

# The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW / PO Box 413 / Mapleton, MN / 56065  
507/ 524-3141      www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

## Order of Worship

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Our Mission:

*The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.*

*The \* symbolizes an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

*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!*

### Prelude

### Welcome, Announcements

**\*Gathering Song** *The Day of Resurrection (vs.1 only)*      **NCH #245**  
*(words found on screen)*

### \*Call to Worship

### \*Opening Prayer

**All: O God, we gather with open hearts ready to receive the new life you give. Open our eyes, we pray, that your presence might be revealed in the community that is gathered here.**

### \*Claiming Our Brokenness

One: You meet us where we are, O God.

**All: May our hearts burn with your truth. And our eyes be opened to your presence.**

One: God of Moses and the prophets, ....Yet you meet us where we are, O God.

**All: May our hearts burn with your truth. And our eyes be opened to your presence.**

One: O God, in this Easter season ...Yet you meet us where we are, O God.

**All: May our hearts burn with your truth. And our eyes be opened to your presence.**

(1)

Although, technically, missionaries we are send by a religious organization on a mission, Don and Maryjane prefer to be called mission partners or mission personnel. The term missionary has some historical connotations with which they do not like to identify. (Read Barbara Kingsolver's **The Poisonwood Bible** to illustrate the point.) Living among God's people until no longer strangers is our calling.

It can be challenging to embrace new customs and new ideas. And they found it was extremely challenging to work outsider their native tongue. But, the rewards are many when barriers are broken and cultural understanding begins. The Westra's feel that by allowing oneself to be vulnerable in a strange land, one can begin to develop deep understanding that will help make the world a small, safer and more prosperous place.

When they are not living overseas, they are in Minnesota with their eight children, five grandchildren and Maryjane's sweet sister Martha. You may find Don swinging a hammer on a home project or under the hood of a classic car. You may find Maryjane in front of her piano or harp (still learning) or at the helm of one of her sailboats.



## Introducing Don and Maryjane Westra 2017

Don and Maryjane Westra are Global Ministries Mission Personal in Honduras. They are completing their fourth year of service in Honduras and our eighth year with Global Ministries. They have served in Zimbabwe and Honduras with a short stint in Mozambique.

In their words: "We are often asked how we ended up overseas and the answer is, well, we are not quite sure. The short story is, for our whole married life we planned to do international work. We considered joining the Peace Corps when we were young, but instead we got jobs, babies and a large mortgage. We did short term mission work, hosted foreign exchange students and administered an organization that provided medical treatment for oreign children. Our last baby moved out of the house in 2009 and we looked at each other and said, now's the time. We were invited to Zimbabwe. We had to look it up on a map before we remembered that the country was named Rhodesia when we were learning geography."

After three and a half years in Zimbabwe, in 2013 they were invited to work and live in Honduras. In Zimbabwe Don was working in agriculture and Maryjane was working beside the administrator of a mission hospital and a children's home. In Honduras, they work alongside the teachers and administrator of a technical training school in a small town setting.

### **Ephesians 2:17-20**

*Christ came and "announced the Good News of peace to you who were far away, and to those who were near" for through Christ, we all have access in one Spirit to our God.*

*This means that you are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are included in God's holy people and are members of the household of God, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus as the capstone.*

(Continued)

One: O God, daily you give us .....Yet you meet us where we are, O God.

***All: May our hearts burn with your truth. And our eyes be opened to your presence.***

**\*Assurance of God's Unconditional Love & Forgiveness**

**\*Song**      *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*      **NCH #70**

**Offering Our Gifts**

*All adults are invited to share any spare change with the children so they may participate through the offering.*

*For the month of **April**, the Mission Jar offerings will go to **Serteen**.*

**\*Singing Our Praise to God**      TUNE: Old Hundreth

*O Jesus, risen now to bless, Do you yourself our hearts possess,  
That we may give you all our days,  
The willing tribute of our days. Amen.*

**\*Blessing Our Gifts**

***All: O God, we thank you that Christ has entrusted us with the task of serving your people. Make us faithful and courageous in our ministry of love and may we use these gifts to your glory. Amen.***

**Faith Forming Moment for All Ages**

*After the FF moment children are free to attend Sunday School, or remain in worship with their parents. Please note, there is Family Space found in the room at the rear of the Sanctuary for those more energy-filled children. A Nursery—for those younger than Pre-Kindergarten age—is also available.*

*Worship Bags, coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.*

*The Service is piped into the Overflow Room and the Nursery.*

**Scripture**      *Ephesians 2:17-20 & Luke 24:13-35*

**\*Song**      *O Savior, Let Me Walk with You*      **NCH #503**

**Message**      *Mission Partners Maryjane & Don Westra*

**Sharing Our Joys & Concerns & the Prayer Jesus Taught Us**

**\*Song**      *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*      **NCH #495**

**\*A Blessing**

**\*Sung Response** *In the Bulb There is a Flower* **NCH #433**  
(verse 1 only—see screen)

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

---

**Today's Worship & Fellowship Leaders**

**Intentional Interim Pastor**—Cindy Mueller

**Lay Reader:** Louise Webb

**Hospitality Team:** Keith McCutchen Family

**Organist/Pianist:** Joanne Cramer

**Sound System:** Dick Dietz

**PowerPoint:** Kathy Cox

**Coffee Fellowship Donations:** Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

---

**The United Church Calendar For this Week**

*Tues, - Thurs., 8 a.m.—Noon are the regular church office hours*

**TODAY**      **9:30 am** Worship w/**Faith Formation** for children  
**10:30 am** **Q & A session** with our **Mission**  
**Partners;** Maryjane & Don Westra

Mon., 5/1      10 am—2 pm *Pastor Cindy's Office Hours*

Tues., 5/2      6:30 am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder

10 am—Noon *Pastor Cindy's Office Hours*

1:00 pm—3:00 pm Quilting Group

Thurs., 5/4      7—9 pm Bible & Brew @ Maggie J's  
(1st & 3rd Thursdays)

Sat., 5/6      **Noon All Daughter's Luncheon**

Join with other daughters in our fellowship hall for a meal and  
**live music provided by Heartstrings.**

**Reserved seating: Call the Church Office - (507) 524-3141.**  
Please leave a message.

(3)

**The United Church News & Announcements**

**I'll Bet You've Had a Lot of Practice with a Remote**

We need you to volunteer to be part of a team of individuals who will operate the remote for the PowerPoint slides during worship on a rotating basis. A detailed script is made available, along with the PowerPoint presentation, in the churches' Dropbox no later than the Friday evening before the upcoming Sunday service. **Please see Pastor Cindy or Dick Dietz** if you are willing to be trained in on this simple task. Please consider getting involved in this simple but EXTREMELY important way. Thank you!

---

**Next Week's (5/7) Worship Leaders**

**Lay Reader:** Linda Whitney

**Hospitality Team:** Doug Fritz

**Organist/Pianist:** Jan Lange

**Sound System:** Dick Dietz

---

**If You have a Pastoral Emergency or Need**

You can contact Pastor Cindy Mueller at  
pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Email the secretary at  
secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

---

**In Our Prayers This Week**

**Members living in Care Facilities:**

*Norma Baack-Blaisdell., Kathy Cramer, Irene Cumming and Alberta Samuelson*

- *Prayers for healing of Nikki Pucik after a serious infection*
- *Prayers for families, bringing them to the Lord*