



# MAPLES MEMORIAL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Maples Memorial UMC Family,

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church (UMC) stands as a beacon of faith and community, guided by a mission statement that encapsulates its purpose and calling. With the mission of "Reaching Up... Reaching Within... Reaching Out," Maples Memorial UMC seeks to embody the teachings of Christ by actively worshiping God, nurturing the spiritual growth of its members, and extending love and service to the world beyond its walls. In this newsletter article, we'll take a brief look at each of these aspects of our vision statement.

"Reaching Up" emphasizes the church's commitment to seeking a deeper relationship with God. It embodies the idea of recognizing God's presence, power, and grace in all aspects of life. Reaching Up entails vibrant worship services that inspire and uplift, providing opportunities for congregants to praise, pray, and encounter the divine. Through heartfelt worship, Maples Memorial UMC fosters an environment where individuals connect with God on a personal level, growing in their faith and experiencing spiritual transformation. This dimension of the mission statement reminds us of Jesus' words in Mark 12:30: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Reaching Up serves as a call to wholeheartedly pursue a relationship with God, acknowledging God and surrendering to His will.

"Reaching Within" signifies the church's commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth and discipleship of its members. It recognizes that the church is a community of believers, where individuals are encouraged to develop their faith, knowledge, and character. Reaching Within encompasses various aspects, such as biblical teaching, Sunday School, discipleship programs, and pastoral care. Maples Memorial UMC strives to provide a supportive and nurturing environment where individuals can deepen their understanding of God's Word, grow in their relationship with Christ, and develop spiritual maturity. The Apostle Paul's exhortation in Ephesians 4:15-16 resonates with this dimension: "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." Reaching Within challenges each member to actively engage in their spiritual journey and contribute to the growth and well-being of the church.

"Reaching Out" embodies the church's commitment to extend the love, compassion, and message of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of the church. It compels the congregation to actively engage with the wider world, seeking opportunities to serve, uplift, and make a positive impact. Reaching Out involves outreach programs, community partnerships, and acts of compassion and kindness. Maples Memorial UMC recognizes the call of Jesus to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be salt and light in the world. Through Reaching Out, the church demonstrates God's love in practical ways, addressing societal needs and bringing hope to those who are marginalized or in need. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40 echo the significance of Reaching Out: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Reaching Out calls the congregation to embrace the responsibility of being Christ's ambassadors, actively engaging in acts of compassion and service.

"Reaching Up... Reaching Within... Reaching Out" summarizes the essence of Maples Memorial UMC's mission. It reflects the church's commitment to connecting with God, nurturing the spiritual growth of its members, and extending God's love to the wider world. This mission statement serves as a guiding light, inspiring the congregation to live out their faith in a holistic and transformative manner. Through its worship, discipleship, and outreach ministries, Maples Memorial UMC endeavors to be a vibrant and impactful presence in the lives of individuals, families, and communities, all for the glory of God.

Blessings,  
Bro. Kerry Powell

### Dates to Remember

- September 4:..... Labor Day (church office closed)
- September 5:..... Rook Club  
..... Personnel Committee Meeting
- September 8:..... Youth 5th Quarter  
..... Arc supper club
- September 10:..... Big Serve IV  
..... Annual Youth Fall Potluck
- September 14:..... Olive Branch Food Pantry
- September 18:..... Maples Men's Ministry
- September 21:..... Wesley Meadows Golf Tournament

### Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

|                |             |                  |              |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| January .....  | \$66,162.65 | May .....        | \$46,693.98  |
| February ..... | \$66,322.00 | June .....       | \$31,370.02  |
| March .....    | \$56,384.30 | July.....        | \$141,172.47 |
| April.....     | \$40,197.67 | August 1-28..... | \$37,492.00  |

### Weekly Attendance/Giving Reports

|                 | Sunday School | Worship Services | Giving     |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------|
| July 30 .....   | 66 .....      | 143 .....        | \$2,198.00 |
| August 6 .....  | 62 .....      | 130 .....        | \$7,761.00 |
| August 13 ..... | 51 .....      | 154 .....        | \$6,492.00 |
| August 20 ..... | 60 .....      | 113 .....        | \$4,645.00 |
| August 27 ..... | 75 .....      | 146 .....        | \$2,961.00 |

### Maples Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry has kicked off fall programming and it has been special! We meet every week on Sundays from 5-7:30 and Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00. Our big group time is on Sunday nights where we have worship, deep talks, spiritual gifts training, and fun! Wednesday nights are Connection groups where we meet as separate genders and build a small group, spiritual community within our youth ministry.



God is so good!



### Special Giving

**Given in Loving Memory of Tyler Cummings by:**  
Paul & Kelly Peel

**Given in Loving Memory of Barbara Watson by:**  
Jo Nell Speck  
Jill Sittou  
Marcia Elder  
Barry & Cindy White

### Prayer Concerns

**Home Bound:** Dot Hays; Phyllis Vanderburg; Margaret Peden; Carolyn Dupree; Joann Potts; Carol McOlgan; Marilyn Owen.

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

**Other Requests:** David James (Nyla Osborn's brother in law); Stephanie Murphree (Nyla Osborn's nephew's wife); Lee Smart; Caroline Strunk; Shirley Moss (Gina Roman's mother); Alex Lay (Sadie Herrington's grandson); Kairos Outside weekend Oct. 26-29; Nick Walker (friend of Lyndall Snyder); Keith Nichols. 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.**

### District Wide Church Conference

Mark your calendars for our District Wide Charge Conference which will be held on October 8, 3:00 p.m., at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church.

### Important Youth Dates

**Youth 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter**  
Friday night, September 8<sup>th</sup> is our youth 5<sup>th</sup> quarter from the end of game time - 12:00 a.m. This will be located at the church after the high schools' football games. There will be all kinds of fun things to do and games to play along with FOOD. Bring all of your friends!

**Youth & Parent Potluck**  
Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> will be our first annual Fall Youth & Parent Potluck from 5:30-7:30. Everyone, youth and parents, needs to come to this. We will eat, sing a song or two, and go over all the youth things for the year including calendar, expectations, vision for the ministry, and your thoughts! BRING a dish of some sort (sweet or salty.)



# Happy Birthday!

Sept. 1: Lynn Lott

Sept. 2: Kirk Nelson

Sept. 3: Judy Morell, Susie Mullis

Sept. 6: Sandra Bland, Daniel Braddock

Sept. 8: Luke Bass, Schyler Larsen

Sept. 9: Teddy Maddox

Sept. 13: Shannon Suttlemyre, Aaron Hatch,  
Anden Jones

Sept. 14: Kaitlyn Billions

Sept. 15: Daniel Nelson

Sept. 16: Sadie Herrington

Sept. 17: Diane Wilhite

Sept. 18: Phyllis Vanderburg, Ty Haley

Sept. 19: Ruth Ellen Cetto, Ron Tucker

Sept. 20: John Michael Treadway, Paul Peel

Sept. 23: Jonathan Bass, Connor Trest

Sept. 24: Michelle Cummings

Sept. 26: Carol McOlgan, Becky Barnes,  
Cori Rice

Sept. 27: Seth Nelson

Sept. 30: Mark Wilson, Wiley Maddox

## Fall Festival at Minor Memorial

On Saturday, Nov. 4th from 8 AM - 2 PM, Minor Memorial UMC in Walls is hosting their annual Fall Festival and we'd like to extend an invitation to our Maples family to come and be a part of it! Admission is free! There will be various vendors as well as a country café & bake shop and a kids area with inflatables and games. If you would be interested in setting up a booth, visit <https://www.minormemorial.org/fall-festival-booth-reservation> for more information about procedures and costs. Otherwise, you're invited to have a great time!

Blessings, Rev. Sam

## Olive Branch Community Thrift Shop

Maples was responsible for operating the Olive Branch Community Thrift Shop during the month of July. Total sales were \$2134. Proceeds are distributed among several local charities. Many thanks to our volunteers: Joyce Alexander, Sanna Burlison, Cecelia & Cindy Gilkey, Nancy Hill, Kathryn Steele and Beverly Williams.

Cecelia Gilkey & Pam Adams  
Coordinators

## Tailgate Ministry

It's football season and Tailgate Ministry is back! We will be tailgating at home football games at Olive Branch and Lewisburg High Schools. This is a great way to get in touch with the community and show folks the love of Jesus Christ by conversation, fellowship, and serving them a delicious hamburger or hotdog. You can support this ministry by donating these items to help keep our tents up and running:

- Paper Plates • Heavy duty trash bags • Potato chips (value pack)
- Condiments (Ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, pickles)
- Napkins • Plastic tongs

If you would like to make a financial contribution simply scan the QR code or you can earmark a check for "Tailgate Ministry". Contact Ben Larsen or Sam Jones for more information or to volunteer to help work the tailgate.



### Below is our tentative tailgate schedule:

Sept. 8..... Center Hill High School @ Lewisburg High School

Sept. 15..... Olive Branch High School @ Lewisburg High School

Sept. 22..... DeSoto Central High School @ Olive Branch High School

Oct. 27..... South Panola High School @ Olive Branch High School

## Big Serve IV

BIG SERVE IV is scheduled for Sunday, September 10th. On that day we will have one worship service at 8:30 a.m. before we head out to our worksites. We will not have Sunday School that day. To sign up, just go to our website, [mapleschurch.org](http://mapleschurch.org) and click on the Big Serve IV icon and it will take you to the page where you can sign up for projects, donate items off our Amazon Wish List, or make a financial gift through our online platform. The items on the Amazon Wish List are for one of our projects which is packing socks and hygiene kits for Manna House and Matthew 25 Ministries. You can scan the QR code to take you directly to the Amazon Wish List. Come help us shine the light of Jesus on our community.



**Maples Kids** is planning its annual trip to Camp Lake Stephens for the Children's Spiritual Life Retreat September 30th-October 1st. This retreat is for grades 3rd-6th and the cost is \$90. Please email Christi Rice at [christi@mapleschurch.org](mailto:christi@mapleschurch.org) if you or your child are interested in joining us!

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

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church  
8745 Goodman Road  
PO Box 213  
Olive Branch, MS 38654

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## Return Service Requested

## Messy Games

We had our Family Fall Kick-Off: Messy Games Edition August 13. Thank you to everyone who came out to help, participate or observe! It was hot, but everyone had a blast. We started off the afternoon with food provided by the Agape Sunday school class. They grilled hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings, chips, cookies, and drinks. After that, the games began! We had three teams play a variety of relay games with a messy twist. The winning team had the pleasure of adding whipped cream to the faces of Ben and Pastor Kerry. We ended the night with muddy kickball where there was a sprinkler on the pitcher's mound and the bases were swimming pools. This event was well attended and provided great fellowship time and smiles all around. We cannot wait to host this one again next year.



Senior Pastor, Rev. Kerry Powell • Associate Pastor, Rev. Sam Jones • 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)

