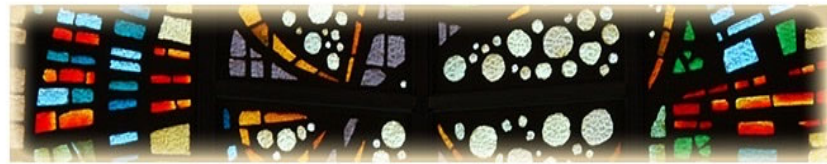


Maplewood
Presbyterian
Church



2024 ~ Sixty Years of Worship & Service

The Messenger

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

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**Volume 30, Issue 5
May, 2024**

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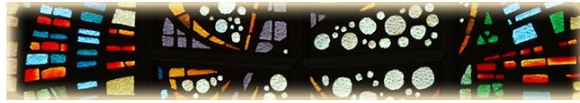
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108 Woodland Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 – Phone: 724-834-4960



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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

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Webmaster

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Messenger Staff

Katy Doran-McNamara, Editor

Marie LaSor

Joe McNamara

Arlene Troster

From Our Pastor

What Is Going On?

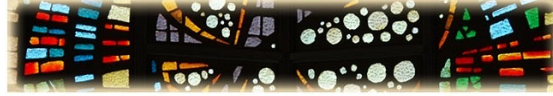
If you were asked the question: What is the Church, how would you answer? Is it a gathering of likeminded individuals who enjoy gathering on Sundays? Is it a volunteer organization that has a dedication to Jesus? Is it a social group of friendships that enjoy each other's company?

Some would say the Church is just another human institution, like all other institutions. It comes into existence for a time, has a purpose, for a while, but when new times come, new institutions are created to take the place of the old. Perhaps the Church needs to be replaced? Some wholeheartedly say, "YES!" Maybe you've heard the sentiment, "I'm religious, but I dislike institutional religion," or the more generic, "I'm spiritual, but not religious."?

In his book, *Letter to the American Church*, author Eric Metaxas states that the real question is more pointed: "When is the Church actually **being** the Church of Jesus Christ, instead being it in name only?" Something has been lost in our time. The Church always has been a prophetic voice to the world, especially in times of tyranny and turmoil. Metaxas argues that the American Church has lost much of its prophetic voice, either by keeping Church separate from the world (something limited to a church building on Sundays), or by relinquishing that voice altogether. Alas!

Metaxas also notes that people in the pews are more and more realizing that things are not as they were, even a few years ago! Something has been creeping toward us, and is now charging toward us. People "are looking to their pastoral leaders to acknowledge this, to help them understand what is happening and to lead them in standing against it." If we don't address it, the current troubles that are spreading across our land and the whole world, will grab hold. Indeed, there is something eerily familiar with what is happening in the American Church and what was happening in the German Church in the 1930's. "The German Church was silent in the face of evil; but can there be any question whether the American Church of our own time is guilty of the same silence?" According to the author, the horrific evil that came upon the world because of the German Church's failure to recognize it and speak against it, is likely a foretaste of what will befall the world if the American Church goes down that same path.

Continued



Pastor Continued . . .

Over the next several weeks I will be taking my cue from Metaxas's book, and preaching/warning against "What is Going On." How did we get here, and what is coming? This isn't hyperbole; this isn't saber rattling; this isn't fire and brimstone. No, this will be a series of sermons warning people of what is happening in the world, and to hold fast to Jesus Christ! Going along and getting along is not the answer, nor will it not stop what is coming. The Church must stand! Put on the whole armor of God!

Steve

2024 ~Reflections on Sixty Years of
Maplewood Presbyterian Church

60th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

April:

"Maplewood History Slide Show" was on a continuous loop during the April 28 Coffee Hour, and included 123 photos of the groundbreaking in late 1963 and construction in 1964 of our building, and many more oldies and goldies of Maplewood members.

"The Creative Hobbies/Crafts/Artistic Talents of Members" was also on display during the Coffee Hour. We hope you enjoyed the show, learned more about the creative hands, minds & skills of our Maplewood members!

Coming Events:

May: Agape Meal & Maplewood History slide show

June: Pies for Father's Day (on 16 June & in place of the usual Coffee Hour) and Anniversary History Trivia game prepared by Carmella McCormick

July: Coffee Hour hosted by the Choir, with Rich Anthony leading an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing-Along

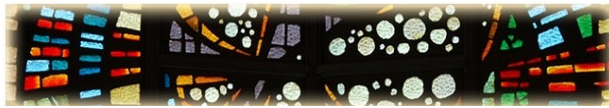
Maplewood is on Facebook and YouTube!

Please consider supporting Maplewood's online presence as a form of outreach to our community. How?

On Facebook, find us **@maplewoodpc**, then "like" and "follow" our page. We've been getting an increasing number of views. When we reach 100 followers, Facebook tracks our stats. Then we can learn more about what content is reaching the most people. On **YouTube**, Pastor Steve's Sunday sermons are being posted. Please give the videos a "thumbs up," subscribe to the channel, leave a nice comment, and share with others. Find us at:

<http://www.youtube.com/@MaplewoodPresbyterianChurch>

THANK YOU!



NEWS from SESSION in APRIL:

There were no ACTION items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Education – Elder M. Cerilli reported that the committee has decided to purchase a protective storage case for the new Communion service. Due to the success of the Fish Fry Fridays, the committee plans to sponsor an informal get-together on the second Friday of each month where everyone is welcome to bring their own food and meet at the church for fellowship and games. The committee is continuing to plan for the Agape meal at Pentecost on **May 19** and the Teacher/Choir Appreciation Sunday on **May 26**.

Finance – Elder S. Elkettani provided the March 2024 financial overview. Also, S. Elkettani reported that the online giving link to the MUPC page has been provided to us and is in the process of being applied to the website.

Mission and Membership - Elder J. McNamara reported on following committee activities:

**The committee is actively reviewing the different local mission organizations that the church supports and determining the support to be offered for the 2024 Maplewood Missions Giving Program.

One Great Hour of Sharing realized donations of **\$1,077 this year, surpassing the committee's goal of \$1,000.

The **May 7 Union Mission Dinner is being planned.

**High quality video of Pastor Steve's sermons continues to be produced and posted to the current website and Facebook page. Favorable comments continue to come in, the latest of which came from Cape Town, South Africa.

**Website development continues and newsletter upgrades in color have begun.

Personnel – Elder S. Elkettani reported that we have been notified that the Board of Pensions has issued a proposal that changes the medical coverage and costs for pastors starting in 2025. Details of the proposed changes, expenditures and coverage for our pastor may be obtained from Elder S. Elkettani

Session continued . . .

Property – Elder D. Ferry reported that the annual AARP tax preparations for seniors and disabled have concluded, with donations of **\$1,156** this year. All of the church's AC units have been serviced. In addition, monthly maintenance cost for the new color copier and the costs involved in exceeding the monthly allotment of black and white and color copies was reviewed. Not included in the original 2024 budget, everyone should be mindful of the extra expenditures.

Next Session Meeting: May 20, 2024.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

Lay Reader: Dave Hileman

Communion Prep: Bonnie Peebly

Communion Servers: Donna Costelnock, Carol Limegrover, Bonnie Peebly

Upstairs Greeters: **5th** Mike Cerilli, Diane West; **12th** Diane West, Penny Labeka; **19th** Mike Cerilli, Penny Labeka; **26th** Bonnie Peebly, Bob Harlan

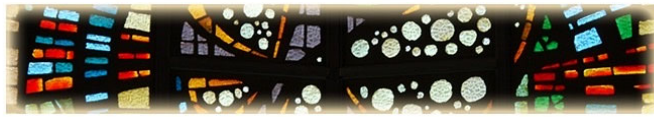
Downstairs Greeter: **5th** Nicole Zogleman, **12th** Marie LaSor, **19th** Nicole Zogleman **26th** Marie LaSor

Ushers: **5th** Dave Hileman, Marie LaSor **12th** Mike Cerilli, Carol Limegrover; **19th** Dave Hileman, Carol Limegrover; **26th** Mike Cerilli, Marie LaSor

Acolytes: **5th** Marie LaSor **12th** Mike Cerilli; **19th** Marie LaSor **26th** Bonnie Peebly

Prayer Team: **5th** Carmella McCormick, Mike Cerilli; **12th** Marie LaSor, Bob Bereit **19th** Mike Cerilli, Marie LaSor **26th** Carmella McCormick, Bonnie Peebly





In Need of Prayer . . .

Fern Benson
Bob Bereit
Rosemary Fry
Alice Markovich
Mary Lou Constable
Carmella McCormick's friend, Marsha
Dana Ferry & Sharon Elketanni
Pastor Lasor: John & Peggy Potts
Carol Limegrover: sister-in-law, April
Joe McNamara's daughter-in-law, Renee
Roy & Jane Myers: friend Dennis
Roy Myers: for Jane
Allan Neville: Friends with cancer – Bob Montgomery,
Dan Barber & Kate Middleton
Bonnie Peebly: for Athelene
Ann Ryan: Neighbor Bill & friend , Lois
John Scales' daughter, Laura
Nancy Woodward & sister, Amy
Jerry Woodward's mother, Donna
Don Zeigler

*Thank you for
Praying*

*Newest Additions in **BOLD***

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

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*

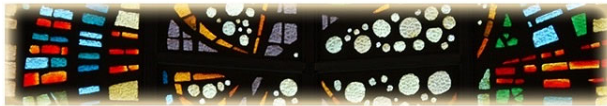
The people of Ukraine & Russia; all who live within the zones of war & conflict.

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.





From the Emergency Planning Group (EPG)

Choices

By Karen Bouknight

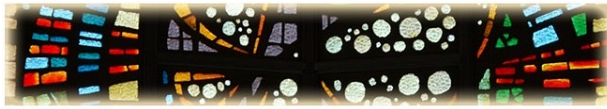
Welcome to the May update for the *Emergency Planning Group*! Spring is in full swing now. Hopefully you've got some food of your own growing. Even a couple bean plants in a pot or just a tomato plant can provide you with some wholesome food. Prices for food are not expected to come down anytime soon so save where you can.

We finished up our *Herbs for Food and Medicine* class last month. Truly God provides for all our needs and gives us bodies that can largely heal themselves if we don't consistently make bad choices. Using herbs or common plants for good health works best when we haven't abused our bodies with processed food – but even when we don't eat perfectly, God has graciously provided things that can help bring us back into balance.

This month we are doing a second round of our *Scenarios* class, and it will be run the same way the first-round class was in March. We have a collection of cards with pre-written scenarios that put the reader in a difficult situation, and we take turns answering how we would handle it. One of the things we discussed last time was how timing and choices might affect how we react in a given scenario. For example, if you had a stockpile of 6 months of food, and your neighbor comes by after just a week of no electricity, you might offer him a few cans for his family. But if you're 5 months into a situation where you've had no power and you only have a week of food left, how might your level of generosity change? Timing and length of emergency might affect your choices, especially if it takes food out of your children's mouths. It makes for interesting conversation.

Speaking of choices, there are a whole series of decisions we make every day and over time that impact that critical moment when we are presented with an emergency. Recently I read a story about a survivor from the Francis Scott Key bridge collapse in Baltimore. He was a bridge worker. As I read, I thought about the circumstances that affected his survival. He was working on the bridge but took his break in his truck. When the truck fell into the water, he was able to more easily escape because he had manual windows which he rolled down to get out. But when he got out, he had to hold onto floating steel debris because he couldn't swim. What if he had taken his break outside his vehicle? What if he had learned to swim when he was younger? What if his truck windows were electric and inoperable? What if there had been no floating debris close enough for him to hold onto before he panicked and drowned?

When that unexpected emergency happened, every choice up to that point converged into that critical moment. No sane person expected that bridge to collapse, but the choices he made dictated how he went through that emergency. The same is true for us – our choices now will impact our ability to survive an emergency later.



We cover a lot of different topics in the EPG classes. Economics, geopolitics, de-dollarization, growing and preserving food, making water safe, alternate power sources, making fire, precious metal options, dealing with nuclear fallout, medical options, cyberwarfare, preparing with prayer...we run the gamut on topics. The impetus for these classes is to give you choices you can make now for a better outcome later.

Cultivate the habit of making good choices that will give you the best chance in an emergency. Remember: *Good choices give you options. Bad choices leave you few or none.* Let's make good choices for ourselves and our families so that when the inevitable emergency comes, we can not only weather it but also lend a hand where needed. Maranatha!

Upcoming EPG Classes: (subject to change)
May 26: **Scenarios Class Part 2** – Interactive Class
Jun 30: **Finding or Building a Safe Shelter** – Class
July 21: **Buy, Sell, and Trade** – Class

2024 ~Reflections on Sixty Years of
Maplewood Presbyterian Church

An Anniversary Interview, a reminder of how Maplewood Presbyterian Church has been & continues to be a “family”, a haven of Christian love, caring & fellowship.

Robert & Cindy Harlan by Bob Harlan

When we started to look for a place to worship, Maplewood was not the first church we visited, but it was the last. No other showed a genuine, heartfelt welcome like Maplewood. We knew that we had found our home and over the years the Maplewood family have become our closest friends.

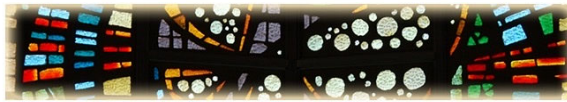
From the start, the church involved us in activities with the choir and various committees. Being active helped us grow closer to others and a greater love of the Maplewood family.

Pastor Steve's Bible classes and studies into different books have greatly increased our knowledge of God's word and the impact it can have on today's world.

Maplewood choir provides such an important part of our worship services. Being part of it from the start has been a large part of our joy of the church. The music programs, our Scottish dinner, game nights, harvest bonfires and picnics are some of our favorite events. Coffee hours each month give us the opportunity to sit and talk with others in an informal setting and learn more about the wonderful people that make up the Maplewood family.

Serving three terms on Session and many different committees has offered much insight into the workings of the church and the opportunity to give back for all that Maplewood has provided to us.

We feel very blessed to call Maplewood home.



Maplewood Happenings

Martha Circle

Martha's Circle met on **April 17th** in Fellowship Hall where hostesses were **Penny** and **Katy**. **Claudia** opened the meeting with a devotional.

We discussed our cooperation with **Doris** for the 60th Anniversary showcase of our church members' various hobbies at the April coffee hour. Donna will get details for the annual Butterfly Release, the **first week of August**, at the Greensburg Garden Center. The celebration of a High Tea will be held in place of our **May 15th** meeting, to be held at noon. Hats will be encouraged but optional (Katy will help ladies make their own "fascinator" hats for the occasion earlier that day), and our food will be prepared by the committee of **Diana Konop, Tonya Gamble, Jean Seagraves, and Donna Costelnock**. Maplewood's 2nd Agape meal is **May 19th**, with **Nancy Woodward** and **Arlene Troster** volunteering to make soup. **June 16th** will be Martha Circle's "**Pies for Dads**" brunch in recognition of Father's Day. The following have volunteered to contribute the pies: **Penny** - Cherry, **Diana** - Coconut Cream, Jean - Chocolate Crème, **Lorraine** - Berry, **Claudia** - Apple, **Donna** - Dutch Apple, **Doris** - Strawberry Rhubarb, and **Arlene, Katy** and **Carmella** will surprise us! The meeting closed with a cooking demonstration on the preparation of Lemon Curd by **Donna**. The recipe is as follows: 1 stick unsalted butter, melted in a double boiler..., add 1 1/2 cup of caster sugar and stir constantly. Add 3 whole eggs and continue stirring. Add the zest and juice of 2 limes and two lemons. Continue to stir for 20 minutes, then cool in refrigerator until set.

Donna Costelnock & Claudia Wolfe

DEACONS CORNER:

The deacons hope everyone had a joyous Easter celebration. We are here to help our fellow members however we can, whether it be a ride to church, a meal, or a nice visit to just catch up. Please contact your deacon if we can be of help to you.

This past month we celebrated the 89th birthday of our dear member **Nancy Gosser**. Some of our church members shared birthday cake with her. Nancy resides at Barnes Place in Latrobe. She would welcome a card or visit from her Maplewood Family anytime. As we enjoy our spring weather, newly blossoming flowers and warm sunshine, let us all thank God for our health, and for our many blessings.

In June, the deacons will be taking communion to members who are unable to attend church, so please let your deacon know of anyone new who would like to receive communion at their home.

Blessings to you all,

Bonnie Peebly

The **LIFT** group has two meetings left in the Praying Woman study. Everyone has enjoyed the study and grown from it!

We have a strong group of prayer warriors in LIFT. There is an ongoing group text of about a dozen of us where we post prayer requests continually. When someone sends a request we respond with an acknowledgment or an encouraging word. Several have commented that it's a wonderful feeling to know that when they have a need they know we will pray!

When the study is completed we will take the summer off and reconvene in the fall. During the summer we will get together at least once a month for fellowship.

As always, all ladies are welcome to join our group at any time!

Be Blessed!

Marie





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

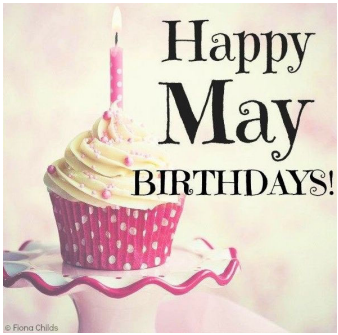
Name _____ Phone _____

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



7... Kristen Wonderling

8... Vicki Fry
Penny Labeka

12... Ralph Hemminger
JoAnn Hemminger
Ray McAteer

**SELF-MOTIVATED
BIG DREAMERS
STUBBORN
LUCKY
BIG SPENDER
CREATIVE**

**ADVENUROUS
INTELLIGENT
POSSESSIVE
SENSITIVE
STRONG
COMMITTED**

17... Paul Shearer
Jane Myers

29... Kenny Hemminger
Leona Zeigler

*Celebrating More Than
50 Years of Marriage*

John & Peggy Potts



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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>8:00am Rummage Sale set-up</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00am P.E.O .Rummage Sale 9:00am Food Bank</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:00pm Worship/Education</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30pm Union Mission Meal Service</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon 2:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>5:30pm Food & Fellowship</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p>  <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:00pm Mission/Membership</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00pm Finance</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00pm L.I.F.T.</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon 12:00pm Martha Circle - High Tea 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>  <p>Pentecost</p> <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:00pm Agape Meal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00pm Session</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm Bible Study 8:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Teacher/Choir Appreciation</p> <p>9:30am Choir 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00pm Deacons</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00pm L.I.F.T.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00am Food Bank</p>