

# Maple Leaves

February 2026



**February 27th, 7:00 pm**

**February 28th, 7:00 pm**

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

Aaron Zehr will be our guest speaker. Aaron grew up in central Illinois before attending college at Indiana Wesleyan University, majoring in youth ministry. It was there that he met and married Megan, daughter of Ron and Sue Cripe. After college, Aaron served for 5 years as youth pastor at Vincennes Free Methodist Church in Vincennes, IN. For the past 14 years he has served at Eureka Bible Church in Eureka, IL. The first 4 years he was the youth pastor and has now been the senior pastor for nearly 10 years. Aaron and Megan have three children: Kaitlyn (14), Levi (12), and Melanie (8). He loves spending time outside during warm weather gardening, running, and playing softball and golf. Favorite indoor activities include reading, playing board games, and cheering on the Fighting Illini. He's made it a goal to read a biography on every U.S. president (currently on Woodrow Wilson).



The Ministerial Board have also planned meals for Friday and Saturday evening during Revival at 6:00 pm. Friday evening will be a carry-in meal. Please bring a dish to share. On Saturday it will be the annual Maple Grove Chili Cook-Off. Bring your best crock pot of chili or a dish to share.

Child care will be provided both Friday and Saturday evening.

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  
Jim Kirkdorffer  
Mike Overpeck  
Betty Stutsman  
Julie Yoder  
Steve Yoder

Those that have lost a spouse  
Our Youth & Children  
Andy Smith & Gavin Erb (serving our country)  
Revival Services  
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



# Pastor Dwayne Runkle

Cell Phone: 574-238-1505

Email: dwaynerunkle@gmail.com

## "Set Our Minds Above"

In the Book of Colossians, chapter 3, verses 1-4, it says this: 1 *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."* The Apostle Paul is urging us as Christians to stay centered on our identity and authority in Christ. He tells us in verse two to *"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."*

Many of you know that one of my hobbies is to hunt. I especially like to hunt whitetail deer. Turkey hunting is also fun but I don't pursue it as much as hunting deer. And my favorite weapon of choice would be with a bow and arrow although using a gun is close behind. The point is I spend time chasing the elusive whitetail. Maybe sometimes too much time. Like all hobbies we can spend a lot of time chasing them. I know before the deer season even opens I'm getting ready by scouting the woods, putting up cameras to catch a glimpse of the big one (deer). I get all my tree stands in order, making sure they are sturdy and tight. Making sure all my ropes to put my bow up are not frayed, etc. All this takes time. I must say, I am not as good as I once was in pre-scouting and doing all of the above like I

used too. But nevertheless, then and now I still put many miles on my vehicle, take time away from the office (vacation), and pretty much do whatever I can to fill my tag. That is primarily my focus especially come October and November. The real point I want to make here is, we all focus on what we love to do.

I challenge myself as I challenge you here in this Newsletter. So I ask myself the question, am I hunting for Jesus with more passion and focus than I devote to my outdoor obsessions. Do I put in the time for prayer, reading scripture, and strengthening my relationship with Him? Do I have a greater desire to please Christ through service and obedience than to chase worldly things? You can fill in the blanks. Mine as I said is hunting. The Lord has gifted us with the blessing of enjoying all these things. Again for me it is hunting, enjoying the outdoors.

I know what verse two says, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." But that doesn't mean you can't enjoy things on this earth that God has given to us to enjoy. The point again is, make sure the Lord is number one and not the things He gives us to enjoy.

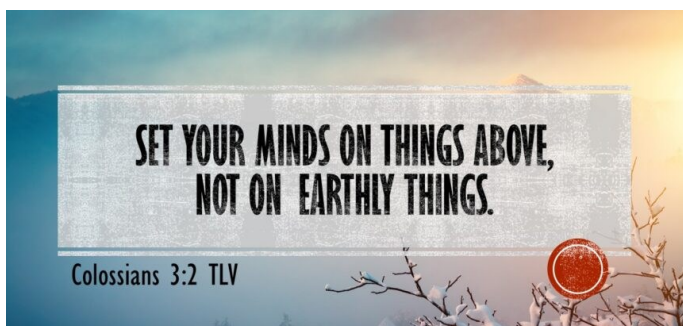
One commentary I read put it this way: "Setting their minds on things above meant "concentrating" on the eternal rather than the temporal, letting their thoughts dwell in the realm of Christ."

Paul had explained this in another letter:

*"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things"* (Phil 4:8).

Let's set our minds on Jesus and enjoy the things He's given us to enjoy!

Pastor Dwayne



## Associate Pastor Brent Berkeypile

Cell Phone: 574-529-1775

Email: bberkeypile@maplegrovechurch.net

I'm so excited to get started as associate pastor here at Maple Grove. I know many of you but I thought I would share a few more details about myself. I have been married to Erin for 20 years now and have 6 children, Grady(17), Elise (15), Bennett (12), Wesley (10), Kreed (6), and Maclain (3). I have been in education for the past 18 years as a teacher and administrator. God has blessed me over the years and has called me to ministry. To be honest I fought the calling for some time but trying to argue with God never seems to work. So I'm now walking the road of obedience and it's amazing since I've made the decision to be obedient, how God has laid out the path that is clear. Here is my cell phone number, if you need to reach me for any reason, (574) 529-1775. I would love to start meeting with members of our congregation to get to know you more and for you to get to know me and my family. My plan is to start reaching out to members here soon.

### Being Filled with the Holy Spirit



I have been studying our relationship with the Holy Spirit here recently and I wanted to share a few things with you about the Holy Spirit.

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit sometimes gets overlooked. One of the great truths of the Christian life is that **every believer receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation**. The Spirit indwells us permanently, seals us in Christ, and empowers us to live as God's children. This is a settled reality for all who are in Christ.

At the same time, Scripture makes clear that the Christian life is meant to be lived in **ongoing dependence upon the Holy Spirit**. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul commands believers, "... *be filled with the Spirit*" (NASB 1995). This command is written in a way that implies a continual, ongoing filling—not a one-time experience, but a repeated, daily reality.

Throughout the New Testament, we see believers who already knew Christ experiencing **fresh fillings of the Holy Spirit**—resulting in boldness, assurance, power for witness, and endurance in the face of difficulty. These moments were not about emotional excess, but about God supplying exactly what His people needed to glorify Christ and advance the gospel.

Church history confirms this same pattern. Spirit-filled believers are marked by **faithfulness, courage, perseverance, and effectiveness** in ministry. When God's people walk in step with the Spirit, the church is strengthened and Christ is exalted.

My prayer for Maple Grove Community Church is that we would be a people who are **rooted in Scripture, dependent on the Spirit, and bold in our witness**—not trusting in our own strength, but in the power God graciously supplies.

God Bless,  
Brent Berkeypile

## *Worship Schedule*

February 1- Assoc. Pastor Brent Berkeypile will start a 2 part series called "*The Greatest Commandment*" on this day.

February 8- Jessie Kreider will sing the song "*May I Be His Love*" as we conclude our series on "*The Greatest Commandment*".

February 15- We will hear the last message in our MGCC Portfolio series: "*Repent and Remember*" and Erin and Elise Berkeypile will sing "*Remember Me*".

February 22- Pastor Dwayne will begin our Lenten Series "*Road to the Cross*" and Leah Hershberger will sing "*Let it be a Hallelujah*".

## *Sunrise with Sweethearts*

The men will be making breakfast for the ladies on Saturday, February 7th. You can come anytime between 7:30—8:30 am. Your kids are welcome too.

## *Men's Bible in the Barn*

February's Bible in the Barn will be on the 19th at 6:30 pm in Tyler Runkle's barn. Don't forget to bring your Bible and a lawn chair and maybe your long johns. :)

## *Outreach Opportunities*

### **Fairfield Food Pantry:**

We will be collecting food for the Fairfield Food Pantry on February 1st. They are in need of **cereal, cereal, cereal**. 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 February. 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:*

Feb. 1 Lauren & Reagann Carrick

Feb. 8 Andrea & Libby Byler

Feb. 15 Crystal Dunlap & Lana Cripe

Feb. 22 Jeanie Stuckman & Marla Snider

## *Preschool Children's Church:*

Feb. 1 Crystal & Michael Dunlap

Feb. 8 Liv Cripe & Vicki Becker

Feb. 15 Leah Herschberger & Chloe Cripe

Feb. 22 Jessica & Derek Gilreath

## *Sister's In Christ*

We will meet at the church on Thursday, Feb. 5th at 6:30 pm. We will be making little Valentine treats and mini cards for your sweethearts. Any age can come to enjoy our time together making these little bits of love.

## *Evangelism Challenge*

We will be preparing a special gift for our congregation this Valentine's Day. We could use 10 volunteers to assist in the assembly of the gifts at 9 am on Saturday, February 14th at the church. Snacks will be provided. Sign up on the Welcome Center.

## *Are you feeling called by the Lord?*

If you are feeling a call to ministry, please see someone on the Ministerial Board. We would love to help you with your calling.

Ministerial Board: Wes Herschberger, Dwayne Runkle, Brent Berkeypile, Tyler Runkle, Lauren Carrick, John Kirkdorffer and Brad Morehouse

## Notes:

Maple Grove Community Church,

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

I'm not even sure how to sum up all that you have blessed my family with. Your church truly stepped beside my brother, Jerry, recently and prior with so much love and compassion. He truly loved his church family so much and loved to give of his time and food talent in return. May God bless you all as your church continues to show this community the love of Jesus!

With love, Jill Leer (Jerry Stutzman's sister)

\*\*\*\*\*

Maple Grove Community Church,

I am so blessed by you. Thank you for your wonderful Christmas gift. This blesses me greatly.

It's a thrill being part of a ministry reaching people in some of the most remote places on earth through innovative technology tools for the sake of the gospel. How awesome God is, and what a blessing you are!

With gratefulness for you,

Erica Simone (SonSet Solutions)

\*\*\*\*\*

Maple Grove,

Thank you for your generous support of the Elkhart County Jail Ministry. You are a blessing to me and this ministry.

Peace,

Cory,

Join us at our "Breakfast with the Chaplain" at the Elkhart County Jail on Feb. 24 from 8:15—9:30 am. RSVP @ 574-849-1494

## Birthday's & Anniversary's

|    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1  | Kristen Smith                    |
| 3  | Kim Wilfong                      |
| 4  | Alex Becker                      |
| 5  | Lauren Carrick                   |
| 6  | Jerry Yoder                      |
| 10 | Jake Carrick                     |
| 11 | Wayne Yoder                      |
| 17 | Tatum Runkle                     |
| 20 | Bryan Hunter                     |
| 20 | John Neff                        |
| 23 | Bianca Diamond                   |
| 25 | Wes & Janelle Herschberger, 1989 |
| 26 | Reagann Carrick                  |

## Peanut Butter Brownies

1/2 cup butter                      1/2 cup peanut butter

1 cup sugar                        2 eggs

1/2 cup brown sugar      1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup flour                        1 tsp. baking powder

1 cup oatmeal                    1 cup chocolate chips

Cream butters and sugars together with eggs. Add the rest of the ingredients. Spread into a greased cookie sheet with sides. Bake at 350 degrees until done, 25 minutes or so.

Icing:

3 cups powdered sugar      1/2 cup peanut butter

1/2 cup butter

Mix together. Add water until it's a spreading consistency.

I've heard a lot of people loving Andrea Byler's Peanut Butter Brownies, so I twisted her arm to share the recipe. Let me know if there are other recipes you'd like me to try to get.

## Looking Ahead

**March 1st**, Revival continues during worship

**March 8th**, 6:00 pm, The Maple Leaves Choir will be doing a program at Waterford Crossing. You are welcome to come and watch them as they sing.

## March Newsletter Articles

Please have your articles turned into Tonda by February 17. You may email articles to carrick@bnin.net or text them to 574-596-6657. Thanks!





# February 2026

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

Worship Greeters:

Tyler & Krista Runkle

|  |  |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>1</b><br>Two Cents Worth<br>Food Pantry Collection<br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation                    | <b>2</b><br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation | <b>3</b><br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation | <b>4</b><br>6:30 pm Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Rooted<br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation | <b>5</b><br>6:30 pm Sister's In Christ<br>@ MG<br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation | <b>6</b><br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation                                 | <b>7</b><br>7:30-8:30 am Sunrise for<br>Sweethearts Breakfast @<br>MG<br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation |
| <b>8</b><br>11:30– 1:00 Sr. High<br>Youth Super Bowl Lunch<br>Party @ MG<br>Pastor Dwayne on<br>vacation | <b>9</b>                                 | <b>10</b>                                | <b>11</b><br>6:30 pm Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Rooted<br>8:00 pm MG Board Mtg.       | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b> Valentine's Day<br>9 am Evangelism<br>Challenge @ MG<br>(Valentine gift assembly)           |
| <b>15</b><br>Keck's Small Group at<br>MG after worship   | <b>16</b>                                | <b>17</b><br>Newsletter Articles Due     | <b>18</b><br>6:30 pm Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Rooted                                | <b>19</b><br>6:30 pm Bible in the Barn<br>@ Tyler Runkle's                     | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>22</b><br>Lenten Series Starts  | <b>23</b>                                | <b>24</b>                                | <b>25</b><br>6:30 pm Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Rooted                                | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b> <b>REVIVAL</b><br>6 pm Carry-In Supper<br>7 pm Revival Service | <b>28</b> <b>REVIVAL</b><br>6 pm MG Chili Cook-Off<br>7 pm Revival Service                            |



The littles will continue their “Pirates Who Pray” series. We are learning why we pray and what we should always pray for. Our memory verse is “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” 1 John 5:14, As a challenge we are also memorizing different prayers in the Bible.

Feb. 4, David Prays for Repentance, Psalm 51

Feb. 11, Job Prays, Job 1

Feb. 18, Daniel Prays in the Lion’s Den, Daniel 6

Feb. 25, Nehemiah Prays, Nehemiah 1

Sr. High will have a Super Bowl Lunch Party on February 8th at the church from 11:30 am—1:00 pm.

The Jr. High will meet each Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

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.”