

JULY 2025



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maples Family,

I don't know how to say it except to say it plainly: The mortgage is paid off.

We gathered around tables filled with stories, chicken, barbecues, sides, and strawberry cake, and celebrated a milestone that's taken years of prayer, patience, and perseverance. I sensed a deep, quiet joy in the room—the kind of joy that comes from watching God show up time and time again.

And that's exactly what happened. God showed up. Through lean seasons and faithful giving, through tough decisions and quiet generosity, we kept going. And this Church—you—kept believing that God wasn't finished with us yet.

So what does this mean for us?

It means we've reached a turning point. A "Reaching Up" kind of moment, where we pause to thank God who got us here.

A "Reaching Within" moment, where we reflect on how much we've grown—spiritually, emotionally, and as part of God's family.

And now, more than anything, a "Reaching Out" moment.

Because now we're free to dream more. To serve again. To risk something for the sake of someone else. To invest more in families, in outreach, in worship, and in all the ways we say: you belong here.

Maples, paying off this debt isn't the end of something. It's the beginning of something. We're not done! And I believe with everything in me that the best days of Maples Memorial aren't behind us. They're ahead.

So if you've been on the sidelines, wondering if it's time to jump in—this is it.

If you've been praying for a sign—this is it.

There's always room at our table.

Let's keep reaching—up, within, and out.

With gratitude and hope,

Bro. Kerry Powell



Dates to Remember

July 1	Rook Club
July 3-6	Youth at M28 Retreat
July 9	Youth Summer Connection Groups
July 10	Olive Branch Food Pantry
July 15	Rook Club
July 16	Youth Summer Connection Groups
July 20	Summer Youth Night
July 23	Youth Summer Connection Groups

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

June 2025	\$46,200.95	January	\$46,942.25
May.....	\$34,161.99	December 2024	\$98,940.66
April	\$43,443.70	November	\$51,648.25
March	\$51,311.04	October	\$45,445.00
February.....	\$47,207.41	September	\$39,787.50

Weekly Attendance/Budget Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
June 1	52	123.....	\$8,738.00
June 8.....	59	142.....	\$7,946.45
June 15.....	53	140.....	\$6,775.50
June 22.....	76	143.....	\$6,648.00
June 29.....	—	128.....	\$4,186.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in July

Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:

July 6..... Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. **Greeter:** Jeanette Wallace.

July 13..... Ushers: Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat Dorr. **Greeter:** Elizabeth Sanders.

July 20..... Ushers: Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and Ashley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Jill Sitton.

July 27..... Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. **Greeter:** Shannon Suttlemyre.

Prayer Concerns

Home Bound: Carol McOlgan; Margaret Peden.

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

Other Requests: Julia Dykes; Chris Austin; Patrick McKinney & Jimmy; upcoming marriage of Sarah Grace Vaughn & Jack Douglas, that God will be center of their union; Jessie Mae Hoback family; Youth M28 Retreat; Family of Sidney Vanderburg; Sandra Bland; Annelle Rose's daughter, Laurie; Tony Vaughn; Ray Weatherly; Cheryl Hayes; William & Stephanie Murphree; Banks Roper; Camp ministries (both campers and staff); 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.*

July Birthdays

July 2:	Ted Roman
July 6:	Sarah Kirchoff
July 7:	Spencer Hardin Caroline Strunk
July 9:	Elizabeth Peel David Olds
July 10:	Dennis Treadway
July 15:	Lyndall Snyder
July 16:	Frank Billions
July 18:	Joan Hacker
July 19:	Gail Ross
July 22:	Anita Scholl
July 23:	Fred Vanderburg
July 25:	Elizabeth Sanders
July 26:	John Cetto
July 27:	Jane Downs

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 Pantry the second Thursday of each month from 5:45-8:00 p.m. The pantry is located at 10947 Hwy 178.

Memorials Received

In memory of Shirley Moss

By: Paul & Kelly Peel

Welcome Rita Fink!

Rita has joined Maples, transferring from Queen of Peace Catholic Church. She is already involved with Maples Ladies Group and Outreach Sunday School Class.

VBS 2025



Vacation Bible School was a hit this year! We discovered Egypt through the story of Joseph and our very own Egyptian marketplace. We journeyed with Joseph through him being sold into slavery, put in prison, interpreting dreams, saving lives from famine, and lastly forgiving his brothers. We learned how God gives us hope, gives us special abilities, gives us wisdom, and gives us forgiveness. Along with story time and outdoor activities, children, youth, and adults alike, loved the worship music and activities that occurred in the marketplace. We made baskets, Egyptian head pieces, hieroglyphic pendant necklaces, Egyptian collars, and even colored a sarcophagus. In the marketplace, we also visited the mission tent. Our mission this year was three-fold. We partnered with Operation Kid-to-Kid for monetary donations to go to winter gear for children all over North America. We also partnered with the Destiny Center to offer donations to their foster kid



comfort closet. For the comfort closet, we worked together to make tie blankets and brought gently used stuffed animals. We want to say a special thanks to the Next Steps Together Sewing Group for providing tunics for our volunteers and to Belltower Studio in Mid-town Memphis for asking its members to donate some wonderful pottery pieces for our decorations. We greatly appreciate your support. Lastly, but certainly not least, we want to thank all of our volunteers who helped design and decorate scenery, prepared food for our children and workers, and guided our children through the daily VBS activities. Without all of you VBS just wouldn't work. We touched lots of little hearts for God because of you. Thank you! - Christi Rice



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2025 MISSISSIPPI UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Maples Kids

Maples Kids and Maples Choir teamed up to pack over 500 lunches for the Summer Food Initiative at the Destiny Center for children in our community with food insecurities. The blankets and stuffed animals that were collected at VBS were also presented for their foster kid comfort closet.



Unity Service

Maples celebrated another 5th Sunday with a Unity Service at 10AM followed by a church wide meal. As usual, the food did not disappoint!! Bro. Kerry and Pat Dorr shared some exciting news (in case you haven't heard), Maples mortgage has been paid off! Thank you for your generosity!

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.