



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

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

In celebration of Black History Month, this week's cover art is by Jesus Mafa, a response to the New Testament readings by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Their interpretations were transcribed to paintings, including this one, "Jesus is Tempted", 1973.

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 411 - *God Is Here Today (sing twice)*

**God is here today;
as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.**

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - *Prelude in A Minor*, Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship God, We come, bringing our stories, our lives, and our whole selves.

All are welcome

We come with our faith and our doubts, With our hope and our fears.

All are welcome

We come as we are, invited by God who will never turn us away.

All are welcome

Let us worship God together.

+ HYMN 509 - *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

+ CONFESSION & PARDON

God of Mercy we confess that we have sinned against You in our thinking, in our speaking, in our action and inaction word, and deed. We have not loved ourselves, our neighbours or You with our whole heart and mind and strength. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, and redirect what we shall be, so that we may live fully in Your will and walk humbly in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM - Ain'-A That Good News, William Dawson, Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Romans 5.12-19 NT pg 156 (NRSVUE)

PSALM 32 - "How Blest Are Those"

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 4.1-11 NT pg 3

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - "Tested" Rev. Matt Falco

STATEMENT OF FAITH - From *The Barmen Declaration* (1934- Germany) Statement 2

"Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption."
(I Cor. 1.30)

- As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

- We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords—areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

+ HYMN 783 - When We Are Tested

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Debts & Debtors*)

OFFERING

- OFFERTORY - *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*, Stebbins
- 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 41 - *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 702, *Christ Be Beside Me*

1 Christ be beside me;
Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me,
King of my heart.
Christ be within me;
Christ be below me;
Christ be above me,
never to part.

2 Christ on my right hand,
Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me,
shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping,
Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising,
Light of my life.

POSTLUDE - *Toccata in D Minor*, Johann Jacob Froberger (1616-1667)

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by Becky Kemper in remembrance of her son, Ross.
Join us in the Punch Parlor after worship at the rear of sanctuary for conversation and community.
Punch this week is provided by the generosity of Becky Kemper.*

JOYS & CONCERNS

Kenneth Frost, Joan Colborn, Cindy and Allen Gayheart, Kenny Leatherman, Carolyn Hale, Martin Hendrix's mother; Kenny Way, Kaye Morgan's son-in-law; Joyce Crofts; Anne Chesnut's husband; Nancie Field.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Matt Falco, Nathan Schwake, Ted Gentry, and the Chancel Choir

ACOLYTE: AJ Schwake

USHERS: Katie Whaley, Tony Sidor, Dan Farrer, Zane Kercsmar

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

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for February 22, 2026

First reading: Genesis 2.25-17, 3:1-7

Second reading: Romans 5.12-19

Psalm 32

Gospel: Matthew 4.1-11

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.



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

- A Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church App is available from the Apple and Google App Stores. You can scan the QR code to the right 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 22

9:15am - Confirmation
9:30am - Adult Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
10:45am - Children's Sunday School
11:45am - Youth Group
11:45am - Children's Choir
6:00 pm - Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner

Tuesday, February 24

12:30pm - Centering Prayer

Wednesday, February 25

10:30am - Kerygma Class
6:30pm - Chancel Choir
7:00pm - UKIRK Campus Group

Thursday, February 26

5:30pm - Thursday Night Meal

Saturday, February 28

12:00pm - Stitchmates
1:30-3:30pm - Chili & The Cats

Sunday, March 1

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

KERYGMA CLASS

Wednesdays, 10:30am in Library

This class explores From Judgment to Hope by Walter Brueggemann. Together we'll study the prophets as imaginative voices who envisioned alternative futures grounded in justice and hope. Contact Matt for more info.

N.A.D.Y.A.

Sunday, March 22, 6-7:30pm

N.A.D.Y.A. will meet from 6-7:30pm at Jason & Andrea's home to discuss, "North Woods". Contact Jason at jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com if you have questions.

STITCHMATES

2nd and 4th Saturdays at noon

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

GENEXT

Sunday, March 1 after worship

GeNext is a program designed to give 4th & 5th graders a place to connect with one another. Contact Michelle Jones for more info. (michelle.jones@maxpres.org)

YOUTH

THAT'S AMORE! - YOUTH SPAGHETTI

DINNER FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 22

The Maxwell Street Youth Group wants to show their love for Maxwell by hosting an Italian dinner. Proceeds support the Youth Summer Mission Trips. There will also be a silent auction. Please see a member of the youth group for tickets or use this QR Code.



The Youth Group is accepting donation of items or themed giftbaskets for their Silent Auction on February 22nd alongside the Spaghetti Dinner. Please contact Rob (rob@maxpres.org) if you have a donation.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2026 APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT

July 5-11

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. A \$100 deposit is due as soon as possible, with the remaining balance due June 1. Scholarships are available, contact Rob for details. Sign up with the QR Code.



MISSION

The mission committee is requesting gloves for the RAC for Feb. As the colder months are upon us we are seeing a rise in the need for both mens and womens gloves.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. This Easter Special Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

A MISSION FOR BLEVINS HOUSE

Sunday, March 8, following worship

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 next!

FELLOWSHIP

CHILI & THE CATS

Saturday, February 28th, 1:30-3:30pm

MSPC will be hosting a chili lunch and watching a UK basketball game with our community neighbors. This year's event will be on Saturday, February 28th with the UK Wildcats taking on Vanderbilt. The game starts at 2:00pm and will be shown on the big screen in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up to bring food or volunteer, scan this QR or chat with Pam Boldt (pam@maxpres.org).

