

## Service Notes

The **green paraments** symbolize Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church liturgical year, which is a continuation of the Season of Epiphany that began the Sunday after Epiphany and ended with Ash Wednesday. Ordinary Time begins on the Sunday after Pentecost and ends with Reign of Christ Sunday, the Sunday before Advent begins. Since it explores the mission of the church, the traditional color for this season is green, symbolizing growth. Ordinary Time also focuses on the important issue of how we can continually grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

*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.

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

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 (located at the north end of the hallway on the Sanctuary level) so that families can both see and hear what's going on in worship. Feel free to use either space if it would be helpful for you and your family!

## The United Church of Mapleton

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

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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, November 16th, 2014

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 100:4-5*

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving!

**Many: Enter God's gates with praise!**

One: Give thanks to God!

**Many: Bless God's name!**

One: For the Lord is good;

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: God's faithfulness endures to all generations;

**All: Come, let us worship God together, as the body of Christ!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #440

**\*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**

Karen Stanton

**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**

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” #86

**Scripture**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (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**

“I Will Seek Out My Sheep”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #72

**\*Benediction**

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

**Postlude**

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

## **Serving Us Today: Sunday, November 16th, 2014**

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker  
Lay Leader—Ginny Kinzie  
Organist—Jola Walker  
Greeters—Mabelle Larson  
Head Usher—Bob Shubert  
Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

### **About Today's Worship & Fellowship**

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with The Well Collections  
(*Sanctuary*)  
9:00-10:40 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),  
Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs  
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (*Fellowship Hall*)  
10:00 a.m. Choir Practice  
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  
10:10-10:40 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Classroom B, downstairs

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 by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell at [rev-o-lution.org](http://rev-o-lution.org).

## **The United Church News and Announcements Sunday, November 16th, 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.

### **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!

### **Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, 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.

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 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: Norma Baack, Shirley Bowen, Hutch Cramer, Kathy Cox, David Keller, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Marge Walters
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- The 2015 American Baptist Churches, USA Biennial Mission Summit, to be held June 26-28 in Overland Park, KS, including the many people and groups involved in its planning and leadership.
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age six, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia. The Brockmanns are family friends of the Allevens. You can find more about Benjamin at [caringbridge.org/visit/benjaminbrockmann](http://caringbridge.org/visit/benjaminbrockmann).
- Isaac Kolstad, who continues to recover from a serious head injury, has now advanced to an outpatient recovery center. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson.
- Dawn Dietz, who learned that her lymphoma has recurred and who will begin chemotherapy treatment soon.

## **In Our Prayers Continued...**

- Jonathan Ziert, of Mankato, the president of Greater Mankato Growth and the boss of Jack Madsen's grandson, who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of cancer

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

#### **Thanksgiving:**

- To God at the celebration of Laura Fritz's birthday

#### **Prayers:**

- For all deer hunters
- For Mary Jacob after a recent surgery

*Continue*

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, November 16th, 2014**

**International Ministries Speaker—Ruth Mooney**

**Sunday, November 23rd**, Ruth Mooney will be with us in worship. Ruth's ministry is theological education. She lives in Costa Rica, where she serves on the faculty of the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), a seminary founded in 1924 that prepares pastors and leaders for churches throughout Latin America. Ruth teaches the Christian education courses as well as Written Communication and Ethics.

Ruth has extensive experience in writing Bible study materials and training Sunday school teachers. Most recently, she directed Ediciones Lumblera, a ministry of the Federacion de Asociaciones Bautistas de Costa Rica. Previously she served in Cuba and El Salvador, where she trained curriculum teams to respond to the specific needs of the churches in those regions.

**Volunteer Opportunity**

There is an immediate need for a volunteer to help with the Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) in Mapleton. The volunteer in this position distributes food boxed to seniors once a month. If you are interested in this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of seniors in your community, please Contact Erin Anderson with Second Harvest Heartland at: 651-209-7955 or 1-888-339-3663 Ext. 7955 or [eanderson@2harvest.org](mailto:eanderson@2harvest.org).

**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, November 16th, 2014**

Sunday, November 16th, 1:00 p.m. UCM Youth Group Service/  
Fun & Fellowship Events  
Tuesday, November 18th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
**Wednesday, November 19th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**  
Thursday, November 20th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study  
Saturday, November 22nd, 9:00 a.m. Kilties

**Planning Ahead**

Sunday, November 23rd, 4:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off/Silent Auction  
Tuesday, November 25th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, November 25th, 3:00—6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes  
workday at St. John Lutheran  
Tuesday, November 25th, 5:30 p.m. Ambience Advent decorating  
Saturday, November 29th, 9:00—Noon Loaves & Fishes workday  
at St. John Lutheran

**The Well Youth Center**

**Today, Sunday, November 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 United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, November 16th, 2014**

**Youth Group—Today!**

Today, Sunday, November 16th, 1:00 p.m. youth are invited to help pack Loaves & Fishes Thanksgiving Boxes at St. Teresa Catholic Church. After packing Thanksgiving boxes, they will immediately leave together for their November Fun and Fellowship Event, which is bowling at Wow! Zone in Mankato.

**How to Contact Pastor Ashley—November Update**

On November 3rd, I found out from my doctor that I have mononucleosis, a virus that has left me very fatigued. Mono can't be spread by regular contact, and its only treatment is rest. My doctor has limited my work hours through the end of November, so I will not be able to hold my regular office hours this month. I will continue to lead worship, preach, and attend to church matters as much as possible while also caring for my health during this time.

If you would like to meet with me, please call me at 381-8199 or email me at pastor@unitedchurchmaple.org. Thank you for your compassion and understanding.

**Ambience**

**Tuesday, November 25th at 5:30 p.m. the United Church** Ambience Team and volunteers will decorate the church for the Advent season. Ambience can always use extra hands to help out. Thanks!

**Baby Shower**

An Open House Baby Shower will be held for Pastor Ashley and Jeff Whitaker on **Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 a.m.—Noon** in the Fellowship Hall of the United Church.

The Whitakers are registered at Target and Babies R Us.



**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, November 16th, 2014**

**Holiday Boxes are back!**

Maple River Loaves & Fishes will again be handing out Thanksgiving and Christmas complete meal boxes.

We will be packing the boxes on November 16th and December 14th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Teresa's and handing them out on November 18th from 3-6 p.m. and December 16th from 3-6 p.m. at St. Teresa's in Mapleton. We can always use volunteers to help!

The cost for the boxes is \$40/box and we anticipate handing out over 120 this year for each holiday. Please consider sponsoring a box (or several) this holiday season.

Thank you for your generous support for our food shelf. God Bless!

**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 Well Youth Center**

The Well Youth Center open hours are: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:00—5:00 p.m.



**Ecumenical Choir and Service**

We invite you to participate in the Ecumenical Choir which will sing during the **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service to be held at St. John Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m.** The Ecumenical Choir will practice Wednesday, November 12th and Wednesday, November 19th, 7:15 p.m. in the St. John Church Sanctuary. We hope to see you there!

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me. Psalm 43:3

### **Sunday:**

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God. Acts 2:45-47

Lord of all, build our strength to live the word we hear on Sunday throughout our busy weeks. We know the time spent in our sanctuaries is only a small part of what it means to be the church. Go with us, Lord, as we praise you with glad and generous hearts. Amen.

### **Monday:**

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. John 1:16

Loving Shepherd, let the light and love of Christ shine in our lives. By your grace we are spiritually fed and we praise your holy name. Let us share this grace with the hungry and thirsty of this world. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Jesus prayed, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word." John 17:6

Lord Jesus, may our hearts be reformed each day so our lives will be a living alleluia. Thank you for receiving us and helping us to lead others to receive you. We give praise for your truth and grace. Alleluia! Amen.

*Continue*

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Wednesday:**

How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep! Psalm 92:5

Lord of all saints, help us to remember those holy brothers and sisters who built your church. May we hear their words, learn their deeds, and continue their work in the world. In your name we pray. Amen.

### **Thursday:**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits. Psalm 103:2

Lord, we know grace only through you. Help us to be mindful and grateful of this. Continue to bless us each day and let us be a blessing to others through you. Amen.

### **Friday:**

In the Lord I take refuge; how can you say to me, "Flee like a bird to the mountains." Psalm 11:1

Immanuel, our fears and doubts make us spiritually needy. We take refuge in your love when we are afraid. Let us rejoice in the confidence of your love! Amen.

### **Saturday:**

I will do more good to you than ever before. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. Ezekiel 36:11

Dear God, we go through each day with our mind on so many things. We remember all that we are and all that we do is achieved through your blessing. Allow us to grow ever closer to you in our lives. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

# Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

All proceeds to benefit  
Cows for Christmas—Heifer International  
Sunday, November 23, 2014  
4:00 pm  
United Church | Mapleton MN

***Think your chili is hot stuff?? Contestants Wanted!!***

Choose from three categories:

**Mild ‘n’ Mellow | Hot ‘n’ Spice | White ‘n’ Light**

**Provide 5 quarts of chili for tasting**

Blind taste testing—winners will be selected by popular vote

**There will be one winner in each category plus one overall winner**

**Entries must be to the church by 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 23**

***Chili Entry Deadline is Sunday, November 16***

*Also accepting items for  
Silent Auction such as:*

Gift certificates, gift cards

Handcrafted items, baked goods

Gift baskets, services