

February 2026



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maples Family,

Over the past several days, our world grew very small.

Ice slowed everything down. Roads emptied. Homes went quiet. Power and water became uncertain for many. Across our region, lives were lost. In neighboring counties, some are still waiting for the basics to be restored. And here at Maples, we missed two consecutive Sundays of gathering in person, one of our cherished moments together.

There was a strange beauty in the stillness. White fields. A stillness we don't often experience. But alongside that beauty was isolation, anxiety, and very real need. Moments like this have a way of reminding us how fragile life can be and how connected we are to one another.

When circumstances unsettle us like this, we look for something steady. Something that does not shift with the weather or the headlines.

The psalmist says, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* A lamp doesn't light up the whole road. It gives enough light for the next faithful step. And in times like these, that is often how God works.

Scripture does not rush us past grief or loss. It teaches us to tell the truth about the world as it is, while still trusting God's presence within it. In God's Word, we learn how to see clearly—to notice suffering without turning away, to recognize beauty without ignoring need, and to remain attentive to God even when life feels disrupted. God works by giving us what we need to move forward in trust, not by removing all uncertainty.

We are all invited to remember that how we see is shaped by what we tend to. Scripture trains our vision. It steadies us when plans change and keeps calling us outward when our instinct is to turn inward. Scripture anchors us and steadies us as we become who God calls us to be.

So this month, I invite you to sit with Scripture. Read attentively. Let God's Word shape how you see your neighbors, our community, and the work God is placing before us.

May God give us eyes to see!

Rev. Kerry Powell

Dates to Remember

February 6 Children's Choir Festival/Cora Rio
 February 7 Mardi Gras Parade
 February 8 Ladies Ministry's "Super Bowl Watching Snack Sale"
 Youth Super Bowl Party
 February 10 Maples Ladies Ministry
 February 12 Olive Branch Food Pantry
 February 14 Maples Men's Ministry Valentine Banquet
 February 15 Leadership Team Meeting
 February 17 Shrove Tuesday
 February 18 Ash Wednesday
 February 19 Dip & Devotion Ladies Group
 February 21 Maples Men's Ministry
 Virginia Miller's 100th Birthday Party
 February 22 Safe Sanctuary Training
 Lay Leadership Training

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

January 2026.....	\$42,709.56	July.....	\$42,442.00
December 2025.....	\$90,970.35	June.....	\$46,200.95
November.....	\$45,911.50	May.....	\$34,161.99
October.....	\$42,350.50	April.....	\$43,443.70
September.....	\$43,636.95	March.....	\$51,311.04
August.....	\$44,891.45	February.....	\$47,207.41

Weekly Attendance/Budget Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
January 4.....	57.....	133.....	\$6,456.00
January 11.....	87.....	179.....	\$23,229.31
January 18.....	67.....	147.....	\$4,871.00
January 25.....	Church cancelled due to snow and ice.....		

Sunday Morning Volunteers in February

Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:

Feb 1..... Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. **Greeter:** Becky Bright. **Acolyte:** Audrey Barnes.
Feb 8..... Ushers: Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat Dorr. **Greeter:** Earnestine Turner. **Acolyte:** Elle Webster.
Feb 15..... Ushers: Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and Ashley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Jeanette Wallace. **Acolyte:** Bettie Cummings.
Feb 22..... Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. **Greeter:** Shannon Suttlemyre. **Acolyte:** Reagan Crain.

February Birthdays

February 1: Virginia Miller
 Kayla Pearce
February 2: Elle Webster
February 6: Don Palmer
February 8: Davey Roman
 Will Farabee
February 10: Meg Maddox
February 11: Reagan Crain
February 12: Lori Kirchhoff
February 16: Andrew Peel
February 17: Nancy Hill
 Ginger Hunter
February 19: Savannah Rice
February 20: Ryan Barnes
 Jerry McOlgan
February 21: Ellie Jones
February 22: John Young
February 24: Bella Pacenza
February 26: Cindy Springer
 Preston Pearce
February 27: Audra Thomas

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

Memorials Received

In loving memory of Robert Tobey by:

Euchre Club
 Sadie Herrington
 Jill Sitton
 Lynn Cox
 Larry & Becky Bright

In loving memory of Milton Nichols by:

Jim & Annelle Rose
 Bill & Lynndy Travis
 Lynn Cox
 Sonny & Barbara Alderson
 Mike Kissell
 Jimmy & Ginga Woods
 Bea Ann Pearce
 Larry & Becky Bright
 A1 Fire Protection Inc.

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: Mike Spillars; Wesley Miller; Misty Hill; Michelle Harkness; Teresa Owens; Cindy Baneck in the loss of her mother; Vivian Vaughn; Audrey Vaughn; Whitney Wright; Mike Rodgers; Holly Beck; Dick & Betty Hall; David Rogers; Audra Thomas; Jason Catlett; Glover family; Adrian Watley; David Day; T. L. Sheffield; Bloodworth Family; Young family; Family of Milton Nichols; Family of Robert Tobey; Russ Daffner; Ginger Hunter; Amy Stone; Michael Stone; Erica Kelley, Caysee & Allen Sanders. *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.*



Mardi Gras PARADE
Mask Making with Maples

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church is excited to begin the Lenten season in celebration with you!

Come by our table and make a mask to wear during the parade!

February 7th @ 11 am in the kidzone



MAPLES LADIES MINISTRY

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY BAKE SALE

FEBRUARY 8 @ 12PM (AFTER 11AM WORSHIP)



SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE DINNER
FEBRUARY 17, 2026
6PM
WESLEY HALL

Maples Memorial UMC
Annual Valentine's Banquet



ENJOY A STEAK DINNER AND A DESSERT AUCTION

\$25 PER PLATE

February 14, 2026 @ 5:30pm



Register Here!

FEBRUARY 18, 2026



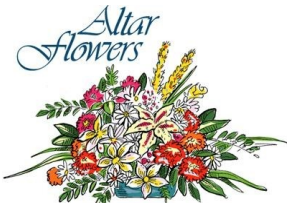
ASH WEDNESDAY

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SERVICE AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES @ 6:30PM



SAFE SANCTUARIES
IN CONCERT WITH
MinistrySafe

February 22nd @ 12pm



The signup sheet for 2026 altar flowers is available at the information desk. The cost of flowers is \$42.50.



Men's softball season is just around the corner! We're welcoming new players to join the team. For more information or to sign up, please see Ricky Pacenza.

Youth Overflow Retreat

(Quotes from the youth about what Overflow meant to them)



►“Overflow was a really meaningful experience for me. The worship sessions and messages helped me grow in my faith and think more about my relationship with God.” -*Joe Barnes*

►“Overflow was such an amazing experience. I felt like I grew as a person getting to come together with the church and other churches to worship God, and it was really fun.” -*Sophia Slone*

►“This was my first church retreat and I really liked it! I loved the worship and the worship music. I also loved being able to worship together as a youth group. Overall, Overflow was a great camp, and I would definitely go to it again!” -*Walker Webster*



►“It was really fun. I had a great time with some of my best friends learning about Christ. It was awesome seeing everybody worship God together while becoming more united.” -*Noah Nelson*

►“I really enjoyed every message during my time at Overflow. Each one was shared in a way I had never heard before. One that especially stuck with me was when the speaker talked about a doctor having to re-break his nose so it could heal correctly. Instead of screaming at the doctor, he said, “Thank you”. That really changed my perspective. Sometimes Jesus allows us to experience pain so he can truly heal us. We don’t always understand why Jesus puts us through pain and suffering, and we often find ourselves questioning him— but there is purpose in it.” -*Grace Lott*



►“I learned the importance of community and being a community of God while also not hiding my limp from my fellow Christians. Overflow was a great experience to meet new people while getting closer with my youth group. The games were also a lot of fun but definitely covered my pants with lots of grass stains though.” -*Devin Robinson*

►“I absolutely loved my Overflow experience. I got a new perspective on a lot and also clearance. It felt great to be able to open up and share.” -*Collins Crain*

►“Overflow was great. We spent lots of time with our youth group and the other churches. It was a good weekend to get closer to God and our group better. The games were very fun, and the worship was super special. Having a smaller group of people really felt like it enhanced our connection to God.” -*Connor Trest*



Senior Pastor, Rev. Kerry Powell • Worship Arts Pastor, Dr. Joey Lott

Director of Children & Family Ministries, Christi Rice • Director of Youth Ministry, 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.