

Maple Spring

Water Cup

February 2024



Vol. 57, No. 6

MAPLE SPRING CHURCH, HOLLSOPPLE, PA 15935
814-479-7062

FEBRUARY, THE MONTH OF LOVE: IS A PERFECT TIME TO REMEMBER OUR GOD IS THE GOD OF LIFE AND UNFAILING LOVE

¹⁰ You guided my conception and formed me in the womb. ¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh, and you knit my bones and sinews together. ¹² **You gave me life and showed me your unfailing love.** My life was preserved by your care.

~Job 10:10-12 NLT

You made me; you created me.

~Psalm 119:73a NLT

"I'll call the *unloved* and
make them *beloved*."

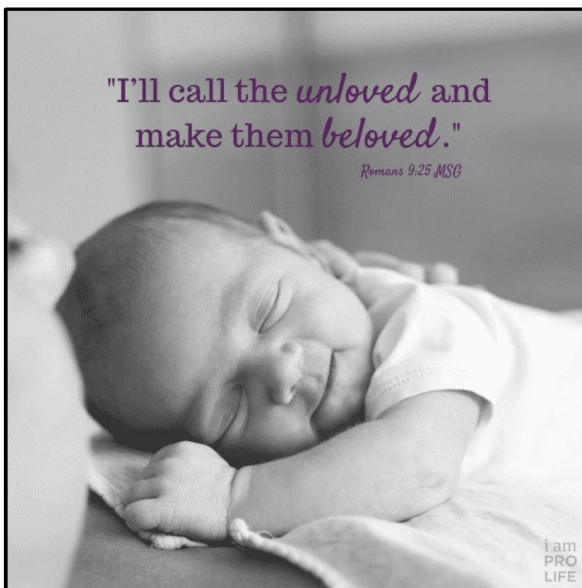
Romans 9:25 MSG

For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

~Job 33:4 NLT

Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

~ Psalm 100:3 NLT



So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

~Genesis 1:27 NLT

¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

~ Psalm 139:13-16 NLT

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

106 Spring Rd
Hollsopple, PA 15935
814-479-7062

Web Page: MapleSpringCOB.org

Sunday School.....9:15 am
Sunday Morning Prayer....10:15 am
Worship Service.....10:35 am

In emergencies, in the pastor's absence, call
Tim McDonald, Board Chairperson
or that week's Deacons On-Call,
who are posted weekly in the *Dew Drops*.

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



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.



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

***WATER CUP* DEADLINE
for the March 2024 issue
is February 20, 2024.**

PRAYER PARTNERS THIS MONTH

Pat Koba & Deanna Fisher
Nancy Gindlesperger & Sally Kaufman
Bill Watkins & Elsie Michael
Sandy Watkins & Jordan Shroyer

...pray for each other so that you may
be healed. The earnest prayer of a
righteous person has great power and
produces wonderful results.

~James 5:16b



CHURCH GROVE RENTAL SEASON

The Church Grove Rental Season will be here before we know it! The season begins April 15th and ends Oct. 15th. Check with your families about graduation parties, birthday parties, and family reunions. Check with your group/club about your annual picnic. Make your reservations early to secure your preferred date! The daily rental fee is \$90 for church members/regular attendees, and \$125 for non-members.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL & BUSINESS MEETING

The last Sunday of every month, except holidays, the Maple Spring Church Family is having a monthly Fellowship Meal and Business Meeting, following the Morning Worship Service. Please bring a covered dish. The church provides beverages and place settings. ALL are welcome to attend!

Acts 2:42 NLT

The Believers Form a Community

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

SCAVENGER HUNT

Hidden somewhere within the pages of your *Water Cup* is a little cross (✝). The cross may vary in size or color, but not in shape. The first person to find the cross each month, and call the church secretary (814-479-7062) with the location of the cross, will win a prize and have their name in the next month's issue. If you find it on the secretary's day off, please leave a voicemail. Good luck and happy searching! There was no winner for January.

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



SGT Adam Veres, Army Specialist (Whitney Weimer)
Jonathan Zaroni, 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.

**A conscientious objector is one who is opposed to serving in the armed forces and/or bearing arms on the grounds of moral or religious principles. Conscientious objectors opposed to serving in the military are still required to register with the Selective Service System and will be placed in the Selective Service Alternative Service Program. Length of service in the program will equal the amount of time a man would have served in the military, usually 24 months.*

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



- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Reta Alwine | 767 Soap Hollow Rd.
Hollsopple, PA 15935 |
| Howard & Helen
Hildebrand | Laurel View Village
2000 Cambridge Dr.
Davidsville, PA 15928 |
| Jim Moran | 1056 Soap Hollow Rd
Hollsopple, PA 15935 |
| Marlin Ott | Laurel View Village
Vista Apt. #813
2000 Cambridge Dr.
Davidsville, PA 15928 |
| Betty Shaffer | Richland Woods
3324 Elton Rd
Johnstown, PA 15904 |
| Gale Shipley | 51 Akers Street, Apt. 306
Johnstown, PA 15905 |
| Ruth Stevens | 125 W. Main Street
Stoystown, PA 15563 |
| Cliff Stutzman | Meadow View Nursing Center
1404 Hay St., Rm 328
Berlin, PA 15530 |
| Phyllis Thomas | Laurel View Village
2000 Cambridge Rd., Rm 522
Davidsville, PA 15928 |

SPEAKING UP TO DEFEND LIFE

3-Part Series by Scott Klusendorf

You don't need a graduate degree to defend the pro-life position. You can do it effectively in one minute or less.

PART ONE - Speaking Up to Defend Life

You thought this would be a typical family get-together, but right now you're sweating bullets. Everything was going well until Aunt Betty decided to challenge you from across the dinner table: "Tell me why you are pro-life. Why would anyone believe like you do?"

You've just been called out in front of the entire extended family. And Aunt Betty isn't just asking for your opinion. She's got Christianity itself in her crosshairs. She wants to know if your faith is tough enough to cut it in the real world – and you only have a minute or so to give her something to think about before dessert is served.

Make your pro-life case in one minute or less

You don't need a graduate degree to say something persuasive. You just need to be clear and on point. Get your stopwatch ready, because I'm about to give you a one-minute case for the pro-life position that works with your skeptical Aunt Betty or even a reporter for the local news. Then, I'll show you how to defend it.

Here's your one-minute soundbite:

"Aunt Betty, I am pro-life because the science of embryology establishes that from the earliest stages of development, you were a distinct, living and whole human being. You weren't part of another human being like skin cells on the back of my hand; you were already a whole living member of the human family even though you had yet to mature.

There is no essential difference between the embryo you once were and the adult you are today that somehow justifies killing you at that earlier stage of development. Differences of size, level of development, environment and degree of dependency are not good reasons for saying you could be killed then but not now."

Did you time it? I did. I made that pro-life case in 48-seconds. And you can, too!

But can you defend it?

Yes, you can! And you can do it with three easy steps. Remember: Your job isn't to close the deal. Ultimately, it's God who changes hearts and minds. Your job, writes apologist Greg Koukl, is to "put a pebble in their shoe." That is, give them something to think about that will wear on them until they stop to deal with it.

Step 1: Define your terms

Abortion is the intentional killing of a human fetus. This definition begs no questions and is generally agreed upon by many in the debate.

Step 2: Set the ground rules

Arguments don't have gender. People do. There is no such thing as a "woman's perspective" on abortion that trumps all rational inquiries into the subject. Indeed, many feminists – let alone women in general – don't even agree on the issue. For example, feminist Naomi Wolf calls abortion "a real death," while feminist Katha Pollitt thinks it's no different than vacuuming out your house! In short, gender is irrelevant. What matter are the arguments that must be advanced and defended.

Step 3: Make your case

The pro-life argument cannot be dismissed as "religious," though secularists will often try to paint it that way. Arguments are either true or false; valid or invalid. As philosopher Francis J. Beckwith points out, calling an argument "religious" is a category error like asking, "How tall is the number 5?" In short, it's not enough for critics to dismiss our case. They must do the hard work of refuting it.

Watch pro-life apologist Scott Klusendorf give a compelling defense for the value of pre-born life and encourages listeners to share the truth about abortion on Focus on the Family's broadcast, https://youtu.be/kg0_G-3xTvk?si=PoNFLlrNxVlxDGrH.

Next month, PART TWO - How Science Supports the Pro-Life Position

(Source: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/speaking-up-to-defend-life/>)

Praying for Campus Renewal

Jesus' heart for this generation blazes with fiery love. Generation Z (from ages 11 to 26) is navigating a challenging world unknown to older generations. They've endured a pandemic and are faced with gender confusion/identity issues every day in the hallways of their campuses. Daily conversations are filled with racial and political divisions.

Students on the campuses of our nation were born into a digital world. Social media platforms and smartphones are an extension of their lives—and whether they realize it or not, they hold the “knowledge of the world” in their hands.

But do they know God? Have they experienced the transforming love of Jesus? Are they filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to speak truth and hope to their generation? Do they know that by seeking God in humble, fervent, and unified prayer—they can invite a spiritual awakening to Christ to sweep their campuses?

This month, we pray for a reviving move of the Spirit to invade the more than 4,000 college and university campuses in this nation. And we especially pray for God to use the Collegiate Day of Prayer on February 29 as a catalyst to transform this generation.

1 A battle for the minds and hearts of students rages on our campuses. Ungodly indoctrination fills the classrooms. Pray for the protection from the enemy's attempts to steal their destinies designed by God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

2 Campuses across our nation are filled with students who function under a cloud of despair. Lives are marked with hopelessness and questions about the future. Pray for the hope of Christ to overwhelm the darkness and fill our campuses with joy and peace (Romans 15:13).

3 Many colleges and universities have lost their original callings. Institutions such as Princeton, Harvard, and Yale were established as places of faith, but no longer are devoted to Christ. Pray for breakthrough on such campuses and a return to their God-ordained destinies (Isaiah 55:11).

4 Christian students are challenged on secular campuses like never before. Their love and devotion to Christ are often more mocked than embraced. Pray for students to remain strong and confident in their faith despite the opposition (Romans 12:12).

5 Students are often unknowingly influenced by media, professors, and other voices that espouse untruths and ungodly ideologies. Pray for the Spirit to bring a revelation of truth rooted in the hope of Christ (Psalm 64:1-9).

6 Pray for this next generation to be grounded in God's Word and quick to discern truth in a culture that espouses lies and deception. Pray for them to articulate truth to their peers with clarity and power of the Spirit (2 Timothy 2:15).

7 Social media influencers are significant voices among students—for good and for bad! Pray for young Christian influencers to use their platforms to expose lies and preach the truth of Jesus to their lost generation. Pray that they will resist the lure of popularity but will instead focus on proclaiming Christ in creative ways (Psalm 119:160).

8 Many students are wounded by the lack of love in their homes, especially from absent fathers. Pray they will know the loving heart of their heavenly Father, and then allow the Spirit to heal their past hurts and prepare them to be godly leaders (Malachi 4:6).

9 Pray for godly men and women to step up as mentors to this student generation. Pray for students to have strong believers in their lives who model walking in faith and love despite the opposition they might feel on their campuses (Philippians 4:9).

10 We're instructed to tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonders He has done. Pray that older generations can connect with students to testify of God's goodness and encourage them to seek the Lord for revival in their own generation (Psalm 78:4).

11 It's a biblical admonition for one generation to tell of mighty works and glorious splendor of God to the next generation. Pray that all generations will experience spiritual awakening in our day—and that there will be great joy in sharing God's miraculous works of salvation and restoration (Psalm 145:4-5).

12 Pray for the fulfillment of Joel 2 in our day—that God's Spirit "will be poured out on all people," that "sons and daughters will prophecy," and that "young men will see visions." Ask God to raise up the next generation as a prophetic voice of hope to our nation (Joel 2:28-29).

13 Pray for students to be "anointed to proclaim the good news to the poor" on their campuses. Ask God to use them to bring hope and healing through Jesus to the brokenhearted and those caught in the darkness of this world (Isaiah 61:1-3).

14 We have a history in this nation of being blessed with seasons of revival that were ignited through the prayers of students on campuses. Pray that students will recognize they are strategic in God's Kingdom as they walk in love, faith, and holiness (1 Timothy 4:12).

15 Ask God to stir a passion in students to take the gospel beyond their campuses to the ends of the earth. Pray that God will call students into a new missions movement that accelerates the spread of the gospel through social media platforms and into unreached people groups (Acts 1:8).

16 After researching the history of revival on campuses throughout our nation connected to the First Great Awakening, leaders of the Collegiate Day of Prayer ask the question, "Why not here; why not now?" Pray that now is the time for another awakening to flood the campuses across this nation (Psalm 126:4).

17 More than 4,000 campuses across the U.S. are in desperate need of a move of God that impacts students and transforms campuses. And a revived next generation will impact our nation with passionate zeal for Christ. Pray for a Spirit-led stirring on every campus (Isaiah 42:13).

18 Pray for an awakening to Christ to sweep the campus of your alma mater. Pray for the leadership of your college or university to honor God in their decisions and for students seek wise spiritual counsel in their life pursuits (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

19 The recent weeks-long revival on the Asbury University campus drew thousands of people from around the nation and world who were eager to experience the refreshing of God's Spirit. Pray that the fires lit at Asbury will continue to be fanned into greater flames on more campuses (Isaiah 9:2-3).

20 The key to revival is fervent, united prayer. Students across this nation are gathering to pray for God to move on their campuses. Ask God to ignite prayer movements that draws students together in persistent prayer saturated with faith and hope (Isaiah 41:10).

21 Pray for students to be captured by the vision of saturating their campuses in faith-filled, fervent prayer. Ask God to increase their passion to sacrificially pray and fast for their fellow students to know Jesus (Matthew 21:22).

22 Throughout history, college campuses have been touched by revival. The zeal of youth is often a catalyst for national spiritual awakening. Ask God to use the Collegiate Day of Prayer on February 29 as a catalyst for revival to flood our campuses—and touch our nation (Psalm 80:19).

23 Students across this nation will join in prayer on the Collegiate Day of Prayer, seeking God for awakening on their campuses. Pray for those who are producing the simulcast out of Baylor University, that all the technical details will flow together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26).

24 Pray for pastors and churches across this nation to join in concerted prayer for God to move through the Collegiate Day of Prayer. Ask God to unite His Church with deep love for students and a vision for revival in the next generation (Ephesians 3:10-12).

25 Pray for the team producing the Collegiate Day of Prayer at Baylor University. Ask God to make them sensitive to the Spirit's leading so that they can make the right program adjustments. Pray for equipment to function well, for those who lead and speak to fulfill their assignments, and for the broadcast to be seamless in calling a nation to prayer (John 16:13)

26 Pray for the Baylor University campus to be saturated with the presence of God in preparation for the Collegiate Day of Prayer. Ask God to raise up day-and-night prayer and a sense of anticipation that God's Spirit is going to sweep through this campus (Psalm 16:11).

27 Pray that students on campuses across the nation will gather in groups to watch the Collegiate Day of Prayer simulcast on February 29—and that they will grow in their zeal to pray for their own campuses. Pray that the broadcast will be shared multiple times across social media platforms so that millions will be touched with the hope of spiritual awakening throughout our nation (Habakkuk 3:2).

28 Pray for all the pre-production work happening on the Baylor campus right now for tomorrow's simulcast. Pray that meetings will go smoothly, any issues will be figured out, and that the staff and production crew will be refreshed with sleep in preparation for tomorrow (Isaiah 40:31).

29 Tonight is the Collegiate Day of Prayer simulcast that will reach around the world through social media and other platforms. Pray that this vision for campuses that began 200 years ago will be a catalyst for revival in this next generation and throughout our nation (Acts 3:19-20).

February 2024

Maple Spring Church Activities, Birthdays, & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Prayer 10:35 Morning Worship Fellowship Meal Business Meeting	29	30 9:00 am Humble Hands	31 6:00 pm Song Service 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Prayer 10:35 Morning Worship	5	6 9:00 am Humble Hands	7 6:00 pm Song Service 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	8	9	10 Elsie Michael
11 Transfiguration Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Prayer 10:35 Morning Worship	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 9:00 am Humble Hands	14 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins Valentine's Day 6:00 pm Song Service 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	15	16	17
18 First Sunday in Lent 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Prayer 10:35 Morning Worship	19 Presidents Day Washington's Birthday	20 9:00 am Humble Hands	21 6:00 pm Song Service 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	22	23	24
25 Second Sunday in Lent 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Prayer 10:35 Morning Worship Fellowship Meal Business Meeting	26	27 9:00 am Humble Hands	28 6:00 pm Song Service 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	29	1	2
3 Third Sunday in Lent 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Prayer 10:35 Morning Worship	4	Notes				