



# Maple Leaves

December 2025

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

Brent and Erin Berkeypile

Annette Berkey

Jim Kirkdorffer

Mike Overpeck

Troy Runkle

Betty Stutsman

Jerry Stutzman Family

Julie Yoder

Steve Yoder

Those that have lost a spouse

Our Widow Ladies

Our Youth & Children

Andy Smith & Gavin Erb (serving our country)

Our New Sunday School Class

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

## *Our Sympathy*

Sadly, Jerry Stutzman went to be with the Lord on November 19th. Our sympathy to his family and friends as he will be greatly missed.

## *Journey through Bethlehem*

Sunday- December 14<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm- Maple Leaves Kid's Choir performs

6:30-7:30 pm- Come take the 'Journey'



Come walk with us as we discover all that Mary and Joseph must have encountered as they made their 'Journey through Bethlehem'.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM**

**WED. ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM**

**ROOTED 6:30- 8:00 PM (DEC. 3 & 10)**

# Pastor Dwayne Runkle

Cell Phone: 574-238-1505

Email: dwaynerunkle@gmail.com

## “Time”

How many times when we're waiting for something to come and it seems like it is an eternity for that thing to come. Or we want something done and it takes forever for that person to get it done for you. If you're like me, sometimes we say, "What are you waiting for? Christmas!

It wasn't that long ago, maybe six months or so, when Karen and I were discussing Karen's retirement. We came up with a date of November 20<sup>th</sup> of this year. It seemed like such a long time for it to come, but here we are. As you are reading this Newsletter, she is officially retired. I've (Dwayne) also set a date for my official retirement, Lord willing, to be January 31, 2027. That seems like a long time, but it will be here before I know it.

In the Book of Isaiah, chapter 7, verse 14 it says this: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."* In Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6 it says; *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* These prophecies were written 700 years before it happened. As the people were waiting for the fulfillment of these prophecies it must have seemed like forever.

Then it happened. We're told in the Book of Matthew, chapter one how it all came about.

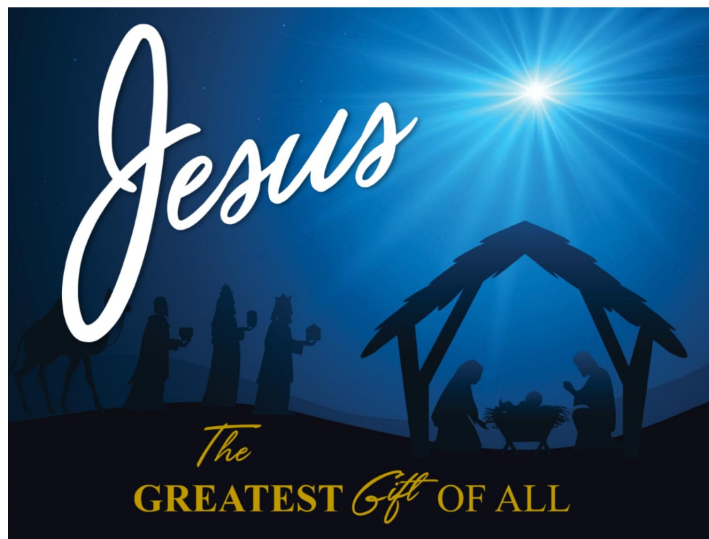
*18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give*

*him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus" (Matthew 1:18-25).*

All throughout the Old Testament, this was prophesied. And we can read in the Gospel of Matthew and see how it all transpired. It's been over 2000 years since the birth of Jesus. It was fulfilled just as it was told it would be. This was the first Advent. Now we wait for the second Advent. This is when Jesus will come back for us. This too is prophesied. It seems like it will never happen. But it will be here before we know it.

Let us all be ready for that day!

Pastor Dwayne



## *Worship Schedule*

December 7<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Dwayne will be talking about the *Wise Men* from Matthew 2 and the Girl's Group will sing *One King*.

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Pam Kirkdorffer will sing *Who Would Imagine a King?* as we hear about *The Sounds of Christmas*.

December 21<sup>st</sup> – On the Sunday before Christmas, we will take a look at *The Christmas Gift* and our Maple Leaves Choir will sing a song from their program, *The Greatest Gift*.

December 28<sup>th</sup> – *Joy to the World* will be the theme of our CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!!!

## *Poinsettias*



If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the church, please contact Sue Wilfong. You may order red or white and they are only \$10

each this year. Please have your orders in by Sunday, December 7th.

## *Outreach Opportunities*

### **Fairfield Food Pantry:**

We will be collecting food for the Fairfield Food Pantry on Dec. 7th. They are in need of **Spaghetti's, mac and cheese and pork and beans**. 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 December. 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:*

Dec. 7 Lauren & Reagann Carrick

Dec. 14 Andrea & Libby Byler

Dec. 21 Crystal Dunlap & Lana Cripe

Dec. 28 Jeanie Stuckman & Marla Snider

## *Preschool Children's Church:*

Dec. 7 Crystal & Michael Dunlap

Dec. 14 Liv Cripe & Vicki Becker

Dec. 21 Leah Herschberger & Chloe Cripe

Dec. 28 Jessica & Derek Gilreath

## *Sister's In Christ*

Once again Sue Wilfong will be hosting us for a night of creating with fresh greens for Christmas. You may create a wreath, a spray or centerpiece. If you don't know how, she will teach you. You may bring your own pot or wicker basket (6-8" or smaller) if you want and a glue gun and/or cutters if you have them. Come join us on Thursday, Dec. 4th at 6:30 pm at Kim & Sue's—19140 CR 40, Goshen. Please sign up on the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

## *Evangelism Challenge*

We will be sponsoring a needy family again this year for Christmas. Please check out the list of items on the Welcome Center for gift ideas and gift tags. We will also have a box/basket that you can fill with household items that can't be bought with food stamps: Band-Aid's, soap, paper products, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, gift cards... Please have items wrapped and turned in by December 21st. This family could really use your love. See Bonnie Rife if you have questions.



## *Gifts*

We would like to collect some gifts to give away during Christmas Trivia as people wait to go through the "Journey through Bethlehem". If you are willing to donate something, please get it to Pam Kirkdorffer before Dec. 14th. Thanks!

## *Church Library Survey*

Chloe Cripe our new librarian would like to know what you'd like to see in the library and ideas you may have. Please connect to the link below to take this quick survey.

<https://forms.gle/SEj1LWFrr1xnvig68>

The library books have currently been moved to the back of the hallway of the educational wing.

## *Men*

No Men's Breakfast or Bible in the Barn this month. We are taking the month off.



## *Birthday's & Anniversary's*

- |    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Nick & Abby Anderson, 2018  |
| 3  | Mary Amiel                  |
| 4  | Libby Byler                 |
| 5  | Michael Dunlap              |
| 8  | Theodore Gilreath           |
| 8  | Eva Miller                  |
| 13 | Andrea Byler                |
| 14 | Karen Runkle                |
| 14 | Ron & Jeanie Stuckman, 1991 |
| 23 | Heather Houston             |
| 24 | Jim Kirkdorffer             |
| 24 | Betty Stutsman              |
| 25 | Josie Dunlap                |
| 27 | Mike & Tara Overpeck, 1981  |
| 29 | Chris Keck                  |
| 29 | Ashley Morehouse            |

## *Breakfast with the Chaplain*


You are invited to come learn about the Jail Ministry and hear from one of their friends incarcerated in the Elkhart County Jail. This month it will on Thursday, December 11th. No cost to attend, and it's not a fundraiser. Please RSVP by contacting Cory at [cmartin@ecjailministry.org](mailto:cmartin@ecjailministry.org) or call 574-849-1494. Arrive by 8:15 am and you're done at 9:30 am.

## *January Newsletter Articles*

Please have your articles turned into Tonda by December 22nd. You may email articles to [carrick@bnin.net](mailto:carrick@bnin.net) or text them to 574-596-6657.

# December 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Worship Greeters: Kyle and Lauren Carrick	1	2	3 6:30 pm Jr High/Walmart 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30-8 pm Rooted	4 6:30 pm Sister's In Christ at Sue Wilfong's	5	6
7 Two Cents Worth Food Pantry Collection Turn in Poinsettia orders 11:45 am Worship Team Brunch	8	9	10 6:30—7:30 pm Bible Study 6:30—8 pm Rooted 7:45 pm Journey Costume Pick up	11 8 am JTMA meet with Chaplain at Jail 6 pm Deacon Supper	12	13
14 6:00 pm Children's Christmas Program 6:30—7:30 pm Journey through Bethlehem	15	16	17 Jr High Bowling 6:30 pm Sr High Caroling	18	19	20
21 Bring your gifts for the Evangelism Challenge	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28	29	30	31			





Sr. High will be going caroling on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 pm.

The Jr. High will be shopping at Walmart for a needy family on December 3, 6:00-7:30 pm. Dec. 10th, they are wrapping gifts and on Dec. 17th it's Ugly Sweater Bowling @ Wawasee Bowl.

December 3rd & 10th the children will meet for *Rooted* as usual, but it will be program practice, then fun and games afterwards. The Children's Christmas Program "The Greatest Gift of All" will be Sunday, December 14th at 6:00 pm. The kids will sing about some of the many gifts we wish for at Christmas time and will remind us that the greatest gift of all is... JESUS! The Journey Through Bethlehem will follow the program. Come for both, you won't want to miss it.

We will then take a break from *Rooted* until Jan. 7, 2026. At that time we will start back with the theme "Pirates who Pray" and learning to spend time in prayerrrrrr.

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.

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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."