

Communion Service

At the United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but it is God's, and it is open to all of God's children.

Today, we will participate in communion by passing two sets of plates that contain the elements of bread and juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may celebrate communion together after each element has been shared.

All of our Communion elements are gluten free. During the serving of the bread, Pastor Ashley will walk through the Sanctuary to offer a pastoral blessing if you or your child(ren) choose to not receive Communion today.

***Closing Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth” #40

***Benediction**

Please be mindful of others who continue to worship through the Postlude.

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

The United Church of Mapleton

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

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

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 6th, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 25:1-10

One: We come, trusting in God's mercy and love, longing to learn more about God's ways.

Many: We come to be guided in the ways of God's truth and to experience the joy of God's salvation.

One: We come aware of God's steadfast love helping us to overcome the trials and temptations which can descend on us at any time.

Many: Lead us, O God, to do what is right in your eyes and teach us to follow the humble way of Christ Jesus.

One: Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.

All: Together, let us worship the Lord!

***Opening Hymn**

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God” #31

***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

Sue Prenzlou

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“The Old Rugged Cross”

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**

“For Beauty of Meadows” #28

Scripture

Genesis 9:8-17 (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

“A Sign of the Covenant for All”

Open Space

During this time, you are invited to complete your Time and Talents form. This will assist our Talent Team and Church Council in planning our church’s ministries. Or, you may take your form home to complete there and use this time for prayer. Please return your form to the stand in the back of the Sanctuary after worship or to the church office.

There are a variety of worship and prayer stations situated throughout the Sanctuary. Feel free to use one, several, or none of them during this time. The singing bowl will chime when there are two minutes remaining in Open Space time.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, March 6th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Ginny Kinzie

Pianist—Joanne Cramer

Guitarist/Vocalists—Marissa Pfeffer and Sheila Samuelson

Sound System—Dick Dietz

Greeter—Don and Pam Foster

Head Usher—Gary Fritz

Coffee Hour Host—Odd Fellow Pancake Breakfast

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes
Food Shelf 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. Confirmation

10:00 a.m. Odd Fellow Pancake Breakfast

Today's *Call to Worship* is written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on
Liturgies Online (liturgiesonline.com.au).

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 6th, 2016

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 6th, 2016

Sunday, March 6th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation
Tuesday, March 8th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, March 8th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters Group
Wednesday, March 9th, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
Wednesday, March 9th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

Planning Ahead

Sunday, March 13th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation
Monday, March 14th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, March 15th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, March 15th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**
Wednesday, March 16th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Saturday, March 19th, 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Set-Up
Sunday, March 20th, 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch

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* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours) 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 or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 6th, 2016

Sign-Up for Lay Readers and Ushers

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

Fellowship of Prayer

After worship each Sunday of Lent, all are welcome to come to the Overflow Room immediately after worship to join in a brief time of devotions (with coffee and bars, too, of course). We will be using *Fellowship of Prayer*, a daily Lenten devotional written by Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund. Copies will be available to take home and use throughout the week.

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!

Odd Fellows Pancake Breakfast—Today!

“Pancakes with a Purpose” will be held on **Sunday, March 6th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall of The United Church of Mapleton. You can enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes and more from our Mapleton Odd Fellows! All proceeds will go to help sponsor our local youth’s attendance at Camp FaHoCha, (Faith, Hope, and Charity) located at German Lake, southeast of Cleveland MN. What a wonderful and delicious way to help out some of our local youth!

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, **Sunday, March 6th, 2016** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, March 6th, 2016

Daylight Saving Time Begins!



Please remember to turn your clocks one hour ahead, at midnight on **Saturday, March 12th!**

Pancake Supper

St. John Lutheran of Good Thunder is having their Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Supper on **Sunday, March 13th** from 4:30-7:00 p.m. We will be serving pancakes, sausage patties, applesauce, and beverages. It is a free-will donation.

Mapleton Sertoma Club

The Mapleton Sertoma Club is accepting letters of nomination for Service to Mankind. Please send your letter of nomination by **March 15th** to Louise Webb, PO Box 93, Mapleton, MN 56065.

Maple River Loaves & Fishes

It’s time to gear up for the largest statewide food and fund drive to help restock MN food shelves. The MN FoodShare March Campaign is the annual food and fund drive involving the 300 food shelves around the state.

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.

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 recent cyclone in Fiji, which killed at least 21 people
- 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 family celebrations filled with love, song, and dance
- And blessings to Louisa Belle on her birthday

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Psalm 27:1

Sunday:

In Jesus Christ you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:22 (NKJV)

Benevolent Creator, you have built a home for us in you. Through the Spirit of your Son, help us to welcome into your house those seeking your love and forgiveness this and every Sunday. We worship you and give you thanks. Amen.

Monday:

Here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Hebrews 13:14

Lord of light, many in your world wander without direction or hope. They do not hear your word or feel your touch. Guide them through your strength and wisdom to find the road to you. Direct them home and welcome them always. Amen.

Tuesday:

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10

While winter still holds fast to our world, it is spring in our hearts. Your Son shines warm, life-giving light upon your children, helping us to grow in faith and love for you. Feed that faith and nurture it, so that we may follow you. Amen.

Wednesday:

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:9

Gracious Lord, keep us close, even as we doubt and sin. While we may not be worthy, we hope and trust that your spirit will always be with us. Through your love, help us to stand in your presence and serve you, we pray. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:7–8

Heavenly Father, you know our hearts and minds even better than we do. You understand our needs and you are there for us. Help us to express our love and thankfulness directly from the heart, unfiltered and true. In your name we pray. Amen.

Friday:

If I understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2

Omnipotent God, though we may think ourselves wise, there are many mysteries to which only you know the answers. Help us to have faith in your knowledge and grant us understanding in ways that enlighten and enhance our lives and strengthen our love for all. Amen.

Saturday:

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9

Righteous Redeemer, as you have blessed us with your love and power, teach us how to be blessings to those around us. Through those blessings, help us to make your world a more peaceful, grateful, loving, and glorious place. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue