

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 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 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 had a stroke on Saturday and was airlifted to Rochester)
- All those affected by the Russian plane that crashed in Egypt on Saturday, killing all 224 people on board

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

Thanksgiving:

- That Dad's (Jack Madsen's) recent surgery went well and he is on the mend at an assisted living facility in Mankato

Prayers:

- In remembrance of Louie Fritz
- For my 94 year old aunt, Jeanne Martinson, whose husband of 75 years, Oke, passed away last week

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 8th, 2015

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

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 Jeremiah 31:7-9

One: Sing aloud with gladness:

Many: God is gathering all people!

One: From the farthest parts of the earth we come:

Many: all who struggle, all who rejoice with new life!

One: Those who are weeping, God will console.

Many: Those who are lost will find a clear path home.

One: Sing aloud with gladness!

All: Let us worship the God who gathers us!

***Opening Hymn**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #96

Verses 1, 2, 3, 5

***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

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

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**

A Litany for Veterans Day

Please turn to the bulleting insert titled “A Litany for Veterans Day” 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**

“God of Our Life” #409

Scripture

Mark 10:46-52 (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

“Have Mercy”

***Closing Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision” #502

***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 8th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Reader—Pam Foster
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Mabelle Larson
Head Usher—
Coffee Hour Host—Youth Center

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 by Rev. Bonnie Tarwater and is from the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* website (www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways).

A Litany for Veterans Day is based on liturgy by *A Litany for Veterans* by Rev. Tom Williams at pcusa.org/resource/litany-veterans and *Veterans Day Worship* at ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3371/veterans-day-worship.

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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, November 8th, 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!

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.

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. 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 local food shelf, both financially and with prayer. God Bless!

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 8th, 2015

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

Thursday, November 12th, **Church Office Closed**

Friday, November 13th, **Church Office Closed**

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

Planning Ahead

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.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 13th. If you have a Pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Ashley at 507-381-8199.

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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 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 18th. All are welcome!**

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, **Sunday, November 8th immediately after worship**, in the Fellowship Hall.

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Youth Center

Sunday, November 15th, our Mission Jar collections will go to support the local youth center.

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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: The Lord has done great things for us.
Psalm 126:3

Sunday:

Jesus spoke to the disciples, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”
Matthew 14:27

Savior, fear and doubt rise at every turn to cloud our minds to your loving ways. We seek the fearlessness your love provides, Lord Jesus! All without you is uncertainty, mistrust, bewilderment. In you we know happiness and worth. Amen.

Monday:

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.” Luke 1:46–48

Creator, Sustainer, Reconciler, our spirits cry out in your language, as you have taught it to us. We love to speak the “God-talk” and to feel its effects on our hearts and souls. May we always strengthen our skills in your loving ways. Amen.

Tuesday:

Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

Sinners, doubters, lost souls we are. God, we seek your divine guidance. Held down by the ways of the world, we conform, making us spiritually ill. Transform us to do your will and we shall live, instead, for you! Amen.

Wednesday:

God prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom he also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. Romans 9:23–24 (NASB)

Lord, we long for the peace of understanding and a way back to you. In our noisy lives, it is sometimes hard to discern your voice. Allow us to perfect our listening to hear your call so that we may glorify you. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Thus says the Lord: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, that they understand and know me. Jeremiah 9:23–24

How wonderful, knowing wisdom is learned and not imparted! God, in the Spirit you have provided the way, the resolve, and the reward. We have heard your message. Let us take up our cross for Christ and make the world ready for his coming. Amen.

Friday:

Indeed God is not far from each one of us. Acts 17:27

God, be with us every minute we are on earth. Christ be our staff and stay, your teachings and examples to emulate. Spirit, fill us, that we cannot contain the joy of salvation. Give us hope. Give us love. Give us joy. Give us life! Amen.

Saturday:

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. Psalm 116:7

Father, we look forward to the Great Rest. We know that you will be there to take us home when we are done here. We shout with joy, knowing you have made the perfect place for us. May we earn it. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue