

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, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Tom Samuelson, Roberta Ward,
- Gabe Samuelson, who is in Advance Individual Training for computers and communications for the Army Reserves in Augusta, Georgia through March
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- All those affected by last week's earthquake in Taiwan, including the 24+ people who lost their lives and the 100+ people still trapped in rubble as of Sunday
- All those affected by the outbreak of the Zika virus and the serious health concerns suspected to be related to it

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

Prayers:

- For healing for all who are in need, whether physically or emotionally
- That God would be with those in deep grief, ease their suffering, and give them peace

Thanksgiving:

- For a healthy, beautiful granddaughter, Amelia Mae. Thank you, God!

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, February 14th, 2016

First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

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 Luke 4:1, Romans 10:8

One: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

Many: The journey begins in the wilderness.

One: We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

Many: Like Jesus, we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.

One: Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.

Many: For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but also through the wilderness.

One: Let us begin our Lenten journey together

All: and worship the Lord as one!

***Opening Hymn**

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go ” #446

***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.

Message for God’s Children

After the Message for God’s Children, children PreK-2nd grade may attend Sunday School in the upstairs classroom (between the Sanctuary and the Nursery, opposite the office).

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

Mission Moment

Pam Foster

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**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God ” #461

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34; Mark 14:17, 22-26 (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

“New Covenant in Christ ”

***Closing Hymn**

“God of Creation, All-Powerful ” #27

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

****Please rise in body or spirit.****

Serving Us Today: Sunday, February 14th, 2016

Pastor—Steve Boorsma
Lay Reader—Pam Foster
Organist—Jan Lange
Sound System—Dick Dietz
Greeter—Mabelle Larson
Head Ushers—Ron Conrad
Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship
9:00 a.m. Nursery/Toddler Care (*upstairs north end of hallway in the Nursery/Toddler Room*)
9:15 a.m. Sunday School during worship for grades PreK-2nd (*classroom A, upstairs across from office*)
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Today's *Call to Worship* is by Jeffery L. Tribble in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C, Volume 4*, ed. Bartlett/Brown Taylor, p.48.

The **paraments** are purple during the season of Lent as a symbol of both the sovereignty of Christ and personal penitence. The season of Lent is bracketed by the mourning black paraments colors of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Reverend Steve Boorsma

Reverend Steve Boorsma joined the Minnesota Conference of the UCC as Associate Conference Minister in September 2014. Steve has 19 years of parish ministry experience, most recently at St. Peter United Church of Christ in Lake Zurich, Illinois. Steve's work as Associate Conference Minister includes a focus on finding ways to more fully invite all of us into Conference-wide opportunities for hands-on mission and prophetic action. He also provides support to congregations in the southern half of the state, staffs the prophetic witness teams of the Conference, works with the Vitality Team, and spearheads new church development and renewal opportunities. Steve joined us today for worship and to lead the Pastoral Relations Committee in a training event.

Worshipping With Children

Children are always welcome at The United Church!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

During worship, several options are available for children: *The Sunday Paper* is a coloring page based on the Scripture reading for each Sunday. Two versions are available, one for older and one for younger elementary aged children. Ministry card decorating kits are also available, and a sign next to these kits lets children know to whom their card will be sent (e.g. homebound members, Treats for Troops recipients, etc.). Worship Bags with creative supplies are located at the back of the Sanctuary. The Nursery/Toddler Room for infants and toddlers (Kindergarten and younger) is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the upstairs hallway. The Family Space, located in the Overflow Room at 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.

Care Connections

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.

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 us know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office. 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.

The United Church News and Announcements **Sunday, February 14th, 2016**

Notice from Bethel Baptist Church

Mankato area has currently experienced a rash of thefts. This is to inform other churches in case attempts may be made at other churches. The thief/thieves have taken keys/key fobs out of coat pockets in coat room areas of the church to enter cars in the parking lot where large amounts of cash and gift cards have been stolen. Help us pray for the individual(s) involved, for them to be responsible for their actions, to bring restoration to those violated, as well as to the violator(s), and direct them to Christ Jesus.

Local Missions

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.

About the Season of Lent

The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or *catechumens*, for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer, and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent.

The theme of Lent is conversion, which is literally the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptized and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows. *Information from ucc.org.*

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, February 14th, 2016

Sunday, February 14th, 10:00 a.m. **Pastoral Relations Training**
Monday, February 15th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cooking Matters
Tuesday, February 16th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, February 16th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group
Wednesday, February 17th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, February 17th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**
Saturday, February 20th, 1:00 p.m. **Mental Health Panel**

Planning Ahead

Sunday, February 21st, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation
Tuesday, February 23rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, February 23rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group
Wednesday, February 24th, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Supper
Wednesday, February 24th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

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 in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours) 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *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, February 14th, 2016

Sign-Up for Lay Readers, Ushers and Greeters

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service!

Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund—Mental Health & Faith

Sarah Griffith Lund, the award-winning author of *Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and the Church*, will be in Mapleton for two events at The United Church on February 20th and 21st.

On Saturday, February 20th at 1:00 p.m. will be a panel discussion, including Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund, Sue Abderholden (MPH, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota), Ann Langworthy (Maple River School District Licensed Counselor), and Kristine Madsen (MSW, LICSW, Maple River School District Licensed Social Worker). During worship on Sunday, February 21st, Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund will be preaching about mental health, faith, and covenant.

All are welcome to both events! These events are made possible in part by a micro-grant from the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ's Ashley Endowment.

Fellowship of Prayer

After worship each Sunday of Lent, all are welcome to come to the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship to join in a brief time of devotions (with coffee and bars, too, of course). We will be using *Fellowship of Prayer*, a daily Lenten devotional written by Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund (who will be visiting The United Church for a panel about mental health and faith on Saturday, February 20th and to preach in worship Sunday, February 21st). Copies will be available to take home and use throughout the week.

Mapleton Senior Dining—Happy Valentines Day!

Take your Sweetheart out for a Beef Stir Fry and Lo Mein Meal for \$4, or bring yourself for \$2 on Two Buck Tuesday, **February 16th, 11:45 a.m. at the Town and Country Leisure Center.** There will be door prizes, candy and party favors to add to the fun! *Continue*

The United Church News and Announcements
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Please reserve your meal for this event by 1:00 p.m.

February 11th. Contact your local Senior Dining site manager Darlene Fezler at 524-4868, for more information. This event is sponsored by the Pioneer Bank of Mapleton.

Minnesota Lake Ambulance Service-Soup and Pie Supper

The Minnesota Lake Ambulance will put on a Soup and Pie Supper to help defray expenses of the ambulance such as new and better equipment and training for volunteers. This event will be held Sunday, **February 21st, 2016 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Minnesota Lake.

Maple River Coaches

The Maple River Coaches will host a Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, February 28th, 2016** at the Maple River HS Commons from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This breakfast will benefit the Maple River Coaches Scholarship and Wrestlers. Cost: Age 6 to Adult \$6.00; under age 6 eat free. Take outs are available. State tournament wrestlers will be honored at 10:30 a.m.

“Follow Me” Event

Christian musician and UCC minister, Bryan Sirchio will lead this faith experience weekend event on exploring what it means personally and as a church to follow Jesus. This event will include music, reflection, sharing and fun. This event will be held at **First Congregational UCC, 319 Downtown Plaza, Faimont, MN** with doors opening at **9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 27th.** If you are staying overnight, please bring a sleeping bag, pillow, sleep wear, toiletries, and clean clothes for Sunday. For more information call, Ace at 507-236-7040.

Pedal Past Poverty

Partners for Affordable Housing will hold its Fourth Annual Pedal Past Poverty event on **February 27th, 2016** at the YMCA blue gym from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This event will support the homeless shelters, Theresa House and Welcome Inn, as well as help look to the future for more available space in the Mankato area. To register go to www.partnersforhousing.org/pedal and click *Register Now*.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. 1 Corinthians 13:12

Sunday:

Paul wrote: I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. 1 Corinthians 10:33 (NIV)

Generous Lord, infuse our spirits with your love and compassion that we might see the broken spirits of others and respond as you have shown us. Where there is need, help us to meet it with your kindness. May all that is good be seen in us, your children. Amen.

Monday:

Paul wrote: I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

Gracious God, your greatness redeems us. Guide us as we work to bring others to you, so they too can know you. In your name we pray. Amen.

Tuesday:

The earth feared and was still when God rose up to establish judgment, to save all the oppressed of the earth. Psalm 76:8–9

Heavenly Savior, yours is the true power over evil. Hear us as we bring our prayers for the oppressed of this world. Shine your light and power on those in desperate need of your love and care. Amen.

Wednesday:

If God is for us, who is against us? Romans 8:31

Holy Protector, forgive us for those times when we believe we can handle this world on our own. Your mighty yet gentle hand guides us through both the good and trying times of our lives. Know that we are for you. Amen.

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

Psalm 145:17

O Savior and Friend, we join the nations in singing your praise and living our lives in your glory. Help us to follow your way and heed your kind judgments. In your name we pray. Amen.

Friday:

Take care what you do, for there is no perversion of justice with the Lord our God, or partiality, or taking of bribes.

2 Chronicles 19:7

Father, we come to you as sinners. You know our deepest faults and wayward deeds. Yet, you invite us to your table, welcome us as disciples, and forgive us our trespasses. For these mercies, we thank you every day. Amen.

Saturday:

The Lord will give you understanding in all things.

2 Timothy 2:7

Gracious Lord, you give us greater knowledge of our world. Your light and grace lead us to a place of hope and love. May we have the courage to follow. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts