

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, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Sue Prenzlou, Roberta Ward
- 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 the thousands of flood victims
- For God's blessings to watch over our families as they travel home after the holidays
- For peace around 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 17th, 2016

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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 36:5-10

One: How can we keep still this day?

Many: There is joy in this place!

One: God's steadfast love extends to everyone.

Many: God reaches out to us all in grace and compassion.

One: Thanks be to God for all the wonderful blessings we experience and share!

All: Let us celebrate God's joyful love with us!

***Opening Hymn**

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” #243

***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

Louise Webb

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**

“God of Our Life” #409

Scripture

John 2:1-11 (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 Sign: Water and Wine”

***Closing Hymn**

“Jesus, Come, for We Invite You” #669

***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 17th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Pam Foster

Organist—Oran Clay

Greeter—Louise Webb

Head Ushers—Stan and Linda Whitney

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

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. Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Today's *Call to Worship* is based on a litany by Nancy Townley as posted on the Worship Connection page of the *Ministry Matters* website (ministrymatters.com).

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.

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.

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 17th, 2016

New Address

We have a new address for Bill Brice. York Gardens, 3451 Parklawn Ave #207, Edina, MN 55435. The phone number to reach Bill is: 952-898-6700.

Islam and Christianity Conversation

The School Sisters of Notre Dame will hold a presentation and public conversation on the similarities between Islam and Christianity, as well as common misconceptions about Islam. This presentation will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 27th in the lower level Conference Center at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 170 Good Counsel Drive in Mankato. This free public event is co-presented by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Mankato Islamic Center.

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*.

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.

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 17th, 2016

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. Church Council

Saturday, January 23rd, 9:00-noon UCM workday at Loaves & Fishes

Planning Ahead

Sunday, January 24th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation

Tuesday, January 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, January 26th, 8:00 a.m. Newsletter Items due

Tuesday, January 26th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cooking Matters Class

Wednesday, February 3rd, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT

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

Annual Meeting -Today!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following our regular Sunday morning worship service today, **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.

Youth Center

Today, Sunday, January 17th we will collect donations in the Mission Jar at the back of the Sanctuary for our local youth center. The United Church supports this mission in this way each month.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 17th, 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.

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 17th, 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: God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ. Ephesians 1:9

Sunday:

He called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
1 Peter 2:9

Lord of light and love, we praise you for not only giving us life in your creation, but for also bringing the light of your love into the darkness of our lives. Amen.

Monday:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23–24

Forgiving Lord, test our hearts and guide us in your ways. May the sins in our hearts be expelled by your love and may your righteousness inspire our faith. Amen.

Tuesday:

All the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple. Luke 21:38

Lord of mercy, all that you say and do is inscribed upon the hearts of the faithful. May we know the joy of your mercy and your call for our lives. Amen.

Wednesday:

In Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16

Creative Lord, we are blessed to be a part of your creation. May we be guided and inspired by your creative acts. May all that we do be done for your glory. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Titus 2:11

In this seemingly broken world, O Lord, your divine love shines through. Guide the nations into peace and understanding and help us to trust in your salvation and not in our own works. Amen.

Friday:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Loving Lord, you call us into repentance, a moment for us to be honest with you. Let the false luster of our lives be transformed by the beauty of your kingdom. May we be renewed by your Spirit in order to live the life to which you call us. Amen.

Saturday:

Paul wrote: I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ. 2 Corinthians 12:10

Sustaining Creator, in our weakness you give us strength; in hardship, an oasis; in persecution or calamities, protection. You are everything to us, dear Lord. Beyond our temporal concerns you bring love and hope. May we be such beacons in the lives of others. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue