

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, Marian Mallory, Sean Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen
- 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 two earthquakes in southern Japan on April 14th, which killed 41, injured over 1,000, and forced 184,000 to evacuate.
- All those affected by the earthquake in Ecuador on April 16th, which killed 77 and injured over 580.

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

Thanksgiving:

- To God as we celebrate Earth Day. May we praise God for the beautiful and bountiful Earth given to us as a trust from the Lord.
- And prayers for blessing on Alberta Samuelson's 90th birthday!

Prayers:

- For a world filled with hate, want, and natural disasters
- For a world where those who love need encouragement in righteousness
- For safety for the farmers planting
- Of healing for Berneda Ward, who is in the hospital
- Of healing for Mary Jacob Bublitz, who is recovering after surgery

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 24th, 2016

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 148

One: Praise God from the heavens!

Many: Praise God from the skies above!

One: Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!

Many: Praise God, sun and moon, and shining stars!

One: Praise God, all creatures great and small,

Many: Praise God, all animals that creep, crawl, and fly!

One: Praise God, kings of the earth and people everywhere,

Many: Praise God, men and women, young and old!

One: Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord,

at whose word creation came into being.

All: We gather to praise and worship our God!

***Opening Hymn**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #48

***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

Jan Brindley

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**

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” #398

Scripture

John 13:31-35 (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

“This Thing Called Love”

***Closing Hymn**

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” #595

***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 24th, 2016

Pastor—Penny Ritter

Lay Leader—Darlene Fezler

Organist—Jola Walker

Sound System—Chad Kunkel

Greeter—

Ushers—Sharon Shuck, Lee Jacob

Coffee Hour Host—Christian Education

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*)

Today's *Call to Worship* is by Rev. Christine Longhurst at re-worship.blogspot.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 24th, 2016

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!

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.

VINE Faith in Action

VINE Faith in Action presents "Tips and Tools for Navigating Change and Embracing Aging." Date and Topics: May 4th—Working through Changes in our Lives; May 11th—Supporting Family Members and Friends Experiencing Memory Loss; May 18th—My Five Wishes (Health Care Directives). All sessions run from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and are held at First Presbyterian Church, Amboy. Sessions are free and open to the public with no need to preregister. Join Sister Joyce Kolbet and Carol Kaduce Ries, VINE staff.

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 24th, 2016

Tuesday, April 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 26th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Planning Ahead

Sunday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Sunday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice
Sunday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. Garden of Eatin' meeting
Tuesday, May 3rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, May 3rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, May 4th, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, May 4th, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Confirmation Faith Conversation Group
Tuesday, May 10th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, May 10th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Tuesday, May 17th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, May 17th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, May 18th, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, May 18th, 7:00 p.m. Church Council
Friday, May 20th, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Relay for Life Dinner in Fellowship Hall

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 24th, 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!

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, May 1st, 2016 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

1st Quarter 2016 Giving Statements

The 1st Quarter 2016 giving statements are now available in the Overflow Room. Please pick them up after the morning worship service. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 24th, 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: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! Revelation 5:12

Sunday:

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Brother Jesus, we forget that you've known everything we feel. We forget that you walk, hurt, and rejoice by our sides, faithful no matter what. Help us to acknowledge your presence alongside us as we go through this day. Amen.

Monday:

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9:6

Jesus, you teach that we are what we do. Let our words, actions, and hearts be generous. May we take all that you've given to us and be blessings to others—sowing joy, hope, and acceptance! Send us forth to love! Amen.

Tuesday:

Jesus said, "You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times." Matthew 16:3

God of power and might, we rejoice in your presence in all creation! We see many things plainly, but often, the simplest things escape us. May we pay attention to the signs around us pointing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Wednesday:

Set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. 1 Peter 1:13

Jesus, we set our sights and hopes on your gift of grace; a gift unearned. It is with great joy that we await the revealing of this great mystery of love—one day face-to-face with its Giver. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me. Isaiah 29:13

Jesus said, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:35

Lord of patience, our spirits are willing but our lives are so busy! We mean well, but forget. Remind us that in doing your will we become sisters and brothers in love. Slow us down to see what you require of us. Amen.

Friday:

Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19–20

God, today we say more than a simple, "I'm sorry." We ask forgiveness for all of the ways that we fall short, resolving to truly repent and repair the brokenness in our lives and in the world. Guide us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday:

Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:47–48

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on our blindness! Forgive our failure to see those who need our help and our ignorance to the sufferings of those around us. We cry out for strength and sight. Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us! Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue