

MAY 2025



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maples Family,

One of the things I love most about Maples is that we are a church that knows how to celebrate well—and for good reason. May is a month full of milestones, and each one gives us an opportunity to pause, give thanks, and bless those who have blessed us.

We begin this month by celebrating two people who have poured their hearts into this church. On Sunday, May 4th, we'll give thanks for Christi Rice as she graduates from seminary through CYMT. Her calling and commitment have shaped our children's ministry in beautiful ways. That same Sunday, we'll celebrate Ben Larsen and his years of ministry among us as he prepares to step into a new role beyond Maples. Ben has led with faith, creativity, and heart—and his impact here will last long beyond his last Sunday with us on May 22nd.

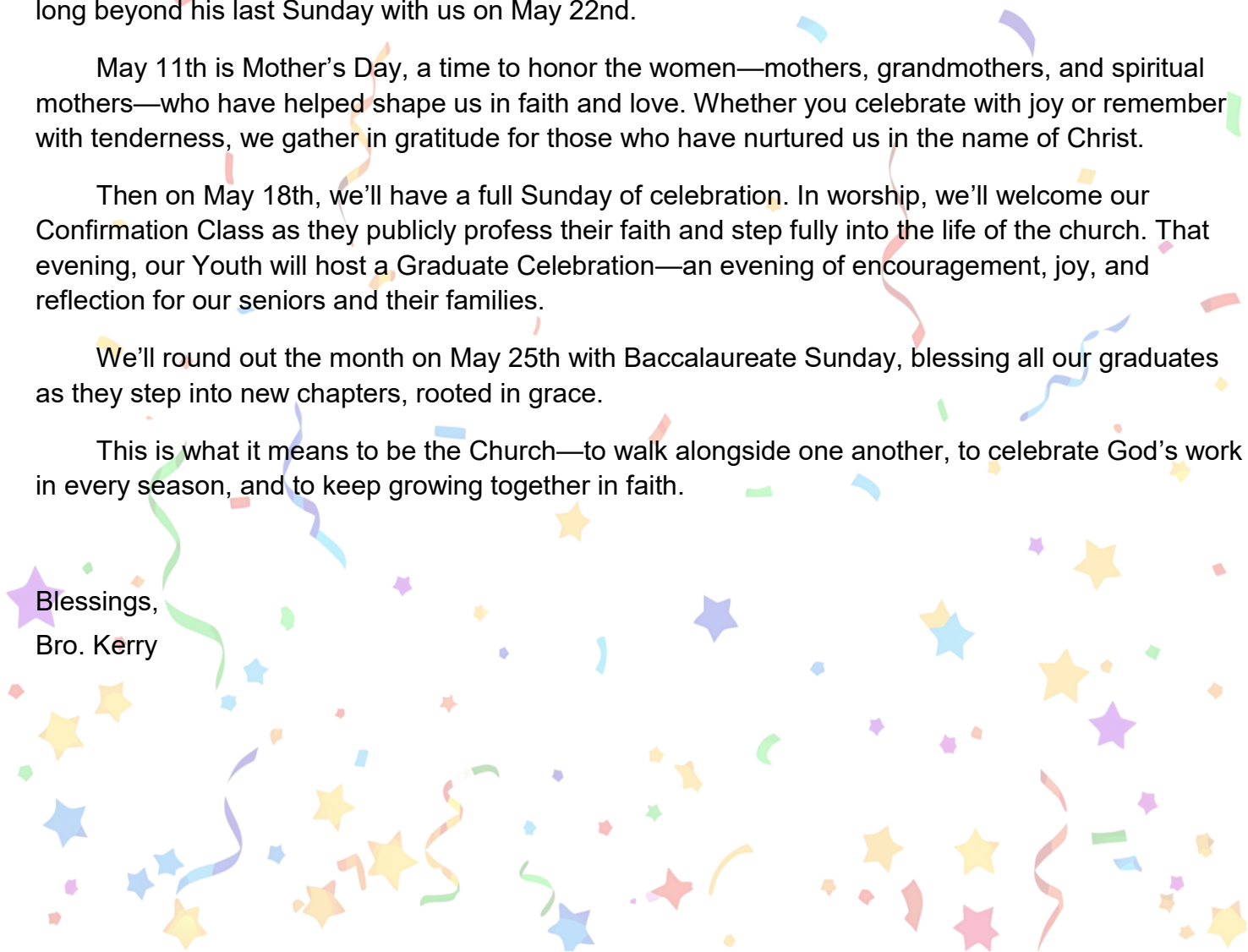
May 11th is Mother's Day, a time to honor the women—mothers, grandmothers, and spiritual mothers—who have helped shape us in faith and love. Whether you celebrate with joy or remember with tenderness, we gather in gratitude for those who have nurtured us in the name of Christ.

Then on May 18th, we'll have a full Sunday of celebration. In worship, we'll welcome our Confirmation Class as they publicly profess their faith and step fully into the life of the church. That evening, our Youth will host a Graduate Celebration—an evening of encouragement, joy, and reflection for our seniors and their families.

We'll round out the month on May 25th with Baccalaureate Sunday, blessing all our graduates as they step into new chapters, rooted in grace.

This is what it means to be the Church—to walk alongside one another, to celebrate God's work in every season, and to keep growing together in faith.

Blessings,
Bro. Kerry



Dates to Remember

May 1	Lewisburg Middle School Choir concert
May 4	Graduation Sunday for Christi Rice Brunch honoring Ben Larsen during Sunday School hour
May 5	Olive Branch High School Choir concert
May 6	Rook Club Lewisburg High School Choir End of Year concert Men's Softball game at 6:30 (field 11) & 7:40 (field 9) pm
May 8	Foster Parent Meeting Olive Branch Food Pantry Men's Softball game at 7:40 pm (field 9)
May 9	Center Hill High School Choir concert
May 11	Mother's Day
May 12	Golf Tournament at Olive Branch Country Club
May 13	Maples Ladies Group Men's Softball game 6:30 pm (field 9)
May 15	Dip & Devotion Ladies Group Men's Softball game 7:40 pm (field 12)
May 17	Confirmation Class dinner and practice
May 18	Confirmation Sunday Youth Night Senior Celebration
May 20	Men's Softball game 7:40 (field 9)
May 22	Men's Softball game 6:30 pm (field 12) Ben Larsen's final day at Maples
May 25	Graduate's Sunday and brunch
May 26	Memorial Day (church office closed)
May 27	Men's Softball game 6:30 pm (field 9)
May 29	Men's Softball game 6:30 pm (field 12)

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

May 2024	\$39,142.90	November	\$51,648.25
June	\$45,556.35	December	\$98,940.66
July	\$53,403.86	January 2025	\$46,942.25
August	\$45,383.40	February	\$47,207.41
September	\$39,787.50	March	\$51,311.04
October	\$45,445.00	April	\$43,443.70

Weekly Attendance/Budget Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
April 6	69	145	\$7,560.00
April 13	53	152	\$10,337.00
April 20	62	305	\$7,762.00
April 27	61	127	\$5,798.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in May

Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:

May 4	Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. Greeter: Shannon Suttlemyre. Acolyte: Audrey Barnes.
May 11	Ushers: Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat Dorr. Greeter: Jill Sitton. Acolyte: Ben Lane.
May 18	Ushers: Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and Ashley Bowlan. Greeter: Elizabeth Sanders. Acolyte: Bettie Cummings.
May 25	Ushers: Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron Tucker. Greeter: Earnestine Turner. Acolyte: Elle Webster.

May Birthdays

May 2:	Jeanette Wallace
May 4:	Elaine Smith Don Eye
May 6:	Ruth Allen
May 7:	Mike Sowell Ann Busby
May 8:	Clara Ruth Larsen
May 9:	Carol Young
May 19:	Sam Thomas
May 26:	Brian Walhood
May 28:	Steve Farabee
May 29:	Tyler Barnes Corey Jones

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 sixfred@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 Panty 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 Susan Miller

By: Virginia & Linda Miller
Wesleyan Sunday School Class

In memory of Phyllis Vanderburg

By: Jerry Vanderburg

In memory of John Hill

By: Pam Adams

In memory of Jim Meurer

By: Tobey & Rose Tobey

In memory of Leona Chrestman

By: Tobey & Rose Tobey

Groups
EGYPT
Joseph's Journey
from prison to palace

Vacation Bible School
June 9th-12th
5:30pm-8:00pm

Egypt VBS// June 9-12, 6pm-8pm// For children entering K-5th grade. This year for vacation Bible school we will be traveling to Egypt and exploring the life of Joseph! Everyone will participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Egyptian eats, and visit Joseph in prison and then in his palace home. As we travel and learn, everyone will be looking for evidence of God all around them every day. Join us for this epic adventure full of blessings and God's brilliance! To participate or volunteer, please visit www.mapleschurch.org/vbs-2025 If you are looking to help us recreate Egypt inside our church space, please sign up for our decorating team at the information desk.

If you are feeling led to donate to vacation Bible school, please visit the giving page on our website: www.mapleschurch.org. We will also be accepting sheets, fabric, blankets, pottery, and bales of hay for decorating and will be creating an Amazon wish list for other items. This VBS is going to be amazing!

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 Dave Kirchoff
662-910-0557 662-403-7251

Welcome to Maples!

New Member We want to welcome Maples newest member, Brandon Slone. Brandon comes to us from Compel Church.

We also want to welcome Shepard Williams Maddox who came into the world on April 10 at 12:35 a.m., weighing in at 9 lbs. 4 oz. and 22 inches. Mom and baby are doing great!

Maples Easter Season

Our Easter Season began on Palm Sunday commemorating the day Christ entered Jerusalem. We celebrated with an egg hunt, worship and prayer walk. Maundy Thursday we remembered the events of the Last Supper with communion and stripping of the altar. Minor Memorial joined us for a beautiful Tenebrae Service on Friday, telling the story of the crucifixion with music and narration. These events helped to prepare our hearts to celebrate on Easter Sunday and rejoice for Christ's victory over the grave!



Class of 2025



Grace Jefferson is the daughter of Sandra Jefferson and the late Elwood Jefferson. Grace is graduating from Lewisburg High School and plans to attend Northwest Mississippi Community College with a focus on business marketing.

Sam Thomas is the son of Daniel and Cheryl Thomas. He was baptized on his first birthday and has been a member of Maples his entire life. Sam is an honor graduate of Lewisburg high school, graduating with distinction. After graduation, Sam will attend the University of North Alabama to major in Data Analytics.



Tyler Barnes is the son of Ryan and Rebecca Barnes. Tyler has been a member of Maples his whole life where he has served in any way he is needed. He is also a leader in the youth group here at Maples. He is graduating from Lewisburg High School and plans to attend The University of North Alabama and will be in the Marching Pride of North Alabama Band. He plans to major in Business Management, Finance, or Sales.

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: Family of John Hill; Family of Phyllis Vanderburg; Family of Leona Chrestman; Family of Jim Meurer; Jadzia Pacenza; Theresa Owens; Dennis Treadway; Scott Larsen; Sandra Jefferson; Jon Lott; Anita Scholl; Becky Bright; Ginger Hunter; 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

Facebook: facebook.com/mapleschurch



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