

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. 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

Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

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 23rd, 2014

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 119:33-37

One: Teach us, O Lord, all of your ways,

Many: And we will follow You in all things.

One: Give us understanding, that we may keep your covenant,

Many: And trust it with our whole heart.

One: Lead us in the path of your commandments,

Many: For we find joy in following You.

One: In this time of worship, may we draw closer to You.

All: Lord, open our hearts and minds to You!

***Opening Hymn**

“God of Grace and God of Glory” #569

***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

Sue Prenzlou

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Beautiful Savior”

Laura Fritz

***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 the Living God” #492

Scripture

Matthew 5:38-48 (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

“God-Given Identity”

***Closing Hymn**

“You Call Us, Lord” #583

***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 23rd, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Ginny Kinzie

Organist—Kris Madsen

Greeters—Doug and Laura Fritz

Head Usher—Wally Johnson

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

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 Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell at rev-o-lution.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
- Kathie Treanor, who is recovering at home from an 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."
- Hutch Cramer, who fell this weekend and broke his hip, and for Kathy, his wife, and Joanne, his daughter

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

- Thanksgiving for the wonderful fellowship during the send-off for Fern Greeley, which was an excellent tribute for when she went home last week
- Thanksgiving to the Lord for the blessings of children to share God's love with
- Thanksgiving for all our blessings from the Lord
- Thanksgiving for the ministry of music from Kris Madsen
- Prayers for the gathering next Sunday as Jay DeLeon speaks to our area about his business
- Prayers for Clint Lindemann's daughter-in-law, Phyllis, who is having breathing health issues

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 6th, 2014. Fern's funeral was February 11th at Bethel Baptist Church of Mankato.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Rev. Deb Celly, most recently the pastor of First Congregational UCC Church in Mankato, who passed away on February 14th, 2014. Deb is survived by her husband, Rich, and her daughters, Julia and Jennifer. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, February 23rd, 2014

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. We still have 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.

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.”

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.

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 23rd, 2014

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

Planning Ahead

Monday, March 3rd, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, March 4th, 6:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, March 5th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, March 5th, 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, March 6th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, March 6th, 6:00 p.m. Wrestling Banquet


The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, February 23rd, 2014

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Remember: Sunday, March 2nd, 2014 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.

Daylight Savings Time

Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour on **Saturday, March 8th, 2014**. Spring Forward! 

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, fur, and fly fishing shows. His products go across the United States and overseas.

Odd Fellows Pancake Brunch

“Pancakes with a Purpose” will be held on **Sunday, March 9th, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall of The United Church of Mapleton. You can enjoy a delicious brunch of pancakes and more from our Mapleton Odd Fellows!

All proceeds will go to help sponsor our local youth’s attendance at Camp FaHoCha, (Faith, Hope, and Charity) located at German Lake, southeast of Cleveland MN. What a wonderful and delicious way to help out some of our local youth!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, February 23rd, 2014

The Well Request

The Well Youth Center is requesting donations of empty gallon milk jugs (please rinse well) and empty gallon water jugs.

You may drop the plastic containers into the blue container outside of The Well or in the west entry of The United Church of Mapleton.

Youth will be learning a life-skills project “Winter Sown Seeds” presented by Carolyn Becker, Master Gardener.

Loaves & Fishes

We’re focusing on a new event called “**Pack the Pews**”, the weekend of **March 21-23**. You are encouraged to bring a grocery bag of non-perishables to your worship service to be donated to Loaves & Fishes.

The March campaign also matches the dollar amount donated throughout the month of March. Remember, for every dollar you donate, we can buy \$10 worth of food using our network which includes Second Harvest, Dietz Foods and other organizations.

What to collect:

Food Donations – Food shelves need all types of food, paper, personal hygiene and cleaning products.

Cash Donations – Easier to collect and deliver. Cash also gives us more flexibility to acquire perishable items like fresh produce, meat and dairy products.

Thank you!

Maple River Loaves & Fishes
(507) 524-3046



Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him. Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Sunday:

You save humans and animals alike, O Lord. Psalm 36:6
Creator God, who made us and every creature, the Psalmist tells us that in your unfailing love you preserve both human and beast. Thank you for watching over us and protecting us. We offer praise that through your Son's birth, death, and resurrection we are given freedom from the power of death. Our hope is in you and in the life to come. Amen.

Monday:

Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." John 16:13
Eternal God, you sent your Son as promised. Your grace is freely offered to us. Open our hearts that we may be transformed by your Spirit of truth and grace. We do not have words to adequately thank you for blessing us with your Spirit. May our gratitude be shown in our daily walk with you. Amen.

Tuesday:

Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it. 1 Peter 5:2
Loving God, you surround us with love and call us to worship you. Teach us the joy of loving and serving others. Wherever our walk in life takes us, may it be in response to your call to share your love with all people. Amen.

Wednesday:

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Joel 2:32
Merciful God, we know that we sin and that we are in need of your saving grace. Thank you for reaching out when we call upon you. Draw us closer to you, and may we joyfully serve you. Amen.

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God. Hebrews 12:15
Lord, we often go about our daily lives forgetting to seek your guidance. Turn us back to you and forgive our waywardness. Help us to live in peace with all people and to share your message of grace. Amen.

Friday:

As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Mark 6:34
Blessed Jesus, you came to earth for us and you took upon yourself all our sins. Thank you for that great sacrifice. Daily we need your care, your leading, and your protection. Thank you for watching over us and loving us. Amen.

Saturday:

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel. Galatians 1:6
Loving Savior, you know that too often we stray from the way you would have us to go. We confess that we follow things of the world; we fail to seek your will for us; we do not do the things we know to do. Lord, we ask your forgiveness. Give us strength to live as you would have us live. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

