

Service Notes

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 that the Crucified One is alive!

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.

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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, May 18th, 2014

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation and Graduate Sunday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: Through every age and in every place, the Christ in whose name we gather calls disciples with a simple invitation and words of challenge: "Come follow me."

Many: And where is it that we go with Christ?

One: Christ leads us among enemies and strangers, causing us to regard all people as potential friends.

Many: Christ leads us into uncharted places of spiritual wilderness where the Word and Will of God are the only reliable guides.

One: Christ leads us to love ourselves so we might be found by him, and so grace might become real.

All: We gather to worship the Christ who leads. May we gain the wisdom and courage to follow!

***Opening Hymn**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” #136

***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 The Well Youth Center

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” 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.

Graduate Recognition

Kellie Gerdts

Kellie is graduating from Maple River High School this spring. She will continue her studies at University of Wisconsin—River Falls this fall.

***Hymn**

“Christ Beside Me” #425

Scripture

Philippians 4:13

Confirmation Message

Carter Bair

Scripture

1 Peter 5:7

Confirmation Message

Jayden McCutchen

Scripture

Philippians 4:8

Confirmation Message

Cody Walters

Rite of Confirmation

Please turn to the bulletin insert for the Rite of Confirmation

***Closing Hymn**

“They’ll Know We are Christians” #595

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

****Please rise in body or spirit.****

All are invited to join the Confirmands for a celebratory reception in their honor in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Rite of Confirmation

The Rite of Confirmation questions will be asked once and responded to individually by each Confirmand.

Pastor: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Confirmand: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Jesus Christ?

Confirmand: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?

Confirmand: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Confirmand: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

Confirmand: I promise, with the help of God.

Confirmation Communion

The Confirmands will receive their first Communion as full members of The United Church of Mapleton.

***Prayer for Confirmands**

The Confirmands' family and baptismal sponsors are welcome to join Pastor Ashley and the Confirmands at the front of the Sanctuary for laying on of hands during this time of prayer.

The congregation is invited to rise in body or spirit and touch the hands or shoulders of those in front of them so that all are connected to the Confirmands.

Continue

Serving Us Today: Sunday, May 18th, 2014

Pastor—Rev. Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Confirmands

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Carolyn Becker

Head Usher—Pat Carter

Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Confirmation, Graduate Recognition, and The Well Youth Center Collections (*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

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

<http://www.fccog.org/2006orderofworship/060514.htm>.

The **floral arrangement** on the altar is in honor of our Confirmands.

Adult and Youth **Sunday School** are now on break for the summer. The last day of **Children's Sunday School during worship time** will be **today** Sunday, May 18th. We will resume all classes in the fall.

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 is recovering from recent hip surgery at the Mapleton Community Home
- Norma Baack, who is recovering at Oak Lawn Nursing Home in Mankato after a recent fall and hospitalization
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- Isaac Kolstad, who suffered a severe head injury early on May 11th in Mankato, and who is currently hospitalized in critical condition. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson.

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

Prayers:

- For all those trying to plant crops and begin the farming season
- For Louie Fritz, as he is dealing with some health problems

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, May 18th, 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, May 18th, 2014

Monday, May 19th, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, May 20th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, May 21st, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, May 21st, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, May 27th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, May 28th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, May 18th, 2014

The Well Youth Center

Today, Sunday, May 18th, there will be **no Coffee Hour** for The Well Youth Center. **Please place your monthly donation** to this wonderful and needed local mission into the Collection jar at the back of the sanctuary. These donations 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.

Newsletter Articles and Reports

Please submit your newsletter articles and reports into the church office by Thursday, May 22nd. Thank you!

Book Donations

The church has books that are boxed up and ready to donate to the Wellcome Manor or Theresa House in Mankato. The boxes of books are in storage the Mail/Computer room.

We are looking for volunteers who could stop by the church to pick up the boxes of books and deliver them to these organizations. Please call the church office at (507) 524-3141 or email to secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org to let us know if you could volunteer to help the church in this way. Thank you!

Prayer Chain

The United Church Prayer Chain is now active! If you have a prayer request, please call Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not 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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, May 18th, 2014

Community Closet

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.

The Well Youth Center

The Well Youth Center is open for grades 4th through 12th from 3:00—5:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays when school is in session.



We always welcome adult volunteers to help supervise, present a life-skill to our youth or help with fundraising events. Please call (507) 524-3839 or Sheila at (507) 995-8194.

Order a T-Shirt of The Well Youth Center

The Well will be placing an order for T-Shirts through a local business.

T-Shirts are a deep Turquoise color with a large white imprint of The Well logo on the back and a smaller imprint on the front upper left.



The cost of each shirt will be \$10 (please pay when you order) and may be ordered by contacting or calling Sheila at (507) 995-8194, (507) 524-3839 or by a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board. Please make checks out to The Well Youth Center.

Wearing these T-Shirts is a great way to promote our communities local youth center and **a great encouragement to our youth when they see you wearing them!**

Loaves & Fishes

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!



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, May 18th, 2014

Called to Care Visitation Training

One of the goals and needs that came out of our visioning process was a trained lay pastoral care visitation team to help make sure that all of our at-home members and members with long-term care needs receive the care and support they deserve from The United Church. Pastor Ashley will be leading training sessions based on the “Called to Care” curriculum for all who would like to become caregivers in this context. The Diaconate will coordinate this ministry with Pastor Ashley. There are five training sessions, and caregivers will need to attend all five sessions to be commissioned. Each hour-long training session will be offered twice: once on a Sunday after worship and once on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Session One: Wednesday 5/28, Sunday 6/1

Session Two: Wednesday 6/4, Sunday 6/8

Session Three: Wednesday 6/18, Sunday 6/22

Session Four: Wednesday 6/25, Sunday 6/29

Session Five: Wednesday 7/2, Sunday 7/6

If you have any questions or are interested in Called to Care, please talk to Pastor Ashley or Ruth Cumming. Thank you!

**Mid-America Baptist Women and
AB Girls Conference**

The Mid-America Baptist Women and AB Girls Conference “A Time to Serve” will be held June 27—28, 2014 at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. Pastor Ashley will be the Bible Study Leader at this year's conference.

If you are interested in attending, a flyer is posted on the bulletin board along with brochures for the taking.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, May 18th, 2014

The Well Youth Center

The third Sunday of each month the United Church recognizes and collects donations for our local youth center, The Well. Thank you, United Church!

The Well Fundraising Committee, Board of Directors and Staff hold many fundraisers throughout the year. We are always looking for adult volunteers. A sign-up sheet is posted on the church bulletin board—fill in the blanks, please. We truly need your help. You may call Sheila at (507) 995-8194 to volunteer.

You may, at anytime, donate to The Well by mailing a monetary donation to PO Box 83, Mapleton, MN 56065.

The Well is also taking T-Shirt orders. You may sign up on the church bulletin board. The T-Shirts are a great encouragement to the youth when they see you wearing them.

Upcoming fundraisers—

Wednesday, May 21st, 5:00 p.m.: The Well Youth Center will be holding a plant sale and selling root beer floats at the Mapleton City Park during Jazz in the Park.

Please attend and support our local youth center while enjoying music and supporting our Maple River Band students.

Monday, June 2nd, 11:00—1:30 p.m.: A Salad Luncheon will be held at The Well location.

Friday, June 13th and Saturday, June 14th, 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.: Town and Country Days Food Booth at The Well location

Sunday, June 15th, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.: Tractor Pull Food Booth

Friday, July 11th and Saturday July 12th, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.: Dietz Brat Wagon

Saturday morning, July 26th: Community Closet fundraiser

Friday, August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.: Dietz Brat Wagon

Saturday morning, August 23rd: Community Closet fundraiser

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Jesus says, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." John 10:9

Sunday:

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail." Luke 22:32

In days of doubt and in days of certainty, we pray, Lord, that our faith will always rest in you. Strengthen our hearts and our faith, trusting Lord. Amen.

Monday:

The woman took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:6

Lord of forgiveness, comfort us in times when we turn away. Show us your light, Lord, for it is our only way through the darkness. Amen.

Tuesday:

They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest. Isaiah 9:3

Lord, good news is ours to tell. Let no one fail to hear. May we serve the prisoners and feed the hungry, for love shows no choice or preference. Amen.

Wednesday:

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Isaiah 12:3

Lord God, help us to live the life you have set before us. Although we do not always know of your plans, may we place our faith solidly in your hands. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

All the Israelite men and women, whose hearts made them willing to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done, brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord. Exodus 35:29

Lord Jesus, if only we could see the world from above—the trees, the homes, the sounds, and the people. We are your creation, Lord. We pray today that we may experience your heavenly kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Friday:

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2

Loving Shepherd, may we enter life through you. On days when we are alone and lost, we know you will find us and bring us home. Amen.

Saturday:

Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts. Ephesians 5:19

Righteous God, you are the first and the last. May we serve all of your children equally in preparation for the entrance to your kingdom. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue