

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:

- For the Karels, family of Sharon Shuck, as they celebrate their family reunion next weekend, and also for their safe travel
- For continued healing for my Dad as he recovers from shingles
- For God's peace and guidance for those in troubled marriages

Thanksgiving:

- To the church for sponsoring me at youth camp. It was a lot of fun and I hope to go back next year. (From Nick Shubert)
- And praise to the Women's Fellowship for the beautiful bridal shower for Amber Wilde last weekend
- For wonderful growing conditions for the crops

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 9th, 2015

Eleventh 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 Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45

One: Look to the mountains! Look to the hills!

Many: Love comes to us with joy!

One: The world is filled with beauty!

Many: Flowers appear on the earth, birdsong brightens the day.

One: Fields yield their produce in abundance, the air is filled with sweetness.

Many: The summer of God's love is with us.

One: Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls.

All: Arise and sing for joy!

***Opening Hymn**

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” #113

***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**

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” #132

Scripture

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (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

“Purity From Within”

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

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (Mt 5:8)

***Closing Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision” #502

***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 9th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Pam Foster

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Randy and Linda Cumming

Head Ushers—Bob and Geri Howieson

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

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 adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, ©2008 Abingdon Press; posted online at the *Ministry Matters* website (ministrymatters.com).

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 9th, 2015

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

Thursday, August 13th, 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Families Meeting

Planning Ahead

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 9th, 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!

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 9th, 2015

Garden of Eatin' - Weekly Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced **80 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!

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: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19

Sunday:

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

Most precious Lord and Savior, give us the faith of a child to see your light in our lives so that we might experience and share your peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

Monday:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction. 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

God of healing and grace, we thank you for your constant vigilance and consolation. Help us to be steadfast in your ways. Help us to feel your grace and share it with others. Amen.

Tuesday:

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

Heavenly Father, make us strong in the face of adversity. Give us courage and strength when we face conflict or persecution. We know you are with us to guide us and we are blessed. Amen.

Wednesday:

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13:31–32

Blessed Father, we rejoice in your abounding love! Help us to grow in faith each and every day and to share that faith with those who remain in the dark. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

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

Precious Lord Jesus, your light is a beacon for all! Let us share the warmth of your light as we encounter others throughout our daily lives. Help us to share your love with all people! Amen.

Friday:

Christ says, "Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away." John 6:37

Lord, so many times, we confess that we turn away from your love and care. Help us to repent and to seek your forgiveness for doing so. We know you will welcome us back to the warm, loving embrace of your arms. We are blessed! Amen.

Saturday:

May the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good. Hebrews 13:20–21

Lord, we turn to you in our struggles and in our good times. Your constant love and care are things we can be sure of. We rejoice in that blessed assurance! Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts