

## 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

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413

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(507) 524-3141

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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 30th, 2014

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Prelude** "Who is That Man?" and "Joy and Peace Surround"

St. John and United Churches Combined Choir

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

*Based on Psalms 23*

One: We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters

**Many: and gives us refreshment for our soul.**

One: Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go

**Many: so that the name of God will be glorified.**

One: No matter what happens, we will not be afraid,

**Many: for the Shepherd of our souls is with us.**

One: We are never separated from the love and mercy of the Lord,

**All: and we will worship the Lord forever!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #96  
*Verses 1, 2, 3, 5*

**\*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**

Sue Prenzlou

**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** “Arise, Your Light Is Come!” #231

**Scripture** John 9:1-17, 35-41 (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** “Opening Our Eyes”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Amazing Grace” #422

**\*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 30th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Darlene Fezler

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Jeff and Jodie Gerds

Head Usher—Warren Allevan

Coffee Hour Host—Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

### 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 from the Lectionary Sermons Worship Resource archive at [lectionarysermons.com](http://lectionarysermons.com).

The altar **floral arrangement** is provided by Jeff and Jodie Gerds.

### 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
- 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, especially as they cope with the recent news that the flight “ended” in the Indian Ocean, while recovery work continues
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 4, a family friend of the Allevans, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- For the families and friends of those affected by the mudslide near Oso, Washington, which includes at least sixteen deaths and many still missing
- For Gary McCarthy, Jessica McCutchen's father, as he recovers from recent prostate surgery

The congratulations and best wishes of The United Church are extended to Bill Pfeffer and Linda Nordgren on the occasion of their wedding, which was celebrated on Saturday, March 22nd at The United Church in a private family ceremony.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Dr. Al Roth, MD, brother of United Church members Alberta Samuelson and Rozella Ward, who passed away on Saturday, March 22nd, in Laramie, Wyoming.

## **The United Church News and Announcements**

### **Sunday, March 30th, 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](mailto: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 30th, 2014**

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  
Wednesday, April 2nd, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation  
Thursday, April 3rd, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

#### **Planning Ahead**

Monday, April 7th, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts  
Tuesday, April 8th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Wednesday, April 9th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Wednesday, April 9th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service  
Wednesday, April 9th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation  
**Wednesday, April 9th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**  
Thursday, April 10th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, March 30th, 2014**

**Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

**Remember: Sunday, April 6th, 2014** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

The United Church supports Loaves & Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

**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.

**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 30th, 2014**

**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.

**German Dinner**

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 17436 State Highway 22, will host a “German Dinner” on Sunday, April 6th from 11:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.

Food to be served will be, brats with sauerkraut and hot dogs, mashed potatoes with gravy, red cabbage, pickled beets and German: potato salad, green beans, carrots breads and 3 German desserts: Black Forest Cake, Overnight Cake with caramel and Fruit Streusel.

Adults \$10; Children (4-12) \$4; Children under 3 are free.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
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**Heifer International**

Remember our great event “Cows for Christmas” where we were able to provide Heifer International with one cow and one goat (with the possibility of a matching grant of another goat)?

Heifer International would like you to know that just one goat can provide an ongoing, lasting impact and income for a family. In turn the family receiving a goat gives a gift of the first female offspring to another farming family, continuing the virtuous cycle.

Here are a few fun facts about goats: They can survive in nearly any climate, their milk is the only kind of milk known to half the world’s people, and they discovered coffee beans! But, one of the most important facts about goats is that every year, in addition to birthing two to three kids, just one goat produces approximately one ton of milk. That’s roughly 10 times the body weight of an average goat.

**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.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
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**Prayer Chain**

The prayer chain for the United Church is soon to become re-activated. This was one of the desires of the Vision Committee. Several individuals have already expressed an interest in becoming a part of this chain. If you would like to become involved in this prayer ministry for our church, please contact Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168 or karemarie310@hotmail.com. We will have a short organizational meeting before the Lenten service on April 9th at 6:00 p.m.

**Food Shelf Update**

In the month of March, the United Church donated a wonderful amount of food and monetary donations to Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

On March 8th we donated: 9.3 lbs and \$60; March 18th: 31.6 lbs and \$100; March 23rd: 113.8 lbs and \$330. For the grand totals of 154.7 lbs and \$490!

Thank you for your generous and much needed donations!

**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!

**Ambience Volunteers Needed!**

The Ambience Work Group is committed to keeping the Sanctuary looking nice and making sure that there are seasonally appropriate decorations available. It’s a little bit of work that goes a long way for worship each week! A few more volunteers are needed to make the work easier and lighter. If you’re interested in helping out, please let Jodi Gerds or Pastor Ashley know. Thank you!

## **The United Church News and Announcements**

### **Sunday, March 30th, 2014**

#### **Board of Trustees Budget Update**

As I'm sure we've all noticed at home, the cost of natural gas and LP went up dramatically this winter. These cost increases have also affected the bills for The United Church. Along with higher snow removal costs than expected (even though we increased the budgeted amount for this year), our bills for the first three months of 2014 have been much more than budgeted for. We are currently running at a deficit of about \$4,000 for the year. If you are able to give a bit extra to help offset these unexpected costs and balance the budget, it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

#### **Important Board of Trustees giving Clarification**

The Trustees, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary would like to clarify how donations are handled. Checks written to "The United Church of Mapleton" will be cashed and handled by The United Church for our budget and ministries.

Checks written to area ministries (such as "Loaves & Fishes" or "The Well") and put in the offering plate will not be cashed by The United Church, but instead passed along to those organizations so that you, the giver, are duly credited for your gift by that organization.

For our quarterly Special Mission Offerings (such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, America for Christ, etc.), checks should be written to "The United Church of Mapleton" with "Special Mission Offering" written in the memo line and/or placed in a specially marked envelope. Cash for Special Mission Offerings should always be placed in a specially marked envelope.

Beginning with our next Special Mission Offering in June, we will no longer use denominationally provided offering envelopes. Instead, there will be a single style of envelope provided in the pew racks. This is to eliminate confusion and emphasize the fact that for each quarterly Special Mission Offering, all money is collected into a single "pot" which is then divided evenly in half and sent to each denomination's Special Mission Offering group.

Recently, several checks have been received made out to "The United Church of Mapleton" with "Mission" written in the memo line. Given the many ways that we do and support mission at The United Church, this can be unclear, and we always want to honor your intent with your donation dollars. To this end, please be as specific as possible with your memo notes.

For example, if you want to help The United Church support a specific local mission (such as our budgeted commitment to The Well or a special offering for Loaves & Fishes), please write that mission's name in the memo. If it is for that month's Special Mission Offering, please write "Special Mission Offering" in the memo, or use a marked "Special Mission Offering" envelope. If you want to support our Church General Fund budgeted commitment to support our two denominational affiliations giving at a denomination-wide level, please write "Mission Budget" in the memo.

If you have any questions, please ask Keith McCutchen (Treasurer), Ginny Kinzie (Financial Secretary), or Dick Dietz (Chair, Board of Trustees). Thank you!

Continue

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

**Scripture for the Week:** O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! Psalm 95:6

### **Sunday:**

Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing. Listen to the sound of my cry, for to you I pray. Psalm 5:1-2  
In the midst of pain and suffering, we cry out to you, holy Jesus. In your own pain and suffering, you cried out to God. Comforter, you have cried our tears and you are the one to wipe our tears away. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Jesus Christ gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:14  
Equip your people, Christ, so we may serve. Purge our hearts and purify our minds, that we may undertake God's vision to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, free the prisoner, and proclaim the love of God everywhere. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

By awesome deeds you answer us in righteousness, O God of our salvation. Psalm 65:5  
Jesus says, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." John 14:14  
How sweet, O Lord, to hear your answer to our prayer. It is a resolved chord, a familiar voice in a strange crowd, birdsong at sunset. Your answer beckons us to secure places, and reminds us—we are yours. Amen.

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

### **Wednesday:**

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. 1 Corinthians 8:6

How do we name you, Savior? Source of all our comfort? Wellspring of our joy? Our souls' one redeemer? Companion and friend? This and more, we say, when we speak your name, Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. Amen

### **Thursday:**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1  
Drive away our desire to know all the answers, O Lord. Help us to stand aside, so that you might do your will, and we may say to the world, "See what the Lord has done!" Amen.

### **Friday:**

The promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him. Acts 2:39  
Congregations of the living God, arise! Proclaim the promise that the Almighty has given us: the Lord is our God and we are God's people! Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast promise. May Christ's name be praised, today! Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. Romans 5:20  
Lord, to you we return, burdened with the weight of our transgressions—and you do not turn away. Instead, you forgive us, purify us, and prepare again a place for us. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

*Continue*

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*