

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, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Roberta Ward
- Gabe Samuelson, who is in Advance Individual Training for computers and communications for the Army Reserves in Augusta, Georgia through March
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- All those affected by the outbreak of the Zika virus and the serious health concerns suspected to be related to it
- All those affected by the drought in Ethiopia, which is the worst the country has seen in over fifty years and has affected more than 10 million people



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

Thanksgiving:

- For the promise of spring and new beginnings
- For the special music today from Pam Foster, Will Brice, and Pam Braunshausen
- **Prayers:**
- For Sue Prenzlów's sister-in-law, Deb who is having bypass surgery on March 21st

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Florence Schupbach, Jeff Whitaker's grandmother, who passed away on Saturday, February 27th, 2016. The funeral was held at Community Baptist Church of Tulsa on Saturday, March 5th, 2016.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Doug Crane, longtime youth leader at Calvary Baptist Church of Denver, who passed away on Tuesday, March 8th, 2016. The funeral was held at Calvary Baptist Church of Denver on Wednesday, March 16th, 2016.

The United Church of Mapleton

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

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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 20th, 2016

Palm Sunday

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

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 Worship

Based on Psalm 118:19-24

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter, and give thanks to the Lord.

**Many: We will give You thanks, for You have answered us;
You have become our salvation.**

One: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**Many: This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

Many: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna!

*Opening Hymn & Procession with Palms

“All Glory, Laud and Honor” #265

*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, children PreK-2nd grade may attend Sunday School in the upstairs classroom (between the Sanctuary and the Nursery, opposite the office).

All children may remain in their pews during worship, 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.

Mission Moment

Karen Stanton; Dick Dietz

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” Adult Choir

The Choir’s music is an offering to God, not a performance for our entertainment. Please do not applaud to show your appreciation. Instead, please try saying “Amen” or thanking them individually after worship.

***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**

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #176

Scripture

Luke 19:28-40 (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 Lord Needs It”

***Closing Hymn**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #267

***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 20th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Sue Prenzlow

Organist—Jola Walker

Sound System—Dick Dietz

Greeter—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—Ron Conrad

Coffee Hour Host—Christian Education and Youth

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Youth Center Collections

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

9:15 a.m. Sunday School during worship for grades PreK-2nd (*classroom A, upstairs across from office*)

10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch

Today's *Call to Worship* is by Christine Longhurst at re-worship.blogspot.com.

After a **Choral Offering**, please refrain from applause, which traditionally follows a performance meant for entertainment in our culture, whereas the choir's music is offered to God in a spirit of worship. If you would like to show your appreciation, please say "Amen" after their offering, or thank them individually after worship.

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.

Worshipping With Children

Children are always welcome at The United Church!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

During worship, several options are available for children:

The Sunday Paper is a coloring page based on the Scripture reading for each Sunday. Two versions are available, one for older and one for younger elementary aged children.

Ministry card decorating kits are also available, and a sign next to these kits lets children know to whom their card will be sent (e.g. homebound members, Treats for Troops recipients, etc.).

Worship Bags with creative supplies are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

The Nursery/Toddler Room for infants and toddlers (Kindergarten and younger) is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the upstairs hallway.

The Family Space, located in the Overflow Room at 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.

Care Connections

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.

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 us know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office. The church phone number is (507) 524-3141.

Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org.

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.

The United Church News and Announcements Sunday, March 20th, 2016

Dayton Oaks Camp

Spring Clean up days will be April 23rd and May 21st from 9:00-4:00 p.m. with lunch being served.

Camps for 2016 will be Card Making/Scrapbooking Weekend, April 29th-May 1st; Paintball Challenge, May 6th-7th; June 12th-July 29th Summer Camp Season; Family Camp and work week, week of July 4th; September 9th-11th, Men's Retreat; September 16th-17th, Fall Paintball Challenge. **Please view flyers posted in mail room on bulletin board.**

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 Maple River Youth Center: The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.

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.*

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 20th, 2016

Sunday, March 20th, 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
Sunday, March 20th, 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch
Tuesday, March 22nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, March 22nd, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Tuesday, March 22nd, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes workday
Wednesday, March 23rd, 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
Wednesday, March 23rd, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service
Thursday, March 24th, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, March 25th, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
Saturday, March 26th, 9:00 a.m.-noon Loaves & Fishes workday
Saturday, March 26th, 4:00 p.m. Holy Saturday Vigil

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, March 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, March 29th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Sunday, April 3rd, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Tuesday, April 5th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 5th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, April 6th, 7:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Sunday, April 10th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation

Easter Season Plants

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the Sanctuary door to **purchase and bring in your own** Easter lily, tulip, daffodil or hyacinth plants in (M) memory of, or in (H) honor of your loved ones. Please bring your plants to the church **by Sunday, March 20th or sometime during that week.** Please write your names under your plant. Thank you for helping beautify our Sanctuary for the Easter season!



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 20th, 2016

How to Contact Pastor Ashley

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org. Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* Community Office Hours at Maggie J's Restaurant 10:00-11:30 a.m., 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits, working in the office, or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

Palm Sunday Brunch—Today!

Today, Christian Education, youth and volunteers will host the annual **Palm Sunday Brunch in the Fellowship Hall 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.

Youth Center

Today, our Mission Jar collections will go to support the local youth center. Please consider supporting our local youth with a safe place to spend time in the after-school hours.

Thank You from Heifer International!

Your commitment to helping others gives hope to families who once struggled with hunger and poverty and provides the foundation for strong farming families. Families in rural villages in places like Peru, India and Ghana have more secure futures to look to. Your gift will be multiplied for many seasons to come!

The United Church sent (\$20) ducks/geese; (\$50) Hope Basket; (\$1,000) Milk Menagerie; (\$240) Pig; (\$120) Sheep; (\$300) Clean Water; for a total of \$1,730. Thank you United Church!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 20th, 2016

Sign-Up for Lay Readers, Ushers and Greeters

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service!

One Great Hour of Sharing

Our Special Mission for the month of March is One Great Hour of Sharing. Please consider giving to this worthy mission.

Maple River Loaves & Fishes

The March 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 19-20**. 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.

What to collect:

Food Donations – Food shelves need all types of food, 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 and Fishes, P.O. Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.

American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Rally

This year the American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Rally will be held at FBC Church of Eagle Grove, 1210 South Commercial, Eagle Grove, IZ 50533, **Monday, April 4th from 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.** A Freewill offering will be accepted for the meeting and lunch.

Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes, American Baptist International Ministries Missionary will be the speaker for this years rally. Mercy has served as a missionary with International Ministries since 2000. Mercy is now moving into reginal work in her ministry. To register, contact Rita May Rossmun (515)824-3516.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sunday:

Christ Jesus is our hope. 1 Timothy 1:1

Savior of the world, enable our voices to be in harmony with all who share a common faith in you; let the volume of what unites us overpower any discord between us. Amen.

Monday:

Children and grandchildren must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. 1 Timothy 5:4 (NASB)

Passing before our windows are faces of family, friends, and neighbors who have given our faith journey meaning and purpose. Thanks be to you, O God, for placing them in our paths. Amen.

Tuesday:

Paul wrote: I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy. 1 Timothy 1:12–13

Make us more merciful people, Lord, especially when we are quick to judge and ready to condemn. Too often we jump hastily to conclusions. As you have been merciful to us, so may we be to those around us, through your help and strength, O God. Amen.

Wednesday:

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your descendants and your name remain. Isaiah 66:22

Lord Jesus, though your church faces struggles, conflicts within, and attacks from without, remind us that it is still your Church. Help us to rise beyond institutional trappings to live as the body of Christ in all we think, do, or say. In your name we pray. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Christ was faithful over God's house as a son. Hebrews 3:6

Heavenly Father, we are to be counted among the wayward and lost, ones who wander and squander. We confess to you specific sins of omission and commission, seeking your forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday:

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV)

Jesus, Savior, pilot us over the rough waters of each day's living. Help us to find and hold a steady course, looking for the guiding lights of community, sacrament, and word. Hear our prayer in the name of the Christ. Amen.

Saturday:

God, from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. You will increase my honor, and comfort me once again. Psalm 71:20–21

O Jesus, we respond to your invitation to step out onto the water, but it doesn't take long before our confidence wavers and our fears set in. We extend our hands to you, knowing that you will grasp them and save us. We praise you for your constant faithfulness. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue