

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 recently had hip surgery, experienced blood clots in the lung, and is now recovering in the ICU in Rochester
- Marian Mallory's father, Bob, who was recently diagnosed with shingles

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

Prayers:

- Of happiness for family visiting from South Dakota and Alaska and for their safe travels home

Thanksgiving:

- For a nice outing last weekend of fun and fellowship at the Mankato MoonDogs game with nice weather and prayers that it will become an annual event

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065
(507) 524-3141
www.unitedchurchmapleton.org
secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

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 2nd, 2015

Tenth 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

Based on Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

Many: May our worship reflect God's glory.

One: The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Many: May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

One: Through our prayer and praise,

Many: we proclaim the love of God.

One: With Christians across all lands and across all time,

All: let us worship the Lord!

*Opening Hymn

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #61

*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

Dave Byram

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Christ in a Strangers Guise”

Pam Foster

***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**

“O God Beyond All Praising” #64

Scripture

James 2:8-13 (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

“Mercy Triumphs”

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

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (Mt 5:7)

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 intinction. Intinction is the practice of coming forward to the front of the Sanctuary, taking a piece of bread from the loaf, dipping it into the cup of juice, and receiving the elements at that time.

If you request that the elements to be brought to you in your pew, simply let a Deacon know during the Communion Service and the servers will come to you.

***Closing Hymn**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #68

***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 2nd, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Laura Fritz

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeter—Mabelle Larson

Head Ushers—Don and Pam Foster

Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fises

Food Shelf Collections (*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 *Jesus Sets the Table*, resources by the United Church of Christ, posted online at 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.

Local Missions

Loaves and Fishes Report

We are at the half-way point of another busy year. So far this year, we have given out almost 73,000 pounds of food. An average of 108 families and 168 children each month are using the food shelf each month, with new families signing up each week. So far this year, we have agreements with 3 Kwik Trips in Mankato, MSU Campus Kitchen (donating bread and produce), as well as Dietz Foods and other stores for added buying power.

Feeding the hungry continues to be a need, especially now in the summer with the kids home and no school meals provided. As I have said many times before, we are blessed to live in such a gracious and giving community. Your donations go directly to feeding these families in our community.

If you haven't stopped by the food shelf, we encourage you to come by and see us. Please consider volunteering at the food shelf! Once you help out for a shift, you will want to come back again. Our hours are Tuesdays from 3-6 pm and Saturdays from 9-noon. May God bless you and thank you for all of your help!

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.

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 2nd, 2015

Tuesday, August 4th, 6:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast in GT

Planning Ahead

Monday, August 10th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, August 11th, 6:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, August 12th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons

Tuesday, August 18th, 6:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, August 19th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Wednesday, August 19th, 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Ed

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

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

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 2nd, 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.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, **Sunday, August 2nd, 2015** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission on the **first Sunday** of each month.

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!

Quilters Group

The Quilters Group will not be meeting in the month of August. Please watch for our schedule starting in September.

Anyone is welcome to join the Quilting Group. We meet on Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m., ending each work day with coffee and fellowship.

If you wish not to sew, no problem - we also need people to tie quilts. If you would like to learn how to sew quilts, we will help you learn this creative craft.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, August 2nd, 2015

Garden of Eatin' Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced just under 50 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!

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!

Mapleton VFW Auxiliary Annual Pillow Cleaning

The Mapleton VFW Auxiliary will sponsor the Annual Pillow Cleaning on **Friday, August 7th from 7:00 a.m.—3:00 a.m.** at the VFW building on Main Street, Mapleton. You may also drop off your pillows on Thursday, August 6th from 5:00—7:00 p.m. Feather and polyester pillows can be cleaned with new ticking.

Council for International Educational Exchange

CIEE is looking for host families from the Maple River area for the 2015-16 school year. Our students come from over 55 countries. They are between ages of 15-18. These students have 3 or more years of English language study, come with insurance and spending money. Students are also supported by a local coordinator and 24/7 support staff. Students are still available for this coming school year. Please consider opening your home to a student for a 10 month stay. **Please contact Melissa Decker at 507-382-3980 or ciee.org/host.**

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Psalm 85:9

Sunday:

The soldiers asked John, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely." Luke 3:14 (NKJV)

Wise Father, guide us with your wisdom and help us to love one another as you have directed. Help us to redirect our mistrust of others into positive energy and good will toward all. Amen.

Monday:

The tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Luke 18:13

Lord, we confess that we sin each day. We ask your forgiveness and your help to live the lives you would have us live, loving one another in all things. Amen.

Tuesday:

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

Jesus, the peace you offer us surrounds us like a warm blanket on a cold night. We rejoice in your love and care. Help us to spread your love throughout our world. Amen.

Wednesday:

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. Psalm 146:3

Jesus said, "If one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." Matthew 15:14

God of light, so many times we reject your ways and seek comfort in earthly treasures. Help us, gracious One, to see your way and your light. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! Romans 11:33

Most wise Counselor, help us to see the wisdom of your word and ways and apply them to our daily lives. Help us to spread your word and wisdom so that others might see your treasures. Amen.

Friday:

Follow God's example as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us. Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

Lord, you are our great example. Help us to love one another just as you love us. Amen.

Saturday:

Nathanael asked Jesus, "Where did you get to know me?" John 1:48

Lord, you know our stories from beginning to end, long before we do. We rejoice in knowing that you walk with us and enfold us in your arms throughout our journeys! Help us to know we are never without your care. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts