

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

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413

Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

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, July 27th, 2014

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

“What Does It Mean To Be American Baptist?”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 138

One: O Lord our God, we come together with praise in our hearts, because of your unfailing love and faithfulness.

Many: Even though we may struggle, your mercy blesses us.

One: Listening God, we come together with prayers of thanks on our lips, because you hear and answer our prayers.

Many: Even though life is sometimes difficult, your strength blesses us.

One: Welcoming God, we come together with humble worship filling our minds, because your faithful love endures forever.

Many: Even though we are simply normal people,

One: God's love blesses us and never changes.

All: Let us praise our glorious God forever and ever!

***Opening Hymn**

“They Did Not Build In Vain” #542

***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

Pat John

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**

“Built On the Rock” #546

Scripture

Romans 12:3-8 (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: Church Freedom”

***Closing Hymn**

“We Are God’s People” #547

***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 27th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Cindy Allevan

Organist—Kathy Byram

Greeters—Mike and Julie Johnson

Head Usher—

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*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 Joan Stott. © 2012 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year B, used with permission.

This week's message is the fourth 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, 27th 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 27th, 2014**

Tuesday, July 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, July 30th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Tuesday, August 5th, 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education

Wednesday, August 6th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Wednesday, August 6th, 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Remember: Sunday, August 3rd, 2014 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, July 27th, 2014

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.

The Well Youth Center

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

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!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 27th, 2014

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.

Mapleton VFW Auxiliary

The Mapleton VFW Auxiliary will sponsor the Annual Pillow Cleaning Service on Friday, August 1st from 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. at the VFW building on Main Street Mapleton. Feather and polyester pillows can be cleaned with new ticking. Same day service while you wait!

Youth Blast '14

Everyone of all ages is invited to attend **Youth Blast '14 on Friday, August 8th at Half Moon Park in Wells, MN.**

The highlight will be a free concert by internationally known Christian rock band, **Lightswitch at 8:00 p.m.** Afternoon attractions begin at **3:00 p.m.** and include a dodge ball tournament, free food, face painting, balloon creations, bean bag toss and other attractions.

Youth Blast is sponsored by FUSION, an ecumenical youth group from all around the Wells area. You may see poster on bulletin board for more information.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 27th, 2014

School Kits Needed for Church World Service

Every fall the United Church has been involved with drives to assemble and ship Baby, Hygiene, and School Kits to Church World Service (CWS). CWS is an organization of over 35 Christian denominations from around the world which responds to human needs resulting from natural and human disasters giving immediate help and continuing support for the long haul. Due to the large number of recent natural disasters and continuing war conflicts, CWS has sent out an urgent request to replenish their stocks of School Kits.

The Minnesota Conference and National Office of the UCC Disaster Ministries has responded to this request by allocating \$50,000 of their Disaster funds to encourage congregations to respond to the CWS request. They are offering 200 grants of \$250 each, on a first come, first served basis. To apply, we must match the \$250. The Board of Trustees guaranteed our match and as of Sunday (7/20/2014) we have raised \$120. Our Grant request was submitted last Wednesday and we expect it to be granted.

We have assembled from 30 to 50 School Kits each of the last 4 – 5 years. This year we have pledged 100 School Kits to be assembled, packed and shipped by the last week of August.

The list of items to be included in a School Kit are:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count wide ruled spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200 -210 pages. (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Continue

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 27th, 2014

School Kits Needed for Church World Service cont..

- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or light weight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

Presently many of the stores are having sales on School Supplies which will help in reaching our goal of 100. If you are unable to go shopping for the above items we will accept cash donations to help offset the cost of shipping, paying off the Trustees advance or the purchase of Kit items.

We will need assistance in cutting and sewing bags for each Kit. Search your fabric cache for material that could be used for constructing bags.

Questions or additional information, contact Pat John; 507-524-4041.

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, July 14th, and who had surgery on Wednesday, July 16th. She had some serious kidney issues earlier in the week, but they are now stable enough to have allowed surgery.
- Norma Baack, who fell and broke her hip on Monday, July 14th, and who had surgery on that day. She is now recovering at the Masonic Home of Bloomington, MN for an expected six weeks of therapy.
- The victims of and the families affected by Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17, which was shot down over Ukraine on Thursday, July 17th.
- The victims of and the families affected by the ongoing and escalated violence between Israel and Palestine, including the at least 500 Palestinians and 20 Israelis who have been killed, as well as the many others wounded.

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

- That my husband is okay after a recent fall; continued prayers for his safety
- To God for his healing power
- For a letter from a great-grandson who is in San Diego

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

Sunday:

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. Hebrews 1:1-2

God, you call us to love one another and to serve. Today let us clearly hear and without hesitation answer that call. Thank you, God, for the gift of your son and your everlasting love. Amen.

Monday:

Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. Romans 15:2

Your world is large, merciful God. While we cannot end war, cure disease, or stop hunger, we can, through your grace, show kindness and compassion to our neighbors this and every day. Amen.

Tuesday:

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God." Revelation 19:1

Heavenly Lord, we raise our voices in praise. Let those praises and our good works also proclaim your glory. Let our voices and actions carry to the ends of the Earth—Hallelujah! Amen.

Wednesday:

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

God, we ask for strength to serve. With that strength we witness, we feed, and we love our brothers and sisters. Test us and let us find strength we did not know we had. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Psalm 103:19

Heavenly God, our lives are full of distractions and our focus on you is sometimes lost. Today, let us stop to behold your majesty, revealed in the beauty of nature and in your children. Amen.

Friday:

With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16

O Lord, we give thanks for the blessing of music—soaring strings, majestic brass, beautiful voice, and stirring drums all used to praise your name. From desert to mountaintop we lift our voices and you lift us up. Amen.

Saturday:

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. Ephesians 2:4-5

Compassionate God, we know we are forgiven if we confess. We know you remember us, but not our sins. Help us today to show that same love, forgiveness, and unmistakable joy to those we meet. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue