

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
- The local, regional, and national leaders of the church, including all ministers and missionaries
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living, a nursing home, or who are homebound, and all those who are caregivers
- Those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression



Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Roberta Ward
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- All those affected by the bombing in Brussels, Belgium on Tuesday, March 22nd, including the 31 people who died and the 340 people injured
- All those affected by the bombing in Lahore, Pakistan, including the 72 people who died, including 17 children, and the more than 300 people injured

The prayer requests and praises shared during last week's worship include:

Thanksgiving:

- To God to have Wally and Jack with us again in worship

Prayers:

- For brother Tom and sister-in-law Deb who both serious health issues. Deb was taken by ambulance to Rochester last week.
- For the poor and hungry. May God reach into our hearts to help those in need.
- For Jenna and family. She suffered a brain bleed following a fall and was taken from life support.

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Our Mission:

The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.

Order of Worship

Sunday, April 10th, 2016

Third Sunday of Easter

Glimpses of the Early Church: Signs and Wonders

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

If you are a visitor today, please fill out the welcome card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate later in the service so that we can get to know each other!

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 30

One: Sing praises to God, all faithful ones!

Many: God hears us, even in our fear and sorrow.

One: Where there was no way,

Many: God leads us in a new way.

One: Where there was no mercy,

Many: God surprises us with fresh grace.

One: Where there was weeping and mourning,

Many: God clothes us with joy.

One: O Lord our God, we will praise you and not be silent!

All: We will give thanks to you forever!

***Opening Hymn**

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” #242

***Prayer of Invocation**

***Gloria Patri**

Sung a whole step lower than printed in hymnal

“Glory Be to the Father” #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen!

***Sharing Grace and Peace**

One: God’s Word is a word of forgiveness, assurance, and grace.

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Many: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

Message for God’s Children

After the Message for God’s Children, children PreK-2nd grade may attend Sunday School in the upstairs classroom (between the Sanctuary and the Nursery, opposite the office).

All children may remain in their pews during worship, use the Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or use the Nursery if they are younger than Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Mission Moment

Pat John

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“He Lives”

Adult Choir

The Choir’s music is an offering to God, not a performance for our entertainment. Please do not applaud to show your appreciation. Instead, please try saying “Amen” or thanking them individually after worship.

***Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sharing Prayer Requests and Praises

You are invited to take a Prayer Requests and Praises sheet from the pew rack in front of you to write your prayer requests and praises.

These will be collected by the ushers in a moment and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

“The Head That Once Was Crowned” #339

Scripture

Acts 5:27-32 (NRSV)

One: For the Word of God in Scripture,

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God!

Message

“We Are Witnesses”

***Closing Hymn**

“We Are Called to Be God’s People” #580

***Benediction**

Please be mindful of others who continue to worship through the Postlude.

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, April 10th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Warren Allevan
Organist—Jola Walker
Sound System—Chad Kunkel
Greeter—Mabelle Larson
Head Usher—Sharon Shuck
Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship
9:00 a.m. Nursery/Toddler Care (*upstairs north end of hallway in the Nursery/Toddler Room*)
9:15 a.m. Sunday School during worship for grades PreK-2nd (*classroom A, upstairs across from office*)
10:00 a.m. Confirmation

Today's Call to Worship is by Rev. Susan A. Blain, and posted on the *Worship Ways* website (uccfiles.com).

The **paraments** are white during the Easter season (which is from Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday) to invite the church to remember that, instead of finding a sealed tomb, the women who came at dawn on Easter Sunday were surprised by an angel who announced astonishing news: "Jesus has been raised from the dead!" (Mt 28:7) The heavenly messenger invited the mourners on that day as well as Christians of all time to see the empty tomb and then go and tell the world the good news that Christ is risen!

Information from ucc.org

Local Missions

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf is open Tuesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Volunteers are always welcome! Please bring donations to church on the first Sunday of each month.

The Maple River Youth Center: The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.

Worshipping With Children

Children are always welcome at The United Church!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

During worship, several options are available for children: *The Sunday Paper* is a coloring page based on the Scripture reading for each Sunday. Two versions are available, one for older and one for younger elementary aged children. Ministry card decorating kits are also available, and a sign next to these kits lets children know to whom their card will be sent (e.g. homebound members, Treats for Troops recipients, etc.). Worship Bags with creative supplies are located at the back of the Sanctuary. The Nursery/Toddler Room for infants and toddlers (Kindergarten and younger) is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the upstairs hallway. The Family Space, located in the Overflow Room at the back of the Sanctuary, is for our families with infants and small children. This space is available for families in addition to the Nursery so that families can both see and hear what's going on in worship.

Care Connections

If you are in need of **wheelchair assistance** on Sunday mornings, please let us know by calling the church office at (507) 524-3141 ahead of time to make arrangements or you may have an usher assist you on Sunday morning when you arrive at the church. There is a ramp located on the east side of the church.

If you or a family member would like a **pastoral care visit** for any reason, or would like to be added to our **weekly prayer list**, please let us know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office. The church phone number is (507) 524-3141. Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org.

If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**, please call Karen Stanton at 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for, and whether you would like your request included in the church's public prayer list or if you'd prefer the request be kept privately within the prayer chain. There is also a prayer request submission form available on The United Church website under the "Ministries" tab.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 10th, 2016

Spring Fest

Jackson Lake Lutheran Church of Amboy will be hosting a luncheon buffet **April 10th, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Cost: \$8 per Adults \$4, children ages 6-11 yrs., age 5 and under are free. Menu includes hot beef and turkey sandwiches, variety of salads and Scandinavian goodies. Take outs are available.

Mapleton Sertoma Club

The Mapleton Sertoma Club will be honoring **Kim Krengel** as its Service to Mankind Award winner on **April 17th, 2016, at Maggie J's from 2:00-4:00 pm.** A short program will be given at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

German Dinner

Redeemer Lutheran Church will host a German Dinner on **April 17th from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.** Menu includes brats with sauerkraut, hot dogs, German potato salad, mashed potatoes with gravy, German-style green beans, red cabbage, potato kraut, German noodles, pickled beets, German breads, and German deserts. Cost: Adults \$12, Children ages 5-12 \$5, 4 and under are free.

Good Counsel Concert

The School Sisters of Notre Dame will honor the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Johnson & Son organ in their chapel at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, with a concert featuring three top Minnesota organists at **7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 22nd.** The organ itself is 139 years old. The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be accepted.

Dayton Oaks Camp

Spring Clean up days will be **April 23rd and May 21st from 9:00-4:00 p.m.** with lunch being served. Camps for 2016 are listed on the flyer posted on the bulletin board.

Welcome to The United Church of Mapleton!

This announcement insert includes information about upcoming church, community, and area events. Please also take advantage of the many opportunities listed here to serve our community!

This Week at The United Church of Mapleton

Sunday, April 10th, 2016

Sunday, April 10th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Monday, April 11th, Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, April 12th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 12th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Thursday, April 14th, 7:30 p.m. **CRC Team Meeting**

Planning Ahead

Sunday, April 17th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation
Tuesday, April 19th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 19th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, April 20th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**
Tuesday, April 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 26th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Talent Team Member Needed

The United Church Council is seeking a third Talent Team member. The Talent Team meets as needed to assist all members of the congregation in identifying their spiritual gifts and passions for ministry and finding ways to pursue those passions, in addition to helping the Church Council identify members for the Council itself as well as ministry teams or committees as needed. If you are interested in being part of this team, please let Moderator Dick Dietz, the two current Talent Team members (Louise Webb and Ruth Cumming), or Pastor Ashley know. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 10th, 2016

How to Contact Pastor Ashley

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org. Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* Community Office Hours at Maggie J's Restaurant 10:00-11:30 a.m., 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits, working in the office, or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

Congregational Relationships Coordinator (CRC)
Team Meeting

If you are interested in working with the CRC, which includes ministries that you signed up for on your Time and Talent sheets that include worship and fellowship, please attend a meeting on **Thursday, April 14th, 7:30 p.m.** at the United Church.

Sign-Up for Sunday Lay Ministries!

Please consider helping by signing-up to be a **Lay Leader, Greeter, Head Usher, Communion Server, and Sunday School teacher** for Sunday worship services. Sheets are posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 10th, 2016

Mission Kits

It is time to start collecting items for baby and hygiene kits. Please consider purchasing items (listed below and provided in the narthex area) to be included into these much needed kits. Bring your items to the church and place in the boxes provided in the narthex/entry area. Thank you so much!

Baby Care Kit assembly items:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (can be hand knitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets; approximately 30 X 30 inches. (One can be hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Items must be under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

Hygiene Kit assembly items:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" X 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids brand

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure; remove excess air from bag, and seal.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here, but has risen. Luke 24:5

Sunday:

Now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV)

We give praise to you, powerful God, for breaking the bonds of death and driving away fear and hopelessness with the resurrection of your son, Jesus. Even as he lives, so may we become alive in the Spirit and on fire with your truth and love. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Monday:

Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:10

O God of majesty, we want to live as Easter people, filled with the hope and power of the resurrection. Let the praise and joy in our hearts be the evidence that Christ is resurrected in us. In his Spirit we pray. Amen.

Tuesday:

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

John 20:19

O great Creator, there are times when the conflicts and struggles of life leave us shaken and uncertain. Enable us to actively listen for your words of peace and in hearing be lifted up and renewed in spirit. Amen.

Wednesday:

A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not;" but later he changed his mind and went. Matthew 21:28–29

We ask, ever-present God, for the courage to launch new ministries where needs become visible, the perseverance to follow through with ministries that we have started, and the inspiration to celebrate what we have accomplished in your precious name. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin. James 4:17

Holy Father, you gave us the word. We confess that we use fragments of Scripture to support our biases; we justify sinful actions because we can't find it within ourselves to admit that we are wrong. Spirit of the living God, melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Friday:

I will exalt you, Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths. Psalm 30:1 (NIV)

All-caring and merciful God, we are grateful that you do not ignore our suffering. We reach out to you from the depths of our troubles and give thanks that—through Christ—healing, salvation, and deliverance are ours. Amen.

Saturday:

Be still, and know that I am God! Psalm 46:10

God of the stillness, remind us to stop to refresh and renew our lives. May we wait patiently in the silence and truly listen to your voice and leading, rededicating ourselves in service to you and your children. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue