deacons – Class of 2026

Melody French

Penny Labeka

Val McAteer

### Some dates for the calendar:

April 7, noon - Property Committee Meeting

April 7, noon - Worship Committee Meeting

April 8, 7pm - Finance Committee Meeting

April 14, noon - Mission and Membership  
Committee Meeting

April 15, 7pm – Session Meeting

April 28, following worship service – coffee  
hour sponsored by LIFT

May 7 - Union Mission Meal

May 19, following worship service – Agape  
Meal (no coffee hour on May 26)

May 22 – Deacons Meeting

May 26 - Teacher/Choir Appreciation Sunday  
(Last Sunday School class)

28, 6pm – Presbytery Meeting in Smock, PA  
or via Zoom



# Celebrations

Do you have a birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special occasion to rejoice about? Are you remembering a loved one who has died? Are you joyful about God's love? If so, share these events with others by placing flowers in our church for Sunday service. It's very easy. Choose a date you wish to have flowers, fill out the form below and put in the church's office. The rest will be taken care of for you. For \$29.00, you can have fresh flowers for a service, a note in the bulletin to commemorate your special occasion and you can take the flowers home with you. If you do not want the flowers, the Deacons can deliver them to shut-ins. Detach and send to church office:

M.U.P.C., 108 Woodland Road, Greensburg, PA 15601

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date for flowers (Sunday) \_\_\_\_\_

Notice for bulletin to read: In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

OR: In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ take the flowers after the service \_\_\_\_\_ let the Deacons deliver them to shut-ins

2 Wesley  
Christianson

4 Ian McAteer

7 Kristy Forrai

9 Natalie McAteer

12 Michele Boronky

15 Travis Forrai

16 Gene Vogt



18 Linda Murphy

22 Joyce Neville

23 Caroline  
Hartman

25 Nancy Gosser

26 Rita Perotti

30 Jeremiah  
Williams

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p>  <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00am L.I.F.T. 7:30am AARP Taxes</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30am AARP Taxes 6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Food Bank</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:00pm Property 12:00pm Worship/Education</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00pm Finance</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am AARP Taxes</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:00pm Mission/Membership</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00pm Session</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00am L.I.F.T.</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>9:00am Martha Circle 11:30am Men's Luncheon 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:14pm Emergency Planning Group</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00pm Deacons</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>  <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:00pm Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00am L.I.F.T.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Food Bank</p>