

JANUARY 2026

# MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church



## 2026 ELDERS

Wes Bullock  
Sarah Kercsmar  
Ray Reynolds

Nancy Goulson  
Zach Murphy  
Katie Whaley

## 2027 ELDERS

Tracy Bruno  
Vanessa Keith  
Lyle Watt

Julia Linscott  
Helen Richardson  
Rob Wethington

## 2028 ELDERS

Troy Cooper  
Michelle Gardner  
Peter Perry  
Youth - Jonah Falco

Dan Farrer  
Alicia Hart  
Elizabeth Varney

## 2026 DEACONS

Cynthia Bruno  
Heidi Robbins Hall  
Tony Sidor

Martin Hendrix  
Emily Adkins  
Ann Farrer

## 2027 DEACONS

Katherine Bullock  
Jim Olive  
Elizabeth Tremoulis

Jeff Ehler  
Sharron Townsend

## 2028 DEACONS

Debbie Acker  
Lauren Feltner  
Anna Wethington  
Youth - Zane Kercsmar

Lauren Falco  
Matt McMahan

## 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 - Marrianne Russell  
UKirk Director - Justice Zurakowski

## CONTACT

Website: [maxpres.org](http://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** Worship News
- 3** Utkirk Campus Ministry
- 4** Mission
- 5** Session Highlights
- 6** Fellowship & Study
- 7** Financial News
- 8** Children's News
- 9** Youth News
- 10** Thank yous
- 11** Advent Photos

## REMINDER

**Deadline for the February 2026 MIM is Friday, January 16, 2025.**

Please submit all articles to Matt - [matt@maxpres.org](mailto:matt@maxpres.org)

# WORSHIP NEWS

## JANUARY WORSHIP

### JANUARY 4

Epiphany - Ephesians 3.1-12 and Matthew 2.1-12

Rev. Falco - "A Mystery Made Known"

The Lord's Supper

### JANUARY 11

Baptism of the Lord - Isaiah 42.1-9 and Matthew 3.13-17

Rev. Falco - "You Come to Me?"

### JANUARY 18

1 Corinthians 1.1-9 and John 1.35-42

Rev. Falco - "Called Into the Partnership"

### JANUARY 25

1 Corinthians 1.10-18 and Matthew 4.12-23

Rev. Falco - "Knit Together In Purpose"

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

## The College Students are Coming!

I'm writing this in the season of Advent, a time when we are encouraged to reflect on what it means to prepare for the coming of the Lord, but I'm having a hard time thinking beyond the impending arrival of hundreds of new college students to our neighborhood. What a dramatic change already!

Are we preparing for the arrival of our new neighbors? Are we ready to recognize Christ at work in and among them? In some ways, the answer is yes. We have a beautiful new room designated for Campus Ministry and a new Director of Campus Ministry. We also offer a multi-generational worship experience that many students already appreciate and incorporates students into leadership. We had a great group of students go out to Burnamwood, many for the very first time.

However, there's more work to do! Every single one of our committees will be considering what it means that our congregation has been called to do ministry

in the midst of a University community. These young people add energy and creativity to our faith community. Ensuring that we have "room in our inn" for our new neighbors means great possibility for God to do new and exciting things here at Maxwell Street. I hope you're as eager as I am to discover what God is bringing to life!

- Matt

## 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.



## Welcome New Members

Lauren Feltner & Nathan Schwake are transferring from Georgetown Presbyterian Church. They have been attending Maxwell Street for a few years. Their children (Kennedy, Roman, and AJ Rose) attend Maxwell Elementary and Bryan Station High School and are enrolled in the Spanish Immersion Program. They are very involved in sports and enjoy tennis, pickleball, soccer, swim, basketball, flag football and gymnastics. Lauren works as a District Mental Health Specialist at Glendover and Yates Elementaries. Lauren is a newly elected Deacon.

# MISSION

## Bluegrass Gives for E7 Kids

Bluegrass Gives matching gifts day for E7 Kids Cafe was a powerful reminder of just how deeply supported our kids truly are. Without wonderful people like you, we can't imagine how we would continue providing all that we do for them each day. Your financial generosity and the precious time you give mean more to us than we can express. You didn't just give once, you showed up in a way that made a lasting impact on our kids and our mission. Thank you for being part of this incredible community!

## Social Work Office Update

Thanks to the generous endowment funds, MSPC, and our community partners, the social work department is gearing up for an active 2026. We intend to launch the clothing closet and add an extra day each month, enabling us to extend our support further than ever to our neighbors in need. We will keep forging new partnerships within the community in an effort to broaden our overall outreach to those who require assistance. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all for your support of the social work department and the progress we anticipate in the upcoming year. I can't wait to see what it has in store!

- Ashlee



## Christmas Shoppe Success

December 14 was truly a Maxwell in Action day. From the Children's Choir sharing Christmas traditions from around the world to youth delivering groceries in freezing temperatures, volunteers came together to serve families across Lexington. More than 30 volunteers helped create a joyful Christmas Shoppe experience for 23 E7 children as they carefully used their vouchers to choose meaningful gifts for their families. Each child also selected books, a coloring book, and crayons for themselves, and enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate along the way. The smiles on their faces were a reminder of how deeply valued they are.



## Kroger Rewards help feed our Community!

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. Sign in to your Kroger account, select Community Rewards and choose Maxwell Street (VK950). We appreciate it!

In addition to our E7 children, we were honored to welcome 21 students from a local inner-city high school. Transported by their teachers, these students were able to shop for their family members thanks to your generous donations. It was a gift to extend the joy of the Christmas Shoppe to even more families in our community.

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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Our December Session meeting was held on the 8th at 7:00pm. Laura Zolman opened our meeting with a reflection on Anne Lamott's writing, discussing themes of suffering, hope, and resilience. She invited us to reflect on how we could better care for ourselves and each other while continuing to support those in need. Prayer concerns were shared, including updates on congregation members' health. The Clerk's reports were approved, and the meeting moved on to committee reports.

With Matt's help, the Budget and Stewardship Committee presented the financial report for 2025, noting the congregation is in good shape financially but facing high utility expenses. Matt reviewed the proposed 2026 budget, highlighting adjustments such as increased interest income, decreased work camp fees, and a proposed deficit of \$21,500. Matt recommended setting aside \$21,500 from the operating fund to cover the deficit, and the Budget and Stewardship Committee endorsed this suggestion. After some discussion, the motion to approve the budget was approved by the Session.

The group also discussed an audit recommendation for 2025, with Elizabeth suggesting a new firm for a review at a lower cost than the current provider.

The worship committee proposed the communion schedule for 2026, including the first Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, and the first week of Advent. The personnel committee discussed Marrianne's resignation from the communications position, effective at the end of the year, and proposed expanding the role to include church growth and community outreach. Matt outlined plans for the new communications director to focus on welcoming new members, integrating into church life, and maintaining existing communication responsibilities. Jay provided updates on maintenance projects, including organ wall repairs, elevator upgrades, and parking lot lighting. The campus ministry reported strong growth with 12 weekly attendees, and plans were discussed for student outreach and potential retreats.

Those elders who were completing their service on Session were recognized and thanked for their dedication. The Session shared updates on personal and congregational joys and concerns, including health challenges and upcoming events. The meeting ended with a prayer for the congregation and the wider world around 8:00pm.



## New Wineskins Campaign Update

**New Wineskins Total Pledged: \$619,940.87**

New Wineskins Update: Thank you to everyone who has submitted pledges and payments to the New Wineskins Capital Campaign. We have reached \$320,380.90 toward the 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](mailto: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](mailto:kate@maxpres.org), 859-255-1074) or visit the church website.

# FELLOWSHIP & STUDY

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## Kerygma Class

### Matt's Midweek Discipleship Class

New class starting January 14th: Our conversation will center on *“From Judgement to Hope: A Study on the Prophets”* by Walter Brueggeman. While conservative interpreters might believe that prophets were predictors and progressives believe the prophets to be simply social advocates, Walter Brueggemann argues that the prophets were emancipated imaginers of alternative. Emancipated from the dominant thinking of their societies, the prophets imagined an alternative reality and invited listeners to join them in their commitment to that new reality. Join us Wednesdays at 10:30AM in the Library.

## Adult Sunday School Class

### Salvation Across the Ages:

*Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Johnson, Gutiérrez, and YOU*  
Begins Jan 11, 9:30am in Library

Have YOU been SAVED?!!! From....Eternal damnation? Drowning? Being run over? A Natural Disaster? BY....A tent revival Evangelist? A Lifeguard? A Crossing Guard? FEMA?

Rev Dr Douglas Ensminger (who has preached at a revival, been certified as a Life-Guard and a Disaster Response Chaplain, and was a Temporary Substitute Crossing Guard Assistant) will lead a discussion of Salvation through the lenses of Scripture, the Early Church, the Scholastics, the Reformation, and Contemporary Theologians. Fair Warning: at the last class every participant will be expected to read aloud their personal completion of the following sentence “To me personally, to be saved means ... (5-100 words). This class will meet for five weeks in the Library at 0930 beginning January 11, 2026.

## Words & Wine

**Friday, January 2, at 6:30pm**

Words & Wine Book Group will meet Friday, January 2, the book is *Playground* by Richard Powers. Questions, contact Lauren Falco (laurenfalco@yahoo.com).



## 3rd Space Sunday

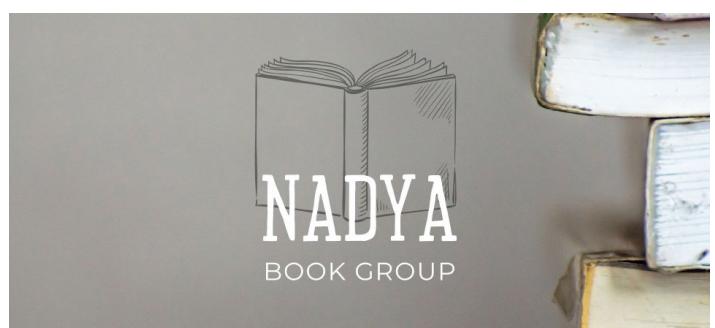
**Sunday, January 18**

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

N.A.D.Y.A. Book Group is taking a break during the holidays and will meet January 11 from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Jason & Andrea's home to discuss *Humanish: What Talking to Your Cat or Naming your Car Reveals about the Uniquely Human Need to Humanize* by Justin Gregg. The next fiction book is *North Woods* by Daniel Mason (date TBD). If you have questions, please contact Jason (jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com)

# FINANCIAL INFO

## November 2025 Income/Expense Report

	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>					
Pledges	\$29,612.63	\$492,874.48	\$485,000.00	\$7,874.48	\$535,000.00
Congregational Giving	2,541.69	26,857.88	31,100.00	(4,242.12)	35,000.00
Loose Offering	312.00	4,456.36	4,200.00	256.36	5,000.00
Other Designated Gifts	200.00	4,760.00	3,663.40	1,096.60	4,000.00
Per Capita Donation	0.00	5,413.26	5,260.00	153.26	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	309.18	2,347.79	137.50	2,210.29	150.00
PNC CD interest	270.28	2,946.82	2,062.50	884.32	2,250.00
Subtotal Interest Income	579.46	5,294.61	2,200.00	3,094.61	2,400.00
Rentals	1,946.68	27,663.55	21,163.64	6,499.91	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	2,313.43	17,460.07	18,333.37	(873.30)	20,000.00
Spec Off for Assistance	788.86	1,674.41	1,000.00	674.41	2,500.00
Other Income	9.00	45.00	6.00	39.00	6.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>38,303.75</b>	<b>606,816.24</b>	<b>596,626.41</b>	<b>10,189.83</b>	<b>657,606.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Mission & Benevolences	2,859.57	34,241.25	38,333.26	4,092.01	41,750.00
Payroll Expense	34,192.12	379,080.91	389,224.34	10,143.43	424,384.00
Church Programs	1,193.37	15,944.98	20,729.24	4,784.26	22,250.00
Utilities & Maintenance	7,945.18	103,236.51	93,901.98	(9,334.53)	101,402.00
Operating Expenses	2,999.93	40,773.69	41,208.37	434.68	44,050.00
Worship And Fellowship	960.20	4,167.72	6,462.50	2,294.78	7,050.00
Presbytery Support/Per Capita	2,786.66	15,326.63	15,326.63	0.00	16,720.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>52,937.03</b>	<b>592,771.69</b>	<b>605,186.32</b>	<b>12,414.63</b>	<b>657,606.00</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$14,633.28)	\$14,044.55	(\$8,559.91)	\$22,604.46	\$0.00

	Other Giving	
	November	Year-to Date
Big Blue Pantry		442.6
Bus Passes		510.00
Campus		504.75
CRCKY		2,891.43
E7 Kids Café	509.57	4,257.04
Food Chain	618.00	618.00
God's Pantry	618.00	1,060.53
Joy Offering		681.23
KRM	25.00	2,928.82
Long Johns	70.00	70.00
MSLC		303.05
OGHS		1,975.58
PDA		2,424.26
Peace Offering	20.00	995.00
New Wineskin Capital Campaign	52,868.86	318,342.11
Endowment Memorials	150.00	1,483.56
Memorial Youth Scholarship		2,500.00
	<b>54,879.43</b>	<b>341,545.36</b>

# CHILDREN'S NEWS

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## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Charlie Barnett (January 12)

Hugh Barnett (January 12)

Dom'maeto Torress (January 15)

## A Big Thank You

December was a joyful and busy month at Maxwell Street with our Advent Workshop, GeNext event, and Caroling. Thank you to all the children who participated, the volunteers who helped, and the families who worked so hard to make the Christmas Pageant possible too. Your efforts brought joy to our congregation!

## Thank you to our volunteers!

Thank you to the volunteers for GeNext:

Sara Baird, Doug Kalika, Donna Eads, Derrick Meads

Thank you to the adults who helped or participated in the Christmas Pageant:

Michelle and Jim Gardner, Kari Boldt

Thank you to those who were readers for the Children's Christmas Pageant: Janet Kalika, Toni Carter, Eric Bryant, Lauren Feltner,

Thank you to our Youth Pageant volunteers: Lily Bryant and Kiersten Kercsmar (readers) and Zane Kercsmar (stage crew.)



# YOUTH NEWS

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## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Theo Meads (January 1)

Daniel Bruno (January 6)

Sophia Tucker (January 8)

## JANUARY SCHEDULE

Jan 4 - No Youth

Jan 11 - Youth Group After Service

Jan 18 - Youth Group After Service

Jan 25 - Youth Group After Service

## IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 31 - Ski Trip

Feb 22 - Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

July 19-25 - ASP Youth Summer Mission Trip

### Youth Ski Trip

**Saturday, January 31 | 8:30am**



The youth group hits the slopes at Perfect North on Saturday, January 31st. We will leave the church around 8:30AM and leave Perfect North to return home at 7:30PM. The cost per skier is \$40 plus about \$15-20 for lunch, but scholarships are available. Don't let cost prevent you from joining us! Sign up with the QR code.

## Thank you!

Thank you to the youth, parents, and everyone else who helped make fall semester great! I appreciate the support from everyone for the youth group, especially those who provided lunch, volunteered in the parking lot, or just provided encouragement for us. I am proud of how talented and intelligent our youth group is and of their heart for helping others-as you can see in the pictures below. I'm excited for what the next semester and future has in store for us!



## That's Amore! Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

**Save the Date: Sunday, February 22**

## Mission Trip 2026 Appalachian Service Project

**July 19 - July 25, 2026**

**Cost: \$350 (Scholarships Available)**



Each summer, ASP serves 20-30 communities across Central Appalachia. This year, we'll be in eastern Kentucky, providing home repairs while offering a meaningful, transformational experience for our youth. No deposit is due today, but please register as soon as possible so we can plan. A \$100 deposit is due February 1, with the remaining balance due June 1. Scholarship questions can be directed to Rob.

# THANK YOU'S

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Thank you to the elders and deacons who have completed their terms of service and are not returning in 2026: Toni Carter, Agnes Donohue, Helen Richardson, Janet Lumpp, Jay Vessels, Laura Zollman, Rob Wethington, Alicia Hart, Susan Liddle, and Derrick Meads.

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

Thank you to all of you who have donated to the E7 Kids Cafe Christmas Shoppe. You brought boxes, bags and bins filled with toys, books, jewelry, gifts for men, women, teens and children. Ashlee and I have sorted through everything and have been amazed at the outpouring of gifts from church members, staff, neighbors, friends and family. Every day for the past month has been like Christmas morning as we open bags of donations that were dropped off in the church office and my front porch. You have helped make this a special Christmas for lots of families in Lexington. Thank you!

Thank you to all those who volunteered at the E7 Kids Cafe Christmas Shoppe: Pam Boldt, Ashlee Vogelsang, Lanee Gerber, Dena McDonald, Kailee Lawson, Shelli Gregory, Hannah Daniels, Leigh Buckley, Jean Harper, Kelly Tellech, Trisha Bernard, Angela Keith, Jackie DeCroo, Sydney Lamanna, Katie Thraillkill, Michelle Gardner, Marguerite Waddell, Susan Menard, Debi MacQuown, Kristen Tidwell, Kim Burns, Julie McQuerry, Laura Zolman, Kate Copley, Bethany and Mason Kelly, Alicia & Mark Hart, Matt Jones, Katherine Barth, Katherine Oliver, Madison Wallace, Tracy Ferrell, Stephanie, MacKenzie Ferrell.

Thank you to Hydee, Brad & Harris Hawkins, Tracy Ferrell, Stephanie and Mackenzie for donating and serving hot chocolate to the children of E7 for the Christmas Shoppe.

Thank you to all those who helped with the food distribution at Westminster Village: Joe Boldt, Rich Copley, Caroline Thomas, Marilyn Daniel, Nick Zolman, Matt Gomez, Rob, Anna & Frannie Wethington, Emma Stowe, Jude Burnett, Jarred Croley, and youth Jonah Falco, Zane Kercmar, Kiersten Kercmar, Theo Meads, Owen Pickett, Quinn Linscott.

Thank you to those who participated in the services: Sharron Townsend, Becky and Micah Kemper, Susan Gill, Gus and Nan Nickou, Justice Zurakowski, Clara & Eli Cooper, Troy, Megan, Clara & Eli Cooper, Janet Lumpp, Karlin Gabrial, Leila, Liam and Ewan O'Carra, Lauren Feltner, Roman and AJ Rose Schwake, Lily Bryant, Boone Bryant, Eric Bryant, Kiersten Kercmar, Doug Kalika, Ellie Waddell, Toni Carter, Lily Murphy, Bobby Eads, Janet Kalika, Charlie and Hugh Barnett, Maggie Waddell, Sammy Jo Boldt, Frannie Wethington, Blake and Lincoln Tremoulis, Nancy Ricker.

Thank you to those who made sandwiches for the Hope Mobile in December: Troy, Megan, Eli & Clara Cooper, Heather, David & Penny Fruecht, Susan Gill, Mary & Warren Waxham, Denise & Ray Reynolds.

Thank you to those who packed backpacks for Maxwell Elementary in December: Pam Boldt, Greg & Jean Harper, Katie Thraillkill, Jackie DeCroo.

Thank you to Robin Morrill for her dedication to the children's choir and for sharing musical talents in the services.

Thank you to those who provided special music: Dr. Bill Handley, Mary Jo Dendy, Sandy Gaunce, Robin Morrill, Janet Lumpp, Lucy Chapman, Jean Harper, Will Jones, Debi MacQuown, Jay McNamee, Lauren Falco, Megan Hensley, Marty Keith, Larry MacQuown, Jayden Bowling, Stan Brunn, Dorothy & Loren Tice, Cynthia Braley, Iris Dooling, Lydia Ruffin, Gretchen Bishay, Jackie DeCroo, Susan Liddle, Janet Kalika, Doug Kalika, Linda Ensminger, Drew Palus, Jim Olive.

We appreciate our volunteers for Thursday meals: Anne Chesnutt, Kathy Riley, Bill Handley, Nancy Ricker, Bonnie Eads, Carolyn Sayre, Johnny Evans, Clay Noonan, Jason Williams, Bob Rabel, Rich Copley, Susan Mossman, Laura Zolman, Eli, Layne Taylor and Kappa volunteers.

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

Thank you to Bill Smith for baking communion bread.

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

Thank you to those who help in the office: Ann Farrer, Ruth Rowles, Jean Haper, Cindi Kupar, Michelle Gardner.

Thank you to those who sponsored flowers, poinsettias and decorations for the Christmas season.

Thank you to the Meads for providing lunch for the youth!

Thank you to the Kercmars and Boldts for volunteering to take donations in the parking lot to support the Youth Group!

Thank you to those who were acolytes in December: Clara & Eli Cooper, Gus & Nan Nikou, AJ Schwake.



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Carol Jordan on her new grandbaby. Inez Alexandra Bradford Ferguson was born November 30 to Annie Bradford and Zach Ferguson.

# PHOTOS FROM THANKSGIVING AND THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Thank you to Rich Copley for all of the wonderful photos from the Advent Season at Maxwell Street!





**MSPC**

Maxwell Street  
Presbyterian Church

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