

MAPLE SPRINGS LIFE

From the Pastor's Desk

Volume 2026 Issue 2

How can it be February already? Like me, you may still be in the Christmas/Epiphany mindset. Yet, we look at the calendar and realize that the Lenten season is nearly upon us. Ash Wednesday, which is February 18 this year, is the beginning of Lent. We will come together for a simple meal beginning at 5:30 in Craven Hall, then gather in the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service. This is always a meaningful service as we hear the words, “remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

The sign of the cross is placed on our forehead using the ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday palm branches. Haley Givens, who is Director of Wake Forest Wesley campus ministry, will be our preacher for that service. We have sought ways to build a deeper connection with Wake Forest Wesley and we are grateful for Haley's willingness and desire to lead our service that evening.

In addition to sharing a meal together prior to our Ash Wednesday worship service we will also share a meal together the evening before. On Tuesday, February 17, which is designated as Shrove Tuesday, we will have a traditional pancake supper. Make plans to join together with your Maple Springs family as we begin our journey through Lent.

Inside this issue...

From the Pastor's Desk.....	1-3
SPRC Update.....	4
For Everything There Is a Season.....	5
Letter of Appreciation and Farewell.....	6
First Sunday Breakfast.....	7
Combined Worship on March 1.....	7
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.....	8
Ash Wednesday Dinner and Service.....	8
Food Pantry.....	9
Prison Ministry Update.....	10-11
Maple Springs Missions.....	12
Watchmen of the Streets.....	13
Lenten Connect Groups.....	14-15
New Sanctuary Paraments.....	16
Women's Bible Studies.....	17
Maple Springers.....	18
Pickleball Clinic.....	18
Women On Mission.....	19
Preschool Events.....	20
MS Kids, Tweens & Youth.....	22-23
Scholarship Opportunity.....	22
Laity Training Rescheduled.....	23
UM Creation Care.....	24-25
Memorial Gifts/AltarFlowers.....	26
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	27

February 2026



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When we live our lives by the rhythm of the church year we don't just muddle through the cold days of winter, we set our sights on a time of preparation for Easter, new life, resurrection hope. We also don't just jump from Christmas to Easter without intentionality, without pausing to ponder the big questions of life. What are we doing to prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter? Are we "giving up something" for Lent, which we often hear about and maybe sometimes participate in?

Several years ago I read the words of the late Pope Francis about things from which to fast during Lent. I found them meaningful; perhaps you do as well. He said,

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

This is not an exhaustive list. There may be things you can think of which make sense in your life from which to fast.



From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

Maple Springs Life

One of our daughters was talking about fasting the other day. She said that she tried to fast and found herself feeling really grumpy. I guess the word would be “hangry.” She then said, that she realized that she needed to fast from spending so much time on social media.

Are there things in your life that you need to fast from? Lent is a time of introspection and self-awareness. May we all take seriously our journey, fast from those unhealthy places in our lives, and live a life worthy of the gospel.

Blessings,

Pastor Gary

Inclement Weather Policy Update

Please note that we will only close the church office and cancel in person worship when it unsafe to travel because of weather conditions. Your safety is our first priority. We will notify you via the Maple Springs Website, the Maple Springs Facebook Page, the Maple Springs E-Blast, and the WXII TV channel.



February Sermons & Scripture

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| • February 1 | “Follow Me” | Matthew 4: 12-23 |
| • February 8 | “Salt and Light” | Matthew 5: 13-20 |
| • February 15 | “Do Not Be Afraid” | Matthew 17: 1-9 |
| • February 22 | “If You Are the Son of God” | Matthew 4: 1-11 |

A letter was sent out January 9 to share updates to our staff as we enter 2026.

We wanted to include the same information in the newsletter to make sure our church family is aware of these changes.



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is charged with evaluating our staff and the roles they fill in relation to the needs of Maple Springs. With the retirement of Pastor Sylvia, we have taken the opportunity to work with Pastor Gary and our Lay Leadership to determine what staff structure is needed to help us achieve our hopes and dreams in the coming years.

We have already shared that we will be requesting an Associate Pastor be appointed to serve our church starting July 1. This change required that we look at all other positions and make changes so that we can fund this new Associate position, in addition to asking for an increase in our staff budget. After much careful consideration and in looking at what is best long term for Maple Springs, we made the difficult decisions to not backfill the Congregational Care for Seniors role, to eliminate the Connecting Ministries role filled by Erin Moses and to eliminate the Organist role filled by Jayson Snipes. Other staff members and lay members will continue the Connecting Ministries work and will support our seniors until the new Associate Pastor is appointed. Heather will continue to lead our Traditional Music, will play the organ as needed and have guest musicians play during the year.

We are appreciative of Erin's and Jayson's long service to Maple Springs, and we will collect a love offering for them through February. Please make contributions to the finance office, designated with their name.

Please reach out to me or any member of SPRC or Pastor Gary if you have questions about these changes.

SPRC Members for 2026

In service to Christ,

Ceil Hodgin

Chair, Staff Parish Relations

Lynn Bailey

Alyssa Clay

Clint Osborne

Stacy Crockett, Lay Leader

Michael Boyles

Allison Kelly

Sonja Ross

Pastor Gary Mahathey

Change is hard. Change can be painful, and often is. We have all experienced change in our lives and certainly in our life in the church. We are currently experiencing change at Maple Springs that has been somewhat unsettling for some. In the midst of a storm it is sometimes difficult to see the other side.

But I want to encourage all of us to look at the big picture from the standpoint of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). As a committee, chaired by Ceil Hodgin, which is charged with all staffing responsibilities, the decision was made to request an associate pastor who will be appointed this year. The addition of another clergy is a big step forward and a leap of faith. We are excited to see this come to fruition and look forward to how this impacts the church moving forward! This is part of the “visions and dreams” that we often speak of in the church. SPRC had a vision to expand pastoral leadership and the dream of adding an associate pastor. But with this addition came the difficult decision to eliminate two part time staff positions, as well as not filling the position that Pastor Sylvia had prior to her retirement.

Eliminating positions is particularly painful. From the personal standpoint I know the angst that it can cause. In 2020 I was serving as associate pastor here. The position was eliminated. I had to leave Maple Springs and was appointed to another church. Our current changes are a restructuring of staff; no one was “fired,” just like I was not “fired” in 2020. Positions were eliminated in the restructuring process.

With the change in 2020 some people expressed anger and disappointment, some were upset and disillusioned. Still, the decision was made by SPRC, which was the best decision at the time. It now makes sense to reinstate the associate pastor role so that there is more pastoral leadership for our congregation.

So, the difficult decision was made to make the changes that we are now living through. With these changes we will now be funding an associate pastor. We can move forward with the confidence that as we continue to live into being the people that God has called us to be, we will remain faithful, we will trust. When Mary Taylor had the idea to offer the wooden stars with key words to live by the other week, two of those key words were faith and trust.



As the church, we are asking you to trust the difficult and sometimes thankless work of SPRC, to have faith that we will go where God leads us. We have a bright future ahead if we continue to follow Jesus, and make disciples, which leads to the transformation of the world. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Gary

Letter of Appreciation and Farewell

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter but also with thanksgiving to God. These past 12 years have been some of the most fulfilling years of my life and ministry. Thank you for allowing me opportunities to serve with my gifts alongside yours.

Some of my favorite memories and highlights include working with the UMAR Sunday school class, participating in worship, planning and attending the women's retreat, Maple Springers, Senior Gala, Lenten and Advent connect groups, Walk With Us march, and the Grace Space development project. You have embraced me and my family as part of the Maple Springs family and the family of God. For that I am most thankful. Thank you to Pastor Gary for his shepherding, to my colleagues for showing up each day for me in the way I most needed, the Grace Space team for sharing my passion and dream of ministry with the unhoused, and most importantly the Maple Springs congregation - my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for being my circle of constant care and support. I love you always and will miss you dearly!

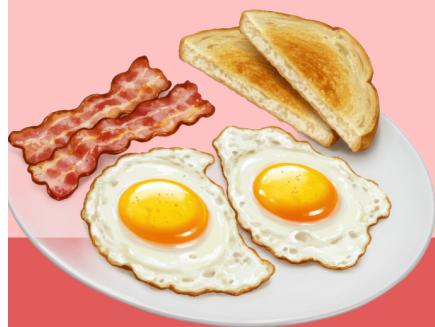


Please keep me and my family in your thoughts and prayers as we navigate next steps. You have been a gift to us and we will always hold you in our hearts. I do not like saying goodbye, so until we meet again, I thank my God every time I remember you!

In Christ's love always,

Erin

1st Sunday Breakfast



IF YOU'RE NOT CURRENTLY CONNECTED IN A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN THIS TIME OF FELLOWSHIP ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH!

JOIN US FOR A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUELING OF OUR BODIES AND SOULS.

FEBRUARY 1ST

10 AM
CRAVEN HALL

Combined Worship and March 1st Sunday Breakfast

Combined Worship

March 1st at 10 AM

Join us in the Sanctuary as our Kids, Tweens and Youth lead us in worship with a focus on hymns.

Our "First Sunday Breakfast" will be a brunch at 11AM following service. Please use this QR code to let us know you plan to stay for it!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 17th at 5:30 PM

Menu
includes:
Pancakes
Fruit
Sausage

A suggested donation of \$5
per person will go towards
summer missions for our
tweens and youth!



Ash Wednesday Dinner & Service

A decorative border for the Ash Wednesday event. It features several elements: a large wooden cross on the left; a circular emblem with a white cross in the upper right; a circular emblem with a white cross in the lower left; and a smaller wooden cross in the lower right. The background is a light beige color.

Ash Wednesday

February 18th

Join us for:
Dinner at 5:30 PM
followed by

Ash Wednesday Service
at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Haley Givens will be our guest preacher.

Sign up for
dinner here:



FOOD PANTRY

40

DAYS OF LENT



BREAD, TORTILLAS, PITA, BUNS

**MAPLE SPRINGS
FOOD PANTRY**

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE



SCAN THE QR CODE



foodpantry@maplesprings.org for more information



MAPLE SPRINGS
**FOOD
PANTRY**

Healing in Action: Women Find Hope Through “Healing the Wounded Heart”

Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry chaplains serve daily at the Forsyth County Detention Center, meeting men and women during one of the most critical and vulnerable seasons of their lives. While the jail population is often transient, there are moments when deeper healing work can take place, and lasting impact is made.

Recently, Chaplain Leah Wheeler led a women’s class titled “Healing the Wounded Heart,” a curriculum from the American Bible Society designed specifically for incarcerated individuals. Through Scripture, storytelling, and guided reflection, participants explored profound topics including pain and suffering, grief and trauma, forgiveness, taking our pain to the cross, and building resilience rooted in faith.

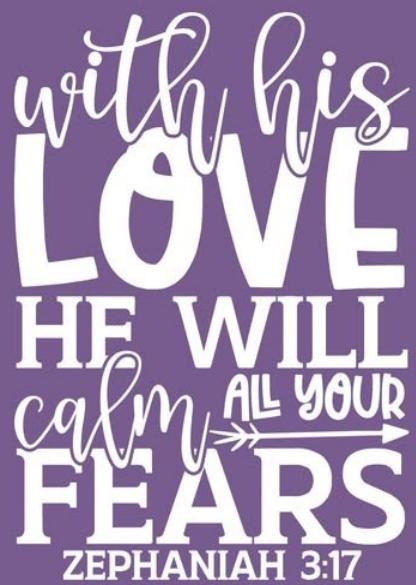
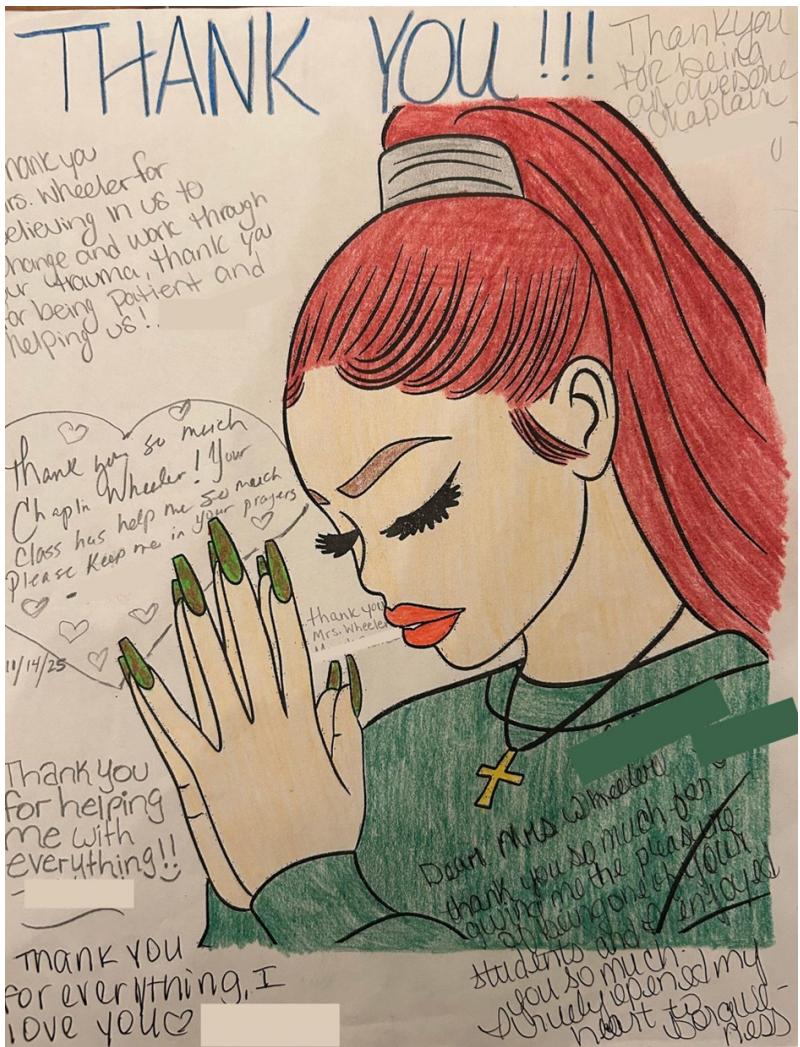
Seven women faithfully completed the class and graduated. During the certificate presentation, one participant shared a moment that deeply moved everyone present: “I’ve never had a certificate with my name on it before.”

The women expressed their gratitude to Chaplain Wheeler with the card pictured on the next page, sharing how meaningful the class was to their healing journey.

We are grateful for the faithful ministry of Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry and thankful that our church can support this important work, where God’s healing love meets people exactly where they are.

Please continue to pray for those incarcerated, the chaplains who serve them, and the healing work God is doing behind the walls.





A thank-you card for Chaplain Wheeler from participants in the 'Healing the Wounded Heart' class, expressing gratitude for healing, hope, and encouragement.

Prison Ministry February Collection Items

During the month of February, we will collect hooded sweatshirts and sweatpants for the Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry. FJPM has an URGENT need for sweatshirts and sweatpants for those inmates leaving the jail. Visit the link below to access the FJPM wish list at Amazon.com.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/O05NKIVDC87R/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Place your donations in one of the collection bins located in Craven Lobby or the Sanctuary side narthex.



Doing More for Others

Maple Springs UMC is a “Missions-Focused” Church, so how did we help others in 2025? The following are a few of the organizations or groups that we provided support for:



Our Food Pantry provided food to an average of 374 families each month or over 12,000 individuals annually. This was done with over \$49,000 in financial and physical donations and tremendous support from Second Harvest Food Bank.

Provided support throughout the year to Old Town Elementary School by hosting a book drive, a school supplies drive, and a coat drive. Over \$7,800 in donated materials.

A group of approximately 15 church members and friends went on a building mission trip to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. Building project expenses were over \$12,600.

Over 120 individuals participated in a meal packing event at the church where we packaged 15,000 meals for those starving in other countries. Rise Against Hunger leads this event each year. The food supplies were purchased at a cost of \$6,200.

Many other organizations were provided with financial support, physical donations, and countless volunteer hours. Among those organizations were WFBH Burn Unit (food and love for staff), UMAR group homes, UMCOR relief organization, the Prayer Garden, the local jail and prison ministry, Youth Mission Trips, sponsorship of two children through World Vision, and more. We also provided financial and physical support to others through Women on Mission and the Day of Service activities, as well as the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

In total, our missions impact in 2025 was over \$100,000. In 2024, it was over \$116,000 so for at least the last two years, we have essentially tithed our church budget through missions. **THANK YOU!!!**

Bill Blackburn, Missions Committee Chair

We'd like to introduce a new mission opportunity!

The Watchmen of the Streets is a small nonprofit (501c3) doing big work reaching out to homeless folks in our community, primarily providing supplies to make living outside a bit more bearable.



“Our unhoused neighbors have something akin to Amazon with this wonderful organization,” says Meisha Zahorski one of the volunteers serving with Watchmen of the Streets.

A couple of times a month, volunteers split into two groups to cover Forsyth County, cars loaded with tents, sleeping bags, cooking utensils, clothing, propane, batteries and specially “ordered” items like particular sizes of shoes, pants, etc, to suit individual needs. Each team delivers to 10-12 different locations and serve 100-120 people.

“Our goal is to show our homeless friends there are people who care about them,” says Al Burchett who with his wife Bonnie are the leaders of this mission. “Building relationships is very important to us, and even though the living conditions are mostly horrible, the result of our visits is uplifting.”... “because our clients are so appreciative and genuinely excited to see us.”

While they fall under the umbrella of Habit Missions Ministry, Watchmen of the Streets operates its Winston-Salem outreach independently. Other than minor costs of being part of the parent charity, all donations from the local area are used for local clients.

We at Maple Springs can participate in various ways. The Missions Committee has started with a small monetary donation, but we can also choose to volunteer our time and other resources – individually or in groups. We can prepare food bags, collect toiletries for hygiene kits, shop for supplies, or get involved with the mission’s twice-monthly outings.

To learn more about the larger parent ministry, visit watchmenofthestreets.com. You may also learn about the Local Watchmen of the Streets featured in “Forsyth Family” by visiting this link: forsythfamilymagazine.com/watchmen-of-the-streets-winston-salem-building-relationships-on-hope-love

If you are interested in learning more and possibly becoming involved in this exciting opportunity to strengthen our community, please contact:

Paula Northrup — (828) 228-1668 or Lydia Whitt — (336) 978-6582

Lenten Connect Groups

Join us for Lenten Connection Groups, meeting
Sundays in March at 4:00 PM!

These **intergenerational gatherings** invite participants to choose from five different group options each week, including music, cooking, missions, art, sports and more. Each week offers a new way to connect with God and one another during the season of Lent.

**Come for one week or all—
everyone is welcome!**

Nursery
will be
available!



Lenten Connect Groups

Sundays at 4PM

March 1st options:

Pickleball with Clint Osborne and Danny Mitchell

Meet in the gym



Baking desserts for H.O.P.E with Kim Richmond

Meet in the kitchen
(15 spots available)



Guided painting with Emily Ruebel

Meet in the Children's Assembly room
(25 spots available)



Music with Jerry Chapman

Meet in the Sanctuary



Hosting Tips and Tricks with Jill Gordon

Meet in the Glass Room



What Is A Parament?

If you worshiped in the sanctuary during Advent, you probably noticed some additions to our beautiful worship space. The Advent banner above the organ (thank you, Ryan) marked the return of liturgical banners that were purchased many years ago. Draped from the pulpit under the lectern were new additions and the beginning to a series of seasonal paraments. The Advent and Christ candles were created by Gloria Hughes, a local United Methodist artist. (See her bio below.)



So, what is a parament? Like many other “church words” the origin of *parament* comes from Latin, in this case meaning to prepare or to adorn. Just as our church seasons point to specific times in the life of Jesus and the Christian church, paraments are adornments that visually prompt us to reflect upon the meaning of the season. Paraments can include banners, altar cloths, Bible bookmarks, pulpit scarves, and even pastor's stoles. They can be simple cloths in the color of the current liturgical season or may be adorned with symbols and words of the season.



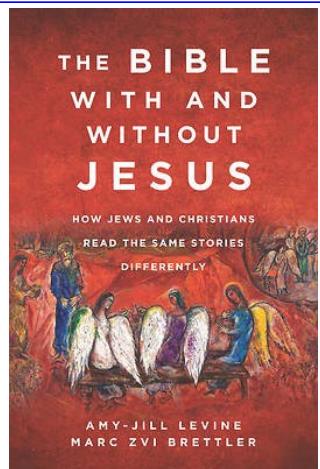
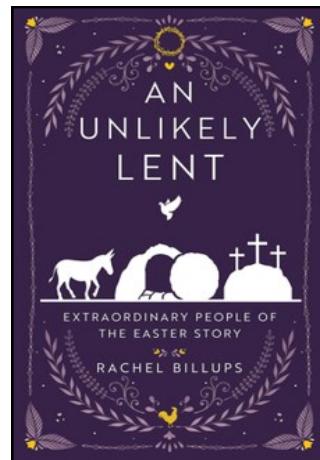
Gloria G. Hughes is a creative being who finds great joy working in a variety of mediums including fabrics, cold wax painting, watercolors as well as a saxophone player with the Salem Band and the Dash City Saxophone Quartet. Add to that her love for gardening, grandparenting, camping, and traveling. She makes her home in Winston-Salem where she and her husband Chris find great joy in spending time with their six “grand loves” and two dogs. Visit her on Facebook: **viacreativa** and Instagram: **@viacreativa.glo**

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

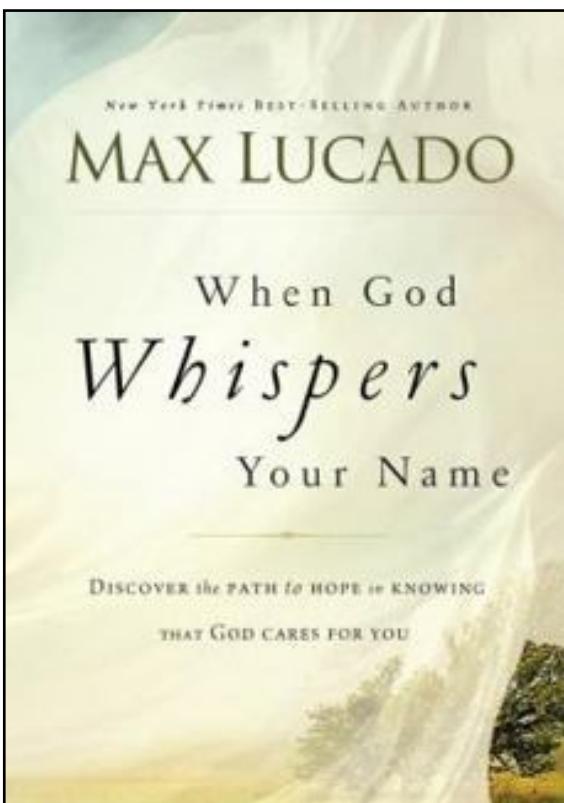
Maple Springs Life

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible study group will continue Amy-Jill Levine's study, *The Bible With and Without Jesus* through February 24. On March 3 we will begin a new study, *An Unlikely Lent - Extraordinary People of the Easter Story*. In this video study by Rachel Billups, we will look at some unlikely people who were in the crowds witnessing Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. These people didn't hold central roles, but their stories still matter.

Our class is open to all ages of women. Bring a friend! We meet Tuesdays at 9:30am in the Women's Bible Study Room. For more information contact SueEllen Thomas at 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 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in the Church Parlor. Our next meeting will be on February 17.

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

Join us for our Maple Springers Luncheon on Thursday, February 26 at 12:00pm in Craven Hall. The meal will be catered by Old Richmond Grill and will include roast beef over rice, garden salad, and a roll. Jeffrey Griffin, the “Triad Today” radio host from WSJS, will be there to lead us in Valentine Bingo. Call the church by noon on Friday, February 20 at 336-722-7563 to RSVP or email Jill Gordon at maplespringers@maplesprings.org.



Pickleball Clinic

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the US. Maple Springs enjoys a robust group of intermediate to advanced players every Thursday evening at 6:00pm.

If you are interested in giving it a try, MSUMC will have a couple of Adult Beginner Clinics in Craven hall for church members and staff. The clinic will go over the rules of play and different strokes used in play, followed by run through drills to prepare you for play.



The dates and times are Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00pm and Thursday February 12 at 4:00pm. The clinic will last about an hour and a half. Paddles and balls will be provided. You do not need to sign up, just show up for either or both dates.

If you have any questions, please contact Clint Osborne at 336-971-2394 or cosborne002@gmail.com.

Women on Mission: Galentine's

Join us on Tuesday, **February 3rd** at **6PM**
We'll gather to pack menstrual kits for UMCOR and for fellowship.
Please bring an appetizer to share!
Email **Carlyn** or **Mary Taylor** to sign up!

Join the Chancel Choir!

Music Announcement:

The Chancel Choir is seeking
additional choir members
- all experience levels are welcome.

Please join us on Wednesdays
from 7 - 8pm

*Being in the choir is more flexible (and FUN)
than you might think! Give it a try

email heather@maplesprings.org
with questions



Preschool Blessings Day

The annual day of blessing our preschool staff will be Thursday, March 5. This event is held each year to show our appreciation for everything the preschool staff does for the children and the community. Please help us celebrate the loyal, compassionate women who care for our preschool children by bringing in homemade or store bought goodies.



Place your contributions in the Craven Hall kitchen between Sunday, March 1 and Thursday, March 5 by 9:00am. Be sure to clearly label your items "For Preschool." We will arrange all the goodies in the preschool kitchen that morning. For more information, contact SueEllen Thomas at sthomasrn@hotmail.com.

Maple Springs
Kids, Tweens and Youth
will meet from 4:00 to 5:30pm each
Sunday during the month of
February.

Each group will gather for a time of
discipleship and hymns with Heather
as we prepare to lead the combined
worship service on Sunday, March 1.

February Sunday Mornings

Sunday Mornings with our Maple Springs families!

FEBRUARY 8TH: CHURCH FAMILY SUNDAY

JOIN US AS WE MAKE VALENTINE'S TO MAIL TO
CHURCH MEMBERS NOT ABLE TO JOIN US IN
PERSON

FEBRUARY 15TH: SMALL GROUP SUNDAY

AGE APPROPRIATE SMALL GROUPS WILL MEET
TO FOCUS ON THE SAME TOPIC. THERE ARE
GROUPS FOR PRESCHOOL, KIDS, TWEENS,
YOUTH AND ADULTS!

It is that time of year when students who will be enrolled in college for the 2026-2027 school year can apply for the Maple Springs Scholarship! This scholarship has been such a gift to students and their families over the past several years, and we as a church are privileged to continue the tradition.

The Maple Springs United Methodist Church College Scholarship is a fund to provide financial assistance to full and active members of Maple Springs UMC who are enrolled as a full time undergraduate student.

To apply, please send the following items to Jordanne Fletcher at jordanne31186@gmail.com.

- Please provide a personal statement that describes your involvement at Maple Springs and how your experience at Maple Springs could influence your future. Word count should be between 250-500 words.
- Documentation of volunteer hours worked throughout high school years. Include hours volunteered within church activities and with other organizations, including your school, community groups, hospitals, etc.
- Two letters of recommendation, including one from a Maple Springs United Methodist Church member who is not a staff person, a family member, or a member of the Scholarship Committee.

All applications are due by March 15, 2026. The Scholarship recipient will be announced on graduation Sunday - May 24th!

If you have any questions about the scholarship or application process, please reach out to Carlyn Sprinkle or anyone on our scholarship committee:

2026 Scholarship Committee

Lay Leader: Stacy Crockett

Youth Council Chair: Jordanne Fletcher

Children's Council Chair: Katie Robinson

Adult Discipleship Chair: Hank Sigmon

Finance Chair: Deon Strickland





Yadkin Valley District

Western North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Equip and Connect” Laity Training Event

*****RESCHEDULED*****

Sunday, February 22,
3:00 - 4:30pm at Maple Springs UMC

This is a district-wide event. We will begin promptly at 3:00 pm in Craven Hall. After a plenary session led by Rev. Dr. Chris Hughes, information sessions will happen in various classrooms.

Topics include:

- Spiritual Practices for Today (Rev. Dr. Lynne Caldwell, retired clergy)
- Children’s Ministry listening session about children in worship (Skyler Pryzgoda, Cultivate Grant Coordinator for WNCC)
- Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (Rev. Dr. Mary John Dye, retired clergy)
- Finance Committee (Eddie Foster, lay person at Ardmore UMC)
- Trustees (Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti, District Superintendent)
- Lay Leader (Sheila Warner, lay person at West End UMC & District Lay Leader)
- Church Council (Paula Stroud-Kenney, lay person at Yadkin College UMC)

Everyone is invited! Committee chairs are encouraged to attend the session pertinent to their leadership role.



United Methodist Creation Justice Tips

“‘Tis a Gift to Be Simple, ‘Tis a Gift to Be Free...”

**These 10 simple changes will ultimately free up your life
and help save Earth.**

**This month’s Tips come from a teacher of environmental science
classes for 13 years.**

Now retired, she continues to share tips, for the love of God.

Heating our water consumes much energy. **Consider these simple changes** to reduce the cost to Earth (and yourself): Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees, purchase a new Energy Star water heater, install the tank in an enclosed space, or add a water heater blanket.

Remember energy was used to produce all of the goods we consume, including food. **Simply, reduce consumption in general**, don’t waste anything, and eat lower on the food chain, and you will save energy.

Avoid animal products from factory farms. In addition to being unspeakably cruel, these farms are public health hazards and pollute the land, air, and water. **Choose pasture raised animals** and eggs from pasture raised chickens. The United Methodist Social Principles speak to this issue.

It takes only about 160 gallons of water to produce a loaf of bread, but it takes about 2,500 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. Plus, conventionally raised red meat produces 150% more greenhouse gases than chicken or fish. Simply by reducing the amount of meat that we eat, we can have a much smaller environmental impact. **Have a meatless day each week.**

If you love dairy, simply **try products made from goat's milk**, which has been shown to have smaller ecological and carbon footprints.

Ask questions and learn where your food came from and how it was produced. Simply **read the label** and avoid foods with too many ingredients, especially those you don't recognize. Ask yourself, would your grandparents recognize this product as food?

Skip the aluminum foil, plastic wrap, and baggies, and **put food into reusable containers**—preferably glass. Simply reuse what you have. When you cannot avoid packaging, choose metal or glass over plastic—and anything recyclable or compostable over items destined for the trash bin.

Get in the habit of not throwing things away or replacing them unless necessary, and fix them when broken. Check for leaks in your toilet and repair if necessary. Leaks are usually caused by worn out flapper valves and can be easily and inexpensively replaced. Replace any worn out washers in faucets to stop drips and leaks.

Be mindful of all of your water consumption and find ways to reuse your greywater if feasible. For example, use the glass of water you didn't finish, cooled cooking water, or dishwashing water for houseplants or the garden. Save water, protect watersheds, and grow a beautiful landscape. Online classes are available. Check the link.

Conserving water can be simple: Take short showers of five minutes or less. **Turn the water down in the shower** so it's not full blast. Scrape plates instead of rinsing them before they go in the dishwasher. Don't leave the water running while washing, shaving, or brushing your teeth. Turn it on and use only as needed.

*In memory of Brenda Kelly
(mother of Will Kelly)*

by

*Larry & Susie Gordon
Rodger & Betty Holley*

Altar Flowers



Altar FLOWERS update

Emily Ruebel has taken over the Altar Flower Ministry. She enjoys glorifying God each Sunday with her arrangements. Flower prices have increased, so our Altar Flower arrangement price has been adjusted. The Altar Flower price is \$75 plus tax (\$80.25). If you would like to have more flowers added to your arrangement, this can be done for an additional cost.

Payment can be made to Emily Ruebel by cash, check, or electronic payments. The 2026 Altar Flowers signup sheet is posted outside the Sacristy room near Pastor Gary's office.





february

anniversaries

3 Herb & Betty Linn



- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Helen Caines | 14 Dakota Cernak |
| 1 Billy Cunningham | 14 Emily Cornelius |
| 1 KJ McBride | 14 Valerie Osborne |
| 1 Cathy Watkins-Smith | 14 Tim Wooten |
| 2 Melanie Monk | 15 Neal Goode |
| 3 Jo Ann Angel | 18 Canton Cernak |
| 3 Cathy Plaster | 19 Grant Gordon |
| 5 Amy Croom | 20 Katherine Hartman |
| 5 Emily Ruebel | 21 Luke Kelly |
| 6 Dean Huffman | 21 Heide Stadler |
| 6 Trey Shuping | 23 Lynn Bailey |
| 7 Sonja Ross | 24 Lisa Aldhizer |
| 7 Monte Ruebel | 26 Sarah Douglas |
| 9 Maggie Lacer-Wadkins | 26 Paula Northrup |
| 13 Seraphina Bruno | 26 Donna Nelson |
| 13 Reese Kelly | 29 William Boyles |



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 and let her know.

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Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Phone: 336-722-7563
Email: info@maplesprings.org
Web: 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

Let
EVERYTHING
you do
BE DONE IN
Love

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14