



# SUNDAY, MARCH 1

MAXWELL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
180 E. Maxwell St. Lexington, KY  
[www.maxpres.org](http://www.maxpres.org)

In celebration of Women's History Month, this week's bulletin art is a linocut print by modernist artist, Sybil Andrews titled "Swans", 1939.

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** - *The Lord Is My Strength and My Song*, Hal Hopson, Children's Choir, Lydia Ruffin, director, Robin Morrill, piano

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today, aware of our weariness. We are wanderers and seekers, longing for a place where we are home.

**We gather, moved by the stories of Ruth and Naomi and finding our own stories in their journeys of loss, diaspora and redemption.**

We gather before the God of creation, whose love defies all human borders, limitations and biases.

**We gather to worship in the promise of that redemption.**

Let us lift our voices to the one who lifts us from the margins, emboldening us to be ambassadors of hope in this world; to the one who prepares a home and place for us at the table.

+ **HYMN 301** - *Let Us Build a House*

## + CONFESSION & PARDON

**Lord, notwithstanding your presence of hope in our lives, we acknowledge that we often ignore the cries of voices around us. We close our hearts and eyes to the pain of others. We feel exhausted and we disregard those who don't feel welcomed in our midst. Forgive us. Help us to be like Ruth, open to bonds beyond blood; to be like Naomi, determined and wise; to be like Boaz, compassionate and just. May we lean into our call to embrace the most vulnerable among us. We pray this in the name of the one whose life embodied this commitment, Jesus of Nazareth. Hear us now in our silent prayer.**

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

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## OFFERING

- OFFERTORY - *Hallelujah, Amen!*, G. F. Handel, Chancel Choir, Lydia Ruffin, director
  - 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

## 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 be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** - Psalm 146 OT pg 581 (NRSVUE)

+ **HYMN 806** - *I'll Praise My Maker (Psalm 146)*

**SCRIPTURE READING** - Ruth 1.1-18 OT pg 241

**SERMON** - Rev. Kristy Ehlert

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** - From *The Belhar Confession*

**We believe that...unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.**

+ **HYMN 501** - *Feed Us Lord*

## INVITATION

- PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give out thanks and praise.**

- 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

**Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+ **HYMN 516** - *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

## 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** - *How Firm a Foundation*, Anna Laura Page, Dr. Kate Covington, organ

*Join us in the Punch Parlor after worship at the rear of sanctuary for conversation and community.  
Punch this week is provided by Hannah Allen.*

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## JOYS & CONCERNS

Kenneth Frost, Joan Colborn, Kenny Leatherman, Carolyn Hale, Martin Hendrix's mother; Kenny Way, Kaye Morgan's son-in-law; Joyce Crofts; Anne Chesnut's husband; Nancie Field; We extend our condolences to the family of Janet Marple. We also extend our condolences to Josh England and his family on the death of his grandmother.

## PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Kristy Ehlert, Georgia Bacquet, Michelle Jones, Lauren Falco, Janet Lumpp, Rev. Matt Falco, Dr. Kate Covington, Lydia Ruffin, Chancel Choir

ACOLYTE: Laurel Bullock

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

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

## Revised Common Lectionary Readings for March 1, 2026

First reading: Genesis 12.1-4a

Second reading: Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

Psalm 121

Gospel: John 3.1-17 or Matthew 17.1-9

## 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. 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](http://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 in the basement restrooms or nursery.



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

## 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](http://www.maxpres.org) for details about our ministries for all ages and interests. We also have an active Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/maxpres](http://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](http://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, March 1**

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  
11:45am - GeNext

### **Tuesday, March 3**

12:30pm - Centering Prayer  
7:00pm - Session

### **Wednesday, March 4**

10:30am - Kerygma Class  
5:30pm - Budget & Stewardship  
6:30pm - Chancel Choir  
7:00pm - UKIRK Campus Group

### **Thursday, March 5**

5:30pm - Thursday Night Meal

### **Friday, March 6**

6:30pm - Words and Wine

### **Sunday, March 8**

9:15am - Confirmation  
9:30am - Adult Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
10:45am - Children's Sunday School  
11:45am - A Mission for Blevin's House  
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 info.

### **WORDS AND WINE**

#### **Friday, March 6, 6:30pm**

The Words and Wine Book Group will meet Friday, March 6th at 6:30pm for fellowship and to discuss Fredrik Backman's book, "My Friends." Contact Lauren Falco with any questions [laurenefalco@yahoo.com](mailto:laurenefalco@yahoo.com).

### **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 ([jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com)) with questions.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### **GENEXT**

#### **Sunday, March 1 after worship**

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

## YOUTH

### **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 QRC.



## MISSION

### **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS**

Let's assist our neighbors in maintaining clean environments by providing cleaning supplies, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner, and floor cleaner. Additionally, we are collecting toilet paper and cleaning sponges. You are welcome to bring it to the office or you can drop it off before church on Sunday.

### **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 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

### **PUNCH & FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED**

Sponsors are still needed for sanctuary flower dedication. You can sign up in the Punch Parlor or contact Kate ([kate@maxpres.org](mailto:kate@maxpres.org)). Flowers are \$50. We are also in need of Punch Hosts. Please sign up in the Punch Parlor.