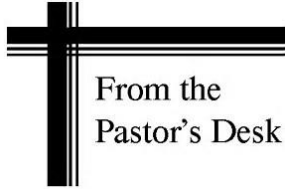


MAPLES WINGSPAN



November 15, 2017



From the
Pastor's Desk

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a part of every worship service. Give God thanks when we pray and when we sing.

Ever since I read the book The Hiding Place, by Corrie ten Boom, every Thanksgiving I am reminded of a story she told about giving thanks to God.

Corrie and her sister Betsy, had just been transferred to the worst German prison camp they had ever seen, Ravensbruck. They found the barracks extremely overcrowded and flea-infested.

One particular morning they had read 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks" + Betsy told Corrie to stop and thank the Lord for every detail of their new living quarters. Corrie gave thanks for everything but when it came to the fleas, she flatly refused. Betsy kept persisting that she give thanks even for the fleas, and Corrie finally did it.

During the months spent at that camp, the two sisters were surprised to find how openly they could hold Bible study and prayer meetings without the guards interfering. Several months went by when they learned that the reason the guards would not enter the barracks was because of the fleas.

Thank God for the fleas!

We may not know, understand or even like what is going on in our life, but God's promise is that He will cause all things to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

As Thanksgiving approaches, maybe you have some "leas" in your life. Stop and thank God even through the trials, tribulations, difficult situations and circumstances that you may be going through. I believe that if we give God thanks even through the hard times, there is a blessing from God waiting on us.

May God bless you and may you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving Season.

Because of Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Hal".

Pastor Hal

GLOW...Children's Ministries

- **What?** There will be an outing to see the new movie, **Star**, at Malco Theatre here in Olive Branch on Friday November 17th. There will be no gathering on Sunday, November 26th. What? will not meet in December.
- **Spirit Kids.** Wednesday December 13th please join us for family night at Spirit Kids. Families will rotate together through the Music Station singing Christmas Carols, Lego station making Nativity Lego displays and decorating a gingerbread person in the Fun Factory Station. Spirit kids begins at 6pm and ends at 7:30pm.
- **Glow Kids** Beginning on Sunday December 3rd during the 11am service, Glow kids will begin offering two Glow Kids classes. One for ages 3 & 4 year olds will meet in room 141 and Kindergarten and 1st grades will meet in room 131.
- **Miracle of Jesus** Children are invited to attend the Miracle of Jesus on Sunday December 17th at the 11am service in Wesley Hall. Children 3 years through 5th grade will experience what it was like in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. Through story, crafts and song they will learn about the Miracle of Jesus.

Holiday Worship & Wednesday Night Schedules

Both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sunday this year. Since there will be two Christmas Eve services on the night of December 24, we will have one morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. and no Sunday School. We will follow the same schedule on December 31 (New Year's Eve): no Sunday School and one morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Wednesday night activities on Wednesday, November 22 and the last full Wednesday night schedule before Christmas will be on December 13. The schedule will resume on January 10.

Thanksgiving Dinner & Service November 19

Join your church family on Sunday, November 19 as we share a Thanksgiving meal and thank God for His many blessings. Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. and worship will follow at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Turkey and dressing will be provided and you are asked to bring sides and desserts to share. We will need several people to help set up, clean up and take down tables and chairs. If you can help, call Jane Downs in the church office.

Christmas Shoebox Ministry

UMCOR shoeboxes are due Sunday, November 26. The boxes include a list of suggested items to be included (printed on the side of the box) and you are asked to check off the items you include. The boxes can be returned to a bin near the Information Desk. When you turn in your box, please tape an envelope on top with \$4 to be used to ship the gifts (please make checks out to Maples.)

Advent Take Out Box for Families

This Advent season pick up an Advent Take out box from the Information Desk. This take out box has activities for families to use to help them understand and celebrate the season of Advent. They will be available starting Sunday November 26th. One per family please.

Senior Adult Gatherings

In November Senior Adults will be offered a four week Advent Bible Study beginning on Thursday, November 30 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 118. David Laird will facilitate *The Redemption of Scrooge*, from Matt Rawles' The Pop in Culture Series. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent study will bless us every one and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Administrative Board: Monday, November 27 at 7:00pm in Wesley Hall
- MLC Board: Thursday, November 30 at 6:00pm in Room 120
- Board of Trustees: Monday, December 4 at 6:00pm in Rm 118

Christmas Angel Tree

In cooperation with Together Ministry Center the Children's committee is sponsoring the Angel Tree Ministry this year. Together Ministry Center is actively engaged in ministry to the poor and underserved in DeSoto County. Angels will be available on Sunday November 19th on the Giving Wall located next to the Information Desk. Please sign out your angel to a member of the Children's Committee. Angels are children from the Candlelight Trailer Park in Olive Branch. Typically one angel costs around \$100. We ask that you wrap the presents in three packages. Please attach your number on your packages so we can sort them out. Please do not include cash, but you may include a gift card for the adults in the family.

If you would like to sponsor an Angel, but do not have the time to go shopping, a Children's Committee member would love to shop for you; just make a donation, mark your Angel's number on the check and turn it into the office. All Angel packages are due back Sunday December 10th

Thank You!

Thank you to my church family for all the calls, cards, prayers and other expressions of concern during the illness and death of my wife, Michele. Your support was greatly appreciated.

Stephen Minott

Thank you for inviting me to come share the joy of missions from UMCOR and Eastbrook Mission Barn as your missionary. Your prayers and support are greatly felt and appreciated.

Shalom, Katie Peterson

Attendance/Offering Reports

Sunday October 1

Offering to Budget..... \$18,601.50
Sunday School..... 132
Morning Worship..... 267

Sunday October 8

Offering to Budget..... \$14,116.00
Sunday School..... 148
Morning Worship..... 282

Sunday October 15

Offering to Budget..... \$14,331.50
Sunday School..... 137
Morning Worship..... 263

Sunday October 22

Offering to Budget..... \$17,530.40
Sunday School..... 150
Morning Worship..... 317

Sunday October 29

Offering to Budget..... \$11,330.00
Sunday School..... 156
Morning Worship..... 290

PRAYER CONCERNS

Shut-In: Helen Kee; Ann Williams; Louise Ragsdale; Jean Hall, Gracie Aldridge; Margaret Peden; Mildred Currie

Military: Adam Bazar; Brock McCullough; Michael Tucker; Joseph Barton; Connor Tapley; Mary Watford, Stephen DeCareaux; Aaron James; Taylor Downs; Caitlin Brooks; Cal Walls; Dawson Payne; Cameron Fletcher; Justin Cobb; David Tessaro

Sympathy to: Stephen Minott & family in the death of his wife, Michele

November 12-15: Charles Patton; Linda Doddridge; Janice Vaughn; Ronnie Barkley; Lynne Howard (Charles/Pat Howard's daughter); Craig, Marcy & Ella Sanford (B Ondo's family); family of Erica Heran (Pat Howard's friend); Allen Hall & Steven Hall (Carolyn Morgan's brothers); Melissa South; Charlie Howard; Peggy Moore (Beverly Williams's friend); Albert Broadway; Mary Randall (Lauren Randall's grandmother); Sharon Wade's brother; shooting victims; Joann Potts; David Tessaro

November 5-10: Bradley Cain (Sondra Smith's friend); Donna Young; Charlotte Stout; Christi Laird (David Laird's family); Carolyn Neergaard; Lena Marston (David & Betty Olds's granddaughter); Megan Bunniran (Sondra Smith's friend); April Myres (Rosemary Jones's friend); Georgiana Cox

October 29-November 3: Brian Walhood; Mavis Walhood (Brian's mother); Joe Beasley; Leigh Parker (Sharon Coleman's niece); Ryan & Lauri McClain (Amie Ruffin's friends); Deborah Culver's daughter; Sheila Smith (David Smith's daughter); Christa Armstrong (John Engberg's sister); Sandra M. & Doris K. (friends of Andy Pressman); Kathy Rhodus (David Laird's cousin); Alice Chain (Hal Hall's friend); Gabriel Carlton; Carolyn Winters & Ray Rutledge (Cecelia Gilkey's family); Laura Smith (Sharon Williams's friend); Betty Sullivan; Rose Tobey; Mary Holden (Jill Sitton's friend); Jan Sprinkle; Stella Cook (child with cancer); Carol McOlgan; Noah Walls; Lynn Johnston; Ken Harris (David Smith's friend); Denise Newton (Jim & Beth Wadlington's daughter); Caiden Hughes

SPECIAL GIVING

Given in loving memory of:

Michele Minott By: Larry & Becky Bright; Bill & Lavenia Acree

Mike Manning By: Ron & Pat Solberg



Greetings from Lewisburg! In mid-September we started a new worship opportunity at 10:30am on Sunday mornings. It was a leap of faith to take our worship of 70 on Sunday nights and split it into two worship times. There is always more energy and a greater sense of community when there are more people in a room. However, we also realized that we would not be able to grow much more if we did not create more space. Well, God has honored our faithfulness to trust in Him! Through the first six weeks, we have seen new families want to be a part of our church community, and worship attendance has grown into the 80s with 35-40 attending in the mornings, and 40-50 in the evenings. We give God the glory and will continue to seek God's face as we reach out to the community in new ways!

The beginning of November also signifies the end of tailgating season. We were able to meet and interact with new people in the community through six games at LHS and seven at OBHS. Let me put that in perspective by the numbers. We grilled and gave away more than 350 burgers/150 hotdogs at LHS, and more than 450 burgers/275 hotdogs at OBHS this season! This also represents The Well supporting the band boosters for both schools as well, as we purchased all of our burgers and hotdogs from the concession stands. We have been excited to create new relationships in both communities, and have seen families come to church as a result. Thank you, Maples, for partnering with us for the OBHS games and we look forward to seeing your passion for connecting with Olive Branch through tailgating grow into next season. A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Sam Jones for taking care of all of the setup, sharing the cooking duties, and for inviting us to continue this ministry this season! Your love and desire for the students and overall community of OBHS to see and know Jesus as Lord is wonderful and inspiring!

Once again, thank you Maples for your love and support as we move closer to chartering as a fully sustainable United Methodist Church!

Corey

Mission Opportunities-Olive Branch Food Pantry

In December the pantry has its annual Christmas giveaway day on Saturday, December 16th. People may come and shop for items that have been donated to help with the Christmas season. **Maples Memorial is collecting socks as part of this program. Socks (new please) of all sizes can be placed in the Food Pantry bin at the Information Desk.** The pantry serves 250 families with the Christmas giveaway. You may also help to set up on the day before the Christmas giveaway or on that Saturday from 12-5 p.m. Also, our regular **work days** in December are Tuesday, December 5, from 9:45 a.m. until noon and Thursday, December 21, from 5:45- 8:00 p.m.

Ornaments Going On Sale

If you missed out on purchasing one of our 175th Anniversary Christmas Ornaments, you will have a second chance during December. Cost is \$20 and benefits our Youth Choir trip to Lake Junaluska. Check with Joey Lott for info.

Advent and Christmas Calendar

Sunday, December 3—Children and Youth Choirs present a program of Lessons and Carols at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 10—The Chancel Choir and orchestra offer an evening of Christmas music at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Saturday, December 16—BealeCanto, a premier men's chamber group, presents Christmas songs and carols in Maples's sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. (This is a free concert.)

Sunday, December 17—Miracle of Jesus, a children's prayer walk, will be offered at 11:00 a.m. in Wesley Hall.

Sunday, December 17—An Advent prayer walk for the whole family will be offered from 6:00-10:00 p.m. (come and go) in the narthex and sanctuary.

Monday, December 18—The family Advent prayer walk will be offered again from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24—On Christmas Eve, there will be one morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. and candlelight communion services at both 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

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

Non-Profit Or.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olive Branch, MS
38654
Permit No. 12

Return Service Requested

SERVING MAPLES FOR DECEMBER 2017

December 3

Counters: Kenny Heath & Sandra Layne
Glow Kids: Mary Tullos & Oma Moore (11:00)
Acolytes: Millie McCormick (8:45)
Tyler Barnes (11)
Greeters: Jill Sitton (8:30)
Donna Zaino, Ann Busby (9:45)
Earnestine Turner, Jane Downs (10:45)

December 17

Counters: Ross Turner & Pat Dorr
Glow Kids: Haley Lonidier & Amy Bass (11:00)
Acolytes: Casey Jasick (8:45)
Xander Otto (11)
Greeters: Lori Kirchhoff (8:30)
Drue Sogner, B Ondo (9:45)
Becky Bright, Larry Bright(10:45)

December 31

Counters: Jane Downs & Lynn Johnston
Acolyte: Maycee Medlin (10:00)
Greeters: Charlotte Abrams, Laura Lovelace

December Glow Kids Leaders:

Misty Vanderburg (8:45) Leigh Ellen Doddridge (11:00)

Ushers:

December: Adam Kraft, Jan Sprinkle, Bryan Williams, Jim Wadlington (8:45)
Ross Turner, Bonnie Turner, Nick Garner, Eason Treadway (11:00)

December 10

Adam Kraft & Rachel Farabee
Jessica Sanders & Kristi Pacenza (11:00)
Samuel Thomas (8:45)
Paul Swindle (11)
Rose Tobey (8:30)
Beverly Williams, Mike Thomas (9:45)
Nyla Osborn, Renee Hall (10:45)

December 24

Tom Peacock & Ruth Ellen Cetto
Shannon Tessaro & Lucia Nelson (10:00)
John Michael Treadway (10:00)
Lyndall Snyder, Wanda Vinson (9:45)

STAFF

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Hal Hall

Associate Pastor:
Rev. David Laird

Associate Pastor,
The Well@Lewisburg:
Rev. Corey Truett

Associate Pastor,
Children's Pastor:
Rev. Alecia Fischer

Director of Music Ministry:
Dr. Joey Lott

Director of Youth Ministry:
Lauren Randall

Church Administrator:
Lynn Johnston

Administrative Secretary:
Jane Downs

Pianist:
Bobbie Ross

Organist:
Allen Sanders

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church

Phone: 662-895-2279 Fax: 662-893-0268

Website: www.mapleschurch.org