

FEBRUARY 2026

MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church



2026 ELDERS

Wes Bullock
Sarah Kercksmar
Ray Reynolds

Nancy Goulson
Zach Murphy
Katie Whaley

2027 ELDERS

Tracy Bruno
Vanessa Keith

Julia Linscott
Helen Richardson

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 Ehlert
Sharron Townsend

2028 DEACONS

Debbie Acker
Lauren Feltner
Anna Wethington
Youth - Zane Kercksmar

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
Communication Director - Hannah Allen
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.

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In recognition of Black History Month, the cover art is a quilt made by the African American artist Harriet Powers (1837-1910) called "Harriet Power's Bible Quilt". The piece depicts stories from the bible and is sometimes referred to as a "quilted sermon". What stories do you see within it's stitching?

REMINDER

Deadline for the March 2026 MIM is Friday, February 20, 2026.

Please submit all articles to Hannah - Hannah@maxpres.org

WORSHIP NEWS

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 1

Guest Preacher- Rev. Kathy Riley
The Lord's Supper

FEBRUARY 8

1 Corinthians 2.1-16 & Matthew 5.13-20
Rescheduled Ordination and Installation
Rev Falco- "A Spirit of Discernment"

FEBRUARY 15

Transfiguration Sunday
"On The Mountain"
Exodus 24.12-18, 2 Peter 1.16-21, Matthew 17.1-9
Rev. Falco

FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday Service
Soup Supper - 5:45pm
Worship - 6:30pm

FEBRUARY 22

First Sunday of Lent
"The Devil Took Him to the Holy City"
Psalm 32 & Matthew 4.1-11

Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent - a season of reflection, repentance, and hope. Join us for worship on Wednesday at 6:30 pm, as we gather for prayer, scripture, and the imposition of ashes. As part of this service, we will name not only our personal sin but the shared wounds of our world. The ashes are not just a sign of mortality, but also of truth-telling and solidarity.

Before the service, you're invited to a simple soup supper at 5:45 pm, offering a chance to slow down, connect, and begin the evening together.

We also need volunteers to help with the meal and hospitality. If you're able to serve, please sign up here. All are welcome. Come as you are.



Lent 2026

Lent is often associated with themes like repentance, prayer, piety, and self-discipline. These practices matter, and they can deepen our personal faith. But they can also obscure the larger movement of the season: the journey to the cross, Jesus' confrontation with the powers of this world, and his ultimate victory over them.

In a time of profound global turmoil, it feels especially important to pay attention to how Jesus walks this path. The kingdom of God looks nothing like the kingdoms we know. It is not built on domination or fear, but on love, truth, vulnerability, and hope. Following Jesus toward the cross exposes the costs, risks, and resistance that come with living this way,

as well as the surprising gifts that emerge along the journey.

Lent can also become overly individualistic, focused on what I give up or I take on. Yet the faith Jesus teaches is deeply relational. We are formed not in isolation, but in community: learning together what it means to follow Christ faithfully in the midst of a broken world.

This year, the lectionary invites us to hold all of this together. As we move toward the cross, we will explore what it means to walk with Jesus—and with one another—toward the new life that is already coming into view. I hope you'll join us as we journey together through this season of honesty, courage, and hope.
- Matt

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

The social work department is starting the new year with flair. I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the constantly evolving clothing closet! This past Wednesday, there were several comments like, "you guys have great stuff" and "I love coming here, you never know what treasures you'll find." There is still discussion about adding an extra day, but that would require two more volunteers. If you enjoy organizing clothes and engaging with a diverse group of people, you might be a perfect fit. Please reach out to Ashlee via email at Ashlee@maxpres.org.

- Ashlee



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!

Social Work Wishlist

The social work department is also asking for toilet paper, and you can check the Amazon wish list for the other items they need including winter gloves, first aid supplies, and personal hygiene products.



Mission Committee Coat Drive



Throughout the winter months, The MSPC Mission Committee will be gathering new and lightly used shoes for adults including practical boots, tennis shoes, work boots, hiking boots, etc. for our neighbors at Thursday Night Meals and the Clothing Drive. Heavy winter hats, socks, and gloves are also welcome!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session gathered on Saturday, January 11th, for our year-opening retreat and training. Our time together began with worship. We were reminded of our shared purpose and the importance of faithful leadership. Together, we reflected on our calling as elders and on how God is shaping our life together as a congregation in 2026, especially in light of our changing neighborhood and broader trends in church life.

The retreat included guided theological reflection, conversation about the nature of Christian leadership, and practical training rooted in our responsibilities as a Session. Elders explored how commitment, discernment, and accountability function not only as institutional requirements but as spiritual practices that sustain healthy community and faithful decision-making.

Elders were also given time to meet with each member of the staff in small groups to discuss how the staff supports the congregation in accomplishing its sense of mission. Significant time was devoted to listening to one another, to the realities facing our congregation and wider world, and to the movement of the Spirit among us. The training reinforced our shared understanding of the Session's role in

supporting worship, mission, pastoral care, and the long-term vitality of the church.

During the retreat, we had our first meeting of the year, at which elders selected which committees they will serve on in 2026. The Session also approved a proposal to house the Community Response Coalition of Kentucky (CRCKY) in the Blevins House. More information about this exciting partnership will be forthcoming. Given the work we were able to accomplish at our first gathering, I'm looking forward to the year ahead and what God has in store for us. Please make praying for your Session a regular practice and look for ways that you can help contribute to the life of our congregation.



New Wineskins Campaign Update

New Wineskins Total Pledged: \$616,940.87

Thank you so much to everyone who has submitted pledges and payments to the New Wineskins Capital Campaign. We have reached \$333,710.97 for the first year. Some have pledged for all three years; others have given a one-time gift. We are at 54% of our three year goal, totaling \$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

2026 Pledges - 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

This is an ongoing class that centers on *discussion of "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* Sundays, 9:30am in Library

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 Theologs. 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).

Words & Wine

Friday, February 6, at 6:30pm

Words & Wine Book Group will meet Friday, February 6, the book is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. Questions, contact Lauren Falco (laurenefalco@yahoo.com).

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).**

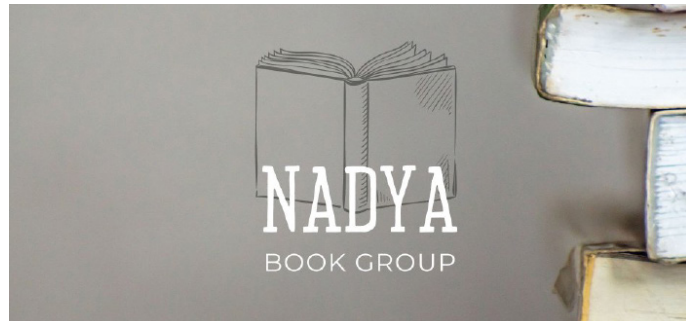


3rd Space Sunday Sunday, February 15

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!

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

N.A.D.Y.A. Book Group will meet February 15 from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Jason & Andrea's home to discuss *Humanish: What Talking to Your Cat of 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).



Young Adult Group

The Young Adults will meet at Thursday, February 12th at 7pm at Laura's house. You can RSVP, get the address, or ask any other questions to Emma Stowe at 256-585-8077. MSPC Young Adults are a group of 22-to-40ish-year-olds who gather monthly (usually on Thursday evenings) for fellowship and discussions about faith. All are welcome!

FINANCIAL INFO

December 2025 Income/Expense Report

	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Annual Budget
INCOME					
Pledges	\$50,077.22	\$542,951.70	\$535,000.00	\$7,951.70	\$535,000.00
Congregational Giving	4,916.69	31,774.57	35,000.00	(3,225.43)	35,000.00
Loose Offering	1,153.11	5,609.47	5,000.00	609.47	5,000.00
Other Designated Gifts	0.00	4,760.00	4,000.00	760.00	4,000.00
Per Capita Donation	0.00	5,413.26	5,500.00	(86.74)	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	367.03	2,714.82	150.00	2,564.82	150.00
PNC CD interest	254.24	3,201.06	2,250.00	951.06	2,250.00
Subtotal Interest Income	621.27	5,915.88	2,400.00	3,515.88	2,400.00
Rentals	2,566.68	30,230.23	23,000.00	7,230.23	23,000.00
Workcamp Fees	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	6,000.00
Coupons for Missions	216.64	1,033.26	2,000.00	(966.74)	2,000.00
Spec Offering for Hunger	1,177.95	18,638.02	20,000.00	(1,361.98)	20,000.00
Spec Off for Assistance	3,138.86	4,813.27	2,500.00	2,313.27	2,500.00
Other Income	0.00	45.00	6.00	39.00	6.00
TOTAL INCOME	63,868.42	670,684.66	657,606.00	13,078.66	657,606.00
EXPENSES					
Mission & Benevolences					
Benevolences	875.00	9,750.00	9,750.00	0.00	9,750.00
Local Mission					
General Mission	173.55	377.76	1,000.00	622.24	1,000.00
Community Meals	613.36	7,391.73	7,000.00	(391.73)	7,000.00
Other hunger programs	0.00	199.78	2,500.00	2,300.22	2,500.00
Community Assistance	1,884.01	20,067.90	20,000.00	(67.90)	20,000.00
Work Camp Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Subtotal Local Mission	2,670.92	28,037.17	32,000.00	3,962.83	32,000.00
Subtotal Mission & Benevolences	3,545.92	37,787.17	41,750.00	3,962.83	41,750.00
Payroll Expense	34,329.90	413,350.81	424,384.00	11,033.19	424,384.00
Church Programs	2,881.44	18,826.42	22,250.00	3,423.58	22,250.00
Utilities & Maintenance	10,924.89	114,161.40	101,402.00	(12,759.40)	101,402.00
Operating Expenses	2,834.98	43,608.67	44,050.00	441.33	44,050.00
Worship And Fellowship	1,055.82	5,223.54	7,050.00	1,826.46	7,050.00
Presbytery Support/Per Capita	1,393.37	16,720.00	16,720.00	0.00	16,720.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	56,966.32	649,678.01	657,606.00	7,927.99	657,606.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$6,902.10	\$21,006.65	\$0.00	\$21,006.65	\$0.00

CHILDREN'S NEWS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Frannie Wethington (February 7)

Blake Tremoulis (February 14)

Theo Burchfield (February 22)

GeNext Dates

February 15- Cooking at MPSC & a special escape room

March 1- TBD

Thank you to our volunteers!

Thank you to the volunteers for GeNext.

The Beatitudes Coloring Page



YOUTH NEWS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Zoe Cox (February 11)

Ellery Linscott (February 28)

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Feb 8 - Youth Group After Service

Feb 15 - Youth Group After Service

Feb 22 - Youth Group After Service

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 22 - Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

July 19-25 - ASP Youth Summer Mission Trip

That's Amore! Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Save the Date: Sunday, February 22 | 5:00-6:30pm



The Maxwell Street Youth Group wants to show their love for Maxwell by hosting an Italian dinner and you are invited! Proceeds go to support the Youth Summer Mission Trips. There will also be a silent auction. Please see a member of the youth group to purchase tickets or visit this QR code.

Mission Trip 2026 Appalachian Service Project

July 5-11, 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.

Ski Trip Fun!



Summer Camp at Burnamwood!

Registration is now open for Camp at Burnamwood! "Early Bird" discount is available through April 30, 2026. Camp Burnamwood is located on a 500-acre stretch of land nestled between the foothills of Central Appalachia and the Kentucky Bluegrass. Burnamwood hosts residential summer camps for 1st grade through 12th grade students. Register at www.burnamwood.net/programs/summer-camp

Counselor -in-Training (CIT)

June 5-6, 2026

Cost: \$145 / Early Bird: \$125 (register by April 30)

3rd – 5th Grade

June 8-10, 2026

Cost: \$270 / Early Bird: \$250 (register by April 30)

Middle School Conference

June 10-13, 2026

Cost: \$320 / Early Bird: \$300 (register by April 30)

High School Conference

June 15-20, 2026

Cost: \$420 / Early Bird: \$400 (register by April 30)

THANK YOU'S

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 provided special music: Jean Harper, Cindi Kupa, Susan Carey, Will Jones, Lucy Schapman, Jay McNamee, Lauren Falco, Jayden Bowling, Stan Brunn, Dorothy & Loren Tice, Cynthia Braley, Iris Dooling, Lydia Ruffin, Gretchen Bishay, Jackie DeCoo, Susan Liddle, Janet Kalika, Doug Kalika, Linda Ensminger, Jim Olive.

Thank you to those who participated in the services: Kiersten Kercsmar, Sarah Kercsmar, Rob Wethington, Tammy Lane.

Thank you to those who made sandwiches for the Hope Mobile in January: Tom & Toni Carter, Troy, Megan, Eli & Clara Cooper, Heather, Penny & David Fruecht, Denise & Ray Reynolds, Mary & Waxham.

Thank you to those who packed backpacks for Maxwell Elementary in January: Pam Boldt, Joe & Sandy Kyle, Ray & Denise Reynolds, Katie Thrailkill.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Goulson and Huffman funerals: Ann Farrer, Katie Whaley, Michelle Jones, Michelle Gardner, Caroline Copley Wood, Delia Pergande, Jeff Ehlert, Pam Boldt, Vanessa Keith, Debbie Acker, Jim Olive, Matt McMahan, Sharron Townsend.

Thank you to all those who volunteered at Thursday Night Meals in January: Nancy Ricker, Bill Handley, Rich Copley, Ann Farrer, Katie & Barry Whaley, Kathy Riley, Carolyn Sayre, John Waldrop, Helen Richardson, Laura Zolman, Jeff, Kristy & Zach Ehlert, Bonnie Eads, John Evans, Susan Mossman, Transylvania University Pike Fraternity members.

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.

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

Thank you to Warren Waxham for securing the shelving in the Church Library.

Thank you to Warren Waxham, Jean Harper, Denise and Ray Reynolds, Vanessa Keith, and everyone else who helped move books and shelving to make way for our new screen in the Library.

Thank you to Bill Smith & Warren Waxham for working on many projects around the church, including getting the exterior lighting on the church building and parking lot updated, unclogging and fixing bathroom drains, etc.

Thank you to the ushers in January: Debbie Acker, Tracy Bruno, Alicia Hart, Ann Farrer, Sharron Townsend.

Thank you to our acolytes: Laurel Bullock, Lily Murphy, A.J. Rose Schwake.

Thank you to all those who helped put away Christmas decorations.

A huge thank you Clay, Shelli, & Bill Gregory, Warren Waxham, and Rich Copley for shoveling around church property and keeping us all safe from the ice.

Thank you to Nick & Emma for helping with the Youth Group Ski Trip.

Thank you to Michelle Jones and the children's Sunday school class for making 50 blessing bags for our neighborhood friends. Each bag contains a protein, fruit, cereal bar, water and other goodies.

MORE NEWS

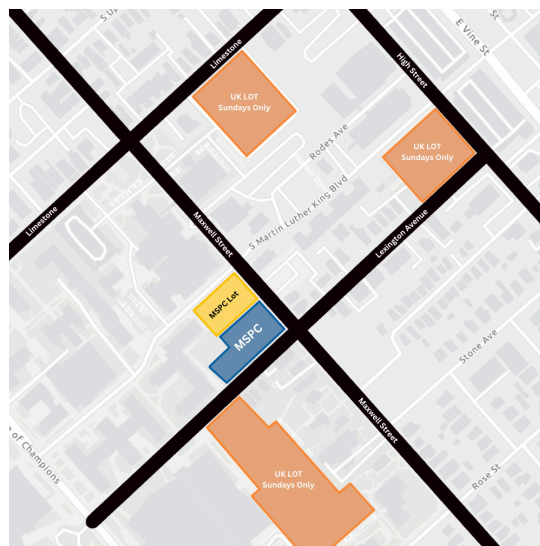
UKIRK Campus Ministry

Wednesday Nights at 7pm

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

Parking Update

As of **January 31, 2026**, MSPC will no longer have access to park in the lot across the street from our building on Maxwell Street. The UK lots behind Memorial Coliseum, at Lexington Avenue and High Street (High Street Lot), and at Warren Court & South Limestone are still open for Sunday morning parking.



MORE NEWS

Welcome, Hannah Allen

We're delighted to welcome Hannah Allen as our new Director of Church Growth and Communications, beginning January 1, 2026.

Hannah brings a rare combination of creative vision, community-building experience, and practical leadership to this role. As Director, she will oversee all aspects of Maxwell Street's print and digital communications, support our worship and ministry teams with clear, compelling storytelling, and help us strengthen the ways we welcome, connect with, and learn from new and returning participants in the life of the church.

Hannah is deeply rooted in the Lexington community. She is Director of Kenwick Porch Fest, a community music festival featuring musicians of all genres on intimate front porch "venues" throughout Kenwick neighborhood. She is also the founder of LexHelps, a website that connects people with meaningful volunteer opportunities that fit their skills and availability. Her work consistently reflects a passion for connection, accessibility, and helping communities flourish.

With a background in urban geography, historic preservation, and civic arts, Hannah approaches communication not just as design or promotion, but as relationship-building, storytelling, and creating spaces where people feel seen and invited to participate. Her experience with public institutions, nonprofits, and community organizations will serve Maxwell Street well as we continue to share our mission beyond our walls.

We are grateful for the gifts Hannah brings and excited for the ways she will help us grow faithfully, creatively, and together.

A Mission for Blevins House

It has been used as a home for a family, a sorority, an educational space, a winter shelter for the homeless, a space for mission groups, and more. With fewer churches engaging in mission trips and the community winter shelter program folding during Covid, the second floor of the Blevins House has been underutilized in the past few years. It's time to discern what God is calling us to do next with this space. Join Matt for a conversation following worship on March 8th in the

Fellowship Hall to discuss what God might be calling us to do with the second floor of the Blevins House.

Protecting Children from Gun Violence- Action Circles

From PCUSA- Five Wednesdays on Zoom, for one hour. Gather up a group from Maxwell Street and/or our community and join us to learn why gun violence is the #1 cause of death for American children. Winter Dates: Feb. 4 – March 4, 2026 12 PM ET

This ecumenical study equips Christian congregations to learn how and why gun violence impacts children, and to take action to prevent it. Registration Required.



From the Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — In the face of national and international turmoil, the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins offered encouragement Wednesday, January 23rd to those who may be feeling weary about the state of humanity. Hawkins, advocacy director for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), spoke during a midweek chapel service for staff members of the Unified Agency of the PC(USA). The online service honored the life and witness of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and paid tribute to other notable figures, including Renee Nicole Good, a mother fatally wounded by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer recently in Minnesota. Using scripture from Matthew and Micah, Hawkins stressed the importance of nonviolence and noted various crises in the world, from suffering in Myanmar, Gaza, Haiti and beyond to economic struggles and unjust immigration enforcement closer to home. "Everything is out of sorts, with many of us asking, how do we respond in the face of overwhelming odds when the power and violence of the federal government is acting so brutally, without regard for human rights and dignity, and as important, how do we keep our spirits resonating with positive energy? How do we muster the faith to remain in the struggle?" Hawkins asked. Read the full article at this QRCode.





MSPC

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