

# MAPLE SPRINGS LIFE



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## From the Pastor's Desk

Volume 2026 Issue 4

April 2026

Spring is here! New life is returning. You can literally see it and feel it in the air. That means Easter is right around the corner. For those who are wondering, Easter is determined by what I call the rhythm of life. Our lives are intertwined, connected to all of God's miraculous creation.

Easter Day is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. There is a rhythm to life and to creation and we are all knit together by the loving God of creation. God is continually redeeming us, restoring us, calling us to new life. We see that in nature, in creation, and in our lives, especially our life in the church.

This perfect redemption is realized in the resurrection of Jesus. Life overcomes death. Jesus is victorious over the grave. The tomb is empty and the cross is bare! We can sing and call out with confident hearts, "Hallelujah!"

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Before the resurrection there is suffering, crucifixion, death. In the church, for us to get a full picture of the Easter events we must experience the events of Holy Week. I know I'm repeating myself – I do so unapologetically. To experience the fullness of Easter we must experience the events of Holy Week. We can't go from celebratory Palm Sunday to celebratory Easter Sunday without experiencing the horrors of Thursday and Friday.







WORSHIP WITH US DURING  
**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday**

*8:45 AM - Contemporary Worship in Craven Hall  
11:00 AM - Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary*

**Maundy Thursday**

*6:30 PM | Craven Hall  
Join us for an interactive worship experience.*

**Good Friday**

*All Day | Outside of the Sanctuary  
Come on a walk through the Stations of the Cross  
anytime throughout the day!  
6:30 PM | Sanctuary  
Join us for a traditional Good Friday worship service.*

**Easter Sunday**

*8:45 AM - Contemporary Worship in Craven Hall  
10:00 AM Butterfly Release in the Pollinator Garden  
11:00 AM - Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary*

MAPLE SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# TENEBRAE

A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

by Heather Sorenson

APRIL 3, 2026 - 6:30PM  
SANCTUARY

Good Friday's Worship Service will be led by The Chancel Choir with Tommy Sprinkle on cello, Readings by Pastor Gary and Kirby Robinson, and a dramatic presentation by Kevin Crockett.

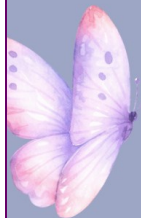
## April Sermons & Scripture

- April 5      "He Is Not Here"      Matthew 28: 1-10
- April 12     "Go Therefore and Make Disciples"      Matthew 28: 11-20
- April 19     "Celebrating Creation"      Psalm 8
- April 26     "Shepherding"      Psalm 23

# Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2nd  
6:30 PM

*Join us for an interactive worship  
experience focused on the events  
of Maundy Thursday.*



## Butterfly Release

**10:00 AM**

We're excited to gather in our Pollinator Garden for a short service and butterfly release to celebrate the resurrection together!





## Flowers for the Easter Cross

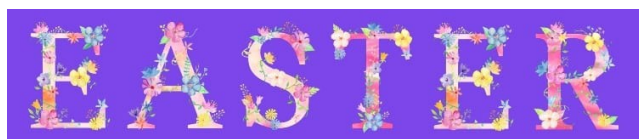
If you plan to bring flowers to add to the cross on Easter Sunday during our 8:45 service, please drop them off in the church kitchen on:  
**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, Between 10 and 11AM!**  
so that our team can prep them for Easter morning.

If you're bringing flowers on Sunday morning, please bring them already separated, cut and ready to place on the cross!

**This is for our 8:45 service only.**

### Flowers for the Easter Cross - Traditional Service

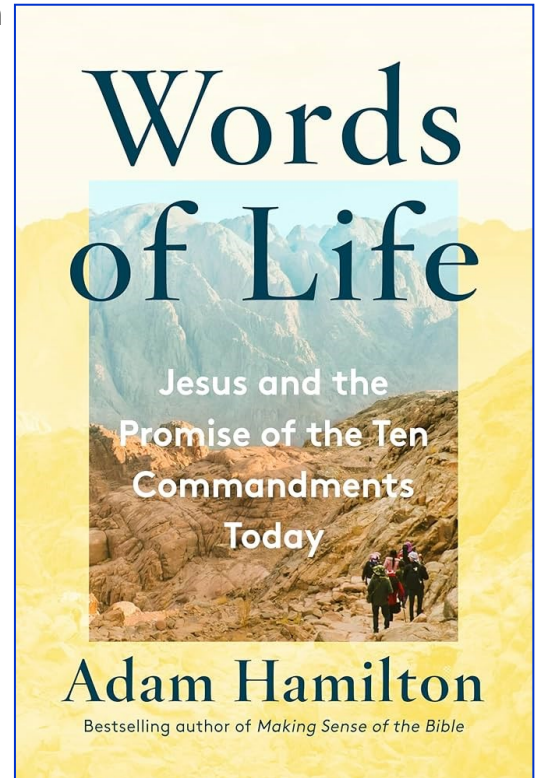
Please bring fresh flowers to decorate the cross during our 11:00am worship service on Easter Sunday, April 5. You can drop your flowers off in the side Sanctuary Narthex when you arrive for Sunday School that morning or before the worship service. Volunteers will be there to take your flowers and prepare them for the service.



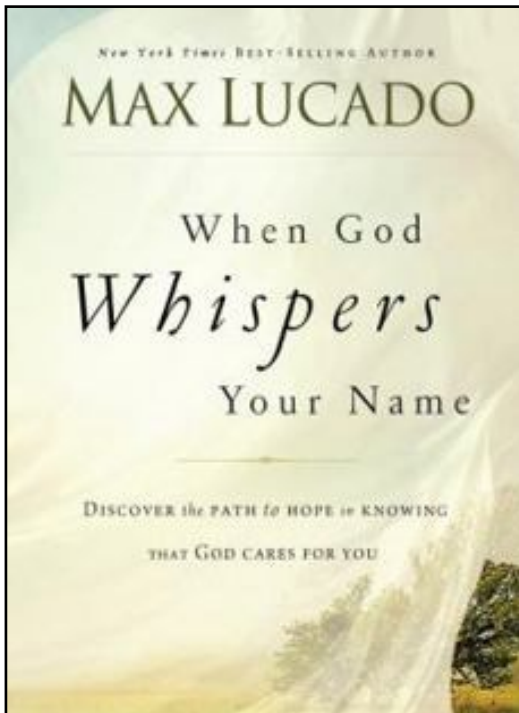
The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study group will begin Adam Hamilton's *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments* on April 14. Jesus saw the Ten Commandments not as a burden but as a guidepost to help us experience a good and beautiful life.

Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to this important set of ethics. We will see not only how Jesus reinterpreted them, but also how the latest psychological research illuminates these "shalt-nots" as a path towards gratitude, confidence, and peace in our current culture marked by materialism, social media driven envy, and workaholism.

Join us Tuesdays at 9:30 in the Women's Bible Study Room. 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 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in the Church Parlor. Our next meeting will be on April 21.

Contact Pat Craver at 336-972-5809 or the church office for more information.

Join us for our Maple Springers Luncheon on Thursday, April 23 at 12:00pm in Craven Hall. The meal will be catered by Old Richmond Grill. Julia Toone from GreeNest will present the program. We will collect queen and twin sized bedding (sheets, pillowcases, comforters, and pillows) for GreeNest. The greatest need is for twin size, especially comforters. Gently used bedding is fine, but bed pillows must be new. Call the church by noon on Friday, April 17 at 336-722-7563 to RSVP or email Jill Gordon at [maplespringers@maplesprings.org](mailto:maplespringers@maplesprings.org).



# greeNest

## Pickleball Clinic and Open Court Play

If you are interested in giving Pickleball a try, MSUMC has scheduled another Adult Beginner Clinic 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 date is Monday, April 6 at 6:00pm. 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. One court will be used for the clinic and the other two courts will be for open play.

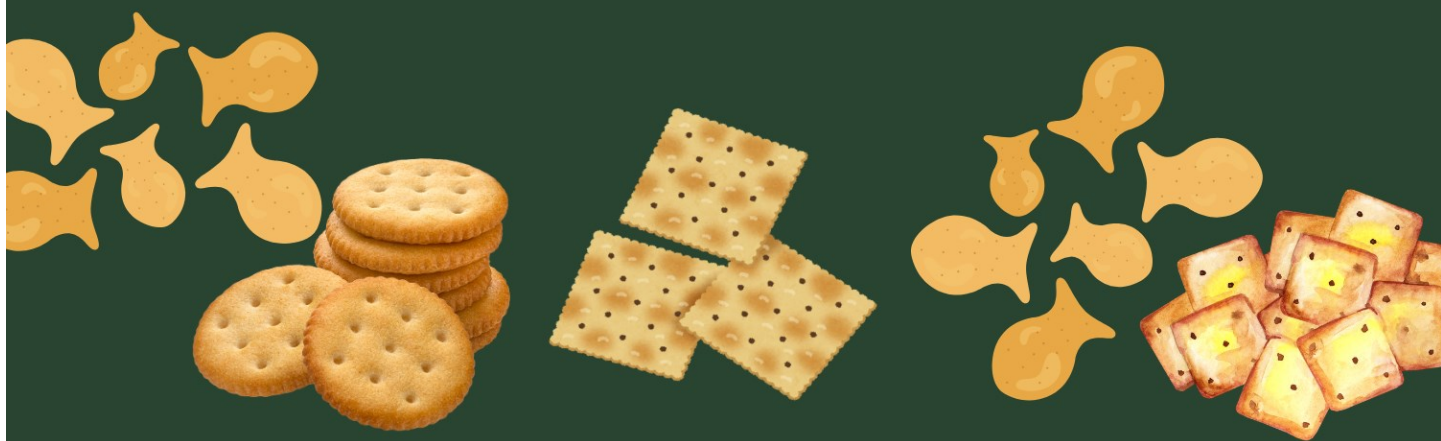
If you have any questions, please contact Clint Osborne at 336-971-2394 or [cosborne002@gmail.com](mailto:cosborne002@gmail.com).

# FOOD PANTRY

OUR FOCUS IN APRIL IS

## CRACKERS

THANK YOU FOR FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS!



### Prison Ministry

During the month of April, we will collect Dial Antibacterial Bar Soap for the Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry. 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!

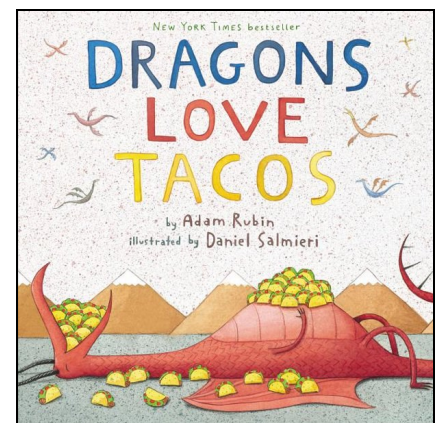
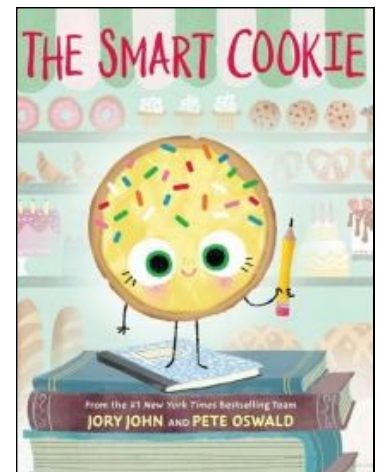
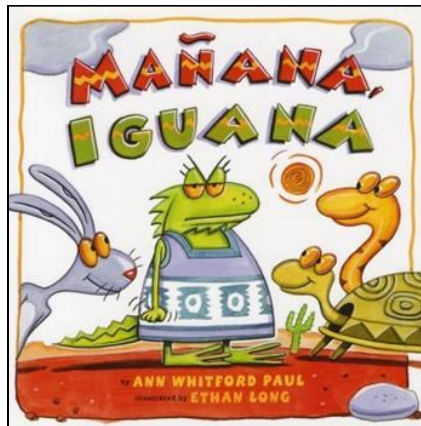
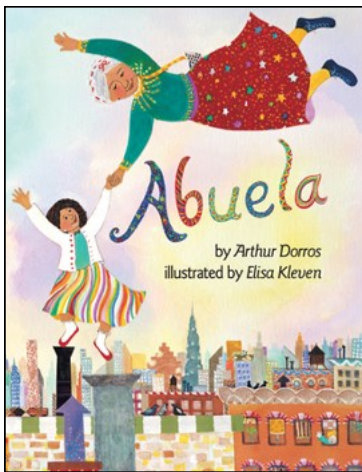


Our annual Old Town School Book Drive will run from April 1-30. We have set up an Amazon Wish List to make this easier for everyone. There are English and Spanish titles for you to choose from.



Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code below to access the book list. The books you order will be sent directly to Maple Springs. Kay and Gray Tuttle will deliver the books to the rising first grade students at Old Town before school ends in May.

Please place your book donations in the big yellow school bus in Craven Lobby or in the box in the side narthex of the Sanctuary. Our goal is to collect 280 books so that each child gets 3 new books to take home with them to read this summer. Thanks for your help!



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> – 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

# TALENT SHOW SIGN UP

**Maple Springs—**

**it's time to share**

**your talent!**



## EVENT RULES

**Open to all those wanting to share their talents!**  
**Performances are to be around 3 minutes.**  
**Participants must attend rehearsal on**  
**Thursday, April 23 at 6:30pm.**

**ALL  
ages!**

**APRIL 26**  
**4PM – CRAVEN HALL**

**INFORMATION**  
**CONTACT HEATHER OR MARY**  
**TAYLOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Maple Springs will host a church wide Talent Show on Sunday, April 26 at 4:00pm in Craven Hall. All church members are welcome to take part in the Talent Show and share their God given talents. Talent Show entries can be one person and we also encourage groups of people to do things together. In addition to the talents that will be shared on stage, we are also asking people to share handcrafted art. We will have tables set up for hand crafted talents to be displayed - talents like photography, baked goods, art, pottery, ceramics, written word, etc. We look forward to everyone sharing their God given talents. Scan the QR code or call the church office to sign up.

## Maple Springs Tag and Bake Sale

On Saturday, May 2 we are having a tag sale (aka yard sale). Hopefully by now you have been cleaning out your closets, basement, attic, and/or garage.



If you have gently used clothing items, gently used household items that still work, and/or gently used furniture that is still in good condition, prepare to **bring them to the church beginning on April 19.**



Items can be placed in the designated box in Craven Hall or in the sanctuary side narthex. Furniture items can be brought to Craven Hall beginning Wednesday, April 29.

Items that we DO NOT want include:

- torn, stained clothing
- items that are broken and cannot be fixed.
- furniture that is not sturdy and has too many scratches, dents, and dings or is missing parts

We will also need lots of help setting up, tearing down, and helping customers in general. Be on the lookout for signup sheets to help with the endeavor.

Proceeds will go toward replacing old and broken equipment in Craven Kitchen.

Contact Lynn Bailey: [rlbailey58@att.net](mailto:rlbailey58@att.net) or 336-817-2492 or

D'Ann Hershel: [dann.hershel@wfsmc.edu](mailto:dann.hershel@wfsmc.edu) or 336.749.7089



# 'TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME'



**JOIN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY  
FOR THE WS DASH GAME!**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

**2PM**

**TICKETS ARE \$12.**

**SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, APRIL 12.**

**EMAIL MARY TAYLOR  
TO SIGN UP!**

Happy Spring from the Preschool! We are so very excited to be able to enjoy our playgrounds with some nice warm weather! After missing two weeks for the snow and ice we are so glad to be back on our normal schedule.

Our Pre-K classes are looking forward to their Graduation ceremony coming up on May 13. We will have 18 graduates this year. This is always such a special day for the children and their families. After the ceremony the families are invited to have lunch and enjoy some fellowship with each other on the upper playground. We are so thankful to have such a nice picnic and playground area for this special celebration!

Our summer camp program will begin on June 1 and will run for 9 weeks. As always, this program is very popular, and enrollment filled up very quickly! We will have 50-55 children from ages 12 months – 6 years old in the building each week. It is always so much fun and we love welcoming new families each summer. Our enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year has also started very strong. Most classrooms are already full! What a testament to our wonderful staff! Their hard work and dedication definitely sets Maple Springs apart from everyone else!

Our staff would like to say a special thank you to the Circle of Friends and the Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study for the wonderful treats on Blessings Day. We were overwhelmed by all the delicious snacks, fruit, breads, and soda bar! You really made us feel so loved and appreciated. We are truly blessed to be part of the ministry here and Maple Springs UMC and we are so thankful for your continued support of our preschool program! Thank you!!!



Brandi Smith  
Preschool Director



# MAPLE SPRINGS PRESCHOOL



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 4<sup>th</sup> | 10 AM**



April Sunday Mornings



**Sunday Mornings  
with our  
Maple Springs families!**

**APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>: CHURCH FAMILY SUNDAY**

**APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>: SMALL GROUP SUNDAY**  
AGE APPROPRIATE SMALL GROUPS WILL MEET TO FOCUS ON THE SAME TOPIC. THERE ARE GROUPS FOR PRESCHOOL, KIDS, TWEENS, AND ADULTS THIS MONTH!

COME

AND

SEE



MAPLE SPRINGS  
TWEENS

Come and see what  
our Tween Ministry  
is all about!

Bring a friend and join us  
for an afternoon of  
obstacle courses and  
games!

SUNDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 4PM

Confirmation Retreat

# Confirmation Schedule

## 6PM on April 12<sup>th</sup>



We will be on our Confirmation  
Retreat from April 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>. Please  
be in prayer for our youth during  
their trip!



Graduation Sunday will be held on May 17. As we prepare to recognize our graduates, we need the following information emailed to [Carlyn](#) by Sunday, April 19. We look forward to featuring each of our graduates in our May newsletter!

Graduate's Whole Name

Parent's Names

Name of High School

Future Plans

Photo





# SUMMER EVENTS FOR KIDS AND YOUTH

SAVE THE DATE

MAY  
26-29 ↓



# ON THE MOVE

JUNE  
14-19 →

# YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO ATLANTA

# VBS



← JUNE 21-24

# United Methodist Creation Justice Tips



Sacred Waters

***April showers bring May flowers.  
That little capsule of truth reminds us how interconnected we are,  
which is especially true related to water.  
What we do matters.***

**Through the waters of baptism**, we are reminded of God's renewing grace and gift of water that literally keeps us alive. Working to keep water safe, clean, and available to all is a sacred trust. Check out your own water usage with this tool at [watercalculator.org](http://watercalculator.org), which also gives practical tips for reducing use.

Drought is increasingly affecting all of us. **Treat water as sacred.** Avoid wasting it. Don't let water run when brushing teeth, loading the dishwasher, cleaning vegetables, getting ready to shower. Little things you *can* do factor into dealing with the big changes of a shifting climate.

In rainy weather it's easy to forget the long dry spells caused by climate change. **Look for ways to conserve water:** Set up a rain barrel, plant tea bags with your flowers and veggies to hold moisture longer, and use leftover pet water for the plants. Inside, fix leaks, add a low-flush toilet, and install a fine-spray shower head.

One quarter-pound beef burger requires enough water to fill 10 bathtubs. Simply swapping one a month for a veggie burger would add up to 5,400 gallons of water saved per year. Producing turkey burgers is also less costly to our water supply. Going meatless helps even more. **What you eat matters to the planet.** →

Now is a great time to **add native plants to your garden**. Native plants use less water, prevent erosion, and don't need fertilizers. They also reduce air pollution and support pollinators and wildlife. For ideas, consult a Master Gardener or search for "plants native to [your state]."

**One congregation fired up 75 volunteers** from the church and community and planted 400 trees along the banks of the stream that runs through the church property. In short order, the church saw improved water clarity, healthier vegetation, and more fish. And their downstream neighbors experienced much less flooding.

**Run your dishwasher** only when full and skip pre-washing. Handwashing results in using more water (up to 27 gallons vs. 3 for the machine). Heating the water for those extra gallons also costs your wallet and the environment. The dishwasher is more hygienic because it heats the smaller amount of water to a degree your hands—and germs—can't stand.

Who are the experts in your community related to water? **Invite them to present a program** on a nearby body of water or a waterway. Ask that they also address ways individuals and your congregation can be helpful in caring for water locally.

**Find out about serving on a Citizen Advisory Committee** related to water issues. A CAC is a group of community representatives who provide expertise, diverse perspectives, and recommendations to officials on projects, policies, and issues. Serving is one way to live out your call as a steward of God's creation.

On a balmy spring day with light rain (but no lightning) grab some rags, a bucket, and a kid or friend or two and go play in the rain—oh, and **help the rain wash your car**. Wipe it down. Add a bit of competition or music for crazy dancing moves! But no running water—let the rain do the rinse job. Fun for you and good for the Earth—the car too.

*The UM Creation Justice Movement ([umcreationjustice.org](http://umcreationjustice.org)) provides these tips as a tool to equip church members, individuals, and families to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors.*



*In memory of*  
*Mike Bee*  
*(brother of Mark Bee)*  
*by*  
*Larry & Susie Gordon*

## Altar Flowers

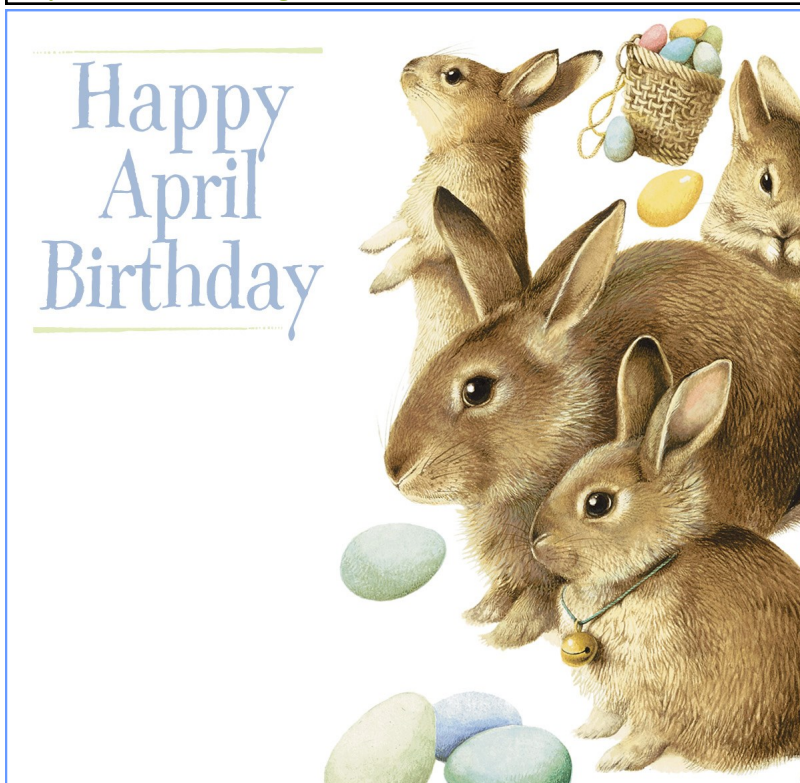


*Altar*  
**FLOWERS**  
*update*

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.





- 11 David & Cindy Hall
- 14 Don & Elizabeth Gault
- 26 Gary & Charlotte Alwine
- 26 Matt & Stacie Taylor
- 28 Mark & Jane Cline
- 30 Matt & Beth Green
- 30 Bruce & Ceil Hodgkin

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Gail Elwell       | 17 Rick Douglas      |
| 3 John Palmer       | 17 Susie Gordon      |
| 3 Hank Sigmon       | 18 Dana Bearror      |
| 4 Lillie Sprinkle   | 19 Justi Cernak      |
| 7 Sawyer Dohn       | 21 Pat Caccavella    |
| 11 Margaret Miller  | 21 Nicole Martin     |
| 11 Colleen Smith    | 21 Heather Schenck   |
| 11 Kimberly Spencer | 22 Nora Taylor       |
| 12 Kay Abbott       | 24 Marsha Johnsrude  |
| 12 Carrie Richmond  | 25 Roger Mayhew      |
| 13 Bet Wilson       | 26 Brandon Croom     |
| 14 Kelly Cunningham | 27 Tana Wooten       |
| 14 Marilyn Miller   | 28 Tallulah Fletcher |
| 15 Susann Mayhew    | 28 D'Ann Hershel     |
| 16 Sandy Bowen      | 29 Mark Bee          |



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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***

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