

August 2025



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Maples Family,

As we come to the end of summer, I've found myself grateful, reflective, and hopeful. This season has been full, not just with activity, but with signs of God's faithfulness at work among us.

We've had a good summer.

From youth trips and small groups to Vacation Bible School and local mission efforts, I've seen the Holy Spirit moving. I've watched our young people step into leadership. I've seen others serve with quiet faithfulness—packing meals, showing up early, staying late, making sure all the things that need doing get done. That's church. That's what community looks like when Christ is at the center.

You've welcomed new faces, invited neighbors, and carried the heart of this church into the lives of others. For me, these are glimpses of what happens when a congregation believes that the Church is not just a building—it's a people living out the gospel.

As we ramp back up, we must remind ourselves that this season ahead is not a restart—it's a continuation. God's not done.

Our current worship series, *Living Faithfully in a Broken World*, will name what many of us feel and point us toward hope. We'll be talking about things that matter—what it means to trust when life is uncertain, to pray with boldness, to live renewed in Christ. We're not interested in pretending everything is fine. But we do believe that even in the broken places, God is building something beautiful.

Discipleship opportunities are coming. Our youth and children's ministries are preparing for a season of connection and growth. We're forming new short-term small groups, and we're continually moving forward—not just being present in our community, but participating in God's mission here in Olive Branch.

There's work to do, but there's joy in the doing.

Let's keep showing up for each other. Let's keep praying, serving, and leaning into what God has next. I believe we're being shaped into the kind of church our neighbors need and the kind of disciples Christ calls us to be.

And I'm grateful to walk this road with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Kerry Powell



Dates to Remember

August 5 Rook Club
 August 10 Acolyte Training
 Fall Kick-off Block Party
 August 13 Youth Connection Groups
 August 14 Olive Branch Food Pantry
 August 16 Maples Men's Ministry
 August 17 Youth Sunday Nights
 Walking the Path study begins
 August 19 Rook Club
 August 20 Youth Connection Groups
 August 23 Dip & Devotion Ladies Group Brunch
 August 24 Youth Sunday Nights
 Walking the Path study
 August 27 Youth Connection Groups

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

July 2025.....\$42,442.00	December 2024\$98,940.66
June\$46,200.95	November\$51,648.25
May\$34,161.99	October\$45,445.00
April\$43,443.70	August.....\$45,383.40
March\$51,311.04	July.....\$53,403.86
February.....\$47,207.41	May\$34,161.99
January\$46,942.25	

Weekly Attendance/Budget Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
July 6	49	114	\$7,872.00
July 13	67	152	\$9,796.00
July 20	65	131	\$6,741.00
July 27	67	150	\$3,728.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in August

Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:

Aug 3 **Ushers:** Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and
 Pat Dorr. **Greeter:** Earnestine Turner.
Aug 10 **Ushers:** Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and
 Ashley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Jeanette Wallace.
Aug 17 **Ushers:** Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron
 Tucker. **Greeter:** Elizabeth Sanders.
Aug 24 **Ushers:** Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and
 Pat Dorr. **Greeter:** Jill Sitton.
Aug 31 **Ushers:** Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and
 Ashley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Becky Bright.

Prayer Concerns

Home Bound: Carol McOlgan; Margaret Peden.
Military: Jadzia Pacenza; Mary Murphy; Adam Kirchhoff; Connor Tapley; Aaron James; Jimarco White; Ben Vanderburg; Emma Magnuson; Josh Tow; Matthew Roach; Alexandra Raburn.
Other Requests: Teachers and students returning to school; Julia Dykes; Audrey Vaughn; Allen Collier; Ukraine and Gaza; Telicia Riddle; Gregory Norwood; Mike Kelly's daughter, Michelle; Bill Hale; Healing of cancer; Ronnie Downs; Catherine Cox; Family of Pat McKinney; Chris Austin; Jeanette Wallace; Allen & Caysee Sanders; Theresa Owens; Dennis Treadway; Jon Lott; Tobey & Rose Tobey.

Please contact the church office or let a staff member know if you or a family member have any upcoming surgeries scheduled or you know of someone in the hospital.

Happy Birthday!

- August 1:** Laurie Sprabery
Carol Sharp
- August 2:** Pat Dorr
Chad Webster
- August 3:** Leigh Ellen Doddridge
- August 4:** John David Nelson
- August 6:** Caysee Sanders
- August 10:** Adam Kirchhoff
- August 12:** Anna Ruth Doddridge
- August 13:** Eason Treadway
- August 14:** Zelle Eye
- August 15:** Pam Adams
Noah Nelson
Alison Webster
- August 16:** Lent Ross
- August 17:** Trev Sprabery
- August 20:** Jane Roman
- August 23:** Shawn Braddock
- August 24:** Holly Hunter
Alex Billions
- August 27:** Becky Bright

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

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.

M25 Ministries

M25 Ministries, formally known as Matthew 25 Ministries, is currently collecting mosquito spray, money designated for bus passes, and travel size toiletries. Contact Rev. Ashley Ford at 901-606-1553 or at sixtfred@gmail.com if you are interested in going downtown and helping. Checks can be made payable to M25 Ministries and mailed to Pleasant Hill UMC, 3787 Pleasant Hill Rd., Olive Branch, MS 38654.

Olive Branch Food Pantry

Maples serves at the Olive Branch Food Panty the second Thursday of each month from 5:45-8:00 p.m. The pantry is located at 10947 Hwy 178.

Fall Small Group Study Opportunities beginning August 17

The Bible & Me, August 17 at 5:00 PM

The Bible & Me is a class for children in 3rd-5th grades. This class will teach the children why the Bible is important, the different parts and books of the Bible, how to look up passages, and more! This is a huge building block in their faith foundation and will guide them to run to the Bible in times of joy, in times of struggle, in times of gratefulness, and in times of doubt. We can't wait to see your children there!

Walking the Path, August 17 at 6:00 PM

We invite you to join us for a new 4-week small group study called *Walking the Path*, beginning August 17 at 6:00 pm in room 118. This study, led by Rev. Kerry Powell, is designed to explore the foundations of Christianity through a United Methodist lens--how we grow in faith, live in community, serve others, and follow Jesus Christ with purpose.

Acolyte Training/Refresher (3rd to 6th grade)

Sunday, August 10 at 3PM // All current and prospective acolytes are invited to attend our upcoming training session! This is a great opportunity for children and youth to serve in worship by lighting the altar candles, assisting with Communion, and learning the meaning behind this sacred role. Parents are encouraged to attend for a brief orientation. Whether you are brand new or returning, come be part of something meaningful as we learn to carry the light of Christ into worship together.

Fall Kick-off: Block Party Edition

Sunday, August 10 at 4:30PM // Join us for an afternoon of faith, fun, and fellowship at our Fall Kickoff! We'll start at 4:30 with waterslides and yard games, followed by a free cookout at 5:30 with hamburgers and hotdogs. Explore our small group sign-ups, grab your Fall Calendar, and don't miss the Homemade Ice Cream Competition. This is the perfect time to reconnect, invite a friend, and step into the new season rooted in faith and ready to grow. All ages welcome!

Dip & Devotion Fall Semester Kick-off

Saturday, August 23 at 10:30AM // Maples Ladies are invited to a brunch at Leigh Ellen Doddridge's home, 7161 Dunn Lane in Olive Branch. Reach out to Jennifer Bland, 662-871-7171 or Leigh Ellen Doddridge, 901-485-6189, if you have any questions. Dip & Devotion monthly Thursday night meetings will resume September 18 at 6PM in Wesley Hall.

Maples Youth Fall Programming

As the leaves start to turn and students head back to school, we're excited to launch our Fall Youth Group Programming! Our leaders have been prayerfully preparing for a season filled with connection, fun, and spiritual growth—and we can't wait to welcome you back. We will focus on building a community of belonging and challenging our youth to extend that belonging to everyone they meet. We know the school year can be overwhelming but in the midst of the busyness, we are encouraging our students to stay rooted in their relationship with God. Faith is the foundation that helps us navigate everything else. Through worship, Bible study, small groups, and time with mentors, we will be helping our youth make space to grow in their walk with Christ while keeping their priorities grounded in Him. Let's make this year one where faith flourishes, friendships grow, and everyone finds a place to belong!

Maples Ladies Ministry

Maples Ladies Ministry will resume their monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:00 AM in room 118 beginning Sept. 9. You are invited to join them as they joyfully support and strengthen each other in faithful service to Maples and our community with glory to God.

Youth Connection Groups begin Wed., Aug.13 at 6PM
Youth Sunday Nights begin Sun., Aug.17 at 5PM

Maples Men's Ministry

Maples Men's Ministry will begin having their monthly meetings on August 16. All men are invited to attend and breakfast will be served. See Dave Kirchoff if you have any questions.

Memorials Received

In memory of Shirley Moss by:

Steve & Rachel Farabee

In memory of Sidney Vanderburg by:

Jim & Annelle Rose

Steve & Rachel Farabee

Clay Vanderburg

Bill & Lynndy Travis

Ruth Ellen Cetto

Martha Doddridge Vanderburg

In memory of Phyllis Vanderburg by:

Leonard & Diane Hampton

Olive Branch Community Thrift Store

Maples UMC and First Global Methodist were responsible for the operation of the Olive Branch Community Thrift Store during the month of July. We are open for several hours each Friday and Saturday during the month. We had sales totaling \$2224.00. The monies made in sales from all volunteer churches are divided twice a year among local Desoto County charities such as Together Ministry Center, Destiny Center, Shop With a Cop, Precious in Pink Prison Ministry, Search Dogs and others. We want to thank our faithful volunteers: Sanna Burlison, Cecelia Gilkey, Nancy Hill, Katherine Steele and Beverly Williams.

Cecelia Gilkey & Pam Adams, Coordinators



Maples Youth M28 Retreat

Maples Youth recently returned from an incredible youth retreat where God moved powerfully! They experienced deep, Spirit-filled worship, made personal commitments to follow Christ more fully, and spent meaningful time diving into God's word. It was truly a time of transformation. Students grew closer to God and to each other, and many felt a renewed sense of purpose and calling. We are so thankful for what the Lord did and are excited to see how these young lives will continue to grow in faith.



Below are responses from two youth when they were asked about their experience at M28:

"M28 was an unbelievable experience. The worship was AMAZING and unlike any kind of worship I have ever experienced. I loved how some songs had little dances to go with them. My favorite thing to do was probably the volleyball tournament or walking around the lake with my friends. I fell like I really connected with the group and became closer with some of the girls.".....Sophia Slone

"It's hard to put into words how moving M28 was, not only this year but also last year. Both trips truly changed my life for the better, and lit a fire in me that hasn't gone out from the moment I got there a year ago. Also, I had an amazing time with the experiences they had to offer: from D-groups, to Workshops, or even just playing pickle ball with friends we made while there. It was a great time and I'll forever cherish the memories we made, and progress made in my faith while on the mountain.".....Jon Lott



Senior Pastor, Rev. Kerry Powell • Worship Arts Pastor, Dr. Joey Lott
Director of Children & Family Ministries, Christi Rice • Interim Youth Minister, Eason Treadway
Administrative Secretary, Gail Ross • Organist, Allen Sanders • Instrumentalist, Nelson Coile

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church

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