

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, Dawn Dietz, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen, Marian Mallory, Stan Solie
- Former President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist, who announced that he has cancer in his brain and is undergoing treatment
- Gabe Samuelson, who is in basic training for the Army Reserves
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- Marian Mallory, who was recently diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer and is awaiting a treatment plan pending test results
- All those affected by Hurricane Patricia, which made landfall on the southwest coast of Mexico on October 23rd as the strongest storm ever measured at sea

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

Thanksgiving:

- For family from away, renewing times past and love, and prayers for their safe journey home

Prayers:

- For Alberta Samuelson's continued recovery
- For guidance and strength for parents of children with special needs

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of Madison and Mariah McConville, who passed away on October 16th, 2015. The twin baby girls are great-granddaughters of Jack Madsen.

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, November 1st, 2015

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

All Saints Day

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 149

One: Praise the Lord!

Many: Sing to the Lord a new song!

One: Praise God in the fellowship of the saints.

Many: Let the people of God rejoice in their Creator.

One: Let all the saints worship in joy;

Many: let them cry out with gladness forever.

One: Let praises of God be in their mouths:

Many: word and song that overcome evil,

One: bringing justice to them, and honor to all God's faithful.

All: Praise the Lord!

***Opening Hymn**

“Rejoice in God’s Saints” #531

***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

After the Message for God’s Children, children are invited to return to their pews, 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

Laura Fritz

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“We Will Glorify”

Adult Choir

The Choir’s music is an offering to God, not a performance for our entertainment. Please do not applaud to show your appreciation.

Instead, please try saying “Amen” or thanking them individually after worship.

***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**

All Saints Day Memorial Liturgy

Please turn to the bulletin insert titled “All Saints Day Memorial Liturgy” and join in the responsive readings.

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**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #84

Scripture

Revelation 21:1-6a (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

“God Will Be With Them”

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. A pastoral blessing is available if you or your child(ren) choose to not receive Communion today.

***Closing Hymn**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #393

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

All Saints Day Memorial Liturgy

Call to Reflection ~ Psalm 90

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Many: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream.

The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong.

All: Lord, teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.

Remembrance of Church Family

In the past year, this congregation bid farewell to many members of our church, as well as many friends of our church family. On this All Saints Day, we lift up their memories with thanksgiving and hope, knowing they rest with God.

We remember Gwen McGregor, passed on November 12th, 2014.

We remember William McGregor, passed on December 22nd, 2014

We remember Keith Etherington, passed on December 28th, 2014.

We remember Elizabeth Firstbrook, passed on February 1st, 2015.

We remember Richard “Dick” Bailey, passed on February 1st, 2015.

We remember LeRoy Baack, passed on March 17, 2015.

We remember Peter Whitaker, passed on April 2nd, 2015.

We remember John Kern, passed on April 20th, 2015.

We remember Tom Hicks, passed on April 21st, 2015.

We remember James “Hutch” Cramer, passed on April 25th, 2015.

We remember Karl Duncanson, passed on May 25th, 2015.

We remember Don Fezler, passed on June 20th, 2015.

We remember Wayne Dietz, passed on September 22nd, 2015.

We remember Madison and Mariah McConville, passed on October 16th, 2015.

Grieving Other Losses

There are others we have lost in the last year, whom we miss dearly. Some were our loved ones. Some were saints of the church universal. Some touched our lives with their innovative work, dedicated service, or inspired artistry. We remember those who have lost their lives in violence of all varieties, wars, and uprisings. We remember those whose outlook was filled with such despair that they ended their own lives. We remember those impacted by storms and disasters, by famine and drought, and by so many other tragedies. I invite you now to silently name those you have lost in the last year.

Every new grief brings back to us the previous losses we have sustained. Many that we miss have been gone for quite some time, yet their memories are still living with us. I invite you now to silently name those loved ones whose loss you carry with you still.

Not every grief comes from losing a loved one. There are many kinds of losses that tear at our heartstrings. The loss of a relationship, a job, a home, an opportunity; these are all things we grieve. I invite you now to lift up to God in silence all the sorrows of your heart, however big or small.

Call to Hope ~ Romans 8

In each loss lives the reminder that our existence on earth is temporary, and that the world we know now is merely a dim reflection of God’s glorious future. Through all grief, we find hope in the faith that God’s everlasting arms carry us through. United in this faith, let us recite together the assurance given by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Rome.

We believe that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us turn to God in prayer.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, November 1st, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Reader—Marian Mallory
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Stan and Linda Whitney
Head Usher—Pat Carter
Coffee Hour Host—Deacons

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*)
10:00 a.m. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

After a **Choral Offering**, please refrain from applause, which traditionally follows a performance meant for entertainment in our culture, whereas the choir's music is offered to God in a spirit of worship. If you would like to show your appreciation, please say "Amen" after their offering, or thank them individually after worship.

All Saints Day is a solemn holiday of the Christian liturgical calendar, celebrated annually on November 1st or on the closest Sunday. In many churches, the word "saints" refers to all Christians and therefore, on All Saints Day, the saints of the church universal, as well as the members of a local congregation who have recently passed away, are honored and remembered.

Today's All Saints Memorial Liturgy is by Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn.

Today's *Call to Worship* is © Jeff Shrowder 2003 at thebillabong.info.

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.*

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.

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 1st, 2015

Sunday, November 1st, 6:00-7:00p.m. Confirmation (*Youth Lounge*)

Tuesday, November 3rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, November 3rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Wednesday, November 4th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. **G.I.F.T.** (*Generations In Faith Together*)

Wednesday, November 4th, 7:00 p.m. **Congregational Information meeting in the Fellowship Hall**

Thursday, November 5th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, November 5th, 7:30 p.m. Parents Night Out Planning Meeting

Saturday, November 7th, 9:00-11:00 Kilties

Planning Ahead

Sunday, November 8th, 10:00 a.m. **Congregational Information meeting in the Fellowship Hall**

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

Tuesday, November 10th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, November 10th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Wednesday, November 11th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons

Saturday, November 14th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties

Sunday, November 15th, 10:00 a.m. **Congregational Annual Budget Proposal and Election meeting in the Fellowship Hall**

Sunday, November 15th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Confirmation (*Youth Lounge*)

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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 1st, 2015

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* noon--1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours may change occasionally and will be announced here), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon 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!

Giving Statements

The third quarter giving statements are now available in the Overflow Room. Please pick them up after the morning worship service.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, Sunday, November 1st, 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 on the **first Sunday** of each month.

GIFT Update—Generations In Faith Together

GIFT will be held on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall, and will include a meal and Christian Education for all ages together. Our next GIFT gathering will be **Wednesday, November 4th. All are welcome!**

Parents Night Out!

You are invited to attend a planning meeting on **Thursday, November 5th at 7:30 p.m.** for Parents Night Out. This event includes raising funds for our Heifer International fundraiser, Cows for Christmas. As always, everyone is welcome to help!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 1st, 2015

Dollars for Scholars Supper

The DFS Scholarship Supper will be held in on **Monday, November 2, 2015** at St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Mapleton. Please join us to support 2016 Maple River graduating seniors.

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be coming to St. Teresa's Catholic Church **Monday, November 9th from 1:00-7:00 p.m.** Appointments may be made by calling Peg at 420-1286 or online at www.redcrossblood.org, enter sponsor code: MAPLETONMN.

Veteran's Dinner and Program

The Veteran's Dinner will be held **Wednesday, November 11th, 6:00 p.m.** at St. John Lutheran Church of Mapleton.

Tickets are \$11.00 and may be purchased only in advance. Please purchase your tickets by **November 6th** at the Plaid Piper or by calling Amy Gabler, 524-4828; Arleen Swanson, 524-4602; or Diane Smith. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Ecumenical Choir

All those from our area churches who enjoy singing are invited to participate in a special Ecumenical Choir for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service on November 25 at St. John Lutheran Church in Mapleton. We will have just one rehearsal, which will be at St. John's on **Wed., Nov. 18 at 7 pm.** Please join us that evening for singing, fun, and fellowship.

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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 1st, 2015

High Chairs

The United Church is in need of newer high chairs for use in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking for gently used high chairs that have a three or five point safety harness and an adjustable, removable tray. Please let the office know if you have one you would like to donate. Thank you!

Congregational Annual Budget Proposal
and Election Meeting

There will be a Congregational meeting **Sunday, November 15th, 2015**. This meeting will begin immediately following worship service and will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the United Church.

This meeting is to adopt the 2016 Budget Proposal and a slate of officers nominated for 2016. Other business can be considered at this time, please inform the Moderator if you wish to place an item on the agenda.

Congregational information meetings (new structure) will be held, **Wednesday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m. (immediately following GIFT)** and **Sunday, November 8th immediately after worship**, both in the Fellowship Hall.

Treats For Troops –Fall 2015

Packing of boxes for Treats for Troops will be held **Saturday, November 14th, 9:00 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Mapleton**. You may place your donated items in the Treats for Troops box in the Narthex area. There are shopping lists available by the box in the Narthex. **Please have items to the church Narthex by Wednesday, November 11th**. There is always great need for monetary funds to help cover shipping costs.

Note: Nothing with chocolate or peanut butter can be shipped.

Following is an excerpt from a thank you letter sent from the USS PREBLE. This letter is posted on the church bulletin board for your viewing.

“Thanks so much again for what your organization does; it means a great deal, especially to many of the single folks who may not receive as much mail as their married counterparts. You are doing a fantastic service and we cannot thank you enough!”

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 1st, 2015

The Blazing Star Winds

The Mankato Symphony Orchestra and Mapleton Branch Library proudly presents The Blazing Star Winds woodwind quintet comprised of active freelance musicians and principal wind players for the Mankato Symphony Orchestra at **1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 7th at The United Church of Mapleton, 201 Troendle St. SW, Mapleton.**

This event is free and open to the public. Please call 507-524-3513 for more information.

Holiday Boxes are back!

It's that time of year and in the holiday spirit, Maple River Loaves & Fishes will again be handing out Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes. In these boxes are a complete meal, including a turkey or ham and all the trimmings plus dessert.

We will be packing the boxes on **November 15th and December 20th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Teresa's** and handing them out on November 17th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and December 22nd from 3:00-6:00 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 130 this year for each holiday. Please consider sponsoring a box (or several) this holiday season.

The need for food in our area continues to be great. The cost for the food continues to rise. In September, we gave out almost 13,000 pounds of food to 130 families. ALL from the Maple River area. They could be neighbors or friends. Many are in need of food, especially this time of year. Remember, for every dollar you donate, we are able to buy \$10.00 worth of food. Our mailing address is PO Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.

Thank you for your generous support for our food shelf, both financially and with prayer. God Bless!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

Sunday:

Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. Psalm 34:5 (NIV)

Holy Triumvirate, we live in you! All our joys and tribulations are part of our preparation for the place you prepared for us in heaven. Through your power alone may we be saved from this world and held for eternity in your grace. Amen.

Monday:

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow. Psalm 146:9

Lord Christ, soften our hearts to do your loving will. Let us see through the eyes of others, that we may know what they have lived, find common purpose, and spread your grace and love. Amen.

Tuesday:

There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you. 1 Samuel 2:2

Can we live our lives without you, Lord? Never are we without you, though we may wish to dismiss you. Thank you, Lord, for never giving up on us, even when we give up on ourselves. Our lives belong to you, Jesus! Use us as you will. Amen.

Wednesday:

Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. Hebrews 13:3

Father, as this world holds us prisoner from you, so may we be divorced from society. The separation can only be breached through your love, O God. Bring your concern, through us, to those incarcerated by place and by reason. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

The nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales. Isaiah 40:15

We are but flashes in the span of your universe, Great Maker. Yet, we each have a cosmic reason for being, to be revealed in its own time. Let our flashes be noticeable and admirable, stimulating other flashes of blinding faith. Amen.

Friday:

Christ says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Matthew 24:35

Father, you are the Great I Am! Though we may not ever understand why you love us so much, we can feel that you do. Alpha and Omega, with no beginning or end, we long for your timeless love beyond compare. Amen.

Saturday:

Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." John 15:14

Jesus, we long for your way, proven blameless and pure. What could be, in this world, were we all of like mind and heart? We seek to obey your will. May we learn to love as you have, Savior Christ! Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue