



Maple Leaves

July 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
Mary Amiel
Annette Berkey
Stan Godfrey
Jim & Phyllis Kirkdorffer
Mike Overpeck
Julie Yoder
Steve Yoder
Wayne Yoder
Those that have lost a spouse
Our Youth & Children
Alex Becker, Andy Smith & Gavin Erb
(Serving our nation)
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 (Brasilia)
Dave Farris (Brazil)
World Missionary Press
Destiny Rescue

Baptisms

What a blessed day, June 21st, that we had four people baptized at Maple Grove Community Church. Associate Pastor, Brent Berkeypile was able to do his first baptisms and two of them were his sons, Bennett Berkeypile and Wesley Berkeypile. The other two were Lilly Culp and Anna Keck. What a great Father's Day!



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

Pastor Dwayne Runkle

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Email: dwaynerunkle@gmail.com

“Gates & Foundations”

Have you ever wondered what Heaven will be like? Of course you have. As Christians we look forward to our eternal home with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and all our loved ones that have gone on before us. What will a normal day look like so-to-speak? One thing for sure is that we will get to honor and glorify our Lord daily. We all have loved ones that we know will be in Heaven for sure, but we also have those who we don't know for sure what their relationship with the Lord is. I'm glad that I'm not the judge; I don't know the heart of others. I'll let that up to the all knowing God.

The Bible talks about those that are in Heaven now. We get a little picture of how they lived their lives here on earth for the short window we have here. The Bible says our life is like a vapor, we're here today on earth, and that quickly we're gone. That means, if your reading this Newsletter and you don't know for sure if you're going to Heaven, do it now! Make sure your salvation is secure!

There are times in my life, sad-to-say, that I look at the lifestyle of those in our world and think, unless they change, they will not be in Heaven. But I'm not called to be their judge. Again, I'll let that up to the Lord. But we are called to be fruit inspectors. The Bible says in Matthew 7:16; *“By their fruit you will recognize them.”*

In the Book of Revelation, we're told whose names will be engraved on the gateposts of Heaven. Are these ones that you would think would be in Heaven?

12 *“It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.”*

14 *“The wall of the city had twelve foundations,*

and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Revelation 21:12; 14).

Here we see that God engraved the names of the sons of Jacob on his gateposts. As Max Lucado once said, “they are more ragamuffins than reverends.” Their rap sheets include stories of mass murder (Genesis 34), incest (38:13-18); and brotherly betrayal (37:17-28). They behaved more like men at a nightclub at 3:00 a.m. then they did of men of faith. Yet God carved their names on the New Jerusalem gates. Wow! I'm glad I'm not the judge. Only God knows the heart. And what about those in verse 14 of the above verse that talks about the foundations. The Apostle Peter saved his own skin instead of his Savior's. James and John, who jockeyed for the VIP seats in Heaven. These are the same disciples who told the children to leave Jesus alone. *“People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them”* (Luke 18:15). These are the ones who told Jesus to leave the hungry on their own. *“As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food”* (Matthew 14:15). And these are the ones who chose to leave Jesus alone to face his crucifixion (Matthew 26:36-45). Yet all their names appear on the foundations.

What about your name? It's not engraved in the gate, but it is written in the Lambs Book of Life. Not in pencil marks that can be erased, but with blood that will not be removed. But what is the catch? No catch. Jesus already paid the price. He paid it in full.

As Christians, we can all look forward to our eternal home. There will be no more wondering! Praise God for salvation, for even a sinner like me.

Pastor Dwayne

Associate Pastor Brent Berkeypile

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Open Your Eyes to God's Blessings

This past Sunday, we were reminded of a simple but powerful truth: God's blessings are all around us, but we do not always have eyes to see them.

James 1:17 tells us, "Every good and perfect gift is from above..." and Psalm 103:2 reminds us, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." So often, we move through life focused on what is missing, what is difficult, or what is coming next. But Scripture calls us to pause, remember, and recognize the goodness of God right in front of us.

God's blessings can be seen in creation—the sunrise, the changing seasons, the air we breathe, and the beauty of the world He has made. They are seen in relationships—the family, friends, church members, and even difficult people who help shape us in grace and patience. They are seen in daily provision—food, shelter, strength, and the many needs God faithfully supplies. And sometimes, though harder to recognize, His blessings can even be found in trials, as God uses hardship to build our faith, deepen our dependence on Him, and remind us of our hope in Christ.

Here is a new thought to carry with us: maybe the goal is not only to **count** our blessings, but also to **become** a blessing. When God opens our eyes to His goodness, it should open our hands toward others. A grateful heart becomes a generous heart. A person who sees God's blessings more clearly can reflect those blessings more freely.

This week, take time to notice God's goodness. Write down a few blessings each day. Thank

Him before asking for anything else. Tell someone how they have been a blessing in your life. And then ask, "Lord, how can I be a blessing to someone else today?"

May God help us remove the spiritual blindfolds and live as people who see, remember, and share His goodness.

Brent's Office Hours

My regular office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The best way to meet is by appointment, which can be set up by email or text. I would be glad to schedule a time to talk, pray, or meet with you.



August Newsletter Articles

Please have your articles turned into Tonda by July 21st. You may email articles to carrick@bnin.net or text them to 574-596-6657. Thanks!

Worship Schedule

July 5th - Asst. Pastor Brent Berkeypile will be leading us in our 4th of July Celebration and the Maple Leaves Bell Choir will play "*America the Beautiful*".

July 12 – We will continue our *Transforming Power Series* with a message on "Transforming Power" and Phyllis Kirkdorffer doing a monologue called "Transformed".

July 19th - Jessie Kreider will share the song "Pass it On" as we take a look at "Transforming Community".

July 26 – Our theme for the day is "*Transforming the Present*" and Asst. Pastor Brent Berkeypile will speak about it from Isaiah 58.

Sister's In Christ

Let's walk Fidler's Pond together on Wednesday, July 8th at 6:30 pm. then maybe we'll go out for ice cream afterwards! Please sign up on the Welcome Center if you can attend so we know who to be looking for, or contact Tonda.

Evangelism Challenge

For July's Challenge we are purchasing *Mini Moo* ice cream coupons to hand out at the Elkhart County 4H Fair as a "Random Act of Kindness". See Brad Baker, Vicki Becker, Andrea Byler, Heather Cripe or Bonnie Rife, to get some coupons to hand out.

Outreach Opportunities

Fairfield Food Pantry:

We will be collecting food for the Fairfield Food Pantry on July 5th. They are in need of **pancake mix, canned pasta, and mac 'n cheese**. 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 July. 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:

July 5 Lauren & Reagann Carrick
July 12 Linda & Brian Snider
July 19 Crystal Dunlap & Lana Cripe
July 26 Service at Sunnyside Park

Preschool Children's Church:

July 5 Crystal & Michael Dunlap
July 12 Liv Cripe & Vicki Becker
July 19 Leah Herschberger & Chloe Cripe
July 26 Service at Sunnyside Park

Women in the Word

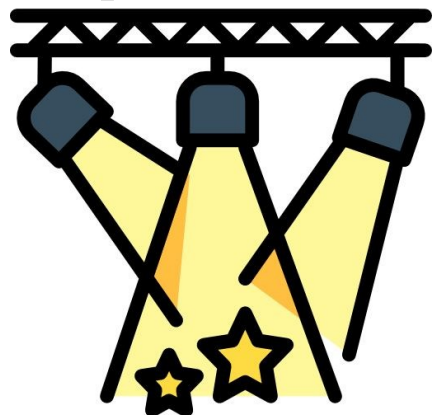
Karis Cripe and Phyllis Kirkdorffer are leading a Bible Study from the book "Lord, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days" by Kay Arthur. They will be meeting on Wednesday, July 1st and 8th at Karis's house at 9:00 in the morning. (Monday evening dates will be announced.)

Birthday's & Anniversary's

1 Larry & Cristina Keck, 2017
2 Melodee Bowlby
2 Scott & Kristen Morehouse
2 Mike Yoder
3 Kyle Byler
7 Lee & Jaimene Garner, 2007
8 Brian & Karis Cripe, 2017
8 Maynard Hartsough
15 Easton Stilwell
16 Mia Baker
16 Brent & Erin Berkeypile, 2005
16 Jeremy Byler
16 Josh Keck
18 Madison Keck
18 Dave Snider
19 Leo Keck
19 Owen Morehouse
23 Randy & Terri Sizemore, 1977
25 Richard Brookins
25 Bryan & Megan Hunter, 2009
28 Garry Bowlby

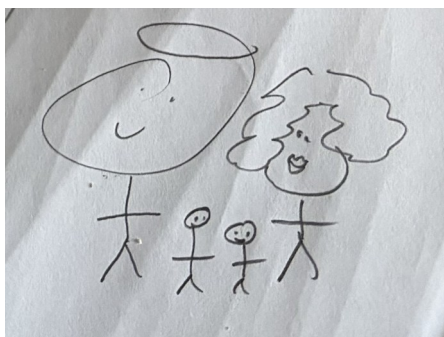
Maple Grove Spotlight!

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!



Brad, Mia, Bayla and Arlo Baker

Brad and Mia have been married for 13 years. They both graduated from Northwood High School in 1992 and 1995. Bayla and Arlo went to school at Benton Elementary last year. Mia went on to school at Indiana University and left with a degree in Interior Design and Studio Art. She works at Leatherman Supply in Goshen as a Kitchen Designer. Brad went to Indiana State and studied football and line backing. He graduated from IUSB with a degree in Elementary Education. He works out of his shop in New Paris doing woodworking and pearl and metal engraving. We like auctions, making friendship bracelets, woodworking, reading, exploring random things, staying up late and sleeping in. We all like dogs, cats, birds and sheep. The barn swallows are Brad's favorite and the new kittens are taking a strong interest in them as well. Bayla likes blacksmithing and mowing and Arlo likes fishing and planting trees. They both like video games.



Brad's family portrait. :)

We love the Maple Grove family. The lessons learned through the work, the music, the wood and lights in the sanctuary, folks we can lean into and give back to, but most of all we love that we can think about, see and feel the Lord at work at Maple Grove Church.



Be the **REASON**
Someone
SMILES Today

You're Invited...

to Breakfast with the Chaplain at the Elkhart County Jail. Learn about the Jail Ministry and hear from one of their friends incarcerated in the jail. This month it's July 30th from 8:15-9:30 am. Please RSVP by contacting Cory Martin at 574-849-1494.

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Greeters: Rich & Julia Brookins			1 9 am Women's in the Word Pastor Dwayne on vacation	2 Pastor Dwayne on vacation	3 Pastor Dwayne on vacation	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Pastor Dwayne on vacation
5 Food Pantry Collection Two Cents Worth Offering	6 Remember to count your blessings!	7	8 9 am Women's in the Word 6:30 pm Sister's in Christ walk at Fidler's Pond	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 6 pm Ministerial Board Mtg.	16	17	18
19	20	21 Newsletter articles due	22	23	24	25
26 Remember to hand out your ice cream coupons when you go to the fair.	27 Pastor Dwayne @ BBI Classes	28 Pastor Dwayne @ BBI Classes	29 Pastor Dwayne @ BBI Classes	30 Pastor Dwayne @ BBI Classes	31 Pastor Dwayne @ BBI Classes	



Thank You to the many volunteers we had at the Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School last month! We appreciate the time you took out of your busy summer to help to enrich the hearts of the children that attended. You did a fabulous job and we think they loved it. We were able to contribute about \$350 to *Blessings in a Backpack* to help children in our neighborhoods that wouldn't have food at home without their help. Thank you to those who gave.

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."