

Message

"God For Us!! -- How about that?"

Communion Service

Guitar Group

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 passing two sets of plates that contain the elements of bread and juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may celebrate communion together after each element has been shared.

All of our Communion elements are gluten free. A pastoral blessing is available if you or your child(ren) choose to not receive Communion today.

*Closing Hymn

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #191

*Benediction

Postlude

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

Paraments

The **paraments** are purple for Advent, a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas) while looking forward to the future reign of Christ. Eschatological expectation rather than personal penitence is the central theme of the season. Advent is the preparation for, rather than a celebration of, Christmas. The liturgical color purple symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ and communal penitence. (ucc.org)

The United Church of Mapleton

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 4th, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

Our Mission:

The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.

*The * symbolizes an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Guitar Group

Welcome

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 Ministry

Marissa Pfeffer

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Peace

Scripture Reading

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

One: Jesus you take away all of our fears.

Many: Create in us sparks of light so we may fill the world with hope!

One: Jesus you left us your peace.

Many: Help us banish the darkness and bring peace to the world!

All: We Welcome You O Prince of Peace! Come Emmanuel Come!

One: We light the candle of hope. We light the candle of peace.

Hymn

"We Light the Advent Candles" #175

Verses 1, 3

***Call to Worship**

One: The Reign of God is drawing near.

Many: The prophet calls us to change our lives!

One: Prepare the way for the Lord.

Many: A just and peaceful path!

One: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you.

All: For the glory of God!

***Opening Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #154

***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!

***Sharing Grace and Peace**

One: God’s Word is a word of forgiveness, assurance, and grace.

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Many: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

Invitation to Worship Through Offerings

All adults are invited to share any spare change they may have with the children nearest them so that all may participate in worshiping through the offering.

*Children are invited to place their offering in the offering basket or come to the front of the Sanctuary and place it in the jar. For the month of **December**, the Mission Jar offerings (for both front and back jars) will go to **Cows for Christmas/Heifer International**.*

Offertory

Guitar Group

***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**

Message for God’s Children

Sunday School for children Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten is available in Classroom A, down the hall from the Sanctuary. Sunday School for 1st – 5th grades is available upstairs in the Youth Room.

All children may remain in their pews during worship, or Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or use the Nursery if they are younger than Pre-Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

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 momentarily and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer.

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)

Prayers of the People

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**

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #176

Scripture

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12 (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!

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW—PO Box 413—Mapleton, MN 56065
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www.unitedchurchmapleton.org
pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Today's Worship & Fellowship

Pastor—Gerrit Molenaar
Lay Leader—Darlene Fezler
Hospitality Team Lead—David and Roberta Ward
Organist/Pianist—Jan Lange
Guitarist/Vocalists—Laura Fritz, Marissa Pfeffer, Sheila Samuelson
Coffee Fellowship Host—Church Council

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes
Food Shelf Collections
9:00-9:45 a.m. PreK—K Sunday School (*Classroom A—upstairs*)
9:00-9:45 a.m. 1st—5th grade Sunday School (*Youth Room*)
9:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

The *Call to Worship* is written by Rev. Susan A. Blain, in *To Dream God's Dream: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent*.

Church Calendar

Tuesday, December 6th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Saturday, December 10th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties Dance Practice
Saturday, December 10th, 5:00-9:00 p.m. Parents Night Out/Cows
for Christmas Event in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 11th, 3:00 p.m. All Church Christmas Caroling Event
Monday, December 12th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, December 13th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Saturday, December 17th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties Dance Practice
Sunday, December 18th, 8:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
during worship

Contact Information

If you have a **pastoral need**, please contact Ava Adams-Morris at (507)380-7233. Ava will be our pulpit supply pastor during our transition time. Thank you Ava!

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, Jackson Foster Care Home
- 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 B., Kathy C., Janie F., Jeannie J., Phyllis L., Tyson Mc. Marian M., Lloyd M., Stan S., Donna W., Rev. Bill B.
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Eli A., Larry B., Jack M., Sean M.
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East



The prayer requests and praises from worship last week were: Prayers:

- For a sister-in-law who has health issues

Thanksgiving:

- For our new daughter-in-law Jane and for the beautiful wedding of our son Jeff and his wife Jane

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

Sunday:

May the God of peace himself 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

Heavenly King of kings, help us to be still and know that you are the reigning King of our lives. Bless us this day, O Lord, we pray and forever keep us in your love. Amen.

Monday:

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. Luke 12:27

Heavenly Father, your works are great! You constantly show us that you are with us in all that we do. Help us to stop worrying and to put our hopes and fears in your hands, O God. Amen.

Tuesday:

John wrote: I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples.” Revelation 21:3

Lord, we know that we are yours and yours alone. Help us to reflect the love that you have given to us so that others may join your fold. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Wednesday:

By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household. Hebrews 11:7 (NASB)

Lord God, faith is our most powerful gift. Just as Abraham, Noah, Sarah, and Moses put their full faith in you, let us find the strength to put our full faith in you with all that we do. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Paul wrote: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15

Dearest Savior, thank you for coming into the world, living among us, and knowing us inside and out; thank you for being our Savior, conquering for us, and allowing us to follow you. Amen.

Friday:

The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps. Proverbs 16:9

Lord, guide our feet so that we will be in your will and do the goodness of your Spirit. Be our sure feet in this life so that we may rejoice with you in the next. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Saturday:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22–23

God of love, joy, and peace, abide with us this day in all that we do and say. Take from us the things that worry us most and let us delight in you through all of what this day may bring. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, December 4th

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections: Today!

Mission Collection Jars for December: Heifer International

The Stewardship Tree

The Stewardship Tree is at the back of the Sanctuary. Please take one of the leaves home with you.

Quilters Group

The Quilters Group will not be meeting in the month of December. Please join us on Tuesday afternoons, from 1:00—3:00 p.m. starting January 2017.

Poinsettia Plants for Ambience

Please bring your donated poinsettia plants to the church at anytime and place by the altar. Thank you for helping decorate our sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season!

Parents Night Out/Cows for Christmas Event

Parents, take the night out to go Christmas shopping or get away for date night! Kids will enjoy dinner (6:00 pm), crafts, cookie decorating, games, movies, and more!

You may drop off your children, ages 2 and up, at the United Church of Mapleton on **Saturday, December 10th after 5:00 p.m.** and then **pick them up by 9:00 p.m.** You may call to pre-register, though not required, at 524-3141.

A Freewill offering will help support “Cows for Christmas (Heifer International). May we all pass on the gift!

Adult or youth-age volunteers are especially needed during Parents Night Out in these areas: **Registration, Nursery Attendants, Craft Leaders, Playing Board Games, “Floaters”** from area to area.

United Church Christmas Caroling!

Everyone from the United Church is invited to join together to go Christmas caroling around the community! We will spread the joy of Christmas to the residents of the Mapleton Community Home and our homebound. Please meet at the church **Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m.**

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, December 4th

Holiday Boxes!

Maple River Loaves & Fishes will be packing **Christmas** food boxes again this year. Please volunteer and stop by **Sunday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m.** at St. Teresa Catholic Church.

For every dollar you donate, Loaves & Fishes is able to by \$10.00 worth of food. Our mailing address is PO Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.

United Church Children’s Christmas Program

During worship on **Sunday, December 18th, all children are welcome** to participate in the United Church Children’s Christmas Program. A practice will be held at the church on **Saturday, December 17th at 10:00 a.m.**

If you have any questions, please contact Christian Education Coordinator, Pam Foster at 524-2185 or (515) 326-0463. Thank you!

Christmas Worship Schedules

The United Church Christmas Eve Worship Service will be held **Saturday, December 24th, 2016, 7:00 p.m.** Worship Service **will not be held Sunday, December 25th** of this year.

It’s Time to Talk: A Forum on Race

A Forum on Race, a national effort embraced by many communities as a tool to begin to begin the difficult conversations that can help shape understandings and increase trust between community members, will be held at the Verizon Wireless Center on Tuesday, **December 6th from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.** Justice Alan Page will be the keynote speaker. More information can be found on the bulletin board. YWCA is a sponsor and invites other community organizations to co-sponsor and asks their members to purchase tickets and attend the event, which includes lunch and small group facilitated discussions about positive actions we as individuals and our community might take.

Caregiver Support Group

The next support group will be held **Tuesday, December 6th** from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at St. Teresa Catholic Church in Mapleton. More information on bulletin board.