

May 2024



MAPLES MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Confirmation 2024

We are so excited for our confirmands Bella Pacenza, Devin Robinson and Connor Trest. Each of them showed incredible interest and understanding throughout their confirmation sessions. Maples is thrilled to welcome them as full members of our congregation. We are especially grateful to their mentors, Ryan Barnes, Leigh Ellen Doddridge and Eason Treadway for their dedication and support to each of them through their faith journey and confirmation.

Dates to Remember

May 2:..... Lewisburg Middle School Choirs concert
 May 3:..... Lewisburg High School Choir concert
 May 5:..... Baccalaureate Sunday
 Baccalaureate Brunch
 Youth Night Senior Celebration
 May 6:..... Olive Branch High School Choirs concert
 May 7:..... Rook Club
 May 9:..... DeSoto Central High School Choirs concert
 Olive Branch Food Pantry
 May 10-11:..... Senatobia District 1 Prayer Retreat
 Center Hill High School Choir concert
 Arc Supper Club
 May 12:..... Mother's Day
 May 14:..... Maples Women's Group
 May 19..... Leadership Team Meeting
 May 20:..... Maples Men's Ministry

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

May 2023	\$46,693.98	November	\$46,420.75
June	\$31,370.02	December	\$103,027.27
July	\$141,172.47	January 2024	\$47,469.34
August	\$37,492.00	February	\$53,862.69
September	\$33,830.75	March	\$42,510.55
October	\$38,643.98	April	\$38,961.10

Weekly Attendance/Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
April 7	67	121	\$9,341.00
April 14	57	102	\$4,489.00
April 21	49	99	\$5,890.00
April 28	70	147	\$3,181.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in May

	Greeter	Ushers	Acolyte
May 5	Earnestine Turner	Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright, Ryan Barnes, Eason Treadway	Walker Webster
May 12	Jeanette Wallace	Ron Tucker, Pat Dorr, Rick Osborn, Ashley Bowlan	Audrey Barnes
May 19	Jill Sitton	Larry Bright, Ryan Barnes, Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker	Isaac Bass
May 26	Rose Tobey	Pat Dorr, Rick Osborn, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright	Bettie Cummings

May Birthdays

May 2: Jeanette Wallace
May 4: Don Eye, Elaine Smith
May 6: Ruth Allen, Ross McCool
May 7: Mike Sowell
May 13: Fran Wallace
May 16: Keith Allen
May 19: Sam Thomas
May 20: Lynn Woodward
May 21: Katie Payne
May 26: Brian Walhood, Rebecca McCool
May 28: Steven Farabee
May 29: Tyler Barnes, Corey Jones

Memorials

Given in Loving Memory of:

Maxine Stallings
 Elaine Smith

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.

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.

Prayer Concerns

Home Bound: Phyllis Vanderburg; Margaret Peden; Carol McOlgan; Marilyn Owen.

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

Other Requests: Nancy Hill; Sue McCrary (Pam Adams); Sanders family; Jennifer Murphy (Lynn Lott); Eason Treadway; Rick Pacenza Sr.; Mike Spillers; Jo Nell Speck; Israel; Steve Thomas; Family of Josalyn Bradley; Ginger and Holly Hunter; Rainey Coffman (Jeanette Wallace's granddaughter); Lindsey Vance (Sadie Herrington's niece); Cori Rice; Ben & Schyler Larsen; Stephanie Murphree (Nyla Osborn's nephew's wife). **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.**

General Conference Update

As many of you are aware, the General Conference recently convened and made decisions that will notably shape the future of the United Methodist Church.

- **Adoption of Regionalization:** The conference approved a new structure allowing more autonomy for regional bodies to adapt policies and procedures to better fit their cultural and contextual needs. Regionalization will need to be ratified by 66 2/3% of Annual Conferences to take effect.
- **Removal of Paragraph 340.3:** Delegates voted to delete Paragraph 340.3 from the Book of Discipline, which pertained to restrictions on the ordination and appointment of LGBTQ+ individuals, marking a significant shift towards inclusivity.
- **Interfaith Relations:** The General Conference ratified an agreement entering into full communion with the Episcopal Church. This historic decision facilitates shared ministries, mutual recognition of sacraments and ordinations, and a commitment to work more closely together in mission and advocacy efforts, enhancing unity and collaboration between the two denominations. The Episcopal Church will consider this more fully in 2027.

These changes are significant and will be processed as quickly as possible at the Annual Conference, District, and Local Church levels. Please continue to pray for our church, locally and around the world. Let us seek God's wisdom and guidance as we seek to fulfill our mission in ways that honor God and advance his Kingdom.

Maples Women's Group, May 14 at 11AM

Maples Women's Group meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 11:00 a.m. in room 118. All women are invited to bring a sack lunch and join in on April 9. If you have any questions you can reach out to Sandra Bland at blansan@comcast.net, or contact the church office.

Maples Men's Ministry, May 20 at 6:30PM

Maples Men's Ministry meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in room 181. All men are invited and dinner is provided.

At the Table with Maples Kids

In April, we began a 6-week series called At the Table with Maples Kids. With this series, our intention is to dig deeper with topics that encourage our children to be more like disciples in their everyday lives. We begin with a family-style dinner and encourage table talk to deepen our relationships with one another. Throughout the evening there is time for activity, time for learning, and time for reflection. This intentional space created for our older elementary school children has been a spirit-filled experience for all of us who have attended.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Maples Memorial UMC Family,

As we enter the season of caps, gowns, and diplomas, we take a moment to celebrate the significant accomplishments of our graduates, Brandon Roman and John Michael Treadway. This time of graduation is not only a rite of passage but also a bright reflection of the biblical principle of growth and transformation. Scripture affirms the value of hard work and the importance of times of completion and new beginnings. In Ecclesiastes 7:8, we read, "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." This verse reminds us that completing an educational journey is an achievement worthy of celebration and reflection.

As our graduates step forward into new chapters of their lives, it's crucial that we continue to support and stay connected with them. Support them by sending cards and letters of encouragement, messages on social media, or gifts of spiritual resources tucked inside care packages.

As we celebrate this milestone in the lives of our graduates, let us commit to supporting them with our prayers, guidance, and encouragement. We are reminded in Philippians 1:6 that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." May this promise inspire both our graduates and us as we look to the future with hope and faith.

Congratulations to Brandon and John Michael! We are proud of your accomplishments and excited to see how God uses you in the next chapters of your lives!

In Christ's Love,
Bro. Kerry

Welcome New Members

Maples is thrilled to welcome Melissa Black and Cindy Baneck to the Maples Family. Melissa and Cindy both joined April 21 at the 9:00 a.m. service by profession of faith.



Maples Seniors — Class of 2024



Brandon Roman

Brandon Roman is a member of Maples Memorial United Methodist and will graduate from Desoto Central High School with honors, as a "Graduate of Distinction" on May 22, 2024. He looks forward to attending the University of Mississippi in the fall where he will pursue a degree in accounting. Brandon also plans to extend his studies and earn a Master of Accountancy degree as well.



John Michael Treadway



John Michael Treadway is a member of Maples Memorial United Methodist Church and will graduate from Lausanne Collegiate School. John Michael will be attending Rhodes College to study biology. He will also be playing football for the Lynx. After receiving a Bachelor's degree, he plans to attend grad school to become a Physical Therapist!



Vacation Bible School - Camp Firelight - Sunday, June 9th - Thursday, June 13th, 6-8PM

During each assembly session, Campers join first-time camp counselor Sam and Lu (short for Lumen), the lightning bug puppet, and learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, Campers see Counselor Sam face new challenges, from as simple as leading Campers on a hike to as intimidating as meeting a new and wise nature expert. With the help of Lu the Lightning Bug and the Camp Counselor Guidebook, Counselor Sam and our Campers explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.

Sign up to Volunteer

There is a volunteer registration table set up in the narthex. Please stop by to sign up to help serve our community's children. There are jobs for everyone! Contact Christi Rice at christi@mapleschurch.org if you have any questions.

Register Your Children for VBS

It is time to get your children registered for Camp Firelight! Encourage your children to invite their friends and neighbors! You can register at <https://vbspro.events/p/campfirelightatmaples> or scan the QR code.



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.