

## 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.



## Loaves & Fishes “Love Item”

Each month, The United Church features a “love item” of special focus for members to donate to Loaves & Fishes. This helps stock the shelves at Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf and helps increase our giving to this worthy and much needed mission in our own town. **Our Love Item for November is canned vegetables!**

Eating a diet rich in vegetables as part of an overall healthy diet may reduce risk for heart disease (including heart attack and stroke), help lower blood pressure, reduce the risk of developing kidney stones, and help to decrease bone loss. (*Source: choosemyplate.gov*)

## Loaves & Fishes Holiday Boxes

Maple River Loaves & Fishes will be packing these boxes December 14th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Teresa’s and handing them out 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. Please consider sponsoring a box (or several) this holiday season. Thank you for your generous support for our food shelf. God Bless!

## 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, November 23rd, 2014

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Reign of Christ Sunday

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 100*

One: We enter this place with thanksgiving because we know

**Many: that Jesus Christ is our Shepherd and our Lord!**

One: We rejoice over the steadfast love of God

**Many: which endures forever—to all generations.**

One: Come, let us worship the Lord with 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**

**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**

Marian Mallory

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Thanks to God for My Redeemer” Adult Choir

**\*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**

“Now Thank We All Our God” #14

**Scripture**

Matthew 13:1-9 (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**

“Gardening for God”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” #721

**\*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 23rd, 2014

Preacher—Ruth Mooney  
Lay Leader—Pastor Ashley Whitaker  
Organist—Jola Walker  
Greeters—Ron and Judy Conrad  
Head Usher—Bob Shubert  
Coffee Hour Host—Christian Education

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*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

Our **Call to Worship** today is by Moira Laidlaw at [liturgiesonline.com.au](http://liturgiesonline.com.au).

The **altar flower arrangement** has been provided by Gene Knewtson in loving memory of Gwen and Bruce McGregor and Shirley and Floyd Runke.

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.

## 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, Shirley Bowen, Hutch Cramer, Kathy Cox, David Keller, Jodie Gerdts, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Marge Walters, Jonathan Ziert
- 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
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age six, family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia. You can find more about Benjamin at [caringbridge.org/visit/benjaminbrockmann](http://caringbridge.org/visit/benjaminbrockmann).
- Dawn Dietz, who learned that her lymphoma has recurred and who has recently begun chemotherapy treatment
- Dan Prenzlów's niece, Shannon Prenzlów Blair, whose husband John Blair passed away last Friday. For those who know the Prenzlów family, Shannon is Dan's sister Kathy's daughter.
- Matt and Kelly Eberhardt, and their four-month-old son Logan, who lost their home in Kasota, MN to fire on the 18th. The structure of the home may be salvageable, but everything else is a "complete loss." Thankfully, the family was unhurt. Kelly's sister, Kari, is a friend of Pastor Ashley's.

*Continue*

## In Our Prayers

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

### **Thanksgiving:**

- And prayers of blessing for Patrick Pfeffer's birthday, which was on November 14th
- To God for giving the glorious white covering of the land in the same way that God has blanketed over our sins
- To God for Pam Foster's father's speedy recovery after a recent stroke, and thanks to physical therapy he can now take steps again. Thank you to the church for all the prayers!

### **Prayers:**

- For Colter Carey-Fritz, who received an injury to his mouth during a basketball scrimmage game last week that required surgery
- For the Army Ranger who was recently murdered and for all his family and friends

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Gwen McGregor, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Wednesday, November 12th in Mapleton. The funeral service will be held at The United Church of Mapleton at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 24th, with visitation to be held one hour prior.

## **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 23rd, 2014**

Sunday, November 23rd, 4:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off/Silent Auction  
Monday, November 24th, 11:00 a.m. Gwen McGregor funeral  
Monday, November 24th, 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve music practice  
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

#### **Planning Ahead**

Tuesday, December 2nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Thursday, December 4th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study  
Saturday, December 6th, 10:00 a.m.—Noon Baby Shower for  
Pastor Ashley and Jeff Whitaker  
Saturday, December 6th, 1:00 p.m. Kilties

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, November 23rd, 2014**

**International Ministries Speaker—Ruth Mooney**

Today, Sunday, November 23rd, Ruth Mooney is 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 Lumbrera, 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.

**Ruth will be making a presentation about her ministry during Fellowship Hour this morning and will be available for conversation.**

**Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction**

Join us for a fundraiser to benefit Cows for Christmas – Heifer International **TODAY** at 4:00 p.m. at the United Church of Mapleton. Contestants' entries must be to the church by 3:00 p.m. today. We are also still accepting Silent Auction items. If you have any questions, please contact Marian Mallory at 507-524-3000 or 319-493-0301.

**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!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, November 23rd, 2014**

**Sertoma Poinsettias**

Please pick up your poinsettias you ordered from the Sertoma Club at the Leisure Center on Monday, November 24th from 1:00—7:00 p.m., or Tuesday, November 25th from 9:00—11:00 a.m., or 4:00—7:00 p.m. The Mapleton Sertoma Club would like to thank you all for your support.

**Retirement Party for Mayor Jim Swanson**

A retirement party will be held Thursday, December 4th at the Mapleton Fire Department from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A reception and program will begin at 6:00 p.m. Join us for a celebration of Jim's 26 years being Mayor of Mapleton!

**Baby Shower**

An Open House Baby Shower will be held in honor of Pastor Ashley Whitaker on **Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 a.m.—Noon** in the Fellowship Hall of the United Church, 201 Troendle St SW.



Ashley and Jeff are having a boy! The Whitakers are registered at Target and Babies R Us.

**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 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:** Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Matthew 25:13

### **Sunday:**

We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies. Daniel 9:18

Our merciful Redeemer, help us to understand the difference between right and righteousness. Every day, you lift us from spiritual poverty and grant us the grace and mercy of your love. May we seek out those in need of enriched spirits and share your promise of life everlasting. Amen.

### **Monday:**

We are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

Heavenly God, just like children we often think we know what is best. We long to be closer to you, and yet we fail to follow in the path you have laid for us so many times in so many ways. Thank you for forgiving us and welcoming us, even though we aren't worthy. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Jesus said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." Luke 15:7

While we strive for a sinless life, we know we will never be those who need no repentance. We stumble, we fall, but your love and grace helps us to know that our sins may be forgiven. May we know your warm forgiveness and heaven's joy. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

When I was brought low, the Lord saved me. Psalm 116:6

Dear God, when we feel low you are there. You comfort us, give us strength, and you bear what we can't bear for ourselves. Thank you for peace you offer freely to us. Amen.

*Continue*

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

### **Thursday:**

Jesus said, "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." John 6:27

Gracious God, while our bodies crave the nourishment of your bountiful harvest, our souls long for your life-giving love. We know we need both to live today; but only your grace will help us to live forever. As we work to feed those for whom daily bread is a struggle, help us lead them to your spiritual table. Amen.

### **Friday:**

You know that the Son of God was revealed to take away sins. 1 John 3:5

Lord, we are sinners. We don't always do what you ask of us. Something as simple as loving you first is difficult for us. We thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to take away our sins. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Do its cool waters from distant sources ever stop flowing? Yet my people have forgotten me. Jeremiah 18:14-15

O Gatherer of believers, how often have we heard your word and witnessed the comfort you offer, only to be swallowed up in our own thoughts and worries. Remind us this and every day of your refreshing love and help us gather to you. In this we pray. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*