

# The Messenger

Volume 23, Issue 10



2017

## NEWS INSIDE:

Session News  
Actions & Reports  
Worship Volunteers  
Nursery Volunteers

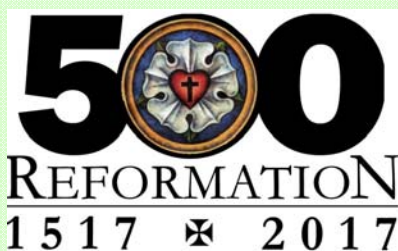
Happenings  
Prayer Concerns  
Coffee Hour Schedule  
Martha Circle  
Coming Soon

More Happenings  
Deacons  
News from Pews  
Reformation 2017

## Musical Notes

Celebrations  
Birthdays/Anniversaries

## Calendar of Events



## A Letter From Dad

*Below is a letter my dad sent me years ago. It was a big encouragement to me then, and has been so even today. I once cited it in a sermon and a few folks told me how meaningful it was to their own lives. I offer it in tribute to him.*

Hi Steve --

I was a bit disappointed with myself the other night when I seemed unable to find the right things to tell you when you were feeling so discouraged. On the one hand, I want to encourage you by keeping hope alive, but at the same time, I don't want to offer simplistic answers that will never be satisfying in the long run. Even though I never experienced the difficulties you are now having, I have endured times of prolonged self-doubt and disillusionment, especially while I was in school.

In college, I was never able to make the kind of grades that many (including me) expected of me, and I had very few friends leaving me to believe I had a dismal future ahead of me. Nevertheless, things have a way of working themselves out, and I can now look back in appreciation for where life has taken me, in many cases through no direct effort of my own.

**From  
Our  
PASTOR**

That said, let me assure you that none of this came about because I found the "right formula" or read the "right books". Rather, much of it came about because Someone was caring for me and keeping me on track. I think, in time, you will begin to see the same things in your life, if, in fact you haven't already begun to do so. I still go through an occasional dark period, but I do so with greater confidence that things will work out alright even if they don't work out the way I might plan. I think the time has come for you to start thinking along these lines. You have a good ministry, and a lot of personal support from many in the congregation who believe in you and think the world of you. For that, you can be very grateful, and see much of it as an affirmation of your call to ministry. So, if it seems trite to say "hang in there," that doesn't invalidate the advice.

Continued .....

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## 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

#### **Church Life**

Rita Perotti  
Donna Costelnock

#### **Finance**

Carol Limegrover, Chair  
Sharon Elkettani, Co-Chair

#### **Missions/Outreach**

Katy Doran, Chair  
Bob Cochran, Co-Chair

#### **Personnel**

Arlene Troster

#### **Property**

Dana Ferry, Chair  
Bob Harlan, Co-Chair

#### **Worship**

Mike Cerilli, Chair  
Bob Bereit, Co-Chair

#### **Clerk of Session**

Mary Jane Myers

#### **Deacons Chair**

Marie LaSor

#### **Treasurer**

Arlene Troster

#### **Financial Secretary**

Roy Myers

#### **Webmaster**

Bob Bereit

#### **Messenger Staff**

Katy Doran  
Marie LaSor  
Arlene Troster

## **From the Pastor continued . . .**

The prophet Jeremiah writes of a bush that sets its roots in parched desert soil. In times of rainfall and prosperity the plant flourishes, but during drought its shallow roots shrivel and die. Jeremiah draws a contrast to the one who lives in faith:

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.*

The Bible makes no rosy promises about living only in springtime. Instead, it points toward faith that helps us prepare for arid seasons. Harsh winters will come, followed by scorching summers. Yet if the roots of faith go deep enough, tapping into Living Water, we can survive the drought times and flourish in times of plenty.

As hard as it may be to do, try to see the season for what it is. Not as a time of failed promise, but as a time which promises that failure will not have the last word. Although no one can say how all of this will come out, you can believe that the outcome will be better than you think likely or even possible.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year. And know that Mom and I continue to pray for you.

-- Dad. 12/24/2000

To the glory of God, in thanks for my earthly father!

- *Steve*

Many of Pastor Steve's Maplewood family have been asking how best to express their love & understanding for the loss of his father. The elder LaSors' relocation was so recent, they did not yet have a home church in Texas. Therefore, a donation to the *Maplewood Memorial Fund* in the name of **William "Sandy" LaSor** would be welcome by Pastor Steve & his family.



# News from Session

## Actions approved by Session in September:

**ACTION:** To remove Dorothy (1276) and Jehu (1275) Bell from our membership, with regret, at their request.

**ACTION:** to transfer \$2,815 from line items electric and maintenance to pay for the remaining parking lot repair bill and the fire resistant file cabinet.

### Reminders & Committee Reports:

New Members' Class on September 24. Session will meet to receive those who wish to join on October 1. *(To Be Rescheduled)*

**Upcoming events:** Fall Festival, September 30.

World Communion Sunday, October 1.

Reformation Sunday, 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 29.

**Worship** – Looking for a volunteer to replace Peggy Potts on Committee.

**Church Life** – Harvest Festival is September 30 and the food will be provided. There will be sign-up sheets included with the Sunday bulletins.

**Finance** – A new index sheet made available to update finance handbooks. 2018 budget worksheets need to be completed and back to her no later than October 1.

**Mission & Outreach** – Next Union Mission meal will be October 22 with a Fall/Halloween theme. Three new recipients chosen for @\$25 each loan for the KIVA project. For this year's mission market, they are considering a "Mission Gift Tree" for the Children's Bureau. Their committee contributed \$100 to Presbytery for Hurricane Harvey Relief.

**Personnel** – Have reviewed the Pastor's Terms of Call and employee salaries. Employee performance reviews will be done late Nov. to early Dec.

**Property** – More handicap parking spots added, still some work to be done to repair the parking lot. They will purchase a four-drawer fire resistant file (\$1,380) to be placed in the Fellowship Hall storage room.

**Christian Education** – Sunday School is going well as well as is the Bible study. There are no third grade students to receive bibles this year.

**Next Session Meeting** will be October 16, 2017.

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

**Communion Preparers:** Arlene Troster

**Communion Servers (Intinction):**  
Linda Paul, John Scales

**Lay Reader:** Art Cappella

**Greeters:** Pat & Penny Labeka

**Downstairs Greeters:**  
Cliff Leonard (1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>) Bob Harlan (15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>),  
Ron Shafer (29<sup>th</sup>)

**Ushers:** Jane Myers, Allan Neville

**Acolytes:**  
October 1st - Emerson Musgrove  
October 8th - Tyler Willimas  
October 15th - Jonathan Bouknight  
October 22nd - Mackenzie Williams  
October 29th - Rebecca Bouknight  
November 5th - Logan Williams

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

10/01	Val McAteer and Kristen Wonderling
10/08	Christi Musgrove and Bonnie Peebly
10/15	Melissa Lenhart and Bonnie Peebly
10/22	Carol Limegrover and Peggy Potts
10/29	Susan Witt and Bonnie Peebly

# Maplewood Happenings

## IN SPECIAL NEED OF PRAYER

**Jim & Jody Casteel (Jon's parents)** – Jim's recovery from hip surgery  
Ruth Gordon

**Hurricane victims in TX, FLA & Caribbean, Mexico Earthquake victims**

**Pastor Steve & family** – loss of his father  
**Val McAteer's mother** – stroke /surgery

Roy Myers – wait for kidney transplant  
Joyce Neville – knee replacement

**Rita Perotti** – loss of her father, Hugh Perotti  
**Sylvia Shearer** – brother Byron's chemo  
Karen Special – cancer treatment/recovery  
Bob & Jane Stover  
Susan Witt & her mother

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

**\*\*New Additions in BOLD**



### COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE:

<b>October</b>	<b>Personnel Committee</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Marthas/Christian Ed – Hanging of Greens</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Church Life/Family Dinner</b>



### COMING SOON:

**PSSSSST:** Does anyone know what might have become of the carton of approximately 75 still-to-be-assembled printed shoeboxes? More have been ordered, but will take 2 weeks to be delivered. We can get started sooner if we can find the missing ones!

### MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will have their monthly fellowship on **Wednesday, October 18th** at **9:15AM** in the church lounge. **Lorraine Roth** and **Carmella McCormick** will be our hostesses and **Marcia Remaley** will present devotions.

Our program is "*Come Thirsty*" by Max Lucado. This program is showing us where we can find water for our soul when our hearts are parched, dehydrated. Max Lucado invites us to go to the W-E-L-L of God's provision to refresh our thirsting hearts.

All ladies of the church and friends are invited to join in our fellowship.

# MORE Happenings

## Deacons

Can you believe that Christmas is coming so quickly? I wanted to let you know ahead of time that the Deacon's will be delivering your member to member Christmas cards again this year!

For those that are new, the deacon's will hand deliver your Christmas cards to other Maplewood members for you. All you have to do is write the name on the envelope! No need for an address or stamp! It's a joy for us to serve our church family in this way and also save everyone money on stamps!

The "mailbox" will be placed in the Narthex when we "hang the greens."

We will deliver cards through Christmas Eve which is on Sunday this year.

Blessings,

*Marie LaSor, Deacon Chair*

### NEWS from the PEWS

The love and support shown with cards, phone calls, and those that stopped by the funeral home is much appreciated by my family as we grieve the passing of my dear Sister Dorothy. Thank you

*Evalinda Rose*

### LADIES RETREAT BRUNCH FUNDRAISER

We would like to give a GREAT BIG thank you to all of you who attended the brunch, sponsored by the women attending the Retreat.

Your generosity is very much appreciated and the money will help with expenses for food, lodging and study materials.

Again, thank you for your support and generosity and God Bless,

*Ladies of the Church*

### Maplewood will commemorate Reformation On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

When the *Reformation* began in 1517, the Church and culture were soon to change forever. But centuries haven't changed one thing: It's still all about Jesus!

On October 31, 2017, marks 500 years since a stubborn monk and towering thinker, Martin Luther, posted his 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberger church castle. While celebrations in earlier centuries were kept national and confessional, the upcoming anniversary of the Revolution ought to be shaped by openness, freedom and ecumenism. In 2017 we aren't just celebrating 500 years of the Reformation, but we are also reminded of the role the Reformation played in the development of the modern age. Therefore, the impulses that had effects even reaching into our modern age will gain center stage. What started in Wittenberg in the 16<sup>th</sup> century changed Germany, Europe and the whole world.

That's why the anniversary in 2017 is going to be celebrated as a global community from Tierra del Fuego to Finland, from South Korea to North America, in contrast to all the Luther and Reformation anniversaries before. International projects, such as traveling exhibitions and choirs, the corporation of charities and pastorates abroad, international congresses and tourism and much more bear witness to the worldwide dimensions of this anniversary.

<https://www.luther2017.de/en/2017/reformation-anniversary/>



## MUSICAL NOTES from JIM

Wow, it's October already! Summer seemed to be moving slowly for me, but September just zipped by! And, if it's October, that means Reformation Sunday will be here soon, and then Thanksgiving and Advent. Since we weren't able to present the Christmas cantata last year for MUPC's Christmas program, we are planning to present it this year. Our cantata is entitled *Breath of Heaven*, based on the song of the same name made popular by Amy Grant. The rehearsal/performance schedule is as follows, and is tentative. If I need to make adjustments to the schedule, I will use the Call Multiplier, making a call to the entire congregation.

NOVEMBER 4TH - SATURDAY - 10AM - NOON

NOVEMBER 11TH - SATURDAY - 10AM - NOON

NOVEMBER 18TH - SATURDAY - 10AM - NOON

[NOVEMBER 22ND - WEDNESDAY - NO CHOIR REHEARSAL - THANKSGIVING]

[NOVEMBER 25TH - SATURDAY - NO CANTATA REHEARSAL - THANKSGIVING]

DECEMBER 2ND - SATURDAY - 10AM - NOON

DECEMBER 9TH - SATURDAY - 10AM - NOON

DECEMBER 16TH - SATURDAY - 10AM - NOON - FULL RUN-THROUGH

DECEMBER 17TH - SUNDAY - 3:30 - 4:15 PM - DRESS REHEARSAL // 5 - 5:45 PM - MUPC

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - *BREATH OF HEAVEN*

Beginning the Wednesday after Thanksgiving, the Chancel Choir will be rehearsing songs from the cantata to sing as our Sunday anthems during Advent. Anyone who is joining us to perform in the cantata is welcome to sing with the Chancel Choir beginning November 29th (Wednesday). If you enjoy singing, but don't want to make a weekly commitment to singing with the Chancel Choir, we would love to have you join us for the Christmas cantata. If you have any questions, please ask me at church, e-mail me at [spauxman@yahoo.com](mailto:spauxman@yahoo.com), or call/text me at [724-331-7886](tel:724-331-7886). I look forward to working with y'all! =)

Let me leave you with this thought: "The central truth - the one you have heard since the beginning of your faith - is that we must love one another." - I John 3:11 (The Voice)

Practice love as we go through this beautiful season of autumn, or fall...love God, love yourself, and love others. This is the central message of our Christmas cantata this year.

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 \$20.00, 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

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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

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# October Birthdays

1...Susan Witt

5...Pat Labeka

8...Jennifer McCormick

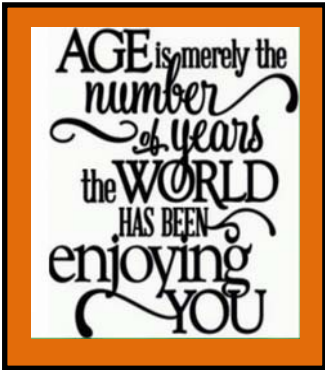
10...Amy Dana

12...Irene Casteel

14... Jeff DeMao  
Shirley Filicko

15... Pat Marsh

17...Mellanie Williams  
Jeremy Breegle



18...Val McAteer  
Steven Truxal  
Chad Ireland

19... Evan Gearing

25...Elizabeth Breegle  
Scott Wonderling

26...Peggy Potts  
Ray Rupp

27...Kim Ireland

28...Jake Forrai

29...Roy Myers

## OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p>  <p>Communion Sunday  <b>World Communion Sunday</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Christian Ed  <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Life  <b>7:00 PM</b> Property Committee</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> LIFT Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Presby  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>7:00 PM</b> C.O.M  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast  <b>5:00 PM</b> Women's Retreat</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>  <p>Women's Retreat  <b>9:00 AM</b> Food Bank</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>12:00 AM</b> Women's Retreat  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship Committee</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Finance/Stewardship  <b>7:00 PM</b> Missions/Outreach</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> LIFT Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Session</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></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>7:00 PM</b> LIFT Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p>  <p><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>5:00 PM</b> Meal Service</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> LIFT Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Presby  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>12:00 PM</b> Hall Rented</p>
<p><b>29</b></p>  <p>Coffee Hour  <b>Reformation Sunday</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Food Bank Collection  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship Service</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Women's Book Club  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> LIFT Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> NAR-ANON</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Presby  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>7:00 PM</b> C.O.M  <b>8:00 PM</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Study Breakfast</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Food Bank</p>