

## 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 9th, 2014

First Sunday in Lent

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 32*

One: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven

**Many: and whose sin is covered.**

One: They are happy and filled with joy,

**Many: for in the Lord they are not guilty,**

One: and there is no deception in their hearts.

**Many: Let us worship the One who is our hiding place**

One: and our refuge in times of trouble.

**All: Let us worship the Lord together!**



## Serving Us Today: Sunday, March 9th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Joyce Johnson

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Randy and Linda Cumming

Head Usher—Warren Allevan

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

### 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 a.m. Coffee Hour and Fellowship/Odd Fellows Pancake  
Brunch (*Fellowship Hall*)

10:05 a.m. Choir Practice

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 [lectionarysermons.com/ARCH-W.html](http://lectionarysermons.com/ARCH-W.html).

### 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

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

- Thanksgiving for Annalivia Bair's 10th birthday
- Thanksgiving for the reunion in California of the six remaining Shuck sisters (ages 75 to 93) and for family interactions
- Thanksgiving to God for opening a new chapter in our lives
- Thanksgiving for the lovely music of the St. John and United Churches Combined Choir this morning
- Prayers for Laura Fritz and for the guidance of the doctors and nurses to help her feel better
- Continued prayers for the Behnke family and Tricia, Payton, and Chandler See
- Prayers for Jimmy Karels (nephew of Sharon Shuck) and his family in the loss of their mother
- Prayers for a friend, Dianne, and her family as she struggles once again with cancer
- For Olesander and Dinko and their families in the Ukraine (friends of Ron Olson)
- Prayers for the family and friends of Steven Rorman, a student at Blue Earth Area High School, who died in a car accident last Thursday

The Prayers and sympathies of The United Church go to the family and friends of Harvey Gilgert who passed away on Tuesday, March 4th in Mesa, Arizona. Harvey and Diane Gilgert were members of The United Church from about 1972 to 1985. His funeral arrangements are not yet determined.

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

### **Sunday, March 9th, 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 9th, 2014**

Monday, March 10th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, March 11th, Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, March 12th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, March 12th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

**Wednesday, March 12th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**

Wednesday, March 12th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, March 13th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, March 15th, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Pinewood Derby

#### **Planning Ahead**

Monday, March 17th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, March 18th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, March 19th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, March 19th, 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

**Wednesday, March 19th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**

Wednesday, March 19th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, March 20th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

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

### **Sunday, March 9th, 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.

#### **Sunday School**

There will be no Sunday School for youth or adults this Sunday, March 9th, so you may enjoy the Odd Fellows Pancake Brunch!

#### **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!

#### **Odd Fellows Pancake Brunch**

“Pancakes with a Purpose” will be held on **Sunday, March 9th, 2014 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 brunch 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!

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

### **Sunday, March 9th, 2014**

#### **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

#### **Community Closet**

All Fall and Winter clothing and shoes are still good for \$3 a bag. Lots of nice Easter décor is available. Open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon.

If you have a non-profit group that would like to take advantage of profits from the Closet, please call Gay Rice at (507) 524-4040 for more information.

#### **All You Can Eat Pancake Supper**

St. John Lutheran of Good Thunder is having their Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Supper on Sunday, March 9th from 4:00—7:00 p.m. We will be serving pancakes, sausage patties, applesauce, and beverages.

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

**Scripture for the Week:** God said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!" Matthew 17:5

### **Sunday:**

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. Ephesians 1:20-21

Almighty God, you have loved us so much. We thank you that you made your Son the head of the church, the body of Christ. Make us faithful servants. As part of the body of Christ may we offer our talents in love and service to your people. Amen.

### **Monday:**

I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life. Deuteronomy 30:19

Lamb of God, we adore life because we may live and love you. May we listen for your voice, be reconciled to you, and grow in righteousness. Although we sin daily, we know that if we come to you, you do not count our sins against us. Thank you for loving us so freely. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Jesus says, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." Luke 6:27-28

Loving God, we hear your words telling us to love our enemies and to do good to those who hate us. However, we confess that we struggle with these words. You tell us that even sinners love and do good to those who love and do good to them and the reward for loving our enemies will be great. Lord, may we strive to follow your command and to live as you would have us live. Amen.

*Continue*

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

### **Wednesday:**

Jesus prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. Luke 22:42-43

Nothing can prevail against you, O God, be it government, corporation, public policy, or economic reality; not fire, storm, or flood. When the evils of this world approach us, deliver us, Lord, from our time of trial. Amen.

### **Thursday:**

They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock. Isaiah 48:21

Lord, the waters of your Spirit refresh our souls and sustain us through the desert times of our lives. May your name ever be praised. Amen.

### **Friday:**

The ransomed of the Lord shall return, they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Save us, O God, from the worldly distractions and petty obstacles that capture us daily. Release us from the bondage of grief and sorrow and self-pity, so that we might ever enjoy the blessings you bring. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

God, lift us. Hold us. Support us. Empower us. Grant us the courage to throw off the shackles of sin. We long to stand before this world worthy to be called the people of God. Strengthen us, O Lord! Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, March 9th, 2014**

**The Well Youth Center**

**Next Sunday, March 16th**, Coffee Hour and the Mission Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

**The Well Request**

The Well Youth Center is requesting donations of empty gallon milk jugs (please rinse well) and empty gallon water jugs.

You may drop the plastic containers into the blue container outside of The Well, west entry of The United Church of Mapleton or call Sheila at 995-8194 for pickup.

Youth will be learning a life-skills project “Winter Sown Seeds” presented by Carolyn Becker, Master Gardner.