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# MAPLE SPRINGS LIFE



## From the Pastor's Desk

Volume 2025 Issue 11

November 2025

Greetings in the name of Christ!

The year 2025 has been a year of celebrations. And the celebration continues. We have celebrated our 175 year history in several ways this year. What a blessing! With special services, a wonderful Homecoming celebration, and acknowledging our long history in our United Methodist connection, we have celebrated.

# 2025

But in addition to that 175 year celebration, we also have reached another milestone this year. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year for our food pantry. Who could ever have dreamed 25 years ago, when the pantry began with a few donated grocery items to help families through a time of crisis, that we would be on track to serving over 12,000 of our neighbors this year? That is something to celebrate. While we don't celebrate the need in our community, we do celebrate that as a church we have stepped up and stepped out to meet the needs of our neighbors. Thank you to all who have made, and continue to make this possible. Please see a separate article inside this newsletter with more information about how we can all support the food pantry and our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In a bitter/sweet sort of way we celebrated with Pastor Sylvia on this past Sunday as she heads into retirement...again. I am grateful to Pastor Sylvia and the opportunity to have served alongside her these past few years. While we hate to see her go, we celebrate with



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her as she begins a new chapter in her life. She will be moving back to her hometown of Mooresville, actually living next door to her sister. Pastor Sylvia has been a wonderful blessing to our congregation and we celebrate with her. Please know that our Staff Parish Relations Committee has met early and often to address filing this role. We are confident that God will provide!

This Sunday, November 2, we will also celebrate All Saints Sunday. It, too, is a bitter/sweet time. It is a somber time as we celebrate those in our church family who have gone on to glory in the past year. We will read the names of those who have died, light a candle in their memory, and ring a chime as their names are read. Celebrations are sometimes festive, sometimes somber. But we celebrate with all the saints who “from their labors rest.”

Then, before you know it, we will be celebrating Christmas. This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 30. We celebrate the Sundays of hope, peace, joy, and love as we approach Christmas Eve. Advent is a time of preparation and a time of celebration as we begin a new liturgical church year.

Thanks be to God for the wonderful celebrations we have been a part of this year, for the wonderful things yet to come, and for the greatest gift that we celebrate in the church, our Savior, Jesus who is the Christ.

Blessings,  
Pastor Gary

Many of you have expressed your appreciation of my Sunday prayers and I am grateful that you were blessed by them. Please receive this parting prayer I offer for you:

*Gracious God,*

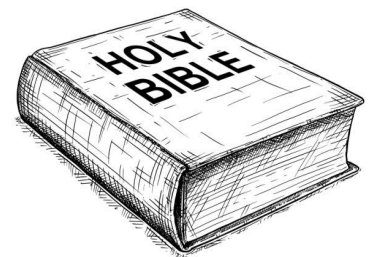
*Thank you for the people that you place in our lives at just the right time in our lives. Lord, I thank you for the people of Maple Springs and how they have enriched my life.*

*Bless the children whose laughter and exuberant joy always bring a smile to one's face. Thank you for the tweens and youth who demonstrate such an earnest desire to be "the church" and who offer their gifts so graciously. Bless the adults who have provided such a rich foundation for the church to be such a vital presence in the community. Thank you for the privilege of working alongside a staff who are so gifted and committed to leading the people in their faith journey.*

*May Maple Springs continue to be a beacon of light and a place where all are welcome at the table. For these years of shared ministry I give you thanks, O God. Amen.*

## Scripture and Sermons for November

- November 2      All Saints Sunday  
"For All the Saints" Revelation 21: 1-7  
Message by Rev. Gary Mahathey
- November 9      "Bread of Life" John 6: 22-35  
Message by Rev. Gary Mahathey
- November 16      Message by Megan Boyles
- November 23      "Rejoice the Lord Is King" John 18: 33-38  
Message by Rev. Gary Mahathey
- November 30      First Sunday of Advent  
"Setting the Stage" Matthew 24: 36-44  
Message by Rev. Gary Mahathey



It may not seem like it now, but Advent is right around the corner. We wanted to get this information about our Advent services out to you early and often. We are going to do things a little different this year. Yes, like the opening article says, things change.



Advent is the four Sundays prior to Christmas. Some years it's the four Sundays in December; it depends on how the calendar falls. This year the last Sunday of November, the 30<sup>th</sup>, is the first Sunday in Advent. Those services will be as usual, 8:45 and 11:00.

But the Sundays in December will be different! Mark it down now so it doesn't slip up on you. **All of our worship services in December will be combined at 10:00am.** Read that again...**all of our worship services in December will be combined at 10:00am.** The Sunday School hour will be at 9:00, or if your class chooses you can meet at 11:00. December 7 (besides it being a date which will live in infamy) will be in Craven Hall. December 14 will be the children's nativity in the sanctuary. This has become a beautiful tradition when the sanctuary is filled with little children as we relive the Christmas story being acted out by our children.

December 21 is the Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata. The music is more powerful with a filled sanctuary. Then, December 28, the last Sunday of the year, will be in Craven Hall. We've deliberately chosen to equally divide the Sundays into the two different worship spaces.

Advent is the beginning of the new church year. We want to begin this new year unified, as one body of Christ, worshipping together. December is also the culmination of celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> year as Maple Springs. As we have celebrated in different ways this year, let us bring things to a culmination by worshipping together.

Please make plans to join us in worship each week if at all possible. Each service will be different. When we worship together, as one body, we are in fellowship together, celebrating our life together, worshipping the living God together.



So, to recap:

- **December 7 – worship together in Craven Hall**
- **December 14 – worship together as the children present the Nativity in the Sanctuary**
- **December 21 – worship together as the Chancel Choir presents the Christmas Cantata in the Sanctuary**
- **December 28 – worship together in Craven Hall on the final Sunday of 2025**

**Again, all worship services will be at 10:00am.** Your class may plan on 9:00 Sunday School, or 11:00 if that works better for your group.

This does not mean that we are doing away with any services. Sometimes I am asked if the 11:00 service will be done away with. The answer to that is an emphatic NO! We are celebrating and worshipping together as one unified body during this special time of year.

Embrace the change! Let us worship together.

## 2025 Charge Conference



**A Charge Conference will be held on  
Tuesday, November 18  
at 7:00pm in the Cokesbury Room.**



**MAPLE SPRINGS**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE'RE CELEBRATING  
**25 YEARS**  
OF THE MAPLE SPRINGS  
FOOD PANTRY!

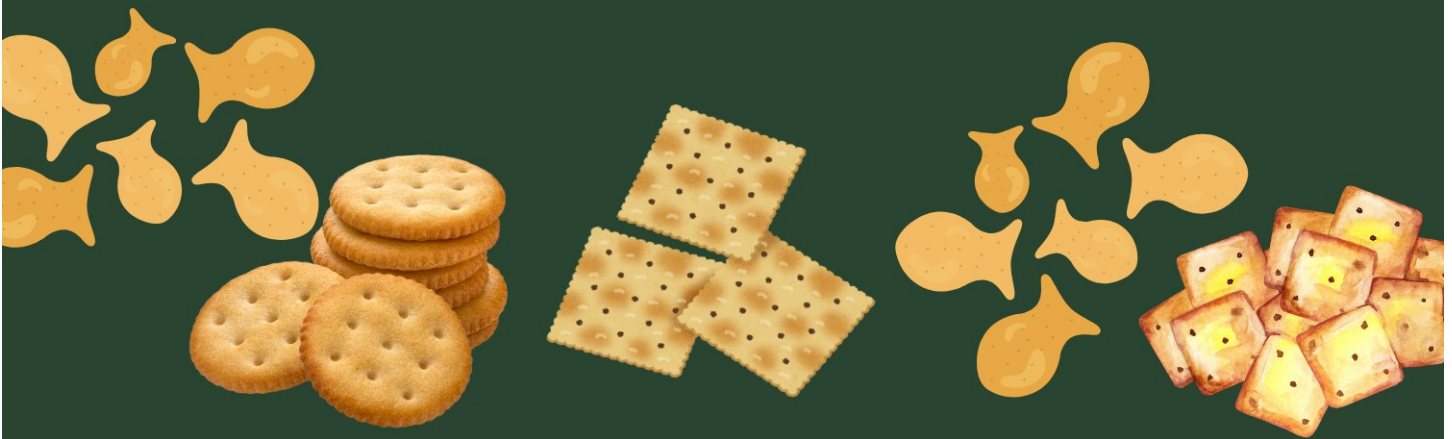


JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ON  
NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> @ 10AM

WE WILL GATHER TO CELEBRATE AND  
PACK PRODUCE BAGS FOR THE FOOD  
PANTRY! PLEASE BRING CRACKERS  
TO DONATE!

# FOOD PANTRY

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**  
**OUR FOCUS IN NOVEMBER IS **CRACKERS**- PLEASE**  
**DROP OFF IN THE LOBBY AREAS OF CRAVEN HALL**  
**OR NEXT TO THE SANCTUARY. WE ALWAYS NEED**  
**USED GROCERY BAGS AS WELL!**



**MAPLE SPRINGS  
FOOD PANTRY**  
VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE



**SCAN THE QR CODE**



foodpantry@maplesprings.org for more information



MAPLE SPRINGS  
**FOOD  
PANTRY**



## Thank You to Our Church Partners!

Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries is deeply grateful for the many churches who partner with us through volunteer service, financial contributions, and in-kind donations. Your commitment makes it possible to bring hope, spiritual care, and practical support to those who are incarcerated and rebuilding their lives. Together, we are extending grace and creating pathways for transformation across our community.

During the month of November, we will be collecting athletic crew socks for the Prison Ministry. Please place your donations in the collection bins in Craven Lobby or the side narthex of the Sanctuary. Billy Cunningham will deliver the donations to the prison residents. Thank you for your support!



## "Be the Good" T-Shirts

It's easy to look around and feel all the negatives in the world and bad news is certainly much of the news today! If we let it, life can be depressing. The Missions Committee is sponsoring a new idea to change the message out there. Let it be our mission to share some positive vibes within our community!



We're making available a new short sleeve t-shirt, a long sleeve t-shirt or a polo shirt with the church logo on the front and the following message on the back...BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Everyone in our church is welcome to order a polo shirt or a t-shirt (short or long sleeve) and they would be paid for through Missions. The shirts would be free to all but if someone wants to make a donation to the Missions dedicated account, that is certainly ok. If you would like one of these shirts, send an email with your size and which shirt you want to Bill Blackburn at [billblackburn55@gmail.com](mailto:billblackburn55@gmail.com).





### They're Up!

(Photo credit: K. Richmond)

Thanks to ongoing and diligent effort by Jennifer Kerrigan, Frank Thomas, and others working with the contractor, our solar panels are finally installed! There is still some electrical work and establishing the new meter and service agreement with Duke Energy to be completed before they are actually functioning to provide us with free electricity, but we are well on the way. We expect these last steps to be completed and the system placed into service well before the end of the year.

Thanks to all who contributed to make this vision a reality, and to provide this lasting benefit for MSUMC over the coming decades!

Margaret Miller and the Solar Committee



We on the Plants and Flowers Ministry team have learned throughout the summer that Nutsedge, a native grass, has a strong will to live – and to take over our garden! We are not going to let it! 🤨

For those who aren't familiar with Nutsedge, it is what looks like grass on steroids in the quadrant of the garden near the sidewalk in front of the three crosses. It has been alternately thriving, then pulled up, then thriving again, then pulled up or burned, and the ground covered with both clear and black plastic in an effort to suppress it. We learned through this process that fire doesn't kill it, and the clear plastic acts like a greenhouse for the Nutsedge which was going strong underneath. Not the result we were seeking! But the black plastic DID work, and that's the technique we'll be employing for the next few months to hopefully come out triumphant in the spring – with clear soil, ready for planting something, anything, besides Nutsedge. We know it really isn't doing anything presently to enhance the beauty or functionality of our new garden, but we're learning! Thanks for your patience as we do so.



And as we learn, we thought it would be nice to share some of this growing knowledge with other churches in the area. We have seen a quick and wholehearted response from the local pollinators when they were offered a place to feast, rest, shelter, and reproduce. We have learned that we can be one small part of the solution to the current worldwide biodiversity crisis by converting our small patch of lawn to native plants.

On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, we held a workshop here which included a presentation about, and time spent in, our garden. The workshop was attended by representatives from three churches in our surrounding area who are interested in doing something similar to what we



have done here at Maple Springs. We hope that, in addition to other churches learning from this process to increase pollinator habitat and thus pollinator health, *that you (the congregation) will do so as well, and then choose to plant and grow native plants at your homes!*

Thank you, God, for this opportunity for us to grow in relationship with You, with your creation, and with each other!

Sincerely,  
Kim Richmond, UMC EarthKeeper



## Join Us for Our Next Garden Workday

### Dig in the Dirt Day!

Join us in the garden between 9:00am and noon on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> for more planting. We could really use your help! We have a tree, numerous shrubs, and additional perennials and some groundcover to add to our already beautiful garden. With cooler temps ahead, they won't need as much watering and will be ready to go/grow strong in the spring. Questions? Contact Ceil Hodgin ([ceilhodgin@me.com](mailto:ceilhodgin@me.com)) or Kim Richmond ([kjrichholder@gmail.com](mailto:kjrichholder@gmail.com)).



It has happened again! As I drove away from Frakes, Kentucky on a beautiful Friday Fall Day, I felt thankful, I felt fulfilled. Over the course of the week, I saw God in action through hours of work, of fellowship, of faith, of service, of appreciation, and of love.

Beginning work in earnest on Monday morning, three teams set out to the community around Henderson Settlement. Over the course of the week, we rebuilt steps and porches, we removed vinyl siding only to discover structural damage beyond repair, delivered the hard facts to the owner, made temporary but necessary repairs, built a raised platform over a deteriorating pad so the homeowner had a place to relax, and removed a dilapidated well house replacing it with a well-constructed and well-insulated one. On our final day of work members of the team did work on the houses in which we stayed. We replaced doors, mirrors, and cleaned decks and outdoor furniture.

All the while we shared our faith and our friendship with the members of the community and each other. We connected, learned their history, were impressed with their strength, their resilience, and their gratefulness. Their spirit and their actions gave us as much as we gave them!

I am so thankful to you, Maple Springs, for making the Henderson Settlement Mission possible! Their community knows our name and recognizes our commitment to giving a helping hand to a proud, yet economically depressed area. I am also thankful to the team of 14 individuals who gave a week of their time and varied skills to make life a bit easier for our new friends. I can honestly say that in my years of association with the Maple Springs delegation, I have always been proud of the quality of work, the sincerity of heart, the relationships shared, and the dedication to Christ exhibited.

We plan to return to Henderson Settlement next fall. Reservations have been made for September 27- October 2, 2026. In the following months we will be sharing reflections and pictures of this year's trip. In 2026 will be hosting a representative of the Settlement to share more of its history and mission. We will be inviting you to join us in September! Please consider it.....you too will feel thankful and fulfilled.

Hank Sigmon

Henderson Settlement Mission Coordinator





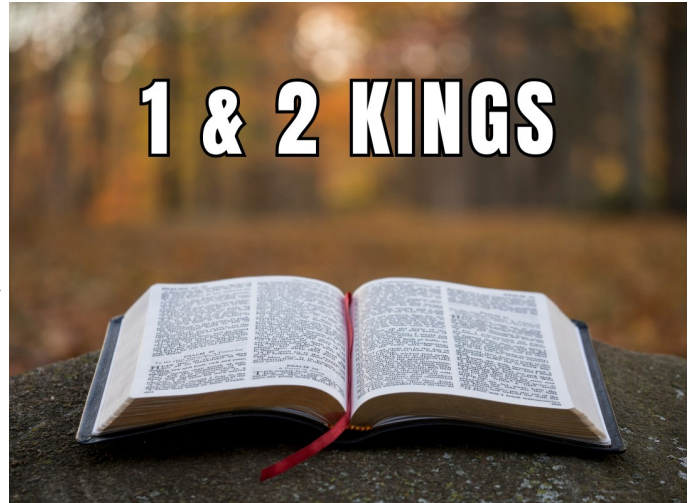
### 2025 Henderson Settlement Mission Team

(Pictured L to R) Lynn Bailey, Mark Cline, Mike Young, \_\_\_\_, Cullen Whitt, Jim Ross, Lydia Whitt, Harvey Huffman, Jeff Jackson, Chuck Kupsky, Rick Douglas, Bruce Hodgins, Joe Collins, Hank Sigmon



The Women's Bible Study group continues to study 1 and 2 Kings. We are reading Kings at home and then discussing it, chapter by chapter, in class. Our goal is to understand what each passage actually says as well as what it means. We can then ask ourselves how it applies to our own lives.

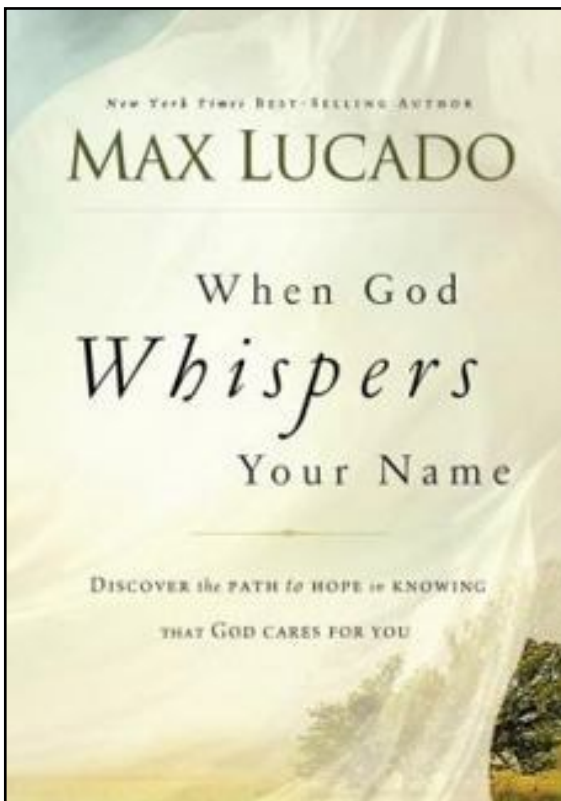
We will break for two weeks, November 18 and 25, and will resume December 2 with a new study.



**BRING YOUR BIBLE**

Join us Tuesdays at 9:30am in the Women's Bible Study Room. Please bring your Bibles! For more information contact SueEllen Thomas at [sthomasrn@hotmail.com](mailto:sthomasrn@hotmail.com).

## Pat Rothrock Circle



Are you interested in discovering the path to hope in knowing that God cares for you?

Join us in studying *When God Whispers Your Name* by Max Lucado.

Become a part of a caring group that explores scripture, prays for the expressed needs of others, and supports the mission of the church and our senior friends.

We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in the Church Parlor. Our next meeting will be on November 18.

Are you ready to hope? Is God whispering your name? Contact Pat Craver at 336-972-5809 or the church office for more information.



To register, go to this link: <https://forms.gle/D7gyJKEvN1WV8fYg9> or scan the QR code below.



Hello Maple Springs Family!

I just wanted to take a few minutes to give everyone updates on what's going on in our kitchen in Craven Hall.



We continue to make gradual updates and have gotten new covers for the dish carts, new metal rolling carts (thank you to Maple Springers), new dish towels (thank you to the Circle of Friends), and updated the baking and serving utensils as well as re-organized the storage drawers.

We appreciate all the hard work of keeping the kitchen clean after it is used but there are still some situations where food or other containers are being left out on the counters after the kitchen is used. A few concerns are as follows:

- Carts are not being wiped down and left dirty after use. They need to be cleaned and returned to their original storage place after use.
- Dirty dishes are being left in the sink for someone else to clean and put away.
- Sink is left with food or other material and not being cleaned after use.
- Please do not leave towels hanging over the counters to dry. Please put the hamper underneath the utility sink.
- Any food that is stored in the Pantry **MUST** be in a sealed container, not just a Ziplock bag. Rodents can easily chew through a plastic bag, so all opened items need to be secured.
- **REMINDER** that **FOOD** left in the refrigerator must be labeled and dated, otherwise it will be thrown out.
- The refrigerator is checked weekly and anything that has an expired date on it will be thrown away. **NO** food is to be left out on the counters after an event, without a name and date on it. If it has not been claimed or removed within a week, it also will be thrown away.

Your kitchen team is working hard to make sure the kitchen remains well functioning and in good order. If you have suggestions or wish to donate, please reach out to myself or Lynn Bailey prior to making sure we don't have more of what we need.

Blessings, D'Ann Hershel



## Family Advent Workshop

Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
10 AM- Cokesbury Room

Join your church family as we gather to prepare for the Advent season. Our hope this season is to take a 'less is more approach'. During the workshop everyone will have the opportunity to experience spiritual practices that focus our hearts on the Advent values of hope, peace, joy and love.



## Greeters for Contemporary Worship Service



## We're recruiting greeters for our 8:45 service!

Think about the first person who welcomed you to Maple Springs, don't you want to be that for someone else?

Reach out to Carlyn or Mary Taylor to join this team!





## Maple Springers

Join us for our Maple Springers Luncheon on Thursday, November 20 at 12:00pm in Craven Hall. The meal will be catered by Old Richmond Grill and will include grilled chicken breast, mashed potatoes, green beans, and a roll. The Snappy Tappers will be there to entertain us! Please call the church to RSVP at 336-722-7563 by Friday, November 14 at 12:00noon. You can also make your reservation by emailing Jill at [maplespringers@maplesprings.org](mailto:maplespringers@maplesprings.org).





A festive poster for the 'Breakfast With Santa' event. It features a red background with white snowflakes. On the left is a cartoon illustration of Santa Claus. In the center, a yellow banner reads 'BREAKFAST WITH SANTA' in green and red. Below this, it says 'SATURDAY, DEC. 6TH' and 'MAPLE SPRINGS UMC'. To the right is a green Christmas tree with yellow and red ornaments. A yellow box in the top right corner contains a QR code and the text 'USE THIS QR CODE TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!'. Another QR code is located in the bottom left corner, with the text 'SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE FOR ONE OF OUR TWO SEATING TIMES, 8:30AM OR 10 AM.' next to it.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

SATURDAY, DEC. 6TH  
MAPLE SPRINGS UMC

USE THIS QR CODE TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE FOR ONE OF OUR TWO SEATING TIMES, 8:30AM OR 10 AM.

## Christmas Caroling



A poster for the 'Christmas Caroling' event. It has a light beige background with a string of colorful Christmas lights at the top. On the left is a green holly leaf. The text 'save the date for' is in a cursive font, followed by 'Christmas Caroling' in a large, red, cursive font. Below this, it says 'DECEMBER 21ST' and '5:00 PM'. At the bottom, it says 'WE WILL MEET IN CRAVEN HALL FOR DINNER AND LEAVE ON THE BUS FOR CAROLING AT 5:45 PM!' and 'SIGN UP LINK TO COME, REACH OUT TO MARY TAYLOR OR CARLYN WITH QUESTIONS!'. There are also musical notes and another holly leaf at the bottom.

save the date for  
**Christmas Caroling**

DECEMBER 21ST  
5:00 PM

WE WILL MEET IN CRAVEN HALL FOR DINNER AND LEAVE ON THE BUS FOR CAROLING AT 5:45 PM!

SIGN UP LINK TO COME, REACH OUT TO MARY TAYLOR OR CARLYN WITH QUESTIONS!





# SIGN UP TO BE PART OF THE NATIVITY!

MAPLE SPRINGS KIDS AND TWEENS ARE  
INVITED TO BE PART OF OUR NATIVITY  
PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 14TH.

USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!



### November Sunday Mornings: (For Kids, Youth and their Parents)

**Small Group Sunday** November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Elementary, Tweens, Youth and Parents will meet in groups for a time of study.

**Church family Sunday:** November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
We will gather for our Advent Workshop. This event is open for everyone to join!

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed in the nursery to provide a safe and loving environment for our little ones during worship. If you feel called to serve, please reach out to Mary Taylor at [maryt@maplesprings.org](mailto:maryt@maplesprings.org) or go to this link: <https://signup.com/go/uinHRtS>. You can also scan the QR code below to sign up.



# MAPLE SPRINGS TWEENS NOVEMBER DATES

**2**  
NOV

## **VOLLEYBALL NIGHT IN CRAVEN**

COME FOR A FUN EVENING OF 'SILLY VOLLEYBALL' AND DEVOTION. 4-5:30PM

**9**  
NOV

## **TWEENS GO TO AIRBOUND**

MEET AT AIRBOUND AT 4PM AND GET PICKED UP AT 5:30PM. FRIENDS ARE WELCOME. COST IS \$10.

**16**  
NOV

## **ADVENT ANGEL WORKSHOP**

SEE OTHER PAGE FOR DETAILS.

**23**  
NOV

## **PAJAMA SHOPPING- 3:30PM**

WE WILL GO SHOPPING FOR PAJAMAS TO BE GIVEN OUT AT THE COZY BUNDLE EVENT. THIS IS A FAVORITE OUTING FOR TWEENS.

**Reach out to Mary Taylor or  
Carlyn with questions.**

# YOUTH NOVEMBER EVENTS

**NOV  
2** **ANGEL TREE**

**12-2PM**  
**WE WILL MEET FOR LUNCH AND  
THEN SHOP FOR GIFTS FOR  
CHILDREN INVOLVED IN BIG  
BROTHERS BIG SISTERS!**

**NOV  
9** **GORDON'S CABIN**

**12-4PM**  
**WE'LL HAVE LUNCH AND PLAY  
FALL GAMES!**

**NOV  
16** **ADVENT ANGEL**

**4 - 5:30 PM**  
**COME MAKE ADVENT GIFTS FOR  
OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS!**





# Advent Angel Gift Making

All Maple Springs Kids, Tweens and Youth will gather on Sunday, November 16th at 4PM to create their Advent Angel gifts.

This opportunity to connect our young people and senior church members is a favorite tradition!





The Adult Discipleship Council is sponsoring another “mini” Connections event this fall and during the Advent season. Most groups will have three sessions. We have a fun and inviting lineup that will offer a time to learn, connect, and grow together!

Committee members will have in-person sign-up sheets following both worship services on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. You can also visit this link [docs.google.com/forms/d/1HxJ0cBQ53Xcra0RfSdieIMyI127En9UCoPgRg-288/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HxJ0cBQ53Xcra0RfSdieIMyI127En9UCoPgRg-288/edit) or scan the QR code below to sign up.

All are WELCOME (including youth)! You can attend as many events as you would like and feel free to bring a friend! Here is a list of the groups that will be offered this season:

- Bible Study with Pastor Gary – Advent Bible Study
- Curious Christians: Methodist Social Principles
- Cookie Decorating
- Crafting a Williamsburg Christmas – Make your own Williamsburg Over-the-Door Fruit Fan
- Chicken Pie Workshop – Learn how to make a chicken pie from scratch!
- Group Hiking – Stone Mountain State Park





Reverse the words, “thanks giving,” to reshape your observance. **Develop a gratitude list.** As you make an entry, give thanks to God for that blessing in your life. Regularly reread your record of God’s bounty and find peace in it despite all the disruptions swirling around you.

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are part of our culture of relentless advertising and overconsumption, which fills our landfills. **Be thoughtful about what you buy** and from whom. Discern wants versus needs. Look for environmentally focused companies with ethical practices. Consider packaging, durability, and sustainability in the products you choose.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving celebrations, **starting with a sustainability mindset:** reusable dinnerware, cloth napkins, less meat/more plant-based foods, a plan to use leftovers, a kitchen set up to maximize composting and minimize trashing, even washable rags for cleanup instead of killing trees for paper towels. Earth will be thankful you did.

**Put your money to work for justice.** When you buy organic, you guarantee more farmers can grow healthy, safe food. When you buy fair trade, you provide living wages and fight poverty. When you bank with a community bank or credit union, you are investing locally and likely not funding fossil fuel projects. Choose justice.

In Luke 18:1-8 Jesus tells the parable of the widow and the unjust judge. The judge “who neither feared God nor had respect for people,” finally relented because of the widow’s



persistence in asking for justice. She didn't give up, and neither should we! Keep bringing injustice to planet and people to the attention of the powers that be. **Write letters, sign petitions, make calls, speak up, stand up, step up.**

The average American family uses 500 plastic snack bags annually, which are non-degradable and may contain BPA. To cut waste and keep plastics out of food and the environment, **choose eco-friendly alternatives**, including reusable silicone bags, paper sacks, bamboo boxes, and glass containers.

Microplastics are lurking in your closet. Clothes made of polyester, acrylic, nylon or other synthetics or synthetic blends shed microplastics when washed. Avoid adding to the problem by washing fewer times, handwashing, or using the gentle cycle. Purchase already washed items from thrift stores or new ones made from natural materials. **Read the labels before you buy.**

Your recycling—if it's in a plastic bag—won't be recycled. The bag will be pulled off the line and trashed because there is no time to open and empty it, and plastic bags cannot be allowed to go through because they tangle up the equipment and cause shutdowns. **Learn and follow the rules for your local recycling facility.** Give thanks for those who work there.

**Investigate [Oral Care Free Recycling Program](#) for options for disposing** of used or empty toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, toothpaste cartons, toothbrush outer packaging, and floss containers. Consider creating a drive or drop off site through your congregation.

Are you regularly in a queue to pick up a child or grandchild from school? Fluctuating temperatures can entice you to turn on the engine one day to run the air conditioner and the next to crank up some heat. Emissions from idling cars, however, send particulates into the air, which research has shown affects the cognitive performance of children. **Keep the engine off while you wait.**





Steve Anthony  
Lou Elesha  
Colleen Moon  
Denese Mathews  
Evelyn Gordon  
Mark Rose  
India Mabe  
Don Wilbur  
Bill Wise  
Jack Frye  
Lisa Johnson

*In memory of Evelyn Gordon  
for the  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
by  
Pat Rothrock Circle*

*In memory of India Mabe  
for the  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
by  
Pat Rothrock Circle*

*In memory of Lisa Johnson  
for the Food Pantry  
by  
Susan Carter-Hope  
Circle of Friends  
Lisa Fullington  
Ann Hall  
Rosemary Hege  
Nicole Martin  
Carolyn Tillotson  
Dr. & Mrs. Keith Van Zandt*

*In memory of Lisa Johnson  
by  
Larry & Susie Gordon*

*In memory of Lisa Johnson  
for the Trustee Reserves  
by  
Vance Edmonds*





*Congratulations to  
Trey and Lauren Nichols  
on the birth  
of their daughter,  
Magnolia Rybak Nichols  
on September 30, 2025!*

*Juniper is now a  
big sister!*

*Andy and Kerri Rybak  
are the proud grandparents!*

*Thank \* Heaven*  
\* FOR LITTLE GIRLS \*



MAPLE SPRINGS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rooted in CHRIST.

Growing in CHRIST.

Bearing Fruit for CHRIST.





4 Tim & Tana Wooten

6 David & Lydia Whitt

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Maverick Dohn      | 15 Hannah Wooten     |
| 3 Hanna Dohn         | 17 Hudson Setliff    |
| 4 Matt Plaster       | 18 Caroline Setliff  |
| 4 Frank Thomas       | 18 Tyler Foster      |
| 5 Chris Halt         | 18 Kwame Nkrumah     |
| 6 Nick Smith         | 19 Chris Douglas     |
| 6 Mike Young         | 19 Tracy Speas       |
| 7 Dan Cornelius      | 19 Gary Whitt        |
| 8 Avah Boyles        | 20 Mark Cline        |
| 8 Judy Mahathey      | 20 Presley McKinney  |
| 8 Betsy Jo Thompson  | 20 Steve Northrup    |
| 9 Carmen Strickland  | 20 Rachel Smith      |
| 11 Gray Tuttle       | 22 Bailey Howard Jr. |
| 12 Danny Mitchell    | 24 Avery Green       |
| 13 Jennifer Kerrigan | 30 Eva Venegas       |
| 14 Kelly Greene      |                      |
| 15 Jordan Ross       |                      |



Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please call Catherine in the church office at 336-722-7563 or email her at [catherine@maplesprings.org](mailto:catherine@maplesprings.org) and let her know.

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Web: [maplesprings.org](http://maplesprings.org)

Church Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:30am to 4:30pm

Sunday Worship Times:  
8:45am & 11:00am  
Sunday School - 9:55am

***Rooted, Growing, and  
Bearing Fruit for Christ***

**FIND US ONLINE:  
MAPLESPRINGS.ORG**

