

March 2026



MAPLES MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Virginia Miller

Born February 9, 1926

Winter weather may have delayed the festivities, but nothing could stop Virginia Miller from celebrating her

100th birthday. After snow and ice postponed the original date, family and friends gathered in Wesley Hall on February 21 to honor this incredible milestone. The room was filled with laughter, warm memories, and heartfelt tributes to a woman who has touched so many lives over the past century. Guests enjoyed delicious food, birthday cake, and were able to express their gratitude to Virginia for her presence in their lives.



Turning 100 is no small feat, and despite the snowy delay, the celebration was well worth the wait. Congratulations to Virginia on 100 wonderful years!



Happy 100th Birthday

Dates to Remember

March 8.....	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 9-13	DeSoto County Schools Spring Break
March 10.....	Maples Ladies Ministry
March 12.....	Olive Branch Food Pantry
March 15.....	Leadership Team Meeting
March 19.....	Dip & Devotion Ladies Group
March 21.....	Maples Men's Ministry
March 22.....	Unity Service & Dr. Joey Lott's 25th Anniversary Celebration
March 29.....	Palm Sunday
.....	Family Egg Hunt, Bonfire & Prayer Walk

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

February 2026.....	\$76,775.67	August	\$44,891.45
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

Weekly Attendance/Budget Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
February 1.....	Church cancelled due to snow and ice.....		
February 8	76	143	\$24,574.00
February 15	91	157	\$29,482.17
February 22	68	136	\$8,669.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in March

Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:

March 1.....Ushers: Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and PatDorr. **Greeter:** Rebecca Barnes. **Acolyte:** Elle Webster.

March 8.....Ushers: Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes andAshley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Elizabeth Sanders. **Acolyte:** CoriRice.

March 15...Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and RonTucker. **Greeter:** Jill Sitton. **Acolyte:** Audrey Barnes.

March 22...Ushers: Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and PatDorr. **Greeter:** Becky Bright. **Acolyte:** Reagan Crain.

March 29...Ushers: Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes andAshley Bowlan. **Greeter:** Earnestine Turner. **Acolyte:** ElleWebster.

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: Caroline Strunk; Tim Velde; Family of David Smith; Weeks family; Denny McGuff; Chris Austin; Norma Treadway; Rita & Rick Fink; Katie Eleazer; Audrey Vaughn; Leah DaBall; Robert Waltman; Vivian Vaughn; Amy Bass; April Daily; Gwen Savage; Suzanne Knight; Michael Stone; Stew Church; Mike Spillers; Misty Hill; Michelle Harkness; Teresa Owens; and 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.

March Birthdays

March 5:	Jim Rose
March 10:	Jonathan Lott
March 11:	Joseph Barnes
March 13:	Andrew Braddock
March 16:	Rick Bradham
March 20:	Allen Sanders
March 22:	Wyatt Lane Sandra Watson
March 25:	Lanny Bland Jennifer Bland
March 26:	Garrett Sowell
March 27:	Nathan Sprabery
March 31:	Mary Ruth Wilbanks Cheryl Thomas

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

Memorials Received

In loving memory of Robert Tobey:

Steve & Rachel Farabee
Jeanette Wallace

In loving memory of Milton Nichols:

Steve & Rachel Farabee
Gary & Lyndall Snyder
Prentiss & Carol Sharp
Olive Twigs Philanthropic Group
Joe & Myra Armistead
Jeanette Wallace

In loving memory of Dotty Bowles:

Dorothy Smith

In honor of Virginia Miller's 100th birthday:

Earnestine Turner
Bonnie Turner
Sadie Herrington
Elaine Smith



We're so excited to welcome our new members, **Matthew and Claire Orr** to the Maples family! We truly believe God brings people together for a reason, and we're thankful He led you here. We can't wait to get to know you better, worship with you, laugh with you, and walk this journey of faith together. Welcome home—we're so glad you're here!

Olive Branch Community Thrift Store News

Maples and First Global Methodist were responsible for the operation of the Olive Branch Community Thrift Store during the month of January. Although our month was cut short due to the weather, we still had a very successful month with sales totaling \$2700. Sales from the other churches are combined and distributed twice a year to local charities such as Together Ministry Center, Shop with a Cop, Precious in Pink Prison Ministry and several others. Many thanks to our faithful volunteers: Joyce Alexander, Sanna Burlison, Cecelia Gilkey, Katherine Steele and Beverly Williams.

Cecelia Gilkey & Pam Adams
Coordinators



Maples Youth Mission Project

The Maples Youth recently assembled 80 hygiene kits to support Mississippi Disaster Relief efforts. These kits will be distributed to individuals and families impacted by recent disasters, providing essential supplies during times of urgent need. We are incredibly proud of our youth for stepping up to serve and for living out their faith through hands-on ministry. Their compassion and willingness to help make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



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.

Joy Seekers Serve at Hope Lodge

The Joy Seekers Sunday School class served dinner last night at Hope Lodge, sharing both food and fellowship with those staying there. Approximately 20–25 guests were served a comforting meal of soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. The guests, along with the dedicated staff, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the meal and the time spent together. Hope Lodge provides a free “home away from home” for cancer patients and their caregivers while they receive treatment, offering not only lodging but also support and community. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and to be a blessing to others.



Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday was celebrated with a joyful and lively atmosphere. We enjoyed delicious pancakes, and the kids had a great time making masks and parading around Wesley Hall.

Valentine Banquet & Dessert Auction

The Maples Men's Ministry Valentine Banquet was a great evening of food, fellowship, and fun. More than 80 steaks were served, and our youth did an excellent job serving throughout the night. Dave Kirchoff and Ryan Barnes brought energy and excitement to the dessert auction, making it a highlight of the evening. Thank you to everyone who donated delicious desserts—your generosity helped support the missions of the Maples Men's Ministry.



Maples New Toddler Sunday School Class Launched February 8

We are excited to share that Children's Ministry launched its very first Toddler Sunday School class on February 8! Five little ones joined us for this special beginning. Ms. Meghan White led the class, and the morning started with a fun and meaningful tour of the chapel to help our toddlers become familiar with this special space. We are so thankful for this new opportunity to nurture our youngest members in faith and look forward to watching this class grow!



Maples Youth Super Bowl Party

What's a Super Bowl Party without the fire department showing up? Don't worry! No chicken wings were harmed, just had a little smokey flavor. We had great food and fellowship together and even got to watch some of the game! We already knew who was going to win because one of our youth saw that when a new pope is elected, the Seahawks make it to the Super Bowl!

On a more serious note, we got to hear two amazing devos from two of our youth! Thank you so much to Devin and Kimberly for coming up with such amazing lessons to share with everyone during the halftime show. We cannot express how proud we are of our youth! Here is a brief summary of what we learned from each of them:

Devin: Taming the Tongue (James 3:1-12): We have to be careful of what we consume, what we say, and what our tongue reveals about our hearts. Something as simple and small as the music we listen to or the people we surround ourselves with can impact how we act and how others perceive us. We all have habits or attitudes we need to drop, and we also need to consider more things we can do to show Christ to others. While we are human and God does not expect us to be perfect, we should strive to be more like him because we are his hands and feet. Our tongues are like rudders on a ship: small but mighty and powerful. The tongue is very powerful, and it is important that we control them and use them for good.

Kimberly: The Issue With Comparison (Luke 18:9-14; Genesis 1:27) God isn't impressed by religious performance. Come humbly in prayer and admit you are a sinner, and God will give you grace. All sin is the same. No sin is above or below the other. God doesn't compare his children's sins to each other, so why should we? We are made in God's image yet we compare ourselves to others. Our appearance, intelligence, athletic ability, etc. God made everyone with equal worth. We were all created to be equals. Comparison is a thief of joy, so live knowing that God, who is perfect, created everyone in his likeness.



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

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