

# Maple Leaves

March 2026



Maple Grove Community Church of New Paris  
20430 County Road 46  
New Paris, IN 46553  
574-831-4421  
Website: [www.maplegrovechurch.net](http://www.maplegrovechurch.net)

## *Let us pray for:*

Maple Grove Community Church  
Pastor Dwayne and Karen Runkle  
Assoc. Pastor Brent and Erin Berkeypile  
Annette Berkey  
Sue Cripe  
Karen Dickison  
Jim Kirkdorffer  
Travis & Katie Kirkdorffer family  
Jane Neff (Kenny's Mom)  
Mike Overpeck  
Betty Stutsman  
Julie Yoder  
Steve Yoder  
Wayne Yoder  
Those that have lost a spouse  
Our Youth & Children  
Andy Smith & Gavin Erb (serving our country)  
Fairfield Food Pantry  
Camp Mack (Staff & Volunteers)  
Kid's Alive Ministry (Orphans)  
Missionaries:  
Erica Simone (SonSet Solutions)  
Mike & Tara Overpeck (Elkhart Co.)  
Chris & Stefanie Hohm (Tanzania)  
World Missionary Press  
Destiny Rescue



**March 1st, 10:00 am**

Revival continues during worship with  
guest speaker Aaron Zehr.

## *Thank you*

Dear Maple Grove Community Church,  
Karen and I want to thank each and every one  
of you for your generous support given to us  
on our recent cruise that we took. We really  
appreciate your thoughtfulness and the cash  
given to us. We had a great time! Thank you  
for this Christmas Gift!

Pastor Dwayne & Karen

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM  
WED. BIBLE STUDY 6:30-7:30 PM  
ROOTED 6:30-8:00 PM

# Pastor Dwayne Runkle

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Email: dwaynerunkle@gmail.com

## “Hunger of the Word”

The Bible tells us in the Beatitudes many things. From chapter five of Matthew to chapter 7, Jesus gives us the greatest sermon ever preached. If I counted right, starting in chapter five, verses three to eleven, Jesus uses the words, “Blessed are...” nine times.

I want us to look particularly at verse six. It says this; *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled”* (Mt. 5:6).

Most of you know that I like to sit in a tree stand as I hunt for deer. Through experience, I found out a long time ago that it is important to have food and water with you, especially if you’re going to be in the stand for most of the day, in which I used to do a lot. Now, I go for a couple hours and then come home, because I hunt close to home, so it’s not as important for me to have a bunch of food and water with me as much as before. But the point is, while in the stand for a long time, like in the mountains of Pennsylvania, when I would stay in the stand all day, it becomes very important.



Most hunters reading this story can remember at least once sitting in their stand and not having food or water or not enough of it. Then what happens is you get distracted by hunger and thirst. Once that sets in, your focus changes. The woods grow quieter, patience wears thin, and the hunt becomes something you’re trying to endure rather than enjoy. I know this has happened to me and I know now to make sure I have food and water.

This lesson has a way of sticking with you. After you’ve gone without food or water once, it usually finds a permanent place in your backpack. Hunters don’t bring snacks because they are weak, but because you’re wise enough to know that hunger and thirst affect clarity, and decision-making, and endurance.

Jesus uses that same physical reality to describe something much deeper when He speaks about hunger and thirst for righteousness. He isn’t talking about a deep internal need. We need to ask ourselves when it was that you last felt that king of spiritual hunger. When was the last time you desired God’s Word the way a tired hunter desires food and water after hours of being in the woods? Not out of routine, obligation, or discipline, but because you sensed a real need for it. If that hunger feels distant, don’t ignore it or pretend it isn’t there. Spiritual appetite, like physical appetite, can be dulled over time. Distractions, comforts, and substitutes can fill us just enough to keep us from seeking what truly satisfies. If need be, bring that honestly before God. Ask Him to restore your hunger for righteousness and make His Word something you crave again!

Pastor Dwayne

## *Associate Pastor Brent Berkeypile*

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### **Three Biblical Institutions**

God has a plan for societal structure and each institution has a role to play. Unfortunately, there are many people in our society that get these roles confused. According to the bible, it is not the role of the Government to take care of the people, it's to protect the people. It's the church's role to care for the people. I'm planning on doing a sermon series on this in the future.

From the opening chapters of Scripture, God reveals that He is a God of order, not confusion. To restrain evil, promote good, and help humanity flourish, the Lord established **three foundational institutions: the Family, the Church, and Government**. Each has a distinct role, and when each functions as God intended, society is strengthened.

**The Family** is the first institution God created (Genesis 2:18–24). Long before there was a church building or a civil authority, God established the home. The family is the primary place where life is nurtured, children are taught, and faith is modeled. Parents are given the responsibility to raise children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Strong families form the backbone of a healthy society.

**The Church** was established by Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and care for the physical and spiritual needs of God's people (Matthew 28:19–20; Ephesians 4:11–13). The church is called to preach truth,

extend grace, and be “the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). While the church does not replace the family or govern the state, it faithfully shapes hearts through God's Word and bears witness to Christ in the world.

**Government** is instituted by God to maintain order and restrain evil (Romans 13:1–4). Civil authorities are given the responsibility to promote justice, protect life, and punish wrongdoing. While government has real authority, it is limited in scope and accountable to God. Scripture reminds us to pray for our leaders and submit to lawful authority, while always obeying God above all (1 Timothy 2:1–2; Acts 5:29).

God never intended one institution to replace the others. When families disciple children, churches care for and shepherd believers, and governments pursue justice, society reflects God's good design. As believers, we honor God by supporting each institution according to His Word—and by faithfully living out our calling in each sphere He has placed us.

*“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”* (Romans 11:36)



## Worship Schedule

March 1- Revival Speaker- Aaron Zehr will conclude our time together with a message from John 13:34 and Elise, Liv and Madison will sing "You Say".

March 8- Phyllis Kirkdorffer will sing "Let Them See You" as continue our "Road to the Cross" Series and hear about "Lazarus".

March 15- Pastor Dwayne will take us down the "Road to the Cross" taken from John 12:12-19.

March 22- Evan Byler and Olivia Cripe will share the song "There was Jesus" as we hear about "Jesus in the Spotlight".

March 29- Palm Sunday Celebration!!! The kid's will carry in palm branches, the Youth will help lead the service and Asst. Pastor Brent Berkepile will bring our message for the morning.

## Men

We will be meeting for breakfast on March 14th at 7:30 am at Tiffany's in Topeka. Sign up on the Welcome Center if you know you'll be there.

March Bible in the Barn will be on March 19th at 6:30 pm in Jason Becker's shop in Ligonier.

## Outreach Opportunities

### Fairfield Food Pantry:

We will be collecting food for the Fairfield Food Pantry on March 1st. They are in need of **cans of corn and peas and boxes of mashed potatoes**. Please place your donations in the shopping cart as you enter the sanctuary.

### Two Cents Worth Offering:

The children will be taking up the Two Cents Worth Offering the first Sunday in March. The money collected goes toward our sponsored children: Mackline Mude from Kenya and Alim Mollah from Bangladesh.

Thanks for giving to those in need!

## Worship Nursery Workers:

Mar. 1 Lauren & Reagann Carrick  
Mar. 8 Andrea & Libby Byler  
Mar. 15 Crystal Dunlap & Lana Cripe  
Mar. 22 Jeanie Stuckman & Marla Snider  
Mar. 29 Crystal Dunlap & Lana Cripe

## Preschool Children's Church:

Mar. 1 Crystal & Michael Dunlap  
Mar. 8 Liv Cripe & Vicki Becker  
Mar. 15 Leah Herschberger & Chloe Cripe  
Mar. 22 Jessica & Derek Gilreath  
Mar. 29 Jessie Kreider & Tonda Carrick

## Sister's In Christ

We are heading to the *Funny Pharm Comedy Club* at the Old Bag Factory in Goshen on Friday, March 13th for their "Epic! Ladies Night Tour". It starts at 7:30 pm and the cost is \$25.00. Please sign up by March 1st on the Welcome Center so we can get tickets ordered. Contact Regina Morehouse if you have questions.

## Evangelism Challenge

The Evangelism Committee will be collecting items for the Easter Egg Hunt as our March project. Please place items in the designated box on/by the Welcome Center by March 22nd. Small wrapped candies, trinkets, etc., are all appreciated to give to the children during our annual Egg Hunt!



## *Samaritan Fund*

The Deacons will have basket at the back of the sanctuary each Sunday in March to collect donations for the Samaritan Fund. This money is used for families with needs in our congregation. You may put your donations in an envelope with your name on it if you would like it recorded with your offerings for the year.

## *Maple Leaves Choir*

March 8th- The Maple Leaves Choir will be giving a program and Waterford Crossing (The Maples) at 6:00 pm. You are all invited to come and listen to them!!

## *Birthday's & Anniversary's*

- 1 Marla Snider
- 3 Adam Herschberger
- 8 Nancy Yoder
- 9 Jason and Vicki Becker, 1996
- 11 Steve Yoder
- 15 Cristina Keck
- 16 Tyler Runkle
- 20 Charlee Herschberger
- 22 Tonda Carrick
- 22 Jackson Keck
- 26 Andy & Kristen Smith, 2022
- 27 Paisley Stilwell
- 27 Sue Wilfong
- 28 Scott Diamond
- 31 Derek & Heather Cripe, 2005

## *Keck's Small Group*

... will meet for lunch after worship on Sunday, March 15th.

## *Summer Camp Scholarships*

Children's Ministry sets aside money for Christian summer camp scholarships for children. We have a list of preapproved camps on the Welcome Center and applications that can be turned in to Tonda or Tricia by April 31st. Let us know if you have any questions.

## *Looking Ahead*

May 9th Ladies Tea

## *March Newsletter Articles*

Please have your articles turned into Tonda by March 23rd. You may email articles to carrick@bnin.net or text them to 574-596-6657. Thanks!

## *Sweetheart Banquet*

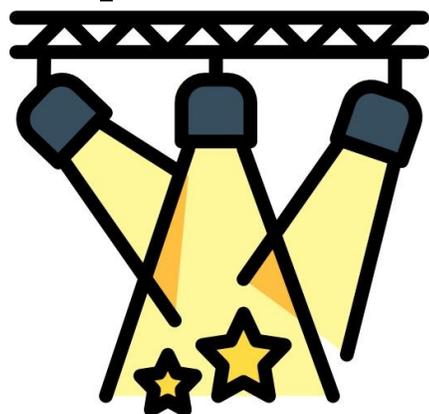
Mark your calendars on March 15th the Sr. High Youth will be having a Sweetheart Banquet. It will start at 5:00 pm. Make your reservations at the table in the foyer. The cost is \$50 per couple.

## *Kirkdorffer Deacon Group*

John and Pam's Deacon group will meet at Old Time Pizza for lunch on Sunday, March 29th.



# Maple Grove Spotlight!



The Evangelism Committee has decided to put a spotlight on someone in our congregation each month in hopes to get to know our congregation better. So here we go!

## Dwayne & Karen Runkle



age 43.

Karen and Dwayne were born and raised in PA. Karen was born near Philadelphia, and lived there until she was three years old. Then she and her family moved to York County, PA. Dwayne was born in York, PA and lived in a little town called Red Lion. They lived there until we were called to ministry here at Maple Grove at

Their parents are both in heaven. They were both blessed with good parents. Karen's dad was a pastor and her mom, a homemaker. Dwayne dad was a bus driver and his mom was a secretary and also cleaned homes. They have two daughters (Cassie & Angie). They are both married and have children. Our granddaughters are Adalyn, Jayde, Reese, and Rayna. Adalyn lives in Wisconsin, and the other three in PA.

Karen just retired on November 20, 2025. She worked at Jomar in Middlebury, IN. She also was a legal and medical transcriptionist throughout her working career. Dwayne worked at a casket company for ten years, then worked for a municipality for 14 years before accepting a position here at Maple Grove Church for the last 22 and a half years.

Karen loves animals (dogs for the most part), and loves going to zoo's. She enjoys putting puzzles together as well. Dwayne loves to hunt, especially deer hunting. We both love when we can spend time with family. To be honest, their favorite part about Maple Grove is you, the people. They love the fellowship and friendships that they have developed over the years. They love serving the Lord with God's people.

## The Berkeypile's

Brent and Erin have six children, Grady (17), Elise (15), Bennett (12), Wesley (10), Kreed (6), and Maclain (3). Erin and Brent have been married for 20 years.



Brent works in public education at Wawasee Schools as an administrator and is starting a new career path as a pastor. Erin is a stay at home mom and travel agent at EB8travel. All the children go to school at Wawasee Community Schools.

Brent enjoys playing golf, reading, and studying the Bible. Erin, enjoys going on walks, golf cart rides around the lake, and sitting on the beach whenever possible. As a family they love to go on vacation, they especially enjoy Disney and they also love to spend time playing in their pool.

As a family they love the family focused environment that Maple Grove brings. The close knit feel of the congregation is super important to them. They enjoy the children's ministry activities and worship on Sundays. They love the beliefs that Maple Grove is built on, like the Bible is truth from the beginning to the end.

# March 2026

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

Worship Greeters:

Rich & Julia Brookins

	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>1</b> Food Pantry Collection						
Two Cents Worth Offering			6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study			
Revival during Worship			6:30-8 pm Rooted			
<b>8</b> Daylight Savings Time	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> AM JTMA Mtg.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
6 pm Maple Leaves Choir at Waterford Crossing (The Maples)			6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30-8 pm Rooted		7:30 pm Sister's In Christ to Funny Pharm Comedy Club	7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Tiffany's in Topeka
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Keck's Sm Group Luncheon			6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30-8 pm Rooted	6:30 pm Men's Bible in the Barn at Jason Becker's Shop		Possible Jr. High Rock-A-Thon
5 pm Youth Sweetheart Banquet						
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Bring your Easter Egg Hunt items	Newsletter Articles Due Pastor Dwayne on vacation	Pastor Dwayne on vacation	Pastor Dwayne on Vacation 6:30-8 pm Rooted 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study	Pastor Dwayne on vacation	Pastor Dwayne on vacation	Pastor Dwayne on vacation
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
Kirkdorffer Deacon Group Lunch @ Old Time Pizza Pastor Dwayne on vacation	Pastor Dwayne on vacation	Pastor Dwayne on vacation		"Who do you walk by that needs your love? Who is God asking you to notice this week?" Pastor Brent	"We become stronger when we don't give in to temptation." Pastor Dwayne	



Sr. High will have there Sweetheart Banquet on Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 pm. Make your reservation today.

The Jr. High kids are looking for pledges so they can have a Rock-A-Thon. They need to have \$1500 in pledges in order to rock the night away on March 21-22.

We will be finishing up our "Pirates who Pray" theme with the little kids this month and then doing a couple of "UFO" lessons (Unbelievable Faith Occurrences). We have loved the whole pirate theme and have really learned a lot.

Mar. 4, Nehemiah 1, Nehemiah Prays

Mar. 11, Acts 12:1-19, The Believers Pray for Peter

Mar. 18, Luke 1:8-25&57-68, The Birth of John the Baptist

Mar. 25, Luke 5:17-26, Healing of a Paralyzed Man

Our Rooted activities will conclude the end of March as we take a break until September.

Our vision at the Maple Grove Community Church is to train an equip believers to reach the unsaved by sharing the Gospel with children, youth and young adults in our church, community and the world; to mentor and train them by using multiple generations; to make disciples and enable them to disciple others; and to baptize them and teach them to obey the commands of Christ in their daily lives.



20430 CR 46

New Paris, IN 46553

The Mission of Maple Grove Church:  
"To nurture the spiritual growth of our congregation,  
empowering us to share with others the hope of Jesus Christ."