

Interim: As we begin this interim time together,

Congregation: *And we, the people of United Church, of Mapleton, receive you as a servant of God and pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us, in the many ministries of the gospel in this place: in worship, education, witness, service and stewardship.*

***Song to Send Us Forth**

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings #355 (vs. 1, 3 only)

***Blessing**

One: We could wait here for God to warm us with stories of love and hope,

All: *but we will go to be with those in the bleak midwinter of their lives.*

One: We could wait in the security of this sacred space for Jesus,

All: *but we will go to see where he wants us to serve in faith.*

One: We could wait in stillness with the Spirit,

All: *but we will go to light a way for all hidden in the shadows of life. May this new beginning marked this day be the start of our responding to God’s call on each of our lives.*

Postlude

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

The United Church of Mapleton

Order of Worship

Sunday, January 15th, 2017

Our Mission:

The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.

*The * symbolizes an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

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!

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Centering Ourselves in Preparation for Worship

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Our Mother-Father

has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: United and uniting. This is our calling.

One: God calls us to share our diverse gifts activated by the one and same Spirit .

All: United and uniting. This is our redemption.

One: God longs for us to be united in love and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

All: United and uniting. This is our worship.

One: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship to our Holy God, who challenges us and calls us to create the Beloved Community.

***Gathering Song**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” #729

***Words from Scripture and Words from Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Please refer to the bulletin insert entitled “Words from Scripture and Words from Martin Luther King, Jr.”

Message for All God's Children

Dream God's Dream by Bryan Sirchio

Sharing Our Gifts

*All adults are invited to share any spare change they may have with the children nearest them so that all may participate through the offering. Children are invited to place their offering in the offering basket or come to the front of the Sanctuary and place it in the jar. For the month of **January**, the Mission Jar offerings (for both front and back jars) will go to **The Maple River Youth Center.***

Gifts Received

***Sung Response** *"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!

*Offering Our Thanks to God

All: O God, you offer us wonderful gifts. In these offerings, may we make for change that doesn't yet exist. May we give it a name. May we move through our fears. May we dare to call this hope wonderful, in the hope of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Children are welcome to remain in worship or to attend Sunday School.

Children PreK-K gather in Classroom A, down the hall from the Sanctuary.

Those in grades 1st-5th gather in the Youth Room. If your child(ren) remain in worship, there are several options available: Worship Bags, "The Sunday Paper," coloring pages, and Ministry Card Making kits found in the back of the Sanctuary; there is also Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary; or feel free to utilize the Nursery if they are younger than PreK age.

The Service is piped into the Overflow Room and the Nursery.

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 momentarily and shared with the congregation anonymously.

Preparation for Prayer (*Moment of silence, reflection, and prayer*)

Prayers of the People

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.

Today's Faith Stories from Scripture

1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139, and John 1:43-51

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!

*Song

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" #391

Reflections Upon the Word

Rev. Cindy Mueller

Covenant of New Beginnings with our Intentional Interim Pastor

Moderator: In order to mark the start of this interim time of transition.....

Congregation: Gracious God, you have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us this life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we experience this in-between time. Comfort us as we grieve the past or look anxiously to the future. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream dreams about our future, so that we might prepare for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Words from Scripture and Words from Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Reader 1: “By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion. . . . For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion.’”
(Psalm 137:1, 3)

Reader 2: “I have stood in a meeting with hundreds of youngsters and joined in while they sang “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round.” It is not just a song; it is a resolve. . . . These songs bind us together, give us courage together, help us march together.”
(MLK, “Why We Can’t Wait”)

All: For the power of songs and songs of power, we give you thanks, O God.

Reader 1: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father [and Mother] in heaven; for God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.”
(Matthew 5:43–44)

Reader 2: “Let us therefore not think of our movement as one that seeks to integrate into all the existing values of American society. Let us be those creative dissenters who will call our beloved country to a higher destiny, to a new plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness.”
(MLK, “Where Do We Go from Here?”)

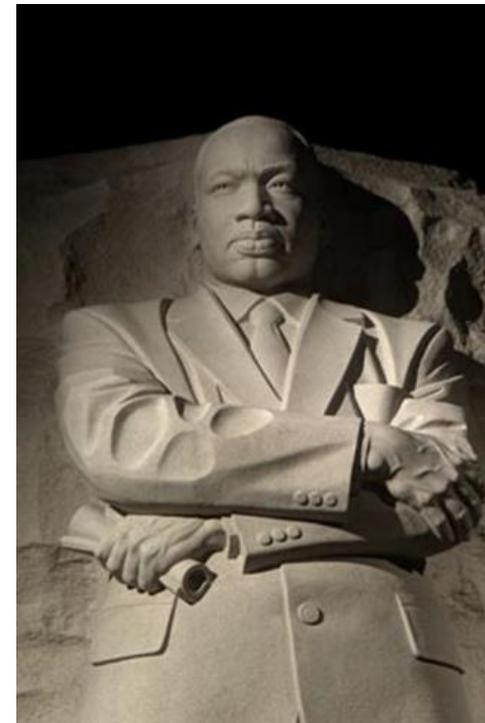
All: For your realm, which stands beyond and against all nations, and your justice, which judges all people, we give you thanks, O God.

Reader 1: “Cain said to his brother Abel, ‘Let us go out to the field.’

And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then God said to Cain, ‘Where is your brother Abel?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’ And God said, ‘What have you done? Listen; your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground!’”
(Genesis 4:8–10)

Reader 2: “The person who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as the one who helps perpetrate it. The person who accepts evil without protesting against it, is really cooperating with it.”
(MLK, “Stride toward Freedom,” adapted)

All: For the continuing witness of the life and ministry of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose blood cries from the ground to you and to us, we give you thanks, O God.



The United Church of Mapleton

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Today's Worship & Fellowship

Intentional Interim Pastor—Cindy Mueller

Lay Leader—

Hospitality Team Lead—Bruce and Karen Stanton

Organist/Pianist—Ann DeWitz

Coffee Fellowship Host—Women's Fellowship Brunch

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship

9:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m. PreK—K Sunday School (*Classroom A—upstairs*)

9:30—10:00 a.m. 1st—5th grade Sunday School (*Youth Room—upstairs*)

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

Contact Information

If you have a **pastoral emergency or need**, please contact

Pastor Cindy Mueller.

Please check your bulletin each week for Pastor Cindy's office hours. For the week of January 15th, Cindy's office hours will be **Monday through Thursday from 10:00—1:00 p.m.**

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 15th, 10:00 a.m. Annual Mtg.

Monday, January 16th, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Pastor Cindy's Office Hours

Tuesday, January 17th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, January 17th, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Pastor Cindy's Office Hours

Wednesday, January 18th, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Pastor Cindy's Office Hours

Wednesday, January 18th, 6:30 p.m. Called to Care Mtg.

Wednesday, January 18th, 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.

Thursday, January 19th, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Pastor Cindy's Office Hours

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Members of Care Facilities: Norma B., Kathy C.,
- Those dealing with health issues: Jeannie J., Phyllis L., Tyson Mc., Donna W.
- For a peaceful transition for our new president
- For a complete recovery after surgery for Wally J.

The prayer requests and praises from worship last week were:

Prayers:

- For peace to a nephew and niece in their final days
- For healing for Mary Alvarado (Dietz), who has a broken shoulder blade



Thanksgiving:

- And praise to God for sending Pastor Cindy as your servant.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 15th, 2017

Mission Collection Jars for January: Maple River Youth Center

Installation of Intentional Interim Pastor Cindy Mueller—Today!

Today, **Sunday, January 15th**, during our worship service, Pastor Cindy Mueller will be installed as the Intentional Interim of The United Church of Mapleton.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The United Church of Mapleton will be held **today, Sunday, January 15th** immediately following worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Called to Care

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Wednesday, **January 18th, 6:30 p.m.** New members are welcome at this meeting. Please contact Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168, if you wish to have a Called to Care member visit you. We look forward to and would love to visit with you!

Daily Devotion Online

You may visit the following website for daily devotions:
http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional_both_and?utm_campaign=kyp_may17_16&utm_medium=email&utm_source=unitedchurchofchrist

Memorial Service for Rev. Bill Brice

A celebration of life for Rev. William (Bill) Brice will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 2601 Blaisdell Ave S., Minneapolis on **Saturday, January 21st at 11:00 a.m. with visitation at 10:00 a.m.** A Calvary feast will be served following the service.

Rev. Brice served as pastor of the United Church of Mapleton from March 1961—September 1965.

Senior Dining and Meals on Wheels of Mapleton

On-site meals available at the Mapleton Community Center, formerly the Town & Country Leisure Center, **Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$4 suggested donation for those 60+; \$7.25 for anyone under 60 years.** Call Darlene at Senior Dining 524-4868 to reserve your meal! You may also find and like us at www.facebook.com/seniornutritionmapletonmn.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 15th, 2017

Foot Care at Mapleton Community Center

Foot care will be available at the Mapleton Community Center **Thursday, January 26th from 9:30—Noon.** Please call the City Hall, 524-3492 to schedule an appointment.

Off-Site Grocery Distribution Volunteers and Site Partner

Second Harvest Heartland has a Site Partner, volunteer opportunity available in Mapleton. This person would help with distribution of senior citizens shelf-stable food items on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m. Distribution is held at Mapleton City Hall, 304 2nd Ave., NE, Mapleton, MN 56065. Please contact Deb at 651-484-1064 or volunteer@2harvest.org.

Maple River Loaves & Fishes

Greetings from Maple River Loaves and Fishes! 2016 was a very busy year, with challenges and enormous growth. Here are our final numbers for the year:

MRLF served 239 different families at least once this year
1424 Family visits (up from 1365 in 2015)
5460 People (up from 4984 in 2015)
2301 Children (up from 2097 in 2015)
140,856 pounds of food!!
133 Thanksgiving Boxes
160 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 3:00—6:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:00—Noon. Thank You!

Jon Klenk
Executive Director
Maple River Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf