

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 23rd, 2014

Third Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalms 92 and 95

One: Come, let us sing to the Lord;

Many: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

One: Let us come into the presence of God with thanksgiving;

Many: let us sing songs of praise to the Lord!

One: It is good to give you thanks, O God;

Many: to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

One: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

Many: and your faithfulness all day long.

One: For you, O God, have made us glad by your grace.

All: God, at the works of your hands we sing for joy!

***Opening Hymn**

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” #589

***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 Melissa (Alleven) Johnston

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Lead Me To Calvary” 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** “Come Away from Rush and Hurry” #655

Scripture John 4:5-29 (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 “Living Water, Living Faith”

***Closing Hymn**

“O Christians, Haste” #565

***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 23rd, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Hugo John

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Louise Webb

Head Usher—Warren Allevan

Coffee Hour Host—Christian Education

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*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 Joanna Harader at spaciousfaith.com.

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
- Norma Baack, who had surgery for a broken hip on March 12th and who is now recovering at Oak Lawn Nursing Home in Mankato
- 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 and is still unaccounted for

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

Thanksgiving:

- For safe travels to be back home
- For Bob Clark's birthday on March 24th

Prayers:

- For healing for Sharon Shuck's niece, Nikki Pucik, who is in Rochester recovering from a broken arm and infection
- For the world's leaders to join together to resolve the issue in Ukraine to avoid another 1960's-style missile standoff
- For all those coping with mental health concerns and struggles

The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, March 23rd, 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 23rd, 2014

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

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, April 1st, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, April 1st, 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations

Wednesday, April 2nd, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, April 2nd, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

Thursday, April 3rd, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 23rd, 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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 23rd, 2014

Celebrate with the Saints

St. Casimir's School in Wells will be hosting a Celebrate with the Saints event at the Oak Ridge Farms Gymnasium at St. Casimir's School on Saturday, March 29th. Beginning at 5:00 p.m. there will be a Pulled Pork Sandwich Supper and Silent Auction. A Live Auction will be held at 7:00 p.m. To learn more you may call (507) 553-5822 or visit our website at www.stcasimirsschool.net.

Springfest

Jackson Lake Lutheran Church of Amboy will hold a Luncheon buffet featuring, hot beef and turkey sandwiches, a variety of salads and many Scandinavian goodies on Sunday, April 6th from 10:30-1:00 p.m.

Cost per Adult \$8; children ages 6-11 \$4; children age 5 and under are free. Take-out meals are available.

Ecumenical Community Event

A joint community group from various churches will be hosting Beth Crosby for an Ecumenical Community Event of song and worship on Sunday, April 6th from 6:00—7:00 p.m. at Peace Church in Minnesota Lake.

Free will donations will be accepted and divided among the three area food shelves which are— Loaves & Fishes in Mapleton, Wells Area Food Shelf, and Peace Church Food Shelf in Minnesota Lake.

A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow the program.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 23rd, 2014

Newer Sofas Needed!

The Youth Lounge is in need of an update, and we need your help! There are currently four sofas in the Youth Lounge (one sectional and three sofas). Of these, only one is still in good shape. The other three sorely need to be replaced for health and safety reasons. Do you have an unwanted but-still-in-good-shape sofa you would be willing to donate to The United Church for our youth? If so, please contact Pastor Ashley at 381-8199. Thank you!

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 23rd, 2014

Maple River AAA Foundation

The 2014 Maple River AAA Foundation Tasting on the Terrace is on Saturday, April 5th from 5:00—7:00 p.m. at Heritage Place , 303 Troendle Street, Mapleton. The event features fine food and beverage tasting. Special music will be provided by the Maple River Jazz Band. Tickets to the event are \$25 and may be purchased at the door.

The Maple River AAA Foundation has been established as a designated fund of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. The goal of the Maple River AAA Foundation is to provide an educational experience not provided in the curriculum, provide every student with the opportunity to develop their full potential, develop lifelong attitudes in the area of academics, arts, and athletics and provide leadership and emotional skills that help develop well-rounded student citizens.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

Sunday:

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. Psalm 34:15

Lord, we know that you answer our prayers; yet we struggle between prayer and answer. Teach us patience to wait upon your will; grant us serenity to abide. Help us to understand the righteousness of your time and timing. Amen.

Monday:

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!" Luke 11:28

Lead us on to the green pastures of your blessing, great Shepherd—to serenity and peace, to fulfillment and love. We, your sheep, are wont to stray into bitter fields. Guide us with your wisdom and your Word. Amen.

Tuesday:

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 1 John 2:8

Your light, Holy Spirit, pierces the shadows of fear and uncertainty. Your light, O Christ, makes sure the paths we tread. Your light, O Lord, burns away our iniquities. May your light fill our lives and our world. Amen.

Wednesday:

You are children of the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 14:1

The church on earth is our mother, and we, O Lord, are your children. May the family of Christ live in unity and peace. May we share our love with the entire world. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Psalm 84:2

All praise to you, Lord! All glory! Your people rejoice with you—fed by your Word, held by your strength, guided by your Son, wrapped in your love. All praise to you, Lord! All glory! Amen.

Friday:

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:36-37

Right here, right now, we seek your vibrant presence among us. Forgive us. Help us to turn out the sins of our hearts, so that you may have a fitting place to live. Right here. Right now. Amen.

Saturday:

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

O God, what a wonder! What a miracle! That even in our sin, when we could not choose you, you chose us. You sought us out. You redeemed our very souls. Keep us ever close to you, we pray. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue