

Service Notes

The **paraments** are purple during the season of Lent as a symbol of both the sovereignty of Christ and personal penitence. The season of Lent is bracketed by the mourning black paraments colors of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

About the Season of Lent

The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or *catechumens*, for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer, and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. The theme of Lent is conversion, which is literally the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptized and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

Information from ucc.org.

The **Nursery/Toddler Room** for infants and toddlers is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the end of the hallway opposite the Sanctuary. Sunday School is available for children PreK– 5th grade after the Message for God's Children, and children can meet their teachers at the back of the Sanctuary at that time. Children's Worship Bags with creative supplies are available in the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413

Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

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 13th, 2014

Palm Sunday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

Many: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;

One: we will travel through betrayal and death,

Many: cradling hope deep in our hearts.

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,

Many: for he is the life we long for,

One: he is the Word who sustains us.

Many: We wave palm branches in anticipation,

One: we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.

Many: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes,

One: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

***Opening Hymn & Procession with Palms**

“All Glory, Laud and Honor” #265
Verses 1, 3, 4, 5

***Prayer of Invocation**

***Gloria Patri**

“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!

***Moment of Fellowship**

Message for God’s Children

Mission Moment

Pat John

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” Adult Choir

***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** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #176

Scripture John 12:12-18 (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 “Jesus Christ: A Different Kind of King”

***Closing Hymn**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #267

***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 13th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Bob Clark

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Ron and Judy Olson

Head Usher—Jack Madsen

Coffee Hour Host—Palm Sunday Brunch

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:30 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),
Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

9:15-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
(*PreK-1st Grade*), Classroom A, upstairs
(*2nd-5th Grade*), Classroom E, downstairs

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*),
Youth Lounge, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch (*Fellowship Hall*)

10:05 a.m. Choir Practice

10:10 – 11:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Classroom B, downstairs

Our **Scripture Response** honors the ways in which we know and receive the Word of God: through Scripture, in community, and through our personal faith in God. Thanks be to God!

Our **Call to Worship** today is by Thom Shuman at lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com.

The **altar floral arrangement** is in honor of Robert and Virginia Clark's 35th wedding anniversary on April 21st.

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Well Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national
- The ministers and missionaries of the world
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Bill Brice, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Lorraine Stanton
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Hutch Cramer, who is recovering from recent hip surgery at the Mapleton Community Home
- Norma Baack, who is recovering from recent hip surgery at Oak Lawn Nursing Home in Mankato
- Gary McCarthy, Jessica McCutchen's father, as he continues to recover from recent prostate surgery
- Kathy Byram, who recently broke a bone in her leg
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- The people of Ukraine who are affected by the violence and turmoil currently affecting their country
- The family and friends of the people on Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, especially as they cope with the recent news that the flight "ended" in the Indian Ocean, while recovery work continues
- For the families and friends of those affected by the mudslide near Oso, Washington, which includes at least sixteen deaths and many still missing
- For the families and friends of those affected by the recent shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, which resulted in four deaths and sixteen wounded

The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during last week's worship service include:

Thanksgiving:

- To God for answered prayers

Prayers:

- For the family of LeAnn Engelby, who passed away recently; prayers are especially requested for her sons, Shannon and Dallas
- For healing for all the families dealing with another death
- For a friend, Marge, as she copes with the loss of her husband
- For Brady Prenzlou, who recently had a bicycle racing accident in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas and had to be flown to Missouri for care. He broke his collarbone, had a concussion and road rash, and needed stitches. The family gives thanks to God because it could have been so much worse and requests prayers as he heals.

The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, April 13th, 2014

Sunday Morning Wheelchair Assistance

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 which can be utilized by parking in the east parking lot. If it is too difficult for you to push a wheelchair up the ramp, please feel free to contact an Usher or Deacon for assistance.

How to Contact Pastor Ashley

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. In the afternoon, I may be in the office, or I may be out in the community for pastoral care or outreach. If you'd like to stop by to visit another time, just email or call. Monday and Saturday are my days off.

My email address is: pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org. If I'm not in the office, my phone number is (507) 381-8199.

Pastoral Care Connections

If you or a family member is ill, in the hospital, is homebound, would like a pastoral care visit for any reason, or would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, **please let the church know!** Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office to let us know so that we may serve you.

The church phone number is (507) 524-3141 and Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199. Thank you!

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 13th, 2014

Monday, April 14th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, April 15th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, April 16th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, April 16th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Wednesday, April 16th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Thursday, April 17th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, April 17th, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18th, 7:00 p.m. good Friday Service

Planning Ahead

Monday, April 21st, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, April 22nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, April 23rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, April 23rd, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, April 24th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 13th, 2014

Children Meet in Overflow Room—Today!

All of our children are invited to meet with Pastor Ashley in the **Overflow Room before worship service** this morning.

This will prepare the children to walk in with Pastor Ashley for the palm procession.

Palm Sunday Brunch

The Board of Christian Education is hosting their annual **Palm Sunday Brunch Sunday, April 13th** directly after the worship service. The menu will include scrambled eggs with ham, cheesy hash browns, muffins, coffee, and orange juice.

A free will offering will be accepted to support the camping fund for United Church children and youth.

The Well Youth Center

Next Sunday, April 20th, there will be **no Coffee Hour** for The Well Youth Center. **Please place your monthly donation** to this wonderful and needed local mission into the Collection jar at the back of the sanctuary. These donations will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

United Church Directory

The Board of Deacons is getting ready to publish our new United Church print directory! We plan to have directories ready for pickup in time for Palm Sunday and Easter. **Do you remember whether or not you returned your “Member Information” form** back to the church? Don’t worry, it was a while ago, we know! The Deacons now have a list of who has returned their forms and who we still need updated information from. Check with Ruth Cumming for more information. More Member Information forms are available in the Fellowship Hall and a “draft directory” is also available to check out.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 13th, 2014

Community Closet

Open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon. If you have a non-profit group that would like to take advantage of profits from the Closet, please call Gay Rice at (507) 524-4040 for more information.

Local Missions

The Well Youth Center

The Well Youth Center is open for grades 4th through 12th from 3:00—5:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays when school is in session.



We always welcome adult volunteers to help supervise, present a life-skill to our youth or help with fundraising events. Please call (507) 524-3839 or Sheila at (507) 995-8194.

Loaves & Fishes

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!



The United Church News and Announcements
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Baby Care Kits and Hygiene Kits

Now is the time to collect items for the Baby Care Kits and Hygiene Kits. You may bring your items to the United Church narthex area **by Thursday, April 24th** and place into the boxes provided. **Packing of items will be held on Friday, April 25th, 1:00 p.m.** at the United Church and **volunteer help** would be very much appreciated.

Kit item lists are available in the narthex and posted on the bulletin board for your shopping convenience.

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations committee (PRC) exists to foster healthy and clear communication between pastor and congregation. PRC meetings are a regular and confidential means of support and accountability for the pastor.

PRC members keep their ear to the ground in the congregation to help keep the pastor in-the-know about possible issues or concerns, and they can bring constructive and addressable concerns to the pastor from the congregation.

Our current PRC members are Jeff Gerdts (Chair), Stanley Whitney, Laura Fritz, and Warren Allevan.

Easter Sunday

Next Sunday, April 20th, Easter Sunday, there will be no Youth Sunday School, Adult Sunday School or Coffee Hour held. Have a happy and blessed Easter!

Newsletter

Please submit your reports into the church office for the May issue of The Voice newsletter **by Tuesday, April 22nd**. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 13th, 2014

Easter Lilies

The Ambience Work Group is looking for donations of Lily plants to beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday morning.

Please purchase your lily plant on your own and bring your plant to the church **between Palm Sunday, April 13th and no later than Good Friday, April 18th**. Please label your plant with your name and place it in the mail room. Thank you!

Ambience Volunteers Needed!

The Ambience Work Group is committed to keeping the Sanctuary looking nice and making sure that there are seasonally appropriate decorations available. It's a little bit of work that goes a long way for worship each week! A few more volunteers are needed to make the work easier and lighter. If you're interested in helping out, please let Jodi Gerdts or Pastor Ashley know. Thank you!

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain for the United Church is soon to become re-activated. This was one of the desires of the Vision Committee. Several individuals have already expressed an interest in becoming a part of this chain. If you would like to become involved in this prayer ministry for our church, please contact Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168 or karemarie310@hotmail.com.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. Psalm 130:5

Sunday:

Jesus says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." Matthew 5:7

Lord God, in our daily lives we try to emulate Christ but fall short. We often seek revenge when we know it is wrong. Help us, this day, to treat people with the same love you have shown to us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Monday:

Jesus says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother." Matthew 18:15

Gracious God, as we live for you, help us to improve our relationships with one another. Ease the pain and heal the wounds of past relationships gone wrong. Guide us toward the unity you desire. Amen.

Tuesday:

Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who are glad at calamity will not go unpunished. Proverbs 17:5

Jesus says, "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you." Luke 14:13-14

God of all, we thank you that you have included all people into your embrace. Forgive us when we leave people out and inspire us to reach out to include everybody. Amen.

Wednesday:

"Because the poor are despoiled, because the needy groan, I will now rise up," says the Lord; "I will place them in the safety for which they long." Psalm 12:5

Jesus said, "When the Advocate comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment." John 16:8

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Wednesday: *Continued...*

God of love, send your Spirit upon us and renew our hearts, minds, and souls. Help us to rid our lives of sin, which keep distancing us from your will. Restore us to practice your word and be good and faithful servants. Amen.

Thursday:

I will satisfy the weary, and all who are faint I will replenish. Jeremiah 31:25

God of grace, you are our ever-present refuge and strength. May we constantly turn to you when we are weary so we may walk with a renewed sense of your purpose for our lives. In Christ's name. Amen.

Friday:

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. Proverbs 21:3

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress. James 1:27

Lord God, we worship you in spirit and truth. Grant us ears to hear your call, eyes to see the need in this world, and strength to minister to those needs. As your Son gave his all, may we give our all in service. Amen.

Saturday:

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. John 15:16

Ever-living God, it is so easy for us to say that we chose you. Forgive us, for we know that you chose us for a purpose—to bring the love of God in Christ Jesus to all we meet. May our endeavors be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue