



SUNDAY, JULY 26

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

This week's bulletin art is a painting by American artist, Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), "Sky above Clouds IV", 1965. Housed at The Art Institute of Chicago, this painting spans 8 feet tall by 24 feet wide. It is one painting from a series of cloudscares produced towards the end of her life as she was facing macular degeneration.

INTROIT 411 - "God Is Here Today" (first time in English, second time in Spanish)

**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.**

**Dios está aquí,
tan cierto como el aire que respiro,
tan cierto como la mañana se levanta,
tan cierto como que le canto y me puede oír.**

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - *Be Thou My Vision*, arr. Audrey Assad, Ryan and Mary Beth McGuffey, violin

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to God!
Remember the wonderful things God has done!
Glory in God's holy name!
Sing of God's acts and promises!
We will seek God's presence;
let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

+ **HYMN 772** - *Live In To Hope*

+ CONFESSION & PARDON

God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by your grace.

- **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

- **RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS:** 581- Gloria Patri

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

Lord God, refresh us with living water, illuminate our path with your light, speak to us with the still small voice, and calm the storms of our lives with your peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 105.1-5 OT pg 556 (NSRVUE)

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered...

ANTHEM - *The Lord's Prayer*, A. H. Malotte, Cindi Kubar, soprano

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 13.31-33, 44.52 NT pg 14

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

SERMON - "The Kingdom is Bigger Than it Looks", Rev. Greg Kubar

+ STATEMENT OF FAITH - *From a portion of the PCUSA's "Brief Statement of Faith"*

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

+ HYMN 714 - *God of the Fertile Fields*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

• OFFERTORY - *How Firm a Foundation*, for text see hymnal No. 463

+ • 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 546 - *Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessings*

+ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+ BENEDICTION RESPONSE - *Hymn 540, Farewell, Good Friends!*

Farewell, good friends! Farewell, good friends! Shalom, Shalom!

Till we meet again, till we meet again, shalom, shalom.

POSTLUDE - *Hymn Medley*, arr. B. C. Dockery, Ryan and Mary Beth McGuffey, violin

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by Peter & Vicky Perry in celebration of their anniversary.
Join us in the Punch Parlor after worship in the West Parlor for conversation and community.*

JOYS & CONCERNS

Nancy Field, Greg Harper, Kenny Leatherman, Carolyn Hale, Harry Johnson's brother, Paul; Kay Morgan's son-in-law, Kenny Way; Susan Carey's husband, Joey; Noah Hall's father, Wayne.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Greg Kubar, Sarah Kerckmar, Dr. Ted Gentry

USHERS: Katie Whaley (Head Usher), Sharron Townsend, Tony Sidor

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

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for July 26, 2026

First Reading and Psalm: Genesis 29.15-28 and Psalm 105.1-11, 45b or Psalm 128

Alternate First Reading and Psalm: 1 Kings 3.5-12 and Psalm 119.129-136

Second Reading: Romans 8.26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

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.

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

BOLD TEXT indicates that you are invited to join the congregation in unison.

- 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 right to access the app. You can also sign in via the app.
- 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 in the basement restrooms or nursery.

Children Ministry (things are a little different during the Summer - regular Sunday School will resume in August)

Infant to 1st grade 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.

Children are welcome in worship during the summer. We will have activities available in the Narthex.



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

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, July 26

9:30am - Adult Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Thursday, July 30

5:30pm - Thursday Night Meal

Sunday, August 2

9:30am - Adult Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

MISSION

Clothing Drive Donation Request

Ashlee has requested donations of towels and blankets to restock our stash in the Clothing Bank. Please bring any towels or blankets for donation to the Church Office during open hours.

July Random Act of Kindness

Where does the time fly? The kids are going back to school next month. We are gathering school supplies and backpacks. Our community partners have requested: backpacks, paper towels, boxes of kleenex, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, personal pencil sharpeners, black fine tip dry erase markers, black large dry erase markers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap bars, menstrual products, children's underwear. Please drop off any donations at the Church Office during Open Office hours.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Sunday School Start Date

Sunday, August 23rd

Save the date for the return of Sunday School! Our Children's Programming starts back on August 23rd directly after the Children's Message in worship. All children Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome. For more information please contact Ms. Michelle (michelle.jones@maxpres.org)

GeNext

GeNext will also return on August 23rd. We will meet after worship in the Fellowship Hall. GeNext is a space for 4th and 5th graders to get to know each other and prepare for Youth Group.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 9th

Our congregation is full of educators and students. We want to start the school year off with a special blessing as kids and teachers prepare to return to school. Children, teachers, and school staff are encouraged to bring their bags or backpacks to the worship service. Please join us as we prepare to start a great school year!

YOUTH GROUP

Back to School Kick(Ball) Off

Sunday, August 16th

Join us on August 16th as we kick(ball) off the new youth group year with the annual kickball game of youth versus parents! We will be returning to the Hart's house this year and remember to bring a swimsuit. Boys are asked to bring sides and girls are asked to bring desserts and drinks. Please RSVP with Rob or via this QR code!



Youth Group is Back!

Sunday, August 23rd

Join us for the first Youth Group meeting of the school year. Contact Rob to learn more about Youth Group at MSPC (rob@maxpres.org)

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION ALERT

The SAVE America Act has returned to the forefront in Congress, with House leadership announcing plans to advance the legislation again, creating a renewed urgency for people of faith to speak out in defense of free and equal access to the ballot. The SAVE America Act would require individuals registering to vote in federal elections to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship—such as a birth certificate or passport—in person. These requirements would create significant barriers for millions of eligible American citizens, as many eligible voters do not have immediate access to the documents this legislation would require, and could disproportionately affect communities that already face obstacles to civic participation, including people of color, the LGBTQIA+ individuals undergoing name changes, low-income households, rural residents, military families, students, older adults, naturalized citizens, and women whose legal names have changed through marriage or divorce. The SAVE America Act would also disrupt the voter registration methods that most Americans currently rely on, including online registration, mail registration, and registration through state motor vehicle agencies. As Presbyterians, we are called to advocate for justice, protect the dignity of every person, and stand with those whose voices are at risk of being excluded. Take action today. Contact your members of Congress through this QRC to urge them to oppose the SAVE America Act.



FLOWERS FOR FOOD

Sunday, August 2, after worship

We hope you will come down to fellowship hall for about 30 minutes after worship to create a beautiful flower bouquet to take home. Kari Boldt will provide the flowers from her gardens and can help with arranging them. She will have vases available or you can bring one of your own. The cost is \$20 and all money raised will go to the Thursday Night Meal budget. Let's feed the hungry as we share the beauty of nature.