

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, Alberta Samuelson
- 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 Advance Individual Training for computers and communications for the Army Reserves in Augusta, Georgia through March
- 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 undergoing treatment
- Jack Madsen, who recently had knee surgery and is in recovery and rehabilitation in Mankato
- Sue Prenzlou, who is recovering from toe surgery
- Eli, husband of Mary Dietz (sister of Dawn and Dick Dietz), who recently had a stroke and was airlifted to Rochester
- The people of Paris, France, after a terror attack on Friday evening that claimed the lives of 129 people and left 433 injured, including 80 in critical condition as of November 17th.
- The people of Beirut, Lebanon, after a bombing there on Thursday that claimed the lives of 43 people and left 239 injured.
- The people of Baghdad, Iraq, after a bombing there at a funeral on Friday that claimed the lives of 18 people and left 41 wounded.

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

Thanksgiving:

- To God for Norma's presence with us in worship
- To God for continued time with my mother, Norma, and the support of this church. We feel very blessed.
- For The United Church of Mapleton and everyone who serves and makes the church run

Prayers:

- For extra strength and guidance for my family

During the prayer time, Norma shared, "It is wonderful to be HOME. I've looked forward to this day. May God bless."

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, November 22nd, 2015

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Reign of Christ Sunday

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 100

One: We enter this place with thanksgiving

Many: because we know that the God to whom we belong is our Shepherd and our Lord.

One: We rejoice over the steadfast love and faithfulness of God

Many: which endures forever – to all generations.

One: Come, let us worship God with praise and joy,

All: and with thanksgiving in our hearts!

***Opening Hymn**

“Jesus Shall Reign” #341

***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**

Service of Baptism of Joshua Stolp and Bentley Walters

Please turn to the bulletin insert marked “Service of Baptism.”

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

Kathy Kunkel

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“My Tribute”

Pam Foster

The musician’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**

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.

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**

“Now Thank We All Our God” #14

Scripture

John 18:33-37 (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

“Testifying to the Truth”

***Closing Hymn**

“Lord, We Hear Your Word” #671

***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 22nd, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Pam Foster

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—David and Roberta Ward

Head Usher—Sharon Shuck

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

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

Today's *Call to Worship* is © Moira Laidlaw, posted on her *Liturgies Online* website (liturgiesonline.com.au).

After a **Musician's 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.

The **paraments** (*cloths on the pulpit and lectern*) are white today for Reign of Christ Sunday. The color white symbolizes hope, joy, and the resurrection as the church celebrates the lordship and eternal reign of Jesus Christ in our lives.

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.

The United Church News and Announcements Sunday, November 22nd, 2015

Holiday Boxes!

It's that time of year and in the holiday spirit, Maple River Loaves & Fishes will again be handing out 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 **December 20th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Teresa's** and handing them out on 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. Please consider sponsoring a box (or several) this holiday season.

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!

Advent Reflections Worship Service

The community is invited to join in a service of readings, reflections, and music to welcome the deeper meaning of this Advent season. Come, light a candle to hold in love a memory, or a hope for the future. This service will be held at 1st Congregational United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Court, Mankato, MN on **Sunday, December 6th, 4:00 p.m.**

Worship leaders for this worship service will include:
Rev. Ashley Whitaker, Mapleton UCC; Rev. Michelle Hargrave, Centenary Methodist; Rev. Cherie Daniel, St. Paul's/Peace UCC; Rev. Dana Mann, 1st Congregational UCC; Rev. Ava Adams-Morris; and Prof. Blake Couey.

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.

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 22nd, 2015

Tuesday, November 24th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, November 24th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday, November 24th, Newsletter Articles/Reports due

Thursday, November 26th, **Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving**

Saturday, November 28th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties

Planning Ahead

Sunday, November 29th, 9:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Practice

Sunday, November 29th, 6:00 p.m. Confirmation

Tuesday, December 1st, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, December 1st, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, December 2nd, 6:15 p.m. meet at the church to

participate in The United Church living nativity scene for the Snowflake Dazzle parade

Saturday, December 5th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties

Sunday, December 6th, 9:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Practice

Sunday, December 6th, 6:00 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, December 12th, 5:00-9:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

Sunday, December 13th, 9:00 a.m. The United Church

Christmas Pageant

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 22nd, 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!

GIFT Update—Generations In Faith Together

GIFT will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 2nd. Instead, everyone is invited to help promote Parents Night Out (PNO) at Snowflake Dazzle and serve as a living nativity! We will have a float in the parade route displaying our living nativity and also advertising PNO, and we'll hand out fliers for PNO along the parade route. If you would like to participate in the parade, meet at The United Church at 6:15 p.m. to get in costume! We need some hay bales to help set the scene on our parade float—if you have we could borrow, please let the church office know. **All are welcome to help promote The United Church and PNO at Snowflake Dazzle!**

GIFT will meet on its regular 3rd Wednesday date on December 16th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The Christian Education Committee (Liz Bair, Louise Webb, Linda Whitney, Marissa Pfeffer, Jeff Whitaker, and our new Christian Education Coordinator, Pam Foster) is seeking your feedback about GIFT and the Church School model we have been trying this fall at The United Church. The Board of Christian Education will be meeting on Wednesday, December 9th to discuss our Christian Education plans for 2016, so please share your feedback with a board member before then. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 22nd, 2015

Thursday Bible Study Group

The final Bible Study session will be held Thursday, December 10th, 2:00 p.m.

United Church Christmas Pageant for All Ages

During worship on Sunday, December 13th, all are welcome to participate in the United Church Christmas Pageant this year— young and young at heart alike! This year, the Board of Christian Education will be presenting the “No Fuss, No Muss Christmas Pageant.” Costumes of all sizes will be available and there are no lines to learn. Participants will be invited to join the tableau in character groups as the Christmas story is proclaimed and favorite carols are sung by all.

During worship on November 29th and December 6th, children 5th grade and younger are invited to their Sunday School classroom after the Message for God's Children to learn the Christmas story and the first verse of “Joy to the World.”

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Board of Christian Education (Liz Bair, Louise Webb, Linda Whitney, Marissa Pfeffer, Jeff Whitaker) or our new Christian Education Coordinator, Pam Foster. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Music Practice

Sunday, December 13th at 10:15 a.m., we will hold a practice with guitars/instruments/voices for all those interested in singing or playing an instrument at Christmas Eve Service.

If anyone has an instrument they would like to play for Christmas Eve, please contact Sheila **by December 1st** so we may prepare ahead of the Sunday, December 13th practice.

Mapleton Sertoma Poinsettias

Please pick up your order for poinsettias at the Town and Country Leisure Center on Monday, November 30th between the hours of 1:00-7:00 p.m.; or Tuesday, December 1st from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 4:00-7:00 p.m. Thank you for supporting your local Sertoma Club!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. Psalm 146:8

Sunday:

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Welcome all creation, O God, into your ways of love and compassion. Remind us that we have all been strangers made friends through Jesus Christ. Help us embrace one another as you embrace us all. Amen.

Monday:

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. Psalm 121:7

Redeeming God, you are always bringing light into our darkness and hope into our hearts. May we live with gratitude and faithfulness in your way and truth. Amen.

Tuesday:

The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

Gracious Savior, when we forget your gift of grace we can struggle to see your presence in our world. Help us to remember the times you have shown us new life and new ways. Amen.

Wednesday:

Paul wrote: But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength. 2 Timothy 4:17

Loving Parent, your presence in our world and in our churches calls us to serve your children. May we have the strength to love your family and welcome them into your salvation now and in the life to come. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

If your gift is serving, then serve. Romans 12:7 (NIV)

Holy God, when we miss the mark and fail to love our neighbors, show us your way. Give us the courage to love with Jesus' hands and feet in the places where we meet your beloved children. Amen.

Friday:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him. Matthew 25:31–32

Chief Elder, give us vision for your future and let us know our part to play. May we witness to your love with everything we do. In grace we ask for your guidance of our words and actions. Amen.

Saturday:

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Psalm 100:2

Amazing God, you fill our days with joy and hope! May we sing of your glory even in days of sorrow. Let our voices carry to those in need of your hope and give them reprieve. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue