

## 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
- 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 awaiting a treatment plan pending test results

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

### Thanksgiving:

- For the wonderful volunteers who serve the Maple River Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

### Prayers:

- For patience while waiting for treatment decisions

## The United Church of Mapleton

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(507) 524-3141

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

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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 18th, 2015

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Fall Stewardship Season: Stewards of Talents

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

### 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 29:1, 4-7, 11*

One: A word of encouragement came from God to the people:

**Many: Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, and serve others.**

One: Pray for your communities.

**Many: Keep God in the center of all that is.**

One: We enter into worship today with God's praise on our lips,

**Many: for something happens here that fills us with hope.**

One: God has made a promise of faithfulness to us,

**Many: and we can trust this promise:**

One: “For surely I know the plans I have for you...  
to give you a future with hope.”

**All: Let us praise God together in thanksgiving!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Come, All Christians, Be Committed” #459

**\*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**

Patrick Pfeffer

**Worship Through Stewardship: Litany for Consecration of Commitment Cards**

*Please turn to the bulletin insert titled  
“Worship Through Stewardship”  
and join in the responsive reading.*

**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**

**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**

“All Things Are Yours!” #687

**Scripture**

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (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**

“Varieties of Gifts, One Spirit”

**\*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 18th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker  
Lay Reader—Ginny Kinzie  
Greeters—Clint Lindemann  
Head Usher—Wally and Joyce Johnson  
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 based on liturgy written by Henrietta Stith Andrews and posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* website at <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-23.html>.

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 commitment/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 18th, 2015

### Harvest Ham Dinner

The Amboy First Presbyterian Church will hold a Harvest Ham Dinner on **Sunday, October 25 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$9.00 and age 5 and under are free!

### 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.

### Dollars for Scholars Supper

The DFS Scholarship Supper will be held in on **Monday, November 2, 2015** at St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Mapleton. Please join us to support 2016 Maple River graduating seniors.

### 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.

## 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 18th, 2015**

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

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

#### **Planning Ahead**

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*)

Wednesday, November 4th, 7:00 p.m. **Congregational Information meeting in the Fellowship Hall**

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 Informational meeting in the Fellowship Hall**

Sunday, November 15th, 10:00 a.m. **Congregational Annual Budget Proposal and Election meeting in the Fellowship Hall**

### 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 United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, October 18th, 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!

**Garden of Eatin' Udate**

The amount of fresh produce donated this season to Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf from the Garden of Eatin' so far is **281.6!**

**Daylight Saving Time Ends! Fall Back!**

Please turn your clocks back one hour on **Saturday evening October 31st, 2015.**



**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, October 18th, 2015**

**Nursery Room**

**Thank you** to everyone who spent many hours and helped update our Nursery Room by spackling holes, donating paint, painting cabinets, creating the wood 1/2 door, painting walls, sewing a new rest room curtain, going through old toys, transporting old items to thrift stores, and locating newer toys, books and a book shelf. What an awesome gift you have given to the life of our church with your time and talents! In the near future we will install new carpet in the Nursery.

**Special Mission**

During the month of October, our special mission offering is The World Mission Offering (ABC) and Neighbors in Need (UCC). The World Mission Offering is the American Baptist response to the needs of international missions as mandated by the Great Commission in partnership with other National Baptist churches in other countries. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Witness Ministries. As with all Special Mission Offerings, all money received is divided evenly between the ABC and the UCC. These are both very worthwhile missions to support, so please give generously!

**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.

There will be two upcoming congregational information meetings about the new proposed church structure, **Wednesday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m. (immediately following GIFT)** and **Sunday, November 8th immediately after worship**, both in the Fellowship Hall.

## The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, October 18th, 2015

### 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. On the back of this sheet is a shopping list of suggested items to purchase for our troops. There are extra 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.

Below is an excerpt from a thank you letter sent from the USS PREBLE. This letter is posted on the church bulletin board for your viewing.

“Thanks so much again for what your organization does; it means a great deal, especially to many of the single folks who may not receive as much mail as their married counterparts. You are doing a fantastic service and we cannot thank you enough!”

## Treats For Troops

Suggestions

**Notes and letters  
would be appreciated!**

### **Food:**

Hot Cocoa Mix  
Soup Mix  
Cereal & Granola Bars  
Fruit Roll-ups  
Energy Bars  
Pop Tarts  
Instant Oatmeal  
Easy Mac  
Pringles  
Single Serve Drink Mixes  
Jerky  
Instant Coffee  
Tea  
Salt & Pepper  
Microwave Popcorn  
Sunflower Seeds  
Little Debbies  
Nuts  
Powdered Creamer  
Jams & Jellies  
Cookies  
Crackers  
**Candy:**  
Skittles  
Gum  
Licorice  
Jelly Beans  
Hard Candy  
Jaw Breakers  
Licorice  
Gummie Bears  
**Hygiene/Medicinal:**  
Body Wash  
Body Powder

### **Hygiene/Medicinal continued:**

Foot Powder  
Hand Sanitizer  
Deodorant  
Shampoo (small)  
Lip Ivo  
Cough Drops  
Blister Treatments  
Face Wipes  
Blister Treatments  
Insoles  
Icy Hot or similar  
Inflatable Pillows  
Pillow Cases  
Sewing Kit  
Single Sheets  
**Fun & Games:**  
Magazines  
AA and AAA batteries  
Playing Cards & Dice  
Crossword & Sudoku Puzzles  
Hand-held Games  
Bouncy Balls  
Stress Balls  
Canned Air  
Frisbee  
Bubbles  
Koozies  
Music CD's  
Books on CD  
Paperback Books  
Disposable Camera  
Beanie Babies  
School Supplies

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes. Psalm 19:8

### **Sunday:**

The Lord confirms the word of his servant, and performs the counsel of his messengers. Isaiah 44:26 (NKJV)

Confirm your word in us, O Lord, as we set forth into the world to proclaim the good news of your salvation. Counsel us as we seek to follow your lead, guiding our steps to those who need to hear of your grace and love. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep your word. Psalm 119:67

Merciful Savior, humble us now, we pray. Challenge our ways of living when we do not live for you and when we do not act with love. Father, forgive us and grant us grace, and keep us in your word. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. Psalm 121:5–6

Keeper of us all, you protect us by day and by night. Strengthen us to respond when you call, regardless of the uncertainty we face. Let us trust in you. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Alpha and Omega, you are everything that has been, is, and will be. We are humbly blessed to be given the promise of eternal hope through the sacrifice and redemption of your Son. Thank you! Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

The Lord will send his angel before you. Genesis 24:7

O God, as the angels before us, we welcome your call. In our hearts and minds write your will. Give us your voice that we may proclaim our Lord's Holy Sacrifice. Amen.

### **Friday:**

How are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? Romans 10:14

Father of all earth's children, to you the glory! May we never be silent in our love for your holy word. Let us remain, against all fire, sword, and wind, in your blessings. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. Romans 14:8

Dear God, may we for all eternity be yours, made from you to return to you. May our lives, through our thoughts, words, and actions reflect the light you brought to the world in Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*