

The United Church News and Announcements Sunday, July 31st, 2016

Garden of Eatin' Update: 86.9 lbs. of produce to date.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections: Sunday, August 7th!

Foster Care Home for Girls

Please, let us help the 8 girls from the foster care home who visited us on July 10th! Check out the handmade quilts, hanging on the back pews, that are going to these girls which were lovingly made by the United Church Quilting Group. Thank you Quilters! Any other donated items may be placed in the bin located in the narthex or given to Sheila Samuelson. Thank you!

Church World Service

It's the time of year when there are good buys on school supplies. It is also the time of the year when we help Church World Service meet the escalating demands for **School Kits and Hygiene Kits**. We will not be assembling Baby Kits this year. We will be assembling Kits from now until mid-August. Take advantage of all the sales. A list of Kit materials can be found in the foyer and in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Call Pat John. Thank you!

Community-Wide Vacation Bible School

Community-Wide VBS (children who finished Kindergarten, those going into 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and those who finished 5th grade) will be held from **6:30-8:30 p.m., August 8th, 9th and 10th**, (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) between the churches of St. John Lutheran and St. Teresa Catholic.

Call to Ministry and Ministry Table

If you would like to share a Call to Ministry at the beginning of worship, please contact Marissa Pfeffer or the church office no later than Wednesday evening before that Sunday. The same timeline is requested for bulletin or Ministry Table information. The Call to Ministry time will be reserved for one announcement that is both informational and a call to action and should be directly related to The United Church of Mapleton's mission and ministry. The Ministry Table in the entryway has information about church ministry opportunities and community events. **Check it out today!**

The United Church of Mapleton Order of Worship

Sunday, July 31st, 2016

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Our Mission:

The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.

*The * symbolizes an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

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 Ministry

***Call to Worship**

Based on Psalm 26

One: Justify us, O Lord, for we walk with integrity.

Many: Examine our hearts and minds, O God.

Your steadfast love is ever before us,

and faithfulness to you is always within us.

We sing thanksgiving to your name

and tell the nations of your wonderful works.

As for us, we will walk with integrity,

so be gracious to us, O Lord, we pray.

In all gatherings and sacred places,

All: let us bless the Lord forever!

***Opening Hymn**

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #96

Verses 1, 2, 3, 5

***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!

***Sharing Grace and Peace**

One: God’s Word is a word of forgiveness, assurance, and grace.

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Many: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

Message for God’s Children

After the Message for God’s Children, all children may return to their pews, use the Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or use the Nursery if they are younger than Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Invitation to Worship Through 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 momentarily and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer.

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)

Prayers of the People

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**

“When Peace Like a River” #428

Scripture

Job 2:11-13 (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

“The Comfort of Sadness”
Faith & Film Sermon Series

***Closing Hymn**

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way” #65

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

The United Church of Mapleton

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Today's Worship & Fellowship

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Marian Mallory
Hospitality Team Lead—Sean Mallory
Organist/Pianist—Pam Braunshausen
Sound System—Chad Kunkel
Coffee Hour Host—Loaves & Fishes

9:00 a.m. Worship (*Sanctuary*)

9:00 a.m. Nursery/Toddler Care (*The Nursery/Toddler Room is at the north end of upstairs hallway*)

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (*Fellowship Hall*)

Today's *Call to Worship* is by Rev. Ashley Whitaker and is posted online at praxisandpraise.wordpress.com.

Church Calendar

Monday, August 8th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Community-Wide VBS
Monday, August 8th, 7:00 p.m. **Women's Fellowship**
Tuesday, August 9th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, August 9th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Community-Wide VBS
Wednesday, August 10th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Community-Wide VBS
Sunday, August 14th, 9:00 a.m. Riverblenders
Tuesday, August 16th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, August 16th, 7:30 p.m. Pianist/Organist meeting
Wednesday, August 17th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**
Tuesday, August 23rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The 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
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression



Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Marian Mallory, Sean Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- Phyllis Lindemann, who has been undergoing evaluation testing for a double lung transplant at the University of Minnesota. She has been cleared to join the transplant list, but faces potential problems with finding a match to avoid rejection.
- All those affected by the explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan on Saturday, July 23rd in the midst of a peaceful demonstration by members of a Shiite minority group, which left 80 dead and at least 260 wounded.
- All those affected by the shooting in Munich, Germany on Friday, July 22nd, which left ten people dead (including the gunman) and 27 wounded.

The prayer requests and praises from worship last week were:

Prayers:

- For a divided nation that needs to be healed in many ways
- For strength, comfort, and peace as a brother-in-law enters palliative care for cancer

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Garden of Eatin' Season

There are sheets on the Ministry Table for you to sign-up and volunteer throughout the season to tend, water, pick and deliver produce. **On any given week, produce can be delivered Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.** This garden has been a great success in the past couple of years. Let's continue to grow and show love in our community with this great mission!

Sign-Up for Sunday Lay Ministries!

Please consider helping by signing-up to be a **Lay Leader, Hospitality Team Leader, and Communion Servers** for Sunday worship services. Sign-up sheets are on the Ministry Table. Thank you in advance for your service!

Caregiver Support Group

This group is for friends and family members who are in a caregiver role. There will be opportunity for sharing and education about memory loss. Join us for our August session on **Tuesday, August 2nd, 3:00-4:30 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, Amboy. There is no charge to attend. Questions? Call Joyce Kolbet (386-5583) at VINE Faith in Action.

Mapleton VFW Auxiliary

Mapleton VFW Auxiliary will sponsor the Annual Pillow Cleaning on **Friday, August 5th from 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** at the VFW building on Main Street, Mapleton. Again, this year we will be open Thursday, August 4th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for dropping off pillows. Feather and polyester pillows can be cleaned with new ticking.

Foster Care Home

Jeannie Jackson and her husband are a foster care home for young girls in the Albert Lea area. They currently have 8 girls within their home 24/7 and provide respite care for 2 other girls. I found out about this home from a young friend of mine who let me know about the girls limited resources and need for personal items. My hope is that our church, who always shows so much love and compassion to those in their time of need, may help this home and the girls in any way we can through Christ's love and may we continue a long-term connection. Thank you! Sheila

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?
Genesis 18:14

Sunday:

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Psalm 111:9

Savior of the world, you died and rose to save and redeem a lost world. So wondrous is your gift of eternal salvation; you heal all the broken places of our bodies, minds, and souls. Amen.

Monday:

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.
2 Corinthians 4:16

Prince of Peace, we rejoice in our hearts knowing that we are not alone, for you neither sleep nor slumber. Despite our physical deterioration, you continue to renew our inner beings, as we await your return. Amen.

Tuesday:

My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. Isaiah 55:8

Master, whom we serve, give us the mind of Christ as we seek to faithfully obey your precepts. Give us the strength of Christ as we strive to serve others and be Christ-like examples to them. Amen.

Wednesday:

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

Chief Elder of our heart, kindle in us your abounding love and heartfelt compassion for others; use the gifts, talents, and resources you have blessed each of us with to serve all of humanity. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 3:5

Jesus, Master and Friend, keep our tongues pure and holy; fill our mouths with your words. Set our hearts and minds on the heavenly things above. Set our feet on your firm and strong foundation. Amen.

Friday:

Jesus' parents found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Luke 2:46

Most gracious and loving Father, Jesus was found in the temple listening and asking questions; let us, O Lord, also be found daily seeking your rich words of wisdom and truth as proclaimed in Scripture. Amen.

Saturday:

Do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you. Isaiah 51:7

Woe to you when all speak well of you. Luke 6:26

Lord over all, help us to remember that we are all sinners, saved only by your merciful grace. Help us to resolve in our own individual hearts a sincere desire and need to come before you in prayer. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue