

## 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 who continue to be affected by the aftermath of the September 11th, 2001 attacks on our nation, especially all those who lost their lives, their loved ones, and all of the first responders

If you would like to send Gabe Samuelson a card to encourage him during his Army Reserve Basic Training, his address is:

PVT Samuelson, Gabriel  
1st Platoon (OUTLAWS)  
Bravo Company, Lightning BN (Prov)  
REGT 165th IN BDE  
10788 Hampton Parkway  
Fort Jackson, SC 29207-6819

## The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065  
(507) 524-3141  
www.unitedchurchmapleton.org  
secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

### 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, September 13th, 2015  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### 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 8*

One: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Many: You have set your glory above the heavens!**

One: When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**Many: what are human beings that you are mindful of us, mortals that you care for us?**

One: Yet you have made us a little lower than you, and crowned us with glory and honor.

**Many: You have given us dominion over the works of your hands;**

One: you have put all things under our feet,

**Many: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,**

One: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**All: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“All Creatures of Our God and King” #23

**\*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**

Liz Bair

**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**

**Blessing of Confirmands**

*Please turn to the bulletin insert titled “A Litany for Beginning Confirmation” and join in the responsive readings as indicated.*

**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 Beauty of the Earth” #40

**Scripture**

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-23 (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**

“Creating with the Creator”

**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.*

*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.*

**\*Closing Hymn**

“For Beauty of Meadows” #28

**\*Benediction**

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

**Postlude**

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

## Serving Us Today: Sunday, September 13th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Pam Foster

Greeters—Doug and Laura Fritz

Head Ushers—Bruce and Karen Stanton

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship at Daly Park

10:00 a.m. Fall Fling Celebration

Today's *Call to Worship* is based directly on Psalm 8 from the New Revised Standard Version of The Bible.

*A Litany for Beginning Confirmation* is by Rev. Doug Kearney of Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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.

## 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, September 13th, 2015

Sunday, September 13th, 9:00 a.m. Worship & Fall Fling at Daly  
Monday, September 14th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship  
Tuesday, September 15th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Wednesday, September 16th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. **G.I.F.T** (*Generations In Faith Together*)  
Wednesday, September 16th, 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Meeting  
**Wednesday, September 16th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees**  
Thursday, September 17th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study

#### Planning Ahead

Sunday, September 20th, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice  
Tuesday, September 22nd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, September 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

#### 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!



**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, September 13th, 2015**

**Choir Practice**

**Sunday, September 20th**, Adult Choir practice will begin immediately following our worship service. We will meet in the sanctuary.

**Youth Center**

**Sunday, September 20th**, our Mission Jar and Coffee Hour collections will go to support the local youth center.

**World Service Kits**

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who donated, sewed and helped with World Service Kits. This year we totaled and mailed out **165 kits!** Way to go United Church!

**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.

**Garden of Eatin' - Weekly Update**

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced **221.5 pounds** of fresh raw vegetables for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Thank you to all who are helping make this much needed local mission such a success!

**Quilters Schedule Update**

The Quilters will not be meeting for the rest of September. They will begin again **Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00 p.m.**

**Newer Nursery Toys and Books Needed**

The Board of Christian Education and our nursery volunteers are working to update and refresh the nursery. We are looking for donations of new or gently used toys and books for the nursery. If you have any you would like to donate, please call the church at 524-3141, email [secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org), or speak to Pastor Ashley or Sheila Samuelson. Thank you!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, September 13th, 2015**

**65th Wedding Anniversary!**

On Saturday, September 26th, Bob and Georgia Wilson will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary! You may send a congratulation card to Bob and Georgia Wilson, 45283 230th St, Delavan, MN 56023.

**65th Wedding Anniversary!**

Pat and Hugo will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary with an Open House (tent) on Sunday, September 20th from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at 501 4th Ave SE, Mapleton, MN. You are invited to drop-in and join us in celebrating this happy event!

Light hors d'oeuvre and beverages will be available. Your presence is your gift.

**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.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** Jesus says, “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” John 6:63

### **Sunday:**

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.  
Isaiah 40:29

Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10

God of strength and tenderness, we seek you by our surrender. We praise you in our weakness. May Christ lead on through perils dark. May grace alone be our light. Amen.

### **Monday:**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you throughout the world. Teach us the language of your Holy Spirit that inspires, unites, and empowers all. Heal our divided hearts and divided world. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. Matthew 14:19–20 (NIV)

Lord, may gratitude and generosity be our daily joy. We pray that your spirit will overcome the fears that diminish our faith. May the bounty of your provision be all we seek. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

These are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit. Mark 4:20

Giver of all joy, we celebrate the diversity of your gifts. May we lift up those who differ from us. May your word be secure in our hearts and your glory be revealed in our words and deeds. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

Those who oppress the poor insult their maker.  
Proverbs 14:31

God of the poor and rich alike, we pray for your compassion to unite us. May our work bear fruit in your kingdom so that greed and injustice fall away. In the name of the servant Christ we pray. Amen.

### **Friday:**

The master said to the slave, “Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.”  
Luke 14:23

God, we are embarrassed by our prejudices. We hide under the veil of innocence even though you know our inner hostility. Help us to see those who are vulnerable as your chosen ones. Help us to glorify you through outrageous hospitality. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

And lead us not into temptation. Matthew 6:13 (NIV)  
Help us, Lord. We are such easy prey to the tempters’ wiles. We so quickly blame you for our own willful ways. May we repent with broken hearts and be renewed by your forgiveness. In Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*