

## 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: Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, 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 the outbreak of the Zika virus and the serious health concerns suspected to be related to it
- All those affected by the recent cyclone in Fiji, which killed at least 21 people
- All those affected by the drought in Ethiopia, which is the worst the country has seen in over fifty years and has affected more than 10 million people

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

#### Prayers:

- For a friend hospitalized in Rochester who had an accident and has been in a coma for two weeks
- Of healing for Wally Johnson who fell Friday and broke his left collarbone
- For sisters Carol and Connie and Connie's family
- That the Lord would teach us acceptance and understanding of those afflicted with mental health challenges and addiction difficulties
- For Phyllis Lindemann, wife of Tim Lindemann, who is having an evaluation at University of Minnesota on March 3rd for a lung transplant

#### Thanksgiving:

- For continuing healing and improved health
- To God for grandchildren and their energy
- To God for a church home to come to. May our church reach out to all and bring them closer to God.

## The United Church of Mapleton

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

(507) 524-3141

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

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

### 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 28th, 2016

Third 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

One: We've come to worship the Lord:

**Many: who makes streams flow from rock,  
who turns the parched earth into springs of water,**

One: who sends the rain from heaven

and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.

**Many: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,  
so we thirst for You, O God.**

One: Come, let's worship our life-giving God,

**All: who pours out living water on all who thirst!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Let All Creation Bless the Lord” #25

**\*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**

**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**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” #72

**Scripture**

Isaiah 55:1-13 (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**

“Repent, Return, Rejoice”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Now Thank We All Our God” #14

**\*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 28th, 2016

Pastor—Karen Swenson  
Lay Reader—Laura Fritz  
Pianist—Pam Braunshausen  
Sound System—Dick Dietz  
Greeter—Mabelle Larson  
Head Usher—Mike and Julie Johnson  
Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

### 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 Rev. Christine Longhurst at [re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com) and is inspired by Psalm 42:1-2, Psalm 63:1-2, Isaiah 55:1-5, John 4:13-15, John 7:37-39, Revelation 21:6.

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.

## 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](mailto: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 28th, 2016**

**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 28th, 2016**

Tuesday, March 1st, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, March 1st, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group  
Wednesday, March 2nd, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT

**Planning Ahead**

Sunday, March 6th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation  
Sunday, March 6th, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice  
Tuesday, March 8th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, March 8th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group  
Wednesday, March 9th, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper  
Wednesday, March 9th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service  
Friday, March 11th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. MR Wrestling Banquet  
Sunday, March 13th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation  
Monday, March 14th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship  
Tuesday, March 15th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**  
Wednesday, March 16th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT  
Sunday, March 20th, 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch

**How to Contact Pastor Ashley**

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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 28th, 2016**

**Sign-Up for Lay Readers and Ushers**

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

**Fellowship of Prayer**

After worship each Sunday of Lent, all are welcome to come to the Overflow Room 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. Copies will be available to take home and use throughout the week.

**Easter Season Plants**

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the Sanctuary door to **purchase and bring in your own**, Easter lily, tulip, daffodil or hyacinth plants in (M) memory of, or in (H) honor of your loved ones. Please bring your plants to the church **by Sunday, March 20th or sometime during that week**. Please write your names under your plant. Thank you for helping beautify our Sanctuary for the Easter season!

**Maple River Youth Center**

The Maple River Youth Center will be hosting a Homemade Spaghetti Dinner including salad, dessert and beverage on Sunday, February 28th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. This is a Free Will Offering.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, February 28th, 2016**

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

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. 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.

**Odd Fellows Pancake Breakfast**

“Pancakes with a Purpose” will be held on **Sunday, March 6th, 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 breakfast 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!

**Mapleton Sertoma Club**

The Mapleton Sertoma Club is accepting letters of nomination for Service to Mankind. Please send your letter of nomination **by March 15th** to Louise Webb, PO Box 93, Mapleton, MN 56065.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** No one who believes in Christ will be put to shame. Romans 10:11

### **Sunday:**

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Protector God, our strength for meeting life's trials comes from you. You are our Shield, our Foundation, our Guardian, and our Friend. Help us to stay strong in faith, hope, and love so that we may serve others in your name. Amen.

### **Monday:**

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Heavenly Father, this world tests our resolve and our faith in you. Too many times we feel the fear and heartache of a life without you. Yet, your smiling face and gentle hand remind us of your love and give us the power to live lives of goodness and hope. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

The Lord Jesus took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." 1 Corinthians 11:25

Lamb of God, with your shed blood you saved us all. When we drink from the cup, we remember your sacrifice and affirm the covenant that binds us to you. May we be one with you forever. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone who sets their heart on seeking God. 2 Chronicles 30:18–19 (NIV)

Gracious King, every day we seek your love and grace. We are pilgrims—sometimes lost, sometimes on the right path, sometimes tired of traveling—yet we always hope to see your face throughout our journey and at its end. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. Psalm 96:3

Lord, your goodness and light fills all the world. As believers, we see that light and feel that goodness, yet many do not. Help us to open the door of faith to welcome those who desire your love. In your name we pray. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Jesus Christ says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

Father most holy, you teach us to feed the hungry, comfort the sick, clothe the naked, and welcome the stranger. Help us to see these as everyday occurrences, not occasional efforts, so that through you we can improve our world. In your name we pray. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

Gracious God, the world presents us with many fears and worries. But in you we have one who makes us brave in the face of these fears. May your spirit of love and power strengthen and protect us all the days of our lives. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*