

MAPLE SPRINGS LIFE

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From the Pastor's Desk

Volume 2026 Issue 3

March 2026

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Today the sky is gray. As I write this I look out and see a cloud covered sky and bare trees. It's hard to imagine that in a few short weeks we will begin to see dramatic change in the landscape. New life will emerge. There is hope! It's just around the corner.



This morning I went out to observe the two beehives that I keep in our back field. I'm not an expert beekeeper by any means, but bees are fascinating creatures. Even after the bitter cold, ice, and snow that we have experienced this winter, these little creatures held on, and the hives are showing signs of life. Standing by the hives I observed the bees, even early on a cloudy morning, bringing in pollen. Somewhere close by something is already blooming, even if the landscape looks rather bare. Early pollen is probably from silver maple trees I'm told. A beautiful sign of life.

We will soon see the prayer and pollinator garden at the church come back to life. It has been dormant for months now, but still there is life. It may be resting, but soon it will burst forth with new life. And soon we will celebrate new life and resurrection at Easter. Because of that there is hope. Signs of new life will be all around us, but our hope is new life in Jesus.



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But until then we are on a Lenten journey. Lent is that time when we intentionally become more introspective. We are encouraged to take seriously what it means to pray the psalms with David, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." We are encouraged to "give up something," to fast, to be intentional about our sacrifice. And we are encouraged to create new, healthy habits. What might that look like for you?

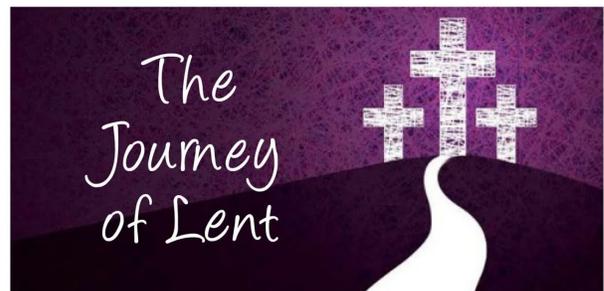
In the body of this newsletter is a beautiful word from our bishop about the Lenten journey. It may be a little lengthy, so I'll keep my opening comments shorter than usual, but it's worth your time to read it.

As you journey through Lent this season I want to encourage you to join us for worship each week you are in town if you can. Certainly I'm aware that not everyone can join us for in person worship. But join us online! Perhaps one of your Lenten disciplines is to spend time in scripture every day and be in worship each week. This is meant to be freeing, not restrictive. Perhaps a Lenten discipline is supporting Maple Springs with your financial gifts. Thank you to everyone who supports the church. We could not do what we do without you!

Whatever your discipline we can experience that holy habits are life changing and transformative. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Gary



- March 1 **Combined Service at 10:00am in the Sanctuary**
featuring our Maple Springs Kids, Tweens, and Youth
- March 8 “Never Thirst Again” John 4: 5-30
- March 15 “How Were Your Eyes Opened?” John 9: 1-12
- March 22 “Living Life Unbound” John 11: 1-45
- March 29 “Who Is This?” Matthew 21: 1-11

March 1st Combined Worship Service



Combined Worship

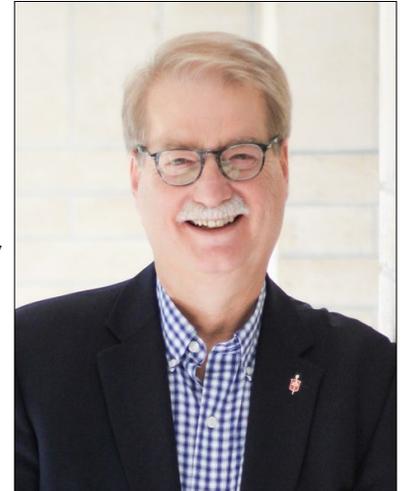
March 1st at 10 AM

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!



The following is a meditation by Bishop Ken Carter, the bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference. These are meaningful words to meditate on as we journey through Lent.



Lent can be understood in many ways. I want to invite you to a way of life, a spiritual practice. Lent invites us to change our behaviors, our movements. Lent is an invitation to...

Return to God with all your heart...God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2)

Lent is an invitation to draw closer to God, to invest in our spiritual lives. On balance we are often more engaged in the active life—we serve others, we want to improve our communities, we protest injustice, we develop programs, we accomplish goals. All of this is essential. As I have often noted, United Methodists across Western North Carolina are often the people who hold communities and families together, who do the heavy social lifting that is sustaining. This is the call to discipleship. And, this can come at a cost. We can lose touch with our motivations (*why are we doing these good works?*), we can become obsessed with recognition (*why am I not being noticed?*) and we can become discouraged (*why are things not getting better by now?*).

Lent is an interruption in all of this, an intervention.

Take care not to perform righteous deeds so that others will see them. When you give, when you pray, when you fast, don't blow the trumpet, but do it in secret, and then only God will know. (Matthew 6)

The fasting in Lent may be about food, but with eating disorders and diabetes this can be complicated for many. The fasting may be about setting something aside. In the spiritual life these are called attachments. We become attached to experiences, to goals, even to people in ways large and small. All of this can become destructive for us.

Lent is a season of detachment. Detachment is a path to freedom. We let go of something in order to create space for something better. Perhaps we let go of some activity in order to spend seven minutes a day with God, in silence. We do this for the sole purpose of spending time with *Someone* who loves us.

In the busyness, in the noise, we can lose touch with this. Lent invites us to a deeper awareness of God, a closer attention to God, a greater consciousness of God. This will not happen because of something we begin to think about or believe. It will come through practice, every day, for forty days. Waking up a little earlier, slowing down at night. With intentionality we come into the presence of God; we may feel that presence, we may not. That is not the point.

The practice is to return.

Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46)

And in the returning, in the stillness, we are being changed.

I am often in conversations about change. A local church recognizes that it needs to change or it will face a crisis in a few years. Citizens understand the need for social change, not being silent in the face of injustice. A visit to a physician confirms the indicators that something needs to change in order to be healthy.

Or perhaps we feel stuck in some ways, or overwhelmed, or discouraged, or anxious.

Lent is a way into and through all of this. In the spiritual life we do not avoid the hard things, we lean into them. And in the spiritual life we often recognize our need for grace, a higher power, Jesus.

Forty days of listening for this can create new habits, can remove detachments, can connect us to God and to each other. And it can give us a new strength and a renewed energy to be there for others. →

The Sixth chapter of Matthew begins with the traditional gospel reading for Ash Wednesday (verses 1-6, 16-21) and then flows into the Lord's Prayer (verses 9-13), and then concludes with the teaching of Jesus that is known to many of us (verses 25ff.):

Do not be anxious about your life

Look at the birds of the air, consider the lilies of the field

Do not worry about what you will eat or drink or wear

Your Heavenly Father knows that you need these things.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness

And all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6)

I love the translation of this passage by Eugene Peterson (*The Message*)

What I am trying to get you to do here is relax,

to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving.

Give your attention to what God is doing right now,

and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow.

In The United Methodist Church we can become overly focused on legislation and structure, initiatives and programs. I have been a part of this. It can be worthy work. I also recognize the *shadow* side of all of this. Good people, sometimes fewer good people, are trying to do more and more, when the human needs are increasing. This can lead to frustration, demoralization, anxiety and even burnout.

Lent is an interruption, an intervention, a gift. It is an invitation to live in the kingdom of heaven, here on earth. Many of us pray for this each Sunday. And it could be that to live in this different way requires an intention, a method.

What might that look like for you in the next forty days?

(Note: Choosing one or at the most two of these would represent a significant change.)



- You might spend seven minutes of silence at the beginning of each day. And in the silence you might focus on one word or phrase from scripture.
- You might fast from technology one day each week, perhaps from nine in the morning until five in the afternoon.
- You might journal about who God is to you, at this stage in your life.
- You might meet once a month with a friend, someone with whom you are accountable and supportive.
- You might read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) slowly.
- You might eat more vegetarian meals.
- You might explore an area in your life that calls for repentance, begin to name that, and make a financial contribution to a ministry or cause that works in that same area.
- You might go to bed one hour earlier each night.

There are echoes in Matthew 6 of another of my favorite chapters in the Bible, Exodus 16. God's people have been liberated from slavery, they are on the way to the promised land, but they find themselves in the wilderness. There they learn to place their trust only in God. There they learn the lesson that God provides. There they are taught to observe the sabbath. And there they learn to live one day at a time.

May we learn the lessons of Matthew 6 and Exodus 16 over these next 40 days. I am wishing for all of us a meaningful, holy and contemplative Lent. I am praying for change. **In returning to the Lord and in rest we will be saved (Isaiah 30).**

Bishop +Ken Carter
Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church



During the weeks before Christmas we celebrate the anticipation of the coming of the Christ child. We light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, all in preparation for the beginning of Christ's life on earth. All this culminates on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve, when we light the Christ candle itself. It represents the light of Jesus Christ shining in the world, living in our midst, coming forth to save us, inviting us to its warmth. That is a joyous season.

Now we are in another season, the season of Lent.

Lent is the 40 days before Easter. It is, in some ways, the opposite of Advent. It is a sober season, a somber season. It is the time of preparation for the coming of Christ's Passion Week, which we typically call Holy Week.

During Lent we tune into the dark days that ended in Christ's crucifixion. They were days of rejection and suffering, conflict and betrayal. During Holy Week, either on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, the Christ candle is extinguished, symbolizing the crucifixion.

That light will be rekindled and lit again in each of us, at the resurrection. But in these coming weeks, let us tune into the dark days of Lent.

Note also the paraments in the sanctuary. The February newsletter noted a return of liturgical paraments, beginning with our church "new year" of Advent. By the time you read this, we will be into the season of Lent.

Gloria Hughes has once again created a beautiful parament. This pulpit scarf represents the inward journey Christians take as we walk with Jesus on His way to the cross. In Gloria's words, "we begin the journey of Lent in the comfort of all that feels good, comfortable, and lush. As we journey further into Lent, things begin to shift and we begin to release all the comforts and head towards the stark unknown." Present in liturgical art (a range of expressions, including paraments), is rich symbolism. In addition to the road and multiple colors, Gloria says that the colors of the robes reflect different emotions and there is also an acknowledgment that the Light is with us every step of the journey.

Come, take a closer look! Where might you be on the road?



A photo of our new Lenten Pulpit Scarf, created by Gloria Hughes.

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

March 8th Options:

 **Basketball with Drew, Danny and Allan**
Meet in the gym

 **Making Chicken Pies**
with **Pat Craver and Betty Holley**
Meet in the Kitchen
(20 spots available)

 **Learning about Coffee Roasting**
with **Chase Boyles**
Meet on the playground

 **Hymns with Heather Schenck**
Meet in the Sanctuary

 **Curious Christians with Hank Sigmon**
A look at Civil Disobedience, Bullying and
Other Forms of Violence
Meet in the Cokesbury Room

Check the Sunday bulletin and the
Wednesday E-Blast for the Connect Group offerings
for March 15, 22, and 29!



In an effort to keep the congregation informed of the monthly finances we are including a simple graphic to show our expense and income as it relates to budget.

The 2026 budget is \$852,207.00 or \$71,000.00 monthly. We also included for comparison the expense and income for the previous year.



Thank you for your continued support, your tithes and gifts. We could not do what we do without your financial support.

	2025		2026	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
Jan	52,152.91	66,690.85	68,456.47	69,533.87
Total	52,152.91	66,690.85	68,456.47	69,533.87
Budget		798,807.00		852,207.00

Additional Pickleball Clinics and Open Court Play

If you are interested in giving Pickleball a try, MSUMC has scheduled 2 more Adult Beginner Clinics in Craven Hall for church members and staff. The clinics will go over the rules of play and different strokes used in play, followed by run through drills to prepare you for play.

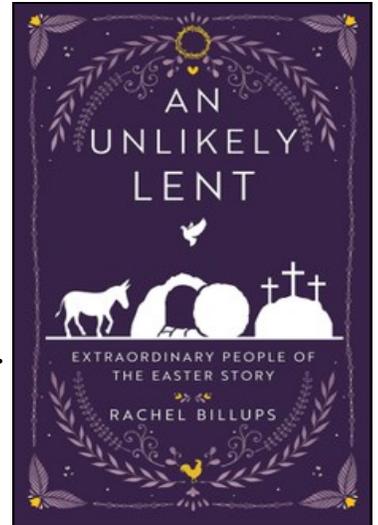


The dates are Monday, March 2 and Monday, April 6 from 6:00-7:30pm. The clinics will last about an hour and a half. Paddles and balls will be provided. You do not need to sign up, just show up for either or both dates. One court will be used for the clinic and the other two courts will be for open play. If you have any questions, please contact Clint Osborne at 336-971-2394 or cosborne002@gmail.com.

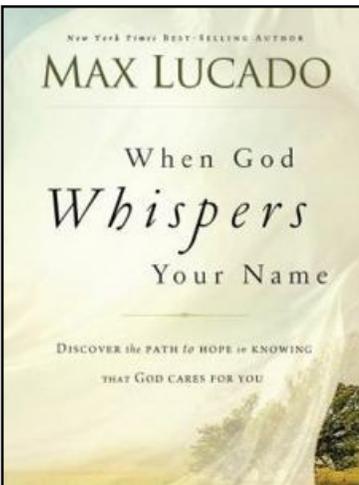
Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Maple Springs Life

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible study class will begin *An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story* by Rachel Billups on March 3. The story of Easter is centered on the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, but what about those in the crowd watching, grieving, and wondering? In this 6-week video series, we will take a close look at these unlikely people in the shadows, but whose stories may teach us something today. Join us at 9:30am in the Women's Bible Study Room. All ages are welcome! Attend one or all sessions as your schedule allows. 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 March 17. Contact Pat Craver at 336-972-5809 or the church office for more information.

Maple Springers

Join us for our Maple Springers Luncheon on Thursday, March 26 at 12:00pm in Craven Hall. The meal will be catered by Old Richmond Grill and will include assorted sandwiches (ham and cheese, turkey, pimento cheese, or chicken salad on croissant) with deli salads and dessert. Sandy Bowen from Haven Lane Senior Solutions will present the program. Call the church by noon on Friday, March 20 at 336-722-7563 to RSVP or email Jill Gordon at maplespringers@maplesprings.org.



What is a Henderson Settlement mission?

It is meeting people where they are with what they need. It's sharing your gifts with others. It's fixing fences, building and repairing houses. It's soaking in the quiet beauty of the land and the people of Frakes, Kentucky.

It is time to begin planning Maple Springs Mission trip for 2026. Our reservation is made. We travel to Frakes for a wonderful week of sharing our faith, our compassion, and our skills with a proud yet impoverished community. **The 2026 dates are September 27- October 2.**

What role can you play?

You can volunteer in the Food Pantry, the Thrift Store, or the Library. You could tutor students. You could participate in the garden ministries. You could repair homes, handicap ramps, decks, or storage buildings. In all of these opportunities and more, you will be sharing you love and compassion with a community in need. Understand that all are welcome, all of us have gifts that will make a difference, all of our team leaves Henderson blessed because of the experience.

Our initial team organizational meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26 at 6:30pm in the Cokesbury Room. This meeting will be informational, with many details regarding our trip. Accommodations have been reserved for two houses located on the campus with an occupancy capacity of 32. It would be wonderful if Maple Springs could fill them up!

Want to know more?

Talk to previous team members. Ask any questions of me. Put March 26 on your calendar. I hope to see you there.

Hank Sigmon

hank.sigmon@gmail.com (919) 612-7033

Henderson Settlement Coordinator



FOOD PANTRY

40



DAYS OF LENT

BREAD, TORTILLAS, PITA, BUNS

We encourage you to bring 40 items for the pantry throughout Lent

Prison Ministry

During the month of March, we will continue to 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. Place your donations in one of the collection bins located in Craven Lobby or the Sanctuary side narthex. Thank you for your support of the Prison Ministry!



bishop's climate summit:

for such a time as this...



april 18, 2026 9a-4p

maple springs umc, winston-salem



registration now open

(special discounts for groups of 5 or more)

It's happening here at Maple Springs and you're invited to attend!

Bishop Ken Carter and your conference Creation Care Ministry team are partnering to bring you this conference-wide all-day in-person event on Saturday, April 18th – open to clergy, staff, and laity alike. ***Read more here and register now to save your spot!***

<https://www.wnccumc.org/bishopsclimatesummit>

From Bishop Carter:

"The Bishop's Climate Summit is an invitation for us to follow Jesus in a warming world. This is not about politics. It is about the praise of God and our stewardship of God's good creation, for ourselves and our descendants. Together, we will learn how to care for God's gifts and protect those most vulnerable to the harm we now see across our communities and our state. I hope you will join me for this important day of worship, learning, and faithful action."

"Caring for God's creation is central to our Christian witness. I invite you to join me at the Bishop's Climate Summit as we seek faithful, practical ways to respond to the challenges of a warming world."

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.

Resident Bishop Western North Carolina Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Pre-Summit Webinars

View the Recordings and Register Today for the March 12th Webinar!

To prepare for this gathering, you are invited to attend the final of three 60-minute webinars and to watch the recordings of the first two webinars if you missed them. Each session helps build a clear understanding of the interconnectedness of God's creation and how climate shifts are affecting the people and places we love. This shared foundation will equip us to consider faithful, neighbor-loving responses in our churches.

[Learn more about the Pre-Summit Webinars here.](#)

The second webinar featured our own Dr. Margaret Miller: the recording will be posted at this location soon if it's not already there. Margaret blesses us not only with her extensive knowledge and expertise in ocean ecology, but also does an amazing job of relating our faith to God's call to care for the oceans and the rest of creation. Thank you, Margaret!

Recycling Ministry

Recycling has become an accepted way of life here at Maple Springs UMC. We keep it economical by having volunteers who empty a specific bin once per week and take the items home to recycle with their own items. It is time to make sure that ALL of our bin locations are being covered so that recyclable items don't overflow and become unsightly and thus get carried out with the trash.

ARE YOU CURRENTLY COVERING A BIN LOCATION? If so, which one?

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER FOR A BIN LOCATION?

Please email Kim Richmond at kjrichholder@gmail.com with your info or interest. Thanks!



The Church Council approved a recommendation by the Creation Care Committee (CCC) to participate in the Green Church Initiative (GCI), which is a covenant congregation program of our Western North Carolina Annual Conference. The GCI program empowers a local church to live out its faith, given the Biblical mandate to care for and be good stewards of all that God has so lovingly created. Participation in this initiative will be an important step in implementing one of three vision points shared with the Council by the CCC in early 2025, which is to have Creation Care as an *integral aspect of everything the church does*.



The GCI is a planning tool for Creation Care-related actions that span the life of the church (i.e. Worship, Discipleship, Missions, Stewardship, Evangelism), providing a structure to help us to strive and deepen our stewardship. Many actions that have already been taken here at Maple Springs will go towards qualifying us to receive the conference’s “Green Church Award” that will provide recognition at Annual Conference. The GCI also suggests a range of additional covenant actions that we can take in the coming year to advance our status and further live into our vision for our church. YOU can have a look at the list [here](#) and make suggestions (to miller.margaretw@gmail.com) for actions that you think are a good fit for our church.

We hope that you will join our CCC and our church leadership in living into this vision of expanding care for creation at Maple Springs!

Margaret Miller
Creation Care Ministry Chair



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.



Tag Sale & Bake Sale

Do you have a closet or closets that are overflowing with items that you don't use anymore? Is your garage so full of stuff you can't park your car(s) in it? Are there so many boxes in the basement you barely can walk through it? Sounds like we all need to have a good old fashioned spring cleaning and purging!



On Saturday May 2, we will have a church-wide combined tag sale and bake sale. We will accept gently used clothing, (no tears, rips, or stains), household items, and furniture. More details will be shared as we get closer to the date but in the meantime start cleaning out those closets!!!!

For more information, contact Lynn Bailey at rlbailey58@att.net or 336-817-2492.

Preschool Praise & Play

Saturday, March 7- 10am
Maple Springs Playground

‘Pop into Spring Break’ with us for a morning of bubbles, playground fun, and joyful praise!

Open to all preschool
age kids and their families.

Easter Egg Hunt

JOIN US FOR A

Easter
Egg
Hunt

Kids of all ages are invited to join us on the Playground for our Easter Egg Hunt. Following the Egg Hunt, families will be invited to make a resurrection garden to take home with them.

Saturday, April 4th | 10 AM



Sunday Mornings with our Maple Springs families!

MARCH 15TH: CHURCH FAMILY SUNDAY
JOIN US TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYER STATIONS!

MARCH 22ND: 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!



Easter Experience for Youth & Tweens



OUR **YOUTH AND TWEENS**
will join with other
local churches
for an Easter experience
involving breaking
bread together, spiritual formation
and serving others.
Sign up with Carlyn by March 29th!

*good
friday*

Good Friday,
April 3, 2026
9:00am - 1:30pm



Sherwood Forest UMC
5250 Silas Creek Pkwy
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

SPRING YOUTH RETREAT

MARCH 20TH 5:30 PM - 21ST 6 PM

AT MAPLE SPRINGS UMC

\$70



WORSHIP

GAMES

HIGH ROPES COURSE AT  CROSSNORE
communities for children

SERVICE PROJECTS WITH  SPARK

Join us for a local retreat weekend, we'll be with multiple UMC youth group and Wake Forest Wesley Foundation.
Sign up by March 1st!

March Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation Schedule 6PM on the following dates:



March 1st

March 15th

March 29th



MAPLE SPRINGS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rooted in CHRIST.

Growing in CHRIST.

Bearing Fruit for CHRIST.

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





United Methodist
**Creation
Justice
Tips**

March

***holds us in the clutches of winter
while spring beckons us to what's new—
including ways of living
our covenant as stewards of creation.
Move to a new level of appreciation of
and care for Earth.***

Plan for April's Earth Day/Month. Consider visiting local environmental centers or setting up a resource fair with handouts, seedlings, samples, and crafts such as making seed balls or mobiles from nature items. Look for a service-to-Earth project, such as trail or invasives clearing. Hold an outside worship service with liturgy on the theme of Creation Care.

Dispose of worn-out, stained, torn clothes and fabric scraps with Earth in mind. Send them to [ReTold Recycling](#). As of 2025 this repurposing company has diverted 312 tons from landfills, the equivalent of saving 4.4 million liters of water, preventing 980,805 pounds of coal burning, and removing emissions from 206 gas-powered cars for a year.

Connect the dots. Climate change is affecting food prices. Super storms, drought, floods, extreme heat—all mess with food production and our budgets. Food cost is the second biggest way climate change is impacting people globally. Climate change is real.

Be a bee saver. One in three bee species is facing risk of extinction largely because of neonicotinoid pesticides in lawn care products such as Round Up. First, do no harm: boycott those products and their suppliers (Amazon and Home Depot). Second, do good: plant gardens or patches that offer pollinator blooms early spring through autumn.

Use your influence at work. At your place of employment—in your office, on your work team—invite others to join you in doing something for the environment. Could they agree to avoid single-use plastics? Recycle paper? Reuse rather than trash? Compost lunch food scraps? Even one action by a group is powerful! Publicize your efforts for more impact.

Read more. A book club could read *Saving Us*, by Katherine Hayhoe, or *Stewards of Eden*, by Sandra Richter, for starters. As part of the discussion, encourage people to talk about what they are doing and bring their questions.

Watch for connections to faith. As a Sunday school class, choose a speaker, film, or panel to discuss sustainability, the connection of climate change to environmental justice, and actions individuals, families, and the church can take.

Wait before you buy. Sorting out wants from needs takes time. Give yourself a deadline of 48 hours, a week or two, perhaps a month to reflect then decide to buy or not. Avoid mindless consumerism.

Update your laundry practices. More earth-friendly options are available, including powders in tablet form, liquids in non-plastic pods, refills, wool dryer balls, clothes pins for hanging up laundry to dry. Avoid plastic bottles, save emissions from transport and from dryers, save water. Check out blueland.com and ecoroots.com.

Spread the ban. Banning single-use bottles and bags prevents millions of tons of plastic from entering the waste stream, forces companies to innovate, and helps shift consumers' mindset as people recognize the dangers. Contact your employer, city council, and state lawmakers to say, "No more!" Make it official.



*In honor of
Heather Schenck & Jayson Snipes
for the Charles Wesley Music Fund
by
Steven & Ann Tucker*

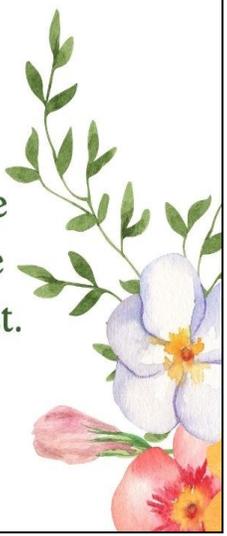
Altar Flowers



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.





- 7 Josh & Maggie Lacer-Wadkins
- 16 Henry & Alyssa Clay
- 24 Rick & Chris Douglas
- 24 Monte & Emily Ruebel

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Chase Boyles | 15 Jenny Blackburn |
| 1 Grant Spencer | 15 Georgia Chapman |
| 2 Carol Ashley | 17 Trish Anthony |
| 3 Cullen Whitt | 18 Betty Holley |
| 4 Rosalyn Tart | 18 Chris Venable |
| 4 Carolyn Tillotson | 20 Larry Gordon |
| 5 Ellen Young | 22 Cindy Hall |
| 7 Bob Henning Jr. | 22 Lauren Nichols |
| 8 Ann Hall | 23 Pat Stone |
| 9 Pat Hughes | 25 Kathy Sigmon |
| 9 David Whitt | 27 Lisa Tillman |
| 10 Matt Chapman | 28 Larsen Osborne |
| 11 Jordanne Fletcher | 28 Mike Stone |
| 11 Chris Pfaff | 29 Jessica Lewis-Sapp |
| 13 Jack Douglas | 29 Auden Ruebel |
| 14 Gwen Huffman | 30 Marjorie Waser |



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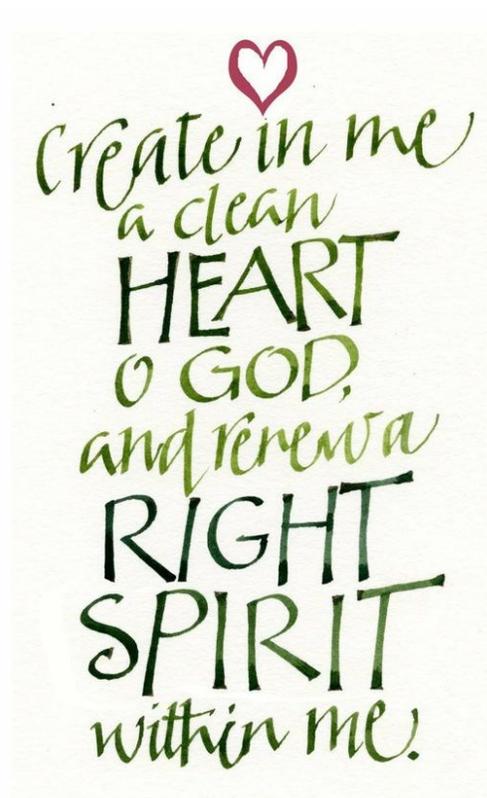
Phone: 336-722-7563
Email: info@maplesprings.org
Web: maplesprings.org

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:
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Psalm 51:10