

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
- Con Birr, who is recovering from hip surgery and blood clots in the lung
- Marian Mallory's father, Bob, who is recovering from shingles
- Former President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist, who recently announced that he has cancer
- All those affected by the explosions on August 12th in Tianjin, China, which killed at least 114 people, injured about 720, left about 70 missing, and displaced several thousand.
- All those affected by the bombing on August 17th at Erawan Shrine in Bangkok, Thailand, which killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 120.

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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 6th, 2015
Fifteenth 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

One: Come into this sanctuary of God that we might all listen to God's Word and discern the wisdom that comes only from God.

Many: How can we discover such wisdom?

One: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom. When we choose to live according to God's will and plan, God will give to each of us a wise and discerning heart.

Many: May God fill our hearts with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs! We have come to lift up in praise the songs and music from our souls.

One: Jesus is here in our midst as living bread. We seek to be nourished and strengthened that we may serve with him.

Many: Let us learn of God's compassion and mercy!

One: Let us praise the Lord with our hearts!

All: Praise the Lord!

***Opening Hymn**

“Great Is the Lord” #50

***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

During the summer, children are invited to return to their pews or use the Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary. Children’s Worship Bags are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Mission Moment

Pat John

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**

A Litany for Labor Day

*Please turn to the bulletin insert titled “A Litany for Labor Day”
and join in this responsive litany.*

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**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #96

Scripture

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Mark 7:24-37 (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

“He Said WHAT!? He Did WHAT!?”

***Closing Hymn**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #261

Verses 1, 3, 4

***Sending Forth and Ascription to Glory**

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

Postlude

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

A Litany for Labor Day

A Time for Honoring Labor Day

A preparation thought:

“Work and study as though all depended upon you, but pray and trust as though all depended upon God”.

The Scripture:

“So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink and to find satisfaction in work. Then I realized that these pleasures are from the hand of God.”
Ecclesiastes 2:24 (NLT)

The Litany Prayer

One: O Lord, for all of the work You give us to do

Many: teach us to be truly grateful.

One: O Lord, in all of the work, You give us to do

Many: help us to see opportunities to be of service to You and to one another.

One: O Lord, when we are tired,

Many: give us strength.

One: When we are afraid,

Many: give us courage.

One: When we are impatient,

Many: give us grace.

One: When we are hard-pressed,

Many: give us refreshment.

One: When we have lost our vision,

Many: give us new and perfect sight.

One: When we would quit,

Many: make us faithful.

One: O Lord, help us to see that all work is important.

Many: Teach us to see the dignity and worth in our work, and in the work of others. Bless the sweat of our brow and the toil of our backs. Bless the skill of our hands and the thoughts of our minds. Bless us who teach, and plow; who administer programs and finances; who cook, and sew, and sell, and nurture.

One: Bless us who keep homes and gardens; bless us who type and who heal. Bless us who drive trucks, and wait on others. Bless us who craft things with our hands and who listen to the hurts of the heart.

Many: Bless us who fix the things others break, who raise livestock and who build. Bless us who care for children and the elderly. Bless us who serve our country and our communities. Bless our work, that we in turn, might be a blessing to others.

One: O Lord, for those who have worked hard and now seek the peace and rest of retirement,

Many: grant to them a sense of a job well done, and rest well earned. Help them still to find new and exciting things to do and ways to serve You.

One: O Lord, for those who want to find work, and can't,

Many: grant patience, and trust, and hope, and help.

All: Amen

Continue

Serving Us Today: Sunday, September 6th, 2015

Pastor—Rev. Penny Ritter

Lay Reader—Carolyn Becker

Greeter—Mabelle Larson

Head Usher—Louisa Belle Shuck

Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
Collections (*Sanctuary*)

9:00-10:40 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),
Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs

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

Today's **Call to Worship** is from the UCC's *Worship Ways* at ucc.org/worship_worship-ways and is based on 1 Kings 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58.

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.*

Worship & Care Connections

Children's Worship Bags with creative supplies are available at the back of the Sanctuary for children during worship.

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

The **Family Space**, located in the Overflow Room in 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.

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 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 the church know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office so that we may serve you. 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.

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 6th, 2015

Tuesday, September 8th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

Wednesday, September 9th, 7:00 p.m. Called to Care

Wednesday, September 9th, 7:30 p.m. Deacons

Planning Ahead

Sunday, September 13th, 9:00 a.m. Fall Fling

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. Trustees

Thursday, September 17th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study

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. 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 6th, 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.

Called to Care and Deacons Meetings

A Called to Care meeting will be held **Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.** The Deacons meeting will immediately follow the Called to Care meeting.

Garden of Eatin' - Weekly Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced **177 lb.** 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!

If you are able to help with this mission, you may harvest vegetables Mondays or Tuesdays and deliver to Loaves & Fishes by 3:00 p.m. that Tuesday. You may also harvest on Fridays or early Saturday morning to deliver to Loaves & Fishes by 9:00 a.m. that Saturday. Thank you!

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.**

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 6th, 2015

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, or speak to Pastor Ashley or Sheila Samuelson. Thank you!

American Red Cross Bloodmobile

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be coming to St. Teresa's Catholic Church **Tuesday, September 8th from 1:00-7:00 p.m.** Appointments may be made by calling Peg at 420-1286 or online at www.redcrossblood.org, enter sponsor code: MAPLETONMN.

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: Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight. Proverbs 9:6

Sunday:

Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” Matthew 18:21–22 (NIV)

Dear God, we are often too slow or too quick to forgive. We pray that your Spirit would guide our response to hurt and resentment that we hold close. Help us to love with both the honesty and wisdom of Christ this day. Amen.

Monday:

By your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. Matthew 12:37
God, help us. Amen.

Tuesday:

I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. Ezekiel 11:19

Abba, Father, instill in us a new and right spirit. Eradicate fear and awaken faith. Give us the audacity to claim the promise and presence of Christ our Savior and Brother. You are near. May we live close to you. Amen.

Wednesday:

Paul wrote: Epaphroditus was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. Philippians 2:27

Dear God, we grow tired of hardship. Do you? We sometimes feel that sorrow may drown us. Awaken us to your own broken heart. May we trust the truth of your power revealed through the cross. In the name of our Christ we pray. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Jesus said, “The Son of Man will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.” But the Twelve understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them. Luke 18:32–34

Have mercy Lord, for we do not see the world as you do. Your wisdom is infinite. In Christ alone do we know the fullness of your eternal being as one of us. Christ, and him crucified, is our confession. Amen.

Friday:

Do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. 1 Corinthians 4:5

Dear God, we praise you that your light shines in darkness of any kind. As Christ loved all, may we love all. May our witness be to his extraordinary love for the stranger and the neighbor, the friend and the foe alike. Amen.

Saturday:

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. Lamentations 3:25

God of grace, God of glory, your delight is our joy. Our delight is to be loved by you. Open wide our hearts to receive your goodness in our lives. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue