



SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

MAXWELL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
180 E. Maxwell St. Lexington, KY
www.maxpres.org

Welcome to Maxwell Street! We hope you will consider wearing a nametag so that we might get to know one another better. They can be found in the lobbies outside the sanctuary. You can find more helpful information inside this bulletin.

INTROIT 151 - *We Three Kings of Orient Are*, verse 1

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - *Kyrie for the Christmas Mass*, César Franck

CALL TO WORSHIP - Inspired by Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

The light of the Lord has risen upon us, and God's glory has shone around us.

Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together.

The Light of God's love shines upon us. Our hearts thrill and rejoice. We have come bearing the gift of our lives and to lift up our voices in praise.

Let us worship God together.

+ **HYMN 86** - *The People Who Walked in Darkness*

+ **CONFESSION & PARDON**

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

• **RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS:** Hymn 581, (*Gloria Patri*)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 2.1-12

This is the written testimony to the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

OFFERING

- INVITATION
- OFFERTORY *Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love*, arr. Lein/Weaver

SCRIPTURE READING - Ephesians 3.1-12

SERMON - *The Mystery Made Known* - Rev. Matt Falco

STATEMENT OF FAITH - From the Inclusive Language Version of the Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

+ **HYMN 141** - *On This Day, Earth Shall Ring*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

- INVITATION
- GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
...The Lord's Prayer (Debts & Debtors)
- THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION
- THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The congregation is invited to come forward to take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. There is gluten-free bread on the table. If you would prefer to receive Communion in your pew, an elder or deacon will serve you. After consuming the bread and the cup and returning to your seat, turn your mind to what God is inviting you to consider in this moment of stillness.

- PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world, and fortify us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

+ **HYMN 744** - *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 151, *We Three Kings of Orient Are*, verse 5

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

POSTLUDE - *The First Noel*, arr. Bish

Join us in the Punch Parlor after worship for conversation and community. This week's host is Josh England.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Greg Harper, Cindy and Allen Gayheart, Carolyn Hale, Martin Hendrix's mother; Kenny Way, Kaye Morgan's son-in-law.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Matt Falco, Sarah Kerksmar, Ted Gentry, and the Chancel Choir

USHERS: Tracy Bruno, Cynthia Bruno, Alicia Hart, and Zane Kerksmar

VIDEO AND SOUND CREW: Rich Copley, Jim Lump, Bill Smith, Jay Vessels, Jonah Falco

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Epiphany, January 6

First reading: Isaiah 60.1-16

Psalm: 72.1-7, 10-14

Second reading: Ephesians 3.1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church. We're so glad you've chosen to be with us today for worship. This bulletin will be a helpful guide to our service, but here is some additional information we hope will help you feel at home. Maxwell Street Presbyterian is a More Light Congregation. More Light Presbyterians are dedicated to allowing the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society. We strive to use inclusive language that reflects the beauty of God's diversity. You are welcome here, and you are loved.

- A Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church App is available from the Apple and Google App Stores. This App will enable you to register your attendance, make an offering online, and more. You can scan the QR code to the left to access the app. You can also sign in via the app.
- You can also go to www.maxpres.org/give to support our ministry.
- Please be aware that today's service is being live-streamed and recorded. Portions of the service, including video and audio, may be shared online. By attending, you acknowledge that your image and/or voice may appear in these recordings.
- LARGE PRINT BIBLES and BULLETINS are available from the ushers.
- Hearing help is available with a personal amplification device from the ushers.
- For your convenience, an elevator is located in the Lobby off the parking lot/playground.
- WIFI - Router Name: Maxwell - ORBI38 Password: maxpres180
- Accessible restrooms are on the main level and basement level. Baby changing stations are available in the basement restrooms or nursery.

Children's Programming on Sundays

Infants & Toddlers are welcome in the Nursery following Children's Moment or anytime during the morning. Come to the Young Children's Area in the basement. Professional caregivers and church volunteers will greet you there.

Pre-K Sunday School Class (for ages 3,4 and 5)

This class is specifically designed (using the Grow, Proclaim, Serve! curriculum) for younger children, keeping them engaged in fun bible-centered lessons. Children will head downstairs following the Children's Moment during worship.

Grades K-5 Sunday School

We also offer a class for older students that are in Grades K-5. Children gather in large groups for the Bible story, music, and movement, then break into age-level small groups to dig deeper and apply the story to their daily lives. Children will head downstairs following the Children's Moment during worship.

Ways To Learn More

Please visit www.maxpres.org for details about our ministries for all ages and interests. We also have an active Facebook page - www.facebook.com/maxpres. If you would like to be added to our Friday email, which has information about what is going on in the church's life, you may do so at: www.maxpres.org. If you have additional questions, Matt will be happy to talk with you at your convenience; call the church office at (859) 255-1074, 9am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday.



Download the Maxwell Street App
Scan this code with your smartphone or device

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 6

12:30pm – Centering Prayer

Wednesday, January 7

5:30pm – Budget & Stewardship

6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, January

5:30pm - Thursday Night Meal

Saturday, January 10

9:00am - Session Retreat

Sunday, January 11

9:30am – Adult Sunday School

10:30am – Worship

10:45am - Children's Sunday School

11:45am - Youth Group

11:45am - Children's Choir

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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 (laurenefalco@yahoo.com).

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Salvation Across the Ages

Begins Jan 11, 9:30am in Library

Rev Douglas Ensminger will lead this AI aided class presenting classic perspectives on salvation from historical figures and modern theologians. It is designed to help participants reflect on their own understanding of salvation by engaging in dialogue with these voices. The conversations will culminate as each participant shares what salvation means to them personally. January 11- Paul and Augustine; 1/18- Aquinas; 1/25- Luther and Calvin; 2/1-Johnson and Guitierrez; 2/8 YOU.

KERYGMA CLASS

Begins Jan 14, 10:30am in Library

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.

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).

FLOWERS DURING WORSHIP

Sponsoring flowers during worship is a meaningful way to honor a special event, celebrate an anniversary or birthday, or remember a loved one, while also making our sanctuary beautiful for our Worship services. Arrangements are \$50, and you can sign up easily on the bulletin board in the Punch Parlor.

YOUTH

Jan 4 - No Youth

Jan 11 - Youth Group After Service

Jan 18 - Youth Group After Service

Jan 25 - Youth Group After Service

Jan. 31 - Ski 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.

THAT'S AMORE! - YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Save the Date: Sunday, February 22

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2026

APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT

July 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 our youth a meaningful cultural and transformational experience. There's no deposit due today, but please register ASAP so we can plan. **A \$100 deposit is due February 1**, with

the remaining balance due June 1. Scholarships are available, contact Rob for details. Sign up with the QR Code.

MISSION

THANK YOU!

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!