

## 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 December is cereal!**

This summer, Loaves & Fishes noticed they needed more breakfast and lunch items than during the school year to help feed kids who rely on schools for those meals. So, for December, let’s help stock their shelves so they can be ready to help out families over the upcoming winter break! Cereals can be an important source of nutrients, especially for kids in low-income households.

### 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 30th, 2014

First Sunday of Advent

#### Prelude

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting

Pastor: The Gospel of John speaks of Jesus Christ as the true light coming into the world. In remembrance of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. Christ is always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart, and an open spirit. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, the symbol of our longing for grace, for healing, and the well being of all creation.

*(Please keep silence as the first candle is lit.)*

One: We have hope, for Christ is coming.

**Many: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, show us the creative power of hope.**

**Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

One: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection, for the light of God’s love is visible everywhere.

**Many: We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, and set aside time to offer thanks.**

*Continued*

One: The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

**Many: We will welcome Christ into our hearts.**

**We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.**

**We will shape our lives in Christ-like hope.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #154

**\*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**

Jan Brindley

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“I Wonder As I Wander”

Laura Fritz

**\*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**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion” #152

**Scripture**

Mark 1:1-8 (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**

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #153

**\*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 30th, 2014

Preacher—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Geri Howieson

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Jeff and Jodie Gerds

Head Usher—Bob Shubert

Coffee Hour Host—Loaves & Fishes

### 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

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 **Call to Worship** today is by and Advent Candle Lighting

Litany is by Jeanyne Slettom at [processandfaith.org/resources/liturgy/advent-candle-liturgy](http://processandfaith.org/resources/liturgy/advent-candle-liturgy).

The **paraments** (*cloths on the pulpit and lectern*) are purple for the season of Advent.

## 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, Jodie Gerdts, David Keller, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson, Marge Walters, Jonathan Ziert, Isaac Kolstad
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All who are grieving and mourning
- 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

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

#### **Thanksgiving:**

- And praise for two granddaughters for Brian and Deb Jaeger

#### **Prayers:**

- For the safe and healthy arrival of twin girls to be born on Wednesday; their grandma is a friend of mine. The parents also have a one and two year old!
- For God's blessings on the chili cook-off and auction

## 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 30th, 2014**

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

### **Planning Ahead**

Sunday, December 7th, 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Practice in Sanctuary  
Monday, December 8th, 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve music practice  
Monday, December 8th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship  
Tuesday, December 9th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
**Wednesday, December 10th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**  
Thursday, December 11th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study  
Friday, December 12th, 5:00—9:00 p.m. Parents Night Out  
Saturday, December 13th, 1:00 p.m. Kilties  
Sunday, December 14th, 9:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 14th, 1:00 p.m. Youth Group Service Project

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, November 30th, 2014**

**Thank You!**

Thank you to Marian Mallory, helpers, all the contestants, people who donated items for the silent auction and everyone who came to help make the Chili Cook-off/Silent Auction so much fun and such a great success! All proceeds will go towards Heifer International.

**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.

**Children's Christmas Practice/Program**

**Rehearsal will be held Sunday, December 7th** in the sanctuary after the worship service for all children grades PreK—5th and Youth Group.

Children and youth will be practicing Christmas songs during Sunday School time.

The **Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 14th** during our worship service.

**Christmas Poinsettia's**

The Ambience Team is looking for donations of **poinsettia plants** to decorate our sanctuary area for the Christmas season.

Please purchase the plant/plants on your own. Place your name on the bottom of your plant and bring the plant to the church. Thank you for helping beautify our sanctuary!



**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, November 30th, 2014**

**Parents Night Out!**

Parents, take the night out to go Christmas shopping or get away for date night! Kids will enjoy dinner (6:00 pm), crafts, cookie decorating, games, movies, and more!



You may drop off your children, ages 2 and up, at the United Church of Mapleton, 201 Troendle Street SW on Friday, December 12th after 5:00 p.m. and then pick them up by 9:00 p.m. You may call to pre-register (not required) at 524-3141.

A Freewill offering will help support "Cows for Christmas (Heifer International). May we all pass on the gift!

**Adult or youth-age volunteers** are especially needed during Parents Night Out in these areas: **Registration, Nursery Attendants, Craft Leaders, Playing Board Games, "Floaters" from area to area.** Also, If you have big, comfy blankets or oversized pillows that could be used to sit or lay on that you'd be willing to lend for Parents Night Out, that would be great. They may be needed if we choose to show the movie on the projector in the Fellowship Hall (instead of the Youth Lounge).

**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!

**Stocking Stuffers for The Well**

There is a donation box available in the narthex for you to start placing stocking stuffer donations for the youth of The Well to receive at their Christmas party.



Suggested items include: lip balm, beanie babies or stuffed animals, socks, perfume body sprays, jewelry, candy, gum, bouncy balls, playing cards, etc.



## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** So teach us, O God, to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Psalm 90:12

### **Sunday:**

The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Psalm 118:18

Dear God, we can never really know the depth of Jesus' suffering. We can never really know the disappointment you must feel when we fail to value the gifts you have given us. Thank you for sending your son so that no matter how far we fall, we can always find our way back to you. Amen.

### **Monday:**

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12

Jesus Christ, the words of God guide us in our daily lives. Though we sometimes stray from your way, we know that your love will lead us to the right path. May we love others as you love us, we ask in your name. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Thus says the Lord God: Repent and turn away from your idols. Ezekiel 14:6

Lord, so many things blind us to you: health, money, family, responsibilities, reputation, recognition, personal goals. Please help us to follow and trust you in all things. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. Revelation 4:11

Loving Creator, you gave this wondrous world to us, your children. Every day, we must do all we can to protect and nurture all that you created: sea and sky, rock and tree, beast and humankind, and treasure it as the gift of your power and love. This we ask in your name. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

His servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Revelation 22:3-4

Heavenly Lord, we want to know you and be near you. We ask for proof; we make demands. Help us to know that our prayers are heard and answered, even if it is not always the way we want them to be. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Jesus said, "I do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting." John 4:34-35

Redeemer and Creator, you continue to amaze with the abundance and richness of your everlasting grace. We thank you for your Son's promise fulfilled here on Earth, ensuring for us a place at your side when you bring in your harvest. May we grow in your spirit. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

I believe; help my unbelief! Mark 9:24

Dear God, Light of the world, you leave a light on for us, no matter how late we are. Help us to keep this light in our hearts to show others the beauty of your love and faithfulness. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*