

## 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

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413

Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

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

[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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 31st, 2014

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

*Based on Matthew 11:28-30*

One: Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy.

**Many: Jesus will give us rest.**

One: Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace.

**Many: Christ will give us peace.**

One: Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus,

**Many: for our Savior will give us rest in our souls.**

One: Come, let us worship our God!

***All: Let us ever follow our Savior, who leads us into life!***

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Come, Let Us Praise the Lord” #9

**\*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**

**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**

“Christ for the World! We Sing” #561

**Scripture** Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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**

“Forgiveness”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“He Leadeth Me” #499

**\*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 31st, 2014**

Worship Leader—Ava Adams-Morris

Lay Leader—Hugo John

Organist—Kathy Byram

Greeters—Warren and Cindy Allevan

Head Usher—

Coffee Hour Host—Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

### **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 Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell at [rev-o-lution.org](http://rev-o-lution.org).

## **The United Church News and Announcements Sunday, August 31st, 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 31st, 2014**

Tuesday, September 2nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, September 3rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

#### **Planning Ahead**

Monday, September 8th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, September 9th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, September 10th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

**Wednesday, September 10th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**

#### **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 31st, 2014**

**Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

**Sunday, September 7th, 2014** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

The United Church supports Loaves & Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

**Sunday School Teacher Needed**

We are in need of one more Sunday School teacher for the PreK-5th grade class. With two teachers the commitment would not be every Sunday.

This is a very important ministry for families and children! If you can help out, please contact Liz Bair at 720-4327. Thank you!

**Fall Fling on September 7th!**

The Board of Education announces the 2014 **Fall Fling on Sunday, September 7th immediately after Sunday worship in the Fellowship Hall.**

There will be taco in a bag, popcorn, cookies, bingo with prizes. Come and learn more about Sunday School for all ages at The United Church.

**Sunday School for this fall begins Sunday, September 14th.** All are welcome!

**Youth and Families Meeting**

A meeting to discuss Sunday School, Youth Group, fund and fellowship, service, and more will be held Sunday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 31st, 2014**

**Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial Gathering**

Our congregation is invited to be part of the Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial gathering, to be held at First Baptist Church of Fort Dodge, IA on October 3rd and 4th. Our theme for this year is "Together in the Spirit". The speaker for this event will be the Rev. Eddie Cruz. There will also be a mini Mission Summit event held on Saturday morning. Come and talk with other churches about some of the common challenges we face in our ministries and outreach today.

For more information and registration sheets, please refer to the bulletin board.

**American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

The American Red Cross will be in Mapleton at the Mapleton High School—Big Gym on Tuesday, September 9th, 1:00—7:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment call Peg at (507) 420-1286 or sign-up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), enter sponsor code: 017145. Thank you for your support!

**Mapleton Community Home Bridge Party Benefit**



The Mapleton Community Home Auxiliary will be having their annual **Bridge Party Benefit on Monday, September 15th, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.**

Lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m., Bridge/500/Pinochle will begin at 1:30 p.m., prizes will be given out at 4:30 p.m., and door prizes will be given out throughout the afternoon.

The cost is \$20.00 per person. We ask that you prepay by sending your entry fee to Bea Ann Alschlager at 524-3957 or Roberta Ward at 524-3166 by September 9th.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 31st, 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.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, August 31st, 2014**

**Adult Church Choir**

The Adult Church Choir will begin practicing on **Sunday, September 14th** immediately following the morning worship service. 

Please join us! New voices are always welcome!

**Ambience Work Group**

Please let the Ambience group know if you are willing to bring flowers from your garden to adorn our church altar throughout the growing season. If there is a need, Ambience will come and pick the flowers. Also, if you are unable to do so yourself, Ambience will pick up purchased flowers throughout the year. Please call the church office at 524-3141 to set up a purchase. We would ask that you would provide the funds for the purchased flowers/plants. Thank you for your help to provide beautiful flowers for our church.

**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. 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. Feel free to use either space if it would be helpful for you and your family!



## 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.

## In Our Prayers continued...

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

- For David and Roberta Ward's grandson, Kameron Duncanson, who fell off his horse and had a ruptured spleen, which he had surgery for and is now recovering in Alexandria, MN
- For my niece who is dealing with cancer
- For my wife who is dealing with stomach problems
- For the family of Ruth Daly of Mapleton who passed away on Friday, August 22nd
- For my aunt and godmother who just had surgery to remove a brain tumor
- For the family and friends of Louie Fritz at his passing on Wednesday, August 20th

*Continue*

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

**Scripture for the Week:** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Psalm 67:5

### **Sunday:**

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! Psalm 117:1

God of all glory, as all creation renders praise, we your human children find our words and concepts inadequate to express the depth of our adoration. Hear the praise in our hearts and souls rather than in our voices. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”  
John 20:28

Eternal God, you have revealed yourself to us through your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we draw closer to you may we continue to grow in our faith and our relationship with you. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life. 1 John 1:2

Lord God, as you blessed our spiritual forebears with your Holy Spirit, so bless our hearts, churches, community, and world with your Spirit today. Thus may we likewise be inspired to follow your leading into new areas of service. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.  
Philippians 4:4

Lord Jesus, you give us boundless reasons to rejoice and celebrate. However, none is greater than the assurance of salvation and God’s love that you manifest to us daily. Thus we rejoice and pray. Amen.

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

### **Thursday:**

Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10

Omniscient God, you know us far better than we know ourselves. You hear our thoughts before we think them. You see all that we seek to hide. And yet, you love us anyway. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Your sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light. Isaiah 60:20

Light of the world, you have called us to shine as lights in this dark world. But we can only do this by reflecting your own light and love. So let us shine—for you and your people! Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

O Lord, as we come together to worship you in the company of others, we are inspired and encouraged by their expressions of faithfulness. May we provide the same to them. In your name we pray. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*