

Service Notes

The **paraments** are **white** during the Baptism of The Lord Sunday, helping 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. *This information is 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, January 12th, 2014

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: Today we remember the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth, when God says:

Many: “Look! This is my beloved Son!

One: I have placed my Spirit on him, he will bring true justice to the nations.”

Many: When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up,

One: the Spirit came down like a dove, and the voice from heaven said,

Many: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am delighted.”

One: As we worship, may we hear God’s voice speak to each of us again:

All: “You are my beloved child, with whom I am delighted.”

Hallelujah!

***Opening Hymn**

“When Jesus Came to Jordan” #241

***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

Jon Klenk

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**

“To God Be the Glory” #66

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (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

***Closing Hymn**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” #712

***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 12th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Eric Swanson

Lay Leader—Jack Madsen

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Warren and Cindy Allevan

Head Usher—Robert Shubert

Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*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

10:00-10:30 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 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 Pever at re-worship.blogspot.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 undergoing radiation for two kinds of cancer (b-cell lymphoma and Burkett's lymphoma). We pray for Pastor Deb and her family (husband Richard and daughters Julia and Jennifer)
 - Bruce Stanton, who continues to recover from surgery on his ribs after a fall
 - For Norma Baack, who continues to recover from a fall and recent hospitalization
 - Kathie Treanor, who is recovering from a recent fall at work

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

- Thankfulness for the many years of service to the health of our community along with service to our church; may Dr. Carolyn Becker have a fruitful retirement
- Joy at Caden Clark's 8th birthday on Friday, January 3rd
- Continued prayers for the Potter family of Springfield (relatives of the Clark family) and for the town in their recent loss of two young men
- Prayers for Pastor Ashley's speedy recovery (with back pain)

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Esther Weigel, sister of Ella Conrad, who passed away on Thursday, December 26th in the Twin cities area. Her funeral arrangements are not yet determined.

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 12th, 2014

Monday, January 13th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, January 14th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, January 15th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, January 15th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Wednesday, January 15th, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, January 16th, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, January 18th, 9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties

Planning Ahead

Sunday, January 19th, 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

Monday, January 20th, 6:30—8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, January 21st, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, January 22nd, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, January 22nd, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, January 23rd, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, January 25th, 9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 12th, 2014

Annual Meeting Updates

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following our regular Sunday morning worship service on **January 19th, 2014**, to review the 2013 Financials, approve the 2014 Budget, and to approve the 2014 Committees and Boards.

Everyone is invited to participate. There will be a Potluck Dinner served by the Women's Fellowship. **Please bring a dish to pass!**

Bible Study

Reminder that Bible Study class will resume on **Thursday, January 16th.**

The Well Youth Center

Sunday, January 12th & 19th, 2014

Coffee Hour (12th) and the Collection jar (19th) will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 12th, 2014

Community Closet

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.

Mapleton Community Home/Heritage Place

Due to the increasing number of residents at our Heritage Place facility, we are no longer able to continue holding Sunday Breakfasts on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your past support.

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: Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
Psalm 148:13

Sunday:

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

All-knowing God, you understand how self-centered our days can become. Expand our horizons and bless us with vision, to serve you more faithfully through our care of all your creation.
Amen.

Monday:

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

With the passing of another year, God, we reflect on all we have experienced. Grant us peace as we look back and see your steadfast love in the midst of it all. In faith, we continue our walk with you. Amen.

Tuesday:

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

As we awaken to a new year, let our first thought be a song of praise to our Father in heaven. For your gift of life, we thank you from the depths of our hearts and we boldly call upon you, Lord, to lead us safely through our time on earth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Wednesday:

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:5

Blessed Savior, you continually pour your limitless love into us. Let us open our hearts and touch those in our communities who have strayed from your tender embrace, especially those who are without hope. We ask this in your precious name. Amen.

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you. Haggai 2:4

Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church. 1 Corinthians 14:12

Thank you for bestowing the blessings of the Spirit on all believers. We accept these gifts with gratitude and humility. Help us to be a shining example to our fellow believers and by our example, others will be drawn to the well. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday:

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6

Lord God, your light is brighter than the sun. It is so powerful that wherever we are, our path is lit and our fear of the dark is no more. Continue to light our way throughout our lives. Glory be to you. Amen.

Saturday:

Surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. Psalm 54:4

Almighty God, we praise your name. Lord, we worship and adore you, for you are our strength and our shield against the challenges that we encounter daily. You are always faithful and never fail your obedient children. As you direct us, we trust in your divine wisdom. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

