

MAPLE SPRINGS LIFE



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Volume 2026 Issue 6

From the Pastor's Desk

June 2026

The church year, or Christian calendar, is not only interesting, it defines the movements of our lives. There is a rhythm to the church year and to our lives.

The church year begins with Advent, which is the four Sundays before Christmas. Then there is Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We then move to Christmastide until Epiphany. Epiphany, is the date that the light of Christ was made known to the world. It is on January 6 each year. We recognize it on the Sunday closest to January 6.



We are then in “ordinary time,” for a few Sundays until Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. It is different every year because the church year is tied to the movements of creation. Easter is determined by the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. It sounds complicated but it’s not, really. In fact it shows how connected we are to creation, to the sun and moon, the changing of the seasons. I find it fascinating to think of the connection.

We are then in Eastertide until Pentecost. We are Easter people! After Pentecost we enter into a longer period of ordinary time. Ordinary time doesn’t mean regular or routine. The word ordinary comes from the Latin meaning numbered or ordered, like ordinal numbers. →

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I say this because we have just come through Eastertide. We celebrated Pentecost, which is seen as the birth of the church (Acts 2: 1-42) this past Sunday as we welcomed five new young people into full membership of the church. We are now entering this extended period of ordinary or numbered time.

When we recognize the movements of the church year it can help keep us grounded. Things are often different during the calendar year, which is often associated with the school year. School is out, our graduates have received their diplomas; summer has begun. Traditionally the unofficial start of summer we typically think of as beginning on Memorial Day, even though we're still a few weeks away by the calendar.

This is a time when many of you may be traveling, spending much needed time away. Maybe it's a get-away to the mountains or a week at the beach. Maybe it's that long planned for dream vacation. Whatever the case, summertime is usually different from the ordinary months of the year, even though we are in "ordinary time" by the Christian calendar. Okay, maybe it can sound confusing.

If you take time away this summer I want to encourage you to still be part of the church. Make a commitment to join us in person as often as you can if you are able, and join us online if you are out of town or unable to be present. The financial cost of operating the church continues even if we take time away during the summer. We thank you for your continued support even during time away. (See a separate article about our finances on page 6).

One thing that will be different this summer is our time of worship. During Advent we tried something a little different. We had one



combined service each week. We have decided to try that during July as well. June will be as usual (I could say ordinary but that would be too confusing), but during July we will worship in one combined service at 10:00 each week.

There is a level of energy when we worship as one body that we don't experience otherwise. That does NOT mean we will have one service moving forward, as is sometimes rumored. We are doing this in July when attendance is usually a bit less during the summer months.

Until then we will worship each week at 8:45 and 11:00 as usual. I am grateful to Rev. Paula Northrop who will preach on the Sunday of Annual Conference, which is June 21. When we are passionate about worship, whether the contemporary service or traditional service, it is always extraordinary. And there is nothing ordinary about that...even though by the church calendar it's ordinary time. Join us in worship when you can; it's an extraordinary experience to worship the God of all creation with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Gary

June Sermons & Scripture

- June 7 "Your Faith Has Made You Well" Matthew 9: 18-26
Rev. Gary Mahathey
- June 14 "The Kingdom Has Come Near" Matthew 10: 1-8
Rev. Gary Mahathey
- June 21 "A Father's Love" Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
Rev. Paula Northrup 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
- June 28 "Whoever Welcomes You Welcomes Me" Matthew 10: 40-42
Rev. Gary Mahathey



WELCOME
Reverend
Susan Ewing
Pastor of Discipleship



MAPLE SPRINGS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Winston Salem, NC

Update from Staff Parrish Relations about our new Pastor of Discipleship

We are excited about the arrival of Pastor Susan Ewing to become part of our staff as our Pastor of Discipleship. She officially starts July 1 but her first Sunday with us in worship will be July 12. SPRC wanted to share more about the role that Pastor Susan will be filling at Maple Springs.

For the past three years, Pastor Susan has been filling one of several special roles created by the Bishop to reach out to those impacted by the disaffiliation and to others searching for a way to engage. These are called “Emerging Communities”. The pastors for these groups have been funded by a Duke Endowment grant.

In her leadership role for one of these communities, Pastor Susan has built a core group of individuals that are actively engaged in discipleship. They are called the “Campfire Collective.” They meet regularly but have no building. They gather in homes, on hiking trails, and in public places - for worship and community service. This has worked well for the short term. To be sustainable for the longer term, the group needs to be “tethered” to an established church.



As part of her transition to Maple Springs, Pastor Susan will continue to provide leadership for the Campfire Collective and they will be tethered to Maple Springs UMC. They will not automatically become members, but certainly we would welcome them to engage with and join our church family. In exchange for her ongoing responsibilities for this group, the District is providing funding to cover a portion of her pay and benefits.



Maple Springs has several things in common with the Campfire Collective that make this a great fit. Both groups have an interest in hiking and nature and both desire to support this community by addressing food insecurity.

This a new kind of arrangement and we are all learning as we go – but we see this as an exciting new chapter in the church adapting to the needs of those seeking to engage and serve.

We look forward to learning more about Pastor Susan and her ministry when she preaches for the first time on July 12.

Please reach out to me, Pastor Gary or any member of SPRC if you have questions or concerns.

Ceil Hodgkin
Chair, SPRC

SPRC Committee Members

Lynn Bailey
Michael Boyles
Marci Bruno

Alyssa Clay
Stacy Crockett
Allison Kelly
Steve Northrup

Clint Osborne
Sonja Ross
Matt Taylor

Sometimes when I stop and look at the wonderful ministry happening at Maple Springs I am simply awe struck. The lives we impact, day-in and day-out is nothing short of amazing. Whether it is someone taking a stroll through our beautiful prayer/pollinator garden, or visitors from the community who want to see how the food pantry operates, we are making a difference in our community. Perhaps it is someone bringing their children to the playground or getting much needed help from the food pantry. We are seen as a safe and welcoming place to our neighbors.

We continue to be a beacon of light in our community, not just on Sunday mornings at our beautiful worship services, but all through the week in a multitude of ways. I am grateful for this church, the mission and ministry that we are engaged in.

I am grateful, too, for the gifts you give that make this ministry possible. Thank you for your continued prayers, your financial gifts, your generous support offered in so many ways.

Recently we confirmed five young people as they joined the church. In our membership vows we say that we will support the church by our “prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.” Every time someone joins the church it is an opportunity for us to renew our own membership vows.

Gifts are shared in many ways; I see it every day as you share your heart and your time. I see it, too, in the financial gifts that make a difference in our church and community.

Year to date we are financially ahead with expenses down and giving up. That is something to celebrate! Thank you. It is expected that expenses would be down with part time positions that were eliminated, and have not yet been filled. Expenses will increase with the arrival of our new Pastor of Discipleship in July.

But the good news is that ministry areas will be expanded, and we anticipate giving to remain positive. Year to date through April (May figures are not in yet) our expenses were \$267,053.87 and income was \$331,752.84. That is a difference of \$64,698.97 in the positive.

Once again, thank you for your generosity. Being good stewards of God’s gracious gifts means spending wisely, investing in God’s work in the world. We have been abundantly blessed, not just financially, but in so many ways. Let us continue to share the blessings as we see ministries expand in the months and years to come.

Pastor Gary



Confirmands and Mentors

Emily Woodson/Megan Boyles Rylan Taylor/Nicole Martin Katie Sprinkle/SueEllen Thomas
Avery Green/Katie Robinson Adeline Fletcher/Sonja Ross



Emily Woodson, Rylan Taylor, Adeline Fletcher, Avery Green, Katie Sprinkle

Blessing Box Update

Our Blessing Box has been painted, and is now fully in use!
In just the first two weeks we have refilled the box many times, and neighbors are coming to it as a food recourse. What an honor to serve our community in this low barrier way!

If you'd like to contribute, you can add non-perishable food and toiletry items directly to the box. We suggest high protein foods that don't have to be cooked!



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER IN THE
FOOD PANTRY!

SIGNUP AT
[HTTPS://SIGNUP.COM/GO/KFFWOQQ](https://signup.com/go/kffwoqq)
OR EMAIL
FOODPANTRY@MAPLESPRINGS.ORG



MAPLE SPRINGS
**FOOD
PANTRY**

**MAPLE SPRINGS
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VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE



SCAN THE QR CODE

foodpantry@maplesprings.org for more information

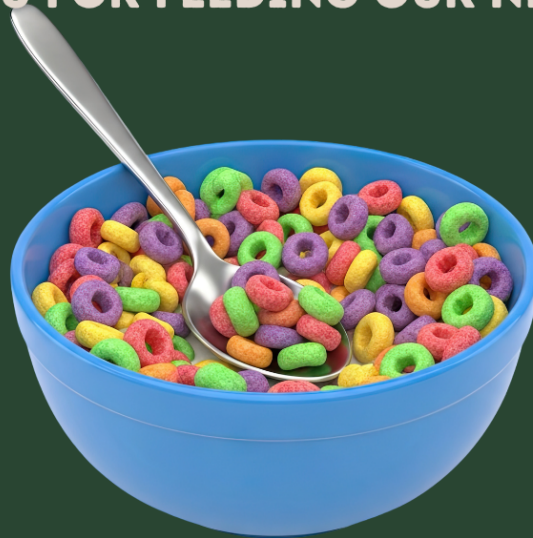
FOOD PANTRY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

IN JUNE WE ARE IN NEED OF

CEREAL

THANK YOU FOR FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS!



Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry

During the month of June, we will continue to collect full size or travel size toothpaste, full size stick deodorant, and white socks 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 prayers and your support for the Prison Ministry!



A Joyful Beginning for the Restoration Center

We officially celebrated the opening of the Restoration Center with a ribbon cutting alongside 100 community members and **NC First Lady Anna Stein**. Thanks to your incredible generosity, from assembling furniture to faithful prayer, this vision of providing hope and stability for those re-entering our community is now a reality. **Maple Springs was honored to present a \$500 gift** to support our neighbors in their new chapter. Thank you for being the hands and feet of this mission!



**SUMMER
POP-UP
CHOIR**

LEARN A SONG BEFORE CHURCH
AND SING IN TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
-COME AT 10:30 AND SING AT 11!

ALL AGES
ARE
WELCOME

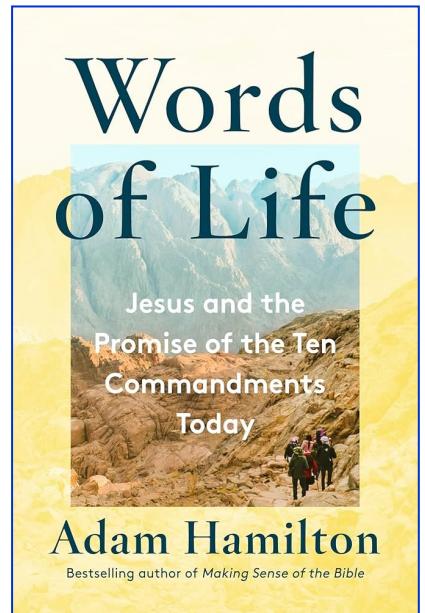
JUNE 7
JUNE 28

EMAIL HEATHER@MAPLESPRINGS.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study group is studying Adam Hamilton's *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments*. 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 9:30am in the Women’s Bible Study Room. Please note that we will not meet on June 2, June 23, or June 30. For more information contact SueEllen Thomas at sthomasrn@hotmail.com.

Additional Adult Beginner Clinics have been scheduled for those who would like to give Pickleball a try. 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, June 8, Monday, June 15, and Monday, June 29 from 6:00-7:30pm. 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 or Lee Spencer at 336-414-3336 or leegspencer@aol.com.



Maple Springers



Our May Maple Springers Lawn Party was a huge success! The senior adults enjoyed a gorgeous spring day eating lunch together on the church lawn. The meal was provided by the Old Richmond Grill Food Truck. This was our last luncheon of the season, but don't worry! Our monthly luncheons will resume in September!



VBS Sign Ups are open:



Kick Off: June 21st at 4PM

VBS: June 22nd-24th, 6-8PM

We have some items we'd like to borrow for this year's VBS. We'd need the items brought to church by Sunday, June 14.

- Christmas trees
- Sleds
- Snowshoes
- Skis
- Large stuffed animal bear
- Polar themed animals
- 3 ft Christmas trees (natural looking)

We are also collecting the following items for VBS decorating purposes. These can be placed in the VBS collection bin in Craven lobby:

- Paper towel tubes, toilet paper tubes
- Large cardboard boxes
- Styrofoam Coolers (like ones from Hello Fresh)

VBS volunteers are required to attend one training before serving at VBS. The training dates for this year are:

**Wednesday, June 10th
6PM**

**Sunday, June 14th
10AM**

**Saturday, June 20th
9AM**

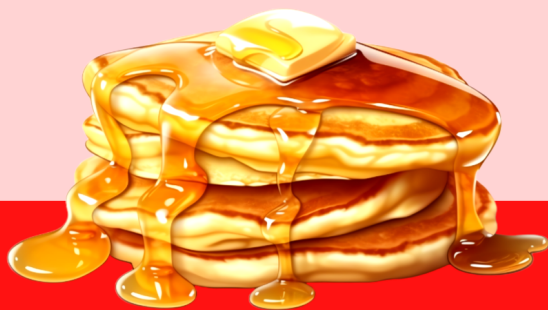
All trainings will take place in the Cokesbury room.

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!

**THIS MONTH'S MENU IS:
PANCAKES, BACON, HASHBROWNS
AND FRUIT!**



JUNE 7TH

**10 AM
CRAVEN HALL**

Father's Day Celebration

DONUTS WITH DAD

CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY WITH US!

June 21st @ 10AM in the Cokesbury Room





Stop using Styrofoam. This single-use “convenience” has its raw materials extracted from the earth, leaches harmful chemicals into hot food or drink, adds to the volume of methane from landfills, and exposes production workers to permanent nervous system damage. **Switch to reusable containers** for food and drink.

Fossil-fuel-based fabrics (polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, lycra) when washed release microplastics into water systems and then the food chain, harming sea creatures and ultimately humans. **Choose natural-fibers clothing** (organic cotton, linen, wool, silk, hemp, bamboo). Wash what you have less frequently and more gently.

Nix the balloons. They are not biodegradable, and they consequently harm birds and marine life. Also, helium is a nonrenewable gas needed in welding, rocket propulsion, and even scuba diving. Wasting helium in the momentary fun of balloons jeopardizes the other uses. Instead, **add sparkle and fun to an event** with tissue-paper pom poms, garlands from upcycled materials from home, fabric bunting, streamers made from recycled paper, or bubbles.

Have you ever thought of the “R’s” as a spiritual practice? Reduce is a spiritual practice. (Do I need this? Is it harmful in any way?) Reuse also challenges us spiritually. (God is a creator. How can I avoid being a “waster”?) Recycle is important too. (What creative ways can I find to give something a second life?) **Reduce, reuse, recycle**—John Wesley would be proud of you.



Do you know someone with asthma or COPD? (“Lord, when did we see thee...?”) The air pollution that affects our climate also harms the health of people. Jesus challenged us to **care for the “least” among us**, including children and older adults whose lungs are vulnerable. People in poverty and people of color especially suffer from compromised health due to air pollution. Climate action is also action for justice.

Come clean with household products. **Use non-toxic, natural cleaning products** instead of chemical-based ones that harm your health and the environment. White vinegar is an option, as are other branded products from eco-friendly suppliers. Browse for “natural cleaning products.”

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 harm. Contact your employer, city council, and state lawmakers to say, “No more!” Make it official.

When you shop online for anything, check the “About” portion of the website before you buy. Find out what the company is or is not doing to care for creation and justice. **Support those sources that help—not harm.** Look for B Corp and other companies that give back 1% for the planet.

Clean up the harm at a beach or waterway near you. Organize. Pick a date and time. Get any needed permissions. Spread the word. Make cleanup a crusade with photos of pollution and harmed marine life. Figure out the logistics for salvaging recyclables and only trashing trash. Bring supplies. Make the job fun! Or just start and lead by example.

Start your creation justice efforts with John Wesley’s General Rules: Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. It’s easy to see things to do for the first two. But even if health or other circumstances limit your ability to act, consider the third: **Stay in love with God** through prayer for the healing of God’s creation and for justice for all.

*In memory of Joanna Bailey
by Dot Atkinson*

*In memory of Tom Abbott
for the Youth Ministry
by Barbara Stanford*

*In memory of Tom Abbott
by
Dot Atkinson
Mark & Jane Cline
Robert Donovan
Dixie Holt
George Weaver*

*In honor of Susan Carter-Hope
for the Food Pantry
by Trish Anthony*

*In memory of Gregory Phillips
(brother of Carolyn Morgan)
for the Food Pantry
by Susan Carter-Hope*

*In memory of Tom Abbott
for the Food Pantry
by Bob Henning*



Altar Flowers

The 2026 Altar Flowers calendar is posted in the hallway outside Pastor Gary’s office. If you would like to provide a floral arrangement for our Traditional Worship Service, please sign up on the calendar and contact Emily Ruebel at emilyruebel@gmail.com or 336-407-7352. The following Sundays are available:



June 14
August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
September 27
October 11, 18 & 25





- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kerri Rybak | 15 Will Kelly |
| 2 Jack Perry | 17 Stephanie Norman |
| 2 SueEllen Thomas | 17 Steven Tucker |
| 3 Ryan Quarless | 19 Dot Atkinson |
| 5 Colin Cline | 20 Wes Bailey Sr. |
| 5 Connor Crockett | 20 Clint Osborne |
| 7 Beth Green | 20 James Wallace |
| 7 Jose Venegas | 21 Laura Burleson |
| 8 Salem Plaster | 21 Ross Strickland |
| 8 Harrison Setliff | 22 Susan Foster |
| 8 Emmy Setliff | 23 Tommy Crockett |
| 9 Buddy Robinson Jr. | 24 Katie Smith |
| 10 Suzanne Bradford | 28 Ceil Hodgins |
| 13 Charlotte Alwine | 29 Rosemary Hege |
| 13 Tim Loggins | 30 Sal Bruno |

- 4 Dan & Pat Craver
- 6 Barry & Patricia Lewis
- 17 Andy & Kerri Rybak
- 18 Don & Lois Hart
- 25 Matt & Sandy Bowen



*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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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**



CHRISTINA ROSSETTI
Timothy B. Lutes