

## 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.

### Loaves & Fishes “Love Item”

Each month, The United Church features a “love item” of special focus for members to donate to Loaves & Fishes. This helps stock the shelves at Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf and helps increase our giving to this worthy and much needed mission in our own town. **Our Love Item for January is soup!**

The American Heart Association recommends adults consume eight or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day, and soups can contribute to that total. Soups made with beans and lean meats such as chicken provide lean protein and fiber. Vegetables in soup contain many vitamins, such as B, K, A, and C. Cream soups supply calcium and vitamin D.

*(Source: livestrong.com)*

## 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 4th, 2015

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

*Based on Isaiah 9, 60*

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**Many: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!**

One: For darkness shall cover the earth,

**Many: but the glory of the Lord will appear over you.**

One: Nations shall come to your light,

**Many: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

One: The people who walked in darkness

**Many: have seen a great light!**

One: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

**Many: on them light has shined!**

One: Let us celebrate the Light of the world,

**All: for upon us the**

**Light has shined!**



**\*Opening Hymn**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #189

**\*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**

*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**

Karen Stanton

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“As with Gladness”

Adult Choir

**\*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**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” #233

**Scripture**

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

One: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the World of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us,

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

“Another Way”

**Communion Service**

*At the United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is  
open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but it is God’s and  
it is open to all of God’s children.*

*Today, we will participate in communion by passing two sets  
of plates that contain the elements of bread and juice. Please hold  
each element until all have been served so that we may celebrate  
communion together after each element has been shared.*

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom” #234

**\*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 4th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker  
Lay Leader—Linda Whitney  
Organist—Jola Walker  
Greeters—Warren and Cindy Allevan  
Head Usher—Bob Shubert  
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections (*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

Our **Call to Worship** today is from *The Song of Simeon: Luke 2 (Sunday after Christmas)* at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship website ([worship.calvin.edu](http://worship.calvin.edu)).

The **paraments** are white during the Christmas Season to help the church to reflect on the incarnation (embodiment of God as a human: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory" (John 1:14). White also symbolizes joy in the light of God. [ucc.org](http://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 Gerdts, 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 Gerdts, 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.
- All those affected by the disappearance of AirAsia Flight QZ8501 on December 27 while en route between Indonesia and Singapore with 162 people on board

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

#### **Prayers:**

- Of remembrance for our grandson, Casey
- Of thanksgiving for family, friends, good health, and safe journeys. God has blessed us all with His wonderful Son, Jesus.

## **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 4th, 2015**

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

### **Wednesday, January 7th, Annual Reports are due**

Saturday, January 10th, 9:00 a.m. Kilties

### **Planning Ahead**

Monday, January 12th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship meeting at the home of Pat John

Tuesday, January 13th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

### **Wednesday, January 14th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**

Saturday, January 17th, 9:00 a.m. Kilties

### **Sunday, January 18th, 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting**

Tuesday January 20th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

### **Wednesday, January 21st, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**

Saturday, January 24th, 9:00 a.m. Kilties

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

## **Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

**Today, Sunday, January 4th, 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 4th, 2015**

**Women's Fellowship**

The Women's Fellowship meeting for Monday, January 12th, 7:00 p.m. will be held at the home of Pat John. All are welcome to attend!

**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!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, January 4th, 2015**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the United Church of Mapleton will be held in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, January 18th, 2015 immediately following our regular Sunday Morning Worship Service. At this meeting we will review the 2014 Financials, approve the 2015 Budget and approve the 2015 Committees and Boards.

Other business can be considered at this time, please inform the Moderator if you wish to place an item on the agenda.

Everyone is invited to participate. There will be a meal served by the Women's Fellowship.

Please submit your annual reports to the church office **no later than Wednesday, January 7th, 2015.** Thank you for your consideration.

**Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast**

The Maple River Band Boosters will be hosting their annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast on Sunday, January 4th from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. in the Mapleton Commons.

The menu includes all-you-can-eat waffles, sausage, toppings, and beverage. The cost is \$6.00 prior to the event with children under 5 eating free. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door.

Proceeds from this event are used to support the activities of the Maple River band program, including scholarships, guest conductors, clinics, and travel opportunities for the bands.

For more information please contact (507) 524-3930, ext. 234.

**Free Community Breakfast**

The community is invited to a free breakfast held at St. John Lutheran Church Saturday, January 10th from 8:30—10:30 a.m. This is a great way to connect with friends, neighbors and meet people who are new to the community.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Luke 1:49

### **Sunday:**

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. Psalm 40:10

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Loosen our tongues so that we may testify to your amazing love and faithfulness in our lives. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Great Comforter, we get caught up in the anxieties and worries of our days. Forgive us, we pray. Cast out our worries and fill us with your peace. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

The angel said to Joseph, “Mary will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

Come, O long-expected Jesus, and free us from all of our wrongdoing so that we might be reconciled unto you. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. Psalm 89:9

Savior, speak into the winds and raging waters of our lives. Still and calm us, we pray. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come. Revelation 1:4

Almighty God, you are the beginning and the end and all that is in between—we thank you for your boundless love and gift of peace. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Yours is the day, yours also the night; you established the luminaries and the sun. Psalm 74:16

O bright Morning Star, enter into our darkness and shine your light; illuminate our lives with your loving presence. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Zechariah said, “God has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them, that we might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. Luke 1:68,74-75

God, you have given us a spirit of hope and not of fear. Keep our hearts and our minds set on you that we may serve you with hope, joy, and faithfulness. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*