

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 prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Dawn Dietz, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Sunday, January 17th, 2016. The visitation and funeral were held at The United Church of Mapleton on Thursday, January 21st and Friday, January 22nd.

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065
(507) 524-3141
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 24th, 2016
Third 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 19:1, Nehemiah 8:8, Luke 4:18

One: God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

Many: God calls us to be builders as well.

One: God calls us to build our lives:

Many: to restore broken places and continue to grow.

One: God calls us to build our faith:

Many: to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.

One: God calls us to build our community:

Many: to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.

One: God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

Many: to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.

One: God calls us to build up the body of Christ:

All: let us worship God together as one body!

***Opening Hymn**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!” #231

***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**

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #93

Scripture

Luke 4:14-21 (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 Words: Part One and Good News”

***Closing Hymn**

“Christ for the World! We Sing” #561

***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 24th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Pam Foster

Organist—

Greeter—Ruth Cumming

Head Ushers—Dan and Sue Prenzlou

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

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 during worship 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 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.

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 24th, 2016

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*.

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 24th, 2016

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

Planning Ahead

Wednesday, February 3rd, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Sunday, February 7th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Monday, February 8th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cooking Matters Class
Wednesday, February 10th, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
Wednesday, February 10th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

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!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 24th, 2016

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.

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!

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.

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. We already have teachers through February 21st, 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.

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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!

Breakfast Benefit—Today!

A Breakfast fundraiser for the family of Aubrielle Howley, granddaughter of Joe and Cathy Wittrock of St. Teresa Church will be held **today, 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.

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: God says, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

Sunday:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

You, O Lord, revel in a repentant heart. Teach us the value of humility before your throne and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. May we be dressed in the white robes of your salvation. Amen.

Monday:

Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

What should be the benefit of prayer, O God, but that we are able to speak to you, to know that you care so deeply to listen to our needs, sorrows, and joys? May we always be willing to take everything to you in prayer. Amen.

Tuesday:

One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning.

2 Samuel 23:3–4

Gentle Shepherd, you grant us your authority of love. In every way that we find ourselves in authority over others, let us take your example and lead in gentleness and love. Amen.

Wednesday:

The Lord says, “I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.” Psalm 91:15

O, to be free, dear Lord! We are no longer slaves to our sins and death but to the joy you offer us in serving you. Call us into the service of your love. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:5

Too often, loving Lord, we fall victim to the sickness of sin. We allow ourselves to become complacent. Heal us with your forgiving love. Inspire us to lead a life of joy in your service. Amen.

Friday:

You know me, O Lord; you see me; and you examine my heart’s attitude toward you. Jeremiah 12:3 (NASB)

O Lord, we open our hearts to you. May they be found not wanting, but ideal for your kingdom here on earth and your home in heaven. While we walk in your creation, may all that we do be pleasant in your sight. Amen.

Saturday:

You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3
Heavenly Lord, use us! We are your own! Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue