

BACKPACK



BLESSING

Maple Street Congregational Church United Church of Christ

*No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey,
you are welcome here!*

September 16, 2018 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:50 a.m.

“We share God’s love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors.”

*Childcare is offered for 3 and under during Worship at “Kid’s Korner” in the hall behind the Sanctuary.
We share at 9:50 our prayers for joys and concerns. Fellowship Hour follows worship in the Social Hall.*

PRELUDE

II Movement of KV 545

W. A. Mozart

(A time for meditation in preparation for worshipping God)



WORDS OF GREETING AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are not our own:

People: so, neither our will nor our wisdom should get in the way of God's hopes for us.

One: We are not on our own:

People: so, we should not choose what is easiest or the most gratifying way to live.

One: We are not our own, we are God's:

People: so, let us choose to live for God, and serve all of God's children.

One: We are not on our own, as we walk the streets of God's kingdom:

People: so, as far as is possible, we will follow Jesus Christ.

--Thom Shuman



***OPENING HYMN**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Black No. 55

***INVOCATION OF GOD’S PRESENCE (IN UNISON)**

All around us, O God, creation preaches a silent sermon about your glory.

The full, orange moon declares your constant watchfulness; the early morning mist over a schoolyard speaks of your steadfast love; the cool breeze through slowly changing leaves whispers of your grace.

Holy Jesus, you ask questions which turn us speechless; you tell us things about yourself we imagine we need to correct; you offer us a way of life

we dare not refuse. Spirit of Wisdom, you stand in the midst of rush hour traffic crying out to us about our fascination with foolishness and stretch out your hand to point to the One who walks towards us offering a cross.

God in Community, Holy in One, in this time together, may we hear you in the silence and the songs, and discover you in the people around us, even as we pray as Jesus teaches us...

--Thom Shuman

**Please stand as you are able.*



***THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)**

**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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass 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.**

***RESPONSE**

Tune: Blue No. 241

**Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
And make this world thy home.
Descend with all thy gracious powers,
O come, great Spirit, come!**

ANTHEM

I Can Do All Things

Susan Naylor Callaway & John Ray

GATHER 'ROUND SONG

Mark Morgan

Please join in singing

Rev. Pam: Come on, children, to the gospel feast.

All: Gather 'round, gather 'round!

Rev. Pam: Jesus welcomes all the little and least.

All: Gather 'round, gather 'round!

All: This is where we sing and pray, read God's word on this glad day.

Come on children to the gospel feast, gather 'round, gather 'round!



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE —*Blessing of Backpacks*

***HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Black No. 28

(At the beginning of the hymn, Pre-K through 7th graders are invited to the Education Wing for Chapel Time and Classroom Activities.)

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

***OFFERTORY**

Unto the Hills I Lift Mine Eyes (Psalm 121)

Morning Song

***DOXOLOGY**

Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Blue No. 64

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Today at Church!

Children, students, preschool through adult, bring your school backpacks, satchels or lunch boxes to worship so that we can celebrate and



Backpack Blessing

During the 10AM service, we will lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's grace and care as they begin a new school year and church school year.

Next Two Sundays:

Faith Formation & Teacher Dedication
Sunday, September 23



Youth and Family Cookout

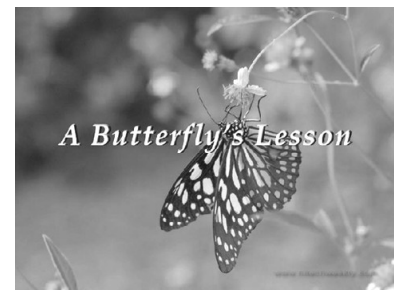
Sunday, September 23 4 pm in the Nursery School play yard beside the parking lot. We'll grill and share tasty sides. Hamburgers, turkey burgers, hotdogs, and beverages provided. *Bring a favorite side dish to share*



First Sunday Family Worship

Sunday, September 30

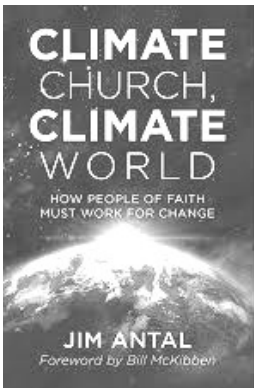
On the first Sunday of each month, members of our church family welcome and call us into worship. The morning message is shared by members of *Alleluia Morning* and the *Joyful Noise Choir*, using drama, movement, and song. Please join us as we celebrate the whole faith community of Maple Street Church!





Maple Street Church Earth Stewards are learning that rising global temperatures and population growth are causing a growing number of people in the US to have limited access to safe drinking water. In fact, by 2020, 5 of the world's top 20 cities with the largest urban water deficits will be here in the U.S.! Danvers is just one of many Northshore communities with water restrictions in place today, due to concerns that demand may outstrip supply at times. Not only is clean drinking water becoming scarcer, it takes energy to produce and bring water to your home. What can we do to help? We can learn to *adapt* by supporting policies that fight climate change, and by learning new ways to avoid wasting water. Next time: Changing our behavior to avoid wasting fresh, clean water.

A. Weitz, Science News, August 18, 2018 and Sept. 1, 2018, pp 15-17.



Earth Stewards Fall Book Study

Please join us in reading an inspiring work by UCC Leader Jim Antal. The group will be meeting in the Reception Room following Sunday worship for six Sundays starting on October 7th through November 11th. For more information or to sign up contact Linda Leonard: earthstewardsministry@gmail.com

This Week

Monday

- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts in the Social Hall
6:00 pm Cub Scouts in the upstairs classrooms

Tuesday

- 9:15 am A New Day Yoga in the Reception Room
6:00 pm Prayer & Table Service in the Chapel
6:30 pm Boy Scouts in the Social Hall
7:00 pm World Service Meeting at Grace Phinney's Home

Friday

- 6:00 pm Girl Scouts in the Social Hall

Sunday

- 10:00 am CE Sunday and Teacher Dedication in the Sanctuary; Youth and Family Cookout in the backyard

Upcoming Events



Saturday, September 22:
*Sweet Maple Coffeehouse
with Cold Chocolate*

Sunday, October 7:
*World Communion Sunday
& Neighbors in Need Offering*



Sunday, October 14:
Vision Sunday



Saturday, October 20:
MSC Silent Movie Phantom of the Opera





Maple Street Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
90 Maple Street, Danvers, MA 01923

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Our Worship Services are aired on Danvers Comcast Channel 99 and Verizon Channel 36, Sunday 10:00 am and 7:00 pm (one week delay)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10 am-2 pm; Tuesday through Thursday 9 am-2 pm; Friday 9-12pm

Pastor Kevin Smith is available for home visitation, member weddings, funerals, memorial services, baptisms, and pastoral counseling. Pastor Pam is also available. Feel free to contact Pastor Kevin or Pastor Pam if you need a listening ear, if you want to discuss the work of the congregation, or if you would like to join Maple Street Church! Office schedules can vary for ministers as they attend meetings, attend to church business, write and prepare for Sunday worship away from the office, visit members of the congregation, and more, so it's always wise to call or e-mail to make an appointment if at all possible. Pastor Kevin's day off is Friday. Pastor Pam's day off is Monday. Pastor Kevin's worship preparation times are Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon when he will be out of the office. You can contact them at the Church Office phone listed above, the e-mails listed above, or you can contact Pastor Kevin at 978-068-5020.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON —Mark 8:27-38

Pew Bible 875-876

“Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

SERMON	<i>Imago Dei: Image of God</i>	Pastor Kevin
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Take my life, God, let it be</i>	Black No. 448
BENEDICTION		
BENEDICTION RESPONSE	<i>When All Thy Mercies, O My God</i>	Thomas Tallis
POSTLUDE	<i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik</i>	W. A. Mozart

*Our Worship together concludes with the Benediction Response.
The Postlude is transitional music which inspires us as we go
forth as disciples to serve God and one another.
Worship has ended. Our Service Begins*



Welcome to Maple Street Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. If you are here for the first time, please fill out the connection card and place it in the offering plate. Nursery care, with a trained staff, is offered throughout the worship service. **Sunday School** for children and youth takes place following the beginning of the second Hymn except on “First Sundays”.

The church of disciples who welcome you!
Visit our web page at www.maplestreetchurch.org

Sunday’s Servants:

Deacon of the Month: Alden Duffill

Ushers: Donna Mandriota, Peggy Coyne, Donna Eovacious, Donna Tapin

Special Assistant to the Deacons: Bob Wilkinson

Scripture Reader: Bob Wilkinson

*The flowers in the Chancel are in loving memory of my parents
 Belinda & Eugene Acheson
 Given by their daughter Karen Kane*

*The flowers in the Chancel last Sunday were in loving memory of
 Howard and Katherine Anderson
 and the Rev. George and Eleanor Bayer
 Given by Kay and John Anderson*

*The Steeple is lit in loving memory of
 Bill Hayward
 Given by Beverly Hayward*

**Donating flowers for the altar or narthex is a wonderful way to honor a loved one.
 If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Priscilla Curda at 978-777-0793.**

Our lighted steeple is an important symbol of our presence in the community. Your contributions in memory of loved ones and friends or to commemorate a special event help keep the steeple lighted. **If you would like to have the steeple lighted for one or more weeks, please fill out the form below and send it with \$15 per week to the church office.**

I would like the steeple lighted in memory: _____

OR in honor/celebration of: _____

Requested date (if available) to light: _____

Signed: _____

