

July 2024



# MAPLES MEMORIAL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Members of Maples Memorial UMC,

As we gather this July to celebrate the values of freedom and independence that define our nation, it is essential to reflect on our faith and patriotism. At Maples Memorial UMC, we are called to live out our Christian values in every aspect of our lives, including how we view and engage with the principles of freedom that undergird our nation.

The Bible provides a firm foundation for understanding the concept of freedom. In Galatians 5:1 (NIV), Paul writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." This passage reminds us that true freedom is found in Christ, who frees us from the bondage of sin and calls us to live in the light of His truth.

Furthermore, in 1 Peter 2:16 (NIV), we are instructed, "Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves." This verse emphasizes that our freedom in Christ comes with the responsibility to live righteously and serve others selflessly, reflecting God's love and justice.

As Christians, our commitment to Christ involves active participation in the life of the community and the world. We believe that every person is of sacred worth and created in the image of God. The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to advocate for dignity, justice, and freedom for all people, ensuring that everyone can live out their God-given potential.

We hold our government responsible for protecting the rights of individuals, which include the freedom to participate in free and fair elections, access to privacy, and basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare. Supporting systems and policies that uphold these freedoms aligns with our Christian values AND patriotic values of liberty and justice for all.

At Maples Memorial UMC, we believe that our faith and patriotism coexist. Our love for our country is enriched by our commitment to Christian values. We celebrate the freedoms we enjoy while recognizing that these freedoms come with the responsibility to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

As we celebrate this Independence Day, let us remember that our ultimate allegiance is to Christ, who calls us to be agents of His love and justice in the world. Let our patriotism be expressed through actions that promote the common good, protect the vulnerable, and uphold the dignity of all people.

This year on the Fourth of July, let us recommit ourselves to living out our faith in ways that honor both God and our nation. May we strive to be faithful stewards of the freedoms we cherish, using them to advance God's kingdom here on earth.

Blessings,

Bro. Kerry

## Dates to Remember

July 2 .....	Rook Club
July 3 .....	Youth Connection Groups
July 4 .....	Fourth of July (church office closed)
July 6-9 .....	Youth at M28 Retreat
July 11 .....	Olive Branch Food Pantry
July 14 .....	Leadership Team Meeting
.....	Youth Summer Fun Night
July 17 .....	Youth Connection Groups
July 20 .....	Maple's Men's Ministry
July 21 .....	Youth Summer Fun Night
July 24 .....	Youth Connection Groups

## Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

May <b>2023</b> .....	\$46,693.98	December .....	\$103,027.27
June .....	\$31,370.02	January <b>2024</b> .....	\$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

## Weekly Attendance/Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
June 1 .....	55 .....	106 .....	\$7,058.00
June 9 .....	57 .....	124 .....	\$7,169.00
June 16 .....	52 .....	116 .....	\$6,800.00
June 23 .....	60 .....	116 .....	\$7,721.00
June 30 .....	31 .....	132 .....	\$5,360.00

## Sunday Morning Volunteers in July

	Greeter	Ushers	Acolyte
July 7	Rose Tobey	Larry Bright, Ryan Barnes, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker	Bettie Cummings
July 14	Becky Bright	Pat Dorr, Ashley Bowlan and Larry Bright	Ben Lane
July 21	Jane Downs	Ryan Barnes, Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker and Pat Dorr	Isaac Bass
July 28	Earnestine Turner	Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Ryan Barnes	Walker Webster

### Maples Men's Ministry, June 22 at 8AM

Maples Men's Ministry will meet on Saturday, July 20, at 8:00 a.m. All men are invited and breakfast will be served.

### T.O.P.S. Weight Loss

T.O.P.S. is a weight loss group that meets each Thursday at 10AM in room 118. Anyone is welcome to join! Dues are only \$5 a month. T.O.P.S. can help you reach your weight loss goals by providing you with the tools, information, support, and accountability to be successful. For more information contact Beverly at 662-893-2986 or Jennifer at 901-210-0331.

## July Birthdays

**July 2:** Nyla Osborn, Ted Roman

**July 6:** Sarah Kirchhoff

**July 7:** Spencer Hardin, Caroline Strunk

**July 9:** Chuck Massey, Elizabeth Peel, David Olds

**July 10:** Dennis Treadway

**July 11:** Candace Haley

**July 15:** Lyndall Snyder

**July 16:** Ken Sage, Frank Billions

**July 18:** Joan Hacker

**July 19:** Gail Ross

**July 21:** Andrea Payne

**July 22:** Anita Scholl

**July 23:** Ben Larsen

**July 25:** Elizabeth Sanders

**July 26:** John Cetto

**July 27:** Jane Downs, Cleavy Hoover

## Ministry Opportunities

### Little Free Pantry

Maples' provides this resource to anyone anytime - day or night. You can sign up at [mapleschurch.org](http://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 bug spray and adult men's crew socks for the Matthew 25 Homeless Ministry. You can place your donations in the bin marked "Homeless Ministry" near the Information 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.

### Backpacks for Candlelight



Maples will once again be packing backpacks with school supplies for the children at Candlelight. We will have the names and supply lists at the Information Desk for you to select the child/children you wish to sponsor. Thank you, Sandra Jefferson for coordinating this ministry!



## Prayer Concerns

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

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

**Other Requests:** Family of Marilyn Owen; Jessica Davis (friend of Audrey Vaughn); Guidance in forming new non-profit (Audrey Vaughn); Zach Zachary (friend of Ryan Barnes); Lori Kirchoff; Judy Mattox & family (friend of Lucia Nelson); Baby Colter (Lynn Lott's cousin); Roxanna (friend of April Hannaman); Shirley Moss (Gina Roman's mother); Jo Nell Speck; Matthew Sanders (Allen Sanders' brother). *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.*



### Mississippi Annual Conference

Members from Maples Memorial United Methodist Church attending the Mississippi Annual Conference were (from left to right) Dr. Lynn Cox, Lay Member to Annual Conference; Rev. Kerry Powell; Dr. Joey Lott, Equalizing Delegate; and Lent Ross, District 1 Lay Leader.

## LIGHTHOUSE CHURCHES

### *Safe Harbor, Safe Place*

Lighthouse Congregations are local churches in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church that are equipped and willing to be a caring hospitable place to welcome any whose church has closed or disaffiliated who want to remain a United Methodist member and for those who wish to explore becoming a United Methodist. On June 30, Trey Jones, Assoc. Director of Faith Community Formation and Lighthouse Church Development, presented Maples Memorial United Methodist Church with the Lighthouse Church designation.



## June 30 Fellowship Dinner

June 30 was a great day to be at Maples! During our Unity Service, Dr. Lynn Cox, Lay Delegate, gave the Annual Conference Report, then Maples was presented the Lighthouse Congregation designation by Trey Jones. After a beautiful worship service we enjoyed a delicious meal. Everyone brought their best sides and desserts and Joy Seekers class provided the meat.







### Vacation Bible School 2024

In June we hosted Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School. Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers, Camp Firelight was a great success. Children were entertained by Lu, the lightning bug, and Camp Counselor Sam during the opening and closing assemblies as well as enjoyed great worship music. Between the assemblies, we rotated through crafts, story time, science, and recreation. All of the rotations reinforced the Bible story and Firelight Focus for each night. We learned that we should trust God to go with us, to lead the way, to share wisdom, to give us peace, and to spark joy. We also learned a Bible verse for the week. This camp callout was: "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3. I am proud to say that it seems every child now has this verse etched in their heart and mind. They enjoyed shouting it out as a group and enjoyed saying it over the mic during assembly times. A new addition to this year's VBS was a counselor retreat area where many people brought tasty snacks for the volunteers to enjoy throughout the evening. This was a great way for us to show love to those helping during this huge event. With over 50 volunteers and 42 campers that came and enjoyed at least one night of our wonderful camp, we are pleased with the way this one came together. BIG THANKS to everyone who helped and/or supported our vacation Bible school and for making Maples a great place of community and love.



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.