

## 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 Well Youth Center** hours are Tuesdays-Fridays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.

## The United Church of Mapleton

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

(507) 524-3141

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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 3rd, 2015

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Prelude**

Praise and Worship Songs

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

*Based on Psalm 22*

One: Let our praise for all that God has done

**Many: resound within and beyond these walls.**

One: When all people turn to God and worship God,

**Many: the poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

One: and justice and peace will surely embrace

**Many: both present and future generations.**

One: Rejoice and give thanks!

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**



**\*Opening Hymn**

“O Christians, Haste” #565

**\*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!

**\*Moment of Fellowship**

**Message for God’s Children**

*Children are invited to attend Sunday School after the  
Message for God’s Children or return to their pews. Children’s  
Worship Bags are available in the back of the Sanctuary.*

**Mission Moment**

Laura Fritz

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“Pass It On” Laura, Marissa & Sheila

**\*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**

“I Then Shall Live” #372

**Scripture**

1 John 4:7-21 (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**

“Perfected Love”

**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.*

Bread: “The Lamb” Cup: “The Nails in Your Hands”

**\*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.\****

## Serving Us Today: Sunday, May 3rd, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Pam Foster

Organist—Jola Walker

Guitar/Vocals—Laura Fritz, Marissa Pfeffer & Sheila Samuelson

Greeter—Ruth Cumming

Head Usher—

Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves &

Fishes Food Shelf Collections (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:40 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),

Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour (*Fellowship Hall*)

9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School (*PreK-5th Grade*)

Classroom A, upstairs

10:10-10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*)

Youth Lounge, upstairs

Today's **Call to Worship** is adapted from writing by Moira Laidlaw ([liturgiesonline.com.au](http://liturgiesonline.com.au)) and the Lectionary Sermons Archive ([lectionarysermons.com/ARCH-W.html](http://lectionarysermons.com/ARCH-W.html)).

The **altar flower and candle arrangement** is in sincere sympathy to the Whitaker family from The United Church of Mapleton.

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*

## Worship & Care Connections

**Children's Worship Bags** with creative supplies are available at the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

The **Nursery/Toddler Room** for infants and toddlers is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the north end of the hallway opposite the Sanctuary.

The **Family Space**, located in the Overflow Room in 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.

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 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 the church know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office so that we may serve you. The church phone number is (507) 524-3141. Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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.

## In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Well 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



### Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, David Keller, Stan Solie, Marge Walters, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All who are grieving and mourning
- The 2015 American Baptist Churches, USA Biennial Mission Summit, to be held June 26-28 in Overland Park, KS
- The 2015 United Church of Christ General Synod 30, to be held June 26-30 in Cleveland, OH
- Jaine Firstbrook, wife of Beauford United Methodist Church Pastor Clint Firstbrook, who recently suffered a stroke, is currently paralyzed on her right side, and is facing long-term rehabilitation and care needs

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

#### Prayers:

- That God may shower the Tom Hicks family with God's grace and love
- To bring peace and comfort to the Cramer family in the loss of Hutch
- For the social unrest in the United States causing divisions
- For scientific and technological medical advances raising new moral questions.
- For the safety of our kids while driving, especially on prom night and at graduation

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of James "Hutch" Cramer, longtime United Church member and husband of Kathy Cramer, who passed away on Friday, April 24th. Hutch's funeral will be held Saturday, May 9th, 11:00 a.m. at Beauford United Methodist Church.

## 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 3rd, 2015

Sunday, May 3rd, Garden of Eatin' meeting  
Tuesday, May 5th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Thursday, May 7th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Planning Ahead

Monday, May 11th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship  
Tuesday, May 12th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
**Wednesday, May 13th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**  
Friday, May 15th, 1:00-7:00 p.m. Relay for Life Survivor's Supper  
Tuesday, May 19th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
**Wednesday, May 20th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**  
Thursday, May 21st, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study  
Tuesday, May 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, May 26th, 8:00 a.m. Newsletter Articles/Reports are due  
Thursday, May 28th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study

### How to Contact Pastor Ashley

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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. Preaching Text Study Group, 3:00-5:00 p.m. The Well Youth Center. *Wednesday* 9:00-10:30 a.m. The Windmill Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours will change occasionally and be announced here). *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Church 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, May 3rd, 2015**

**Easter Plants**

Please pick up your Easter plants from the mail room by today, Sunday, May 3rd. We will dispose of them after this date. Thank you!

**Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

**Today, Sunday, May 3rd, 2015** 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.

**Garden of Eatin’**

Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for a Garden of Eatin’ meeting . This meeting is open to anyone interested in helping garden this growing season for the mission cause of the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

**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.

If you would like more information, please contact Marian Mallory or any member of the Diaconate. There is a **Lay Readers Pronunciation Guide** available in the church office for your needs.

**2015 Service to Mankind Award**

Mapleton Sertoma Club will be hosting an Open House honoring Marji Schwichtenberg and Jeanette Brandt as their 2015 Service to Mankind Award Recipients. The Open House will be held on Sunday, May 17 at the Town and Country Leisure Center from 1:00—4:00 p.m., with a short program at 3:00 p.m. Cake and refreshments will be served.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, May 3rd, 2015**

**Open House Bridal Shower**

An Open House Bridal Shower for Jessica Allevan, bride to be of Joe Carey will be held Saturday, May 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space of St. Teresa’s Church, Mapleton. The couple is registered at Target and Amazon.

**Treats for Troops—Spring 2015**

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 15th.** We will need volunteers to help pack boxes on **Saturday, May 16th**, 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!

A thank-you note and picture received from the Air Department on board the USS Michael Murphy may be viewed on the bulletin board of the church.

**Free Community Workshop**

Learn from a panel of experts while attending this program about, Legal Tools—which documents should we have in place?; Medical Assistance—how can I protect my money from the nursing home?; Funeral and Cremation Planning—explore your options and get the facts.

This workshop will be held at 2060 Commerce Drive in North Mankato, MN on **Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Pre-registration is required to assist in preparation, please call (507) 388-2288 to RSVP. A poster of this workshop is posted on the bulletin board.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

### **Sunday:**

The Lord said to Abram, “I will bless you and you will be a blessing.” Genesis 12:2

God of every blessing, fashion us according to your purposes so that we might be witnesses for you and instruments of your faithfulness. May the living Jesus be revealed in us this day. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves. Philippians 2:3 (NIV)

God of love, you set an example for us in Jesus Christ. We are humbled to know that you have chosen us to be your disciples. We are encouraged to know that you will guide us as we follow after you. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)

God of hope, you are our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in times of need. May we rest in the truth of your promises to us, believing that we are called according to your purposes. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:25

God of stories and songs, may our lives resound like music in the ears of your people. And as we share in the journey of faith together, let us make memories in your name and for your glory. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.”

Luke 15:18

God of life—reveal to us the truth of who we are: the daughters and sons of a living Creator. Amen.

### **Friday:**

There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. So who, then, are you to judge your neighbor?

James 4:12

God of grace, you invite us to share your good news with everyone. May we overcome all our fears and prejudices by the power of the Holy Spirit—with us and in us. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify.

John 15:26–27 (NIV)

Spirit of the living God, enter into the silence of our hearts, and speak. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*