

## MAPLE LAKE UNITED CHURCH

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

2019

The Maple Lake United Church congregation was led each Sunday by Rev. Max Ward in 2019. Layman Debbie Sherwin, Rev. John Patterson, and Rev. Doug Norris substituted for Rev. Max during his Sabbaticals. Maple Lake U.C. benefitted with the gift of "Love for God" that each minister shared with our congregation. Our congregation acknowledged the land belonging to the Creator, which had been cared for by both Indigenous Peoples and settlers for many generations.

Sunday hymns were accompanied by Kathleen Owens at the organ and, sometimes also, Rev. Max on his trombone. Visitors to Maple Lake United Church were always received with a warm welcome. Two candles were lit each Sunday at the altar, and the church banner was always changed to reflect the seasons. Communion was observed on the appropriate Sundays, with October 6<sup>th</sup> being World-Wide Communion. Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, a service was held in honour of Decoration Day at the Maple Lake U.C. Cemetery. Advent was observed with the lighting of the Advent candles each Sunday up to Christmas.

Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, the annual Valentines Concert was held in the afternoon instead of evening. Many local people shared their talents with the audience in the pews. March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Denise Morton-Sayles, clinical therapist at the YWCA, spoke at our Sunday service on issues women face in Haliburton County in support of the campaign HERS (Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace). On Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, Maple Lake United Church opened its doors to assist first responders and victims involved in a fatal accident on Hwy. 118. These were a ministry of a "church with a community".

Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>, Maple Lake U.C. joined with Highland Hills U.C. in the final service at Zion U.C., "Looking Back and Giving Thanks", followed with food and fellowship. Many tears and many hugs were shared at this time, but with the hope of a better tomorrow for everyone.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Deloris Bailey