

## Service Notes

The **paraments** are **white** during the Christmas season (ending on 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. *This information is from [ucc.org](http://ucc.org).*

The **Nursery/Toddler Room** for infants and toddlers is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the end of the hallway opposite the Sanctuary. Sunday School is available for children PreK– 5th grade after the Message for God’s Children, and children can meet their teachers at the back of the Sanctuary at that time. Children’s Worship Bags with creative supplies are available in the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

### How to Contact Pastor Ashley

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. In the afternoon, I may be in the office, or I may be out in the community for pastoral care or outreach. If you’d like to stop by to visit another time, just email or call. Monday and Saturday are my days off.

My email address is: [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org).  
If I’m not in the office, my phone number is (507) 381-8199.

### Pastoral Care Connections

If you or a family member is ill, in the hospital, is homebound, 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 to let us know so that we may serve you.

The church phone number is (507) 524-3141 and Pastor Ashley’s phone number is (507) 381-8199. Thank you!

## 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)

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 5th, 2014

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

One: A new day has dawned, a new year begun!

**Many: Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice.**

One: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future.

**Many: Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path.**

One: We enter this new year with hope and excitement.

**All: O Lord, guide us as we look to You, and worship You!**

#### \*Opening Hymn

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #189

#### \*Prayer of Invocation

## ***Gloria Patri***

“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**

### **Mission Moment**

Jon Klenk

### **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**

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

### **Scripture**

Matthew 2:1-12 (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**

“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**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” #233

### **\*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 5th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker  
Lay Leader—Jeff Whitaker  
Organist—Jola Walker  
Greeters—Wally and Joyce Johnson  
Head Usher—Robert Shubert  
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

### About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf collection (*Sanctuary*)  
9:00-10:30 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),  
Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs  
9:15-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School  
(*PreK-1st Grade*), Classroom A, upstairs  
(*2nd-5th Grade*), Classroom E, downstairs  
10:00-10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*), Youth Lounge, upstairs  
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour and Fellowship (*Fellowship Hall*)  
10:05 a.m. Choir Practice  
10:10 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Classroom B, downstairs

Our **Scripture Response** honors the ways in which we know and receive the Word of God: through Scripture, in community, and through our personal faith in God. Thanks be to God!

Our **Call to Worship** today is by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell at [rev-o-lution.org](http://rev-o-lution.org).

The **floral arrangement** on the altar is provided by Jeff and Jodie Gerdts

### In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Well Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national
- The ministers and missionaries of the world
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Our church prayer list includes:
  - Those with ongoing health concerns: Bill Brice, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Lorraine Stanton
  - Family members and loved ones who are ill
  - Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
  - All those who are grieving and mourning
  - Pastor Deb Celley of First Congregational UCC of Mankato, who is undergoing radiation for two kinds of cancer (b-cell lymphoma and Burkett's lymphoma). We pray for Pastor Deb and her family (husband Richard and daughters Julia and Jennifer)
  - Bruce Stanton, who continues to recover from surgery on his ribs after a fall
  - For Norma Baack, who continues to recover from a fall and recent hospitalization
  - Kathie Treanor, who is recovering from a recent fall at work

The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during last week's worship service include:

- Thankfulness for the many years of service to the health of our community along with service to our church; may Dr. Carolyn Becker have a fruitful retirement
- Joy at Caden Clark's 8th birthday on Friday, January 3rd
- Continued prayers for the Potter family of Springfield (relatives of the Clark family) and for the town in their recent loss of two young men
- Prayers for Pastor Ashley's speedy recovery (with back pain)

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Esther Weigel, sister of Ella Conrad, who passed away on Thursday, December 26th in the Twin cities area. Her funeral arrangements are not yet determined.

## **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 5th, 2014**

Monday, January 6th, 6:30—8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, January 7th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, January 7th, Annual Reports are due

Wednesday, January 8th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

**Wednesday, January 8th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**

Saturday, January 11th, 9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties

### **Planning Ahead**

Monday, January 13th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, January 14th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, January 15th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

**Wednesday, January 15th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**

Wednesday, January 15th, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, January 16th, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, January 18th, 9:00—11:30 a.m. Kilties

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, January 5th, 2014**

**Annual Meeting Updates**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following our regular Sunday morning worship service on January 19th, 2014, to review the 2013 Financials, approve the 2014 Budget, and to approve the 2014 Committees and Boards.

**Everyone is invited to participate.** There will be a Potluck Dinner served by the Women's Fellowship. **Please bring a dish to pass!**

**Annual Reports** are due **Tuesday, January 7th, 2014.**

**Please submit your reports electronically** (not a paper copy) to the church office by emailing Sheila at [secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org).

**Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf**

**Remember: Sunday, January 5th, 2014** we will collect donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

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

**Christmas Tissue Boxes**

The Women's Fellowship has purchased boxes of tissues to be given to our golden members and shut-ins. The boxes will be in the narthex with the member's names on them. Please pick up a box, in the near future, and pay a visit to our members.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, January 5th, 2014**

**Season's Greetings from the Community Closet**

If you have a non-profit group that would like to take advantage of profits from the Closet, please call Gay Rice at (507) 524-4040 for more information

**Mapleton Community Home/Heritage Place**

Due to the increasing number of residents at our Heritage Place facility, we are no longer able to continue holding Sunday Breakfasts on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your past support .

**Sunday Morning Wheelchair Assistance**

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 it is too difficult for you to push a wheelchair up the ramp, please feel free to contact an Usher or Deacon for assistance.

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

**Scripture for the Week:** I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us. Isaiah 63:7

### **Sunday:**

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Mary will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-21

Surprising God, your finest act was carried out by the most humble of humanity. You showed us that your power can exist in human weakness. We praise you and pray for the faith to accept it. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Psalm 68:19

God, beyond us yet near to us, you bless us with your care. As we care for others, may we help carry the burdens that bring darkness to their days. And through us, may the light of your love shine. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Christ says, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28

Glorious God, you cherish us beyond our understanding of our worth. We struggle to accept the gift of your loving Son. May we cast off all that keeps us from you and celebrate your gift of life through the birth of Jesus Christ! Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

O Lord of hosts, you are God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Isaiah 37:16

God who births us and was born to us, our connection to you can never be broken. You know us fully in your divinity and are fully known to us, through your humanity. Praise be to God! Amen.

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

### **Thursday:**

Lord, may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength. Judges 5:31

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

God, the light of your love illuminates the darkest corners of human existence. Banish our fears and make us your light-bearers as we offer our lives and our service to you. Amen.

### **Friday:**

The Lord said to Abram, "I will bless you and you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

Gracious God, you have blessed us in many things. We are grateful, but often we forget that the blessings we receive are not fulfilled in purpose unless they become blessings to others. Give us the devotion to live a life of blessing. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Paul wrote: I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:11-12

Jesus, our Incarnate God, you are the wondrous gift that awes us. Continue to reveal to us your gospel, so we may always be drawn to meditate on it and proclaim it. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

