

## 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: Kathy Byram, Jack Madsen
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- Jennifer Sickler, cousin of Jeremy Walters and granddaughter of Marge Walters, who is very ill

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

### Thanksgiving:

- For those who have contributed to the kits and for those who lovingly pack them

### Prayers:

- For Glenn, recovering from surgery
- For the musical genius Prince that he might rest in peace, and in thanksgiving for his humble giving to help others to succeed in life.
- For families all over the world, torn apart by natural disaster, war, and hunger

## The United Church of Mapleton

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

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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 8th, 2016

Ascension Sunday

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 47*

One: Come all God's people! Let us gather to praise our Mighty God!

**Many: With joy we celebrate and give thanks for God's faithfulness.**

One: Come all God's people! Let us gather to sing to our Glorious God!

**Many: With joy, and with all creation, we celebrate the powers of the Lord.**

One: Come all God's people! Let us gather to worship and honor God!

**Many: With joy we celebrate the wonderful acts of God!**

One: With reverent awe, let us bow in worship and praise of our God.

*All: Alleluia! Amen!*

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise” #323

**\*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**

**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**

**Litany: The Wide Spectrum of Mothering**

*Please turn to the bulletin insert titled “The Wide Spectrum of Mothering” and join in this responsive reading.*

**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**

“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ” #475

**Scripture**

Acts 1:1-11 (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**

“Lifted Up”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” #91

**\*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 8th, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Hugo John

Organist—Pam Braunshausen

Sound System—Dick Dietz

Hospitality Team Lead—

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship

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*)

Today's *Call to Worship* is © 2012 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year B, used with permission. [http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w\\_resources/ascensiondayb\\_2012.htm](http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w_resources/ascensiondayb_2012.htm)

"The Wide Spectrum of Mothering" was written by Amy Young at [messymiddle.wordpress.com](http://messymiddle.wordpress.com)

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](http://ucc.org)*

### 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.

## 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](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.

# 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 8th, 2016

Monday, May 9th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, May 10th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in G.T.

Tuesday, May 10th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

#### Planning Ahead

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!

#### Confirmation Sunday!

On **Sunday, May 15th** five students will be confirmed at the United Church of Mapleton. These students are: Annalivia Bair, Kylie Black, Ally and Abby Bruegger, and Brady Walters. We extend our congratulations and fellowship to you all. God bless you!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, May 8th, 2016**

**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. 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, Hospitality Team Leader, 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!

**Youth Center**

**Sunday, May 15th** we will collect donations in the Mission Jar at the back of the Sanctuary for our local youth center. The United Church supports this mission in this way each month.

**Garden of Eatin'**

The mission garden for Loaves & Fishes will be planted **Tuesday, May 17th at 3:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to help!** There are sheets posted for you to sign-up and volunteer throughout the season to tend, water, pick and deliver produce. **On any given week, produce can be delivered Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.** This garden has been a great success in the past couple of years. Let's continue to grow and love in our community with this great mission!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, May 8th, 2016**

**Donations Needed!**

We are looking for donations for our June and July *Film, Fun & Faith* movie nights. **Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office at 524-3141** to donate pails of vanilla ice cream and 2 liter root beers. Thank you!

**Bridal Showers**

You are invited to an open house bridal shower for Becca Schickling, fiancé of Ben Rigdon on **Saturday, May 14th, 10:30 a.m.** at St. Teresa Catholic Church. The couple is registered at Kohl's and Target.

You are cordially invited to an open house bridal shower honoring Kelsey Bretschneider, bride to be of John Landsteiner, son of Steve and Cheri, grandson of Don and Rose Landsteiner on **Saturday, May 21st, 1:30 p.m.** at St. Teresa Catholic Church. The couple is registered at Herbergers, Target and Kohls.

**Free Community Workshop**

A free workshop will be held **Thursday, May 19th, 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** at 2060 Commerce Drive, North Mankato, MN. This workshop includes: Legal Tools—which documents should we have in place? Medical Assistance—how can I protect my money from the nursing home? Funeral & Cremation Planning—explore your options and get the facts. Pre-register by calling 507-388-2288. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information.

**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.



## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** Jesus says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” Revelation 21:6

### **Sunday:**

Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. John 16:22 (NIV)

Lord, there are times when our pain seems too much to bear. In realizing that you have experienced the same pain and still choose to bear ours, we are comforted. Help us in our grief to find joy, healing, and renewed life. Amen.

### **Monday:**

For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. 1 Corinthians 8:6

Lord—Father, Son, Spirit—you call us together as your people. You bless us with gifts and abilities to use in service to you and your children. Everything comes from you; today we pay special attention to that grace. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)

Lord, if we came before you on our own merits, no one would stand. Thank you for the grace which redeems us through Jesus. We are grateful that you see what is unrevealed and redeemable in us. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. Titus 3:9

Father, we grieve you with our pettiness! People know we are Christ’s by the love we have for each other. Remind us: in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in everything, love. Reconcile us to one another in you. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. Psalm 40:17

Jesus blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled. Mark 6:41–42

Jesus, you meet everyone at their points of need. In appreciation of that blessing from you to us, let us seek out the points where others need us and give them aid. As you bless and feed us, may we do the same for each other. Amen.

### **Friday:**

God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:9

Savior, your grace sustains and surprises us! You give us this gift freely, no strings attached. As a result, we feel your calling on our hearts—to follow where you lead—to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.

### **Saturday:**

We have known and believe the love that God has for us. 1 John 4:16

God, how much we long for your love! We search for it in many different places and ways, forgetting sometimes that it is always near and available. Wrap us in your arms and keep us close to your heart. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*