



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Reflections from Bro. Kerry Powell

As we enter the Advent season, a time of reflection and anticipation, we are reminded of the profound themes that define this special time of year: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. These themes, represented by the four candles of the Advent wreath, guide us on our journey toward the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Hope: In a world that often feels uncertain and troubled, Advent reminds us to hold on to hope. Just as the prophets of old foretold the coming of the Messiah, we too wait with hope for His return. During this time of anticipation, let us remember that our hope is not in vain but firmly anchored in the promises of God.

Peace: Amidst the chaos and noise of the world, Advent offers us a moment of peace. The Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate, invites us to find tranquility in His presence. So, let us seek the peace that can only be found in the embrace of the One who brings calm to our restless hearts.

Joy: The joy of the angels on that holy night in Bethlehem continues to resonate in our hearts. Advent calls us to experience the deep, abiding joy that comes from knowing Christ. May our spirits be lifted by the joy that transcends circumstances and fills us with a sense of divine delight.

Love: Love took on flesh and dwelt among us in the form of a baby in a humble manger. Advent invites us to contemplate the immeasurable love of God, who sent His Son to be our Savior. This year, let us be reminded of the boundless love that surrounds us and compels us to love one another.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, pause to reflect on these Advent themes. Take time for prayer, meditation, and worship to draw closer to the Christ child, who embodies hope, peace, joy, and love.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, may our hearts be filled with the hope that He brings, the peace that He bestows, the joy that He imparts, and the love that He shares. Let Christ guide us through this season and inspire us to carry the message of His love into the world.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season filled with the presence of our Savior.

Bro. Kerry

Dates to Remember

December 2:..... Olive Branch Christmas Parade
 December 4:..... Olive Branch High School Choir concert
 December 5:..... Rook Club
 Lewisburg Middle School Band concert
 December 6:..... Milk & Cookies
 December 7:..... Center Hill High School Choir concert
 December 8:..... Arc Supper Club
 December 9:..... Youth at Toys for Tots
 Special Called Annual Conference
 December 10:..... Lessons & Carols 11AM
 Youth Christmas Party
 December 11:..... Lewisburg Middle & High School Choirs concert
 December 14:..... Olive Branch Food Pantry
 December 15:..... Youth Christmas Dinner Theater
 December 17:..... Connection Service Christmas Program 9AM
 Advent Prayer Walk
 December 18:..... Maples Men's Ministry
 December 21:..... Handel's Messiah
 December 24:..... Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
 December 25:..... Christmas Day (church office closed)

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

January	\$66,162.65	July.....	\$141,172.47
February.....	\$66,322.00	August.....	\$37,492.00
March	\$56,384.30	September	\$33,830.75
April.....	\$40,197.67	October	\$38,643.98
May	\$46,693.98	November	\$46,420.75
June	\$31,370.02		

Weekly Attendance/Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
November 5	60	117	\$7,097.00
November 12	65	137	\$12,267.00
November 19	54	130	\$3,992.50
November 26	64	150	\$10,042.00

Special Giving

Given in Loving Memory of

Bettie Smith by:..... Jeanette Wallace

Geraldine Barnes by:..... Ruth Ellen Cetto
 Larry & Becky Bright
 Debra Smith & Sabrenia Jackson
 Sadie Herrington
 Jeanette Wallace
 Wesleyan Sunday School Class
 Steven & Rachel Farabee

Prayer Concerns

Home Bound: Dot Hays; Phyllis Vanderburg; Margaret Peden; Carolyn Dupree; Joann Potts; Carol McOlgan; Marilyn Owen.

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

Other Requests: Students and teachers as they finish fall semester classes and exams; Janice Wagg (friend of Dianne Dorr); Elwood Jefferson; Maxine Stallings; Jim Copeland; Keith Copeland (Jim Copeland's son); the mother of a student of Lynn Lott; David James (Nyla Osborn's brother-in-law); Nick Walker (friend of Lyndall Snyder); Keith Nichols.

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.

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 toiletries, lotion, bug spray and sunscreen for the Matthew 25 Homeless Ministry. You can place your donations in the bin marked "Homeless Ministry" near the nursery 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.

Agape Class Food Drive

Below is the list of food the Agape class is collecting for high school students with food insecurity over weekends. There is a wire shelf in the Agape classroom for drop off, or donations can be made to Maples, designated Agape food drive.

- Pop tarts • Granola bars • Green beans • Corn • Tuna fish • Vienna sausage • Slim Jims • Beef Jerky
- Pickles (bag) • Single serve fruit cups • Peanut butter • Peanut butter crackers • Mashed potatoes (instant, bag)
- Single serve mac n cheese

Happy Birthday!

December 1: Raegan Rice

December 7: Cole Hoover

December 10: Grace Lott

December 11: Ty Hogan

December 13: Rick Osborn

December 15: Joyce Williams

December 16: Amy Bass, Elwood Jefferson

December 18: Jordan Galtelli

December 20: Ben Lane

December 24: Ashley Bowlan

December 26: Earnestine Turner, Bonnie Turner,
Josey Jones

December 27: Claire Thompson

December 28: Jack Scholl

December 29: Kerry Powell

December 30: Dorgie Nichols

December 31: Rosemary Jones

ELEVATE Retreat 2024

All youth (6th-12th grades) are invited to attend Elevate retreat January 12-15, 2024 in Gatlinburg, TN. Elevate is a Student Ministry Conference that started in 2011 in Gatlinburg. It is a high-energy, relationally-structured weekend that includes speaker, worship, small-group time, and plenty of fun stuff to do. Each youth can choose their free time activity which will determine the cost of the trip. The ski option will cost \$295, snowboard option is \$325, and the non-ski option is \$235. The cost included travel, all conference sessions, 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 2 days of skiing or snowboarding (depending on the selected package) with lesson and equipment, and tram tickets. Tram tickets are included for non-skiers as well. A deposit of \$115 will reserve your spot and is due no later than Wednesday, November 29th. The second payment will be due January 4, 2024. Please note that payments are non-refundable. Contact Ben Larsen if you have any questions.



Please welcome Lynndy Travis to the Maples Family. Lynndy comes to us from Germantown United Methodist Church.

These are a few of our favorite things.....

Milk & Cookies for Maples Kids

Children, pre-k- 5th grade, are invited to join Maples Kids for *Milk & Cookies* on Wednesday, December 6th from 6-8 p.m. We will discuss the meaning of Advent and decorate Christmas cookies! We hope your children will come and bring a friend for this awesome time of fellowship and fun. This is a drop-off event and dinner will be provided.

Stockings for Candlelight

Maples will help provide filled Christmas stockings for the children at Candlelight. Names of children and other info are available at the information desk.

Youth Christmas Party

Youth are invited to "A Youth Christmas" on Sunday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m. Bring a \$10 white elephant gift to exchange, and of course wear an ugly Christmas sweater!

Maples Christmas Mailbox

The Christmas Card Mailbox is set up at the information desk for your convenience to be able to "mail" Christmas cards to your Maples family.

Handel's Messiah

Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Choir and soloists will present Handel's Messiah on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the church office for \$17.50.

Tickets purchased last year are still good if you opted to keep the tickets and did not receive a refund.

Advent Devotional and Event Cards

Be sure to pick up a copy of this year's Advent Devotional along with a "Christmas at Maples" calendar card. They are available in the narthex and information desk.

Christmas Services

Maples Choir will present Lessons & Carols at 11:00 a.m. on December 10. The Connection Christmas Service will be December 17 at 9:00 a.m. There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Eve followed by candlelight services at 3:30 and 11:00 p.m.

Advent Prayer Walk

The Advent Prayer Walk is December 17 from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. You are encouraged to go on this self guided prayer walk alone, as a family, or with loved ones as you prepare your heart for the birth of Jesus.

MAPLES
Kids
Presents:
Milk & Cookies
A time to learn about Advent
and decorate cookies

Dec. 6th
6pm-8pm

* Register Here!



*This is a drop-off event
* Dinner will be provided

* Registration Required



Hanging of the Greens

The church was decorated in record time thanks to these wonderful volunteers!

Youth Christmas Dinner Theater

HOSTED BY MAPLES YOUTH WORSHIP ARTS

Dec 15th, 2023
6:30pm

8745 GOODMAN RD
OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654

Spaghetti Dinner, Christmas Skits, and Carols
\$7 for Adults and \$5 for Children (Under 12yo)

Congratulations to our New Acolytes!

Congratulations to Isaac Bass, Audrey Barnes, Bettie Cummings, Ben Lane, Cori Rice, and Walker Webster on completing their acolyte training and being commissioned to serve as acolyte. We are so proud of you and your commitment to Maples!



Senior Pastor, Rev. Kerry Powell • Associate Pastor, Rev. Sam Jones • 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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