

Maple Leaves

May 2026



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

Let us pray for:

Maple Grove Community Church
Pastor Dwayne and Karen Runkle
Assoc. Pastor Brent and Erin Berkeypile
Karen Dickison
Stan & Nancy Godfrey
Jim & Phyllis Kirkdorffer
Mike Overpeck
Julie Yoder
Steve & Marilyn Yoder
Wayne Yoder
Those that have lost a spouse
Our Youth & Children
Alex Becker, Andy Smith & Gavin Erb
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)
Dave Farris (Brazil)
World Missionary Press
Destiny Rescue

Baptisms & New Members

What a day to celebrate! On April 12th we brought in nine new members to Maple Grove Community Church. Five were letters of transfers: Mary Amiel, Scott and Kristen Morehouse and Cory and Richelle Stoner. We also had the following children who have asked Jesus into their hearts and were baptized: Lola Stilwell, Luke Stoner, Sam Stoner and Cole Stoner. Welcome to the Maple Grove family!

Thank You!

Thank you for your generous gift to my ministry with Sonset Solutions. This is a tremendous encouragement to me. As I think on my trip to Peru and all that God did there, I am so grateful for people like you who are holding the ropes so we can reach people in isolated areas like this. Only heaven will reveal the lives impacted.

With gratefulness for you,

Erica Simone

Multi-Generational Sunday School Classes

The Discipleship Committee has put together Multi-Generational Sunday School Classes again. The classes will start on Sun., May 31st and last 4 weeks. Jason & Vicki Becker will be doing one on *Discipleship*. Brent Berkeypile will be teaching on *Spiritual Warfare*. Brad Morehouse will be leading a class on *The 12 Biblical Truths for Christian's*. Tonda Carrick is doing *Bible "Shero's"*. Give one of these a try even if you don't usually attend Sunday School. There's a sign up sheet on the Welcome Center.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM

Pastor Dwayne Runkle

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“Go and Tell”

Most of us heard the saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” For the most part this is true. This April, in Northern Indiana, we’ve had our share of rain for sure, a lot of rainy, gloomy days. But then comes May, filled with sunshine, flowers and beauty.

Isn’t this how life is for us at times? We have our rain (April) at times. At times we’re in the valley, but it doesn’t last. Then we have our mountain top experiences (May). May always follows April, we all know that.

As we are currently going through our series on Sunday morning worship, we are looking at what it looked like after Jesus arose from the grave. The Bible tells us He walked the earth for 40 days prior to His ascension back to Heaven, from which He came. Many people, including Jesus’ followers saw Jesus die on the cross; an April day for them. Then, after three days in the grave, we know through Scripture that Jesus arose; a May day for them. But the picture wasn’t clear just yet for Jesus’ followers. That day there was a lot of confusion to say the least. Let’s look at one account of this doubt and confusion. In the Gospel of John, chapter 20, John records Mary Magdalene getting to the tomb that early morning. *“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance”* 2 *“So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”* (John 20:1-2). We see Mary gets to the tomb while it is still dark; very early in the morning. At first glance she sees the entrance to the tomb, the rock has been opened, moved. In a panic she runs to tell Peter and John what she saw, or what she didn’t

see. The body of Jesus was gone. It is easy to see how confused Mary was; her mind must have been racing, trying to make sense of all this. Now Peter and John know what Mary knows. They are all at the tomb and Peter goes in to see the *“stripes of linen lying there,”* 7 *“as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separated from the linen”* (John 20:6b-7). A point of interest here is, that grave robbers would not have made off with Jesus’ body and left His cloths nice and neat. The neatness and order indicated that there was not a hasty removal of Jesus body. At this point in the story, we see Peter and John leave the scene, while Mary stuck around. She takes a second look into the grave, only to see two angels sitting there, one at the foot end and the other at the head end. The angels say to Mary, *“Woman, why are you crying. They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him”* (John 20:13). Like we would have been, she was confused and distressed about where Jesus’ body was. Understand, she went to where she thought Jesus was, but He wasn’t there, or at least that’s what she thought. Verse 14 tells us this; *“At this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.”* (John 20:14). How many times in our lives do we call out to the Lord, and He’s standing right there, just like He was for Mary. We see in verse 15 that the conversation continued between Mary and Jesus. Jesus asked her why she was crying and who are you looking for? Mary explained to Him that she was looking for Jesus. That’s when Jesus only had to say one word, *“Mary.”* He called her by name and she knew it was Jesus. His word was powerful. God’s Word has not changed. It is still powerful today. Like Mary, we must recognize it and read it. Jesus gives Mary one last command, *“Go and tell my brothers...”* (John 20:17b). The lesson continues today for us, *“Go and tell.”*

Pastor Dwayne

Associate Pastor
Brent Berkeypile

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**Growing Together: New Sunday
School Opportunities**

I'm excited about the multigenerational Sunday School classes we have coming up at the end of May. This is a great opportunity for our church family to come together across ages, learn from one another, and grow deeper in our faith. We have some excellent teachers lined up and meaningful topics that will encourage and challenge each of us.



I will be leading a series titled *What is Spiritual Warfare?* In this study, we'll take a biblical look at the reality of the spiritual battle we face as believers. Scripture makes it clear that we are not just dealing with physical or cultural struggles, but a deeper spiritual conflict (Ephesians 6:12).

We'll also examine some of the strategies Satan uses to separate us—both individually and as a church—from God. This includes how he often uses cultural and political issues to divide, distract, and pull our focus away from Christ. Our goal will be to stay grounded in truth and unified in the gospel.

In addition, we will look at the three areas of temptation seen in the life of Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:1–11), and how those same patterns are still used against us today. More importantly, we'll focus on how Jesus responded—with the Word of God—and how we can stand firm in the same way.

My prayer is that this class will not only inform us, but equip us—to recognize the battle, stand on Scripture, and walk faithfully with the Lord.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider joining a class. This is a great time to grow, connect, and be strengthened together as the body of Christ.

Graduation Open House

You are invited to
Madison Keck's
Graduation Open House
on Saturday, May 30th
from 4-7 pm
at the Keck's house:
69556 Woodridge Ct.,
New Paris



Bridal Shower

You are invited to the Bridal Shower of Olivia (Liv) Cripe on Sunday, May 31st at 1:00 pm here at Maple Grove. Olivia and Evan are registered on Amazon and at www.theknot.com (Click "Find a Couple" on the top right corner, put in Olivia or Evan's name and wedding date – August 2026).

Worship Schedule

May 3rd- Leah and Pam will sing "The Mighty Name of Jesus" as we take a look at "The Truth of His Resurrection"

May 10th- MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION!! and Asst. Pastor Brent Berkeypile will bring the message.

May 17th- Pastor Dwayne will continue our series on- 40 DAYS AFTER JESUS'S DEATH with a message on "Thomas and the Holy Spirit".

May 24th- We will remember our loved ones during our Memorial Day candle lighting service.

May 31st- The Youth will lead our service as we conclude our 40 DAYS AFTER JESUS'S DEATH series.

Men

Men's Breakfast will be on May 2nd at 7 am at Dutch Village Restaurant in Nappanee.

Bible in the Barn will be on May 21 at 6:30 pm in Ron Cripe's barn. Bring your Bible and your lawn chair.

Evangelism Challenge

The May Challenge will be announced soon. We will be doing pork burgers sales the first weekend in June during New Paris garage sales. Mark your calendar.

Outreach Opportunities

Fairfield Food Pantry:

We will be collecting food for the Fairfield Food Pantry on May 3rd. They are in need of **peaches, Spaghettios, canned chicken/tuna.** 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 May. 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:

May 3 Lauren & Reagann Carrick
May 10 Linda & Brian Snider
May 17 Crystal Dunlap & Lana Cripe
May 24 Jeanie Stuckman & Marla Snider
May 31 Brian & Linda Snider

Preschool Children's Church:

May 3 Crystal & Michael Dunlap
May 10 Liv Cripe & Vicki Becker
May 17 Leah Herschberger & Chloe Cripe
May 24 Jessica & Derek Gilreath
May 31 Jessie Kreider & Tonda Carrick

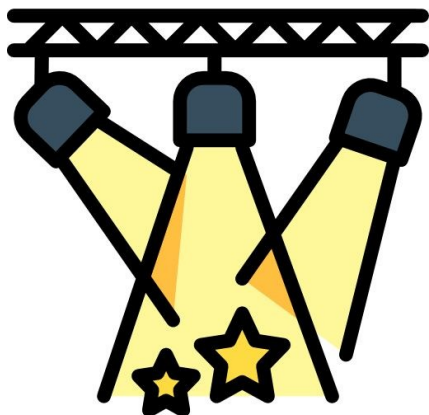
Sister's In Christ

Saturday, May 9th, at 10 am we will have our annual Spring Tea at *The Stables at Meadow Brook*, 16255 CR 22, Goshen. The theme is "Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit". Ladies/girls invite your friends and family to this inspiring event. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Center.

Birthday's & Anniversary's

3 Bayla Baker
3 Julie Yoder
6 Josh & Andrea Keck, 2007
10 Derek Gilreath
12 Gray Dunlap
15 Cameron Byler
17 Vicki Becker
17 Phyllis Kirkdorffer
17 Quin & Tricia Stilwell, 2014
20 Sawyer Smith
21 Brian & Linda Snider, 1983
22 Brian Cripe
22 Brenna Farling
23 Scott Morehouse
26 Julie Nankervis
29 Crystal Dunlap
30 Ned & Linda Myers, 1964
31 Jeanie Stuckman

Maple Grove Spotlight!



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

Jerry & Julie Yoder

Jerry and Julie have been married for 62 years. They have 3 daughters, 10 grandkids and 20 great grandchildren. Jerry graduated from New Paris High School in 1961 and Julie from Goshen High School in 1962. They were married

in October 1963. After they married and began a family Julie was a homemaker tending to the kids and eventually helping with grandkids too. Jerry has had a variety of jobs but spent 45 years of his career in sales and sales managing. The Yoder's spent most of their family vacations in Florida until they purchased a lake house where they enjoy spending weekends at the lake surrounded by the girls and their families. Jerry has always enjoyed putting out a huge garden in the summertime, working on projects in the winter time, and still finding time to ride motorcycles. Julie gets her joy from being with family, watching ballgames and playing games. She has been under nursing care for 2 years and Jerry spends most of his time with her. Maple Grove has been a staple for Jerry his entire life. His parents and grandparents began that tradition. Jerry and Julie decided very early in their relationship that Maple Grove would always be the church they called home. Over the years they both have volunteered for various ministries and church projects and are so blessed by the growing number of young families and youth that will be the future of Maple Grove!



Brent & Tonda Carrick



Brent & Tonda have been married for 45 years. They have two kids, Kristen (& Scott Morehouse) and Kyle (& Lauren), and four grandchildren; Macy and Owen Morehouse, Jake and Reagann Carrick.


Brent graduated from Northwood High School. Three years ago he retired from First State Bank and is now working part-time giving estimates for Sunrise Sprinklers and helping to coach baseball at Fairfield High School. He enjoys being in the barn and working in the yard, watching sports and reading James Patterson books.

Tonda grew up in Columbia City and met Brent at church camp. She used to work at Waterford Elementary as secretary and is still a sub-secretary for Goshen Schools. She loved working at Fashion Farm too, working with flowers, children on field trips and being creative. She likes reading, playing games, doing crafts and hanging out with family and friends.

They've attended Maple Grove for the last 30 years. They love that it's a Bible believing church, enjoy the worship music and the church family...

May 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Worship Greeters: Ron & Sue Cripe					1	2 7 am Men's Breakfast at Dutch Village Restaurant (Nappanee)
3 Two Cents Worth FF Food Pantry Collection	4	5 9:30 am Children's Ministry Meeting	6	7	8	9 10 am Sister's In Christ—Ladies Tea
10 <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12	13 9:30 am JTMA Meeting 7 pm MG Board Meeting	14	15	16
17 CM Volunteer Lunch Deacon's Mtg. after worship Sr. High Youth Geocaching	18	19	20 6:30-8:00 pm Jr. High Youth at Morehouse/Runkle Pond	21 6:30 pm Bible in the Barn at Ron Cripe's	22	23
24	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> (Church Office Closed)	26 Newsletter Articles Due	27	28	29	30 4-7 pm Madison Keck's Graduation Open House at the Keck's
31 Multi-Gen SS Classes start 1 pm Olivia (Liv) Cripe Shower					<i>Next Month:</i> June 28 Church Picnic	

Children's Ministry Volunteer Luncheon

As an appreciation to our many Children's Ministry Volunteer's we are having a luncheon for them and their spouse/family on May 17th after worship. So if you help with Rooted, Children's & Youth Sunday School, in the Nursery or Children's Church please sign up on the Welcome Center and come. We are thankful for so many of you that pour into this ministry!

Jr. High Youth

We will meet at the Morehouse/Runkle pond on Wednesday, May 20th from 6:30—8:00 pm. Snacks will be provided. Bring a lawn chair, fishing pole, and a jacket.

Vacation Bible School

**June 14-18, 2026
6:00—8:00 pm
at Maple Grove**

Mark your calendar and get signed up soon by using the QR code OR go to: https://vbspro.events/p_early/db3e69 to sign up your children or to volunteer. See Jeanie Stuckman with your questions.



Our vision at the Maple Grove Community Church is to train and 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."