

In Our Prayers

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



Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Janie Firstbrook, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Stan Solie, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All who are grieving and mourning

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

Thanksgiving:

- To God for my friend's successful cancer surgery
- That on Tuesday, I get to celebrate 25 years of marriage to the love of my life

Prayers:

- Of happiness and for growing faith and love for my grandson, Tucker, at his marriage to Ashley on July 4th (Tucker and Ashley Clacy-Shuck)
- For traveling mercies as my Dad travels from Florida to spend the summer with us

The United Church of Mapleton

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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, July 12th, 2015

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Campaign Update

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 138

One: We gather to give thanks to you, O Lord,

Many: with all our hearts and souls!

We will sing your praises before all creation,

and rejoice in your steadfast love!

When we call on your name, you answer,

and you shelter us, the work of your hands!

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

All: Blessed be the Lord!

***Opening Hymn**

“God of Our Life” #409

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

Pastor Ashley Whitaker

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**

Service of Infant Dedication

*Please turn to the bulletin insert marked “Service of
Dedication of Isaac Whitaker” and join in the responsive readings
and commitments as indicated.*

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**

“Lord, We Bring to You Our Children” #681

Scripture

Exodus 1:8-2:10 (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

“Five Women and a Baby”

***Closing Hymn**

“O God in Whom All Life Begins” #388

***Benediction**

*Please be mindful of others who continue
to worship through the Postlude.*

Postlude

****Please rise in body or spirit.****

Serving Us Today: Sunday, July 12th, 2015

Pastor—Rev. Mary Day Miller

Lay Reader—Ginny Kinzie

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Wally and Joyce Johnson

Head Ushers—Dave and Kathy Byram

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

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 Hour (*Fellowship Hall*)

Today's **Call to Worship** is from the Lectionary Sermons *Worship Archive* at lectionarysermons.com/ARCH-W.html.

The **flowers on the altar** are in honor of Isaac Whitaker's dedication

The **green paraments** symbolize Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church liturgical year, which is a continuation of the Season of Epiphany that began the Sunday after Epiphany and ended with Ash Wednesday. Ordinary Time begins on the Sunday after Pentecost and ends with Reign of Christ Sunday, the Sunday before Advent begins. Since it explores the mission of the church, the traditional color for this season is green, symbolizing growth. Ordinary Time also focuses on the important issue of how we can continually grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. *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.

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.

Local Missions

Challenge Yourself to End Hunger / Loaves & Fishes

We see an increase in child visits during the summer. When school is out for summer vacation, many children miss out on free school meals and their families turn to us for support.

Last July Maple River Loaves and Fishes had 115 families visit. You can make a difference this year, by donating throughout the month of July.

The more you donate, the larger our food shelf's grant from Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless will be. The challenge funds will proportionally match your donation. Your donation will go farther due to our buying power. For every \$1 you donate, we can purchase \$10 worth of food from our food bank. Thank you Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless and Hunger Solutions Minnesota.

You can help in a number of ways:

- 1) Mail a donation to: Maple River Loaves and Fishes, PO Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.
- 2) Stop by our food shelf, which is located in the back of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton. Our hours are Tuesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00-noon.
- 3) Volunteer your time. Ask for the board member at your local church. Thank you!

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.

July hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00—4:00 p.m. Activity: "Models" will be held every third Thursday 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, July 12th, 2015

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

Tuesday, July 14th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, July 15th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Saturday, July 18th, 1:00 p.m. Renewal of Vows (Mallorys)

Planning Ahead

Sunday, July 19th, 1:30 p.m. Bridal Shower for Amber Wilde

Tuesday, July 21st, 8:00 a.m. Newsletter articles/reports due

Saturday, July 25th, 6:05 p.m. Moon Dogs Game

Sunday, July 26th—Thursday, July 30th, 6:15—8:15 p.m. VBS

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. *Wednesday* 9:00-10:30 a.m. The Windmill Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours will change occasionally and be announced here). *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon church office. *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, July 12th, 2015

Invitation to a Renewal of Marriage Vows

In celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary, the Mallorys will be renewing their vows on **Saturday, July 18th at 1:00 p.m.** at the United Church of Mapleton. Following the service, they will be hosting an open house reception at Daly Park. This is an open invitation to the church family and they hope you will be able to join them!



Bridal Shower Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend a Bridal Shower honoring Amber Wilde, bride to be of Kyle Fritz on **Sunday, July 19th at 1:30 p.m.** at the United Church Fellowship Hall. Amber is registered at Target and Kohl's. The couple would also enjoy receiving Menards gift cards. Amber would like to have you bring a favorite recipe.

Youth Center

Next Sunday, July 19th, our Mission Jar and Coffee Hour collections will go to support the local youth center.

UCM at the Mankato MoonDogs!

Come cheer on the Mankato MoonDogs and enjoy some summer fun and fellowship on **Saturday, July 25th at 6:05 p.m.!** Discounted reserved seating tickets are available by signing up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting the church office (524-3141). Sign ups will close after worship on Sunday, July 19th. Tickets are \$5 each, or a ticket and meal deal combo (hot dog, chips, soda) is \$10 each. All are welcome!



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 12th, 2015

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.

Vacation Bible School

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be held **Sunday, July 26th through Thursday, July 30th from 6:15—8:15 p.m.** at St. Teresa and St. John's church. Youth who have completed grades Kin—5th in 2014-2015 are invited to attend. Please pick up a registration form posted on the church office bulletin board or pick up a registration form at one of the local businesses throughout the community.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

Sunday:

Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need. Proverbs 30:8

God, it has not been easy to teach us that we cannot live on bread alone; we need to be nourished physically and spiritually. We pray that you provide us with the wisdom to listen and understand your word. Amen.

Monday:

You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. 2 Samuel 22:37 (NIV)

Shepherd, you are ever patient with our inaction. Help us to drown out the noise so that we can hear your voice. Hold us in your arms so that we can let go of fears that hold us back. We look forward to following you. Amen.

Tuesday:

Paul wrote: I have learned to be content with whatever I have. Philippians 4:11

Lord, you make us feel loved and happy! May we praise you always for the miracle that you are in our lives. Help us to share our joy with everyone. Amen.

Wednesday:

Return, O faithless children, says the Lord, for I am your master; I will take you, and I will bring you to Zion. Jeremiah 3:14

Father, at times we think our way is better than yours, and we ignore you. Please be patient, forgive us for being foolish children, and help us to understand your instructions so that we may follow you to your kingdom. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Revelation 3:20

Lord, you may be knocking, but at times we treat you like a stranger and keep the door closed. Help us to be more constant in prayer and in our faith so that we can hear your voice and let you into our hearts. You are our salvation. Amen.

Friday:

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Titus 2:11

Praise God! Your grace and compassion know no boundaries. You are omnipresent in our lives, helping us even when worry and negative thoughts enter our minds. May we always be worthy in your eyes. Amen.

Saturday:

God chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created. James 1:18 (NIV)

Lord God, you are the amazing creator of all things. You entrusted us with your creation, but we haven't always been the best or wisest of caretakers. Help us to respect, care, and love that which you created. In your name we pray. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue

Service of Dedication of Isaac Whitaker

Pastor: We are told in the Gospel of Mark that, one day, people were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying hands upon them.

Introducing the Child

Pastor: Jeff and Ashley, by what name will your child be called?

Parents: Isaac John Whitaker.

Scripture Reading ~ Luke 2

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

When the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Questions of the Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child dedicated to God and into the family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to seek after the ways of God at all times and receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist all oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith and to help this child be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ by celebrating Christ's presence, furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may one day seek to be baptized?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Question of the Family

Pastor: Do you, the extended family of Isaac, promise to help and support Jeff and Ashley as they teach Isaac God's ways of living, and do you promise to help and support Isaac as he grows in his relationship with God?

Family: We will, with the help of God.

Question of the Congregation

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace, love, and life abundant. Do you, who witness and celebrate this ordinance, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be dedicated, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

Act of Dedication

Pastor: Isaac, having heard the promises made by your parents, family, and this congregation, I dedicate your life to God this day. We pledge to be faithful as your family, your church, and as witnesses to Jesus Christ in your life. May your life be blessed by God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer.

People: Amen.

Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray for the one dedicated today.

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus Christ.

Bless this newly dedicated child. May he be filled with joy and may he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

Bless the parents of this child. May they always love and care for Isaac, and in so doing, give you thanks for his life, which you have entrusted to them.

Bless these, your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

Bless each of us present today as we seek to fulfill the promises made for the benefit of Isaac. Enable us to be examples of love, grace, and faithfulness in his life.

People: Amen.