

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
- Darlene Fezler, who is traveling to visit family
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East

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

Thanksgiving:

- To God that my sister, Linda Daly, who had cancer surgery on Friday and that the surgeons got it all. Thanks be to God!
- To all those within our congregation for the outstanding support of the Church World Service (CWS) kit program

Prayers:

- For farmers harvesting
- For all those in need of hope
- Of healing for the Fredrick family for the loss of a close friend

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family and friends of Wayne Dietz, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Tuesday, September 22nd. Wayne's memorial service will be held Tuesday, September 29th in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

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 4th, 2015

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Fall Stewardship Season: Stewards of Time

"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 9

One: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,

Many: a stronghold in times of trouble.

One: Those who know God's name put their trust in the Lord,

Many: for those in need will not be forgotten.

One: Be forever gracious to us, O Lord;

Many: we know that our hopes will never perish with you.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord from the depths of our hearts.

Many: We will tell of all God's wonderful deeds.

One: Let us be glad and exult in God!

All: We sing praise to your name, O Most High!

***Opening Hymn**

“As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought” #570

***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

Karen Stanton

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**

“For the Life That You Have Given” #684

To be sung twice through

Scripture

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (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

“The Acceptable Time”

Communion Service: World Communion Sunday

Please turn to the bulletin insert titled

“Come, for the Meal is Ready”

and join in the responsive readings as indicated

At The United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but it is God’s, and it is open to all of God’s children.

Today, we will participate in communion by intinction.

Intinction is the practice of coming forward to the front of the Sanctuary, taking a piece of bread from the loaf, dipping it into the cup of juice, and receiving the elements at that time.

If you request that the elements to be brought to you in your pew, simply let a Deacon know during the Communion Service and the servers will come to you. All of our Communion elements are gluten free. A pastoral blessing is available if you or your child(ren) choose to not receive Communion today.

***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 4th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Reader—Ginny Kinzie
Greeters—Mabelle Larson
Head Usher—Pat Carter
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

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

The **flower arrangement** on the altar is in memory of Patrick Shubert.

Today's *Call to Worship* is based directly on Psalm 9 from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of *The Bible*.

Come, for the Meal is Ready was written by Ana and Tod Gobledale, who have served Global Ministries (Disciples of Christ/United Church of Christ) as local ministers in both South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as in Australia at Churches of Christ Theological College near Melbourne. They are currently the ministers of St. Andrew's United Reformed Church in Brockley, England.

The **Fall Stewardship Season** at The United Church of Mapleton is three Sundays (October 4th, 11th, and 18th), culminating on October 18th 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.

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 4th, 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 4th, 2015

Sunday, October 4th, 6:00-7:00p.m. Confirmation (*Youth Lounge*)
Tuesday, October 6th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, October 6th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday, October 7th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. (*Generations In Faith Together*)
Thursday, October 8th 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Rm.

Planning Ahead

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*)
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

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, October 4th, 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!

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, Sunday, October 4th, 2015 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission on the **first Sunday** of each month.

G.I.F.T. Update

Thank you to everyone who came to the first gathering of G.I.F.T. (*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 G.I.F.T. gathering will be Wednesday, October 7th. All are welcome!**

Garden of Eatin' - Weekly Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced **259.2 pounds** of fresh raw vegetables for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, October 4th, 2015

Quilters Schedule Update

Quilters group will begin **Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00 p.m.** There are things you can help with even if you do not sew!

Special Mission

Our World Mission Offering will start in 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 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.

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.

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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Jesus asks, “But who do you say that I am?” Mark 8:29

Sunday:

If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

John 8:31–32

Author of our faith, let us hear you when you impart your truth to us through your word. Let us live faithfully as your disciples, listening to your will for our lives, and freely following where you lead. Amen.

Monday:

Paul wrote: Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Romans 7:24–25

Abiding God, you give us victory over death! You raise us above the trials of earthly life through the promise of eternal life with you. Let us not despair, as you will never abandon us, no matter how wretched we believe we are. In your grace. Amen.

Tuesday:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and set out, not knowing where he was going. Hebrews 11:8

God of Abraham, you call each of us to follow you, though we often do not know the way. Give us faith to go, and give us trust in your guidance. Amen.

Wednesday:

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever. Revelation 11:15

Emmanuel, you came to be the light of the world, to fulfill the promise for all creation, to reign as our Chief Elder forever. Hallelujah! We celebrate your presence with us as we remember this day of covenant. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Eternal Guide, lead us down the paths you would have us go. Let us feel your hand upon us, reminding us that we are never alone. Give us peace and assurance to trust and follow you at all times. Amen.

Friday:

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5:10 (NIV)

Forgiving Lord, thank you for your grace. Thank you for not turning away from us when we stumble in our walks with you. Let us look to you for truth and steadfastness. Amen.

Saturday:

Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. Jonah 2:8 (NIV)

Redeemer, you call us to a higher purpose than that which the world offers. Lead us away from the daily temptations that all too often become easy idols, and grant us the grace to claim your eternal treasure. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue