

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

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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 2nd, 2014

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

Many: Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance to the meek.

Many: Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

Many: Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

Many: Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

All: Glorious is our God, who is the source of all blessings.

***Opening Hymn**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!” #231

***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

Laura Fritz

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “There’s Something About That Name” Adult Choir

***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

Matthew 5:1-12 (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!

Message

“True Blessedness”

Communion Service

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

***Closing Hymn**

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” #591
Verses 1, 3, 4, 5

***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 2nd, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Karen Stanton
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Stan and Linda Whitney
Head Usher—Wally Johnson
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection (*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*)
10:05 a.m. Choir practice
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 Bruce Prewer at bruceprewer.com.

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 at Country Neighbors from a recent fall at work

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

- Praise to God for the glorious spectacle of baptism
- Thanksgiving for remembrances of many years of fellowship with Richard Shuck and his family

Minnesota Lake Ambulance Service

The Minnesota Lake Ambulance Soup and Pie Supper will be held on Sunday, February 9th, 2014. Serving will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Minnesota Lake.

This fundraiser will help defray some of the expenses of equipment and training for the ambulance personnel.

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 2nd, 2014

Monday, February 3rd, 6:30—8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, February 4th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, February 4th, 7:00 p.m. Christian Education

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

Wednesday, February 5th, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, February 6th, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, February 8th, 9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties

Planning Ahead

Monday, February 10th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, February 11th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, February 12th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, February 12th, Deacons

Wednesday, February 12th, Trustees

Wednesday, February 12th, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, February 13th, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, February 2nd, 2014

“Sweets for Your Sweet” Cookie Fundraiser

Cookie orders are **due to the church office on or before Thursday, February 6th** and will be available for **pickup in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 9th**. Thank you!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit The United Church Camp Scholarship Fund. This year, we plan to attend Quest Youth Camp in Green Lake, Wisconsin in June.

Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf

Remember: Sunday, February 2nd, 2014 we will collect donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

The United Church supports Loaves and Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

The Loaves & Fishes Annual Report is posted on the church bulletin board.

The Well Youth Center Fundraiser

The Well Youth Center will host a “Hotdish Smorgasbord” on **Sunday February 9th from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**, 106 Main St. NE, Mapleton. Please stop in for a delicious, hot meal while supporting your local youth center.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, February 2nd, 2014

Community Closet

The Community Closet thrift store, located above the Plaid Piper in Mapleton, will continue to be open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. We will be continuing to offer the \$3 bag sale on clothing and shoes. In doing so, we are able to have a faster turnover in merchandise so the customers will have new things to look at regularly. We accept donations of gently used clothing of all sizes and shoes in good condition, as well as household goods, linens, toys, games, puzzles and books. If you are able, please take your donations to the top of the stairs by the door. Sorry, we can not accept any electronics or furniture (unless it is very small). Come in and take a look at items that are the lowest prices anywhere.

If you would like to volunteer as a worker at the Closet, we are there every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and can always use your help.

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

Sunday:

Jesus said, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant." Mark 10:42-43

Dear God, help us to stay calm through the storms that rage through our lives. We know the importance of dedicating our lives to you. Because of your love, our stay on earth is spirit-filled and joyful beyond compare. Hear our cry, O Lord. Amen.

Monday:

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

We come to you, Lord, in need of redemption. Cleanse us, O Lord, in body and soul. Scrub clean our hearts and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Send us out into the world as shining examples of your love. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Tuesday:

It has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.
1 Samuel 12:22

Heavenly Sustainer, we give thanks for our families and friends, our church and our jobs, our trials and adversities, and our triumphs and accomplishments. You supply all our needs even before we may ask in prayer. Thank you, Lord, for your kind and generous spirit. Amen.

Wednesday:

God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:9-10

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Heavenly God, how can we thank you for your steadfast, unchanging, and unwavering love? You loved us before our birth, and we thank you through our worship and give you great honor, O Lord. Thank you. Amen.

Thursday:

A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you. Ezekiel 36:26

The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 13:52

Most gracious Lord and God, you have fulfilled your promise to create in us a new spirit and a joy-filled heart. You have already equipped us for the joyful work of winning souls for your kingdom. Let us be ever refilled as we share your love, joy, and grace. Amen.

Friday:

Jesus prays, "The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:22-23

God, use us as conduits. Pour your precious Spirit into our hearts and guide us into the world to be guides and examples to those who have lost sight of your majesty. In your name we pray. Amen.

Saturday:

Paul writes: 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

Lord God, Comforter, Protector, and Savior, our hearts are filled with joy as you hold us close to you. Never let us go. We thank you for your precious son Jesus, our guide and shepherd. Keep us close to you Lord God, always. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue

