

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, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Geri Howieson, Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Roberta Ward, Tom Samuelson
- 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
- Tom Samuelson, who recently had lung surgery due to an infection

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

Prayers:

- For our meeting today—to find us with renewed dedication to go forward in our mission
- For Jola Walker's family, as her father, Lester Anderson, passed away on January 12th

Thanksgiving:

- To God for the professionals, doctors, teachers, and pastors who tend to the needs of all. They are servants of God, as is everyone.
- For successful surgery and prayers for continued healing for Sean
- For Good news from Marian's doctors

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 31st, 2016

Fourth 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 Jeremiah 1:4-8, Luke 4:29, Psalm 71:1-6

One: From the very beginning, God calls us.

Many: God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.

One: We may come up with excuses to avoid our calls, for we are afraid.

Many: But God reassures us in many and various ways through the course of our days.

One: Even if we are brought to the edge of a cliff,

Many: God is with us and sustains us.

One: In love, God saves and supports us.

All: Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!

***Opening Hymn**

“We Have Come to Join in Worship” #647

***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**

“Make Me a Servant” #576

Repeat full hymn twice

Scripture

Luke 4:21-30 (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 Two and Bad News”

***Closing Hymn**

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” #575

***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 31st, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Linda Whitney

Organist—

Greeter—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—Darlene Fezler

Coffee Hour Host—Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

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 31st, 2016

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 31st, 2016

Sunday, January 31st, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation
Tuesday, February 2nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, February 2nd, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group
Tuesday, February 2nd, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cooking Matters Class
Wednesday, February 3rd, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT

Planning Ahead

Sunday, February 7th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Monday, February 8th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, February 9th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, February 9th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group
Wednesday, February 10th, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
Wednesday, February 10th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service
Sunday, February 14th, 10:00 a.m. Pastoral Relations Training
Tuesday, February 16th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, February 16th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group
Wednesday, February 17th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, February 17th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**

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.-10:30 a.m. 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 31st, 2016

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.

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.

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 United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, January 31st, 2016

Chili Cook Off - Today!

The Chili Cook Off will be held today **Sunday, January 31st**. Drop off chili contest entries by 4:00 p.m., contest and chili feed begins at **5:00 p.m.** Remember, all proceeds benefit Cows for Christmas (Heifer International). Thank you very much!

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*.

Maple River Loaves & Fishes

Greetings from Maple River Loaves and Fishes! 2015 was an amazing year, with challenges and enormous growth. Here are our final numbers for the year:

MRLF served 232 different families at least once this year
1365 Family visits (up from 1159 in 2014)
4984 People (up from 4306 in 2014)
2097 Children (up from 1768 in 2014)
151,499 pounds of food!! (up 21,194 pounds)
141 Thanksgiving Boxes
145 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 -6 pm and Saturdays from 9am – noon. Thank You!

Jon Klenk, Director, Maple River Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord.
1 Corinthians 12:4–5

Sunday:

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

Fill us, O Lord. Fill us with your grace to fullest measure that we may have it in abundance, that it may grow through our spirits, and that it may be an offering unto you and a gift to all whom we serve in your love. Amen.

Monday:

Jesus said, “Do not fear, only believe.” Mark 5:36

Lead on, lead on, O glorious Lord. Lead us on the path of righteousness! Turn not back to see if we follow; we follow you! Amen.

Tuesday:

Jesus Christ says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” John 14:15

Heavenly Lord, too often our actions could press you toward anger, yet you act out of love and concern for us. Guide us ever in lives of your love. Amen.

Wednesday:

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. 1 Corinthians 4:1

In us, O Lord, you have entrusted a sacred obligation. To us you have shown the great mysteries of your love; in humility you find greatness, in weakness you find strength, in self-giving you find abundance, and in death you find life. May we always be guided by the mystery of your love. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

With joy give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to have your share of what God has reserved for his people in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:12 (GNT)

Great Shepherd, we are your flock, honored to hear our names called by you. You, Lord, give us green pastures to lie down in and still waters to walk beside. In you we find all that we need for true purpose for our lives. Call on us; we are yours. Amen.

Friday:

Paul wrote: We may proclaim the good news in lands beyond you. 2 Corinthians 10:16

We find comfort in your message and purpose in its proclamation, heavenly Savior, but too often we feel like we are in a world that doesn’t want to listen. Remind us that it is your message that we are called to share, not our own. Help us to take ourselves out of the message and share only your true light. Amen.

Saturday:

Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up. Proverbs 12:25

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:5

Lord of love and kindness, help us to show your true power. May we seek not our own joy but to bring happiness to others; not our own security but to help others find hope; not our own peace but a harmony that brings others together. Grant us your love. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue