

Service Notes

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.

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.

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

The United Church of Mapleton

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(507) 524-3141

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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 20th, 2014

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

“What Does It Mean To Be American Baptist?”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalms 42 and 43

One: Come, all you whose souls thirst for the living God.

Many: We come in search of help and hope.

One: Come, all you whose souls are familiar with grief or anxiety.

Many: We come bearing our doubts, our hurts, and our fears.

One: Come, all you whose souls are in need of good news.

Many: We come in search of joy, truth, and light.

One: Come and find refuge in God your rock.

All: Let us praise the One who is our help and our hope!

*Opening Hymn

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” #132

***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

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**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #461

Scripture

Galatians 5:1, 13-14 (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

“Claiming our Four Freedoms: Soul Freedom”

***Closing Hymn**

“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior” #464

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

After the Postlude, please remain seated for our congregational business meeting, which will begin promptly.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, July 20th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Louise Webb

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—

Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with The Well Youth Center

Collections (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:30 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),

Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

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. Heather A. Moody from the UCC Worship Ways website at ucc.org/worship/worship-ways.

This week's message is the third in a series of four seeking to answer the question, "What does it mean to be American Baptist?" The next four weeks will focus on the question, "What does it mean to be United Church of Christ?" This eight-week summer sermon series is aimed to help us as The United Church of Mapleton reconnect with and gain a greater sense of appreciation for our two denominational affiliations.

The United Church News and Announcements Sunday, July, 20th 2014

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.

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. 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!

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 20th, 2014

Sunday, July 20th, Special Congregational meeting
Tuesday, July 22nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Wednesday, July 23rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, July 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Wednesday, July 30th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The Official Board has endorsed proposed Constitutional amendments to be voted on by the congregation as a whole. These amendments mainly concern membership clarifications, numbers of committee/board members, and board/committee member terms. A special meeting for consideration of these amendments has been called for **today** immediately after worship in the Sanctuary.

The proposed amendments are available in hard copy in the narthex and online at www.unitedchurchmapleton.org under the "Resources" tab. If you have any questions, please speak to Dick Dietz, Moderator.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 20th, 2014

Collections for The Well Youth Center

Today, Sunday, July 20th, the Memorial Jar will be placed in the back of the Sanctuary for your loose coin donations to The Well Youth Center. The Well Youth Center will also host coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way on the third Sunday of each month.

Head Ushers Needed

The United Church is in need of Head Ushers for the months July through October. Please consider signing up to help by calling the church office at 524-3141.

Prayer Chain

The United Church Prayer Chain is now active! If you have a prayer request, please call Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not 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.

Newsletter Articles

Please submit your August newsletter articles and reports into the church office by **Tuesday, July 22nd**. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 20th, 2014

Open House Bridal Shower

An Open House Bridal Shower will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the United Church for Jacob Fritz and Tricia Gunsolus on **Saturday, July 26th from 9:30—11:30 a.m.**

The couple is registered at Kohl's and Target, but would always welcome gift cards to Lowe's and Menards.

The Well Youth Center

Please stop by and support your local youth center at any of these fundraising events.

Saturday morning, July 26th: Community Closet fundraiser

Friday, August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd,

10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.: Dietz Brat Wagon

Saturday morning, August 23rd: Community Closet fundraiser

Loaves & Fishes

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!

Community Closet

Open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon.

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.

Please leave donations at the top of the stairs close to the closet door, if you are able, but if that area is full you may leave them downstairs.

We are having great success with the \$3 bag sale on clothing and shoes. Right now there are lots of collectables and dishes, etc. Thank you for your donations of items as well as your time if you have worked there. It is much appreciated!

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: Norma Baack, Bill Brice, Colleen Lindemann, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Hutch Cramer, who is recovering from hip surgery at the Mapleton Community Home
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- Isaac Kolstad, who suffered a severe head injury early on May 11th in Mankato, was recently transferred to a rehab facility. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson. You may visit Isaac's Caring Bridge site at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/isaackolstad>.
- Louis Fritz, who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Radiation treatment has ended and chemotherapy will begin in late July, after a period of rest for Louie.
- Tucker Shuck, Sharon Shuck's grandson, who has begun thirteen weeks of US Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, and for his family during this time of limited communication with him
- Hugo John, who had heart valve replacement surgery on June 25th in Rochester, and who is now recovering at home
- Linda Whitney, who had surgery for uterine/endocervical cancer on July 3rd in Rochester, and who is now recovering at home. Linda received very good news after the surgery, that the cancer was caught early and that it has not spread to her lymph nodes or other areas.

Our church prayer list continued...

- Dawn Dietz, who recently learned that her lymphoma has recurred. Dawn is waiting to hear from her doctors about a treatment plan.
- Donna Jean Sharp, who fell and broke her hip Monday night, and who had surgery on Tuesday. Rehab in a nursing home is expected to take 6-8 weeks after surgery.
- Norma Baack, who fell and broke her hip on Monday, and who had surgery on Monday. Her family expects that she will be in the hospital about a week, with rehab to follow in a nursing home.

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

- To my family and friends for their prayers and support during my recent diagnosis and surgery
- For Lorraine Stanton's 95th birthday and for her great-granddaughters' 9th birthday (Avery and Ella)
- For Lorena Fron's 100th birthday

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 145:8

Sunday:

Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:10

Heavenly Lord, revive us and light our way. Though we may encounter trouble and darkness, let us reflect your light today as we work, as we learn, and as we live our lives for you. Amen.

Monday:

Male and female God created them, and he blessed them and named them “humankind.” Genesis 5:2

Our Loving God, let us remember all our brothers and sisters in Christ today. Let us strive to free those oppressed, work for equality, strive for unity, and remember we are all blessed in your sight. Amen.

Tuesday:

Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. Isaiah 60:18

Gracious God, you have brought gladness to our hearts and peace to our souls. Let us find ways to express our genuine thanks—through praise, service, kindness, and the work of the church. Amen.

Wednesday:

In the Lord you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. Ephesians 2:22

Loving God, let our hearts be a dwelling place for you. Bless us as caretakers of a sacred structure built on holy ground. Let our actions only build up and never tear down your work. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

Spirit of love and redemption, we come to you with songs, words, and meditations of worship. We pray that our days, no matter how busy, will be full of acts of praise. Amen.

Friday:

God himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. Acts 17:25

Our God, we thank you for your precious gift. We are able to create love from hate, joy from sadness, and peace from conflict because of your love. We fix our eyes upon you and the promise you have given us. Amen.

Saturday:

In Christ Jesus we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:12

Loving Savior, we look to you when troubles arise, when our spirit grows faint. You, Lord, are our safe haven and our protector. Help us not to be discouraged when sufferings occur, but to come to you with freedom and confidence. Thank you for always being our strong support. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue