

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: Geri Howieson, Jack Madsen, 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

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

Prayers:

- For Mike Smith, who was diagnosed with an aggressive neurological disorder
- For Joan Timm, who is recovering at Pathstone after a fall
- For Jack Ward, who is having surgery this week to remove his tonsils and adenoids
- For an elderly aunt with health issues who is currently in the hospital in Mankato
- For the Hernandez and Luhring families for strength and understanding of God's love during their time of loss

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 7th, 2016
Transfiguration Sunday

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 Psalm 50

One: Come, listen to the One

**Many: who speaks and summons the earth,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

One: Come, glorify the One

**Many: whose righteousness the heavens declare
for God alone is judge.**

One: Come, bring thanksgiving, the sacrifice that honors the One

**Many: who shows the salvation of God
and delivers us in the day of trouble.**

One: The Lord comes forth and does not keep silence.

All: Speak to us, God, for we are listening!

***Opening Hymn**

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” #245

***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!

***Moment of 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

Darlene Fezler

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**

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” #99

Scripture

Luke 9:28-36 (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

“First Glory: Change and Command”

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.

All of our Communion elements are gluten free. During the serving of the bread, Pastor Ashley will walk through the Sanctuary to offer a pastoral blessing if you or your child(ren) choose to not receive Communion today.

***Closing Hymn**

“Now Let Us from This Table Rise” #715

***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 7th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Karen Stanton

Organist—Jan Lange

Guitar and Vocals—Laura Fritz, Marissa Pfeffer, Sheila Samuelson

Greeter—Mabelle Larson

Head Ushers—Don and Pam Foster; Ron Conrad

Coffee Hour Host—Church Council

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes

Food Shelf Collections

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 based on liturgies by Robin Knowles Wallace (2008) and James E. Janecek (2013), posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* website (ucc.org/worship/worship-ways).

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.

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 7th, 2016

Maple River Loaves & Fishes

Greetings from Maple River Loaves and Fishes! 2015 was an amazing year, with challenges and enormous growth. Here are our final numbers for the year:

MRLF served 232 different families at least once this year

1365 Family visits (up from 1159 in 2014)

4984 People (up from 4306 in 2014)

2097 Children (up from 1768 in 2014)

151,499 pounds of food!! (up 21,194 pounds)

141 Thanksgiving Boxes

145 Christmas Boxes

We thank the Lord for this community and churches! Without so many of you, MRLF could not help feed those needy families in our area. If you have not been to the food shelf recently, please see your board member to volunteer. You will so glad that you did! Please call the food shelf at 507-524-3046 or stop by when we are open. Our hours are Tuesdays from 3 -6 pm and Saturdays from 9am – noon. Thank You!

Jon Klenk, Director, Maple River Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

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.

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 7th, 2016

Sunday, February 7th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation

Monday, February 8th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, February 9th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, February 9th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group

Wednesday, February 10th, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper

Wednesday, February 10th, 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Lenten Service

Planning Ahead

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**

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 7th, 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.

If you would like more information, please contact Marian Mallory or any member of the Diaconate.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, Sunday, February 7th, 2016 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

2015 Giving Statements

The 2015 giving statements are now available in the Overflow Room. Please pick them up after the morning worship service. Thank you!

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), 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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, February 7th, 2016

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!

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.

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*.

“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. You may come for the day; spend the night; worship together on Sunday. 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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

Sunday:

God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:5–7

Lord of all blessings, we often become content with our lives, thinking we will never be shaken; but when hardship arises we fear losing you. You are never far from us and we need only to reach out with humble spirits, acknowledging your grace and love even in the most difficult times. Amen.

Monday:

Come; for everything is ready now. Luke 14:17

Gracious Lord, through your blessings we become ready for all things. We are strengthened with your grace and guided by your Spirit. We hope for every opportunity to show that we are ready to answer your call. Amen.

Tuesday:

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. Psalm 65:8 (NIV)

From the first morning of our lives to the last evening that falls upon us, we live in your joy, Creator God. It is a blessing to be one with you, and with all those who serve you. As we continue our journeys here in your creation, may we hold each moment dearly. Amen.

Wednesday:

We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. 1 Corinthians 2:12

Loving Spirit, we rejoice because you have called us into relationship with God. You have opened to us God's word which proclaims the wonders of God's work. You make us aware of all God's miracles surrounding us each day. Amen.

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

And now, Lord, grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness. Acts 4:29

In a world that needs your message of love so dearly, Lord, give us words to share and strength to share them. Make our lives your message to all with whom you bring us into contact. May they hear your words in all that we do. Amen.

Friday:

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11

Lord of righteousness, make all your treasures our pursuit. You brought into the turmoil of this world all good and great joy. Help us to focus our lives on all that you have given us. Guide us to live lives that show the joy of your creation. Amen.

Saturday:

Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you. Zechariah 8:23

O, they wish to see Jesus; how we have longed for the same thing, Lord! We forget that you are all around us: in a child's smile, in a loved one's embrace, in outstretched hands, in every kind word. "Sir, they wish to see Jesus;" may they see you in us. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts