

## 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

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413

Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto: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 28th, 2014

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Fall Stewardship Season

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23*

One: We come together to worship the Lord!

**Many: We gather to celebrate God's eternal faithfulness.**

One: We gather to praise God's abundant love, compassion, and grace.

**Many: We come to share in the joy of being part of God's forgiven and beloved people.**

One: We come to give thanks for the unending generosity of God.

**All: We come together to worship the Lord!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“God of Creation, All-Powerful” #27  
*Verses 1, 2, 4, 5*

**\*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**

Karen Stanton

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“How Great Thou Art”

Adult Choir

**\*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)**

**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 Life That You Have Given” #684

*Repeat full hymn twice*

**Scripture**

Matthew 22:1-14 (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**

“Answering the Invitation”

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Come, all Christians, Be Committed” #459

**\*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 28th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Bruce Stanton

Organist—Jola Walker

Greeters—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—Wally Johnson

Coffee Hour Host—Board of Christian Education

### 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 Joan Stott at [thetimelesspsalms.net](http://thetimelesspsalms.net). © 2014 Joan Stott – 'The Timeless Psalms' RCL Psalms Year A. Used with permission.

The **Fall Stewardship Season** at The United Church is three Sundays (September 28th, October 5th, and October 12th), culminating on October 12th, as we submit our pledge cards in worship. In this season of worship, there will be a special focus on how we as a church and as individual Christians are the best stewards possible of our time, talents, and resources of all kinds.

### 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, David Keller, 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.
- Dawn Dietz, who learned that her lymphoma has recurred.
- 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 healing and strength for the family of a friend, whose father passed away and whose son was injured in an accident
- For recovery surgery for Dorothy Lindemann
- For David Keller, who was diagnosed with leukemia and who has been in and out of the hospital
- For my Aunt Norma, whose husband died this week
- For Ginger Gerdts, Jeff Gerdts' mother, who is recovering from hip surgery and dealing with other health issues

##### Thanksgiving:

- Of blessing for Jeff Gerdts' 50th birthday on Tuesday, September 23rd

## **The United Church News and Announcements**

### **Sunday, September 28th, 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](mailto: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 28th, 2014**

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

#### **Planning Ahead**

Tuesday, October 7th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT  
**Tuesday, October 7th, 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education**  
Wednesday, October 8th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters  
**Wednesday, October 8th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons**  
Thursday, October 9th, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study in Overflow Room  
Saturday, October 11th, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship Craft, Quilt, and Bake Sale in Fellowship Hall

#### **Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, 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 28th 2014**

**Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

**Sunday, October 5th, 2014** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

The United Church supports Loaves & Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

**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!



**New and Renewed Member Sunday**

On **Sunday, October 26th, 2014**, The United Church of Mapleton will hold a “New and Renewed Member Sunday” in order to welcome new members and members who have renewed their membership in worship.

**If you are a new member or a member who has recently renewed their participation in United Church life, please plan to attend!**

Thank you for being a part of the life of The United Church. We hope you can join us for this joyful day of worship!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, September 28th, 2014**

**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.

**Turkey Dinner**

St. Matthew's Catholic Church of Vernon Center will host its Annual Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, including homemade pie served family style on **Sunday, October 5th from 4:00 –7:00 p.m.**

Take outs are available by calling (507) 549-3004.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, September 28th 2014**

**Loaves & Fishes Love Item for October:**  
**Peanut Butter**

Beginning in October, The United Church will feature a “love item” of special focus for members to donate to Loaves & Fishes. This will help stock the shelves at Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf and hopefully help increase our giving to this worthy and much needed mission in our own town. There will be one Love Item per month that you’re encouraged to look for as you’re out shopping throughout the month, especially if you see a coupon or a sale! These items will usually be part of the Loaves & Fishes standard 25lb box that all visitors receive to ensure that they’ll always be used and needed.

Of course, this doesn’t mean you can’t bring other food items or cash donations. This is just a new way to think about supporting Loaves & Fishes!


**Our Love Item for October is peanut butter!** Did you know that one serving of peanut butter has 3mg of antioxidant vitamin E, 49mg of bone building magnesium, and 208mg of muscle friendly potassium? It has lots of healthy monounsaturated fat and is a great source of protein at 8g per serving. (*Source: [prevention.com](http://prevention.com)*). Please bring jars of peanut butter to help fill the Loaves & Fishes cart throughout the month of October. Also, keep an eye out for our November Love Item, which will be featured in the bulletin beginning the last Sunday of October!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, September 28th 2014**

**Nominating Committee**

It is that time of year when we need to fill positions on several boards. Please start praying about where you could be of assistance to your church! We need people to serve as Deacons, Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Pastoral Relations Committee, Nominating Committee, and a Church Clerk. If you feel you can serve in any of these areas, please contact a member of the Nominating committee: Ella Conrad, Laura Fritz or Jola Walker.

**The Well Youth Center**

The Well Youth Center will be hosting their Harvest Dinner on **Sunday, October 12th from 10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.** at the T & C Leisure Center. 

Menu will include: turkey, ham, potatoes and gravy, salad, dessert and a beverage. Take out will be available. Proceeds benefit The Well Youth Center.

**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! 

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

**Scripture for the Week:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits. Psalm 103:2

### **Sunday:**

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Heavenly God, we are poor sinners who do not truly deserve the tenderness you show us, yet you always provide us your unconditional love. Thank you. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

Lord, through your love we have the ability to live a new life every day. Through your redemption, we are changed people. Help us to remember that we are called to live transformed lives. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. Numbers 6:25

Lord, the blessing of your love is made manifest through your Son. May his light shine through us to the rest of your world. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:37

Spirit of love, may you reign in our hearts and manifest yourself in our lives, so we may be the people that you call us to be. May your love help us overcome all of the obstacles that happen to be in our way. Amen.

## **Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion**

### **Thursday:**

Thus said the Lord of hosts: “Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye.” Zechariah 2:8

God, as we go throughout our days, may we feel and know your protective power. May you heal our pre-existing wounds and shield us from those things that continue to try to harm us. Amen.

### **Friday:**

The whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Galatians 5:14

Lord, your command to us seems so simple, and yet it can be so hard to follow through. Help us to see ourselves and you in each other, so we might extend the love that we have for ourselves to all those around us. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Lord, we thank you for creating and breathing life into each of us. Create within us a desire to get to know you and your Son more deeply. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*