Maple Leaves

October 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
Stan Godfrey
Jim & Phyllis Kirkdorffer
Keith Miller (Eva's son)
Mike Overpeck
Julie Yoder
Steve 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

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

In honor of our pastors, Dwayne Runkle and Brent Berkeypile, you are invited to a Carry-In Dinner on Sunday, October 25th following worship for Pastor Appreciation Month. Please bring cards of encouragement or appreciation for our fantastic pastors and their wives and stay for the meal.

Children's Ministry Volunteers

Thank you for attending our Children's Ministry training this last September. It was more of a time commitment, but so beneficial. Jamie Estep did a fantastic job. If you missed this training we did record it and it will be posted on our church website (listed above) and it will be under the Children's Ministry section. Let us know if you have any questions.

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

Pastor Dwayne Runkle
Cell Phone: 574-238-1505
Email: dwaynerunkle@gmail.com

"A Foot Washer"

"It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand" (John 13:1-7).



We see in this account that it was just before the "Passover Feast" (celebration). Jesus is with some of his favorite people, his twelve disciples. Jesus was about to celebrate something old, "Passover." This event was celebrated each year by those in the Jewish community. So then, what is "Passover?" For a quick refresher, it was when Moses went to Pharaoh ten different times and asked him to *"Let my people go."* It wasn't until the last plague that Pharaoh told Moses to get out of here. Go! This plague was a deadly one. Moses instructs the Israelites to make a sacrificial offering to God, and to use the blood of animals, a male lamb, to mark the doorposts and lintels of their homes. By doing this the firstborn of their homes would be spared from the "death angel." Saying he "will pass over the door" (Exodus 12:23). After many deaths of the Egyptians, Pharaoh told Moses he could leave.

Of course we know that Pharaoh again changed his mind and went after Moses and the Israelites to the edge of the Red Sea. It was there that God split the sea and they crossed on dry land. The Egyptians followed and the waves came crashing down on them all, killing each one. This is what Jesus was celebrating with his disciples in the Upper Room.

So, we drop down to verse 4 and 5 and see that Jesus wrapped a towel around his waist, poured water into a basin, and began to wash his disciples feet. We don't wash peoples feet anymore when they come to our house to visit us. Jesus was King of kings, and Lord of lords and yet he washed their feet. This was a job for a servant of the house. Not someone of royalty. So, why did Jesus do this? He did it to show that He came to serve and not be served. Jesus came to serve and gave us this example.

What does feet washing look like today. It's when a church comes out and helps move their pastor and wife's household belongings into storage. It's when they load and unload a truck for a move to PA; not only once but twice. It's when they show unconditional love. This is just the latest acts of feet-washing. This is one of many acts of servanthood that Karen and I have witnessed over the last 23 years here at Maple Grove.

Thank you Maple Grove for being a foot-washer! We (Karen and I) are truly blessed.

Pastor Dwayne

Associate Pastor
Brent Berkeypile
Cell Phone: 574-529-1775
Email: bberkeypile@maplegrovechurch.net
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday,8:00a—12:00p

The Harvest Is Plentiful

One of my favorite things about fall is watching everything around us begin to change. The temperatures cool down, the leaves begin to turn, and all across our area farmers head into the fields for harvest. Combines move through fields that were planted months ago, gathering the crop that has finally become ready.



Living in an agricultural community, we understand the importance of harvest. There is a time to plant. There is a time to water and wait. And then there comes a time when the crop is ready and someone has to go into the field and bring in the harvest.

Jesus used that same picture when He looked at the people around Him.

Matthew 9:36–38 says:

"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.'"

I love the progression in these verses.

Jesus saw the people. Jesus had compassion on the people. Jesus saw the harvest. And Jesus called for workers.

When Jesus looked at the crowds, He didn't just see a large group of people. He saw individuals who were hurting, lost, confused, and desperately in need of a Shepherd. His response was compassion.

I wonder sometimes what we see when we look at the people around us.

When we see a difficult coworker, Jesus sees someone who needs Him. When we see a struggling neighbor, Jesus sees someone who needs Him. When we see a teenager who seems to be heading in the wrong direction, Jesus sees someone who needs Him. When we see someone whose life looks completely different from ours, Jesus sees someone who needs Him.

The harvest is still plentiful.

The problem Jesus identified wasn't a lack of harvest. It was a lack of workers.

That means there are people all around us who need to hear about the hope found in Jesus Christ. They are in our workplaces, our schools, our neighborhoods, our families, and our community. We don't have to travel around the world to find the mission field. For many of us, God has placed one right outside our front door.

As you drive past the fields this fall and see the combines bringing in the harvest, let it serve as a reminder.

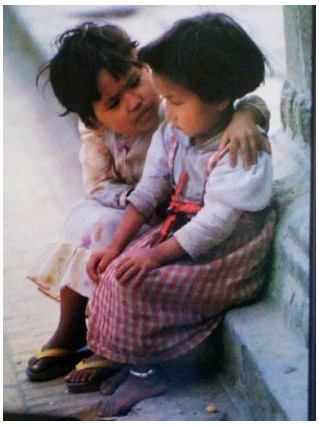
There is another harvest happening all around us.

May we ask God to give us the eyes of Jesus—to truly **see people**. May He give us the compassion of Jesus—to genuinely **care about people**. And may He give us the courage to step into the field and **tell people about Jesus**.

Jesus said, **"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."**

The question for us this fall is simple:

Are we willing to be one of the workers?



Worship Schedule

October 4- Pastor Dwayne will be speaking to us about Communion and the deacons will be serving the bread and cup during our service along with the opportunity to do feet washing to those who wish to.

October 11- Asst. Pastor Brent will continue our Guard the Gospel Series with a message on "How to Live Like the Family of God*?"* and *The Maple Leaves Choir* will sing their "Rooted" theme song-"*Roots*"!

October 18- Evan and Liv Byler will share the song "Psalm 23" as Dwayne talks to us about "How to Be Content?" taken from 1 Timothy 6:1-10.

October 25- We will be celebrating Pastor Appreciation Day during the service and following the service with a carry-in lunch.

Evangelism Challenge

You are invited to a church wide Fall Party on Sunday, October 11th at 5:00 pm at Jeremy and Andrea Byler's house (12987 N 400 W, Milford). There will be outdoor games, hayrides and food! Bring your lawn chair, food to share and come join the fun.

Outreach Opportunities

Fairfield Food Pantry:

We will be collecting food for the Fairfield Food Pantry on October 4th. They are in need of **cereal, Spaghettios and peanut butter.** 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 October. 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:

Oct. 4 Lauren & Reagann Carrick
Oct. 11 Linda & Brian Snider
Oct. 18 Crystal Dunlap & Lana Cripe
Oct. 25 Marla Snider & Jeanie Stuckman

Children's Church:

Oct. 4 Crystal & Michael Dunlap
Oct. 11 Tricia Stilwell & Vicki Becker
Oct. 18 Leah Herschberger & Chloe Cripe
Oct. 25 Jessica & Derek Gilreath

Sister's In Christ

Thursday, Oct. 8th at 6:30 pm we will meet at Maple Grove to make 2 handcrafted Christmas Cards (samples pictured below) with Kay Crum, scrapbooking artist. The cost is $5 per person. A light dinner will be provided. See Linda Snider if you have questions.

Fairfield Football Team Meal

On Friday, Oct. 9th we will be feeding the Fairfield Football Team before their away game. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center of items that we need donated for the meal. If you are interested in serving the meal (at 2:45 pm at Fairfield High School) please see Lauren Carrick or Andrea Keck.

Men's Bible in the Barn

Mark your calendar, this month we will meet on Thurs., Oct. 15th at 6:30 pm at Quin Stilwell's. Bring your Bible and a chair and come join us.

Women in the Word

They are continuing their Bible Study with the book called "Jesus is Better" a study of the book of Hebrews by the Daily Grace Company. Karis Cripe is leading it and Phyllis Kirkdorffer is hosting. They will meet on Monday, October 12th & 26th. All are welcome. Let's get in the Word!

Birthday's and Anniversary's

OCTOBER
3 Tara Overpeck
5 Rhett Dunlap
6 Karen Dickison
8 Grady Berkeypile
8 Ned Myers
12 Jerry & Julie Yoder, 1963
19 Quin Stilwell
20 Olivia Cripe
27 Lana Cripe

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 October 22nd from 8:15 -9:30 am. Please RSVP by contacting Cory Martin at 574-849-1494.

Destiny Rescue Fundraiser...

is at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds on October 22-25. If you would like more information please see Eva Miller.

Looking Ahead...

Nov. 14—Beef and Noodle Supper 4:30-6:30 pm

Trunk or Treat

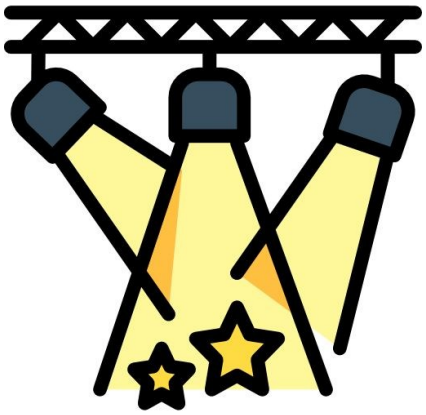
On Wednesday, October 28th we will be having our annual Trunk or Treat for our Rooted kids in the church parking lot from 6:30—7:30 pm. It's such a fun time and a safe environment for the kids. You can decorate your trunk/truck bed or back of your vehicle and pass out candy to the kids. You can even get dress up yourself if you want. The kids love it when there is a little activity to do with it too. There will be a sign up sheet on the Welcome Center if you plan to decorate your trunk, and let us know your theme if you know what it's going to be. If it rains we wil move it to the church basement.



November Newsletter Articles

Please have your articles turned into Tonda by October 20th. You may email articles to carrick@bnin.net or text them to 574-596–6657. Thanks!

Maple Grove Spotlight!



Sue & Kim Wilfong

The Wilfong's have two daughters and two wonderful son-in-laws. They also have four grandchildren ages 20, 16, 11 and 8, unfortunately for Kim and Sue none of them live around here. Jamie and family live in Avon and Carrie's family lives in Evansville.
Kim and Sue have two dogs, Casey and Marley. They've always had golden retrievers because they love their personalities.



In 2013 Kim & Sue retired, closed and sold their business, McIntosh Garden Center. This was Sue's family business. Kim and Sue were the last to run the business. For Sue is was bittersweet. When she married Kim he had Wilfong's Christmas Tree Farm. Having two businesses and working with both families was wonderful… with a little bit of stress—ha! The next step was to figure out what each of them wanted to do. Kim never got to spend time on their farm, so he got involved in woodworking and loved making cutting boards. He sold his boards in several locations in the area and decided Sue needed to work retail sales, as she missed people. The first spring after retirement she asked Jason Becker if she could keep busy and be around plants at Fashion Farm. Fortunately, he hired her. She worked each spring until they closed—10 or 11 years.

Kim has always lived in Waterford/Goshen area, while Sue lived in several states; Ohio, Michigan, Indiana. She lived in Goshen from 1965 to 1970, then moved to Ohio and came back to Goshen in 1973 and they opened the Garden Center.

Kim loves to mow the grass, woodworking, his chickens and ducks. Sue has always loved decorating the wreaths we made at Christmas time and continued special orders with a collection of past customers/friends for 10 years. She likes to relax rocking on their front porch. We both enjoy our recliners. And Sue also enjoys visiting with friends and family. Sue and her sister have decided they need to get together more often (her sister lives in Ohio). Every year they visit their brother in Wisconsin. He have a fun time together.



They love everything about Maple Grove. Sue says their story begins the first day they visited Maple Grove. "We had been visiting a few church's in the area. I wasn't raised growing up with a church family. The first Sunday that Kim & I visited Maple Grove was an experience I will never forget. We were greeted at the door with a warm welcome. The sermon spoke to us and the music was great… but most of all we didn't feel like strangers. Kim and I decided on the way home that this was our church. Within a year (2016) I was baptized and we both became members. We love our church family."

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Greeters: Tyler & Krista Runkle				1	2	3
4 Two Cents Worth Food Pantry Collection	5	6	7 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30-8 pm Rooted	8 6:30 pm Sister's In Christ at Maple Grove	9 Feed the Fairfield Football Team. Servers should be at FHS by 2:45 pm	10
11 5 pm All Church Fall Party @ Byler's	12 6:30 pm Women in the Word	13	14 9:30 JTMA Mtg. 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30-8 pm Rooted 8 pm Church Board Mtg.	15 6:30 pm Men's Bible in the Barn @ Quin Stilwell's	16	17
18 5-7 pm Sr High Youth Fall Party @ Brookins' Corn Crib	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 6-8 pm Jr. High Youth @ Morehouse Pond 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30-8 pm Rooted	22	23	24
25 Pastor Appreciation Carry-In Dinner after worship	26 6:30 pm Women in the Word	27	28 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm Trunk or Treat	29	30	MAPLE GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sr. High Youth

Fall Party on Sun., Oct. 18 from 5-7 pm at the Brookins' Corn Crib.

Jr. High Youth

Fall Party at the Morehouse/Runkle pond on Wed., Oct. 21 from 6-8 pm.

Rooted– The theme for the younger kids this fall is "Extreme Faith without Limits". We are using extreme sports, as we look at extreme things that people in the Bible experienced.

Oct. 7	Spelunking	Jacob Receives the Blessing Genesis 27:1-44
Oct. 14	Wrestling	Jacob Wrestles Genesis 32:22-31
Oct. 21	Rock Climbing	The Wise and Foolish Builders Matthew 7:24-28
Oct. 28	Trunk or Treat 6:30-7:30 pm	

Our memory verse is Colossians 3:23 "Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters."

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."