

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
- Jack Madsen's granddaughter, Kourtney Considine, who was in a car accident on Wednesday, who received only minor cuts and bruises personally, but lost their unborn twins as a result of the accident

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

Thanksgiving:

- For a new great-grandson named Karl
- For family, safe travels, and Ty Shuck's 40th birthday on October 24th

Prayers:

- For caregivers who deal with the aged and those recovering from surgery
- For Leslie Mutch, who has lung cancer
- For family members with health concerns
- For a co-worker whose mother passed away

The United Church of Mapleton

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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 25th, 2015

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

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 Psalm 46

One: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Many: God's love surrounds us every day;
the Lord is merciful and gracious.**

One: Turn your backs upon idols of all kinds;
worship the Holy One alone.

**Many: Blessed are all who stand in awe before God;
happy are all who walk in God's ways.**

One: The love of God surrounds us;
the love of God unites us with all God's people.

**Many: God is our judge and our source of life;
God is our comfort and our refuge.**

One: The Lord is our refuge, now and forevermore.

All: Let us worship the Lord!

***Opening Hymn**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #507

***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

Marissa Pfeffer

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**

“Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord” #455

Scripture

John 8:31-36 (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

“Free Indeed”

***Closing Hymn**

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets” #24

***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 25th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Joyce Johnson

Greeters—Dave and Kathy Byram

Head Usher—Pat Carter

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

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 written by Homer G. Samplonius in *A Better Righteousness: Four Services* and was posted on the Reformed Worship website (reformedworship.org).

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, October 25th, 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 25th, 2015

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

Planning Ahead

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

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, October 25th, 2015

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 4th. All are welcome!**

Daylight Saving Time Ends! Fall Back!

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

Following 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.

Continue

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, October 25th, 2015

Treats For Troops –Fall 2015 continued...

“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!”

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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Hebrews 2:12

Sunday:

Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. Matthew 7:7

O Lord, hear our prayer; not in our own strength do we move. Let us become living witnesses, reaching to you. Savior, may we hear your call as instruments of your compassion and truth, and as ambassadors of reconciliation. Amen.

Monday:

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 2 Corinthians 5:19

Welcome O my Savior now! Clothed in elements of salvation, we await earth's deliverance. Though we cannot earn it, you bless us with divine forgiveness. In your mercy we have found favor with you. Jesus, come alive within us! Amen.

Tuesday:

Thus says the Lord, "Seek me and live." Amos 5:4

Lord Jesus, mold us for God's witness! Empower us to recognize, maintain, and restore the power that comes from living in you. Fashion us into true believers. Let us see you, Prince of Peace, and purify us in our commitment! Amen.

Wednesday:

If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 (NIV)

Gracious God, our Father, we owe all that we have to you. Reveal the work you have set before us and preserve us in true faith. Freely may we give, in the joys of discipleship, to the glory of your kingdom. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:9–10 (NIV)

Blessed Christ Jesus, you have our eternal thanks. You understand our deepest needs and present them, with love, to God. May we choose to be living witnesses, to present our hearts in prayer, and to gratefully celebrate the lives we've been blessed to have. Amen.

Friday:

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Joel 2:13

Master Jesus, you reveal God's boundless love. Bring near your great salvation! Break our hearts that we may see the tribulations of others and show them compassion, love, and grace, in order to serve and love you best of all. Amen.

Saturday:

And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Luke 18:7

Lord, Father, Maker, and Redeemer, we labor to proclaim salvation to the ends of the earth, our faith forever sharing. In grace, invite us to join with Christians everywhere to touch, teach, comfort, and feed, sharing your love with the world. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue