

***Closing Hymn**

“This Is My Song”

Please turn to the bulletin insert titled “This Is My Song” for music and lyrics.

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

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 6th, 2014

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

“What Does It Mean To Be American Baptist?”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Based on Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99, Matthew 22:15-22

One: The earth has its kings, but God is ruler of all.

Many: Praise God above all, the giver of life!

One: The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar,

Many: but God’s presence is more powerful than the earth itself.

One: Come into God’s presence, for God is among us now.

Many: O God, show us your glory; we seek your ways.

One: Come to the Rock, the God of life,

All: for God is present now!

***Opening Hymn**

“Jesus Shall Reign” #341

***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

Laura Fritz

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**

“O God of Every Nation” #626

Scripture

Matthew 22:15-22 (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: Religious Freedom”

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 intinction. Intinction is the practice of coming forward to the front of the Sanctuary, taking a piece of bread from the loaf, dipping it into the cup of juice, and receiving the elements at that time.

If you request that the elements to be brought to you in your pew, simply let a Deacon know during the Communion Service and the pastor will come to you.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, July 6th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Jeff Gerdts
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Bob and Geri Howieson
Head Usher—
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections (*Sanctuary*)
9:00-10:30 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*), Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:10 a.m. Called to Care Session 5

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 Mary Scifres at ministrymatters.com.

This week's message is the second 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 **floral arrangement** on the altar has been 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: 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

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

- Of healing for depression and mental health issues; bring comfort with faith in our Lord Jesus
- For Nick Kruger, who is in Basic Training in Atlanta
- To continue for Rachel of Lake Crystal, age sixteen, who recently had her colon removed and who had to have another surgery because of an infection. She is recovering at Children's Hospital.

The United Church News and Announcements **Sunday, July, 6 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 6th, 2014**

Sunday, July 6th, 10:10 a.m. Called to Care Session 5 in the Overflow Room

Tuesday, July 8th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Tuesday, July 8th, 3:00—6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes work day at St. John's Lutheran Church

Wednesday, July 9th, 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting

Saturday, July 12th, 9:00—Noon Loaves & Fishes work day at St. John's Lutheran Church

Planning Ahead

Monday, July 14th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, July 15th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, July 16th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Sunday, July 20th, 10:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 6th, 2014

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, Sunday, July 6th, 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.

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.

Office Hours

During the week of July 14th, the Administrative Assistant will be in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

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 Sunday, July 20th 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 6th, 2014

The Well Youth Center

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

Friday, July 11th and Saturday July 12th,

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

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!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 6th, 2014

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.

Birthday Celebration!

Lorraine Stanton turns 95 years of age on July 10th, 2014. Please join us for birthday cake in the Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, July 13th.

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 Lowes and Menards.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, July 6th, 2014

Called to Care Visitation Training

One of the goals and needs that came out of our visioning process was a trained lay pastoral care visitation team to help make sure that all of our at-home members and members with long-term care needs receive the care and support they deserve from The United Church. Pastor Ashley will be leading training sessions based on the "Called to Care" curriculum for all who would like to become caregivers in this context. The Diaconate will coordinate this ministry with Pastor Ashley. There are five training sessions, and caregivers will need to attend all five sessions to be commissioned. Each hour-long training session will be offered twice: once on a Sunday after worship and once on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Session Five: Sunday 7/6

If you have any questions or are interested in Called to Care, please talk to Pastor Ashley or Ruth Cumming. Thank you!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance. Psalm 89:15

Sunday:

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

As we remember Jesus suffering on the cross, may we be reminded he did it to save us from our errors and he will forgive all of our transgressions. Hear our prayer as we humbly come before you and confess our sins, O Lord. Amen.

Monday:

Just as the gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. Colossians 1:6

Lord, we wish to spread the seeds of the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control through your spirit. Be with us as we bring the gospel to all we meet this day and every day. Amen.

Tuesday:

You know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

O Lord our God, we realize richness does not come from gold or silver but from the grace of God. Restore our spirits with a clean heart and the joy of salvation through you. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Wednesday:

Jesus said to the man who had been possessed, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." Mark 5:19

Lord, we give thanks for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us this past week. May we give what you have freely given to us back to others. Our promise to serve you will always be the most important duty we do. In your name we pray. Amen.

Thursday:

Jesus said, "The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10:12-14

Blessed Jesus, you do not run away from your sheep. You tend to us and guide us to be true disciples in our service to you. We praise you and thank you for constantly being our shepherd. Amen.

Friday:

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4:16

As we begin a new day, may we remember your commandments and the covenant you have made with your people. Keep us true to your word and may we always feel the embrace of your love. Amen.

Saturday:

Light arises in the darkness for the upright; He is gracious and compassionate and righteous. Psalm 112:4

You, Lord, who have turned darkness into light: may we no longer live in darkness. Let us go and seek your light so we may let others know of your love for us all. Amen.

Continue

Source: Moravian Daily Texts