

The United Church of Mapleton

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Order of Worship

Sunday, March 12, 2017

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.*

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!

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements & Opening Prayer

***Gathering Song** *Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary* **Blue #482**

*Call to Worship

One: Sometimes we are sure of our call,
but unsure of our destination.

**All: Friends who travel with us,
come – journey to God’s place.**

One: Sometimes we run out of energy and fear the future.

**All: Friends who look with us for help,
come – seek God’s strength for life.**

One: Sometimes we think we are people of faith,
but have more questions than answers.

**All: Friends who long for deeper understanding,
come – find new life in the Spirit.**

One: And so we come as we are.

All: We come to worship God.

*Claiming Our Brokenness

All: Creating God, you are the divine energy who brought order from chaos, mountains from the depths, living things from the dust of the earth. In the darkness, hidden and unseen, it was you who gave us life and made us flesh, and by the breath of your Spirit brought us to birth.

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(1)

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering “Where There is Water?”



Think of all the ways you use water. Did you take a shower this morning? Did you flush your toilet? Or wash your hands? When you made, or ate breakfast, was water used? How about when you cleaned up after the meal? Now imagine walking each morning to gather water for your family, knowing the water you were collecting was unclean and could make the members of your family sick.

Next, let’s imagine that each year for several months you don’t have access to water because it was the dry season and your water source had dried up. How would you get by? How would you provide water for your family?

Unfortunately, these are realities for many people around the world. In a rural community in Cambodia, the only water available was from a shallow, hand-dug well. Each day during the rainy season, a grandmother named Som Bee would walk to the well to collect the water for her family. But the water from the well was unclean, sometimes leading to health problems, including diarrhea. **Thanks to your support**, the community was able to address the unclean water problem by installing a ring well. The members of the community received training on how to filter the water, and to keep it clean for daily use. **Because of your support**, the members of the community now have access to clean water year-round, and they are sick less often. **Because of your support**, Som uses the clean water for her garden to help her grow tomatoes, pumpkins, spinach, cucumbers and mushrooms. Of course, her family eats the vegetables, so they now have a healthier diet!

Your support has reached 16 villages in central Cambodia with clean, safe water. You were here and their future is brighter because of your support of the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering.

Maple River Loaves & Fishes

The March, MN Food Share Campaign, is the only statewide food and fund drive that raises more than half the food distributed by the 300 food shelves.

The “**Pack the Pews**” event will be the weekend of **March 24-26**. You are encouraged to bring a grocery bag of non-perishables to your worship service to be donated to Loaves and Fishes.

The March Campaign also matches the dollar amount donated throughout the month of March. **Remember, for every dollar you donate, we can buy \$10 worth of food** using our network which includes Second Harvest, Dietz Foods and other organizations.

Thank you! Maple River Loaves and Fishes

***Blessing Our Gifts**

All: Because you gave Jesus Christ as a gift to the world, we bring our gifts today. Because you have loved us, God, we renew our commitment to share love with your people. Because you are even now renewing our spirits and bringing us rebirth, we pour out our thanksgiving. The gifts we dedicate here have always belonged to you. The wealth we retain for our own use is yours as well. Use all that we have and all that we are to move your world from death to life. Amen.

Message for All of God’s Children

*The Children are now free to attend Sunday School.
For children PreK through K please go to Classroom A.
For those in 1st – 5th grades please head to the Youth Room.
Both classrooms are found down the hall upstairs.
Children of any age are invited to remain in worship with their parents in their pews, in the Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or in the Nursery (if they are younger than Pre-Kindergarten age).
Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.
The Service is piped into the Overflow Room and the Nursery.*

Scripture *Genesis 12:1-9 & John 3:1–17*

Message

***Song** *Here I Am, Lord* **Blue #559**

Prayers of the People

Affirmation of Faith (based upon Psalm 121)

One: Look to the distant hills!
From where does our help come?
All: Our help comes from God, who made heaven and earth; who sustains the universe, keeping the sun in place and the moon on track; who provides sunshine and shade to nurture and protects life, day and night.
One: Look to the skies! From where does our help come?
All: Our help comes from God, who showed such immense love for us in the person of Jesus Christ; who came not to judge or condemn anyone, but to give eternal life. *(continued on next page)*

One: Look around! From where does our help come?
All: Our help comes from God, whose Spirit is always at our side; whose presence is like the wind, powerful, unpredictable, yet personal, stirring us into new possibilities and bringing about new birth.

***Song to Send Us Forth** *God of Wisdom, Truth and Beauty*
TUNE: Hymn to Joy 87 87 D
From *A Singing Faith*. Words © 1984 Jane Parker Huber. Used with permission.

***Blessing**

One: God calls you to continue on life’s journey in faith:
All: We go, trusting in God.
One: God loves the world more than we can ever understand:
All: We go, trusting in Jesus the Christ.
One: God is at work among us bringing new possibilities:
All: We go, trusting the Spirit. Bless our going out and our coming in, now and forever. Amen.

***Postlude**

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

Today’s Worship & Fellowship Leaders

Intentional Interim Pastor—Cindy Mueller
Lay Reader—Karen Stanton
Hospitality Team—Cindy and Warren Allevan
Organist/Pianist—Jola Walker
Sound System—Dick Dietz

*Today’s Coffee Fellowship Donations will be given to:
Women’s Fellowship*

If You have a Pastoral Emergency or Need

You can contact Pastor Cindy Mueller at
pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Please check your weekly bulletin for Pastor Cindy’s office hours.
Email secretary at secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org