

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. Since Sunday School is on break during the summer, children are invited to return to their pews after the Message for God's Children during worship.

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, August 17th, 2014

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling of the glory of God,

Many: and Creation proclaims God's wonderful power.

One: Your law, O God, is perfect, reviving our souls,

Many: and your commandments are sure, giving joy to our hearts.

One: Let our worship and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you,

All: O God, our rock and our redeemer!

***Opening Hymn**

“Christ for the World! We Sing” #561

***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

Louise Webb

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**

“Community of Christ” #615

Verses 1, 2, 4

Scripture

Micah 6:6-8 (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

“Justice and Witness Ministries”

***Closing Hymn**

“Christ, You Call Us All to Service” #571

***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 17th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Darlene Fezler

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Jeff and Jodie Gerds

Head Usher—

Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with The Well Youth Center

Collections (*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 Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey and Rev. Susan A. Blain for the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website (ucc.org/worship/worship-ways).

This week's message is the third 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.

United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, August 17th, 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, Hutch Cramer, 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
- 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 on May 11th in Mankato, and is now in 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 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.
- 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 United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, August 17th, 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, August 17th, 2014

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

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, August 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, August 27th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

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 17th, 2014

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

Today, 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.

Newsletter Articles

Please submit your September newsletter articles and reports into the church office by **Thursday, August 21st**. Thank you!

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 17th, 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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9

Sunday:

Do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor. Zechariah 7:10

Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin. James 4:17

O God, we are listening for your voice. Perhaps we believe we have heard your call but are afraid to answer. It is easy to walk past the poor or to ignore injustice, but you call us to a higher standard. Let us respond. Amen.

Monday:

A Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. Hebrews 4:9-10

Lord, the Sabbath has ended but we feel its peace. Let yesterday's rest rejuvenate us and the hymns continue to echo in our hearts. Let the respite we have taken energize us for service this week. Amen.

Tuesday:

You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. Deuteronomy 16:19

Our merciful and just Lord, as we seek your glory let us do what we know is right. Today we will strive to remember your call to justice and kindness in all we do. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Wednesday:

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him! Habakkuk 2:20

Gracious God, grant us quiet so we might hear. Give us the presence of mind to slow our step, still our mind, stop our sound, and silently sit in your presence. Let us hear your voice. Amen.

Thursday:

I formed you, you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. Isaiah 44:21

God of grace and glory, through the ages you have poured out upon your people blessings beyond imagination. You have given us your Son and your Spirit. And for all these gifts we are grateful. Amen.

Friday:

This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Isaiah 25:9

O Heavenly God, through long ages your people waited for the Messiah. We rejoice that now he has come and set us free from sin and death. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Saturday:

I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Zephaniah 1:12

Mighty God, forgive us for our apathy and lack of faith toward both you and our fellow human beings. Help us to stand stronger in the face of the world and witness to Christ in both word and deed. Amen.

Continue

Source: Moravian Daily Texts