

September 1, 2026

Issue 4



## Coming Home:

### A Word as I Return from Sabbatical

After three months away, I am grateful to be coming home. My sabbatical gave me time to rest, pray, read, and listen to the Lord in ways that are difficult in the normal rhythm of ministry.

I return refreshed and deeply grateful for Mauldin Methodist Church and for those who faithfully carried on the ministry while I was away.

I also return to some difficult conversations, including questions surrounding our ministry to people who are unhoused. What began as a community meal has grown to include opportunities to wash clothes and charge phones. With that growth have come legitimate concerns about boundaries, safety, and the appropriate use of our church property. Those concerns deserve to be heard and addressed.

At the same time, I do not want our concern about boundaries to cause us to lose sight of why we began this ministry. Jesus consistently moved toward people who were hungry, hurting, overlooked, and on the margins. We are called to do the same.

I believe we can hold both truths together: compassion and boundaries, grace and wisdom, open hearts and responsible stewardship.

As I return, I look forward to helping us prayerfully discern what this ministry should look like going forward. We need clear expectations and healthy boundaries, but we also need to remember that the people we serve are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity.

This fall, we will also begin a new sermon series in September on the Book of James. James challenges us to move beyond simply hearing God's Word to actually living it—to put our faith into action. I believe this will be a timely word for us as we seek to follow Jesus faithfully in the life and ministry of our church.

We may not agree on every detail, but I pray we will approach these conversations with humility, prayer, and a desire to follow Jesus.

After all, we are not simply deciding what our church will allow. We are discerning what kind of church Jesus is calling us to be.

See you in church,

Webb

803-840-2144/webb@mauldinmethodist.com

September 7-Church Office Closed

September 7-Young Adult Pickleball-  
6pm-Southside Park

September 9-Wren Circle-9:30 a.m.-  
Fellowship Hall

September 10-Senior Adult Apple Pick-  
ing Trip-9am

September 13-SPRC-4pm-Conference  
Room

September 14– Senior Adult Lunch-  
11am-Fellowship Hall

September 14-Byce Small Group-Seekers  
Class (Spirit Center) 6pm

September 14-Church Council-6:30pm-  
Conference Room

September 16-Dorothy Hopkins Celebra-  
tion of Life-1pm Receive Friends-2pm  
Service

September 20-Trustee Meeting-6pm-  
Conference Room

September 25-27-Youth Fall Retreat

September 28-Deborah Circle-9:30 a.m.-  
Fellowship Hall

4Ps-Tuesdays-9am

Community Meal-Tuesdays-5:30-7pm

Alpha-Tuesdays-6pm-Fellowship Hall

Rev. Herd's Bible study-Wednesdays-  
10am-Conference Room

Friendly Yarns-First and third  
Wednesdays-9:30 a.m.

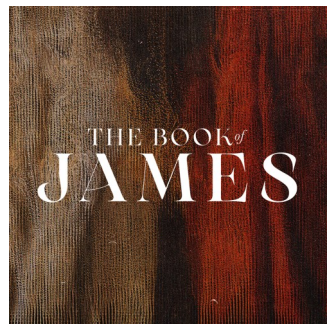
Family Dinner-Wednesdays-5:30pm-  
Gym

Meyer Small group-Thursdays-7pm-New  
Genesis Classroom

# Let's Worship Together

Genuine faith in Jesus Christ is more than something we believe; it is something we live. When our faith is alive, it changes how we respond to trials, how we treat people, how we speak, how we make decisions, and how we pursue holiness. James challenges the church to move from Sunday faith to everyday faith...a faith that can be seen in the way we live. Dr. Belangia and Rev. Herd will begin a six week series on Sunday, September 6.

*"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*  
James 2:17



## A New Approach to Sunday Worship

As we begin this new series, you may also notice a change in how our pastors lead worship on Sunday mornings. After much prayer and discussion, Dr. Belangia, Rev. Herd, and the Worship Committee feel led to try a new approach that will allow each pastor to remain fully present in one worship setting for the entirety of the service.

On a Sunday when **Dr. Belangia is preaching in the Traditional services, he will remain in that worship setting**, while **Rev. Herd will remain in The Forge** for the entire Contemporary service. On Sundays when **Dr. Belangia is leading in The Forge, Rev. Herd will provide pastoral leadership in Traditional worship**.

This approach will eliminate the need for our pastors to move between worship spaces during services, helping to avoid interruptions and allowing them to be fully present with each congregation from beginning to end.

We are grateful for the prayerful leadership of our pastors and Worship Committee as they continue to seek ways to strengthen worship at Mauldin Methodist. As we try this new approach, we ask for your prayers and your grace as together we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and continue to grow as one church family worshipping in different spaces.

## Serving at MMC

### Serve at the Lord's Table

One of the most meaningful ways to serve in worship is by helping prepare and serve Holy Communion. We are always looking for volunteers to assist on the first Sunday of each month in both The Forge and the Sanctuary. Whether you've served before or would like to serve for the first time, we invite you to be part of this important ministry. Simply scan the QR code to view available dates and sign up. You will also find a sign-up sheet in the Son Room and The Forge. Need assistance? Contact Carol in the church office, [carol@mauldinmethodist.com](mailto:carol@mauldinmethodist.com) or 864-288-4728, ext. 122. We would be happy to help you get connected to this special opportunity to serve.



### Prayer Warriors Needed-Session: September 14-November 22

Our Prayer Warriors ministry returns this fall! Commit to praying for our church and church family one hour each week in the Prayer Room.

Realm registration is open under Serving Opportunities and Elizabeth Rogers will be visiting Sunday School classes to give you more information. Prayer changes lives, and we'd love for you to be part of this important ministry. For more information, email [pray@mauldinmethodist.com](mailto:pray@mauldinmethodist.com) or contact Elizabeth Rogers at 843-814-6440.

# Serving at MMC

## Community Meal: Serving with Love

Every Tuesday evening, our Community Meal Ministry opens its doors to provide more than just a hot meal—it offers a place where everyone is welcomed, valued, and cared for. In addition to dinner, guests have access to showers and laundry services, helping meet everyday needs while building relationships rooted in Christ's love.

This ministry is made possible by dedicated volunteers who cook, serve, greet guests, and simply spend time in conversation. Whether you can serve once a month or every week, there is a place for you.

Scan the QR code to view the volunteer schedule and sign up to serve. Together, we are making a difference—one meal, one conversation, and one act of kindness at a time.



## Mkids

### Mkids Ministry: Growing Together This Fall

We cannot thank our church family enough for your continued support of our Children's Ministry as we continue our search for a Director of Children's Ministry. During this season, so many of you have stepped up to teach, lead, organize, and simply be present for our children. Thank you! Your willingness to serve is allowing this important ministry to continue—and we will continue to need your help in the weeks and months ahead. We are especially excited about what is coming to Mkids this fall! Our children will begin a new rotation-style curriculum called "Deep Blue." Instead of moving to a new Bible lesson each week, children will focus on one Bible story or lesson for four weeks, giving them an opportunity to really learn, understand, and remember God's Word.

Each week, they will experience the lesson in a different way as they rotate through fun, hands-on stations such as Story Telling/Drama, Crafts, Cooking, Games, Science, and more. The lesson stays the same, but the way they explore it changes each week! The children will enjoy the rotations on Sundays and Wednesdays. Of course, a rotation model also means we need lots of helping hands! You don't have to be a Sunday School teacher to be part of Mkids. Maybe you love to cook, create, tell stories, play games, or simply enjoy spending time with children. There is a place for you to serve.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our Children's Ministry, our volunteers, our children and families, and for God to lead us to the right person to serve as our next Director of Children's Ministry. It takes a church family—and we are grateful for ours!

Please use the QR codes to volunteer in Children's Ministry.

Green-Mkids Sunday School

Orange-Mkids Children Church

Black-Mkids Wednesday Night



# Youth Ministries



**THE LOFT**  
MAULDIN METHODIST

## FALL 2026

### 2027 SAVE THE DATES

- Ski Trip (January 22-24th)
- Sumter and Costa Rica Rice and Beans Missions (June 5th-12th)
- GMC Peru Mission\* (June 13th-20th -  
\*Max 2 student applicants per church)
- Intersect (June 27th-July 2nd)
- Beach Retreat (July 23rd-26th)



The LOFT: Mauldin Methodist  
Student Ministry



mauldin\_methodist\_students



mauldinmethodist.com/students

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Wed Night Groups
- 6 Combined Gathering
- 8 Serving Community Meal
- 9 Wed Night Groups
- 13 Sun Night Gatherings
- 16 Wed Night Groups
- 20 Sun Night Gatherings
- 23 Wed Night Groups
- 25-27 Fall Retreat at Awanita
- 30 Wed Night Groups

### OCTOBER

- 2 FCA 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Night
- 4 Sunday Night Gatherings
- 7 Wed Night Groups
- 9-10 Rooted GMC Conference
- 14 Wed Night Groups
- 17 GMC Serve Day
- 18 Combined Gathering
- 21 Wed Night Groups
- 24 Big Boo Haunted Maize
- 25 Family Fall Night
- 28 Wed Night Groups

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Rake and Run Mission
- 4 Wed Night Groups
- 6-7 Confirmation Retreat
- 8 Combined Gathering
- 11 Wed Night Groups
- 15 Sun Night Gatherings
- 18 Wed Night Friendsgiving
- 22 Sun Night Gatherings
- 25 No Groups - Thanksgiving
- 29 Ice-Skating Gathering

### DECEMBER

- 2 Wed Night Groups
- Sun Night Gatherings -  
6 "Bake and Bless" Mission
- 9 Final Wed Night Groups
- 13 Youth Christmas Parties
- 16 Family Christmas Night
- 20 No Sun Night Gatherings
- 31 NYE Breakfast

Jon Brooks-jon@mauldinmethodist.com  
Josh Smith-josh@mauldinmethodist.com

# Young Adult Ministry



**THE BRIDGE**  
MAULDIN METHODIST

**young adult ministry**  
**Fall '26**



|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4</b><br>SEPT    | <b>7 - 8 PM</b> Small Group in the Loft<br><b>8 - 9 PM</b> Dinner at Azteca<br>(114 W. Butler Rd. Mauldin)                                                                                    |
| <b>7</b><br>SEPT    | <b>6 PM - 8 PM</b> Pickleball at Southside Park<br>(417 Baldwin Rd. Simpsonville)<br><b>8 PM - 9 PM</b> Dinner at Azteca<br>(114 W. Butler Rd. Mauldin)                                       |
| <b>18</b><br>SEPT   | <b>6 PM - 7 PM</b> Small Group in the Loft<br><b>7 PM - 8 PM</b> Dinner at Azteca<br>(114 W. Butler Rd. Mauldin)                                                                              |
| <b>29</b><br>SEPT   | <b>4:30 - 7 PM</b> Serving Community Meal<br>in Fellowship Hall<br><b>7 - 8 PM</b> Dinner at Azteca<br>(114 W. Butler Rd. Mauldin)                                                            |
| <b>16</b><br>OCT    | <b>6 PM - 7 PM</b> Small Group in the Loft<br><b>7 PM - 8 PM</b> Dinner at Azteca<br>(114 W. Butler Rd. Mauldin)                                                                              |
| <b>30</b><br>OCT    | <b>6-9 PM</b> Movie & Pumpkins @ Jon's<br>Join us for pumpkin painting or carving, dinner,<br>and a movie at Jon's<br>(204 Bryson Dr. Simpsonville)                                           |
| <b>6</b><br>NOV     | <b>6 PM-7 PM</b> Small Group in the Loft<br><b>7 PM - 8 PM</b> Dinner at Azteca<br>(114 W. Butler Rd. Mauldin)                                                                                |
| <b>20-22</b><br>NOV | <b>5PM (FRI) -11AM (SUN)</b> Round the Fire Retreat<br>Join Global Methodist young adults from SC and<br>NC for a weekend retreat, worship, teaching,<br>fellowship, and more! Cost is \$200. |
| <b>4</b><br>DEC     | <b>6 PM-7 PM</b> Small Group in the Loft<br><b>7 PM - 8 PM</b> Dinner at Azteca<br>(114 W. Butler Rd. Mauldin)                                                                                |
| <b>18</b><br>DEC    | <b>6 PM-9 PM</b> Christmas Party @ Jon's<br>Join us for games, food, and fellowship at Jon's<br>(204 Bryson Dr. Simpsonville)                                                                 |

**\*No 10am Sunday  
Bible Studies\***

We are suspending Sunday School for the  
time being - let Jon know if you need help  
plugging into another class or place to  
serve!

**Follow us on Insta**



**@the\_bridge\_young\_adults**

**Round the Fire Retreat**



**November  
20th-22nd**

**Register by Oct 31st**

**Passion Conference**

**Save the Date**

**Feb 5-6, 2027 - ATL**

**Jon Brooks-jon@mauldinmethodist.com**

# Weekday Ministry

## Wednesday Evening Meals

We're also excited to announce that Wednesday night meals will now be offered every week! Meal prices are \$8 per adult, \$4 per child, with a family maximum of \$25. Our prayer is that these weekly meals will provide an opportunity to pause in the middle of a busy week, enjoy time with your church family, and prepare your heart for an evening of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

To help us prepare, please register for the meal through Realm (click on the date to go directly to the registration), use the sign-up sheet in the Son Room or The Forge, or by calling the church office.

### September 9

Hamburger steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, dessert

Kids menu: chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll or PBJ

### September 16

Chicken pie, salad, dessert

Kids menu: corn dogs, fruit, or PBJ

### September 23

Nacho bar with ground beef, chicken, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, jalapenos, salsa, sour cream, rice

Kids menu: cheese quesadilla, chips and cheese dip

### September 30

Baked chicken, roasted veggies, pear salad, roll

Kids menu: chicken, mac & cheese or PBJ

## Senior Adult Ministry

Join us on the second Monday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship, a shared meal, devotion, and celebration of our Senior Adult Ministry.

Save the Date! On Thursday, September 10, we'll travel to Jeter Mountain Farm for a day of fellowship, fresh apples, and fun. Watch your email and Sunday School class for trip details and registration information or contact **Van Broad** ([van@mauldinmethodist.com](mailto:van@mauldinmethodist.com)).

## Wren Circle Returns September 9 at 9:30 a.m.-Fellowship Hall

All ladies are welcome! The Wren Circle is excited to begin meeting again. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and we would love to have you join us!

Wren Circle is blessed with wonderful members, meaningful programs, great fellowship, and opportunities to serve others. Throughout the year, the ladies support a variety of ministries and missions, including Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, the Backpack Ministry serving Mauldin-area schools, and missionary Steven Hendrix in Tanzania, just to name a few.

Whether you have been part of Wren Circle for years or have never attended before, there is always a place for you at the table. Jesus calls us to let our light shine—and that is what the ladies of Wren Circle strive to do through fellowship, service, and sharing His love with others.

Come and see! We would love to welcome you on September 9!

## Byce Small Group

You are invited to a part of the Byce Small group. They will meet on September 14, at 6pm in the Seekers Class (second floor of the Spirit Center). The groups meets weekly on Mondays for a time of fellowship and spiritual connection. Contact Amy Byce for more information, [amy@mauldinmethodist.com](mailto:amy@mauldinmethodist.com)

# Weekday Ministry

## Wednesday Studies & Activities Continue This Fall

### Wednesday Morning 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Herd continues his weekly Bible study in the Conference Room. Come grow in your understanding of Scripture while enjoying fellowship and conversation with others.

### Wednesday Evenings – 6:30 p.m.

Our Wednesday evening programming offers opportunities for all ages to grow in faith and connect with our church family:

**Mkids & Club45** – Kids Chapel

**Confirmation** – Fellowship Hall

**Youth Small Groups** – The Loft

**Prayer Meeting** – Sanctuary

**Minor Prophets Study**, led by Mike Keels – Trinity Classroom

**Sisterhood** – The Forge

Already missed a week or two? That's okay! You do not have to wait for a new session to begin. Join any age-appropriate group at any time throughout the fall.

Come find your place on Wednesdays at MMC as we learn, pray, grow, and fellowship together!

## Deborah Circle: September Gathering-September 28-9:30 a.m.-Fellowship Hall

Ladies, you're invited! This month, we are pleased to welcome Jason Gainey, attorney, who will share helpful information about wills, trusts, and probate. This is an important topic for every stage of life and a wonderful opportunity to learn and ask questions.

The Deborah Circle meets on the fourth Monday of each month and offers meaningful programs, opportunities to support local missions, and warm fellowship with other women of the church.

All ladies are welcome—we would love to have you join us!

# Looking Ahead

## Help Shape the Future of Mauldin Methodist

Your voice matters! As we look ahead to the next chapter of ministry at Mauldin Methodist Church, our Long-Range Planning Committee wants to hear from you. A churchwide congregational survey has been created to gather your thoughts, ideas, hopes, and dreams for the future of MMC. Your feedback will help guide conversations about our ministries, facilities, community outreach, and priorities for the years ahead. The survey should take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete and is completely anonymous. Whether you have been part of Mauldin Methodist for decades or have only recently begun calling MMC home, your perspective is important.

### How to Participate:

**Online:** Click <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2T9M3N> or type in you browser to complete the survey electronically.

**Paper Copy:** Pick up a survey at the Welcome Desk in the Son Room or at the Coffee Bar in The Forge on Sunday and return your completed copy to the church office.

**Deadline:** Please submit your survey by **September 27, 2026**.

We hope everyone will take a few minutes to participate. Most importantly, we ask you to pray for our Long-Range Planning Committee and for our church as we seek God's direction for the future.

Thank you for investing your time, your prayers, and your voice in the future of Mauldin Methodist Church. Together, we look forward to where God is leading us next!

# Looking Ahead

## Basketball Season is Quickly Approaching

Basketball registration will open later this month. All the details are coming soon!

## GMC Disaster Response Team Training

This is a great opportunity to be introduced to the DRT program supported by our conference and be a part of a great outreach that provides support for people when they are in a situation of extreme need. The class will be held on October 3, 2026, at Mount Lebanon Methodist, 722 Old Ninety Six Hwy, Greenwood, SC 29483. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. and the class meets from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The class is free but there is a fee for the background check. You must have the background check before taking the class. MMC will cover the cost of the background check. Please email Carol for the links for the background check and for the class registration.

## Greenville FCA 5K and Kids Fun Run

Looking for a fun activity for the family that supports a great ministry? Sign-up for the Greenville FCA 5K and Kids Fun Run. October 17, 2026, Lakeside Park, 1500 Piedmont Hwy, Piedmont, 29673. Visit the Greenville FCA website for registration details: <https://upstatescfca.org/events>

## Meet Our Missionaries in October

We are excited to welcome two of the missionaries supported by Mauldin Methodist Church this October!

**Stephen Dunlap will be with us on Sunday, October 11, and Jeff Campbell on Sunday, October 18.**

If your Sunday School class, small group, or ministry would like an opportunity to meet with Stephen or Jeff while they are on campus, please contact the church office so we can coordinate their visits.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear firsthand about their ministries, learn how God is working through them, and discover ways we can continue to pray for and support their work.

## SAVE THE DATES!

**November 4, 2026-Cake Auction for a Cure-Meal** begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by Auction at 6:00 p.m.

**November 15, 2026-**Our Women's Sisterhood Ministry is excited to welcome Dawn Smith Jordan, Christian speaker, recording artist, and the former Miss South Carolina 1986. The event will be at 2:00 p.m. in The Forge and tickets (\$10 each) will be available beginning September 15, 2026.

## Finance Committee Update

| Second Quarter 2026 |            | Actual YTD         |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|
| April 1-June 30     |            | Jan1-June 30, 2026 |
| Revenue             | \$416,881  | \$886,051          |
| Expenses            | \$426,595  | \$798,961          |
| Net Revenue         | \$ (9,751) | \$ 87,090          |

If you would like your group or event included in the October edition of *Inside Mauldin Methodist*, please send all information to Carol by **September 23, 2026**, [carol@mauldinmethodist.com](mailto:carol@mauldinmethodist.com). Thank you!

**MAULDIN METHODIST CHURCH**

**100 East Butler Road, Mauldin, SC 29662/864.288.4728/[mauldinmethodist.com](http://mauldinmethodist.com)**