

## 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, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen, Stan Solie
- 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
- All those affected by the school shooting at Umpqua Community College of Roseburg, Oregon on Thursday, October 1st, which left ten people dead and nine others wounded.
- All those affected by the flooding in South Carolina last week, including Gabe Samuelson's Army Reserve training unit in Fort Jackson, SC.

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

#### Thanksgiving:

- For a visit of dear friends, Bill and Millie Stroebel from California

#### Prayers:

- For the family of Richard Johnson of Windom who passed away; related to the Lindemann family
- For effective treatment options
- For our son as he struggles with a difficult decision
- For those having constant medical problems and patience for family members caring for a loved on with medical issues
- For our granddaughter who is having problems in the birth of her second child

## 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, October 11th, 2015

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Fall Stewardship Season: Stewards of Treasure

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you ... to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

### Prelude

### Welcome, Announcements, and Campaign Update

*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: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

Remember our God with praises:

**Many: the One who made us,  
the One who sustains us,  
the One whose Spirit lives within us.**

One: Let us enter God's house with thanksgiving

**Many: and come into God's presence with praise.**

One: For the Lord is gracious,

**Many: with unfailing love that lasts forever,**

One: and faithfulness that extends to all generations.

**All: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” #721

**\*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**

Youth Center

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Adult Choir

*The Choir’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.*

*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**

“We Give Thee but Thine Own” #688

**Scripture**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (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**

“Responding Before the Lord”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” #572

**\*Benediction**

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

**Postlude**

***\*Please rise in body or spirit.\****

## Serving Us Today: Sunday, October 11th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Pam Foster

Greeters—Mike and Julie Johnson

Head Usher—Pat Carter

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

### 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. Christine Longhurst at [re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com).

After a **Choral 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 **Fall Stewardship Season** at The United Church of Mapleton is three Sundays (October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>), culminating on October 18<sup>th</sup> when we submit and consecrate our pledge cards in worship. In this season of worship, there will be a special focus on how we as a church and as individual Christians are the best possible stewards of our time, treasures, talents, and resources of all kinds.

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](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.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, October 11th, 2015**

**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, October 11th, 2015**

Monday, October 12th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, October 13th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, October 13th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

**Wednesday, October 14th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**

Thursday, October 15th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Rm.

Sunday, October 18th, 6:00-7:00p.m. Confirmation (*Youth Lounge*)

**Planning Ahead**

Tuesday, October 20th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, October 20th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

**Wednesday, October 21st, 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T.** (*Generations In Faith Together*)

**Wednesday, October 21st, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**

Thursday, October 22nd, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, October 27th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, October 27th, 8:00 a.m. Newsletter Reports/Articles due

Tuesday, October 27th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Saturday, October 31st, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties

Sunday, November 1st, 6:00-7:00p.m. Confirmation (*Youth Lounge*)

Tuesday, November 3rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Tuesday, November 3rd, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Wednesday, November 4th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. **G.I.F.T.** (*Generations In Faith Together*)

Thursday, November 5th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, November 7th, 9:00-11:00 Kilties

Sunday, November 8th, 10:00 a.m. **Congregational Annual Budget Proposal and Election meeting**

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, October 11th, 2015**

**How to Contact Pastor Ashley**

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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, October 21st. All are welcome!**

**Ambience Needs**

The Ambience Work Group would like to decorate the outside of the church for the fall season. If you could or would like to help us out by **donating any mum plants, pumpkins, gourds, or corn stalks**, please drop them to the church at the front lawn sign. Ambience will take care of the items from there! Thank you for your help!

**Special Mission**

Our World Mission Offering will be held **during the month of October**. This is a wonderful mission, as they send Missionaries all over the world to tell people God's saving message. Please give generously as this is another way we can help get God's word spread to people everywhere.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, October 11th, 2015**

**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 Youth Center**

The Maple River Youth Center will be hosting their Harvest Dinner on **Sunday, October 11th from 10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.** at the T & C Leisure Center. Menu will include: turkey, ham, potatoes and gravy, salad, dessert and a beverage. Cost \$8; \$5 age 10 and under.

**Mid-American Baptist Churches Gathering**

The United Church is invited to an annual gathering of the Mid-American Baptist Churches held at Woodbury Baptist, Woodbury, MN on **Sunday, October 11th from 3:00-7:00 p.m.** This gathering will include a time of worship together followed by the opportunity to talk with other churches about some of the common challenges faced in our ministries and outreach today. No registration is necessary and a meal will be provided. You may view poster on the church bulletin board.

**Holiday Bazaar**

The United Church groups are invited to buy a table space, for a donation, to sell your crafts or goodies at the Peace United Church of Christ in Minnesota Lake Holiday Bazaar on **Saturday, October 31st from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Coffee and pastries will be served from 9:00-11:00 a.m. A Sloppy Joe luncheon special will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The cost of the meal is Adults \$6.00; Children \$3.00; and Preschool are free.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Mark 9:35

### **Sunday:**

Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me. Psalm 119:133

Divine Wisdom, lead us down paths of understanding. Keep our steps steady and sure as we seek spiritual maturity, and open our hearts to the teachings of your word. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God. Psalm 95:2–3

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! He has sent his Son to be our Savior, calling us into his eternal presence, a gift for which we have abundant joy. Thank you, thank you! Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me. Matthew 25:35–36

Source of all hope, open our hearts to extend your welcoming grace to all we meet, especially those whom the world routinely shuns. Let us not be hesitant or afraid to extend hospitality and care to those who need food, shelter, medicine, and the comfort of human connection. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

May the God of peace work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Hebrews 13:20,21

Lord, through the saving grace of Jesus Christ, you have given us the secret to success. Nurture us, work within us, and inspire us to bear the fruits of love and salvation so we may be living witnesses to others and bring glory to you. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:6

Omnipotent Lord, you made all things, rule over all things, and provide all things. Every gift you give us is from you and is meant to work in concert to your glory. Help us celebrate the diversity of gifts we see in our communities. Amen.

### **Friday:**

He guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 97:10

Everlasting God, you promise us safety and surety in the face of all that is to come. In our moments of doubt, give us courage and reassurance that our faithful, patient service to you will be rewarded for all eternity. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Mary said, “He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.” Luke 1:51–52

Blessed Savior, you came to free us from life’s temptations. Let us not fall prey to the siren songs of the world, but rather hear your word deep in our heart, calling us to joy. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*