

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

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, Marian Mallory, Sean Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East

The prayer requests and praises shared during last week's worship include:

Thanksgiving:

- In celebrating a granddaughter's 3rd birthday and a grandma's birthday!

Prayers:

- For continued healing for those who have been ill.

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, May 1st, 2016

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Glimpses of the Early Church: Signs and Wonders

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 118:1-2, 14-24

One: Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: The Lord is our strength and might

Many: and the Lord has become our salvation!

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Many: This is God's handiwork, and it is marvelous in our eyes!

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

***Opening Hymn**

“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God” #140

***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

Joyce Johnson

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**

“Spirit of the Living God” #492

Scripture

Acts 11:1-18 (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

“Leads to Life”

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**

“Be Thou My Vision” #502

Serving Us Today: Sunday, May 1st, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Ginny Kinzie

Organist—Pam Braunshausen

Guitar/Vocals—Laura F., Barb M., Marissa P., Sheila S.

Sound System—Dick Dietz

Hospitality Team Lead—

Coffee Hour Host—Church Council

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. Choir Practice

Today's *Call to Worship* is written by Amy Loving and posted on *The Worship Closet* website (worshipcloset.com).

The **altar arrangement** is in loving memory of Troy Schultz.



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.

Film, Fun, & Faith

Free! ~ Every Wednesday ~ June and July ~ 6:00p.m.

United Church of Mapleton ~ Fellowship Hall



- Bring a lawn chair or a comfy blanket to sit on!
- Free popcorn and root beer floats!
- Guess the movie each week and be entered to win a door prize!
- All movies are PG or G rated

All are welcome!



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 1st, 2016

Sunday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Sunday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice
Sunday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. Garden of Eatin' meeting
Tuesday, May 3rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, May 3rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilting
Wednesday, May 4th, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, May 4th, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Confirmation Faith Conversation Group

Planning Ahead

Monday, May 9th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Wednesday, May 18th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT
Wednesday, May 18th, 7:00 p.m. Church Council
Friday, May 20th, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Relay for Life Dinner in Fellowship Hall (total use from 2:00-7:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, May 24th, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes workday
Wednesday, May 25th, 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations
Saturday, May 28th, 9:00-noon Loaves & Fishes workday

Talent Team Member Needed

The United Church Council is seeking a third Talent Team member. The Talent Team meets as needed to assist all members of the congregation in identifying their spiritual gifts and passions for ministry and finding ways to pursue those passions, in addition to helping the Church Council identify members for the Council itself as well as ministry teams or committees as needed. If you are interested in being part of this team, please let Moderator Dick Dietz, the two current Talent Team members (Louise Webb and Ruth Cumming), or Pastor Ashley know. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, May 1st, 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* 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!

Sign-Up for Sunday Lay Ministries!

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

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, Sunday, May 1st, 2016 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

Treats for Troops

The community-wide project of sending packages to our servicemen and women from the Maple River Area is underway. **Please have your donations to the church by Friday, May 6th.** We will need volunteers to help pack boxes on **Saturday, May 7th**, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton, **9:00 a.m.**

A list of suggested items can be found in the narthex along with boxes to place your donated items. Nothing with chocolate or peanut butter can be shipped. Money for shipping is a welcome gift. **Including notes and letters** would be a wonderful addition!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, May 1st, 2016

Mission Kits

Please bring your items to the church by **Thursday, May 5th.** You may place your donated items in the boxes provided in the narthex/entry area. Thank you so much!

St. John Spring Sale Extraordinaire

Saturday, May 21st, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mapleton will host a handcrafted items, plant and bake sale from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. A salad luncheon will be available, door prizes and free coffee in the morning. Available space to rent for crafters/small businesses for \$10 a table. Please contact Caryl O'Brien at 524-4091.

VINE Faith in Action

VINE Faith in Action presents "Tips and Tools for Navigating Change and Embracing Aging." Date and Topics: May 4th—Working through Changes in our Lives; May 11th—Supporting Family Members and Friends Experiencing Memory Loss; May 18th—My Five Wishes (Health Care Directives). All sessions run from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and are held at First Presbyterian Church, Amboy. Sessions are free and open to the public with no need to preregister. Join Sister Joyce Kolbet and Carol Kaduce Ries, VINE staff.

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: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! Revelation 7:10

Sunday:

I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress. Psalm 59:16

Lord, thank you for the newness of each day and the mercies that come with each dawn. You are our refuge and shelter in all circumstances. You keep constant watch over us. Truly, we are blessed! Amen.

Monday:

The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed. Daniel 2:44

Savior of our lives, we rejoice that your kingdom is near. Let us work for peace and justice until it comes. Find us ready to enter into your immediate presence, having fulfilled your call to prepare the way! Amen.

Tuesday:

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:5

Lord God, you amaze us by not rejecting your sinful children! Thank you for choosing to love us and to work wonders through us. Your love never ends and never fails! In Jesus' name, alleluia! Amen.

Wednesday:

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Merciful Lord, your patience is amazing! You wait for us when we stray, search for us when we are lost, and open your arms when we come running back! Keep us close to your heart as we find our way home. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

God our Savior desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3–4

Jesus, let the knowledge of your love and sacrifice burn so brightly within us that all who meet us today will know that we are yours. Let the light of justice shine in our lives as we work for peace. Amen.

Friday:

Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty! Revelation 15:3

Mighty God! Sometimes we forget your majesty. How blessed we are that you choose us as your family to share in all creation! Increase our awareness of your presence and of our stewardship over all entrusted to us. Amen.

Saturday:

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. Proverbs 10:12

Lord Jesus, the love you inspire is the most powerful force in the world. Help us to do more than talk about it. Move us to love selflessly, sacrificially, and sincerely so that all will know your love. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue