

SUMMER EVENTS

Creativity Café

Creative Fun for ALL Ages! Unleash your inner artist! Respond to a prompt through writing, visual art, music, or dance. Bring a sack lunch or snack to share as you feel led. Children under the age of 13 must bring a parent or guardian. June 24-July 29, 12:30- 2pm in the Garden Room

Discovery Bible Study



Bible Study designed for Summer
No homeworkDrop-in classes
Tuesdays June 23-July 21 at 7 PM

Fourth of July Cookout



Come celebrate the nation's 250th birthday with a cook out, bounce house, and fireworks. Fun for all – invite your friends! Insect repellent and handheld fans are optional.



To learn more about these events, please scan the QR code or contact the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fourth of July Cookout: Saturday, July 4 at 6:00, we will have a cookout and bounce house in the parking lot. Fireworks will start at dusk. Two teams are needed to make this celebration possible, one for the bounce house and one for the grill. Please sign up on Realm or in the Narthex.

Special Service: Sunday, July 5, in addition to worshipping with a Communion service, our worship will also be one of song. Your favorite worship songs will be a vital part of the service. Please let the worship team or the office know the songs that help you feel close to God. We want to be sure to include them in our worship service next week.

Back to School Generosity (B2SG): Marietta Middle School serves an economically diverse population. To help students start school on a more equal footing, we will be collecting backpacks, school supplies, travel size toiletries, clothing, and reusable water bottles. We will be giving these backpacks and school supplies directly to Marietta Middle School. A flyer with a complete list is in the Narthex.

Coming Soon: The Playground: Wiggles, giggles, and wonder are welcome here! Maple Avenue UMC is preparing a new Playground space in the sanctuary where children can participate in worship alongside their families through hands-on, age-appropriate activities. Because faith grows best when generations worship together.

Church Staff |

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June 28, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE | *Morning Has Broken*

Traditional Gaelic melody Arranged by Marilyn Ham

How Great Thou Art

Swedish Folk Melody Arranged by Larry Shackley

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

*HYMN 378 | *Amazing Grace*

PASSING THE PEACE |

KID'S SERMON

*HYMN 365 | *Grace Greater than Our Sin*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *The Apostle's Creed (881)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I

believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING | Acts 15:1-29

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved. And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news, and become believers. And God, who knew the human heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

The whole assembly kept silence and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name.

This agrees with the word of the prophets, as it is written, 'After this I will return, and I will build the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord – even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these known from long ago.'

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles we are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every Sabbath in the synagogues."

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers, with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the believers of Gentile origin in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have heard that certain persons who have gone out from us, have said things to disturb you and have unsettled your minds, we have decided unanimously to choose representatives and send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what has been strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

SERMON | *Acts of the Spirit: Disruption in a New Age: What is Essential?*

TITHES AND OFFERINGS Thank you for supporting God's mission through Maple Avenue UMC. Offerings may be placed in the plates or online via the QR code.



OFFERTORY | *Total Praise*

Words & Music by Richard Smallwood

*DOXOLOGY |

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*UMH 357 | *Just as I Am*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE | *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Gesangbuch Der Herzogl Arranged by Jeff Bennett

*Please stand in body or in Spirit.

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PRAYER CONCERNS |

Anson Senter, Keith Harmeyer, Al & Ann Hough, Adia May, Asher May, Zoe Vickery, Ben Vickery, Bonnie Walters, Lacy Kusy, Sarah Preston, D. Andrew, Ken & Sandy Smart, Mike & Jen, Gaines Law, Brandon & Emma Cook, Karla Frazier, Scott & Mary Anne Gordon, Alan Greene, Ken Harper, Deborah Nelson, Pat Sampson, Pat Wilson, Linda Smith, Adam Fike, Marie Kleber, Pete Werner, Francine & Luke Jackson, Henn family, Cherokee Walker, J.J. Gaines, Nancy Rice, Marie Jackson, Miller family

Please notify the church office of any prayer concerns