

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

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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 6th, 2014

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalms 130

One: Come together and wait for the Lord.

Many: We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.

One: Lift up your voice and call out to God!

Many: We cry out, believing that God hears us.

One: Surely God's presence is here with us now!

Many: We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.

One: Come, worship the Lord!

All: We sing praise to God and rejoice in God's love!

***Opening Hymn**

“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult” #345

***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

Karen Stanton

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Jesus Paid It All”

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**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #461

Scripture

John 11:1-44 (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

“The Resurrection and the Life”

Communion Service

At the United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but it is God’s, and it is open to all of God’s children.

Today, we will participate in communion by passing two sets of plates that contain the elements of bread and juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may celebrate communion together after each element has been shared.

***Closing Hymn**

“Now Let Us from This Table Rise” #715

***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 6th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Jeff Gerdts
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Bob and Lisa Shubert
Head Usher—Jack Madsen
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections (*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. Coffee Hour and Fellowship (*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 was written by Rev. Nancy Gowler Johnson at ruminari.wordpress.com.

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 arecent hip surgery at the Mapleton Community Home
- Norma Baack, who is recovering from recent hip surgery at Oak Lawn Nursing Home in Mankato
- For Gary McCarthy, Jessica McCutchen's father, as he recovers from recent prostate surgery
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 4, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- The people of the 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:

- For Bruce Stanton's birthday
- For Virginia Clarks' birthday on Thursday, April 3rd

The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, April 6th, 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 6th, 2014

Monday, April 7th, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
Tuesday, April 8th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Wednesday, April 9th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, April 9th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service
Wednesday, April 9th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
Wednesday, April 9th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons
Thursday, April 10th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Planning Ahead

Monday, April 14, 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

The United Church News and Announcements
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Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, April 6th, 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.

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.

Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education is inviting any youth to come help set-up on **Saturday, April 12th at 9:00 a.m.** for the Palm Sunday Brunch being held on Sunday, April 13th.

Immediately following set-up, the Board of Christian Education will hold it's monthly meeting.

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.

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Springfest

Jackson Lake Lutheran Church of Amboy will hold a Luncheon buffet featuring, hot beef and turkey sandwiches, a variety of salads and many Scandinavian goodies on **Sunday, April 6th from 10:30 1:00 p.m.**

Cost per Adult \$8; children ages 6-11 \$4; children age 5 and under are free. Take-out meals are available.

German Dinner

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 17436 State Highway 22, will host a "German Dinner" on **Sunday, April 6th from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Food to be served will be, brats with sauerkraut and hot dogs, mashed potatoes with gravy, red cabbage, pickled beets and German: potato salad, green beans, carrots breads and 3 German desserts: Black Forest Cake, Overnight Cake with caramel and Fruit Streusel.

Adults \$10; Children (4-12) \$4; Children under 3 are free.

Ecumenical Community Event

A joint community group from various churches will be hosting Beth Crosby for an Ecumenical Community Event of song and worship on **Sunday, April 6th from 6:00—7:00 p.m.** at Peace Church in Minnesota Lake.

Free will donations will be accepted and divided among the three area food shelves which are— Loaves & Fishes in Mapleton, Wells Area Food Shelf, and Peace Church Food Shelf in Minnesota Lake.

A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow the program.

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Heifer International

Remember our great event “Cows for Christmas” where we were able to provide Heifer International with one cow and one goat (with the possibility of a matching grant of another goat)?

Heifer International would like you to know that just one goat can provide an ongoing, lasting impact and income for a family. In turn the family receiving a goat gives a gift of the first female offspring to another farming family, continuing the virtuous cycle.

Here are a few fun facts about goats: They can survive in nearly any climate, their milk is the only kind of milk known to half the world’s people, and they discovered coffee beans! But, one of the most important facts about goats is that every year, in addition to birthing two to three kids, just one goat produces approximately one ton of milk. That’s roughly 10 times the body weight of an average goat.

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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 Gerds 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. We will have a short organizational meeting before the Lenten service on April 9th at 6:00 p.m.

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Board of Trustees Budget Update

As I'm sure we've all noticed at home, the cost of natural gas and LP went up dramatically this winter. These cost increases have also affected the bills for The United Church. Along with higher snow removal costs than expected (even though we increased the budgeted amount for this year), our bills for the first three months of 2014 have been much more than budgeted for. We are currently running at a deficit of about \$4,000 for the year. If you are able to give a bit extra to help offset these unexpected costs and balance the budget, it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Important Board of Trustees giving Clarification

The Trustees, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary would like to clarify how donations are handled. Checks written to "The United Church of Mapleton" will be cashed and handled by The United Church for our budget and ministries.

Checks written to area ministries (such as "Loaves & Fishes" or "The Well") and put in the offering plate will not be cashed by The United Church, but instead passed along to those organizations so that you, the giver, are duly credited for your gift by that organization.

For our quarterly Special Mission Offerings (such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, America for Christ, etc.), checks should be written to "The United Church of Mapleton" with "Special Mission Offering" written in the memo line and/or placed in a specially marked envelope. Cash for Special Mission Offerings should always be placed in a specially marked envelope.

Continue

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, April 6th, 2014

Beginning with our next Special Mission Offering in June, we will no longer use denominationally provided offering envelopes. Instead, there will be a single style of envelope provided in the pew racks. This is to eliminate confusion and emphasize the fact that for each quarterly Special Mission Offering, all money is collected into a single "pot" which is then divided evenly in half and sent to each denomination's Special Mission Offering group.

Recently, several checks have been received made out to "The United Church of Mapleton" with "Mission" written in the memo line. Given the many ways that we do and support mission at The United Church, this can be unclear, and we always want to honor your intent with your donation dollars. To this end, please be as specific as possible with your memo notes.

For example, if you want to help The United Church support a specific local mission (such as our budgeted commitment to The Well or a special offering for Loaves & Fishes), please write that mission's name in the memo. If it is for that month's Special Mission Offering, please write "Special Mission Offering" in the memo, or use a marked "Special Mission Offering" envelope. If you want to support our Church General Fund budgeted commitment to support our two denominational affiliations giving at a denomination-wide level, please write "Mission Budget" in the memo.

If you have any questions, please ask Keith McCutchen (Treasurer), Ginny Kinzie (Financial Secretary), or Dick Dietz (Chair, Board of Trustees). Thank you!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. Psalm 23:6

Sunday:

The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established. Proverbs 19:21

We gladly risk squandering our time and resources on schemes of our own making, yet we often follow your call, Lord, only with certain guarantees. Teach us, God, to trust you wholly. Teach us, Christ, to follow you boldly. Amen.

Monday:

My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they stand at attention. Isaiah 48:13

Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. Revelation 14:7

Magnificent Creator, maker of everything—arbiter of distant galaxies, weaver of the very air we breathe—help us to take our proper place in this world you have created and praise your name forever. Amen.

Tuesday:

Come now, you rich people, listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one. James 5:1,4-6

Lord, often we easily ignore those who work for what little they have; often we eagerly admire those who have much, but work little. Your mercy O Lord, must prevail. Grant us this mercy that we may work for your justice. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Wednesday:

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

You, Lord, blot out our transgressions for your own sake. Teach us, Christ, to blot out the sins of others, for our own sake—so our hearts may be freer to love others and you. Amen.

Thursday:

The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Revelation 7:17

Release us, Christ, from daily petty struggles and liberate us from true oppression. Free our hearts, so we may enter your kingdom with joy and laughter and thanksgiving, all the days of our lives. Amen.

Friday:

Jesus Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness, and being found in human form. Philippians 2:6-7

Dearest Lord Jesus, we offer, in stunned humility, our gratitude and praise for your complete act of sacrifice. You gave yourself even for sinners like us. Truly, you are the Son of God. Amen.

Saturday:

The Lord said, "I have chosen Abraham, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice." Genesis 18:19

God, teach us to do justice by entering into relationships with persons in need. May we learn from them lessons of dignity, faith, and righteousness as we serve—that we may become wholly committed to your kingdom's work. Amen.