

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*

The United Church of Mapleton

Order of Worship

Sunday, January 1st, 2017

First Sunday After Christmas

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.*

Prelude

Welcome

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 Ministry

***Call to Worship**

One: People of God, sing and rejoice!

God has come to us in Jesus the Christ,
To reconcile and make new.

Many: God has entered our existence of joy and sorrow, taking on human likeness in Jesus, born of Mary.

One: Therefore, we rejoice,
Praising God and singing:

**All: *Glory be to God in the highest,
On earth peace to those who will the good.
Christ is born. Alleluia!***

***Opening Hymn**

“I Wonder as I Wander” #225

***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.

Invitation to Worship Through Offerings

All adults are invited to share any spare change they may have with the children nearest them so that all may participate in worshipping 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**.*

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**

Message for God’s Children

Sunday School for children Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten is available in Classroom A, down the hall from the Sanctuary. Sunday School for 1st – 5th grades is available upstairs in the Youth Room.

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 Pre-Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

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 before our Preparation for Prayer.

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)

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.

***Hymn**

“In the Bleak Midwinter” #196

Scripture

Micah 6:8; Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (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

“Life’s Lessons”

***Closing Hymn**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” #218

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

The United Church of Mapleton

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Today's Worship & Fellowship

Lay Preacher—Jack Madsen

Lay Leader—

Hospitality Team Lead—

Organist/Pianist—Jan Lange

Coffee Fellowship Host—Church Council

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

Church Calendar

Tuesday, January 3rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Friday, January 6th, 8:00 a.m. Annual Reports due into church office

Monday, January 9th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, January 10th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00 p.m. Congregational Relations

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

Contact Information

If you have a **pastoral need, between now and January 3rd**, please contact the church office at (507) 524-3141.

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, Jackson Foster Care Home
- 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 B., Kathy C., Janie F., Jeannie J., Phyllis L., Tyson Mc. Marian M., Lloyd M., Stan S., Donna W.
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Eli A., Larry B., Jack M., Sean M.
- 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 from worship last week were:

Prayers:

- Of healing for Chris McPhal's baby
- For all who travel daily during our Minnesota winters
- For Ron Newell, who suffered a stroke
- For Ken Warner, who had a heart attack

Thanksgiving:

- For our Loaves & Fishes volunteers.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of Rev. William (Bill) Brice, father of Pam Foster. Who passed away Friday, December 9th, 2016. Rev. Brice's memorial service will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 2601 Blaisdell Ave S. in Minneapolis **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 The United Church of Mapleton from March 1961—September 1965.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:19

Sunday:

Paul wrote: Though Christ was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

2 Corinthians 13:4 (NKJV)

Forgiving God, remind us that our preparations to receive and celebrate the birth of your Son, no matter how creative or extravagant, are for naught if not moved by and infused with your power. Amen.

Monday:

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. Matthew 2:10 (NKJV)

Glorious God, lead us to receive Christ Jesus, who upon himself bears all our sins. Then, with hearts and desire more pure, the light of your presence will be our guide, our comfort, and our joy. Amen.

Tuesday:

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

God of grace and love, although we are burdened with our own trials and troubles, we pray for others so all of us may receive with joy and thanksgiving your love, mercy, and grace. Let all the people say: Amen.

Wednesday:

With the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Matthew 7:2

You, O God, are the judge of all things. Thank you for not holding us to the law, but for giving us grace through Jesus Christ, our salvation, our hope fulfilled. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6

Father, it can be troubling to see anger, strife, and dissension around us. You created this beautiful world for love of your children so that we may love one another. With our faith and your grace, all things can be healed. Amen.

Friday:

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9

Light of the world, we pause to give you thanks for showing us the image of God through your presence. You lighten our dark world and enrich our lives through the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Saturday:

Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness. 2 Timothy 2:19

Prince of Peace, guide us away from retaliation and violence. Teach us your way of peace so that we may live it out in the world. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 1st, 2017

Mission Collection Jars for January: Maple River Youth Center

Sunday School

Sunday School will not be held today, Sunday, January 1st, 2017. **We will resume class next Sunday, January 8th.**

Thank You!

A thank you is extended out to everyone who helped with all the ministries involved during the United Church Christmas Eve Service! It truly was a special evening in honor of our Lord's birth!

The Stewardship Tree

The Stewardship Tree will be available at the back of the Sanctuary **until today, January 1st, 2017.** Please take one or more of the leaves home with you.

Congregational Relations

The Congregational Relations will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Congregational Relations will be held **Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

Quilters Group

Please join us on **Tuesday, January 10th, 2017 from 1:00—3:00 p.m.**

2016 Annual Reports

Please submit all annual reports into the church office by, **and no later than, Friday, January 6th, 2017.** Thank you!

Annual Meeting

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

Heifer International and Retired Minsters/Christmas Fund

Mission donations for these missions will be extended until **Sunday, January 8th, 2017** due to cancelled services in December.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 1st, 2017

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!

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.

Caregiver Support Group

This monthly support group is for anyone who provides care to a family member or friend with Dementia or other progressive illness. It is informal and meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us for our next session on January 3rd, 3:00 p.m., St. Teresa Catholic Church in Mapleton. Please use the north entrance near the parking lot. Topic: Improving Communication in Caregiving—a DVD and discussion. No charge to attend; pre-registration is not required. Questions? Call Joyce Kolbet at VINE Faith in Action, 386-5583.

Maple River Band Boosters

The Maple River Band Boosters will host their annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast **Sunday, January 8th from 8:30 a.m.—12:00 Noon** in the Commons area of the Maple River High School. This is an all-you-can-eat waffles, sausage, syrups and beverages. Tickets are \$7 from a band member or contact 524-3930 at ext. 234, or \$8 at the door.

Foot Care

Foot Care will be provided at the Mapleton Community Center (formerly T&C Leisure Center) from 8:00 a.m.—Noon. Please call city hall at 524-3492 to schedule an appointment. If there is enough interest, we will have a regular schedule of foot care at the center.