

Community Closet

The Community Closet is having a Winter Clearance Sale of all Women's and Men's clothing for \$2.00 a bag during the last two Saturdays in March. We have to make way for all the Spring and Summer wear that we have ready for the next season. Thank you!

Local Missions



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! Please bring donations to church on the first Sunday of each month.



The Well Youth Center hours are Tuesdays-Fridays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Our Mission:

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, March 15th, 2015

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 107

One: We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever.

Many: When we cried with our troubles, O Lord, you saved us from our distress.

One: We give you thanks, O God, for your wonderful works to all humanity.

Many: Hear now our offerings of praise and thanksgiving, as we tell of your deeds with songs of joy.

All: Let us worship God!



***Opening Hymn**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” #56

***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!

***Moment of Fellowship**

Message for God’s Children

*Children are invited to attend Sunday School after the
Message for God’s Children or return to their pews. Children’s
Worship Bags are available in the back of the Sanctuary.*

Mission Moment

Pat John

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Have Thine Own Way”

Adult Choir

***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**

“Rock of Ages” #384

Scripture

Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:3-21

(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

“Grace”

***Closing Hymn**

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” #572

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, March 15th, 2015

Pastor—Ava Adams-Morris

Lay Leader—Louise Webb

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—Sean and Marian Mallory

Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

Today's Worship & Fellowship

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

Collections (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:40 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),

Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

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

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School (*PreK-5th Grade*)

Classroom A, upstairs

10:10-10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*)

Youth Lounge, upstairs

The **Call to Worship** is from *When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship* by James G. Kirk.

The **paraments** are **purple** during the season of Lent as a symbol of both the sovereignty of Christ and personal penitence. The season of Lent is bracketed by the mourning black paraments colors of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Worship & Care Connections

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

The **Nursery/Toddler Room** for infants and toddlers is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the hallway opposite the Sanctuary.

The **Family Space**, located in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, is for our families with infants and small children. This space is available for families in addition to the nursery so that families can both see and hear what's going on in worship.

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 you or a family member 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 Ava Adams-Morris, a Deacon, or the church office so that we may serve you. The church phone number is (507) 524-3141. Ava's phone numbers are (507) 243-3891 or (507) 380-7233 and her email is kreolelady@aol.com.**

If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**, please call **Karen Stanton at 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727**. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for, and whether 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.

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Well 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

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Hutch Cramer, Kathy Cramer, David Keller, Stan Solie, Marge Walters
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All who are grieving and mourning
- The 2015 American Baptist Churches, USA Biennial Mission Summit, to be held June 26-28 in Overland Park, KS
- The 2015 United Church of Christ General Synod 30, to be held June 26-30 in Cleveland, OH
- Dan Prenzlou, who is recuperating at home from hip replacement
- For Lloyd Mitchell and family as he recovers from brain surgery
- Prayers for Tony Passmore's ministry time while working with the Dallas, Texas Metro Dream Center.
- For Jack Madsen, who had surgery on March 11th

The prayer requests and praises shared during last week's worship service include:

Prayers:

- For those who need a church home; that they may come to find one

Thanksgiving:

- For birthday wishes this week to Dick Dietz. Dick, you are a blessing to our church.
- For all the prayers and good thoughts during Sean Mallory's surgery and recovery. I'm doing much better.

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, March 15th, 2015

Tuesday, March 17th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, March 18th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

Wednesday, March 18th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, March 24th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, March 24th, 8:00 a.m. Newsletter articles/reports due

Wednesday, March 25th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

Tuesday, March 31st, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Contact Information

While Pastor Ashley Whitaker is on Family Leave and you are in need of or would like pastoral care, please contact **Ava Adams-Morris at (507) 243-3891 or (507) 380-7233; email: kreolelady@aol.com.**

You may reach the Secretary/Administrative Assistant at the church office by calling (507) 524-3141 or email secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org.

The best time to visit the church office is Tuesdays through Thursdays 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Reminder: Bulletin items are due to the church office **by 8:00 a.m., Thursday mornings**. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 15th, 2015

Need for Lay Readers and Ushers

The Deacons are in the process of updating their list for Lay Readers and Ushers. If you are interested in signing up or would like more information, please contact Marian Mallory or any member of the Diaconate. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service.

The Well Youth Center

Today, Sunday, March 15th our Mission Jar and Coffee Hour collections will go to support The Well Youth Center.

Youth: Palm Sunday Brunch and Set Up

There will be a Palm Sunday Brunch set-up time set for **Saturday, March 28th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. **All children and youth are encouraged to help.** All proceeds from the brunch go to help send our children and youth to camp.

The Board of Christian Education is hosting their annual **Palm Sunday Brunch Sunday, March 29th following worship.** The menu will include ham and eggs, cheesy potatoes, applesauce and muffins.

A free will offering will be accepted to support the camping fund for United Church children and youth.

Easter Season Plants

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the Sanctuary door to **purchase and bring in on your own**, Easter lily, tulip, daffodil or hyacinth plants to the church mail room by **Sunday, March 29th.**

You may indicate in (M) memory of or in (H) honor of and the name. The names will be included in the bulletin.

If you would like to take your plant home after the season, please place your name on your plant/s. Thank you for helping beautify our Sanctuary for the Easter season!



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 15th, 2015

Thank You—The Oddfellows

We would like to say thank you to the members of The United Church for their generous support of our annual pancake feed last Sunday. We express our appreciation for the use of the United Church facilities and we thank the Women's Fellowship for the use of the kitchen area.

Because of your generosity, several area youth will have a great week this summer at **Camp FaHoCha**. Thanks so much from the Mapleton IOOF.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

The 2015 March Campaign will host a **Pack the Pews** weekend for **Sunday, March 22nd**. This will be an opportunity for congregations across the state to engage their members in supporting Minnesota food shelves by bringing non-perishable food items to worship services. Food shelves are able to stretch cash further than donations of food because of their access to discount products and programs.

Service to Mankind

You have the opportunity and are invited to send a letter of nomination to Sertoma for the "Service to Mankind Award".

Please send your letter, which gives information about the person you are nominating to receive this award to: Louise Webb, PO Box 93 by **today, Sunday, March 15th.**

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. Psalm 25:8

Sunday:

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Revelation 15:3 (NIV)

Almighty One, you shine on us through your sun, your moon, your stars. Day or night, we need only look to the heavens to feel your presence and know that you are there for us. May your light shine on everyone. Amen.

Monday:

God called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. 2 Timothy 1:9

Wise Comforter, sometimes we feel small. We lose our way and we question our purpose. Remind us today that you have a plan for each of us. Remind us that we are valuable and full of purpose, beautifully and wonderfully made. May we glorify you. Amen.

Tuesday:

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:6–7

As we travel life's highways, we know you travel with us. No matter where we roam, there is always a home with you. Guide our path and light our way, we pray. Amen.

Wednesday:

Jesus said to his disciples: Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Matthew 13:16

No matter where we go, Lord, you go with us. In each breath we take there is the Holy Spirit filling us to excess with love, mercy, and grace. May each breath that leaves us gift others with the same blessings. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

1 John 2:12

Forgiving Father, you know our sins. You see our need for love, hope, and forgiveness. Despite our sometimes-troubled days, we know deep down that you are there for us and we ask you to forgive us our trespasses. In your name we pray. Amen.

Friday:

Paul wrote: Aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands. 1 Thessalonians 4:11

Lord Jesus, you lead us by example against a life of excess. Make us comfortable with less in a society that says “more.” Let us live our lives with the goal of praising you, not of being praised for what we have. Remind us whose we are. Amen.

Saturday:

The other criminal who was hanged there, said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Luke 23:42

O Wondrous Restorer, as we remain faithful to you, remember us in times of trial and despair. Refresh our lives and faith with your Spirit. May we do all we can to be welcomed into your kingdom. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue