

## 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 Well Youth Center** hours are Tuesdays-Fridays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.

## The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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 25th, 2015

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 62*

One: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God.

**Many: I will trust God now and always.**

One: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

**Many: I will trust God now and always.**

One: On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**Many: I will trust in God now and always.**

One: Power and steadfast love belong to you, O God.

**All: Let us all worship God!**

### \*Opening Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision” #502

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

O God, you spoke your word  
and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.  
Fill all creation with that word again,  
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations  
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,  
we may become one living body,  
your incarnate presence on the earth.

### **\*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**

*Children are invited to attend Sunday School after the  
Message for God’s Children or return to their pews. Children’s  
Worship Bags are available in the back of the Sanctuary.*

#### **Mission Moment**

#### **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**

“Amazing Grace!” #422

#### **Scripture**

Jonah 3:1-5, 3:10 (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**

“Can You Hear Me Now?”

#### **\*Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Loves Me” #437

#### **\*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 25th, 2015

Pastor—Ava Adams-Morris

Lay Leader—Carolyn Becker

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeter—Ruth Cumming

Head Usher—Bob Shubert

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

### **Today's Worship & Fellowship**

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:40 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),

Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (*Fellowship Hall*)

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School (*PreK-5th Grade*)

Classroom A, upstairs

10:10-10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*)

Youth Lounge, upstairs

Today's **Call to Worship** is based on the Psalter from *The New Century Hymnal*.

Today's **Prayer of Invocation** is from the Vanderbilt Divinity Library Online.

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.*

### **Worship & Care Connections**

**Children's Worship Bags** with creative supplies are available at the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

The **Nursery/Toddler Room** for infants and toddlers is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the hallway opposite the Sanctuary.

The **Family Space**, located in the Overflow Room in 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.

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 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 the church know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office so that we may serve you. The church phone number is (507) 524-3141. Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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.

## **In Our Prayers**

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Well 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

### **Our church prayer list includes:**

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Shirley Bowen, Benjamin Brockmann, Hutch Cramer, Kathy Cox, Dawn Dietz, Jodie Gerdtz, David Keller, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Marge Walters, Jonathan Ziert, Isaac Kolstad
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All who are grieving and mourning
- The 2015 American Baptist Churches, USA Biennial Mission Summit, to be held June 26-28 in Overland Park, KS
- The 2015 United Church of Christ General Synod 30, to be held June 26-30 in Cleveland, OH
- Hutch Cramer, who is recovering at the Mapleton Community Home after a fall and hip surgery.
- Jodie Gerdtz, who is recovering at home from surgery to remove a tumor on Monday, December 15, which went well.
- Dawn Dietz, who continues in chemotherapy treatments.

### **The prayer requests and praises shared during last week's worship service include:**

#### **Prayers:**

- For recovery of Jesus Serrat, our Cuban friend, who had by-pass surgery on December 31st and is still in ICU
- For Judy who is facing advanced treatment options for return of her cancer
- Of God's love for the parents and a teenager who faces all the struggles that life brings

## **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 25th, 2015**

Tuesday, January 27th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, January 27th, 8:00 a.m. newsletter articles are due into the church office

### **Planning Ahead**

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

### **Wednesday, January 4th, 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Ed.**

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

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

### **Wednesday February 11th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**

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

Tuesday, February 17th, 5:30 p.m. Ambience-Lent decor work day

## **Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

**Next Sunday, February 1st, 2015** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

The United Church supports Loaves & Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, January 25th, 2015**

**Thank You!**

Sylvia More would like to thank everyone for all the cards she received from her church family to honor her 99th birthday!

**The Voice Newsletter**

Please submit your reports/articles for the February newsletter to the church office **by Tuesday, January 27th, 2015**. Thank you!

**Family Leave Announcement**

I am on my family leave. I plan to return to preaching, worship leadership, and ministry at The United Church on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Until then, Ava Adams-Morris will be serving as your Family Leave Interim Minister.

**Ava's home phone number is (507) 243-3891, her cell is (507) 380-7233, and her email address is kreolelady@aol.com.** In her role as interim minister, Ava will provide both preaching and worship leadership as well as a few hours of pastoral care each week. If you or a family member have a pastoral care need, are having a surgery or medical treatment, or would appreciate a visit for any reason, please let Ava know!

Jeff and I will not be attending worship at The United Church during my family leave. We know that you would be more than happy to see us, care for us, and celebrate with us during this exciting time. We plan to take these first three months together as a family to nurture our new relationships together, but know that we truly look forward to introducing our son to you when we return to United Church life in April. Until then, please know that your prayers and well wishes are the most wonderful support you can offer us.

Blessings, Pastor Ashley Whitaker

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, January 25th, 2015**

**Youth Sunday School Teacher Needed**

Beginning in January, the Youth Group will need a Sunday School teacher for the duration of Pastor Ashley's family leave (about twelve weeks). A user-friendly curriculum, *Nooma*, will be provided. *Nooma* is a series of short videos on DVD about faith and life with discussion questions included. If you're able and willing to help out with this important ministry, please let Pastor Ashley, the church office, or Liz Bair (Chair, Board of Christian Education) know. This opportunity can easily be divided between several volunteers so that one person is not responsible for all twelve weeks. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

**Youth Summer Camp Adult Leaders Needed**

Our Youth had a great time at Youth Summer Camp last year! We hope to be able to send a group of Youth to camp again this summer. However, Pastor Ashley and Jeff will not be able to go with our Youth as Adult Leaders this year. Is God calling you to help our Youth ministry thrive in this important way?

We will likely go to camp at Pilgrim Point Camp in Alexandria, MN again this year, since we had such a good experience last year. Summer Youth Camp is one week long (Sunday afternoon—Friday lunch) and will either be July 19-24, July 26-31, or August 8-14. Adult Leaders help not only as chaperones, but also as small group leaders for spiritual formation, education, fun, and fellowship. The United Church will pay the registration free for any Adult Leaders that are willing to volunteer their time and talents this summer. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. Psalm 29:2

### **Sunday:**

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:8

Lord, our God, your graciousness is constant through the ups and downs of life. You are always there to forgive us and accept us as we are. Forgive us and cleanse us, Lord, we pray. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Deuteronomy 6:4

There is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all. 1 Timothy 2:5–6

### **Tuesday:**

Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.” John 6:67–68

Master and Friend, we promise never to turn our backs on you. We believe you are everything we need. Keep us loyal to you in everything we do. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus. Acts 15:11

Almighty God, help us to obey like Noah did. Let us not turn to our selfish ways and run ahead without your guidance. Your grace and guidance is all we need! Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

Live as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

Lord, we know we cannot hide from you. You are everywhere and we are grateful for that. Continue to watch over us and make us true lights to those around us. Our prayer is to spread your light and presence everywhere. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

1 Samuel 3:9

Precious Lord, forgive us for not listening to your voice when you call us to be your servants. We come to you now with willing hearts and minds! Draw us closer to those in need so we can do your will. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. Matthew 5:14

Light of the world, you have asked us to shine our light on our nations and in the world. Give us the strength and courage we need to fulfill your call. You are our salvation, Christ our solid Rock. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continued*