

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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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 21st, 2014

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 78:1-4

One: People of God, open your hearts!

Many: Let's celebrate the story of God,

One: a story of compassion and mercy,

Many: of redemption and love;

One: a story passed down from generation to generation,

Many: so that the people of God never forget

One: the wonderful things the Lord has done!

All: Let's praise God together!

***Opening Hymn**

“Your Servant Comes This Hour” #566

***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

Jeff Whitaker

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**

“Restore in Us, O God” #381

Scripture

Matthew 21:23-32 (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

“Honestly Following Jesus”

***Closing Hymn**

“We Are Called to Be God’s People” #580

***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 21st, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Jeff Gerdts

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—David and Roberta Ward

Head Usher—Wally Johnson

Coffee Hour Host—The Well Youth Center

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with The Well Youth Center

Collections (*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 Christine Longhurst at re-worship.blogspot.com.

The **floral arrangement** on the altar is in memory of Donna Jean Sharp. The arrangement has been given by Donna Jean's family.

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 in the Twin Cities. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson. Isaac had a seizure on September 12th and would appreciate our prayers as his doctors do tests and consider treatment options.
- Dawn Dietz, who learned that her lymphoma has recurred. Dawn will meet with her cancer doctor on September 24th to learn more about a treatment plan.
- 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 Al, a janitor at the school and a friend of Lee Jacob, who has some health issues
- For my wife with stomach problems and who is facing hernia surgery

In Our Prayers Continued...

Thanksgiving:

- For Wally Johnson, who is celebrating his 84th birthday on Monday, September 15th
- To God for answered prayers, safe journeys, blessings and God's love always

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Donna Jean Sharp, longtime United Church member, who passed away on Monday, September 15th in Mankato. The Memorial Service will be held on Friday, September 19th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at The United Church of Mapleton. A visitation will be two hours prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at The Belle of Sterling Cemetery following the Memorial Service.

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The United Church News and Announcements

Sunday, September 21st, 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 21st, 2014

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

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, September 30th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT
Wednesday, October 1st, 1:00 p.m. Quilters
Thursday, October 2nd, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room
Tuesday, October 7th, 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education

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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 21st, 2014

The Well Youth Center

Today, 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.

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit articles and reports for the October newsletter into the church office **by Tuesday, September 23rd**. Thank you!

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!

Congratulations!

The United Church of Mapleton extends it's warmest congratulations to Jacob and Tricia Fritz and their families on the celebration of their marriage held at the United Church on Saturday, September 13th, 2014.



The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 21st, 2014

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!

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.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Give me understanding, O God, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Psalm 119:34

Sunday:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3

Lord, as we go about our day, help us to see the great blessings you bestow on us. Help us to remember that we are blessed through the humanity of your Son. Amen.

Monday:

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

Lord, please remove all pride from our lives. Inspire us to trust you in all of our times of need and trial, no matter how large or small. Amen.

Tuesday:

Many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:66-68

Christ, source of our salvation and life, as we follow the path you have set before us, help us to remember that you experience the same joys and hardships that we do. Thank you for giving us the perfect route to pursue. Amen.

Wednesday:

You will again have compassion on us; and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:19

Dear Lord, you sent your son to us as the true embodiment of love. May that love and the knowledge of our salvation warm our hearts and guide us, so that we may live transformed lives. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Matthew 6:34

Dear Lord, as we sit in the day to day, the highs and lows, help us not to get ahead of ourselves. We wish to enjoy the joys of our days and not become overwhelmed by those things far off in the future. Please let us feel your loving support as we experience the glory of this day. Amen.

Friday:

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. Isaiah 61:1

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. Romans 8:14

Holy Spirit, enter our hearts and guide us in the ways that you would have us to be. Impress upon our hearts the need to follow where you lead us. Amen.

Saturday:

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life." John 6:47

Lord, you are the source of our salvation and life. May you continually renew yourself in us so we may have the opportunity to live an abundant life. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue