

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, Dawn Dietz, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Alberta Samuelson, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen, Bill Pfeffer, Sue Prenzlou, Roberta Ward
- Sean Mallory, who had emergency surgery for a bowel obstruction on December 31st and will be in recovery for several weeks
- Former President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist, who announced that he has cancer in his brain and is undergoing treatment
- 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 all those affected by the recent severe weather and tornadoes in the South and for the flashpoints of chaos all over the world

The United Church of Mapleton

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www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

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, January 10th, 2016

Baptism of the Lord 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 29, Luke 3:21-22

One: The voice of God resounds upon the water.

Many: The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

One: The Son of God is named "beloved,"

Many: and all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

One: Let us ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

All: Let us worship God in wonder and praise!

***Opening Hymn**

“When Jesus Came to Jordan” #241

***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

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**

“Spirit of the Living God” #492

Scripture

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (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 Prayer: Baptism and the Holy Spirit”

***Closing Hymn**

“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God” #140

***Benediction**

Please be mindful of others who continue to worship through the Postlude.

Postlude

****Please rise in body or spirit.****

Serving Us Today: Sunday, January 10th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Reader—Jack Madsen
Organist—
Greeters—Doug and Laura Fritz
Head Usher—Ruth Cumming
Coffee Hour Host—Youth Center

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 for grades PreK-2nd (*classroom A, upstairs across from office*)
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Today's *Call to Worship* is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long, Westminster John Knox Press.

The **paraments are white** during the Christmas season (culminating in the feast of the Epiphany) and help invite the church to reflect on the incarnation (embodiment) of God as a human being: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory" (John 1:14). In Christ, God enters human history and identifies fully with the human condition. The traditional color of this season is white, symbolizing joy in the light of God. *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, January 10th, 2016

Breakfast Benefit

A Breakfast fundraiser for the family of Aubrielle Howley, granddaughter of Joe and Cathy Wittrock of St. Teresa Church will be held on **Sunday, January 24th from 9:30-noon at St. Teresa Church** in Mapleton. Menu will include pancakes, ham, and eggs for a free will donation.

Aubrielle has been in the hospital since her birth in May of 2015 and has undergone several operations. Please plan on attending and helping out this family that has suffered much in the last 6 months and incurred many physical, emotional, and financial hardships. Please continue to pray for Aubrielle and her family.

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, January 10th, 2016

Sunday, January 10th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Sunday, January 10th, 5:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off
Monday, January 11th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, January 12th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, January 12th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cooking Matters Class
Saturday, January 16th, 9:00-11:00 p.m. Kilties

Planning Ahead

Sunday, January 17th, 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting
Tuesday, January 19th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, January 19th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cooking Matters Class
Tuesday, January 19th, 9:00-noon UCM workday at Loaves & Fishes
Wednesday, January 20th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, January 20th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Chili Cook Off Date Change!

The Chili Cook Off date has been changed to **Sunday, January 31st** due to scheduling issues. The time will be the same (drop off chili contest entries by 4:00pm, contest and chili feed begins at 5:00pm). This leaves everyone plenty of time to continue to sign up as chili contestants or to donate an item for the silent auction! Remember, all proceeds benefit Cows for Christmas (Heifer International). Thank you very much!

Poinsettia Plants

You are welcome to take your Christmas poinsettia plants home at any time. You may find them in the narthex area. Thank you again for helping decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season!

One of the beautiful poinsettia plants was in (M) of Harlow and Adeline Beise and donated by Bill and Deanna Beise.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 10th, 2016

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.-noon 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!

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.

Annual Meeting Updates

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following our regular Sunday morning worship service on **January 17th, 2016**, to review the 2015 Financials, approve the 2016 Budget, and to approve the 2016 Committees and Boards. **Everyone is invited to participate.** Coffee and rolls will be served by the Women's Fellowship.

Annual Reports are due into the church office by **Friday, January 8th, 2016.** Please submit your reports electronically and in an attachment (not a paper copy) to the church office by emailing Sheila at secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org. Thank you!

Women's Fellowship Program

You are invited to the Women's Fellowship meeting on **Monday, January 11th** to hear Carolyn Becker speak on the subject of Master Gardening. All ladies of the church are invited to attend!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 10th, 2016

Children's Sunday School Teachers Needed!

The Board of Christian Education and our new Christian Education Coordinator are in need of teachers to help with the Children's Sunday School class. This class is for children PreK-2nd grade during Sunday morning worship after the Message for God's Children and will be offered every Sunday beginning January 3rd. We already have teachers through January 17th, but could you help with a Sunday after then? Give it a try! All ages and both men and women are welcome. No long-term commitment required.

You're invited to sign up on your own or in pairs. Pre-selected stand-alone lessons are available next to a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Simply choose a lesson that looks like fun to you and prepare it for your selected Sunday. If no children on that Sunday are interested in Sunday School, then hang on to your lesson and sign up for another Sunday. It's that easy!

Pastor Ashley recently spoke with several young families from our church and they all said that Sunday School is an important ministry for their children. By having a wide variety of teachers for Sunday School, you can help ensure the long-term viability of this ministry and help our children have a meaningful faith formation experience. Teaching is also a great way to get to know the children and families of The United Church. Children aren't the future of the church—they are the church, here and now. How can you help support them as they seek to grow in their faith? Thank you!

The Life and Work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

An interfaith celebration based on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held **Sunday, January 17th at 4:00 p.m.** at 1st Congregational UCC, 150 Stadium Court, Mankato, MN.

Also included are a service of readings, personal stories, music and an offering of prayers for the coming of Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community. This celebration will be led by local Christian and Islamic religious communities and educators. There will be music by guitarist Woody Mann (www.woodymann.com) and vocalist Christi Smith.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. Psalm 148:13

Sunday:

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit. John 15:16

Who, us, Lord? You chose us? But we are too small, too old, too young, too poor, too busy to heed your call. Forgive our excuses and fill us, instead, with your Spirit of unselfish commitment and action so that we bear fruit for your kingdom. Amen.

Monday:

Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Tireless Creator, often we succumb to post-celebration doldrums. We lose our enthusiasm for service and witness. Help us remember that even in the dullness of daily routine we can share your grace. Rekindle the coals of our hearts with the fire of your love. Amen.

Tuesday:

Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:17

It is difficult to discern your will, God of Wisdom. The Scriptures inform us, but interpretations can be controversial, even adversarial. Forgive our allowance of such disagreements to obstruct the work of your Spirit in us. Show us how to live the way, the truth, and the life of sacrificial love. Amen.

Wednesday:

He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

Mighty Healer, we live in a world of great pain. Injustice, war, disaster, disease, selfishness, and hard-heartedness inflict injuries only you can heal. May your love soothe all wounded bodies and souls and may your example of compassion inspire us to offer that same love to those in distress. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

Trusting you completely is a daily, sometimes hourly, struggle, Jesus. The mystery of your incarnation and your resurrection competes with our desire for proof. When tough times and unanswered prayers weaken our faith, grant us the strength to pray the prayer that never fails: "Thy will be done." Amen.

Friday:

O give thanks to the Lord of lords, who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:3-4

Lord, through you all things are possible. As we sit at the precipice of a new year, may we look upon it with hope and expectation of what you will enable us to do in your name and through your love. Amen.

Saturday:

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3 (NIV)

Guiding Spirit, may we recognize your voice as you call us by name into your wonderful kingdom: the kingdom you claim here on earth and the one where we will join you in heaven. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue