

August 2024



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Summer has quickly passed and now we find ourselves entering a season filled with anticipation, excitement, and perhaps a touch of anxiety. For students, parents, and educators alike, the start of a new school year represents a fresh beginning, a chance to embrace new opportunities and face challenges with renewed determination.

For our students, this is a time to set out on new academic adventures, make lasting friendships, and discover more about the world and themselves. It's a time for growth and learning, not just in the classroom, but in every aspect of life. As you prepare to return to school, remember that you are not alone. Your church family is here to support and pray for you every step of the way.

Parents, as you navigate the complexities of schedules, homework, and extracurricular activities, take a moment to breathe and find comfort in knowing that God walks with you on this journey. Your guidance and love provide a strong foundation for your children, and your dedication does not go unnoticed. Lean on your community for support and encouragement as you tackle the joys and challenges of another school year.

For our educators, your calling is a noble one. You have the incredible privilege and responsibility of shaping young minds and hearts. Your passion and commitment inspire students to reach their fullest potential. We recognize the dedication and hard work you invest in creating a nurturing learning environment, and we are grateful for your unwavering commitment to education.

As a church community, we blessed and prayed for all those returning to school. Let us continue asking God to bless this new academic year with safety, wisdom, and joy. May He grant students the courage to explore and learn, parents the patience and understanding to guide, and educators the strength and inspiration to teach.

In this new school year, let us hold onto the words of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." With faith as our guide, we can all navigate the challenges and celebrate the victories that lie ahead. Welcome back to school, and may God bless each of you in this exciting journey of growth and discovery.

Blessings,

Bro. Kerry



Dates to Remember

August 6 Rook Club
 August 7 Choir Practice Resumes
 August 8 Olive Branch Food Pantry
 August 17 Maples Men's Ministry Meeting
 August 18 Leadership Team Meeting
 Family Fall Kickoff Messy Games
 August 24 Liturgist, Usher and Greeter Training
 August 25 Prayer Study begins

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| June 2023..... \$31,370.02 | January 2024 \$47,469.34 |
| July \$141,172.47 | February..... \$53,862.69 |
| August \$37,492.00 | March \$42,510.55 |
| September \$33,830.75 | April \$38,961.10 |
| October \$38,643.98 | May..... \$39,142.90 |
| November \$46,420.75 | June \$45,556.35 |
| December \$103,027.27 | July \$53,403.86 |

Weekly Attendance/Giving Reports

| | Sunday School | Worship Services | Giving |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| July 7..... | 56..... | 129..... | \$15,528.16 |
| July 14..... | 53..... | 123..... | \$9,415.00 |
| July 21..... | 44..... | 127..... | \$2,351.00 |
| July 28..... | 56..... | 128..... | \$6,860.00 |

Sunday Morning Volunteers in August

| | Greeter | Ushers | Acolyte |
|-----------|------------------|---|---------------|
| August 4 | Jeanette Wallace | Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker and Pat Dorr | Cori Rice |
| August 11 | Jill Sitton | Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright, Ryan Barnes and Eason Treadway | Audrey Barnes |
| August 18 | Rose Tobey | Ron Tucker, Pat Dorr and Ashley Bowlan | Ben Lane |
| August 25 | Becky Bright | Larry Bright, Ryan Barnes, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker | Isaac Bass |

Prayer Concerns

Home Bound: Phyllis Vanderburg; Carol McOlgan; Margaret Peden.

Military: Mary Murphy; Adam Kirchhoff; Connor Tapley; Aaron James; Jimarco White; Ben Vanderburg; Emma Magnuson; Josh Tow; Matthew Roach; Alexandra Raburn.

Other Requests: Everyone returning to school; Rev. Mike Dorr; Rebecca Thomas; for God's guidance; for God's provision for non-profit; Beverly Wilkes; Ruth Allen; Sue McCrary; Mike Spillars; Shirley Moss; Jo Nell Speck.

Welcome...



Please welcome Bo Brown and his daughters, Hailey and Hannah as the newest members of Maples!

August Birthdays

August 2: Pat Dorr, Chad Webster
August 3: Leigh Ellen Doddridge
August 4: John David Nelson
August 6: Caysee Sanders
August 7: Weston Holloway
August 10: Adam Kirchhoff
August 12: Anna Ruth Doddridge, Brenda Carter, Carolyn Morgan
August 13: Eason Treadway
August 14: Zelle Eye
August 15: Pam Adams, Noah Nelson, Alison Webster
August 16: Lent Ross, Jennifer Taylor
August 17: Trev Sprabery
August 19: Kathy Spillman
August 20: Jane Roman
August 24: Holly Hunter, Alex Billions
August 27: Becky Bright
August 30: Bryan Holloway

Contact the church office if your name is not on the birthday list.

Happies for OB Teachers Delivered!

Leigh Ellen Doddridge and some of the girls from youth small group delivered the happies



we collected to the schools so they would be there when the teachers arrive. Thank you for supporting this ministry in our community. ❤️





Maples Kids are movin' and groovin' this fall!

Here is what to expect:

During Sunday school Maples Kids have been talking about the life of David. We will continue these talks through August but will change gears in September and October where we move on to Solomon and Job. We will witness how all these people were guided by God and how they trusted God along the way. We will talk about how God has a plan and expects us to show kindness and forgiveness, how God gives us direction and wisdom, and how God guides us to trust and persevere during rough times.

On August 18th we will have our 2nd annual Messy Games Family Fall Kickoff event where all ages can come together to eat and play games. Some will be messy, some will be wet, and some will be dry but loads of fun. We would love for everyone to join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and lots of laughs.

Beginning August 25th, Maples Kids will have 4-week Sunday evening series (not including Labor Day weekend) geared around prayer. We will meet from 6-7:30pm in room 175 and will be guided in lessons that deepen our faith journey through learning how even little people can pray big.

To round out our fall, we will have a Family Fall Festival complete with food, games, fellowship, and a trunk-or-treat. Pay attention to our announcements and other communication methods in the upcoming months for more details and dates.

The Holy Spirit is moving in Maples Kids. We invite all of you to follow and grow alongside us as we explore God's wonderful world.

Liturgist, Usher and Greeter Training

These three teams are vital to worship experiences here at Maples. If you would like to be part of one or all of these teams, there will be a training session on Saturday, August 24, 9am-12pm. All three of these groups are open to anyone 6th grade and up. There will be a light breakfast, so reserve your spot on the signup sheet at the information desk. There will be more information about this event as we move closer to it.

Prayer Study begins Sunday, August 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Bro. Kerry Powell will lead our Prayer Study which will begin Sunday, August 25 at 6:00 p.m. The class is based on Dr. Terry Teykl's book *Praying in Jesus Name for 21 Centuries*. The study will end with a District Prayer Gathering on Mon., September 23 at 6:00 p.m. here at Maples. Contact the church office by Aug. 8 if you want a book. Cost is \$10.

Family Fall Kickoff, Sunday, August 18

Mark your calendars for Maples annual Family Fall Kickoff on Sunday, August 18 at 5:00 p.m. People of every age are invited! There will be messy games for the young at heart as well as more "sophisticated" games that do not include getting messy or wet. And of course, there will be food!

Maples Men's Ministry, August 17 at 8AM

Maples Men's Ministry will meet on Sat., Aug. 17, at 8:00 a.m. All men are invited to attend as they make plans and prepare for their annual Unity Banquet & Dessert Auction on October 12. Breakfast will be served at the meeting.

Maples Women's Group, Sept. 10 at 11AM

Maples Women's Group will resume their monthly meetings on Sept. 10. They meet the 2nd Tues. of each month at 11:00 a.m. in room 118. All women are invited to come and bring a sack lunch. If you have any questions you can reach out to Sandra Bland at blansan@comcast.net, or contact the church office.

Wesley Meadows 26th Annual Golf Tournament

The 26th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Elders at Wesley Meadows Retirement Community will be Sept. 13 at Timber Truss Golf Course with a 1:00 p.m. start time. For more info call 662-429-2070.

Maples Kids at Destiny Center



Maples Kids, along with a little help from their friends, filled 900 backpacks with lunches for children in the Olive Branch area with food insecurities. AND, it was done in record time! We are so proud of our kids at Maples and their hearts for ministry! Thanks, Christi for your hard work and teaching the children about helping and loving others!





Youth Trip to M28 Retreat

Maples youth had a great worship experience at M28 at Lake Junaluska in July. Below are quotes from just a few that attended about what the retreat meant to them .

Connor Trest , "youth":

"M28 was a great retreat for me to go on. It meant a lot to me because it really helped me to understand more about God and what he does for me. It was very meaningful."

Vivina Vaughn, "youth":

"The M28 retreat meant a lot to me. Every night when we would worship God, it was so powerful that it had everybody on their knees. I saw God move in people, and it made me so happy for them. I think everybody needs to experience M28!"

Michael Pacenza, "college":

"The retreat to North Carolina was an escape from reality. From worshipping to playing pickleball to our nightly vespers everything was an out of body experience. I recommend m28 retreats to anyone that questions the movement God is making in peoples life. My favorite part was we were singing More Than Able and the part goes " Can you imagine with all of the faith in the room what the Lord can do" I remember at that time I just looked around and got chills seeing everyone singing that song. The faith was definitely in the room. "

Hudson Howell , "chaperone":

"The retreat was an amazing opportunity for the youth to dive deeper into their faith while making unforgettable memories with each other. For me, it was very encouraging to see how God was working in them, which allowed me the opportunity to re-center my focus on God. I feel that it was just as eye-opening for me as it was for them."

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.