

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

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

Thanksgiving:

- To God for the anniversary for Karson and Amber and prayers for many more
- To God for great singers, such as the Riverblenders, and to the member of our church, Ron, who sings with them

Prayers:

- For sister, Carol, who is now on hospice care
- For the family of Joanne Huisman, who passed away last week
- For Sue Weingartz, for the loss of her husband, Gerry Weingartz

The United Church of Mapleton

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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 17th, 2016

Fourth 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 23; 1 John 3:16-24

One: Day by day, God leads us

**Many: to the deep, deep pools of peace,
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

One: Day by day, Jesus calls us

**Many: to pour out ourselves in service,
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

One: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us

**Many: the community we can be,
the family we are called to become.**

One: This is the God we have come to worship!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

***Opening Hymn**

“Christ Is Alive!” #312

***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

Karen Stanton

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

***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**

“You Call Us, Lord” #583

Scripture

Acts 9:36-43 (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

“Devoted”

***Closing Hymn**

“Forth in Your Name” #718

***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 17th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Pam Foster

Pianist—Pam Braunshausen

Sound System—Chad Kunkel

Greeter—

Ushers—Sharon Shuck, Louisa Belle Shuck, Jay Deleon

Coffee Hour Host—Youth Center

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Youth Center Collections

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 Thom Shuman at *Lectionary Liturgies*
(<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca>).

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 17th, 2016

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.

St. John Spring Sale Extraordinaire

Saturday, May 21st, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mapleton will host a handcrafted items, plant and bake sale from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. A salad luncheon will be available, door prizes and free coffee in the morning. Available space to rent for crafters/small businesses for \$10 a table. Please contact Caryl O'Brien at 524-4091.

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 17th, 2016

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**

Planning Ahead

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 17th, 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* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours) 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 or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

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!

Treats for Troops

The community-wide project of sending packages to our servicemen and women from the Maple River Area is underway. **Please have your donations to the church by Friday, May 6th.** We will need volunteers to help pack boxes on **Saturday, May 7th**, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton, **9:00 a.m.**

A list of suggested items can be found in the narthex along with boxes to place your donated items. Nothing with chocolate or peanut butter can be shipped. Money for shipping is a welcome gift. **Including notes and letters** would be a wonderful addition!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 17th, 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.

Mapleton Sertoma Club

The Mapleton Sertoma Club will be honoring **Kim Kregel** 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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Jesus says, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” John 20:21

Sunday:

The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Mighty God, thank you for the shelter of your love. Your grace surrounds us, keeping us safe, even though we know we don’t deserve it. Help us to share your love and mercy with all we meet this day. Amen.

Monday:

Just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. Jeremiah 31:28

Lord Jesus, you gave all glory to God. Help us to seek fields in need of planting and nurture, so that good fruit may grow! Let us be aware of you—the Vine on which we are all branches. Amen.

Tuesday:

The Lord will save me, and we will sing to stringed instruments all the days of our lives at the house of the Lord. Isaiah 38:20

Thanks to you, Lord Christ! Today we sing your praises, lifting our voices in joy and gratitude for all the many blessings that you have given to us and to those we love! Thank you for the assurance of salvation. Amen.

Wednesday:

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. Mark 16:9–10 (NIV)

God, the grief you must have endured in Jesus’ torment and death! Secure in the knowledge that Jesus defeated death once and for all, we turn to you in our times of sorrow to find comfort in your arms. Heal our pain. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16

Jesus, we could give thanks and praise all day and night and never come close to expressing our gratitude for all that you have done for us. Today we pause to thank you for all our blessings, great and small. Amen.

Friday:

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38–39

God—Father, Mother, Creator—what magnificent promises you make to us! You will never leave us. Nothing in all creation can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let that assurance resonate in our hearts today! Amen.

Saturday:

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46–47 (NIV)

Come, Lord Jesus, and be our guest. As we eat alone, with family, or with friends, remind us not only of your presence, but also of how very blessed we are. Bless our food, our faith, and our fellowship together in you. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue