

DECEMBER 2025

MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church



2025 ELDERS

Toni Carter
Michelle Gardner
Jay Vessels
Kennedy Feltner-Happy

Agnes Donohue
Janet Lumppp
Laura Zolman

2026 ELDERS

Wes Bullock
Sarah Kerksmar
Ray Reynolds

Nancy Goulson
Zach Murphy
Katie Whaley

2027 ELDERS

Tracy Bruno
Vanessa Keith
Lyle Watt

Julia Linscott
Helen Richardson
Rob Wethington

2025 DEACONS

Debbie Acker
Susan Liddle
Derrick Meads

Alicia Hart
Matt McMahan
Zane Kerksmar

2026 DEACONS

Cynthia Bruno
Heidi Robbins Hall
Tony Sidor

Martin Hendrix
Emily Adkins
Ann Farrer

2027 DEACONS

Katherine Bullock
Jim Olive
Elizabeth Tremoulis

Jeff Ehlert
Sharron Townsend

MSPC STAFF

Senior Pastor - Rev. Matt Falco
Business Manager - Kate Copley
Social Worker - Ashlee Vogelsang
Music Ministry Director - Ted Gentry
Children's Ministry Director - Michelle Jones
Youth Ministry Director - Rob Wethington
Communications Director - Marrienne Russell
UKirk Director - Justice Zurakowski

CONTACT

Website: maxpres.org
Phone: 859-255-1074
Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9:00 - 4:30
Friday - 9:00 - 4:00

The Maxwell Street App, available through the Apple and Google Play Stores, makes keeping up with MSPC worship, activities, and support easy.

Please note that Pastor Matt does not regularly check email on Fridays. For any pastoral care related concerns—on Fridays or any other day—he encourages you to contact him directly at 814-273-0885 by text or call.

INDEX

3	Advent Worship
4-5	Mission
6	Session Highlights
7	Fellowship & Study
7	Ukirk Campus Ministry
8	Financial News
9	Thank yous
10	Children's News
10-11	Youth News

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2025 income tax return until you receive the written contribution statement from the church office. Those should be mailed mid January.

WORSHIP NEWS

WORSHIP DURING ADVENT

DECEMBER 7

Advent Week 2
Annual Christmas Cantata

DECEMBER 14

Advent Week 3
Annual Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 21

Advent Week 4

DECEMBER 24

7:30pm Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
11:00pm Candlelight Communion Service w/ String Quartet

DECEMBER 28

Guest Preacher Ruling Elder Janet Lumppp

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 7

The Chancel Choir will present a cantata of carols and readings by John Randall Dennis on Sunday morning, December 7, during our worship service. The cantata ends with the congregation participating in the singing familiar Christmas songs. We will be joined by a brass quintet from the University of Kentucky.



Here We Come A Caroling

Sunday, December 21 at 5:00pm

Join the Deacons on December 21 for dinner, and then head out to laugh and sing your favorite Christmas carols with our Maxwell Street friends who are unable to join us in person on Sunday morning. We hope you'll join us and help spread some Christmas joy!

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24

We gather on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm and 11:00pm to celebrate the good news that “The Word became flesh and lived among us, ... full of grace and truth.” (John 1.14) More than just a birthday party, we celebrate that God enters into this world to dwell with us, to seek the lost and to save the poor, the oppressed, all of us, from the powers of evil. The Christ child is born for the saving of the world. Joy to the world!

Reflection for the Season of Advent

The O Antiphons

What is an antiphon? The word comes from the Greek or Latin, meaning “responsive sound.” An antiphon is typically a verse or song sung recited or sung before and after a psalm. Its primary purpose is to introduce and interpret a liturgical text, such as a psalm or scripture reading.

The O Antiphons are attested in monastic communities from the 7th to the 8th centuries, likely first used as sung refrains before the Magnificat at evening prayer (Vespers) in Rome. Each antiphon draws from Old Testament titles for the hoped-for Messiah, weaving together Israel's longing with the Church's Advent expectation of Christ's coming.

In Latin, the first letters of their seven images of Christ—Sapientia (Wisdom), Adonai (Lord), Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), Clavis David (Key of David), Oriens (Radiant Dawn), Rex Gentium (Ruler of the nations), and Emmanuel (God with us)—make up a backward acrostic, spelling *ero cras*: “tomorrow I will [come].”

To help us prepare for the arrival of Christ, we have prepared a daily video reflection (print copies available) based on the O Antiphons. They will be posted on our App and Facebook Page starting December 17.

REMINDER

Deadline for the January 2026 MIM is Friday, December 12, 2025.

Please submit all articles to Marrianne Russell, our Communications Director. You may submit a hard copy or send it via email to marrianne@maxpres.org

MISSION



E7 Christmas Shop

Sunday, December 14

Our kiddos are already buzzing with excitement, and we can't wait to make this year's event extra special. Donations are accepted now through December 14, and we'd love your help. To donate or volunteer, contact Ashlee Vogelsang at ashlee@maxpres.com.

Set Up

Saturday, December 13 from 3:15pm-5:15pm

Shop

Sunday, December 14 from 1-3pm

Here's what we need:

- Gifts: Gently used or new toys, and gifts for men, women, and teens
- Volunteers: Help make the magic happen
- Wrapping Materials: Gift wrap, bags, tissue paper, tape, and more



E7 Bluegrass Gives Day

Coming Up – December 2, 2025

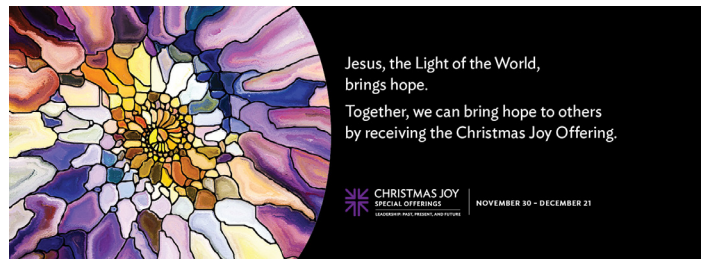
Bluegrass Gives is here, and E7 is thrilled to see the results this year. Last year we reached 92% of our goal, this year we aim to exceed it! The Giving Day is December 2, one powerful day with hourly matches! With your support, the possibilities for Lexington's kids are endless. Donate December 2 and double your impact!



Warm Tree

Throughout the Advent Season

You'll find a Christmas tree located in the Lobby during the season of Advent. It's ready to be filled with hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, and socks to keep our community warm and healthy this winter season.



Christmas Joy Offering

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Learn more about this offering with the qr code.



Presbyterian Giving Catalog

It is easy to make a big difference in people's lives through the presbyterian giving catalog. Some of the gifts include: livestock, clean water, aid kits, education and more! Each gift is just the beginning. The smallest seed can grow into something transformative, taking root and making the earth change. Find out how your gifts grow gardens and generations at: <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>

Coupons for Missions? What does it mean?

You may notice the line item in the church budget for Coupons for Missions. What is that? What does it mean? It simply refers to the proceeds we receive from the Kroger Rewards Program. Since the creation of the Kroger Rewards system in 2003, church members connected their Kroger Reward card to benefit Maxwell Street and its hunger ministries. I can remember mission committee members (Jody Lambert, Susan Hensley, Jim Ogle) pushing Kroger cards in worship. One year Jim had a large poster size Kroger rewards card to demonstrate the importance of the program.

Historically, Maxwell Street has received between \$1500-2000 annually from this program. For various reasons, the proceeds year-to-date is at the lowest rate yet, \$816. We have been fortunate to have new friends and members join our worshipping community. So, for those who may be unaware of the program, here is an easy way to give to the hunger ministries at MSPC.

And the best part is - it doesn't cost anything extra. Whatever money you spend on your groceries at Kroger, a portion comes back to Maxwell Street for the hunger ministries. So, if you're not already connected with a Kroger Plus card, take the time to log onto your Kroger account (like when you're clipping coupons for the week), and make sure Maxwell Street Presbyterian is the beneficiary organization for the rewards program.



Sign up for Kroger Rewards

Here's how: Log into your account. Look under "my account," scroll down to the "community rewards," section, either enroll or change your organization. Maxwell Street's number is VK950.



Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church and Zoe Empowers have been in partnership for many years, but many of you may not know about that.

What is Zoe Empowers? An international organization working with orphaned children living in extreme poverty.

How and where does Zoe Empowers do its' work? Since 2007, Zoe Empowers has translated the empowerment model in 11 countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Liberia, Tanzania, Mozambique, India, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia. Each program within the Zoe network is locally owned and operated. Through a three-year, locally-led program, vulnerable youth are organized into groups of 60-100 and receive micro grants, life skills, and vocational training to become secure, healthy, and connected community members. MSPC helps to sponsor one of these groups.



What have been the results of its' work? By the end of 2024, Zoe had transformed the lives of 219,764 children. Every dollar invested generated more than ten times its value in income for participants. In Kenya alone, this work represents a 21-fold increase in personal well-being. The most significant changes were observed in participants' emotional and physical health, sense of purpose, strength of relationships, and overall life satisfaction. Scan the QR code to learn more about Zoe Empowers.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

After struggling to find parking due to the first game of the UK Women's Basketball season, the Session convened for their regularly scheduled November Session meeting on November 3rd at 7:00pm. Wes Bullock opened the meeting with a reflection on Zacchaeus, drawing parallels between Jesus' approach to Zacchaeus and his own experience recruiting students from Asbury University for an environmental program. He emphasized the importance of seeing potential in others and treating them with love and respect, even when they may not initially share the same values or beliefs. Wes also highlighted the need for open dialogue and understanding across different perspectives, especially in today's polarized society. Matt opened the business portion of the meeting with prayer.

Since it is Stewardship Season, Matt led a session on stewardship, sharing an article from Duke Divinity School that highlighted three faith communities' practices. The Session discussed how the church uses its space for community programs like Al-Anon, AA, and a clothing closet, emphasizing the importance of fellowship and connection. Matt also mentioned the need for financial education.

The Session then discussed several community concerns and approved the membership record. They also

approved the transfer of Joshua and Felicia Jennings to First Presbyterian Church in Durham, North Carolina. Matt reported on the financial status, noting slightly increased gifts and pledges for the previous month, with the year-to-date balance remaining positive. The Budget and Stewardship Committee's stewardship campaign will conclude November 9th with Pledge Sunday, and members were reminded to submit their 2026 budget numbers to Kate or Matt.

The session discussed several key topics, including the nominating committee's progress in filling vacancies, with two elders and three deacons still needed. They approved endowment fund distributions totaling \$42,000 across three accounts, with specific allocations for music programs, facilities repairs, and various outreach initiatives. Those awards will be announced at the November Annual Meeting. The group scheduled the 2026 session retreat for January 10th, with the 24th as a backup date, and discussed plans to create a new committee for the second phase of the capital campaign focused on renovations. They also agreed to collect committee needs assessments by December 15th and review policy updates before the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, December 1st at 7:00 pm.



New Wineskins Campaign Update

New Wineskins Total Pledged: \$619,940.87

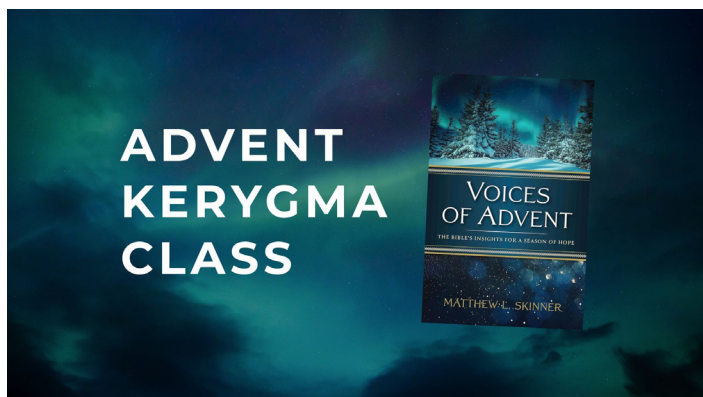
Thank you to everyone who has submitted pledges and payments to the New Wineskins Capital Campaign. We have reached \$290,973.25 out of the annual expected \$299,314.18. However, our total goal for the campaign is \$616,940.87. If you have not yet made a pledge for the capital campaign, contact Kate in the church office (kate@maxpres.org, 859-255-1074) or visit the church website.



Stewardship Campaign Update

Pledges for the church budget are coming in steadily. If you have not yet made a pledge for the 2026 church budget, please contact Kate in the office (kate@maxpres.org, 859-255-1074) or visit the church website.

FELLOWSHIP & STUDY



Kerygma Class

Matt's Midweek Discipleship Class

Join us for a conversation about Matthew Skinner's book, "Voices of Advent." Read one chapter a week, and we'll watch a video by the author in class together before we discuss his book. Skinner leads readers through biblical texts of Advent and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. Read Chapter Two for December 3rd. New class starting January 14th: "From Judgement to Hope: A Study on the Prophets" by Walter Brueggeman. Contact Matt if you have any questions. matt@maxpres.org.

Words & Wine

Friday, December 5 at 6:30pm

Words & Wine Book Group meets Friday, December 5 at 6:00pm at the Café at Joseph Beth Bookstore. Wrap a new or used book for a dirty Santa exchange. On January 2, the book is Playground by Richard Powers. Questions, contact Lauren Falco (laurenefalco@yahoo.com).

3rd Space Sunday Sunday, December 21

3rd Space Sunday (aka Donut Sunday) happens on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. I hope you'll join us for 3rd Space Sunday!



Stitchmates

2nd and 4th Saturdays at noon

We meet twice a month on the second Saturday in the Church Library. Bring the projects you are working on and enjoy this time of fellowship! **Questions, contact Elise** (elisekalika56@gmail.com).

N.A.D.Y.A. Book Group

Sunday, December at 6pm

NADYA Book Group's next book is Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Join us on Sunday, November 23 from 6:00-7:30pm at Jason and Andrea's house to discuss this interesting read. Questions, contact jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com

UKIRK CAMPUS MINISTRY



UKIRK Campus Ministry

Wednesday Nights at 7pm

Faith. Friends. Free food. Join us Wednesdays at 7:00pm for dinner, fellowship, and conversation about life and faith.

FINANCIAL INFO

October 2025 Income/Expense Report

	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Annual Budget
INCOME					
Pledges	\$34,183.67	\$463,261.85	\$443,750.00	\$19,511.85	\$535,000.00
Congregational Giving	2,222.12	24,316.19	27,600.00	(3,283.81)	35,000.00
Loose Offering	327.00	4,144.36	3,860.00	284.36	5,000.00
Other Designated Gifts	225.00	4,560.00	3,330.00	1,230.00	4,000.00
Per Capita Donation	0.00	5,413.26	5,020.00	393.26	5,500.00
Grant Income	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00
Ky Campus Ministry Board	0.00	10,500.00	8,200.00	2,300.00	8,200.00
Interest Income	280.95	2,038.61	125.00	1,913.61	150.00
PNC CD interest	256.45	2,676.54	1,875.00	801.54	2,250.00
Subtotal Interest Income	537.40	4,715.15	2,000.00	2,715.15	2,400.00
Rentals	2,891.78	25,716.87	19,327.28	6,389.59	23,000.00
Workcamp Fees	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	6,000.00
Coupons for Missions	0.00	816.62	1,500.00	(683.38)	2,000.00
Spec Offering for Hunger	1,435.53	15,146.64	16,666.70	(1,520.06)	20,000.00
Spec Off for Assistance	58.86	885.55	0.00	885.55	2,500.00
Other Income	0.00	36.00	6.00	30.00	6.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	41,881.36	568,512.49	546,259.98	22,252.51	657,606.00
EXPENSES					
Mission & Benevolences	2,682.98	31,381.68	35,291.60	3,909.92	41,750.00
Payroll Expense	34,573.67	344,888.79	354,063.76	9,174.97	424,384.00
Church Programs	1,178.94	14,751.61	19,233.40	4,481.79	22,250.00
Utilities & Maintenance	13,438.20	95,291.33	85,584.30	(9,707.03)	101,402.00
Operating Expenses	3,143.44	37,773.76	38,366.70	592.94	44,050.00
Worship And Fellowship	559.34	3,207.52	5,875.00	2,667.48	7,050.00
Presbytery Support/Per Capita	0.00	12,539.97	13,933.30	1,393.33	16,720.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	55,576.57	539,834.66	552,348.06	12,513.40	657,606.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$13,695.21)	\$28,677.83	(\$6,088.08)	\$34,765.91	\$0.00

Other Giving		
	October	Year-to Date
Bus Passes		510.00
Campus		504.75
CRCKY		2,891.43
Joy Offering		681.23
Long Johns	70.00	70.00
MSLC		303.05
OGHS		1,975.58
PDA		2,424.26
Peace Offering	975.00	975.00
KRM		2,903.82
New Wineskin Capital Campaign	5,107.16	291,523.25
Endowment Memorials	625.00	1,240.00
Memorial Youth Scholarship		2,500.00
	6,777.16	308,502.37

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to Kathy Riley for baking cookies for Thursday Night Meal.

Thank you to Bill Smith for baking communion bread.

Thank you to those who donated long johns, warm items and clothing to the church clothing closet.

Thank you to those who helped with the clothing closet: Jody Lambert, Annie Quarrels, and Jada. 34 neighbors come out to the November event.

Thank you to those who made sandwiches for the Hope Mobile in November: Sandy & Joe Kyle, Pam & Joe Boldt, Tom & Toni Carter, Mary & Warren Waxham.

Thank you to those who packed lunches for the Backpack Program this month: Pam Boldt, Katie Thrailkill, Leigh Buckley, Jackie DeCuro, Toni & Tom Carter, Jean & Greg Harper.

Thank you to the ushers in November: Katie Whaley, Jeff Ehlert, Heidi Robbins Hall, Debbie Acker, Helen Richardson, Ann Farrer, Derrick Meads.

Thank you to those who served as acolytes in November: Lily Murphy, Laurel Bullock, AJ Schwake

Thanks to those who participated in the worship services: Bobby Eads, Hallie Gay Bagley, Janet Kalika, and Janet Lump.

Thank you to Becky Kemper from the Welcome Committee for bringing doughnuts for the Third Space Fellowship Time. Thank you to Miles Raccino for donating food for the Thursday Meals.

Thank you to those who sponsored flowers in November: Karen Williams in memory of her parents; Kate Copley in honor of Rich's birthday.

Thank you to those who served punch in November: Zoe Cox, Zane Kerckmar, Susan Liddle & Mark Summers, and

Thank you to those who provided special music for the worship services: Mary Jo Dendy, Sandy Gaunce, Megan Hensley, Robin Morrill, Janet Lump, Lauren Falco, Jean Harper, Lucy Schupman, Will Jones, Debi MacQuown, Jay Mc Namee, Marty Keith, Larry MacQuown, Jayden Bowman, Loren Tice, Dorothy Tice, Gretchen Bishay, Iris Dooling, Susan Liddle, Jackie DeCuro, Doug Kailka, Janet Kalika, Vanessa Keith, Linda Ensminger, Cindi Kuper, Cynthia Braley, Stan Brunn, Jim Olive.

Thank you to the sound and tech team: Bill Smith, Jim Lump, Rich Copley, Jonah Falco, Jay Vessels.

We are seeing an increase in numbers of guests at the Thursday meal. We appreciate our volunteers: Kathy Riley, Bill Handley, Nancy Ricker, Bonnie Eads, Carolyn Sayre, Johnny Evans, Clay Noonan, Evie Smith, Caroline Costich, Jason Williams, Bob Rabel, Michelle Gardner, Rich Copley, Zach Ehlert, Jeff Ehlert, Susan Mossman, Matthew Perry, Annie Quarrels, Juniper Bullock, Jonah Falco. Kiersten Kerckmar, Theo Meads, Emma Stowe, Jude Burnett, Rob Wethington, Thatcher Vazmina. Layne Taylor and Kappa volunteers.

Welcome Committee

In response to our post, we have added the following new members to our committee! Welcome Troy and Megan Cooper, Sharron Townsend, Katherine Barth and Karen Williams.

Poinsettias & Christmas Decorations



Christmas is such a special time of year. The trees, ornaments, garland and wreaths add to the visual happiness of the season. Advent starts Sunday, December 1. Poinsettias will be added to the decorations during the Advent season.

If you would like to give a poinsettia or donate toward decorations in honor or in memory of someone special, please complete this form and return it with your check to the office by Sunday, December 7. Poinsettias are \$10.00 each and any amount can be donated toward decoration expenses.

Poinsettia	Decorations	In Memory	In Honor	Name

Name _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Deadline for signing up is Sunday, December 7. Poinsettias can be picked up following the 7:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. Those left will be shared with our homebound members.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kali Hale (Dec 6)

Photos from GeNext Event and Sunday School class



Advent Workshop

Sunday, November 30 after Worship

The Advent Workshop is a family friendly afternoon full of crafts and fun. All are welcome! Please let us know that you will be joining us by emailing Michelle - michelle.jones@maxpres.org with the number of adults and children who will be attending.



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 14 during Worship

Christmas Around the World - Together we'll travel through different cultures and traditions to see how Christians everywhere celebrate the birth of Jesus. Expect music, costumes, joy, and a beautiful reminder that the story of Christ is for every nation and every people. All are welcome for this special service.



Thank you to our volunteers!

Thank you to our volunteers: Sara Baird, Carol Jordan, Lily Bryant, Kiersten Kercksmar, Sarah Kercksmar, Mary Iwamoto and Kari Boldt.

Thank you to Sonia Gardner for her help with the placemats for Meals on Wheels.

Thank you to Doug Kalika for chaperoning during our GeNext outing.



YOUTH NEWS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

Kennedy Feltner-Happy (Dec 10)

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- 7 - Youth Group After Service
- 14 - Youth Group Christmas Party
- 21 - No Youth Group
- 28 - No Youth Group

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 14 - Westminster Village Trip
- Dec. 21 - Caroling
- Jan. 31 - Ski Trip
- July - Mission Trip (Dates TBD)

CONFIRMATION

Begins January, 18

In the PC(USA), confirmation is a process for young people to publicly profess their faith, which serves as their personal reaffirmation of the vows made on their behalf during infant baptism. Through a period of study and discipleship, confirmands learn about the Christian faith, make a personal statement of faith, and decide if they would like to become members of Maxwell Street Presbyterian formally. Our 8th and 9th grade students will begin their Maxwell Street Confirmation Adventure on January 18 at 9:30 in the Johnston Parlor. Please let Matt know if you will be participating by December 23. (matt@maxpres.org).

PARKING VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to help the youth group raise funds for their mission trips? Volunteering to accept donations during UK events at Memorial Coliseum only takes an hour and is a great opportunity to support the youth group. To sign up, visit the QR Code. Thanks!



Photos from the Burnamwood Retreat





MSPC

Maxwell Street
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