

January 2026



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maples Family,

The start of a new year invites us to look ahead—but as Christian people, we do that with more than optimism. We look forward with *vision*—God’s vision. So the new year begins with the One who sees us, not with what we see.

Proverbs 29:18 reminds us, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (KJV)*. Another translation puts it, *“Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint” (NIV)*. In other words, when we lose sight of God’s purpose, we begin to drift. But when we are rooted in God’s Word, guided by the Spirit, and shaped by Christ’s example, we begin to live with clarity, courage, and purpose.

Over the course of 2026, we’ll explore what it means to follow God’s vision—not just for our church, but for our individual lives. Some of that vision will stretch us. Some of it will comfort us. All of it will call us to deeper trust.

We’ll look again—to really see the presence and power of Christ as He is revealed in the Gospel stories. From the Jordan River to the mountaintop of Transfiguration, we are drawn into moments where heaven breaks through, and clarity comes—not for show, but for transformation.

That’s where vision begins, not with strategy or structure, but with encounter. When we see Christ clearly, our lives begin to shift. Priorities realign. Desires are reshaped. Glory doesn’t just shine at us—it reorients us.

Start this year by asking God to open your eyes. Pray for spiritual clarity. Stay rooted in the Word. Join us in worship, in study, and in service. Let’s follow the vision that leads us closer to Christ.

Blessings,

Rev. Kerry Powell



Dates to Remember

January 1 New Years Day
January 4 Overflow Retreat meeting
January 6 Rook Club
January 8 Olive Branch Food Pantry
January 11 Youth Overflow meeting for parents and youth
January 13 Maples Ladies Ministry
January 15 Dip & Devotion Ladies Ministry
January 17 Maples Men's Ministry
..... Youth leave for Overflow Retreat
January 18 Leadership Team Meeting
January 19 Youth return from Overflow Retreat
January 20 Rook Club
January 25 Lay Leadership Training

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

January 2025	\$46,942.25	July	\$42,442.00
February.....	\$47,207.41	August	\$44,891.45
March	\$51,311.04	September.....	\$43,636.95
April.....	\$43,443.70	October:.....	\$42,350.50
May	\$34,161.99	November.....	\$45,911.50
June	\$46,200.95	December.....	\$90,970.35

Weekly Attendance/Budget Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
December 7.....	67.....	136.....	\$12,417.00
December 14.....	81.....	171.....	\$9,444.00
December 21.....	67.....	142.....	\$4,170.00
December 28.....	48.....	122.....	\$36,739.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in January

Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:

Jan 4 **Ushers:** Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and
..... Ashley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Shannon Suttlemyre. **Acolyte:** Elle
..... Webster.

Jan 11 **Ushers:** Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron
..... Tucker. **Greeter:** Rebecca Barnes. **Acolyte:** Audrey Barnes.

Jan 18 **Ushers:** Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat
..... Dorr. **Greeter:** Elizabeth Sanders. **Acolyte:** Reagan Crain.

Jan 25 **Ushers:** Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and
..... Ashley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Jill Sitton. **Acolyte:** Cori Rice.

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: Family of Milton Nichols; Bonnie & Earnestine Turner in
the loss of their niece, Sylvia Swain; Safety & success working at Thrift
Store; Pacenza's dog, Oreo; Shep Maddox; Family of Robert "Tobey"
Tobey; Dan Flores; Hudson Chapel; those grieving; Erica Kelley; Rebecca
Thomas; Michael Stone; Marion Dinger; Adam Kirchhoff; Amy Stone; Dillon
Sellers; Burnside family; Holly Beck; Cathy Vest; Teddy Hutchins;
Kloempkin family; Teresa Owens.

*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.*

January Birthdays

January 3: Shelley Billions
Kelly Peel
January 4: Emma Carsten
January 5: Walker Webster
January 7: Laura Meurer
January 11: Cathy Galtelli
January 14: Gary Snyder
Annelle Rose
Bettie Cummings
January 16: Rose Tobey
January 19: Allison Braddock
Gina Roman
January 20: Elliott Pacenza
January 21: Kay Hardin
January 22: Gracie Jefferson
January 28: Jill Sitton
January 29: Benjamin Vanderburg

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

Maples 2026 Leadership Team

Finance:

Rachel Farabee, chair
David Olds
Pat Dorr

Property & Grounds:

Trev Sprabery, chair
Meghan White
Kevin Doddridge

Personnel:

Ron Tucker, chair
Chad Webster
Kristi Pacenza

Lay Leader/Ex Officio:

Kevin Doddridge

Leader in Training:

Emma Jefferson

Lay Member to Annual Conference:

Lynn Cox

Reserve Members:

Wiley Maddox
Lynndy Travis
Claire Thompson

Memorials Received

In loving memory of John Hill by:

Pam Adams
Tammy Jo Hill
John M. Hill Jr.

In honor of friends & family at Maples by:

Martha Doddridge Vanderburg



Maples Ladies Ministry

Maples Ladies Ministry collected toys for Toys for Tots at their December meeting, bringing in generous donations to help ensure local children experience the joy of Christmas. Thank you to all who contributed to this meaningful outreach. The group meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 11:00 a.m. in room 118. All ladies are invited to come and be part of a time of encouragement, fellowship, and serving together for God's glory.



Maples Youth

Maples Youth passed out hot chocolate at the annual Olive Branch Christmas Parade, helping to spread warmth and Christmas cheer along the parade route.

Dip and Devotion Ladies Group

Join us on the third Thursday of each month at 6PM in Wesley Hall for fellowship, encouragement, and a time of devotion together. Each gathering is simple and fun—just bring your favorite dip to share! Our mission focus is the Spaghetti Sermon, where we package spaghetti, sauce, and bread to share with those in our community experiencing food insecurity. It's a beautiful way to serve together while growing in friendship and faith. Come hungry—for food, fellowship, and the Word!

Maples Men's Ministry

Maples Men's Ministry meets the 3rd Saturday each month at 8AM in room 181 for breakfast, fellowship and spiritual growth. They sponsor two major fundraisers, Maples Golf Tournament and the Unity Banquet and Dessert Auction. Proceeds have helped fund college scholarships, the SOW Project, softball team needs, and Maples debt reduction. If you are looking for a way to serve, we would love to have you join us.

GriefShare Group

GriefShare is a support group to help you move through the grief process. It is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Jane Downs leads the group Sunday nights at 6 pm in room 118.

Altar Flowers

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



Lessons & Carols

The Maples and Minor Memorial choirs combined once again this year for our annual Lessons & Carols service celebrating Advent. Accompanied by a small orchestra, the choirs helped lead a meaningful service of Scripture and song, marking the beginning of the Advent season with beauty and reflection.



Maples Kids Visit the Olive Branch Light Garden

Maples Kids enjoyed a festive outing to the Olive Branch Light Garden on December 7. The evening began with pizza and fellowship before everyone headed out to explore the beautiful lighted Christmas displays. The children were delighted to meet the Grinch, take photos, and enjoy some playful holiday fun. A special highlight of the night was the petting zoo area, where the kids loved interacting with the animals. It was a joyful evening filled with laughter, wonder, and the spirit of the season—one we were grateful to share together as a church family.



Maples Kids in Worship Services

Maples Kids participated in both the Connection and Traditions services this past Sunday. During the Connection Service, they led the Call to Worship, and in the Traditions Service, they read scripture and lit the Advent candles.



Maples Kids Christmas Party

Maples Kids participated in the Advent Prayer Walk, reflecting on the meaning of the season. Dressed in their Christmas pajamas, they enjoyed watching *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* while sipping hot chocolate and snacking on treats. Ms. Christi surprised each child with a hand crocheted kitten. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and Christmas joy!

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

P. O. Box 213, Olive Branch, MS 38654

Phone: 662-895-2279

Website: www.mapleschurch.org

Facebook: facebook.com/mapleschurch



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