

April 2024



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Members of Maples Memorial UMC,

As we anticipate the arrival of Pentecost, we are thrilled to extend a heartfelt invitation to join us for our upcoming sermon series, "Risen: Encountering the Power of Easter." This series promises to be a transformative journey as we dive deep into the profound impact of Christ's resurrection on our lives.

You're Invited to Encounter the Risen Christ:

Throughout the series, we will embark on a spiritual exploration of various aspects of encountering the risen Christ. From discovering peace in His presence to embracing Him as Good News for the world, each week will offer fresh insights and inspiration to deepen our faith and understanding.

Here's What to Expect:

- April 7: "Peace Be with You" (John 20:19-31) - Experience the transformative power of encountering the risen Christ in the midst of fear and doubt.
- April 14: "Witnesses of Resurrection" (Luke 24:36b-48) - Discover the joy of being witnesses of Christ's resurrection and boldly proclaiming His victory over death.
- April 21: "The Good Shepherd" (John 10:11-18) - Explore Jesus' sacrificial love as the Good Shepherd and be inspired to love sacrificially as His disciples.
- April 28: "Abiding in Christ" (John 15:1-8) - Deepen your relationship with Jesus and bear fruit that glorifies God as you abide in Him. This Sunday is Confirmation Sunday. Come celebrate with our confirmands.
- May 5: "The Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit" (Acts 10:44-48) - Celebrate the nature of God's salvation and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This Sunday is Baccalaureate Sunday. Come celebrate our Seniors as Ben preaches God's Word.
- May 12: "Bearing Fruit" (Psalm 1) - Joyfully live fruitful lives that reflect the transformative power of the risen Christ. This Sunday is Mother's Day!

Join Us on this Transformative Journey:

We warmly invite you to join us for this enriching series as we encounter the power of Easter together. Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, deeper insights into Scripture, or simply a community of fellow Christians to walk alongside, you'll be welcomed at Maples Memorial UMC.

Mark Your Calendars:

The series kicks off on April 7, 2024 and continues every Sunday after. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow in faith and encounter the risen Christ in a powerful and meaningful way.

Spread the Word and Bring a Friend:

We encourage you to spread the word about this series and invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us. Let's share the transformative message of Easter and extend God's love and grace to all who seek to encounter Him.

We Look Forward to Seeing You Here:

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, let us come together in eager anticipation of encountering His power and presence in our midst. We can't wait to see you there!

Dates to Remember

April 1 Church office closed for Easter
 April 2: Rook Club
 April 7: Confirmation Class
 Baby Shower for Schyler Larsen
 April 9: Women's Group meeting
 April 11: Olive Branch Food Panty
 Mississippi River Chorale concert
 April 12: Arc Supper Club
 April 14: Confirmation Class
 April 15: Maples Men's Ministry meeting
 April 19: Center Hill High School Choir concert
 April 21 Leadership Team Meeting
 April 28: Confirmation Sunday

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

April 2023.....\$40,197.67	October\$38,643.98
May\$46,693.98	November.....\$46,420.75
June\$31,370.02	December.....\$103,027.27
July.....\$141,172.47	January 2024.....\$47,469.34
August.....\$37,492.00	February\$53,862.69
September\$33,830.75	March.....\$42,510.55

Weekly Attendance/Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
March 3.....	65.....	121.....	\$6,918.00
March 10.....	45.....	108.....	\$7,972.00
March 17.....	62.....	115.....	\$6,832.00
March 24.....	60.....	141.....	\$2,844.00
March 31 EASTER.....	65.....	284.....	\$6,735.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in April

	Greeter	Acolyte
April 7	Jill Sitton	Isaac Bass
April 14	Rose Tobey	Blythe Highlander
April 21	Becky Bright	Cori Rice
April 28	Jane Downs	Ben Lane

Ushers: Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright, Ryan Barnes, Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Rick Osborn and Pat Dorr

April Birthdays

April 5: Anne Cetto, Kelly Walhood, Caitlin Luke
April 10: Isaac Bass
April 12: Jim Copeland
April 14: Misty Wilson
April 15: Audrey Barnes
April 16: Marilyn Owen, Vivian Vaughn
April 17: Amy Jones
April 18: David Olds
April 20: Ethan Lott
April 21: Kevin Bland
April 24: Teree Sowell, Jim Suttlemyre, Wendy Lane
April 25: Caiden Rousseau
April 27: Margaret Peden, Dave Kirchhoff
April 28: Michael Pacenza, Meredith Falconello

Ministry Opportunities

Little Free Pantry

Maples' provides this resource to anyone anytime - day or night. You can sign up at mapleschurch.org to fill the pantry on a particular day or if you are unable to commit to signing up to fill the pantry, please know you are always welcome to swing by and drop off a few items without signing up.

Matthew 25 Ministries

We are currently collecting bug spray and adult men's crew socks for the Matthew 25 Homeless Ministry. You can place your donations in the bin marked "Homeless Ministry" near the Information Desk. No clothes are needed at this time.

Olive Branch Food Pantry

Maples' day to work the Olive Branch Food Pantry is the second Thursday of every month from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. The Food Pantry is located at 10947 Hwy 178.

Memorials

Given in Loving Memory of:

Maxine Stallings
 Bill & Lynndy Travis

Jean Fay
 Jeanette Wallace
 Wesleyan Sunday School Class

Martile Welch
 Wesleyan Sunday School Class

Prayer Concerns

Home Bound: Phyllis Vanderburg; Margaret Peden; Carol McOlgan; Marilyn Owen.
Military: Mary Murphy; Adam Kirchhoff; Connor Tapley; Aaron James; Jacob Murphy; Jimarco White; Ben Vanderburg; Emma Magnuson; Josh Tow; Matthew Roach; Alexandra Raburn.

Other Requests: Cori Rice; Bray family in the loss of their baby (friends of Anna Fortenberry); Anna & Corey Fortenberry; Gary Weeden (Denise Weeden's brother-in-law); Merri Eddlemon (Christi Rice's step mother); Janice Wagg (friend of Dianne Dorr); Mary Rimes Vance (Sadie Herrington's niece); Banks Roper (child of friend of Rhett & April Hannaman); Ben & Schyler Larsen; the mother of one of Lynn Lott's students; Stephanie Murphree (Nyla Osborn's nephew's wife).



M28 Youth Retreat

This summer, July 6-9, the youth will be attending M28 in Lake Junaluska, NC. This is an awesome retreat of great worship, speaking, community groups, and fun! The cost is \$325 and includes everything! See Ben Larsen to sign up.



VBS Coming Soon!!

Mark your calendar for Maples VBS, coming this summer, Sunday, June 9th-Thursday, June 13th from 6-8PM. Each day, Campers see Counselor Sam face new challenges, from as simple as leading Campers on a hike to as intimidating as meeting a new and wise nature expert. With the help of Lu the Lightning Bug and the Camp Counselor Guidebook, Counselor Sam and our Campers explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Through these stories, this program will teach us about people in the Bible who experienced the gift of a trusting relationship with God. In addition, it will teach us to trust that God will go with us, lead the way, share wisdom, to give us peace, and spark joy as we celebrate the good news of Jesus in our own lives and in the lives of others. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ. More details and links to the registration page is coming soon!

Maples Women's Group, April 9 at 11AM

Maples Women's Group meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 11:00 a.m. in room 118. All women are invited to bring a sack lunch and join in on April 9. If you have any questions you can reach out to Sandra Bland at blansan@comcast.net, or contact the church office.

Maples Men's Ministry, April 15 at 6:30PM

Maples Men's Ministry meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in room 181. All men are invited and dinner is provided.

Maples Mowing Team

During grass cutting season, we put together a team to cut the grass every 1 to 2 weeks. We split up the property into a few sections to help identify what needs to be cut and to be efficient with time. Being part of this team does not mean you have to mow grass or weed eat every time it needs to be cut! You will be part of a group text where we send out a message about needing someone to cut a section of the property or weed eat an area, and if you are available, you can take it on for that week. We provide a zero-turn "Bad Boy" mower, backpack blower, and a weed eater. Contact Ben Larsen for more info!

Prayer Retreat, May 10-11

You are invited to attend the 3rd Annual "A Day Away" overnight retreat for prayer and renewal at St. Columba Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center in Memphis, TN. The retreat is hosted by Senatobia District 1. Contact the church office for more details and to register.

Diaper Drop for Anna Fortenberry

As Anna and Corey prepare for their new baby in just a few weeks we would like to help them by having a Diaper Drop April 7-14. Their preferred diapers are Pampers Swaddlers. Any size diapers or wipes would be greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off in the church office.

Maples Kids New Sunday Night Program

Maples Kids will begin a new program in April called "At the Table". The kids will discover who they are as disciples of Jesus through talks that begin at the dinner table. All 3rd – 5th graders are invited to attend on Sunday nights from 5PM to 7:30 PM from April 7 through May 19, with the exception of May 12 (Mother's Day).





Easter Celebration at Maples

Our Easter celebration began on Palm Sunday as we celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. That afternoon we enjoyed our Family Egg Hunt, games, face painting and a meal. As dusk drew near we gathered for worship by a fire and had the opportunity to spend intentional time with God on the prayer walk as we prepared our hearts to enter Holy Week and reflect on Jesus' ministry, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Easter Sunday was a glorious day of worship! Christ has risen indeed!



Senior Pastor, Rev. Kerry Powell • Worship Arts Pastor, Dr. Joey Lott
 Assistant Pastor of Youth and Worship, Ben Larsen • Children's Ministry Resident, Christi Rice
 Administrative Secretary, Gail Ross • Organist, Allen Sanders

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church

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Reaching Up...Reaching Within...Reaching Out.