

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 at the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

Happy Easter Season!



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 27th, 2014

Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 16

One: Come, bless the Lord, who gives us refuge and safety.

Many: You are our God; all good things come from You alone.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who surrounds us with abundance.

Many: You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who strengthens and sustains us.

Many: You are our God; we will not be shaken.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who brings us the fullness of joy!

All: Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” #299

***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

Treats for Troops

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“He Lives”

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**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” #317

Scripture

John 20:19-31 (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

“Faithful Doubts”

***Closing Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #358

***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 27th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Ginny Kinzie
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Dave and Kathy Byram
Head Usher—Jack Madsen

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 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:05 a.m. Adult Choir practice

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 Christine Longhurst at re-worship.blogspot.com.

Beautiful **Easter Lilies**, donated by church members, adorn our altar during this Easter season.

Adult and Youth **Sunday School** are now on break for the summer. Children's Sunday School will continue to meet during worship unless otherwise announced.

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 recovering from 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 aboard the South Korea ferry *Sewol* that capsized and sank on Wednesday, April 16th. At least 108 passengers have died and nearly 200 people are still missing.

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

Thanksgiving:

- For Pastor Ashley and Jeff, the United Church of Mapleton, its members, and the work Sheila does
- That Brady Prenzlów had successful collarbone surgery this week after a recent bicycle racing accident in Arkansas

Prayers:

- That the joy of Easter's news be with everyone as we spread the mission of our church to the community and to the world through our prayers, our CWS kits, Treats for Troops, our church school, and our love to all
- Of thanksgiving for our friend Mari-Lize and her family on the birth of her niece on Friday
- Of thanks for the gift of God's love and grace

The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, April 27th, 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 27th, 2014

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

Planning Ahead

Monday, May 5th, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
Tuesday, May 6th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Wednesday, May 7th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, May 7th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
Thursday, May 8th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 27th, 2014

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.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Remember: Sunday, May 4th, 2014 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

The United Church supports Loaves & Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

Constitutional Amendments

Moderator Dick Dietz and Pastor Ashley will be sitting down in the Fellowship Hall after worship today (April 27th) to work on proposed amendments to our Constitution that reflect our new board and committee membership numbers and term lengths along with other minor adjustments as needed. If you're interested, feel free to stop by and help them!

All proposed amendments will be made available to the congregation after an Official Board review and in advance of a congregational vote, which will be announced in the near future in observance of the Constitutional rules for such a meeting.

Palm Sunday Brunch—Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that came to the Palm Sunday Brunch! We served 58 people. With the donations received, we will be able to help assist youth in attending camp.

Thank you again for making this fundraiser a success!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 27th, 2014

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!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 27th, 2014

Treats for Troops—Spring 2014

Suggested Items:

hot cocoa mix	soup mix
cereal & granola bars	fruit roll-ups
energy bars	hard candy
Skittles (they do not melt)	Ramen noodles
Pop Tarts	instant oatmeal
Easy Mac	single serve drink mixes
jerky	jelly beans
jaw breakers	foot powder
hand sanitizer	deodorant
Lip Ivo	cough drops
gum	licorice
face wipes	blister treatments
baby wipes	tall white socks
insoles	instant coffee
microwave popcorn	sunflower seeds
magazines	AA & AAA batteries
playing cards & dice	crossword & Sudoku puzzles
hand held games	inflatable pillows
music CD's	books on CD
paperback books	Icy Hot or similar patches

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 27th, 2014

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.

Called to Care Visitation Training

One of the goals and needs that came out of our visioning process was a trained lay pastoral care visitation team to help make sure that all of our at-home members and members with long-term care needs receive the care and support they deserve from The United Church. Pastor Ashley will be leading training sessions based on the "Called to Care" curriculum for all who would like to become caregivers in this context. The Diaconate will coordinate this ministry with Pastor Ashley.

There are five training sessions, and caregivers will need to attend all five sessions to be commissioned. Each hour-long training session will be offered twice: once on a Sunday after worship and once on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Session One: Wednesday 5/28, Sunday 6/1

Session Two: Wednesday 6/4, Sunday 6/8

Session Three: Wednesday 6/18, Sunday 6/22

Session Four: Wednesday 6/25, Sunday 6/29

Session Five: Wednesday 7/2, Sunday 7/6

If you have any questions or are interested in Called to Care, please talk to Pastor Ashley or Ruth Cumming. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 27th, 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!

Loaves & Fishes Work Days

The United Church will be serving our community by helping with Loaves & Fishes work days at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton on **Tuesday, April 29th from 3:00—6:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00 a.m.—Noon.**

Volunteers are always needed! Please contact Laura Fritz at (507) 524-4360 if you are interested in volunteering for this mission.



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 27th, 2014

Treats for Troops—Spring 2014

The community-wide project of sending packages to our servicemen and women from the Maple River Area is underway for the spring mailing. We will do the boxing on **Saturday, May 10th**, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton, **at 9:00 a.m.** We do this with other congregations and auxiliaries in the area.

Please see the list of suggested items and keep them in mind when you are shopping. Single serve macaroni & cheese, jerky, and Skittles are the biggest hits. Nothing with chocolate or peanut butter can be shipped. Money for shipping is a welcome gift, as it costs \$13.45 for a box to be sent overseas, and \$15.45 stateside.

Our servicemen and women REALLY appreciate these boxes. A thank-you note received from a Maple River grad said, "It is difficult to put into words how much your efforts contribute to the morale of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that you support. Whether at sea, in the desert, or here at home; your thoughts, prayers and generosity have lifted my spirits and helped (us) cope..."

Currently we have an adequate supply of decks of cards, hand balls, and beverage "koosies."

NOTES AND LETTERS WOULD BE WONDERFUL!

Continue to suggested items list

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. Psalm 111:4

Sunday:

God has not left himself without a witness in doing good—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy. Acts 14:17

Lord, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you. May we be your witness for good, helping those in need, bringing joy into their lives, and filling them with your love. Amen.

Monday:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Lord Jesus, in this ever changing world, you remain our Light. You light our paths and fill our lives with truth. We will never walk in darkness but always live in union with you. Amen.

Tuesday:

Lord, you have been a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm. Isaiah 25:4

Lord, thank you for your presence, love, forgiveness, and peace. We so often try to live our lives in darkness but realize we cannot. Thank you, ever-present God, for bringing us from darkness to your light. Amen.

Wednesday:

Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:46

Lord Jesus, what a precious gift you gave to all humankind—giving up your life so that we would have eternal life. We accept your gift and pray to use our gifts and talents to share with others that they may know your love. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Christ says, "You too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you." John 16:22

Jesus, as remember Easter and the celebration of your resurrection, we should not grieve but rejoice. May we see not just an empty tomb, but all the possibilities you grant us each day. Amen.

Friday:

Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." John 11:25

God, we leap for joy and give you thanks for raising your Son from death. May we share this joy and happiness with all those we may see today. We praise and adore you, Lord, for your saving love. Amen.

Saturday:

Jesus answered, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:39-40

Gracious God, on this day, we continue to bask in the excitement of your resurrection. May this event be the only sign we need of the covenant you have made to your children. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue