

Service Notes

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.

About the Season of Lent

The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or *catechumens*, for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer, and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. The theme of Lent is conversion, which is literally the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptized and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

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. Sunday School is available for children PreK– 5th grade after the Message for God's Children, and children can meet their teachers at the back of the Sanctuary at that time. Children's Worship Bags with creative supplies are available in the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

The United Church of Mapleton

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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, March 16th, 2014

Second Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 121

One: I lift my eyes up to the mountains, from where does our help come?

Many: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: We look not to the mountains or valleys, even heaven or earth,

Many: for God is found among us.

One: Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

Many: God is here among us.

One: Come, let us worship the God of Creation, who is the God of Community.

All: Let us worship together in faith!

***Opening Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth” #40

***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** “God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian” #149

In the second verse, please sing “people” instead of “pastors” so that we are all included.

Scripture

John 3:1-17 (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

“Born of the Spirit”

***Closing Hymn**

“To God Be the Glory” #66

***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 16th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Lisa Shubert

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Hugo and Pat John

Head Usher—Warren Allevan

Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship and The Well Collections (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:30 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),

Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

9:15-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School

(*PreK-1st Grade*), Classroom A, upstairs

(*2nd-5th Grade*), Classroom E, downstairs

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*),

Youth Lounge, upstairs

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

10:05 a.m. Choir Practice

10:10 – 11:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Classroom B, downstairs

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 Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell at rev-o-lution.org.

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: Bill Brice, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Lorraine Stanton
- 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 recently fell and had surgery for a broken hip, is now recovering at the Mapleton Community Home; and for his wife, Kathy, who is staying with him there
- The people of the Ukraine who are affected by the violence and turmoil currently affecting their country
- The family and friends of the people on Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which went missing on Thursday, March 6th

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

Thanksgiving:

- For a brother turning 60 on Wednesday, March 12th
- For Don and Marge Shubert's wedding anniversary today

Prayers:

- For the families and communities who have lost loved ones to winter car accidents
- For Cheri, a good friend dealing with cancer
- For Ron Newell, who will be having surgery this week

The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, March 16th, 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, March 16th, 2014

Monday, March 17th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
Tuesday, March 18th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Wednesday, March 19th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, March 19th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service
Wednesday, March 19th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
Wednesday, March 19th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees
Thursday, March 20th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, March 25th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Wednesday, March 26th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, March 26th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service
Wednesday, March 26th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
Wednesday, March 26th, 7:00 p.m. Official Board
Thursday, March 27th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

The United Church News and Announcements **Sunday, March 16th, 2014**

United Church Directory

The Board of Deacons is getting ready to publish our new United Church print directory! We plan to have directories ready for pickup in time for Palm Sunday and Easter. **Do you remember whether or not you returned your “Member Information” form** back to the church? Don't worry, it was a while ago, we know! The Deacons now have a list of who has returned their forms and who we still need updated information from. Check with Ruth Cumming for more information. More Member Information forms are available in the Fellowship Hall and a “draft directory” is also available to check out.

Easter Lilies

The Ambience Work Group is looking for donations of Lily plants to beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday morning.

Please purchase your lily plant on your own and bring your plant to the church **between Palm Sunday, April 13th and no later than Good Friday, April 18th**. Please label your plant with your name and place it in the mail room. Thank you!

Mission Committee

In March, our Mission offering will be for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Both the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist collect money for this offering, so whatever money we take in is divided equally between the two denominations. Please give generously to this mission offering as it goes to help people all over the world.

Newsletter Reports and Articles

Please submit your newsletter reports and articles to the church office by **8:00 a.m. Thursday, March 20th**. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements **Sunday, March 16th, 2014**

The Well Youth Center

Today, March 16th, Coffee Hour and the Mission Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

The Well Request

The Well Youth Center is requesting donations of empty gallon milk jugs (please rinse well) and empty gallon water jugs.

You may drop the plastic containers into the blue container outside of The Well, west entry of The United Church of Mapleton or call Sheila at 995-8194 for pickup.

Youth will be learning a life-skills project “Winter Sown Seeds” presented by Carolyn Becker, Master Gardner.

Loaves & Fishes

We're focusing on a new event called “**Pack the Pews**” the weekend of **March 21-23**. You are encouraged to bring a grocery bag of non-perishables to your worship service to be donated to Loaves & 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.

What to collect:

Food Donations – Food shelves need all types of food, paper, personal hygiene and cleaning products.

Cash Donations – Easier to collect and deliver. Cash also gives us more flexibility to acquire perishable items like fresh produce, meat, and dairy products. Thank you!

Maple River Loaves & Fishes, (507) 524-3046

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 16th, 2014

Community Closet

All Fall and Winter clothing and shoes are still good for \$3 a bag. Lots of nice Easter décor is available. 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.

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 Fa Ho Cha**. Thanks so much from the Mapleton IOOF.



Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. Psalm 32:11

Sunday:

They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you.

Jeremiah 1:19

We depart from our daily routines to journey into the wilderness of Lent. Travel with us, Jesus. Lend us your courage, strength, and perseverance, that we might share your Easter victory. Amen.

Monday:

The large crowd was listening to Jesus with delight.

Mark 12:37

May your Word, Lord, go out to all the world. May all who follow your precepts find great delight in loving one another—and serving you. Amen.

Tuesday:

Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. Daniel 9:4-5

O God, too often we have failed to speak words of hope. Too often, we have nurtured hatred in our hearts. Too often, we have turned away from the soul in need. Forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Wednesday:

Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4

With every bit of our souls, we cry, "God is great!" In the depths of our troubles, we cry, "God is great!" From the peaks of our triumphs, we cry, "God is great!" Always, to you, Lord, the glory. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15

You, O God, are the rock of our salvation. You are the lodestone of our lives. You are not for us the lukewarm convictions of a fainting spirit—our sure salvation rests in you, O Christ! Amen.

Friday:

I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Psalm 118:17

Gracious Lord and God, may the simple joy and certain knowledge of our salvation move us to take up your great good work. May your Spirit move in our hands and in our hearts. Amen.

Saturday:

Those who counsel peace have joy. Proverbs 12:20

Heavenly God, let us joyfully seek first your kingdom as we look to bring peace to our wearied world. Let us be humble, gracious, and kind with our brothers and sisters. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue