

***Closing Hymn**

“Now Let Us from This Table Rise” #715

***Benediction**

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

Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit.

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 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 7th, 2014

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

One: God has gathered us to this place,

Many: where we hear the stories that teach us what the Kingdom of God is like.

One: God summons us to this place,

Many: where we can learn how to serve God without hesitation or uncertainty.

One: God will send us from this place,

Many: to tell others of God’s hopes and dreams, so they, too, can follow God.

One: Sing aloud with gladness:

All: We are gathered together to worship God with joy!

***Opening Hymn**

“We Gather Together” #81

***Prayer of Invocation**

***Gloria Patri**

“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

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**

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**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing” #87

Scripture

Romans 12:9-18 (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

“What Does It Mean to be The United Church of Mapleton?”

Communion Service

At the United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but it is God’s, and it is open to all of God’s children.

Today, we will participate in communion by intinction. Intinction is the practice of coming forward to the front of the Sanctuary, taking a piece of bread from the loaf, dipping it into the cup of juice, and receiving the elements at that time.

If you request that the elements to be brought to you in your pew, simply let a Deacon know during the Communion Service and the pastor will come to you.

Serving Us Today: Sunday, September 7th, 2014

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker
Lay Leader—Laura Fritz
Organist—Jola Walker
Greeters—Delbert and Ella Conrad
Head Usher—Wally Johnson
Coffee Hour Host—Diaconate

About Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collections (*Sanctuary*)
9:00-10:30 a.m. Nursery Childcare (*Babies-Toddlers*),
Crib/Toddler Room, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

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 Thom Shuman at lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com.

The **floral arrangement** on the altar is in honor of Joe and Sheila Samuelson's wedding anniversary and their youngest daughter Myrrhiah's birthday.

The United Church News and Announcements Sunday, September 7th, 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!

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 7th, 2014

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.

Please leave donations at the top of the stairs close to the closet door, if you are able, but if that area is full you may leave them downstairs.

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 7th, 2014

Sunday, September 7th, 10:00 a.m. Fall Fling in Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 8th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, September 9th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in GT

Wednesday, September 10th, 1:00 p.m. Quilters

Wednesday, September 10th, 7:00 p.m. Deacons

Planning Ahead

Sunday, September 14th, 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

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 7th, 2014

Fall Fling-Today-September 7th!

The Board of Education announces the 2014 **Fall Fling**, today, **Sunday, September 7th immediately after Sunday worship in the Fellowship Hall.**

There will be taco in a bag, popcorn, cookies, bingo with prizes. Come and learn more about Sunday School for all ages at The United Church.

Sunday School for this fall begins Sunday, September 14th. All are welcome!

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Today, Sunday, September 7th, 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.

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!

Youth and Families Meeting

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

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 7th, 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.

American Red Cross Bloodmobile

The American Red Cross will be in Mapleton at the Mapleton High School—Big Gym on **Tuesday, September 9th, 1:00—7:00 p.m.**

To schedule your appointment call Peg at (507) 420-1286 or sign-up online at www.redcrossblood.org, enter sponsor code: 017145. Thank you for your support!

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 7th, 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.

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!



Maple River Loaves & Fishes continues to grow. We are now serving over 100 families each month. With our growth, comes need. Due to the children being out of school for the summer and no access to school breakfast and lunches, this puts a demand on families to provide more meals at home. Therefore, we are in need of the following: any breakfast/lunch items, canned vegetables and fruit, snacks, and plastic bags, among other things.

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!

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.

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, September 7th, 2014

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.

Adult Church Choir

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



Please join us! New voices are always welcome!

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. Also, if you are unable to do so yourself, Ambience would pick up purchased flowers throughout the year. Please call the church office at 524-3141 to set up a purchase. We would ask that you would provide the funds for the purchased flowers/plants. Thank you for your help to provide beautiful flowers for our church.

Family Space

The United Church is creating a "family space" for our families with infants and small children. This space will be located in the Overflow Room at the back of the Sanctuary. 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. Feel free to use either space if it would be helpful for you and your 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 suffered a severe head injury on May 11th in Mankato, and is now in a rehab facility. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson.
- Tucker Shuck, Sharon Shuck's grandson, who has begun thirteen weeks of US Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, and for his family during this time of limited communication with him
- Dawn Dietz, who recently 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.

In Our Prayers continued...

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

- For our friend who has lost his battle with cancer
- For our daughters who are off at college
- For safe journeys to a new home and also for family and friends traveling to San Diego for Tucker Shuck's Marine Boot Camp graduation

Thanksgiving:

- For the recent rains that have nourished our growing crops
- To God for the blessing of a new baby boy, Riley Henry Schultz, son of Blair and Jessie, great-grandson of Louisa Belle Shuck
- For new jobs for Ned and Jenn Shuck, son of Sharon Shuck and grandson of Louisa Belle Shuck

Continue

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Sunday:

Sing aloud to God our strength. Psalm 81:1

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Revelation 19:7

Glorious God, we worship you with sincere words and hearts. We honor you with our best efforts and intentions. We sing your praises with our greatest music. But it is not enough. Even so, bless our efforts. Amen.

Monday:

Solomon said, “Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!”

1 Kings 8:27

Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Ephesians 3:17

Almighty God, no earthly building, however elaborate or expensive, can provide a fitting place for you to dwell. Only the human heart can offer it. Come into our hearts today, O God, and dwell with us forever. Amen.

Tuesday:

The Lord has heard my supplication, the Lord accepts my prayer. Psalm 6:9

Loving Savior, hear us now as we come to you in earnest prayer. Then enable us to listen, to hear, to understand, and to accept your gracious answer. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Wednesday:

Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” Luke 5:5

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Wednesday continued...

Divine Master, you have given us work to do and tasks to accomplish for your kingdom and for your people. Help us to approach our labor with diligence that we may fulfill your plans for us. Amen.

Thursday:

Paul wrote: Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. Philippians 3:13

Lord of all ages, forgive us for sometimes being more concerned with our past failures and accomplishments than we are with our present efforts to advance your kingdom. Help us focus our witness more on today and tomorrow. Amen.

Friday:

You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Psalm 40:5

Almighty God, we stand in awe of your limitless power and boundless love. Through them, you continually provide all that we need to fulfill your plans for our lives. May we faithfully do so. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Saturday:

There shall once more be heard the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, “Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” Jeremiah 33:10-11

Christ Jesus, with joy and gladness we celebrate your presence in our world and in our individual lives. May we always share and communicate that joy in our interactions with those around us. Amen.

Continue

Source: Moravian Daily Texts