

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
- 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:

- To all who sent cards of greeting to me (Jack Madsen) after my accident. Nothing like being remembered and still being a part of everything!

Prayers:

- For Josephine Knewton as she recovers from a heart attack
- For my Dad, Bob Smith, Recovering from an illness

The United Church of Mapleton

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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 27th, 2016

Easter 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

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: We have not seen the risen Christ,

Many: but we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.

One: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

Many: but we have seen him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us.

One: How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

Many: We are called to be Easter people!

One: Darkness cannot claim us!

Many: Fear cannot bind us!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



***Opening Hymn**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” #288

***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

Pat John

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**

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” #299

Scripture

John 20:1-18 (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

“I Have Seen the Lord”

***Closing Hymn**

“Lift High the Cross” #287

***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 27th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Pam Foster

Organist—Jola Walker

Sound System—Dick Dietz

Greeter—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—Mike and Julie Johnson

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship

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*)

Today's Call to Worship is by Thom M. Shuman at lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com and Nancy C. Townley at ministrymatters.com.

The **paraments** are white during the Easter season (which is from Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday) to invite the church to remember that, instead of finding a sealed tomb, the women who came at dawn on Easter Sunday were surprised by an angel who announced astonishing news: "Jesus has been raised from the dead!" (Mt 28:7) The heavenly messenger invited the mourners on that day as well as Christians of all time to see the empty tomb and then go and tell the world the good news that Christ is risen!

Information from ucc.org

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.

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 27th, 2016

Tuesday, March 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, March 29th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Planning Ahead

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
Tuesday, April 12th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 12th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Sunday, April 17th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation
Tuesday, April 19th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 19th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, April 20th, 7:00 p.m. Church Council
Tuesday, April 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, April 26th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 27th, 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!

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, April 3rd, 2016 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider a donation to this wonderful mission!

Sign-Up for Sunday Lay Ministries!

Please consider helping by signing-up to be a **Lay Leader, Greeter, Head Usher or Communion Server** for Sunday worship services. Sheets are posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service!

Easter Lily Plants

Thank you to those who purchased and brought in lily plants to beautify our sanctuary for the Easter season!

- In memory of Lester and Shirley Anderson—Jola Walker
- In memory of Ray, Beth and Dennis Walker—Jola Walker
- Bruce and Karen Stanton
- Kathy Kunkel
- Pastor Ashley and Jeff Whitaker



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 27th, 2016

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 regional work in her ministry. To register, contact Rita May Rossmun (515)824-3516.

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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13–14

Sunday:

Christ left you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:21,23

Ever-present God, when the urge to retaliate is strong, when bitterness easily rises up from inner places and we desire to hurt as we have been hurt, help us to face down temptation with strength and follow each footstep of Christ. Amen.

Monday:

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals. Psalm 118:8

Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:16

O listening God, as you have been our refuge and help in times past, we trust that in and with you we can still find safety, respite, and restoration. Our confidence is in you and to you we will turn to satisfy our needs. Thanks be to you, living God. Amen.

Tuesday:

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

O God, when we think we can fly like eagles we come crashing back to earth; when we trust in the ways of the world, the battle increases. We race to your side for comfort and care. Help us rise to new heights of faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Wednesday:

As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.
Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

Keep us, Lord, from the snare of spiritual arrogance; teach us to listen to what others believe, seeking to understand and respect their thoughts, and to find our common ground in relationship with Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.

Thursday:

Christ says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14:1

Saving God, when we are caught in raging waters, when vicious winds toss us about, when demeaning actions and statements come from even those we love, throw us the lifeline of your mercy, love, and grace. Amen.

Friday:

Christ said, “Those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit.”
Mark 4:20 (NASB)

Lord God, as we plan for this year’s garden, help us cultivate within our own lives fertile and receptive soil, so that our witness to your love and grace will be bold, far-reaching, and impacting. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Saturday:

If any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. 1 Peter 4:16

Understanding God, you have created us in your image, saying “It is good.” Even when there are threats to our dignity, when we are spiritually bullied, we commit to walking with you through the coming Holy Week, at Jesus’ side and in your Spirit. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts