

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 11th, 2016

Garden of Eatin' Update: 511.6 lbs. of produce to date

CWS Kits Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that helped sew bags, donate items, and pack Kits this year!

Please remember the Kit Program will be doing a fundraiser at Dietz Brat Wagon **Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th.**

PreK-5th Grade Sunday School and Bible Presentation

Next Sunday, September 18th the PreK-5th grade children will begin their Sunday School classes, during worship, Bible storybooks and Bibles will be presented to PreK—5th graders.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, September 18th**, immediately following worship service to discuss the new structure trial. Breakfast will be available during this meeting. Persons with the last name beginning with **A-M, please bring baked goods.** Persons with the last name beginning with **N-Z, please bring fruit.** Thank you!

Call to Ministry and Ministry Table

If you would like to share a **Call to Ministry** at the beginning of worship, please contact Marissa Pfeffer or the church office no later than Wednesday evening before that Sunday. The same timeline is requested for bulletin or Ministry Table information. The Call to Ministry time will be reserved for one announcement that is both informational and a call to action and should be directly related to The United Church of Mapleton's mission and ministry.

Girls Foster Care Home—School Supplies and Backpacks!

Jeannie Jackson contacted me about the need for backpacks and school supplies for the foster care girls. They have eleven teenage girls in their home. An "items of need list" can be found in the entryway, underneath the Ministry Table. Please leave donated items in box provided. **Thank you so much for your generosity** in helping out this home. Most of all, please keep praying for these girls and their families. Thank you!

The United Church of Mapleton
Order of Worship

Sunday, September 11th, 2016
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Our Mission:

The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.

*The * symbolizes an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

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 Ministry

***Call to Worship**

Based on Psalm 51

One: May your love and mercy be upon us today, O Lord.

Many: Cleanse and refresh us from every transgression.

One: Let your joy and gladness dawn in our spirits,

Many: and the restoring power of your Spirit make us new.

One: Have mercy upon us O God,

Many: and let your Spirit lead us in truth and righteousness.

One: Restore us, deliver us, and re-create us, O Lord,

All: beginning even now, as we worship you together!

***Opening Hymn**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #68

***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!

***Sharing Grace and Peace**

One: God's Word is a word of forgiveness, assurance, and grace.

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Many: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

Message for God's Children

Worship Bags, "The Sunday Paper" coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available for children's use today.

Invitation to Worship Through 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 the Fifteenth Anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 Attacks

Please turn to this bulletin insert and join in the responsive reading.

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 momentarily and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer.

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)

Prayers of the People

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**

"Lord, Speak to Me" #593

Scripture

Luke 15:1-10 (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

"Rejoice With Me!"

Communion Service

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. The piece of bread you will receive is intentionally large to allow for sanitary dipping into the common cup.

If you request that the elements to be brought to you in your pew, simply let a Hospitality Team member (usher/greeter) 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**

"Amazing Grace" #422

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

The United Church of Mapleton

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Today's Worship & Fellowship

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Joe Samuelson
Hospitality Team Lead—Doug and Laura Fritz
Organist/Pianist—Jola Walker
Guitar/Vocals—Laura Fritz, Marissa Pfeffer, Sheila Samuelson

9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion (*Daly Park*)

10:00 a.m. Fall Fling (*Daly Park*)

Today's *Call to Worship* is based on liturgy from The Worship Closet (worshipcloset.com) and The Lectionary Sermons archives (lectionarysermons.com).

Litany for the Fifteenth Anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 Attacks is by Rev. Shannon Sullivan and is from shasullivan.blogspot.com.

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 11th, 9:00 a.m. **Worship Service with Communion and Fall Fling Celebration at Daly Park**
Monday, September 12th, 7:00 p.m. **Women's Fellowship**
Tuesday, September 13th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, September 13th, 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, September 14th, 7:00 p.m. Joint PRC/Personnel
Thursday, September 15th, 7:30 p.m. **CRC Team meeting**
Friday, September 16th, United Church at Brat Wagon (Kits)
Saturday, September 17th, United Church at Brat Wagon (Kits)
Sunday, September 18th, 9:30-10:00 a.m. Sunday School (PreK-5th begins); **10:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting**
Tuesday, September 20th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Tuesday, September 20th, 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, September 21st, 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T.
Wednesday, September 21st, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, Jackson Foster Care Home
- 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, Janie Firstbrook, Marian Mallory, Sean Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Eli Alvarado, Jack Madsen
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- Phyllis Lindemann, who has been undergoing evaluation testing for a double lung transplant at the University of Minnesota. She has been cleared to join the transplant list, but faces potential problems with finding a match to avoid rejection.
- The family and friends of Jacob Wetterling, who disappeared in 1989 and whose remains were recently found

The prayer requests and praises from worship last week were:

Prayers:

- For the victims of floods and storms
- For Mike Miller and his family on the loss of his mother last week

Thanksgiving:

- After a year of treatment, I am cancer free!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Let mutual love continue. Hebrews 13:1

Sunday:

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8–9

Brothers and sisters, abandon your fears and be joyful in the promise of the Lord! He has redeemed us, despite our unworthiness. This is such an amazing gift. God, help us to share this good news with the lost among us. Amen.

Monday:

You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great. Leviticus 19:15

Believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. James 2:1 (NIV)

O Great Provider, your love is a never-ending river. We pray that we are washed with your grace and that we never forget the blood you shed for us. As your children, teach us to walk in your ways. Amen.

Tuesday:

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. Luke 12:6

Father, you have provided us with loving families. We are so grateful for these special people in our lives. Lord, please help us to reach out to those who are lonely and without family. Amen.

Wednesday:

Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Mark 10:14

Blessed Jesus, thank you for all the children in our lives. Give us strength to serve as models for them. Lord, present us with opportunities to teach them about your love and sacrifice. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people. 1 Peter 2:10

Good and gentle Shepherd, you claim us as your own. Even more, you call us by name. When we are rebellious and stray from the paths you've set before us, you seek us out and bring us back to the safety of the fold. Amen.

Friday:

If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward. Matthew 10:42 (NIV)

O Lord, give us compassion for the poor and powerless. Warm our cold hearts to reflect in them your love for all people. Teach us humility and forgive our feelings of self-importance. Remind us that all we have—even our next breath—comes from you. Amen.

Saturday:

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength. Luke 21:36

O God, our Deliverer, rescue us from bondage that comes from our unwillingness to resist the world. Save us! Bring us out of the noisiness and clutter of our lives and into the quiet grace—the spacious place—of your peace. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue

**A Litany for the Fifteenth Anniversary of the
September 11th, 2001 Attacks**

One: Let us lament together:

Many: This should not have happened.

One: It was an ordinary day, but, if we were old enough, we remember where we were when we heard the news. We may have been looking on from a distance, as those women who followed Jesus did at his crucifixion. Feeling helpless. Devastated.

Many: This should not have happened.

One: We have listened to the stories of first responders, hearts racing, bodies racing even faster to get to the top floors, many of them showing a greater love, laying down their lives for their friends.

Many: This should not have happened.

One: We turned to one another as Cleopas did to a stranger, looking sad, saying, "Are you the only one who does not know the things that have taken place in these days?" And the world grieved with us.

Many: This should not have happened.

One: But it did happen, and it still does. We hear stories of bombings in cafes. And we see mass shootings in schools and churches and nightclubs and movie theaters on the news. We even hear whispers of drones bearing our own flag striking down civilians in far away countries. Terror knows no religious, cultural, geographical, or political boundaries. In this world drowning in fear, we call out today as Jesus did: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?"

Many: This should not keep happening.

One: But God has not forsaken us. God reminds us not to be afraid over and over again throughout Scripture. When Jesus was resurrected, he broke into the upper room, locked by his terror-filled followers, and he breathed peace onto them. So Jesus does with us. And with that breath, we are given the responsibility to build the Kingdom of God, to share the peace of Christ, and to live the promise of resurrection.

Many: Lord, hear our commitment this day: that is what we will do, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.