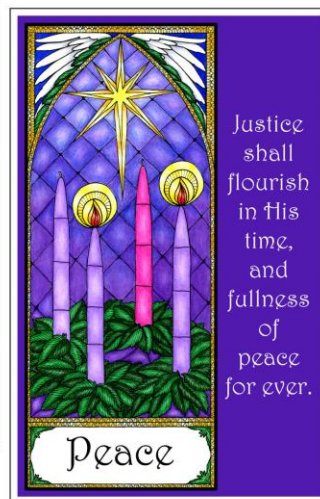
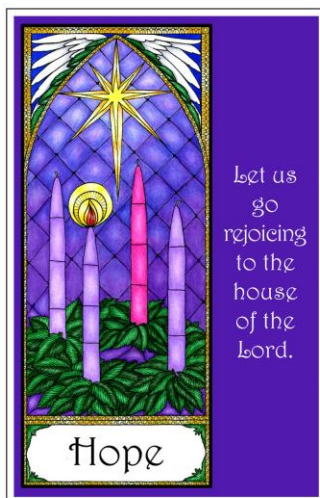




MAPLE SPRING CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, HOLLISOPPLE, PA 15935
814-479-7062



Advent

In Latin, “advent” means “the coming.” Christians all over the world prepare for the coming of the Lord, during Advent. “The coming” we so greatly anticipate is the birth of Jesus Christ, the Nativity.

Traditionally, three of the five candles are purple to emphasize our hope in God's promise, which is fulfilled in the Nativity. One candle is pink to emphasize the joy of Christ's coming. Advent is a time to celebrate the light that is to come and shine into the darkness of this world. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God's eternal and endless mercy. The green of the wreath symbolizes the hope that we have in God; the hope of newness, of renewal, and of eternal life.

The First Candle we light with expectation and hope of a savior sent by God to save all of mankind from sin. The Second Candle we light in anticipation of the peace that is to come. The Third Candle we light to show the joy we have in knowing God's promise is almost fulfilled. The Fourth Candle we light to honor the love God shows for all of mankind. The white Christ Candle we light on Christmas Eve to remember the light of Christ that came into the world to bring eternal life for all who believe in Him.

Each week, as we light another candle, may we let the light and new life through Christ fill us with a renewed desire to infuse our thoughts, words, and actions with the light of Christ.

Our monthly newsletter, *Water Cup*, is distributed gratis to members and friends of the congregation to encourage vital Christian living and to promote participation in the life and work of the Church.

We hope you find this issue of the *Water Cup* informative and helpful. We welcome your contributions and comments.



Published by:

**MAPLE SPRING
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**
106 Spring Rd
Hollsopple, PA 15935
814- 479-7062

Web Page: maplespringcob.org

Sunday School.....9:30 am
Worship Service.....10:35 am

In emergencies, in the pastor's absence, call
Tim McDonald, Board Chairperson.

ONE CALL/PRAYER CHAIN

To make a prayer request through our One Call system, please make all prayer requests to Arbutus Blough.

Secretary/Editor: Melody Pletzer
Office Hours: Wed. & Thu. 9 am – 4 pm, Fri. 9 am – 3 pm
E-mail: MapleSpringCOB@atlanticbb.net
(e-mail is monitored daily)
Editor's Telephone: (814) 479-7062
www.facebook.com/MapleSpringChurch



**Please submit all bulletin items
and *Dew Drops* announcements
to the office by 11 a.m. on Thursdays.**

***WATER CUP* DEADLINE
for the January 2023 issue
is December 15, 2022.**

MISSION STATEMENT

The living water of Christ wells up within us and overflows! It is our mission to be obedient to Christ by living in unity with one another, by discipling one another through the Holy Spirit, and by reaching out to our neighbors.



PRAYER PARTNERS THIS MONTH

Sandy Watkins and Bill Watkins
Jordan Shroyer and Nancy Gindlesperger
Elsie Michael and Pat Koba
Arbutus Blough and Marlin Ott
Sally Kaufman and Deanna Fisher



...Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. ~ James 5:16b



The **Rummel Church of the Brethren**, Windber, PA is our prayer partner church for the year 2022.



CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Sunday, December 11th

Immediately following the morning worship service, we will have our Christmas Fellowship Meal. Please bring a dozen cookies to share with our church family, as we fellowship and celebrate the impending arrival of our savior, Christ Jesus! The church will provide the meal and beverages! Everyone is welcome!



***Please remember the following,
who are actively serving our country...***



SGT Adam Veres, Army Specialist (Whitney Weimer)
Jonathan Zanoni, US Coast Guard (Cayla Roberts)
MAJOR Mark Bedrin, Army (Katie McDonald)
SPECIALIST Sierra Alwine, Army
Ssgt Nathan Pahel, Air Force (Annie Bridge)
Police Officer Matthew Bridge, Richland PD
AB Jenna A. Hauser, US Air Force



PRAYER FLAG

We are thankful for those who do God's work to protect us. Please pray for our peacekeepers. The Missions and Service Commission has a prayer flag displayed in support of active duty military personnel, 1st responders, EMS, firefighters, police officers, and conscientious objectors, presently serving from our congregation. If you have a loved one you would like to add, please give the name, office, or type of duty, along with a picture to the church office. If you prefer not to submit a picture, we can simply post the name.



***Please remember those
on our Visitation List...***

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Rita Alwine | 767 Soap Hollow Rd.
Hollsopple, PA 15935 |
| Frank & Mona Blough | 1003 Wildflower Ct.
Davidsville, PA 15928 |
| Howard & Helen Hildebrand | Laurel View Village
2000 Cambridge Dr.
Davidsville, PA 15928 |
| Jim Moran | 1056 Soap Hollow Rd
Hollsopple, PA 15935 |
| Marlin Ott | 131 Apache Ln.
Stoystown, PA 15563 |
| Betty Shaffer | Richland Woods
3324 Elton Rd
Johnstown, PA 15904 |
| Doris Shaffer | c/o Rest Assured Living Center
1137 Shirleys Hollow Rd.
Meyersdale, PA 15552 |
| Gale Shipley | 51 Akers Street, Apt. 306
Johnstown, PA 15905 |
| Owen Stevens | 1000 Vista Dr., Apt. 825
Davidsville, PA 15928 |
| Ruth Stevens | 125 W. Main Street
Stoystown, PA 15563 |
| Cliff & Sally Stutzman | Meadow View Nursing Center
1404 Hay St., Rm 328
Berlin, PA 15530 |
| Emma Thomas | 822 Fisher Rd.
Boswell, PA 15531 |
| Phyllis Thomas | Laurel View Village
2000 Cambridge Rd., Rm 522
Davidsville, PA 15928 |
| Marilyn Ullery | 588 Woodstown Hwy.
Hollsopple, PA 15935 |

DEACON MINISTRY

...Serving the Maple Spring Congregation

A Special Baby

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ~Luke 2:11-12

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~Isaiah 9:6

Babies are tiny and helpless. They have no voice—no money, power, or authority—to influence the world. Yet, when they are brought into a family, everyone is filled with love and joy. A family has never been the same after a new bundle of joy arrives.

Jesus came into this world as a baby. He not only changed the lives of Mary and Joseph, but his birth changed the whole course of history. He left his throne in heaven, so people could see the face of God himself. They heard God's message of love and salvation with their own ears. As Jesus grew up, he brought teaching and healing like the world had never known before. He was born so he could die for us and give us life forever. Since he came into the world, he made a way to God the Father for all who believe. Jesus was the one baby who still changes lives today. Let's thank God for his birth, right now.

Lord,

Thank you for sending Jesus into this world as a baby. In him, we find peace and life forever.

Amen.

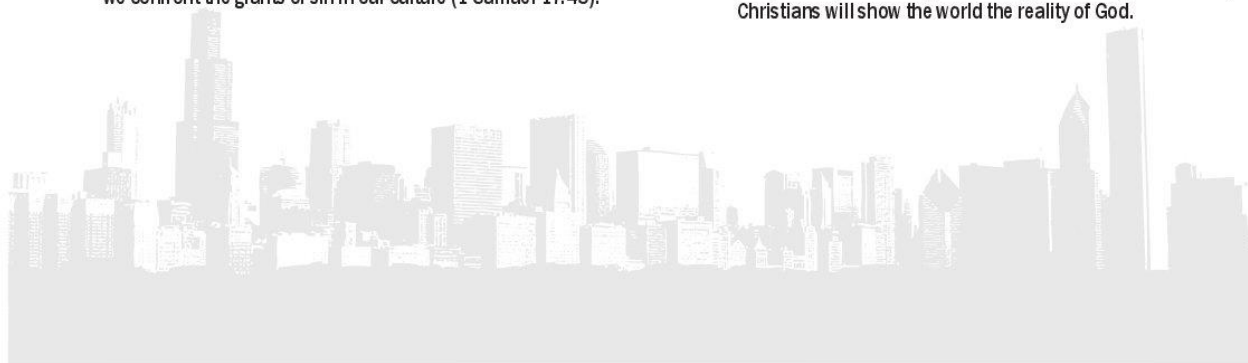
(An excerpt from *Practicing the Presence of Jesus* by Wally Armstrong.)

Submitted by Nancy Dunmyer

GENUINE WORSHIP, THE FRUIT OF REVIVAL

Praise the LORD! Praise Him, you servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised. The LORD is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens (Psalm 113:1-4 NASB).

- 1 As many local churches spend this month celebrating the greatness of God and the birth of Jesus Christ, pray that your church family will truly worship God in spirit and in truth, understanding and experiencing more fully the awesomeness of God in His glory (John 4:24).
- 2 Seeing God as Jehovah Jireh, the One who provides for the needs of His children, pray that the families of your congregation will trust God and cry out to Him first for their physical, relational, and spiritual needs (Genesis 22:14).
- 3 As the families of your church face the enemies of this world system—real enemies that try to rob them of a victorious relationship and walk with Christ—pray that they will cling tightly to Jehovah Nissi, and by faith rally under His banner of victory (Exodus 17:15).
- 4 Pray that your church family will be faithful each week in honoring and observing a day of rest and worship, acknowledging that Jehovah M'kaddesh is the One who sanctifies and sets them apart as holy (Exodus 31:13).
- 5 Just as Gideon, during a season of oppression by the Midianites, discovered that the Lord is peace, pray that the believers in your community who are being persecuted for their faith will also experience the peace that comes when Jehovah Shalom intervenes on their behalf (Judges 6:24).
- 6 Jeremiah prophetically described the return of Israel's exiles under the leadership of Jehovah Tsidkenu, the Lord our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6). Pray that those in your church who have wandered from God will repent of their backslidden condition and again pursue His righteousness.
- 7 Just as young David found strength in God as he bravely confronted Goliath, pray that the churches in your community will also depend on Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of armies, as we confront the giants of sin in our culture (1 Samuel 17:45).
- 8 Pray that your church family will hunger for God all the more in their pursuit of His manifest presence, and in doing so will find strength, comfort, and power from Jehovah Shammah, the Lord who is there (Ezekiel 48:35).
- 9 Just as David's loving Shepherd guided and cared for him, pray that your church family will recognize Jehovah Rohi as their Shepherd while facing today's challenges and the ongoing need for direction (Psalm 23:1).
- 10 As relational and financial insecurity for families is becoming the norm, pray that those in your congregation facing this challenge will find renewed hope in their relationship with the Ancient of Days, the One who has always been there to understand and care (Daniel 7:9).
- 11 For your church family, pray that the meditation of their hearts and the words from their mouths will be acceptable in God's sight (Psalm 19:14).
- 12 Pray that your Christian friends will "trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock" (Isaiah 26:4).
- 13 Knowing that God has not forsaken those who seek Him, pray that your church family will always pursue God and rest in Him as "a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble" (Psalm 9:9-10).
- 14 As a sun and shield to each believer and One who gives grace and glory to those who walk uprightly, pray that God will not withhold any good thing from those in your church family who are walking before Him with integrity (Psalm 84:11).
- 15 With many undermining the fact that God is our Creator (Genesis 1:1), or that He even exists, please pray that the churches of your community will become bolder in loving people. Pray that through their unity and changed behavior, Christians will show the world the reality of God.



- 16** With churches often not thinking about the refining, maturing work God does in the lives of His children, pray that the members of your congregation will grow in their understanding of God as One who is “like a refiner’s fire, and like launderer’s soap” (Malachi 3:2).
- 17** Just like a father who has compassion on his children, God has compassion on those who fear Him (Psalm 103:13). Pray that today’s church, which so needs God’s compassion, will learn better how to fear and reverence Him.
- 18** Having graciously received comfort from the One who is “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,” pray that we in turn will comfort others with the same kind of comfort we have received from Him (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- 19** Pray that your church family will not be deceived into thinking that the supernatural blessings they experience are produced by the efforts of man. Instead, pray that they will give thanks to the Father of lights, from whom every good thing and perfect gift comes (James 1:16-17).
- 20** Ask the Father of glory to give you and your church family “a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him” and His holy ways (Ephesians 1:17).
- 21** Pray that the spiritual eyes of your congregation will be so enlightened that they will “know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18-19).
- 22** Pray that those in your church family who may be feeling rejected and alone will have the same kind of comforting encounter Hagar had with the angel of the Lord. She was so encouraged in her loneliness that she described God as El Roi, “a God who sees” (Genesis 16:7-13).
- 23** Just as God was known to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, God Almighty, pray that He will be just as powerfully known as a covenant-keeping God among the Christians in our nation (Exodus 6:2-4).

- 24** Even as Melchizedek, a priest of El Elyon, blessed God and Abram after the defeat Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, pray that your church family will also bless God Most High, who gives us victory during our fiercest struggles (Genesis 14:17-20).
- 25** As we celebrate the birth of Christ today, take a few moments to praise God for Jesus, the Son of the Most High, the One whose kingdom will have no end (Luke 1:32-33).
- 26** Knowing that Jesus will someday come again “in the glory of His Father with the holy angels,” pray that even now, while living in an adulterous and sinful generation, the members of your church family will not be ashamed to declare that Jesus is Lord (Mark 8:38).
- 27** Pray that when the members of your church family refer to Jesus as “Lord,” they will do so with humility, truly acknowledging that He is the head of the church and worthy of our submission (Luke 7:6-7).
- 28** Jesus is described in the Bible as the Word and the Light of men (John 1:1, 4). Pray that Christians will hunger to encounter Jesus every time they read their Bibles. Pray that they will be open to receive the exposing, convicting, spiritual light His presence brings.
- 29** Pray that your church family will recognize Jesus as the interceding, great high priest He truly is, the One who is “holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens” (Hebrews 7:25-26).
- 30** Pray that justice will be established on the earth as Jesus, the Servant of God, continues to “bring forth justice to the nations” (Isaiah 42:1).
- 31** Before we begin a new year, please take time to thank God for sending His Son into the world to save us from our sins. Praise Him for Immanuel, the One who truly is God with us (Matthew 1:23).



December 2022

Maple Spring Church Activities, Birthdays, & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 -10:15 Morning Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 10:35 Morning Worship	28	29 9:00 am Humble Hands	30	1	2 6 - 8:30 pm Camp Harmony Light Fest	3 6 - 8:30 pm Camp Harmony Light Fest
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 -10:15 Morning Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 10:35 Morning Worship Owen Stevens	5 Alan Baraniak	6 9:00 am Humble Hands Arbutus Blough Sally Stutzman	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9 5:00 - 8:00 CTAM Live Nativity 6 - 8:30 pm Camp Harmony Light Fest	10 2:00 - 8:00 CTAM Live Nativity 6 - 8:30 pm Camp Harmony Light Fest
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 -10:15 Morning Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 10:35 Morning Worship Christmas Fellowship Meal	12 Mya Kane Laurel Rosenbaum	13 9:00 am Humble Hands Anna Hostetter	14	15 <i>Water Cup Submission Deadline</i> 7:00 pm Luella Krieger's Biblical Portrayal of Ruth	16 6 - 8:30 pm Camp Harmony Light Fest	17 6 - 8:30 pm Camp Harmony Light Fest
18 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 -10:15 Morning Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 10:35 Morning Worship Sherry Schulz	19	20 9:00 am Humble Hands	21 Winter begins	22	23 Richard Mostoller	24 Christmas Eve Betty Shaffer
25 Merry Christmas! 9:30 -10:15 Morning Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 10:35 Morning Worship	26 Harrison Hauser Jeff Soha	27 9:00 am Humble Hands Carol Leverknight Nevada Stutzman	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve