

September 2024



MAPLES MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maples Family,

As we step into the fall season, I am filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation for the ways God is working in our church and community. In our current sermon series, we have been exploring what it means to deepen our sense of community, not just within our church walls, but also in the wider community around us.

One of the greatest blessings of being part of a Church like Maples Memorial UMC is the opportunity to form meaningful, Christ-centered relationships. In the book of Acts, the early church modeled what it means to live in fellowship, sharing everything they had and supporting one another in times of need (Acts 2:42-47). This is the kind of community we aspire to be at Maples Memorial.

To deepen our connections within the church, I encourage each of you to consider the following:

- 1. Join a Small Group:** Our small groups are a place where you can grow spiritually, share life's joys and challenges, and build lasting friendships. If you haven't yet joined a group, now is the perfect time to do so. Sunday school classes and short-term learning groups offer this, as well as affinity groups like the chancel choir and Connections praise band.
- 2. Participate in Fellowship Events:** Several upcoming events are intended to foster fellowship. Whether it's a potluck, a fun night, or a special service, these gatherings provide a chance to relax, connect, and strengthen us as a church family.
- 3. Serve Together:** There's something powerful about working alongside others in service to God and our community. Consider volunteering in one of our ministries or helping out with an upcoming event. Serving together builds unity and a shared sense of purpose. On September 29, we will meet for a brief worship service at 8:30 a. m., then go to various places in our community to serve as part of Big Serve V. This is the perfect opportunity for you to put service into practice.

Our calling as Christians is not just to care for one another within the church but also to extend God's love and grace to those beyond our doors. In line with God's vision, we continue to focus on how we can reach out and make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

I am excited about what God is doing in and through Maples Memorial UMC, and I look forward to seeing how we can continue to grow together as a Church that shines His light in the world.

Blessings,

Bro. Kerry Powell

Dates to Remember

September 2.....	Labor Day (church office closed)
September 3.....	Rook Club
September 10	Maples Women's Group
September 12	Olive Branch Food Pantry
September 13	Tailgate @ Centerhill vs. Lewisburg
.....	Youth 5th Quarter
September 20	Tailgate @ Olive Branch vs. Lewisburg
.....	Youth 5th Quarter
September 21	Maples Men's Ministry
September 23	District Prayer Gathering at Maples
September 26	Foster Parent Meeting
September 29	Big Serve V
.....	Youth & Family Fall Potluck

Monthly Budget Offering Reports (designated giving excluded)

July 2023	\$141,172.47	February.....	\$53,862.69
August	\$37,492.00	March	\$42,510.55
September.....	\$33,830.75	April.....	\$38,961.10
October	\$38,643.98	May	\$39,142.90
November.....	\$46,420.75	June	\$45,556.35
December.....	\$103,027.27	July.....	\$53,403.86
January 2024	\$47,469.34	August.....	\$45,383.40

Weekly Attendance/Giving Reports

	Sunday School	Worship Services	Giving
August 4	66.....	142.....	\$8,909.00
August 11	55.....	140.....	\$8,555.00
August 18	79.....	183.....	\$4,882.00
August 25	57.....	142.....	\$8,323.00

Sunday Morning Volunteers in September

Traditions Worship Ushers/Greeters:

- Sept. 1** **Ushers:** Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat **Dorr. Greeter:** Shannon Suttlemyre.
- Sept. 8** **Ushers:** Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and **Ashley Bowlan. Greeter:** Earnestine Turner.
- Sept. 15** **Ushers:** Larry Bright, Pat Dorr, Eason Treadway and Ron **Tucker. Greeter:** Jeanette Wallace.
- Sept. 22** **Ushers:** Ryan Barnes, Ashley Bowlan, Larry Bright and Pat **Dorr. Greeter:** Becky Bright.
- Sept. 29** **Ushers:** Eason Treadway, Ron Tucker, Ryan Barnes and **Ashley Bowlan. Greeter:** Elizabeth Sanders.

Maples Men's Ministry, Sept. 21 at 8AM

Maples Men's Ministry will meet on Saturday, September 21, at 8:00AM. All men are encouraged to attend. This will be a church work day for Men's Ministry to help with some grounds maintenance such as trimming bushes, clean gutters, and clean up the playground area. Breakfast will be served at the meeting.

Maples Women's Group, Sept. 10 at 11AM

Maples Women's Group will meet Tuesday, September 10 at 11:00AM in room 118. All women are invited to come and bring a sack lunch. This will be the first meeting after taking a summer break. If you have any questions you can reach out to Sandra Bland at blansan@comcast.net,

September Birthdays

- September 2:** Kirk Nelson
September 3: Judy Morell
September 6: Sandra Bland, Daniel Braddock
September 8: Luke Bass, Schyler Larsen
September 9: Teddy Maddox, Taylor Nelson
September 13: Shannon Suttlemyre, Aaron Hatch, Anden Jones
September 14: Kaitlyn Billions
September 15: Daniel Nelson, Rich Galtelli
September 16: Sadie Herrington
September 17: Diane Wilhite, Clint Downs, Sara Tucker
September 18: Phyllis Vanderburg, Belinda Kuluz, Ty Haley
September 19: Ruth Ellen Cetto, Ron Tucker
September 20: John Michael Treadway, Paul Peel, Emma Peacock
September 21: Daniel Thomas
September 23: Jonathan Bass, Connor Trest
September 24: Michelle Cummings
September 26: Carol McOlgan, Becky Barnes, Cori Rice
September 27: Seth Nelson
September 29: Bob Mayhall
September 30: Wiley Maddox, Mark Wilson

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

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: Chris Wallace; Linda Wallace; Linda Gibson; Presley; Family of Ann McMurry (Ashley Bowlan's aunt); Family of Margaret Ridley; Tobey & Rose Tobey; Bobbie Ross; Rachel Farabee; Leif Johnson; Dianna & Buddy Burt; David Olds; Gary Weeden; Mark Sorell; Williams & Sampson families; Brad Goff; Rev. Mike Dorr; Ruth Allen; Mike Spillars; Shirley Moss; Jo Nell Speck. *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.*

Memorials

Given in Loving Memory of:

**Ellie Snyder Aldridge
Margaret Ridley**

By Gary & Lyndall Snyder

Who/What is Maples Leadership Team?

Once a month a group of Maples members get together - they worry (sometimes), laugh (often), and pray (always). They review, evaluate, trouble shoot, encourage and plan! And what, you may wonder, is the subject of all this activity? It is YOU, Maples Memorial United Methodist Church. This is your Leadership Team and they want to be sure that your hopes and dreams for God's work at Maples are reflected in the Team's actions. A multitude of areas are addressed, including children, youth, adult and family ministries, worship, discipleship, missions, evangelism, staff relations, finance, and campus maintenance. Realizing that not everyone is familiar with the individuals in the group, we are sharing that information in hopes that you will reach out to share your visions for serving the church and the Lord we love. These folks are your representatives and truly want to hear your suggestions, evaluations and concerns.

Members of the Leadership Team are:

Lay Leader/Ex Officio: Kevin Doddridge

Class of 2024: Larry Bright
Sandra Watson
Ruth Ellen Cetto

Class of 2025: Eason Treadway
Meg Maddox
Jane Downs

Class of 2026: Meghan Galtelli White
Mark Wilson
David Olds

Leader in Training: Ethan Lott
(voice/no vote)

Reserves: Ron Tucker
Trev Sprabery
Rachel Farabee

Lay Members to Annual Conference:
Kevin Doddridge
Lynn Cox

Leadership Team Committees:

Finance: Meg Maddox, chair
Ruth Ellen Cetto
David Olds

Property & Grounds: Larry Bright, chair
Meghan Galtelli White
Eason Treadway

Personnel: Sandra Watson, chair
Jane Downs
Mark Wilson



Welcome New Member

Maples welcomes it's newest member, Emily Bostain. Emily came by profession of faith and was baptized by Bro. Kerry on August 18. Emily is already an active member in Maples Youth Group. We look forward to walking beside Emily and watching her relationship with God grow stronger with each passing day.



The Pray Mississippi Movement is an initiative to foster the spiritual discipline of prayer across the Mississippi Conference. Don't miss the Pray Gathering at Maples on Sept. 23 with Bishop Lewis and Dr. Terry Tekyl.

Sunday, September 29 is Big Serve V

This is a day where the church will leave the building to go out into our community to do some community service projects! At our four previous Big Serve events, we averaged about 80 participants, and while those were big successes, we're hoping to generate even more engagement this year!

Check-in starts at 8:00 a.m. on September 29th. We will have a short service at 8:30, and after that, we will leave to go to our work assignments at about 9:00.

You can sign up at the information desk, the church website or by scanning the QR code below! We have projects available for members of all skill levels.

Our projects for this event are:

- House of Grace (Hygiene kits, supplies, children's bags)
- Olive Branch Park Clean-up
- Flood Bucket Packing
- Local School Clean-up
- Decorating placemats for Kairos/Cursillo
- Indoor and Outdoor Work at Maples

You can donate money to help offset the cost of Big Serve by writing "Big Serve" on your check, or selecting the "Big Serve" icon when giving online through Vanco.

You can also help by going to our Amazon Wish List for Big Serve V and purchasing needed items!

Scan the QR code to purchase items on our Amazon Wish List and/or to sign up to serve at Big Serve on September 29!



Tailgate Ministry is Back!

It's football season and Tailgate Ministry is back! We will be tailgating at home football games for Center Hill, Lewisburg, Olive Branch and Desoto Central 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 financially and volunteering to help run the tailgates! The volunteer sign-up is located at the information desk or on our church website! You can make a financial contribution by writing a check earmarked "Tailgate Ministry" to place in the offering basket or to bring to the church office, or you can go to mapleschurch.org, click "Give," and select "Tailgate Ministry" through Vanco giving. Contact Ben Larsen for more information.

Confirmed dates are:

- September 13 - at Center Hill HS
- September 20 - at Olive Branch HS
- October 4- at Lewisburg HS
- October 18 - at Desoto Central HS



Family Fall Kick-off Messy Games Edition

Over 50 people came out and helped us celebrate Maples Fall Kick-off. The Agape Sunday School Class cooked hamburgers and hot dogs and there was homemade ice cream and brownies for dessert. The winners for the ice cream contest were: 3rd place winner was Christi Rice with double chocolate; 2nd place was Bro. Kerry and his famous lemon ice cream, and the Grand Prize First Place winner was Joseph Barnes with chocolate Nutella. (Thank you Kristi Pacenza for the delicious brownies!)



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.