



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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.

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - *From a Distance*, Gold/Griffith, Jim Olive

CALL TO WORSHIP

Are you here seeking mercy?

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.**

Have you sinned against God and neighbor?

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Have you tried to flee from your transgressions?

I once was lost, but now am found.

Wonderful! You are in the right place. You are welcome here.

Let's worship God together!

+ **HYMN 169** - *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* (or "Dear Lord, creator good and kind")

+ CALL TO CONFESSION

+ **A PRAYER OF CONFESSION** - Adapted from a prayer created by *EcoCongregation Scotland*
Holy God, we live on a small spec of green and blue hurtling in the vast array of galaxy, yet we are each known, loved and strengthened by You. Yet we, who are stiff-necked and obtuse, think we know best: we fail to listen to the warnings, we ignore advice and fail to act. Our false gods of wealth and capitalism, of political might and self-preservation do not serve us well: we confess that sometimes we are lost and do not know how to rejoin the path of the most Holy One. Forgive us, God, that we might be drawn from our wrongful ways, and see the right in front of our eyes. May we seek the good in each other: cleanse our hearts that we see afresh and can act anew. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

- ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS: Hymn 447 - *We Are Forgiven*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

Lord who welcomes sinners, send your Spirit to sit with us as we hear your Word proclaimed. Find us where we are lost, create in us clean hearts, and help us to see the joy of your mercy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Timothy 1:12-17, NT pg. 208

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
This is the written testimony to the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM - *Do Not I Love Thee*, Dwight Gustafson (1930-2014), Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 15, NT Pg 78

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

SERMON - *I Once Was Lost* - Rev. Matt Falco

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

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. 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 436** - *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*

RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY OF THE MAXWELL STREET LEGAL CLINIC

What does the Holy One require of us?

To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

RECOUNTING THE WORK OF THE MAXWELL STREET LEGAL CLINIC

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: For the vision of a ministry that saw our immigrant neighbors not as strangers, but as beloved children of God—

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the countless hours of service, advocacy, and compassion offered by attorneys, staff, and volunteers, who used their gifts to bring justice and hope—

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the thousands of immigrants and families who found guidance, support, and a listening ear through this ministry—

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the ways this work opened doors to safety, dignity, and opportunity, and for the witness it gave of your kingdom of welcome—

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: Though this particular chapter of ministry now comes to a close, we trust that your Spirit continues to stir new ways forward.

People: We give you thanks, O God, and ask you to make us faithful.

Leader: Bless those whose lives were touched by this ministry, bless those who served, and bless the seeds planted that will grow in ways yet unseen.

People: With grateful hearts, we give you thanks, O God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

- INVITATION
- OFFERTORY - *Come, Thou Fount*
- DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

- PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+ HYMN 649 - *Amazing Grace*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 539, *We Will Go Out with Joy*

POSTLUDE - *Festival Flourishes*, Ovid Young (1940-2014)

+ Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body and/or spirit.



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. 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.

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. Please join us after 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. Please join us after 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.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Greg Harper, Dan Goulson, Hugh Huffman, John Cantrell, Carolyn Hale, Josh England's aunt, Martin Hendrix's mother, Margaret

The flowers are given to the glory of God by the friends of Marilyn Daniel in honor of her work with Maxwell Street Legal Clinic.

Cake and punch will be served by the Deacons in the Punch Parlor following worship in honor of the MSLC. All are invited.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders: Rev. Matt Falco, Jean Harper, Ted Gentry, Jim Olive, and the Chancel Choir

USHERS: Derrick Meads, Alicia Hart, Tony Sidor, and Sharron Townsend

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

ACOLYTE: Lilly Murphy

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, September 14, 2025

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 4.11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14

Alternate First reading and Psalm: Exodus 32.7-14 Psalm 51.10

Second reading: 1 Timothy 12-17

Gospel: Luke 15.1-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, September 15

5:30pm - Worship Committee Meeting
7:00pm - Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, September 16

12:30pm - Centering Prayer

Wednesday, September 17

10:30am - Kerygma
6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm - Social Justice Committee
7:00pm - UKIRK Campus Group
7:30pm - Canterbury Bells Rehearsal

Thursday, September 18

5:30pm - Neighborhood Meal

Sunday, September 21

9:30am - Third Space Sunday Fellowship
9:30am - Adult Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
10:45am - Children's Sunday School
11:30am - Youth Group
11:30am - Children's Choir

FLORAL FUNDRAISER - -TODAY AFTER WORSHIP! Would you like to be creative AND support the MSPC Thursday Night Neighborhood Meal?

Following church today, Kari will set up a "Bouquet Bar" in Fellowship Hall. She'll provide all the flowers from Boldt Farm and vases for you to build a beautiful bouquet to take home. Cost is \$20, includes all supplies and all the money goes to support the Thursday Night Meal. No need to sign up. Just head down to Fellowship Hall after the service on 9/14 for about 15 minutes, choose your flowers and let your creativity grow. Cash or checks to MSPC/TNM accepted.

LEXINGTON SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

You are invited to "In One A-Chord: Lexington Sacred Music Festival," presented by CHI Saint Joseph Health, September 21-28, 2025, as part of Lexington's 250th celebration. As part of the festival, Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church will host a free concert on Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30 PM. All are welcome.

CONFRONTING THE DEMONS

Begins Sunday, October 5 at 9am | 6 week class

Ever think to yourself that our political system could use an exorcism? You're not alone! Bring your crucifix and some Holy Water (just kidding) and join Douglas Ensminger in his battle against the "dark powers" at work in our world today. Come ready to think big, wrestle with demons and challenging questions, and maybe laugh along the way. This six-week class will meet in the Library at 9:30 AM beginning October 5th.

CROP WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 3PM

Join the 2025 CROP Walk on Sunday, October 12 at 3pm, starting at Second Presbyterian. This annual event supports local hunger missions through God's Pantry Food Bank. Walk with us or donate to the church for the CROP Walk. Questions? Contact Judy Maxson at 859-699-9454 or jke659@gmail.com. Learn more at www.crophungerwalk.org/lexingtonky

WELCOME COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you remember when you first attended Maxwell Street Presbyterian? You may have been welcomed at the front or side door by an usher or volunteer. We are looking for volunteers, of all ages, to be the point of contact at the side door, elevator access. Families, couples or singles are welcome to volunteer for Sunday worship. The committee meets quarterly, to create a schedule. You would only be needed once or twice every 3 months. We also provide the doughnuts on Third Sundays of the month! No special "training"! Bring your welcoming smile! **Contact: Toni Carter, 231-499-2923, tonicarter1410@gmail.com**

MAXWELL STREET BLOCK PARTY

October 18, 2025

Come enjoy food, games, and live music at Maxwell Street! More details to follow!

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

November 14-16

Get away for a weekend to enjoy the beauty of Burnamwood and good fellowship with your Maxwell Street friends.

UKIRK COLLEGE MINISTRY

UKIRK CAMPUS MINISTRY

Wednesdays at 7pm | Dinner and fellowship

Faith. Friends. Free food. Join us Wednesdays at 7:00pm for dinner, fellowship, and conversation about life and faith. Don't miss our University Community Brunch after worship on September 7. Come connect, grow, and be part of something bigger!

MISSION

CLOTHING DRIVE ITEMS NEEDED

With the arrival of the cooler months, we are hoping to fill the clothing room with plenty of warm items. If you find you have too many taking up space at your place, we would love for it to take the space here at Maxwell Street. Sweatpants, sweaters, towels, blankets, short and long sleeve shirts needed most.

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

UK's Big Blue Pantry Needs our Help!

The University of Kentucky has the largest incoming class in history, over 6,500 students! Maxwell Street helps the Big Blue Pantry (a food pantry for UK students) by taking specific donations to help make sure no student goes hungry.

They are in need of the following items: Tuna, dry pasta, pasta sauce, granola bars, cooking oil, rice.

THURSDAY NIGHT MEAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for a few more volunteers to help with Thursday Night Meals this summer. There's always room for extra helping hands—whether it's serving food, welcoming guests, or supporting the team. If you'd like to be part of this meaningful ministry, please reach out to Laura Zolman at volunteer@maxpres.org

169 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

1 *Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy

ways; re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
 bove, where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
 cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak

pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, with - out a word rise up and fol - low thee.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love!
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy peace.
 through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!

*Or "Dear Lord, Creator good and kind"

These stanzas were carved into a hymn from a much longer poem describing a frenzied ritual by an obscure sect in India, but they culminate in a reference to 1 Kings 19:11–12 that celebrates silence (as befits a Quaker poet). This tune was created especially for these words.

God of Compassion, in Mercy 436

Befriend Us

1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
 2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
 3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,

giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
 stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
 you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
 Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
 What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,

pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
 guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
 we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, this text conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the text is well matched by its sturdy 17th-century French tune.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshútinigí,
 lah yóóiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'íí da nt'éé.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.