

## Service Notes

The **green paraments** symbolize Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church liturgical year, which is a continuation of the Season of Epiphany that began the Sunday after Epiphany and ended with Ash Wednesday. Ordinary Time begins on the Sunday after Pentecost and ends with Reign of Christ Sunday, the Sunday before Advent begins. Since it explores the mission of the church, the traditional color for this season is green, symbolizing growth. Ordinary Time also focuses on the important issue of how we can continually grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

*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.

**Children's Worship Bags** with creative supplies are available at the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

## The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413

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(507) 524-3141

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org)

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, August 10th, 2014

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

“What Does It Mean To Be the United Church of Christ?”

**Prelude**

Riverblenders Chorus of Mankato

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

*Based on Psalm 22:25-31*

One: Let our praise for all that God has done

**Many: resound within and beyond these walls.**

One: When all people love the Lord,

**Many: the poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

One: and justice and peace will surely surround

**Many: both present and future generations.**

One: In thanksgiving for all that God has done,

**Many: let our lives and our love proclaim the message**

One: of God's gracious and freeing acts,

***All: both now and forever more!***

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #93

**\*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**

Youth Campers

**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**

“Renew Your Church” #462

**Scripture**

Galatians 3:23-29 (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**

“Church of Firsts”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #61

**\*Benediction**

***Please be mindful of others who continue to worship through the Postlude.***

**Postlude**

***\*Please rise in body or spirit.\****

## **Serving Us Today: Sunday, August 10th, 2014**

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Joyce Johnson

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

### **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

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

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 Moira Laidlaw at [liturgiesonline.com.au](http://liturgiesonline.com.au).

This week's message is the second in a series of four seeking to answer the question, "What does it mean to be the United Church of Christ?" The first four weeks of the summer focused on the question, "What does it mean to be American Baptist?" This eight-week summer sermon series is aimed to help us as The United Church of Mapleton reconnect with and gain a greater sense of appreciation for our two denominational affiliations.

## **The United Church News and Announcements**

### **Sunday, August 10th, 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](mailto: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, August 10th, 2014**

Monday, August 11th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, August 12th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, August 13th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

**Wednesday, August 13th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**

#### **Planning Ahead**

Tuesday, August 19th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, August 20th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

**Wednesday, August 20th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**

#### **Prayer Chain**

The United Church Prayer Chain is now active! If you have a prayer request, please call Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168 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.

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, August 10th, 2014**

**Riverblenders Chorus**

We thank the Riverblenders for being with us in worship today to share their wonderful gift of song!

**Head Ushers Needed**

The United Church is in need of Head Ushers for the months August through September. Please consider signing up to help by calling the church office at 524-3141.

**The Well Youth Center**

**Next Sunday, August 17th**, Coffee Hour and the Mission Collection jar 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.

**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!

Maple River Loaves & Fishes continues to grow. We are now serving over 100 families each month. With our growth, comes need. Due to the children being out of school for the summer and no access to school breakfast and lunches, this puts a demand on families to provide more meals at home. Therefore, we are in need of the following: any breakfast/lunch items, canned vegetables and fruit, snacks, and plastic bags, among other things.

As always, monetary donations are very much appreciated. Your \$1.00 is stretched to \$10.00 worth of food through our networks. We truly are blessed to have such a supporting community! Thank you!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 10th, 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.

Please leave donations at the top of the stairs close to the closet door, if you are able, but if that area is full you may leave them downstairs.

**Women's Retreat**

The Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ is hosting a Women's Retreat on September 19-21, 2014 at Pilgrim Point in Alexandria, MN

More information and registration forms are posted on the hallway bulletin board.

**SMILES ADA Disability Awareness**

On Tuesday, August 19th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. SMILES CIL, a center for independent living 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to providing a wide array of service that assist individuals with disabilities to live independently, pursue meaningful goals, and enjoy the same opportunities and choices as all persons, will host a "Community-Wide Block Party" at the Bethlehem Lutheran Parking Lot, 720 S. 2nd St., Mankato, MN.

There is a poster on the bulletin board with more information.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 10th, 2014**

**School Kits Needed for Church World Service**

Thanks to all the individuals who have contributed to the CWS/UCC School Kit Drive including Beauford United Methodist, Peace UCC in MN LK, and the Plaid Piper.

There have been 31 churches requesting matching funds from the Disaster Ministry of the UCC, including our United Church. We have set our goal of 100 School Kits; we are well on our way to reach this goal. We are lacking the following:

Notebooks	need 30 (3 go in each Kit)
Rulers, 12 inch	need 30
Sharpener, pencil	need 30
Pencils	need 175 (six go in each Kit)
Scissors	need 30
Crayons	need 49
BAGS	NEED 85

We have received \$120 of the \$250 advance by the Trustees. Please talk to the Trustee's if you can help. If you cannot get to a store to purchase items for the Kits, make a donation and we will see that items are purchased ( the average cost for items in these School Kits is \$15).

Questions or additional information, contact Pat John; 507-524-4041.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 10th, 2014**

**A Baby Care Kit includes:**

- 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 (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket) Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

**A Hygiene Kit includes:**

- 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®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 10th, 2014**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**The United Church of Mapleton has received National Recognition for its work to provide desperately needed School Kits for children who have been devastated by storms, floods and other disasters.**

The United Church of Mapleton is collecting and shipping School Kits to Church World Service for distribution to people who have suffered from recent natural disasters.

Church World Services (CWS) is an international ecumenical assistance organization which is supported by some 30 denominations.

Attached are copies of items appearing on the CWS global news web site. The same information is available at the following web sites.

URL: <http://www.cwsglobal.org/newsroom/news-features/ucc-matching-grant-maximizes-contributions.html>

URL: <http://www.cwsglobal.org/blog/matching-grants-for-cws.html>

Feel free to contact either myself; Hugo John  
507-524-4041 (cell 507-340-3889) or Pastor Ashley Whitaker  
507-524-3141.

*Continue*

**United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 10th, 2014**

**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: Norma Baack, Bill Brice, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson
- 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 hip surgery at the Mapleton Community Home
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- Isaac Kolstad, who suffered a severe head injury early on May 11th in Mankato, was recently transferred to a rehab facility. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson. You may visit Isaac's Caring Bridge site at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/isaackolstad>.
- Louis Fritz, who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.
- Tucker Shuck, Sharon Shuck's grandson, who has begun thirteen weeks of US Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, and for his family during this time of limited communication with him
- Dawn Dietz, who recently learned that her lymphoma has recurred. Dawn is waiting to hear from her doctors about a treatment plan.

**United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 10th, 2014**

**Our church prayer list continued...**

- Donna Jean Sharp, who is recovering from a broken hip at Pathstone Nursing Home in Mankato.
- Norma Baack, who is recovering from a broken hip at the Masonic Home of Bloomington, MN.
- The victims of and the families affected by the ongoing and escalated violence between Israel and Palestine.

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

**Prayers:**

- For my 89-year-old father who continues to lose mobility
- For a friend who is in the last stages of life on earth

**Thanksgiving:**

- To the wonderful Women's Fellowship for the beautiful bridal shower for Tricia Gunsolus and Jake Fritz!
- For my daughter's first steps!

*Continue*



## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

**Scripture for the Week:** God, turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

Psalm 119:132

### **Sunday:**

In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying. Psalm 77:2

Holy Comforter, you know our hearts and you know our needs. We invite you into our hearts and into our lives again today. Walk with us. Amen.

### **Monday:**

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

Heavenly Lord, you are our compass and you provide our true vision. As we go about our day let us not forget our origin or our destination. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins. 1 John 1:8-9

Forgiving God and Remover of sin, we acknowledge our imperfections. We have left good works undone, kind words unsaid, prayers unformed, and love not given. We come to you for forgiveness and we are assured that you always hear us. Amen.

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

### **Wednesday:**

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” John 1:45-46

Lord, you have given us eyes to see and ears to hear. You have also called us to be your hands and to do work that is not always easy. Strengthen us for the work you would have us do. Amen.

### **Thursday:**

Jesus said, “Just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” Matthew 25:45

Lord, today let us remember those who may be hurt by our actions or our inactions. Let us be conscious of all our decisions and the unseen effects on our brothers and sisters. Help us to be aware and awake. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Jesus said, “Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away.” John 6:37

Our God, we come to you with joy and with sadness. We come knowing you will not turn us away. Let our lives be a living witness of your love and your open arms. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Luke 19:8

O loving Lord, let us know righteousness and not evil. Today let us consider the ways we can give, forgive, and set things right in our own lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Continue*

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*