

March 2025



# MAPLES MEMORIAL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Maples Family,

Last month, we shared our vision for 2025—being a church rooted in God’s Word, growing in love, and extending Christ’s light. But vision without action is just a dream. Our mission as United Methodists puts that vision into motion: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. That mission isn’t just a statement on a page—it’s a call to action for each of us.

Jesus’ final words to His disciples in **Matthew 28:19-20** were, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*” This Great Commission reminds us that discipleship isn’t passive; it’s a lifelong journey of growing in Christ and inviting others to walk alongside us.

Lent is the perfect season to recommit ourselves to that journey. It’s a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—an opportunity to draw closer to God and embrace the mission of making disciples in our daily lives. We begin this season with two important gatherings: Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

On Shrove Tuesday, we gather for a pancake supper, not just to enjoy good food but to embrace the tradition of preparing our hearts for the solemn season ahead. It’s a time of fellowship, laughter, and reflection on how we can clear away distractions and focus on Christ.

Then, on Ash Wednesday, we come together for worship, receiving the sign of the cross in ashes as a reminder of our mortality and our need for God’s grace. This service calls us to a holy Lent—a time of prayer, fasting, and intentional spiritual growth.

I invite you to participate in these events as we move into Lent, not just as traditions but as steps toward deeper discipleship. May this season of Lent remind us of our calling and renew our passion for Christ’s mission. Let’s walk this journey together, growing as disciples who transform the world with God’s love and power.

Blessings,

Brother Kerry



## Dates to Remember

March 1 .....	Olive Branch Mardi Gras Parade
March 3 .....	Center Hill High School Choir Concert
March 4 .....	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
.....	Rook Club
March 5 .....	Ash Wednesday Service
March 6 .....	Olive Branch High School Choir Concert
March 8 .....	Dip & Devotion Spaghetti Distribution
March 10-14 .....	DeSoto County Schools Spring Break
March 11 .....	Maples Women's Group
March 13 .....	Olive Branch Food Pantry
.....	Foster Parent Meeting
March 15 .....	Maples Men's Ministry
March 16 .....	Leadership Team Meeting
March 20 .....	Dip & Devotion Ladies Group
March 22 .....	Agape Sunday School Class Service Project

## Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

January 2024.....	\$47,469.34	August .....	\$45,383.40
February .....	\$53,862.69	September .....	\$39,787.50
March.....	\$42,510.55	October.....	\$45,445.00
April .....	\$38,961.10	November.....	\$51,648.25
May.....	\$39,142.90	December.....	\$98,940.66
June.....	\$45,556.35	January 2025.....	\$46,942.25
July .....	\$53,403.86	February .....	\$47,207.41

## Weekly Attendance/Budget Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
February 2 .....	67 .....	141 .....	\$9,343.00
February 9 .....	72 .....	152 .....	\$7,616.25
February 16 .....	64 .....	143 .....	\$4,710.50
February 23 .....	77 .....	149 .....	\$13,915.66

## Sunday Morning Volunteers in March

### *Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:*

**March 2 .....**Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. **Greeter:** Rose Tobey. **Acolyte:** Cori Rice.

**March 9 .....**Ushers: Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat Dorr. **Greeter:** Earnestine Turner. **Acolyte:** Ben Lane.

**March 16 ...**Ushers: Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and Ashley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Jeanette Wallace. **Acolyte:** Audrey Barnes.

**March 23 ...**Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. **Greeter:** Becky Bright. **Acolyte:** Walker Webster.

**March 30 ...**Ushers: Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat Dorr. **Greeter:** Elizabeth Sanders. **Acolyte:** Bettie Cummings.

## Memorials Received

**In honor of Virginia Miller's birthday...**by Jeanette Wallace, Elaine Smith .....and Sadie Herrington

**In honor of Ricky & Kristi Pacenza .....**by Larry and Becky Bright

**In memory of Bobbie Ross .....**by Jim & Shannon Suttlemyre and .....by Martha & Sidney Vanderburg

## March Birthdays

**March 4:** Patsy McDaniel

**March 5:** Jim Rose

**March 10:** Jon Lott

**March 11:** Joseph Barnes

**March 13:** Danielle Haley, Andrew Braddock

**March 15:** Chandler Haley

**March 16:** Rick Bradham

**March 19:** Mary Murphy

**March 20:** Allen Sanders

**March 22:** Sandra Watson, Wyatt Lane

**March 25:** Logan Luke, Lanny Bland  
Jennifer Bland

**March 26:** Garrett Sowell

**March 27:** Nathan Sprabery

**March 31:** Cheryl Thomas

Mary Ruth Wilbanks

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](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 hot hands, and new or gently used blankets, hats, coats and gloves for the Matthew 25 Homeless Ministry. You can place your donations in the bin marked "Homeless Ministry" at the nursery desk. No clothes are needed at this time.

### **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.

## OB Community Thrift Store

Maples and First Global Methodist were responsible for operating the Olive Branch Community Thrift Store for the month of January. The store is open on Fridays and Saturdays. We were able to raise \$2253 for the month. Monies from all volunteer churches are combined and dispersed biannually to Desoto County charities such as Together Ministry Center, Shop with a Cop, Destiny Center and several others. Much thanks to our volunteers: Sanna Burlison, Cecelia Gilkey, Katherine Steele, Cindy Tyler and Beverly Williams.

- Pam Adams, Co-Coordinator

**Ash Wednesday Service**

March 5th at 6:30 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday**

This meaningful time of worship marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Come as we seek God's presence, receive the imposition of ashes, and prepare our hearts for the journey to Easter. All are welcome.

**Mardi Gras**  
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!

**Olive Branch Mardi Gras Parade**  
Saturday, March 1 at 1pm

Come enjoy the festive floats, lively music, and community spirit as we celebrate Mardi Gras together with our community. Face painting and hot chocolate will be our offerings to the festivities!

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER**

Bring a scooter, bike, skates, or wagon!

Tuesday, March 4  
6:00 pm

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**

Come enjoy a warm stack of pancakes, fellowship, and a time of reflection as we prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. Bring your family and friends for a night of good food and great company!

**DIP & DEVOTION**  
Ladies' Group

IN WESLEY HALL  
3RD THURSDAY EACH MONTH @6PM

**Dip and Devotion Ladies Group**

Dip and Devotion is a new Ladies group that will meet the third Thursday of each month beginning February 20, from 6-8 p.m. in Wesley Hall with a social and devotion. Their mission is Spaghetti Sermon where they will package sauce, bread, and noodles to pass out to those in our community with food insecurity. Bring a dip to share and join us! See Leigh Ellen Doddridge or Jennifer Bland for more information.

**MAPLES MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Men's Ministry**

**ANNUAL GOLF**

*Tournament*

Monday, May 12  
LUNCH AND REGISTRATION @ 11:30 AM  
SHOTGUN START @ 1:00PM

OLIVE BRANCH COUNTRY CLUB

Join us on the course for a great cause!  
Enjoy a day of golf and fellowship while supporting outreach, community service, and ministry efforts that make a real impact.

Lunch provided by:  
Award Winning Chef Ben Vaughn of the Sow Project

Call or Text:  
Kevin Bland 662-910-0557 Dave Kirchoff 662-403-7251

**Agape Service Project Day...**

We will be painting our Sunday School Classroom so wear old clothes!

When: March 22  
Time: 9am

- Pizza will be provided at lunch time!

**Agape Service Project Day**

Agape SS Class will be painting their classroom so be sure to wear old clothes. Pizza will be provided at lunch time!

**HORN LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS THE 2025 LENTEN LUNCHES**

THURSDAYS AT NOON

Bring a Brown Bag Lunch  
Chips, Tea, and Dessert Provided!

Guest Speakers

MARCH 6TH REV. KERRY POWELL, MAPLES MEMORIAL UMC  
MARCH 13TH FEED MY LAMBS MINISTRY, MINOR MEMORIAL  
MARCH 20TH REV. RANDI ELKINS, THE WELL @ LEWISBURG  
MARCH 27TH REV. GREG HAZELRIG, MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES  
APRIL 3RD REV. CHUCK BURSI, WESLEY MEADOWS  
APRIL 10TH LENT ROSS, NORTHERN DISTRICT LAY LEADER

6890 CENTER STREET EAST  
HORN LAKE, MISSISSIPPI



## Maples Ladies Group

Maples Ladies Group sold Super Bowl Watching Snacks and raised \$937! They generously decided to donate \$900 to the general fund. This is a great group of women that are always busy doing something. They have supported our children and youth at confirmation and graduation, donated to Toys for Tots, made mini prayer shawls for our chapel, and organized this bake sale just to name a few of their projects. They meet the second Tuesday of the month at 11AM in room 118.

## Maples Churchwide Meal

Maples hosted a churchwide meal on February 9 immediately following the 11AM service. Everyone brought their favorite sides and desserts and Joy Seekers Sunday School Class provided chicken tenders. We learned about the vision of Maples for 2025 and our Mortgage Debt campaign. We will be posting our progress towards being debt free in the weekly email.



## New Acolyte

Elle Webster has been officially welcomed into the role of acolyte at Maples! We are so proud of Elle! She was installed and consecrated on February 16 where she vowed to faithfully and reverently fulfill the role of "bringing Jesus" into our services of worship by bearing the flame symbolized "the light of the world".

## Prayer Concerns

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

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

**Other Requests:** Becky Bright; Family of Wayne Wallace; Steve Farabee; Rebecca Thomas; Keith Hayward; Julie Dorr; Kristen Franke; Family of Celon Blackwell; Melissa Black's son, Owen; Ricky Pacenza and family in the loss of his mother, Judy; Lexi Burcham; Jon Lott; Stephanie Murphree; Virginia Miller and her daughter, Susan; Jim Copeland; Jim Rose; 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.*

**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

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

**Phone: 662-895-2279**

**Website: [www.mapleschurch.org](http://www.mapleschurch.org)**

**Facebook: [facebook.com/mapleschurch](https://facebook.com/mapleschurch)**



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