

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: 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
- All those affected by the earthquake in Taiwan, including the 24+ people who lost their lives and the 100+ people still trapped in rubble as of Sunday
- All those affected by the outbreak of the Zika virus and the serious health concerns suspected to be related to it
- Jack Madsen, who broke his hip during a fall last week and is now recovering from surgery

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

Prayers:

- For all those who are lost and need God's light in their lives

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 21st, 2016

Second 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

Based on Psalm 27:1-8

One: The Lord is our light and our salvation;
whom shall we fear?

**Many: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives;
of whom shall we be afraid?**

One: For God will shelter us in the day of trouble
and conceal us under the cover of a tent.

**Many: Hear us, O Lord, when we cry aloud;
be gracious to us and answer us!**

One: Come, let us seek God's face together.

All: Your face, O Lord, we seek together!

***Opening Hymn**

“Great God, as We Are Gathering” #604

***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

Marian Mallory

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**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #61

Scripture

Philippians 3:17-4:1 (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

“Citizens of Heaven”

***Closing Hymn**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #507

***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 21st, 2016

Pastor—Reverend Susan Griffith Lund
Lay Reader—Bruce Stanton
Organist—Jola Walker
Sound System—Dick Dietz
Greeter—Mabelle Larson
Head Usher—Ron Conrad
Coffee Hour Host—Youth Center

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Youth Center 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. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Today's *Call to Worship* is by Rev. Christine Longhurst at re-worship.blogspot.com.

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.

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 21st, 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 21st, 2016

Sunday, February 21st, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation

Sunday, February 21st, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 23rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, February 23rd, 8:00 a.m. Newsletter Articles are due!

Tuesday, February 23rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group

Wednesday, February 24th, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Supper

Wednesday, February 24th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

Planning Ahead

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

Sunday, March 6th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation

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

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 21st, 2016

Sign-Up for Lay Readers, Ushers and Greeters

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

Reverend Sarah Griffith Lund

Reverend Sarah Griffith Lund is passionate about loving her family, God, and being part of faith communities. She is an ordained minister and has served as pastor to churches in Brooklyn, NY, Minneapolis, MN, and New Smyrna Beach, FL. She holds degrees from Trinity University, Princeton Theological Seminary, Rutgers University, and McCormick Theological Seminary. She currently serves as a Vice President for Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. Sarah serves on national leadership teams with the United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, and the Bethany Fellows.

Sarah received the Engle Preaching Prize at Princeton and The Bob and Joyce Dell Award for Mental Health Education from the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network in 2015 for "her outstanding authorship and leadership in breaking the silence about mental illness in family and in church and offering healing and hope." She is the author of the acclaimed book, *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church* (Chalice Press, 2014). Sarah blogs at sarahgriffithlund.com and at huffingtonpost.com.

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 (who visited The United Church for a panel about mental health and faith on Saturday, February 20th and to preach in worship Sunday, February 21st). Copies will be available to take home and use throughout the week.

Maple River Youth Center

Today, we will take collections in the mission at the back of the sanctuary for the local youth center. The United Church supports this mission on the third Sunday of each month. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, February 21st, 2016

Message from Eric Swanson

The church received a phone call from Eric this past week. Eric wants us know that The United Church is close to his heart and that he loves us all and thinks of us often.

Minnesota Lake Ambulance Service-Soup and Pie Supper

The Minnesota Lake Ambulance will put on a Soup and Pie Supper to help defray expenses of the ambulance such as new and better equipment and training for volunteers. This event will be held Sunday, **February 21st, 2016 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Minnesota Lake.

**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!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. Matthew 17:8

Sunday:

Christ says, “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” John 15:4

O Redeemer, today we remember how Jesus’ face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white as you prepared to save the world through him. May your bright light continue to shine on us always. Amen.

Monday:

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 4:15

Lord, the good you do for our sake fills our hearts with joy. Teach us to bring that joy to others, so they too may behold your love and grace. In your name we pray. Amen.

Tuesday:

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Matthew 6:26

Lord Jesus, in all we see and do, we recognize your life-giving touch. We thank you for feeding our hearts, our souls, and our minds. May we give ourselves entirely to you. Amen.

Wednesday:

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. Psalm 5:3 (NIV)

Holy Father, as we begin our Lenten journey, guide us to pray as you prayed. Help us to hear your voice during this season of preparation. Despite the dark days to come, we know that light and life await us come Easter. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Luke 1:46–47

Gracious God, lifting our voices and singing your praise bring us closer to you. Hear us as we rejoice, thanking you for all the goodness and strength you bring to us and to the world. In your name we pray. Amen.

Friday:

To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. John 1:12

Heavenly Father, we come to you as strangers, yet are welcomed as your children. Enfold your loving arms around us, protect us from evil and show us the right path to follow. With hope, we pray. Amen.

Saturday:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6

Righteous One, help us to see right from wrong and good from evil in the world around us. Fill us with your Spirit, and lead us to lives of wisdom, justice, and understanding. In your name we pray. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue