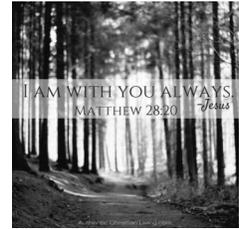


Maple Street Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time and September 17, 2017 Blessing of the Backpacks 10:00 a.m.

Childcare is offered for 3 and under during Worship at "Kid's Korner" in the hall behind the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE *Andante* W. A. Mozart
(A time for meditation in preparation for worshipping God)

WORDS OF GATHERING AND WELCOME

INTROIT *A Place in the Choir* Bill Staines
Please join in singing.

**All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low, some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire and
Some just clap their hands or paws or anything they got now.**



CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!
People: Worship God with gladness; Come into God's presence with singing.
Leader: Know that the Lord is God.
**People: It is God that made us, and we belong to God. We are God's people;
We are the sheep of God's pasture.**
Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;
People: Enter God's courts with praise!
Leader: Give thanks to God, bless God's name;
**People: For the Lord is good. God's steadfast love endures forever; God's
faithfulness to all generations.** --Rev. Mini, Rev-o-lution



***OPENING HYMN** *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped* Black No. 22



***INVOCATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

Leader: God, whose word spoke life and creativity into a formless universe, and order to a nation of escaped slaves, whose strong and compassionate voice challenged injustice through frail prophets,
People: we praise you.
Leader: Jesus, whose touch smoothed the broken skin of lepers, and brought a bleeding woman back to health and belonging, whose hand raised dead girls, and refused to throw stones, *(continued on next page)*
**Please stand as you are able.*

(continued)

People: we praise you.

Leader: Spirit, whose breath restores souls and bodies, and whose presence comforts the grieving, whose fire ignites compassion within us for the healing of the nations,

People: we praise you. God of wholeness, we celebrate the healing you bring to us and our world, and we celebrate the promised wholeness that awaits all of creation in your eternal reign. --Adapted, John van de Laar

In the name of the one who forgives, the one who knows our humanity and loves us still, and who taught us to pray, saying...



***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: Red 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 Still Have Joy

Danny McCrinmon,
Joseph C. Jackson, arr. Peter Amidon



***GATHERING SONG**

Mark Morgan

Please join in singing.

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

All: Gather 'round, gather 'round!

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 TIME AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Pastor Pam

***HYMN**

Creator God, Creating Still

Black No. 278



*(At the beginning of the hymn, Pre-K through 7th graders are invited to the Education Wing for Chapel Time and Classroom Activities.
Youth grades 8 through 12 are invited to gather in the Reception Room.)*



SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

*You are invited to complete the "Connection Card" if you are new,
need to update information or have special requests.*



Maple Street News

Today is the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time and Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday.

- 9:50 am Prayers for Joys and Concerns
10:00 am Morning Worship. Babycare is offered for children 3 and under.
11:30 am Join the Maple Street Family for a cup of coffee and fine fellowship in the Social Hall. Registration and signups will continue along with Fellowship Time in the Social Hall—
Please take the time to register your child/youth for Sunday School if you haven't already done so. There is still time to sign up for the many special programs and offerings for the coming year.

Blessing of the Backpacks is TODAY! During the 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.

CE Sunday, Teacher Dedication, and Children and Youth Program Dedication is next Sunday, September 24, and . . .

Family Fun Cookout— September 24, 4 pm
@Maple Street Church

A fun evening for all ages, we'll grill hamburgers, turkey burgers and hotdogs, and invite families to bring a side dish to share, beverages will be provided.

Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee



First Men's Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, *September 30, 9 am, at the Breakaway Restaurant on Rte. 1.* Please join us as we make our plans for the upcoming year. Please invite your friends even if they don't attend MSC (perhaps they will!!) and *PLEASE RSVP* to Linda in the church office (978-774-4510) It is essential to have an accurate count for the chef so that we do not overpay for the buffet!



There is a special treat in store for those who attend the **MSC Coffeehouse** *this coming Saturday, September 23, at 7:30 pm.* We are thrilled to have as our guest **Bill Staines**, one of America's all-time favorite folk artists!



Bill weaves a blend of gentle wit and humor into his performances; one reviewer wrote, "He has a sense of timing to match the best stand-up comic." Many of Bill's songs have appeared in grade school music books, church hymnals, and scouting campfire songbooks. "There is no better writer of instantly memorable sing-a-long choruses in this genre of music!" - *The Boston Globe.* You can't miss this!! See insert for more information.

The Earth Stewards will meet in the Reception Room at noon **next Sunday, September 24.**



We're looking forward to the showcase of Maple Street Church talent at the upcoming **Variety Show on Saturday, October 21.** Many members have been and are still working hard to make this an entertaining and fun evening. More details are forthcoming.

Put this on your calendar: **Vision Congregational Meeting Sunday October 29** following Worship. We will discuss "MSC History"—be there and have your voice heard.



Also coming up is the **Community of Song Concert on Saturday, November 4** and the annual **MSC Holiday Fair—this year on Saturday, Veterans' Day.**

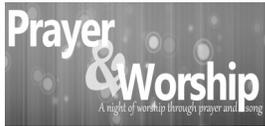
This Week

Monday

- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Meeting in Social Hall
7:00 pm Girl Scout Leaders' Meeting



Tuesday



- 9:15 am A New Day Yoga in the Reception Room
6:00 pm **Prayer & Table Worship in the Chapel**

Wednesday

- 12:00 pm Brooksby Lunch Bunch



Thursday

- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir in the Music Room

- Saturday Coffee House with Bill Staines at 7:30 pm! See insert for details**

- Sunday CE Sunday, Teacher Dedication, Earth Stewards Meeting, and Family Cookout**



If you would like to have the steeple lit in memory of loved ones or to commemorate a special event, please fill out the form on the back page of this bulletin and send it with \$15 per week to the church office or contact the office directly at 978-774-4510.



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

Rev. Kevin Smith <i>Minister</i>	978-774-4510, ext. 3 Cell 978-968-5020	revkevmsc@gmail.com
Rev. Pamela Cochran <i>Associate Minister for Youth and Family Ministry</i>	978-774-4510, ext. 4	revpammsc@gmail.com
Ms. Kathy Gross <i>Director of Music Ministry</i>	978-774-4510, ext. 5	candk144@gmail.com
Ms. Ji-Hye Jung <i>Asst. Director of Music Ministry</i>	978-774-4510, ext. 1	jihye87@gmail.com
Ms. Linda Blair <i>Office Administrator</i>	978-774-4510, ext. 1	info@maplestreetchurch.org
Mrs. Lynne Hathaway <i>Nursery School Director</i>	978-774-4510, ext. 6	lynne.hathaway@verizon.net

Our Worship Services are recorded each week 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 am-12 pm

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 both at the Church Office phone listed above, the e-mails listed above, or you can contact Pastor Kevin at 978-968-5020.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Offertory Anthem

Lord of All Hopefulness

Healey Willan

*Doxology

Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Red 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!**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

2 Corinthians 13:5-14

pew Bible pg. 1011

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Matthew 28:16-20

pew Bible pg. 866

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

SERMON

“Messy Living?”

Pastor Kevin

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Take My Life, God, Let it Be

Black No. 448

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen Siyakudumisa

Traditional South African

(Amen! Praise the Name of the Lord!)

POSTLUDE

Presto

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 a “connection card” and pass it on to an usher or leave it in the collection plate. Our ushers and greeters are happy to answer any questions. Nursery care, with a trained staff, is offered throughout the worship service. **Our Sunday School Program** for children and youth takes place following the beginning of the second Hymn.

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

Sunday’s Servants:

Greeter: Lynne Duffill

Ushers: Donna Mandriota, Peggy Coyne, Donna Eovacious and Bob McBride

Deacon of the Month: Alden Duffill

Special Assistant to the Deacons: Bob Wilkinson

*The Steeple is lit in memory of Paul Swinnerton
By Linda Swinnerton*

*The flowers in the Chancel are in memory of Blenda and Eugene Acheson
Given by Karen Kane*

**Donating flowers for the altar or narthex is a wonderful way to honor a loved one.
If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Pat Newman at 978-739-4022.**

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 of: _____

I would like the steeple lighted in honor of: _____

Requested date (if available) to light: _____

(signed) _____ Telephone Number: _____