

# The Messenger

Volume 24, Issue 2

Maplewood  
Presbyterian  
Church



**2018**

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## What is Most Important to God?

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)*

The season of Lent is almost upon us. Our Ash Wednesday service will take place on February 14<sup>th</sup> in our sanctuary at 7pm. Yes, I know, that's Valentine's Day, and I would not doubt that many of you probably have made plans already. And that's ok! If you haven't made plans, then please consider joining us that evening as we begin the journey of Lent and walk toward our Lord's cross and empty tomb.

But the whole subject of obligations amidst life's plans got me thinking about a certain Bible passage. You see, there is always the danger of our obligations turning into legalisms, where we do things simply because "that's the religious thing to do." But what does God really ask of us? What is most important to him? That's what the prophet Micah asks of his people, "What does the Lord require of you?"

**From  
Our  
PASTOR**

Now Micah was asking that question at a time of great dishonesty, corruption, and injustice...a time when the leaders and the people had gotten so far off track that they were completely lost. In fact, had Micah gotten an answer back from the people to his question, "What does the Lord require of you?", folks probably would have said something along the lines of "We need to go to church more; put more in the offering plate; give up something for Lent, etc..."

Micah asks the question rhetorically and doesn't wait for the people to answer. He gives the answer himself, from God's perspective. And the answer should never cease to shock and surprise us, to make us uncomfortable as we wonder: am I really doing that? God doesn't require the things we have come to expect like showing up for worship, knowing the Bible frontwards and backwards, having all the right beliefs. Instead God requires that we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Continued .....

Email: [maplewoodpc@comcast.net](mailto:maplewoodpc@comcast.net) Web Site: [www.maplewoodpc.org](http://www.maplewoodpc.org)



**The Maplewood MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**TO KNOW CHRIST and TO MAKE HIM KNOWN**  
**By LEADING People to a Saving Faith in Jesus Christ,**  
**NURTURING and EQUIPPING People in the Faith,**  
**Love and Knowledge of Jesus Christ,**  
**DEPLOYING People in Servant Ministries to the Rest of the World.**

### From Our Pastor Continued . . .

These actions are not optional for a life of faith. So often we think of faith in terms of what we believe and how certain we are about those beliefs. But Micah wants us to think of faith in terms of what are we inspired to do, how does our belief in God change how we live our lives. And Micah is not the only voice in Scripture asking this question, in the New Testament we hear "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." And we hear Jesus summarizing a life of faith as loving God with our whole being and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Faith is not a feeling, but a whole way of being. How are we living in the world?

It is the way we live out our lives, with the kind of love that humbly walks with God, seeks out his righteousness, and extends kindness to all. This is what God requires.

Micah reminds us of this not to shame us, because the truth is we all miss the mark. None of us is perfect and we all struggle with this. But although we might not be perfect, we can still try. And with God's grace we can grow to love more deeply so that justice, kindness, and a humble walk with God become more and more a natural part of how we live.

So how will you today, or this week, or this month live your faith? How will you seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God? Faith is about what we do with what we believe.

*Steve*

### OUR PASTOR'S SERMONS:

Are you aware that all Sunday sermons are recorded and made available to members and friends through the Maplewood web site? While not a substitute for regular worship, these recordings allow you to keep up-to-date with insightful messages from Steve (and guest ministers) when you have to be away, due to illness, travel or family events. Recordings can be played on your computer, tablet or smart phone. To find the recordings, use your device browser, go to the church's web site (<http://www.maplewoodpc.org>), click on **Worship** at the top of the screen and then choose **Worship Services** from the drop-down menu. The audio messages are located near the bottom of the page which appears. There are six weeks' worth of messages from which to choose. If you wish, you can even download the recordings to listen later or when the internet is unavailable.

### STAFF & CONTACTS

#### **PASTOR:**

Steve LaSor  
724-836-3784

#### **CHURCH OFFICE:**

Diane Dale  
724-834-4960

#### **MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

Jim Overly

#### **Elders & Committees:**

##### **Christian Education**

David Hileman, Chair  
Mike Troster

##### **Church Life**

Rita Perotti  
Donna Costelnock

##### **Finance**

Sharon Elkettani, Chair  
Art Cappella

##### **Missions/Outreach**

Bob Cochran, Chair  
Bob Harlan

##### **Personnel**

Sharon Elkettani

##### **Property**

Dana Ferry, Chair  
Ray McAteer

##### **Worship**

Mike Cerilli, Chair  
Bob Bereit, Co-Chair

##### **Clerk of Session**

Mary Jane Myers

##### **Deacons Chair**

Bonnie Peebly

##### **Treasurer**

Arlene Troster

##### **Financial Secretary**

Roy Myers

##### **Webmaster**

Bob Bereit

##### **Messenger Staff**

Katy Doran  
Marie LaSor



## News from Session

### Actions approved by Session in January:

**ACTION:** elected the corporate officers. **Sharon Elkettani**, President; **Ray McAteer**, Vice-President; **Mary Jane Myers**, Secretary; **Arlene Troster**, Treasurer.

**ACTION:** to have the annual congregational meeting on January 21, 2018 to receive the 2017 annual report.

**ACTION:** to spend \$3,520 out of the capital budget to install a new lock system on the building and \$800 for labor with a total cost of \$4,320.

Appointed **Bob Harlan** Assistant Clerk of Session.

Appointed **Bob Bereit** as 2018 elder delegate to Presbytery.

#### Reminders & Committee Reports:

All committees are asked to come up with instructions on what they do and how it is done so it can be handed over to the new committee chairs.

**Worship** –Committee will host coffee hour Jan. 28. Bulletins have been ordered for the Lenten season and Palm crosses have been ordered for Palm Sunday.

**Church Life** – Game Night - **February 3.**

**Finance** - Would like to develop a 3-year “look ahead” budget for capital expenses. Have begun an ongoing 2018 project to document its financial processes and procedures by the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

**Mission & Outreach** – Next Union Mission meal is **February 13.** They are considering doing a clothing drive and also working with the Salvation Army to adopt a needy family and take them shopping at Target or for groceries in the amount of \$250.

**Property** – An updated 5-year plan underway to better anticipate capital expenditures. A door hardware and lock supplier has inspected the church exit doors to determine the best method of security. The cost is more than previously budgeted to rekey the doors. (See ACTION)

**Next Session Meeting will be February 19, 2018.**

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

#### **Communion Preparation:**

Karen & Dave Bouknight

#### **Communion Servers:**

Bob Cochran, Penny & Pat Labeka, Carol Limegrover, Val & Ray McAteer

**Lay Reader:** Jean Gleditsch

**Greeters:** Mary Leamer, Art Cappella

**Ushers:** Ruth Lash, Ralph Hemminger

**Downstairs Greeter:** Bob Harlan

#### **Acolytes:**

February 4th - Mackenzie Williams

February 11th - Emerson Musgrove

February 18th - Jonathan Bouknight

February 25th - Tyler Williams

March 4th - Rebecca Bouknight

### **FEBRUARY NURSERY SCHEDULE:**

2/04 Marie LaSor and Peggy Potts

2/11 Melissa Lenhart and Christy Musgrove

2/18 Carol Limegrover and Susan Witt

2/25 Marie LaSor and Bonnie Peebly

### **Coffee Hour Schedule for 2018**

Jan – Worship

Feb – Personnel

March – Finance

April – Property

May – Womens’ Retreat

June – Martha’s Circle

July - Choir

Aug. – Church Life

Sept – Christian Ed

Oct. - Mission

Nov – Deacons

Dec – Church Life

## IN SPECIAL NEED OF PRAYER

### Mary Leamer – friend Ron Kirk

Joyce Neville

Evalinda Rose

John Scales

Sylvia Shearer – brother Byron

### Joys:

Karen Bouknight's sister

Trevor & Jayne Casteel wedding

Sue Kramer/Dan Stuthers travel to AZ

Nathan LaSor friendship with Trevor Casteel

Duane Miller's grandson

### \*\*New Additions in BOLD

Several of your prayer requests have been removed. If you or your family member is still in need of prayer, please complete a Prayer request card (in pews), notify Katy Doran or leave a note in "The Messenger" box in the Church Office.

- Prayers for our Maplewood Church Leaders
- Prayers for our College Students
- Prayers for our local, national and world leaders, our armed forces and their families
- Prayers for our persecuted Christian brothers & sisters world-wide
- Prayers for our missionary families, the Carlsons & the Saldis

### MARTHA CIRCLE IN FEBRUARY:

Our circle will hold their regular meeting on **February 21st** in the church lounge at **9:15AM**. Arlene will be the hostess and we will have a program on the church celebrations.

Meanwhile . . .

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Each year during tax prep season the Martha Circle ladies set up coffee, tea and goodies for the tax payers who use the AARP Tax Prep volunteers to prepare their taxes. This is a free service that AARP offers each spring to our neighbors. This year the service will be offered two mornings a week, **Tuesday** and **Friday**, in the church fellowship hall at **9AM** until early PM. We will be there for service only on Tuesday. We do ask for volunteer contributions and the funds are used for projects happening in the church. This year we have chosen to help pay for the reorganization of Jim's office. Please look at the schedule in the Narthex and sign up to either bring goodies or work the AM. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## NEWS from the PEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES: Trevor & Jaynee Casteel marriage, Jan. 20**

**Thank You:** Thanks to everyone for their cards & prayers for my mother, Betty Henderson.

*Val McAteer*

## ***MORE Happenings***

### **DEACONS' CORNER**

We were very pleased with the success of the "Member to Member" Christmas Card delivery this past season. Approximately 1,800 cards were delivered. We will continue that program this coming Christmas!

Each of the deacons is assigned 6 or 7 members or families who they will keep in touch with. You will be hearing from your deacon very soon and will receive a card from them that has their contact information on it. If anyone is not sure who their deacon is, please contact **Bonnie Peebly**.

### **MISSION MANEUVERS**

Our next meal at the Union Mission is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 13th** at **5 PM**. If you are interested in going or providing food, please sign the sheet in the Narthex.

If you are cleaning out a closet and find clothes you no longer wear, bring them to church and we will get them to an organization that meets that need. Also, do you have a suitcase you don't use or need? Bring us those, too, and thank you!

The Mission Committee is planning to work with the Salvation Army to adopt a family and take them shopping for clothing items and/or food.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for **February 12th** at **7 PM**. Please come join us. Bring your ideas on how we can better serve our community.

### **CHURCH LIFE ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:**

Church Life is sponsoring **Family Game Night** on **Saturday, February 3rd** at **6:30 P.M.** at the church. If you missed it last year, but heard about the fun we all had, don't miss it this year. We will be playing some of the games we played last year, plus some new games. Please bring a snack food. Church Life will provide beverages. Please **R.S.V.P.** for Game Night by filling the form in the church bulletin or by calling Diane at the church office. In case of inclement weather, you will receive a Call Multiplier to cancel. You can also contact **Rita Perotti** for an update. Thank you.

You can start thinking about joining Church Life and your Church Family, on a One Day Trip on **Friday, June 29th** to Lancaster for "**Jesus**". This is a timeless story of relentless love! While Jesus' story may be familiar, his actions are unexpected. He befriends outcasts and heals the hurting. He challenges social norms and confronts hypocrisy. He sets sail with fishermen and reasons with religious scholars. And the lives he touches will never be the same. From the streets of Jerusalem to the raging Sea of Galilee, there's no place and no person that his love can't reach. A farlands scenic tour and buffet lunch at Hershey Farms before the show is included. The cost is **\$185.00** per person and the tour bus company is Quest. More details will follow.

### **Events for 2018:**

FEBRUARY: FAMILY GAME NIGHT  
MARCH: PSALM SUNDAY BRUNCH  
APRIL: BOWLING  
MAY: DINNER FOR SIX  
JUNE: ONE DAY TRIP TO LANCASTER FOR "JESUS"  
JULY: PICNIC AT HOFFER'S IN LIGONIER  
AUGUST: FAMILY CHURCH PICNIC  
SEPTEMBER: AUTUMN FEST  
OCTOBER: RETREAT  
NOVEMBER: COOKING DEMONSTRATION  
DECEMBER: CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

*(ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.)*

**L**adies **I**n **F**ellowship **T**ogether

Mark your calendars! The LIFT Group will begin their spring bible study on **Wednesday March 7th!** We will be studying "*Battlefield of the Mind*" by Joyce Meyer. This study will help those of us that struggle with worry, doubt, confusion, anger, depression, and feelings of condemnation. I'm sure each of us can relate to some or even all of these heavy burdens!

The study is open to ALL ladies, members and nonmembers of Maplewood! We will be meeting in **Bonnie Peebly's** home on **Wednesday** evenings from **7:00-8:30**. **Marie LaSor** will be facilitating the study. We always have a wonderful time with our studies and it's a joy to get to know each other better and build relationships.

Watch the weekly bulletin for more information on the book you will need and other pertinent details.

We hope you will join us!!!!

**SHROVE TUESDAY-FAT TUESDAY**



**PANCAKE DINNER**

**AT CONGRUITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**NEW ALEXANDRIA, PA**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

**4-7pm**

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE AND BEVERAGE.

LIVE MUSIC AND MARDI GRAS THEME ~ SILENT AUCTION BASKETS

ADULTS \$7.00----CHILDREN 6-12 \$3.00---CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MISSION TRIP**

**Tickets are available at the door or**

**Contact the church for reservations 724-668-7740**

## *Musical Notes from Jim*

Greetings from Pittsburgh, where it can be sunny and 65, and sleeting and 32 within 2 hours on the same day! ;) Unpredictable weather can lead to very interesting driving predicaments, and I'm taking that into account in setting up the rehearsal schedule for our 2018 Easter cantata **REDEEMED**. Here are the dates and times as of now. (I will use the Call Multiplier if a cantata rehearsal needs to be canceled due to hazardous weather conditions.)

2/24 (SAT) - 10AM - NOON

3/3 (SAT) - 10 AM - NOON

3/10 (SAT) - 10 AM - NOON

3/17 (SAT) - 10 AM - NOON

3/24 (SAT) - 10 AM - NOON

3/31 (SAT) - 10 AM - NOON (DAY BEFORE EASTER)

4/7 (SAT) - 10 AM - NOON

4/8 (SUN) - 9:30 - 10:15 AM - FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL//10:45 AM - CANTATA PERFORMED  
DURING CHURCH SERVICE

Every Ready to Sing cantata that we've performed since 2013 has been powerful, especially the Easter cantatas, and this one is no exception. However, the cantata singers need your help to turn the potential energy stored in this cantata into kinetic energy in performance. We have lost 3 sopranos, 1 alto, 1 tenor, and 2 basses over the past few years for cantatas. 7 people might not seem like a large number, but when it lowers the number of singers from 20 to 13, that's a reduction of approximately 33%...one-third. Please prayerfully consider singing with us for this cantata. It's a finite number of rehearsals, and the dividends are amazing. You get to sing some powerful music as you raise your voice in praise and worship to our King...you become an integral part of an amazing whole...and you would be contributing your time and your talent to a very worthwhile endeavor.

As a final thought, if we don't have close to 20 singers for this cantata, it won't be feasible to have live musicians accompany us during the performance. I usually have 10 musicians, but they will cover us up completely with 12-13, even 15 singers. It has been a balancing act using live musicians for the past 2 Easter cantatas, and we have had between 20-25 singers each time. Instrumentalists can only play so softly, especially in our acoustically live sanctuary, so please consider joining us for **REDEEMED** Thank you in advance for your help!

Keep warm and dry as we slowly head toward spring, and I'm looking forward to helping you praise the Lord with music, even when that might be the last thing on your mind. I love and appreciate y'all! =)

In Him, *Jim*



***Celebrate or Commemorate***

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 \$24.00, 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

***February Birthday Celebrations***

3...Judy Pacek

5...Cindy Conrath

6...Don Livingston

9...Valerie Mikos  
Cindy Harlan

13...Bob Bogert  
Sue Kramer



18...Carmella McCormick  
Melissa Capella

20...Bob Harlan  
Bob Cochran

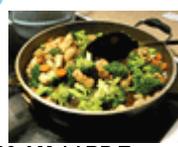
21...Arthur Cappella

24...Joan Scales

***Editor’s Note:***

***Our list of 50<sup>th</sup> Plus Anniversaries needs to be updated. Please call the Church Office if you will be celebrating such a notable event in 2018! We DO want to honor your devotion to each other and celebrate with you!***

## FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p>  <p>Food Sunday  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>12:00 PM</b> Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Presby  <b>6:30 PM</b> C.O.M.  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast  <b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	 <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Bank  <b>2:00 PM</b> Baby Shower  <b>6:30 PM</b> Family Game Night</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Communion Sunday  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>6:30 PM</b> C.O.M.</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Christian Ed  <b>7:00 PM</b> Property Committee</p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast  <b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship Committee</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Missions/Outreach</p>	<p>13</p>  <p><b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service  <b>5:00 PM</b> Meal Service</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Ash Wednesday  <b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Service  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast  <b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Presidents' Day  <b>7:00 PM</b> Session</p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>9:15 AM</b> Martha Circle  <b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Presby  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast  <b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	 <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Cantata Rehearsal</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Coffee Hour  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Presby  <b>6:30 PM</b> C.O.M.  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast  <b>9:00 AM</b> AARP Tax Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Bank  <b>10:00 AM</b> Cantata Rehearsal</p>