

Relighting the Christ Candle

One: Today we relight the Christ Candle.

Many: The Light of the World shines brightly and nothing can defeat it, not even the darkness.

One: The good news of Christmas is not just for Christmas. It is for the whole year, the whole world, and our whole lives.

All: Make us Christ followers, O God.

Scripture John 1:1-5

Reading "The Work of Christmas" Howard Thurman

***Hymn** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #218

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

Local Missions



The Well Youth Center hours are Tuesdays-Fridays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.



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.

Loaves & Fishes "Love Item"

Each month, The United Church features a "love item" of special focus for members to donate to Loaves & Fishes. This helps stock the shelves at Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf and helps increase our giving to this worthy and much needed mission in our own town. **Our Love Item for January is soup!**

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065

(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, December 28th, 2014

First Sunday After Christmas Day

A Service of Readings and Carols

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Invocation

Relighting the Candle of Hope

One: Today we relight a candle for hope in our world.

Many: Thanks be to God for the hope and reality of a Messiah in Jesus Christ, the Bethlehem child born to save his people.

One: On this first Sunday after Christmas, may our lives bear witness to the hope this small child brings.

All: Make us hope-bearers, O God.

Scripture

Psalm 62:5-8

Reading "The Christmas Spirit"

Ann Weems

***Hymn** "What Child is This" #184

***Moment of Fellowship**

Children's Moment

Continued

Relighting the Candle of Peace

One: Today we relight a candle for peace in our world.

Many: The Prince of Peace has come! Thank you God for your gift of peace, deep and abiding.

One: That peace is not simply the absence of war; it is the presence of compassion and justice. May our lives bear witness to the work of the Prince of Peace.

All: Make us peacemakers, O God.

Scripture John 14:25-27

Reading "The Risk of Birth" Madeline L'Engle

***Hymn** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #191

Mission Moment Karen Stanton

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*

Relighting the Candle of Joy

One: Today we relight a candle for joy in our world.

Many: Jesus said, "I have come so that your joy may be complete." It is so; thanks be to God!

One: It is a joy that is brighter than the glitter of holiday lights and a joy that lasts longer than the excitement of new toys. It is a joy that can transform us.

All: Make us joy proclaimers, O God.

Scripture Philippians 4:4-7

Reading "Let Me Not Keep Christmas" Linda Felver

***Hymn** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #198

Relighting the Candle of Love

One: Today we relight a candle for love in our world.

Many: In Christ Jesus, God's greatest gift of love is born, a love the whole world needs.

One: It is a love that endures all things, a love that never lets go, a love that never ends. It is a love that we are called to share with the whole world.

All: Make us love-givers, O God.

Scripture 1 John 4:7-9

Reading "Unexpected" Ann Weems

***Hymn** "Love Came Down at Christmas" #210

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.

Continued

Serving Us Today: Sunday, December 28th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leaders—Pam Foster and Marian Mallory

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeter—Louise Webb

Head Usher—Diaconate

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

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 Fellowship (*Fellowship Hall*)

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School (*PreK-5th Grade*)
Classroom A, upstairs

10:10-10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*)
Youth Lounge, upstairs

10:10-10:40 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Classroom B, downstairs

Today's Candle Relighting Litanies are by Rev. Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly.

“The Christmas Spirit” and “Unexpected” by Ann Weems are published in *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, Westminster John Knox Press.

“The Risk of Birth” by Madeleine L'Engle is published in *The Risk of Birth*, H. Shaw Publishers.

“Let Me Not Keep Christmas” by Linda Felver is published in *A Book of Christmas*, Upper Rooms.

“The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman is published in *The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations*, Friends United Press.

The **paraments** are white during the Christmas Season to help the church to reflect on the incarnation (embodiment of God as a human: “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory” (John 1:14). White also symbolizes joy in the light of God. 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.

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Well 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

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Shirley Bowen, Benjamin Brockmann, Hutch Cramer, Kathy Cox, Dawn Dietz, Jodie Gerdtz, David Keller, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Marge Walters, Jonathan Ziert, Isaac Kolstad
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All who are grieving and mourning
- The 2015 American Baptist Churches, USA Biennial Mission Summit, to be held June 26-28 in Overland Park, KS
- The 2015 United Church of Christ General Synod 30, to be held June 26-30 in Cleveland, OH
- Hutch Cramer, who is recovering at the Mapleton Community Home after a fall and hip surgery.
- Jodie Gerdtz, who is recovering at home from surgery to remove a tumor on Monday, December 15, which went well.
- Dawn Dietz, who continues in chemotherapy treatments.

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

Prayers:

- For all those affected by the recent shooting in Pakistan, especially the families of the children killed
- For the families, friends, and co-officers of the NYPD officers killed while on duty last week

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, December 28th, 2014

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

Tuesday, December 30th, 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations

Planning Ahead

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

Wednesday, January 7th, Annual Reports are due

Saturday, January 10th, 9:00 a.m. Kilties

Monday, January 12th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Wednesday, January 14th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, January 4th, 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.

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

Ambience

The Ambience Team would like to ask for help taking down this years Christmas décor. **We will meet Tuesday, January 6th at 5:30 p.m.** Please come and help if you are able.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, December 28th, 2014

Special Mission Offering

December is when we have an opportunity to say thank you to the retired ministers and missionaries by giving to the Christmas Fund (UCC)/Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (ABC). Please give generously to let these dear people know how much we appreciate all that they have done.

You will find envelopes in the pews to put your offering in. Thank you, The Mission Committee.

Birthday Card Shower

January 3rd, 2015 marks Sylvia More's 99th birthday. Happy Birthday Sylvia! Sylvia would love to receive birthday cards from anyone in her church family. Please send cards to **Sylvia More MCH, 301 Troendle St. SW, Room 17, Mapleton, MN 56065.**

Youth Sunday School Teacher Needed

Beginning in January, the Youth Group will need a Sunday School teacher for the duration of Pastor Ashley's family leave (about twelve weeks). A user-friendly curriculum, *Nooma*, will be provided. *Nooma* is a series of short videos on DVD about faith and life with discussion questions included. If you're able and willing to help out with this important ministry, please let Pastor Ashley, the church office, or Liz Bair (Chair, Board of Christian Education) know.

This opportunity can easily be divided between several volunteers so that one person is not responsible for all twelve weeks. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, December 28th, 2014

Youth Summer Camp Adult Leaders Needed

Our Youth had a great time at Youth Summer Camp last year! We hope to be able to send a group of Youth to camp again this summer. However, Pastor Ashley and Jeff will not be able to go with our Youth as Adult Leaders this year. Is God calling you to help our Youth ministry thrive in this important way?

We will likely go to camp at Pilgrim Point Camp in Alexandria, MN again this year, since we had such a good experience last year. Summer Youth Camp is one week long (Sunday afternoon—Friday lunch) and will either be July 19-24, July 26-31, or August 8-14. Adult Leaders help not only as chaperones, but also as small group leaders for spiritual formation, education, fun, and fellowship. The United Church will pay the registration free for any Adult Leaders that are willing to volunteer their time and talents this summer. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast

The Maple River Band Boosters will be hosting their annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast on Sunday, January 4th from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. in the Mapleton Commons.

The menu includes all-you-can-eat waffles, sausage, toppings, and beverage. The cost is \$6.00 prior to the event with children under 5 eating free. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door.

Proceeds from this event are used to support the activities of the Maple River band program, including scholarships, guest conductors, clinics, and travel opportunities for the bands.

For more information please contact (507) 524-3930, ext. 234.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Sunday:

Thus says the Lord, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; indeed, I will heal you." 2 Kings 20:5

Pour out your healing upon us, O God, we pray. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, heal us of all that gets in the way of faithfully following you and living the lives to which you call us. Amen.

Monday:

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."

Matthew 15:32

We hunger for you, O God, and we are tempted to fill ourselves with things that draw us away from you. Feed us with the bread of life so that we may be filled and draw closer to you. Amen.

Tuesday:

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Great Protector, shelter us from the storms of life, give us refuge in times of trial, and fill us with the peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

Wednesday:

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Revelation 3:20

Immanuel, God with us, we long to be in your presence. Quiet us in the midst of the busyness of this season so that we might recognize and be with you. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Take good care to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways. Joshua 22:5

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. John 12:26

Teach us to walk in your ways, O God, that we might find ourselves in your presence. Amen.

Friday:

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7

Thank you, God, for the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us; for all of those who have led us forward in faith. May your light also shine through us so that others may find their way to you. Amen.

Saturday:

This assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear. 1 Samuel 17:47

Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness. 2 Timothy 2:19

Prince of Peace, guide us away from retaliation and violence. Teach us your way of peace so that we may live it out in the world. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue