

## Service Notes

The **paraments** are **green** following Epiphany to signify the theme established on Epiphany Sunday: the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations on earth. The theme of this season continues in the season after Pentecost, so both seasons together can be called the "Ordinary Time of the Church." The traditional liturgical color for this season, green, is the color of growth. *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. Sunday School is available for children PreK– 5th grade after the Message for God's Children, and children can meet their teachers at the back of the Sanctuary at that time. Children's Worship Bags with creative supplies are available in the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

### 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](mailto: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!

## The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413

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(507) 524-3141

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org)

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 16th, 2014

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

One: O God, you are righteous;

**Many: Transform us by your Peace!**

One: Your plans are good;

**Many: Transform us by your Grace!**

One: Your teachings are unforgettable;

**Many: Transform us by your Love!**

One: Give us understanding and we will live;

**All: Re-form us, reconcile us, and transform us by your Word!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #358

**\*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**

**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**

“Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord” #455

**Scripture**

Matthew 5:21-37 (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**

“What Really Matters”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Take My Life and Let It Be” #466

**\*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 16th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Linda Whitney

Organist—Joanne Cramer

Greeters—Mike and Julie Johnson

Head Usher—Wally Johnson

Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

### About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship and The Well Youth Center

Collections (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:30 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),

Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

9:15-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School

(*PreK-1st Grade*), Classroom A, upstairs

(*2nd-5th Grade*), Classroom E, downstairs

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*),

Youth Lounge, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour and Fellowship (*Fellowship Hall*)

10:10-11:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Classroom B, downstairs

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 was written by LT Leticia Rouser and posted on the Worship Ways page of the United Church of Christ website at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org).

### 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: Bill Brice, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Lorraine Stanton
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Pastor Deb Celley of First Congregational UCC of Mankato, who is now receiving home hospice care after fighting two kinds of lymphoma for nearly a year. We pray for Pastor Deb and her family (husband Richard and daughters Julia and Jennifer)
- Kathie Treanor, who is recovering from a recent accident at work
- Jon Anderson, Jola Walker's brother, who had emergency surgery on February 1st and who is now at home. Jola says his recovery is going "remarkably well."

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Fern Greeley, longtime member of The United Church, who passed away on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Fern's funeral was February 11<sup>th</sup> at Bethel Baptist Church of Mankato.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, February 16th, 2014**

**Maple River Coaches Scholarship &  
Wrestler Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, March 2nd, 2014 from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., there will be a Pancake Breakfast held to help the Maple River Coaches Scholarship & Maple River Wrestlers.

The cost for age 6 to adult is \$6.00 and under 6 eat free. Donations are welcome! Matching funds by Blue Earth Co. Thrivent. Take outs are available.

At 10:30 a.m. we will be honoring our “State Tournament Wrestlers.”

**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 16th, 2014**

Monday, February 17th, 6:30—8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts  
Tuesday, February 18th, 6:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, February 18th, 3:00—6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes work day at St. John’s Lutheran Church  
Wednesday, February 19th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Wednesday, February 19th, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation  
Thursday, February 20th, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study  
Saturday, February 22nd, 9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties  
Saturday, February 22nd, 9:00—Noon Loaves & Fishes work day at St. John’s Lutheran Church

**Planning Ahead**

Tuesday, February 25th, 6:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast in GT  
Wednesday, February 26th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Wednesday, February 26th, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation  
Thursday, February 27th, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, February 16th, 2014**

**Thank You!**

Thanks to everyone for all your prayers, cards, and concerns since my accident. It means so much to me that everyone cared. I really appreciate it! *Bruce Stanton*

**The Well Youth Center**

Our Coffee Hour and Mission Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

**Loaves & Fishes Work Days**

The United Church will be serving our community by helping with Loaves & Fishes work days at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton on **Tuesday, February 18th from 3:00—6:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, February 22nd from 9:00 a.m.—noon.**

Volunteers are always needed! Please contact Laura Fritz at (507) 524-4360 if you are interested in volunteering for this mission.

**The "Voice" Newsletter**

Please submit your newsletter articles into the church office by Thursday, February 20th. Thank you!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, February 16th, 2014**

**You are Invited!**

Jay Deleon, owner of White Fox Fur and Feather Company will be speaking and showing some of his work at the United Church of Mapleton on Sunday, February 23rd at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome

Jay buys fancy feathers, furs and hides from hunters, trappers, game farms and zoos. Jay does processing, curing and skinning of these items. He travels to trade shows, pow wows, feather furn and fly fishing shows. His products go across the United States and overseas.

**Community Closet**

The Community Closet will be getting ready for spring.

All Fall and Winter clothing and shoes are still good for \$3 a bag. Lots of nice Easter Décor. Still have some kids and adult coats, snow-pants, hats and scarves. 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..

**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.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2

### **Sunday:**

Thus says the Lord God, "I will gather others to them besides those already gathered." Isaiah 56:8

Loving God, you plead with us to repent and to turn from corrupt ways. You extend forgiveness to all persons willing to receive you. Through your saving grace may all nations and races come to know you. Amen.

### **Monday:**

God says, "My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my intention." Isaiah 46:10

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman. Galatians 4:4

All-powerful Creator, we acknowledge that you are God and there is none other like you. You fulfilled your great plan by sending your Son, Jesus, to earth to be born as an infant, to live a human life, to die for our sins, and to be raised from the dead. We thank you for our redemption and we look forward to the day when we will live with you eternally. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. 1 Peter 2:1

Lord, you sit at God's right hand. You teach us that you would have us live lives full of truth and righteousness. May we put our faith and hope in you, love one another, avoid sinful actions, and live a life that will glorify God. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Wednesday:**

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." James 2:8

Almighty God, our duty is to keep your commandments, including the great commandment to love our neighbor as our self. God, you know our every thought, word, and action; you judge each deed, whether good or evil. We often struggle to keep your commandments. Grant us strength to live as you would have us live. Amen.

### **Thursday:**

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 5:21

Mighty God, as a people and a nation we have been richly blessed, but Lord, we often forget that striving for material goods or weapons to use against others will not bring us closer to you. Yet if we trust you and turn from wrongdoing, you will keep us safe and protect us. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Jesus said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink." John 7:37

Jesus, Light of the world, thank you for your unfailing love. Help us to put our trust in you. May we look to you for living water and for the Spirit to guide us. In your name we pray. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time. Ephesians 5:15-16

Eternal God, we praise you for sending your Son and for delivering us from the power of death. We do not know the future or how long we will live upon this earth. We confess that our choices are not always wise and we do not make the most of opportunities before us. Help us to know your will and to guide us in a life of service to you. Amen.

*Continue*

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

