

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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(507) 524-3141

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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 24th, 2014

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 97 and John 17

One: We come to worship our God, because our God has come here amongst us.

Many: Together, we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promises and blessings.

One: We come to worship our God, because God is not limited to any one place.

Many: Together, we celebrate the joy of learning God's ways of justice and peace.

One: We come to worship our God, who forever grants the redemption of God's people.

All: May God's church be one, just as Christ and God are one, that Christ may be glorified in us!

***Opening Hymn**

“Great God, as We Are Gathering” #604

***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

Sue Prenzlou

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**

“For the Healing of the Nations” #621

Scripture

John 17:20-24 (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

“That They May All Be One”

***Closing Hymn**

“We All Are One in Mission” #552

***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 24th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Jeff Whitaker

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Dave and Kathy Byram

Head Usher—

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

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 Bruce Pever at brucepewer.com and Joan Stott at thetimelesspsalms.net. ©2013 Joan Stott – *'The Timeless Psalms' RCL Psalms Year C. Used with permission.*

This week's message is the fourth 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 24th, 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 24th, 2014

Tuesday, August 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Wednesday, August 27th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, September 2nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Wednesday, September 3rd, 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 24th, 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

The Well Youth Center will host a Salad Lunch Tuesday, August 26th from 11:00—1:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 for all you can eat. Thank you for supporting your local youth center!

Family Space

The United Church is creating a “family space” for our families with infants and small children. This space will be located in the Overflow Room at the back of the Sanctuary.

We are searching for a **rocker or glider rocker** for this space. If you know of one that would be a good fit for this area, please let the church office know by calling 524-3141. Thank you!



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, August 24th, 2014

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!

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.

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.
- 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.

Continue

In Our Prayers continued...

- The family and friends of Robin Williams at his death this week, and also all those who struggle with mental health challenges, including anxiety and depression.
- The family and friends of Michael Brown, who was killed in Ferguson, Missouri this week; and for all those struggling with the issues of justice related to his death; and for all those seeking the joy, comfort, strength, and peace of the presence of God in this time.

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

Prayers:

- For my friend, who is recovering from throat surgery, and that she may have a speedy mending of her voice
- For a safe sports season for high school athletes

Thanksgiving:

- To God for the generosity and support from all for the kit program. May the spirit of commitment continue in our church and personal lives.
- For the life of my Auntie Toots who lived to be 101 and sent to the Lord on Tuesday

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Helen Purscell, who passed away on Thursday, August 14th in Mankato. Helen is survived by her husband, the Rev. Keith Purscell, a former interim pastor of The United Church of Mapleton. Memorial services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20th at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Mankato.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Louis Fritz, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Wednesday, August 20th in Mapleton. Visitation will be from 4:00—7:00 p.m. at The United Church on Monday, August 25th and from 1:00—2:00 p.m., prior to the service at the church, on Tuesday, August 26th with the Memorial Service held at 2:00 p.m.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Jesus spoke to the disciples and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Matthew 14:27

Sunday:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

2 Corinthians 13:13

Refreshing God, you acknowledged the need for rest when you established the Sabbath. Forgive us for thinking we are too busy or important to take time for rest and reflection. But renew and refresh us spiritually as we do. Amen.

Monday:

The Lord said to Moses, “You cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” Exodus 33:20

Holy and righteous God, we humbly bow before your majesty and glory. We acknowledge you to be the sovereign God over all creation. And we render to you our adoration and praise. Amen.

Tuesday:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Christ our Savior, we are truly blessed to bear your name. Help us to honor that name by our words and actions. May others recognize your influence on our lives and seek it also for theirs. In your name we pray. Amen.

Wednesday:

During those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12

Prayerful Savior, by your own example you have taught us how to pray. May we now follow your leading by seeking God in every moment of our lives: good and bad, high and low, night and day. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Paul wrote: I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Compassionate Savior, because you care for us, you hear our cries and petitions. And, in the midst of our afflictions, you come to comfort, sustain, and deliver us. For your mercy and your grace we are truly thankful. Amen.

Friday:

I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. John 12:46

God of Light, though you have called us to the light, too many of your children still live in a world of darkness. Show us how to bring the light of Christ to illuminate their world with hope. Amen.

Saturday:

Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Then Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news. Mark 1:13-14

Merciful God, forgive us for choosing the easy way out, the path of least resistance and the comfortable option for ourselves when facing hard choices and difficult decisions. Instead, may we choose what is right and just for all. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue