

Service Notes

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 that the Crucified One is alive!

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.

Happy Easter!



The United Church of Mapleton

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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 20th, 2014

Easter Sunday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: We have not seen the risen Christ,

**Many: but we see him in the lives
of those transformed by grace.**

One: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

**Many: but we have seen him in the faces
of everyone whose love encourages us.**

One: How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

Many: We are called to be Easter people!

One: Darkness cannot claim us!

Many: Fear cannot bind us!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” #288

***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

The Well Youth Center

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Because He Lives”

Jack Madsen

***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 High the Cross” #287

Scripture

John 20:1-18 (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

“He Is Risen!”

***Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” #295

***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 20th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Jeff Whitaker
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Wally and Joyce Johnson
Head Usher—Jack Madsen

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship and The Well Youth Center
Mission Jar Collection (*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

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 and Nancy C. Townley at ministrymatters.com.

Beautiful **Easter Lilies**, donated by church members, adorn our altar on this Easter morning.

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
- Kathy Byram, who recently broke a bone in her leg and who is now dealing with pneumonia
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- The family members, friends, and community members of the three people killed at the Jewish Community Centers of Overland Park, KS on Sunday, April 13th. The shooting is being investigated as a hate crime.
- The family members, friends, and community members of those aboard the South Korea ferry *Sewol* that capsized and sank on Wednesday, April 16th. At least four passengers have died and nearly 300 people are still missing.

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

Prayers:

- For traveling mercies and safety for Bob and Virginia Clark
- For Bailey, granddaughter of a friend, who is in need of guidance and direction

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 20th, 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 20th, 2014

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

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, April 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, April 29th, Loaves & Fishes workday at St. John's

Wednesday, April 30th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, April 30th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Wednesday, April 30th, 7:00 p.m. Official Board

Thursday, May 1st, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, May 3rd, 9:00 a.m.—Noon Loaves & Fishes workday at St. John's

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 20th, 2014

The Well Youth Center

Today, 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.

Easter Sunday

Today, 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!

Thank You!

The Board of Christian Education would like to thank everyone who so generously supported our annual **Palm Sunday Brunch**.

The free will offering that was taken will support the camping fund for United Church children and youth.

Easter Lilies

The Ambience Work Group thanks all who donated Lily plants to beautify our sanctuary for the Easter Season.

New United Church Directories

Our new United Church of Mapleton directories are here! Please take **one directory per household** as you leave the Sanctuary today.

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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!



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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.

Prayer Chain

The United Church Prayer Chain is now active! If you have a prayer request, please call Karen Stanton at 524-4956 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not 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.

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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!

Open House Bridal Shower

A Bridal Shower in honor of Stephanie Jo Massop is being held Saturday, April 26th from 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. at the Mapleton Leisure Center.

Stephanie is registered at Target, Kohl's and Walmart.

Scholarship Supper

On Monday, April 28th, 2014 from 5:00—7:00 p.m., the Maple River Dollars for Scholars will sponsor a Scholarship Supper at St. Teresa Catholic Church in Mapleton. The menu includes main dishes, salads, desserts and beverage. Cost is a free-will donation. All proceeds will be given out in scholarships to the Class of 2014. Thank you to the Maple River communities for your continued support!

Salad Luncheon

The Amboy Presbyterian Women's Salad Luncheon will be held Saturday, April 26th starting at Noon.

Tickets are \$7.00 and are available from the Presbyterian Women members, at Boesh Insurance or at the door.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: And being found in human form, Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Philippians 2:7-8

Sunday:

Paul wrote: I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you. Philippians 1:3-4

God, we thank you for the joy you bring into our lives. May we, like Paul, rejoice always in all circumstances and in all things. May our joy be a reflection to others of our love toward you. Amen.

Monday:

Do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4

Gracious God, we often forget your kindness, grace, and love. Help us return to the realization of your blessings. Let us restore these gifts from you in our lives and the lives of others. Amen.

Tuesday:

He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations. Psalm 105:8

Forgiving God, we humans tend to think we can do everything on our own, but it is you who is in control of our lives. We ask your forgiveness and give thanks for your power and your presence in our lives. Amen.

Wednesday:

Christ says, "I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me." John 5:30

Lord Jesus, thank you for your ministry of carrying out God's will. Grant to us the wisdom to seek the will of God for our lives. We pray that in all we do and say we may bring you praise and glory. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. Psalm 37:8

God, life can be hard, stressful, and overpowering. Life can lead us to be angry and jealous. May we follow your instruction so our lives may be free from these and filled only with your Word. Amen.

Friday:

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Matthew 21:9

Loving Savior, your entry into Jerusalem was showered with, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" May our lives continue to shower you with hosannas—you are most blessed. Amen.

Saturday:

Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'; but you have made it a den of robbers." Luke 19:45-46

God of all grace, as your children, we give praise and honor to you at all times. Nudge us when we begin to slide, especially during this time of reflection. Thank you for being our rock, our refuge, and our strength. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts