

Paraments

The **paraments** are purple for Advent, a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas) while looking forward to the future reign of Christ. Eschatological expectation rather than personal penitence is the central theme of the season. Advent is the preparation for, rather than a celebration of, Christmas. The liturgical color purple symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ and communal penitence. (ucc.org)

The United Church of Mapleton

Order of Worship

Sunday, November 27th, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

Our Mission:

The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.

*The * symbolizes an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

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 Ministry

Laura Fritz

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Hope

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined.

One: Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Many: We light this candle of hope to banish the darkness from our world.

One: You fill us with hope as we await your coming.

Many: Let us spread your light and hope!

All: We Welcome You! Emmanuel-God Among Us!

***Hymn**

“We Light the Advent Candles” #175

Verses 1, 2

***Call to Worship**

One: O God, we long for peace!

Many: Peace for our sons and peace for our daughters!

One: Peace for the world!

Many: Help us to turn our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

All: Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” #160

***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.

Invitation to Worship Through Offerings

All adults are invited to share any spare change they may have with the children nearest them so that all may participate in worshiping through the offering.

*Children are invited to place their offering in the offering basket or come to the front of the Sanctuary and place it in the jar. For the month of **November**, the Mission Jar offerings (for both front and back jars) will go to **Jackson Foster Care Home**.*

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**

Message for God’s Children

Sunday School for children Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten is available in Classroom A, down the hall from the Sanctuary. Sunday School for 1st – 5th grades is available upstairs in the Youth Room.

All children may remain in their pews during worship, or Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or use the Nursery if they are younger than Pre-Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

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 momentarily and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer.

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)

Prayers of the People

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**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” #136

Scripture Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44 (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

***Closing Hymn**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #153

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW—PO Box 413—Mapleton, MN 56065
(507) 524-3141
www.unitedchurchmapleton.org
pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Today's Worship & Fellowship

Pastor—Ava Adams-Morris

Lay Leader—Hugo John

Hospitality Team Lead—Dave and Kathy Byram

Organist/Pianist—Ann DeWitz

Coffee Fellowship Host—Christian Education

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship

8:45 a.m. Nursery/Toddler Care (*in Nursery/Toddler Room*)

9:00-9:45 a.m. PreK—Kin Sunday School (*Classroom A—upstairs*)

9:00-9:45 a.m. 1st—5th grade Sunday School (*Youth Room*)

9:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

The Prayer of Invocation is from Imaging the Word Vol. 2, Philipp Nicolai and Carl P. Daw, Jr., “‘Sleepers, Wake!’ A Voice Astounds Us” Page 80

The **flower arrangement** on the altar is in loving memory of Blair Shuck.

Church Calendar

Tuesday, November 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, November 29th, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes workday

Wednesday, November 30th, 5:30 p.m. UCM Live Nativity!

Thursday, December 1st, 7:30 p.m. Congregational Relations

Friday, December 2nd, 8:00 a.m -Noon Maple River Testing

Saturday, December 3rd, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties Dance Practice

Contact Information

If you have a **pastoral need**, please contact Ava Adams-Morris at (507)380-7233. Ava will be our pulpit supply pastor during our transition time. Thank you Ava!

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, Jackson Foster Care Home
- 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 B., Kathy C., Janie F., Jeannie J., Phyllis L., Marian M., Lloyd M., Stan S., Donna W., Rev. Bill B.
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Eli A., Larry B., Jack M., Sean M.
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East



The prayer requests and praises from worship last week were: Prayers:

- For a fractious and fractured nation to heal. Pray that in humility we can all be thankful for our country and it's blessings.
- For healing of Tyson McPhal

Thanksgiving:

- And prayers of thanks for answered prayers for all of us

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. 2 Thessalonians 3:13

Sunday:

God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his." 2 Timothy 2:19

Dearest Chief Elder, all praise, honor, and glory are yours. Lord, you are our master as well as our friend. Thank you for guiding us through all that has been and all that is yet to come. In your name we pray. Amen.

Monday:

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. Acts 10:36

Lord God, you are the Lord of all; help us to keep your name holy and to glorify you. Help us to preach peace to all those around us. Amen.

Tuesday:

I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. Psalm 119:6

The disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." John 4:31–34

God, our Father, help us to know and do your will. May all that we do this day be pleasing in your sight. Lord, bless us and keep us all in your loving care. Amen.

Wednesday:

Although you have not seen Jesus Christ, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1:8

Our Lord Jesus, though we may not see you face-to-face, help us to show your presence to our neighbors, friends, family, and to all whom we meet. Let us be your hands and feet in the life of someone who needs you today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. Romans 1:20

Lord, you can be seen in all of your creation. Help us to recognize you in all that we see and to hold your creation close to our hearts. Amen.

Friday:

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1:17

Do not let us fool ourselves, Lord. May we seek your wisdom to face our own skewed intentions, so we may truly serve you and not merely a version of you made in our own image. Amen.

Saturday:

Whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)

Lord, we are united with you when we put our full faith in you. Let us not seek guidance from the world around us, but trust you in all that we do. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 27th

Mission Collection Jars for November: Jackson Foster Home

The Stewardship Tree

The Stewardship Tree is at the back of the Sanctuary. At your convenience, please take one of the leaves home with you.

UCM “Live Nativity” Snowflake Dazzle Event

Everyone is invited to participate in the United Church **Live Nativity** for Snowflake Dazzle on **Wednesday, November 30th**. We will meet at the United Church at 5:30 to get costumes on. We will ride the float to the parade route, end at the Fire Hall for the tree lighting, then back to church. Please contact Marissa at 381-5220 to volunteer and questions.

Poinsettia Plants for Homebound

The Women’s Fellowship has poinsettia plants ready in the narthex to be given out to our homebound congregants. **Please pick up one today (anyone from the congregation), deliver it to the person whose name is on the card, and have a nice visit!** Thank you for sharing yourself and spreading joy in this wonderful season of Advent and Christmas!

Holiday Boxes!

Maple River Loaves & Fishes will be packing **Christmas** food boxes again this year. Please volunteer and stop by **Sunday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m.** at St. Teresa Catholic Church.

For every dollar you donate, Loaves & Fishes is able to by \$10.00 worth of food. Our mailing address is PO Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.

Christmas Worship Schedules

The United Church Christmas Eve Worship Service will be held **Saturday, December 24th, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Worship Service will not held Sunday, December 25th of this year.**

The Children’s Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 18th, 2016.**

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 27th

Poinsettia Plants for Ambience

Please bring your donated poinsettia plants to the church at anytime and place by the altar. Thank you for helping decorate our sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season!

Craft, Vendor, & Bake Sale

St. John will be hosting a Craft, Vendor, & Bake Sale during Snowflake Dazzle on **Wednesday, November 30th**. St. John Youth will be serving free hot cocoa and accepting non-perishable food and/or monetary donations for the Maple River Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

It’s Time to Talk: A Forum on Race

A Forum on Race, a national effort embraced by many communities as a tool to begin to begin the difficult conversations that can help shape understandings and increase trust between community members, will be held at the Verizon Wireless Center on Tuesday, **December 6th from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.** Justice Alan Page will be the keynote speaker. More information can be found on the bulletin board. YWCA is a sponsor and invites other community organizations to co-sponsor and asks their members to purchase tickets and attend the event, which includes lunch and small group facilitated discussions about positive actions we as individuals and our community might take.

Caregiver Support Group

The next support group will be held **Tuesday, December 6th** from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at St. Teresa Catholic Church in Mapleton. More information on bulletin board.

Jackson Foster Care Home

The Jacksons have eight teenage girls in their home. An “items of need list” can be found in the entryway, underneath the Ministry Table. Please leave donated items in box provided. **Thank you so much for your generosity** in helping out this home. Most of all, please keep praying for these girls and their families. Any Questions, please contact Sheila Samuelson.

I made another delivery for the girls and had a very nice visit with Jeannie on Monday afternoon of this last week. Jeannie needs our prayers! Please continue to pray for good health for Jeannie. Thank you!