

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
- Mary Beth Fritz, who is recovering from surgery
- 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:

- For 63 years of marriage for Wally and Joyce Johnson
- For 56 years of marriage for Dave and Roberta Ward

Prayers:

- For this new school year, especially college freshman, and particularly that bullying would end
- For a friend whose father is having heart problems
- For all those whose world is fallen apart in war, that they may find help to start a new life
- For my father, who suffers with the challenges of his advancing age
- For my sister, Linda Daly, who was diagnosed with uterine cancer
- For my niece, Callie, who will be undergoing shoulder surgery

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 27th, 2015

Eighteenth 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 Ex 1:8-2:10; Ps 124; Rom 12:1-8; Mt 16:13-20

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord our God,

Many: the maker of heaven and earth,

One: who comes to our aid in times of need,

Many: who gives us the courage to serve all people,

One: who invites us to be transformed by the will of God,

Many: and confess Jesus Christ as Teacher and Friend, Savior and Lord.

One: This is the Lord, our God!

All: Let us worship the Lord together!

***Opening Hymn**

“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult” #345

***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

Kathy Kunkel

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**

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” #575

Scripture

Mark 9:38-50 (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

“Scandalous Discipleship”

***Closing Hymn**

“O Christians, Haste” #565

***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 27th, 2015

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Reader—Louise Webb

Greeter—Ruth Cumming

Head Ushers—Bob and Geri Howieson

Coffee Hour Host—Women's Fellowship

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

Today's *Call to Worship* is by Rev. Christine Longhurst at re-worship.blogspot.org.

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, September 27th, 2015

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.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

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.

Garden of Eatin' - Weekly Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced **227.5 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.**

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, September 27th, 2015

Tuesday, September 29th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Thursday, October 1st, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Rm.

Planning Ahead

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.

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!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Psalm 146:2

Sunday:

Freely you have received; freely give. Matthew 10:8 (NIV)
Giver of all gifts, help us remember that you are the source of all. We have freely received your abundance; in turn, help us share that abundance with those who come after us. Amen.

Monday:

Paul wrote: Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:13
Divine Teacher and Redeemer, fill our hearts with your love. Show us how to live our lives so that we may reflect your truth in all we say and do. Guide our lives forever. Amen.

Tuesday:

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. Jude 2
Holy Deliverer, we ask that you make us aware of your abundant blessings in our lives. Open our eyes and hearts to see and understand all that you have done, and continue to do, for us. Reveal your mercy, peace, and love. Amen.

Wednesday:

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16
Joyfully and boldly we come before you, Lord, to offer our praise. You are our All-in-all, our steadfast Source of life, and mercifully your grace knows no bounds. Thank you! Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8
O great I Am, ground us in the constancy of your truth and grace. Help us to remember in times of distress or instability that you are an ever-present comfort and guide. Amen.

Friday:

The same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. Romans 10:12
Christ, you came to claim all peoples as your own. Your kingdom may be found on earth if we open our eyes to see past divisions that too often define and separate us. Remind us that the blessing of your salvation is available to all. Amen.

Saturday:

Give me an undivided heart to revere your name. Psalm 86:11
Loving Savior, we pledge our hearts to you. Mend our broken, fractured hearts, and make us whole in you. Let our lives revere and reflect your love and mercy. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue