

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, Dawn Dietz, Janie Firstbrook, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen, Stan Solie
- Con Birr, who is recovering from hip surgery and blood clots in the lung
- Marian Mallory's father, Bob, who is recovering from shingles
- Former President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist, who recently announced that he has cancer
- All those affected by the explosions on August 12th in Tianjin, China, which killed at least 114 people, injured about 720, left about 70 missing, and displaced several thousand.
- All those affected by the bombing on August 17th at Erawan Shrine in Bangkok, Thailand, which killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 120.

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

Prayers:

- Of thanks to God and for God's blessing to bring strong faith in God to Gavin, Braxxton, and all their family
- For Theo for a quick recovery from his recent surgery
- For safety for students as they begin fall sports
- For Kenny Nagel, who has been sick

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 23rd, 2015

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Campaign Update

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

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

Many: who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

Many: who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

One: We have come to worship God, the empowering God,

Many: who chooses even you and me to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.

One: Let us praise God, who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer!

All: All glory to God!

***Opening Hymn**

“When Peace Like a River” #428

Versus 1, 3, 4

***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!

***Moment of Fellowship**

Message for God’s Children

During the summer, children are invited to return to their pews or use the Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary. Children’s Worship Bags are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Mission Moment

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**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” #473

Scripture

1 Peter 4:12-19 (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

“But Glorify God”

This summer, Pastor Ashley will be preaching a sermon series based on The Beatitudes as found in Matthew 5:3-12.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:10)

***Closing Hymn**

“Go Now in Peace” #717

***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 23rd, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Jeff Gerdts

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Hugo and Pat John

Head Usher—Jodie Gerdts

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:40 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),
Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour (*Fellowship Hall*)

Today's **Call to Worship** is from the United Church of Christ *Worship Ways* Archive (ucc.org/worship_worship-ways).

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.*

Worship & Care Connections

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

The **Nursery/Toddler Room** for infants and toddlers is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the hallway opposite the Sanctuary.

The **Family Space**, located in the Overflow Room in 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.

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 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 the church know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office so that we may serve you. 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.

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 23rd, 2015

Tuesday, August 25th, 6:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast in GT

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, September 1st, 6:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, September 8th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, September 9th, 7:00 p.m. Called to Care

Wednesday, September 9th, 7:30 p.m. Deacons

Monday, September 14th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, September 15th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, September 16th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

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. *Wednesday* 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The Windmill Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours will change occasionally and be announced here). *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon church office. *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!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, August 23rd, 2015

Sign-Up for Lay Readers and Ushers

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service.

If you would like more information, please contact Marian Mallory or any member of the Diaconate.

Church World Service Kits

There continues to be a need of kits for distribution at disaster sites here in our country and around the world.

Kit shopping lists of items needed are available in the narthex. You can help with this need by picking up a list, going shopping, and dropping the items back to the church. You may also help by contributing cash donations so we may purchase items to fill out kits and to cover the \$2 handling cost per kit. Thank you for caring and for your efforts!

Volunteers for the Kits drive raised \$486.15 at the Dietz Brat Wagon last weekend! Thank you volunteers!

Garden of Eatin' - Weekly Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced **117.5 lbs.** of fresh raw vegetables for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Thank you to all who are helping make this much needed local mission such a success! **This past week Loaves & Fishes served 39 families (72 kids, 76 adult/seniors) 3,888 lbs. of food.**

If you are able to help with this mission, you may harvest vegetables Mondays or Tuesdays and deliver to Loaves & Fishes by 3:00 p.m. that Tuesday. You may also harvest on Fridays or early Saturday morning to deliver to Loaves & Fishes by 9:00 a.m. that Saturday. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, August 23rd, 2015

Newer Nursery Toys and Books Needed

The Board of Christian Education and our nursery volunteers are working to update and refresh the nursery. We are looking for donations of new or gently used toys and books for the nursery. If you have any you would like to donate, please call the church at 524-3141, email secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org, or speak to Pastor Ashley or Sheila Samuelson. Thank you!

Youth Center

The Maple River Youth Center is hosting an all-you-can-eat salad bar on Tuesday, September 1st from 11:00—1:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 and includes beverage and dessert. We would love to see you there!

Service of Ordination

The Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ and First Congregational United Church of Christ of Mankato invite you to a Service of Ordination for **Ava Marie Adams-Morris** on Sunday, August 30th, 2015, 4:00 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Court Mankato, MN. RSVP to 507-387-6592.

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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Jesus says, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35

Sunday:

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy. Ephesians 5:25–26

Divine Sustainer, may we feast this day on your salvation. May Christ’s love for the church awaken and embolden our love for you. In Christ’s holy name we pray. Amen.

Monday:

The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. Proverbs 4:18

Lord God, Source of light and life, may we seek your kingdom and righteousness as our own. May Jesus remain our Lord and one essential. May our lives stay true to his eternal light. Amen.

Tuesday:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:28

Who are you God? How can we know you? Your ways and your understanding are not like our own, yet you call us to pray, to worship, to serve. Help us to trust in your wisdom. May your grace, known to us in our Lord Jesus Christ, be sufficient. Amen.

Wednesday:

Do not fear, only believe. Mark 5:36

O eternal God, Hallelujah! Your Spirit conquers death itself. Direct the gaze of our hearts away from ourselves. Lift the eyes of our souls to you. Set us free from fears that distract us from an ever growing trust in you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him. Philippians 2:8–9

Dear Lord, your humility is our salvation. Your surrender is our strength. We are resurrected by your burial. Your cross is our salvation. May we exalt you by faithfulness to your eternal servant spirit. Amen.

Friday:

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. James 1:19

Slow us down, Lord. Slow our racing minds and anxious hearts. Help us to be still and know that you are God and we are not. Strengthen and comfort us we pray. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Saturday:

They have turned their backs to me, and not their faces. But in the time of their trouble they say, “Come and save us!” Jeremiah 2:27

Forgive us, Lord, for we have sinned. We speak of faith and live by willfulness. We hunger for your love. We ache for your forgiveness. We pray for your transforming spirit. May we abide in Christ’s love. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue