

***Closing Hymn**

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” #591
Verses 1, 3, 4, 5

***Benediction**

*Please be mindful of others who continue to worship
through the Postlude.*

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

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.

The United Church of Mapleton

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(507) 524-3141

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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 3rd, 2014

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Based on Psalm 126

One: We gather to worship with expectations:

Many: God will be revealed in new and astonishing ways.

One: God comes to us in real time.

Many: God comes to us in visions of the future.

One: God is present here.

Many: God is working in our midst,

One: We enter now into this time of worship

All: bringing new seeds to sow, singing songs of joy, and rejoicing together!

***Opening Hymn**

“God of Grace and God of Glory” #569

***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

Sharon Shuck

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**

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” #589

Scripture

Isaiah 43:15, 18-19 (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

“God Is Still Speaking,”

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 pastor will come to you.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, August 3rd, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Ginny Kinzie
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Wally and Joyce Johnson
Head Usher—
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes 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. Penny L. Lowes at *UCC Worship Ways* (ucc.org/worship/worship-ways) as well as Joanna Harader at *Spacious Faith* (spaciousfaith.com).

This week's message is the first 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 3rd, 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 3rd, 2014**

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Tuesday, August 5th, 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education
Wednesday, August 6th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday, August 6th, 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations

Planning Ahead

Monday, August 11th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, August 12th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Wednesday, August 13th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday, August 13th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, Sunday, August 3rd, 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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, August 3rd, 2014

Head Ushers Needed

The United Church is in need of Head Ushers for the months July through October. Please consider signing up to help by calling the church office at 524-3141.

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 Well Youth Center

Please stop by and support your local youth center at any of these fundraising events.

Saturday morning, August 23rd: Community Closet fundraiser

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!

Riverblenders

Next Sunday, August 10th, the Riverblenders will be with us in worship. They will share their music at the beginning of our service.

The United Church News and Announcements
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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.

Youth Blast '14

Everyone of all ages is invited to attend **Youth Blast '14 on Friday, August 8th at Half Moon Park in Wells, MN.**

The highlight will be a free concert by internationally known Christian rock band, **Lightswitch at 8:00 p.m.** Afternoon attractions begin at **3:00 p.m.** and include a dodge ball tournament, free food, face painting, balloon creations, bean bag toss and other attractions.

Youth Blast is sponsored by FUSION, an ecumenical youth group from all around the Wells area. You may see poster on bulletin board for more information.

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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, August 3rd, 2014

School Kits Needed for Church World Service

Thanks to all the individuals who have contributed the CWS/UCC School Kit Drive.

There have been 31 churches requesting matching funds from the Disaster Ministry of the UCC, including our United Church. We have set our goal of 100 School Kits; we are well on our way to reach this goal. As of last Wednesday we are lacking the following:

Notebooks	need 180 (3 go in each Kit)
Rulers, 12 inch	need 45
Sharpener, pencil	need 34
Erasers	have enough
Pencils	need 175 (six go in each Kit)
Scissors	need 39
Crayons	need 49
BAGS	NEED 85

We have received \$120 of the \$250 advance by the Trustees. Please talk to the Trustee's if you can help. If you cannot get to a store to purchase items for the Kits, make a donation and we will see that items are purchased (the average cost for items in these School Kits is \$15).

Questions or additional information, contact Pat John; 507-524-4041.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, August 3rd, 2014

A Baby Care Kit includes:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be hand knitted or crocheted)

Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket) Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

A Hygiene Kit includes:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment

United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, August 3rd, 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, Colleen Lindemann, 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
- Hutch Cramer, who is recovering from hip surgery at the Mapleton Community Home
- 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 early on May 11th in Mankato, was recently transferred to 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 recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Radiation treatment has ended and chemotherapy will begin in late July, after a period of rest for Louie.
- 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.

United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, August 3rd, 2014

Our church prayer list continued...

- Donna Jean Sharp, who fell and broke her hip Monday, July 14th, and who had surgery on Wednesday, July 16th. She is now recovering at Pathstone Nursing Home in Mankato.
- Norma Baack, who fell and broke her hip on Monday, July 14th, and who had surgery on that day. She is now recovering at the Masonic Home of Bloomington, MN for an expected six weeks of therapy.
- The victims of and the families affected by the ongoing and escalated violence between Israel and Palestine.
- Pastor Ashley Whitaker's family at the death of her maternal grandmother, Mary Malone, on Friday, July 25th, in Shawnee, KS. Pastor Ashley and Jeff will be going to Kansas City for her funeral on Tuesday, July 29th before joining the youth group at camp for the remainder of the week.

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

- For children who have immigrated to the US and our borders, that they may find safety and kindness through God's love
- Safe travels for Dick, Pastor Ashley, Jeff, and the five youth attending Pilgrim Point Youth Camp this week

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Isaiah 44:6

Sunday:

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

Monday:

Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

God, many times we come to you with our wishes and desires. Today we come to you with a simple prayer: let us strive first for the kingdom of God. Amen.

Tuesday:

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old. I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds. Psalm 77:11-12

Our Provider, let us go forward to serve. Let us find new ways to care for those in need: those living in darkness, afflicted, persecuted, and those who do not know your wondrous ways.

Wednesday:

God said to Noah, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature, that never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." Genesis 9:9-10, 11

Loving God, the clouds have cleared! We feel the warmth and we know you have done great things for us. Help us to remember the darkness from which we came and to dwell in the light you provide. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. John 1:18

God, if we pay attention, we can clearly see you on a busy sidewalk, in a quiet wood, in crowds, and in solitude. We see you in those we love and in the eyes of strangers. We give you our deepest thanks. Amen.

Friday:

You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? Galatians 5:7

Forgiving God, we can wander and become lost. Your love brings us back to the correct path. Let us always remember that it is never too late to turn back to you. Forgive us and guide us. Amen.

Saturday:

Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

Redeemer Lord, as we run we can stumble and tire quickly. Best intentions become regrettable sins and simple fatigue becomes uncaring actions. On this Sabbath let us rest and begin our race with renewed energy and dedication. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts