

Service Notes

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.

The **Nursery/Toddler Room** for infants and toddlers is available throughout the morning worship service and is located at the end of the hallway opposite the Sanctuary.

Children's Worship Bags with creative supplies are available at the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship. Since Sunday School is on break during the summer, children are invited to return to their pews after the Message for God's Children during worship.

The United Church has created a "**family space**" for our families with infants and small children. This space is located in the Overflow Room at the back of the Sanctuary. This space is available for families in addition to the nursery (at the end of the hallway on the Sanctuary level) so that families can both see and hear what's going on in worship. Feel free to use either space if it would be helpful for you and your family!

The United Church of Mapleton

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(507) 524-3141

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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 14th, 2014

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 139:7-12

One: Where can we go from God's spirit? Where can we flee from God's presence?

Many: There is no place we can go where God cannot find us.

One: If we stray so far from God's path we cannot find our way back,

Many: even there, God's hand shall lead us and keep us safe.

One: Even if darkness covers us and we can see no light,

Many: the night is as bright as day, for God is the light of the world.

One: Come, let us worship our God!

All: Let us follow Jesus our Savior, who leads us into light!

***Opening Hymn**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #71

***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

Mission Moment

Sharon Shuck

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**

“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ” #475

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35 (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

“Patience, Mercy, and Forgiveness”

***Closing Hymn**

“I Then Shall Live” #372

***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 14th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Louise Webb

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Stan and Linda Whitney

Head Usher—Wally Johnson

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:40 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),

Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (*Fellowship Hall*)

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School (*PreK-5th Grade*)

Classroom A, upstairs

10:10-10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School (*6th-12th Grade*)

Youth Lounge, upstairs

10:10-10:40 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Classroom B, downstairs

Our **Scripture Response** honors the ways in which we know and receive the Word of God: through Scripture, in community, and through our personal faith in God. Thanks be to God!

Our **Call to Worship** today is by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell at rev-o-lution.org.

The **floral arrangement** on the altar is in honor of Hugo and Pat John's wedding anniversary.

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Well Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national
- The ministers and missionaries of the world
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Bill Brice, Hutch Cramer, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- Isaac Kolstad, who continues to recover from a serious head injury in a rehab facility. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson.
- Dawn Dietz, who learned that her lymphoma has recurred. Dawn is waiting to hear from her doctors about a treatment plan.
- Donna Jean Sharp, who is recovering from a broken hip at Pathstone Nursing Home in Mankato.
- Norma Baack, who is recovering from a broken hip at the Masonic Home of Bloomington, MN.

The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during last week's worship service include: Prayers:

- For students and staff as they begin a new school year and that bullying will become nonexistent
- For patience in waiting for answers

Thanksgiving:

- For the opportunity to travel to Florida with my daughter and granddaughter to spend my Dad's 95th birthday with him!

The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, September 14th, 2014

Sunday Morning Wheelchair Assistance

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 which can be utilized by parking in the east parking lot. If it is too difficult for you to push a wheelchair up the ramp, please feel free to contact an Usher or Deacon for assistance.

How to Contact Pastor Ashley

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. In the afternoon, I may be in the office, or I may be out in the community for pastoral care or outreach. If you'd like to stop by to visit another time, just email or call. Monday and Saturday are my days off.

My email address is: pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org. If I'm not in the office, my phone number is (507) 381-8199.

Pastoral Care Connections

If you or a family member is ill, in the hospital, is homebound, would like a pastoral care visit for any reason, or would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, **please let the church know!** Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office to let us know so that we may serve you.

The church phone number is (507) 524-3141 and Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199. Thank you!

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 14th, 2014

Sunday, September 14th, 10:00 a.m. Youth and Family meeting
Tuesday, September 16th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Tuesday, September 16th, 3:00—6:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes
workday at St. John Lutheran

Tuesday, September 16th, 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations

Wednesday, September 17th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Wednesday, September 17th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Thursday, September 18th, 3:00—4:00 p.m. Bible Study begins
Saturday, September 20th, 9:00—Noon Loaves & Fishes
workday at St. John Lutheran

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, September 23rd, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Wednesday, September 24th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters
Sunday, September 28th, Youth Fun and Fellowship

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit articles and reports for the October newsletter into the church office **no later than Tuesday, September 23rd**. Thank you!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 14th, 2014

Sunday School Starts Today!

Sunday School begins today, **Sunday, September 14th**, for PreK through Adults. All are welcome! Please check specific times in your bulletin under “About Today’s Worship and Fellowship.”

Youth and Families Meeting—Today!

A meeting to discuss Sunday School, Youth Group, fun and fellowship, service, and more will be held today, **Sunday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m.**

Adult Church Choir

The Adult Church Choir will begin practicing today, **Sunday, September 14th** immediately following the morning worship service.

Please join us! New voices are always welcome!



Sunday School Teacher Needed

We are in need of one more Sunday School teacher for the PreK-5th grade class. With two teachers the commitment would not be every Sunday.

This is a very important ministry for families and children! If you can help out, please contact Liz Bair at 720-4327. Thank you!

The Well Youth Center

Sunday, September 21st, Coffee Hour and the Mission Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 14th, 2014

Thank You

Pastor Keith Purscell sends his thanks to the United Church for the prayer support he received since the death of his wife Helen. Keith writes, “We loved the time that we shared with your congregation. May God continue to bless you all.”

Pastor Purscell’s thank you letter to the United Church is posted on the bulletin board.

Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial Gathering

Our congregation is invited to be part of the Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial gathering, to be held at First Baptist Church of Fort Dodge, IA on **October 3rd and 4th**. Our theme for this year is “Together in the Spirit”. The speaker for this event will be the Rev. Eddie Cruz. There will also be a mini Mission Summit event held on Saturday morning. Come and talk with other churches about some of the common challenges we face in our ministries and outreach today.

For more information and registration sheets, please refer to the bulletin board.

Mapleton Community Home Bridge Party Benefit

The Mapleton Community Home Auxiliary will be having their annual **Bridge Party Benefit on Monday, September 15th, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.**

Lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m., Bridge/500/Pinochle will begin at 1:30 p.m., prizes will be given out at 4:30 p.m., and door prizes will be given out throughout the afternoon.

The cost is \$20.00 per person. We ask that you prepay by sending your entry fee to Bea Ann Alschlager at 524-3957 or Roberta Ward at 524-3166 by September 9th.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 14th, 2014

Women's Fellowship Quilt, Craft and Bake Sale

On **Saturday, October 11th** from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. you have the opportunity to purchase homemade gifts for weddings, babies, birthdays, Christmas or just for yourself from the United Church Women's Fellowship Quilt, Craft and Bake Sale.



We need homemade items for this sale. You may start bringing in your items to the church on Wednesday, October 8th. Thank you!

Women's Retreat

The Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ is hosting a Women's Retreat on **September 19-21, 2014** at Pilgrim Point in Alexandria, MN

More information and registration forms are posted on the bulletin board.

Loaves & Fishes

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!



As always, monetary donations are very much appreciated. Your \$1.00 is stretched to \$10.00 worth of food through our networks. We truly are blessed to have such a supporting community! Thank you!

Community Closet

Open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon.

If you have a non-profit group that would like to take advantage of profits from the Closet, please call Gay Rice at (507) 524-4040 for more information.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 14th, 2014

Prayer Chain

The United Church Prayer Chain is now active! If you have a prayer request, please call Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not 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.

Thank You from the Louie Fritz Family

The family of Louis Fritz is sincerely thankful for the love and prayers extended to us from our church during Louie's illness and death. The cards, gifts, and food will always be remembered by our family. God bless, The Louie Fritz family.

Ambience Work Group

Please let the Ambience group know if you are willing to bring flowers from your garden to adorn our church altar throughout the growing season. If there is a need, Ambience will come and pick the flowers. Ambience will also pick up purchased flowers throughout the year, if you are unable to do so yourself. Please call the church office at 524-3141 to set up a purchase. We would ask that you provide the funds for the purchased flowers/plants. Thank you for your help in providing beautiful flowers for our church sanctuary.



Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Jesus says, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

Sunday:

Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised. 1 Kings 8:56

O Hope of the weary, we have heard your invitation to rest. Yet we link our identity and worth to our burdens. Help us to let them go that we may find true rest. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Monday:

No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11

Strong Savior, in the face of the challenges of the world, we feel so frail and weak. Yet you strengthen us daily for the tasks and trials that confront us. By your power we endure; and in your name we prevail. Amen.

Tuesday:

Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. John 6:11

Providing God, you furnish us all we need to serve you and others. Yet we forget your provision in the face of daily struggles. Remind us anew that you provide more than we need or ask. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Wednesday:

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

Listening Lord, hear us as we pour out the deepest concerns of our hearts before you in prayer. Then, by your grace and mercy, help us to hear and accept your answers. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:25

Patient God, as we wait for the revelation and understanding of your plan for our lives, help us to do so with patience and grace. And may this also be a time for our faith to grow and mature. Amen.

Friday:

That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people.

1 Timothy 4:10

Majestic God, in this solemn moment of worship we humbly bow before you to acknowledge your splendor and to praise your holy name. For it is in your name that we make our prayer and live our lives. Amen.

Saturday:

When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other.

Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future.

Ecclesiastes 7:14

Eternal Word, you created this world and all that is in it. We too are part of your creation. Help us to care for your whole creation, including one another. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue