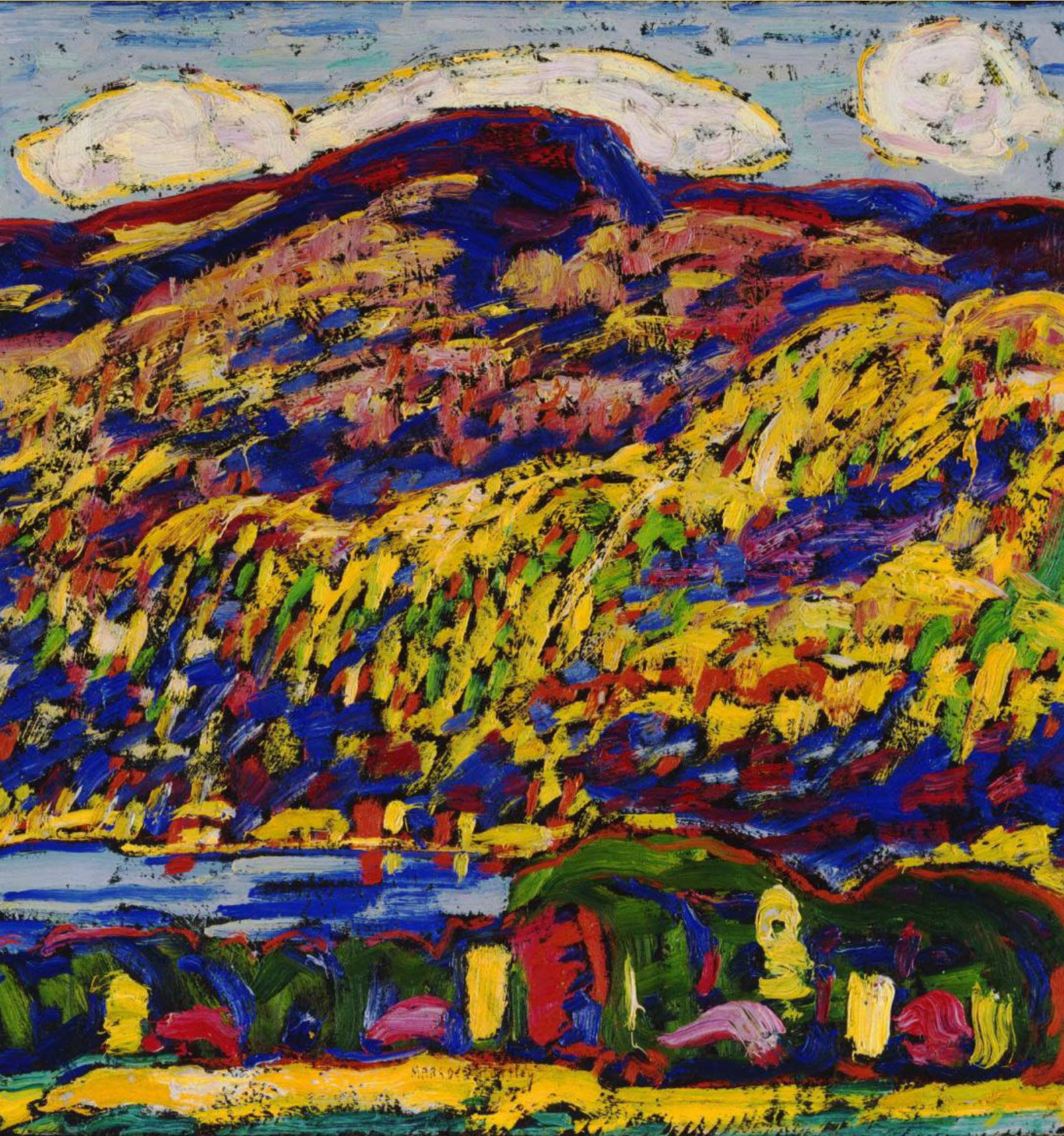


SEPTEMBER 2026

MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church



SESSION COMMITTEES

Mission - Dan Farrer

Social Justice - Wes Bullock

Budget and Stewardship - Nancy Goulson, Vanessa Keith, Peter Perry

Worship - Julia Linscott, Elizabeth Varney, Katie Whaley

Christian Formation - Michelle Gardner, Julia Linscott, Elizabeth Varney

Personnel - Sarah Kercsmar, Ray Reynolds

Campus Ministry - Sarah Kercsmar, Vaessa Keith, Alicia Hart

Endowment - Tracy Bruno, Michelle Gardner

Welcome - Katie Whaley, Troy Cooper

Trustees - Zach Murphy, Dan Farrer, Jonah Falco

MSPC STAFF

Senior Pastor - Rev. Matt Falco

Business Manager - Kate Copley

Communication Director - Hannah Allen

Social Worker - Ashlee Vogelsang

Music Ministry Director - Ted Gentry

Children's Ministry Director - Michelle Jones

Youth Ministry Director - Rob Wethington

Campus Ministry Director - Bailey Leibhart

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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Cover Image

The Cover Image is a lithograph of a painting by American artist, Marsden Hartley (1877-1943), "Mountain Lake- Autumn", 1910.

Reminder

Deadline for the October 2026 MIM is Monday, September 21, 2026.

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

WORSHIP NEWS

September Worship

SEPTEMBER 6

Psalm 119.33-40 & Matthew 18.15-20

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sermon: "Worth the Effort"

SEPTEMBER 13 - Rally Sunday

Romans 14.1-12 & Matthew 18.21-35

Sermon: "Released"

SEPTEMBER 20

Psalm 78.1-4 & Exodus 17.1-7

Sermon: "Filing Our Complaints"

SEPTEMBER 27

Philippians 2.1-13 & Matthew 21.23-32

Sermon: "Ahead of You"

UKIRK

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Welcome back College students! We will have weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7PM. UKirk provides professional support, empowerment, and community for those engaged in campus ministry. UKirk is available to all college students or students pursuing a higher degree. UKirk often participates in book discussions, relaxing crafts, and shares a meal as a community. For more information, please contact Bailey (bailey@maxpres.org).



New Campus Ministry Director

Please welcome, Bailey Liebhart (they/them) as Maxwell Street's new Campus Ministry Director! Bailey earned an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2025 and currently serves as a behavioral health chaplain at Eastern State Hospital. They are preparing for ordination in the PC(USA). Outside of work, Bailey enjoys hiking, spending time in the local LGBTQ+ community, and walking their dogs, Hazel and Rufous.

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 13th

Maxwell Street's fall programming will be up and running by September 13. Much of it began in August, including choir, children's programming, and youth programming. We know it can take a few weeks to settle into the fall schedule, so we hope you'll make worship and fellowship at Maxwell Street part of your weekly routine.

We'll have some fun things planned for Rally Sunday on September 13, including a potluck after worship. Be sure to check out the September MIM for more information. In the meantime, look for program start dates throughout this issue of MIM and join us this fall!

Trunk or Treat

October 17th, 6-8pm

Our MSPC Deacons are hosting a "Trunk or Treat" to celebrate Halloween! We would love for you to join us by decoating the trunk of your car and/or helping with other aspects of this fun event. Dress up and bring the whole family for a fun-filled night of trunk-or-treating! There will also be a meal in the Fellowship Hall graciously provided by the Deacons.

All Church Retreat

Save The Date

November 6-8, at Burnamwood

Join us for a weekend of connection and spiritual renewal! Our annual retreat offers games, hiking, stargazing, food, and reflection at beautiful Camp Burnamwood. Something for everyone! Come for just the day, take a hike, play a game of cards, talk with friends, bring a book and lay in a hammock, or stay the night in one of Burnamwood's many accommodations. More details to come!

FELLOWSHIP & STUDY

Kerygma

Beginning September 2nd

Wednesdays at 10:30am

Fall 2026 Class Topic: Reformed and Always Reforming

If I asked you what has changed in the last 30 years, what comes to mind first? Technology and connectivity? Societal norms and demographics? Everyday life? Church? Everything?!

The last thirty years have been a time of rapid change in our world, and those changes have had significant impacts on the church. This isn't the first time the church has lived through a season of deep transformation. The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century radically changed Christian faith, worship, and practice.

This fall, we will learn what led up to the Protestant Reformation, how the church changed during this period, and how God might be calling us to reform today. Reformation is not a one-time occurrence. The living church is reformed and always reforming!

This class will include Bible study, history, and personal reflection. Join Matt on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Library or on Zoom. (Contact Matt for Zoom Link).

Words & Wine

Friday, September 4, at 6:30pm

Words & Wine Book Group will meet Friday, September 4th to discuss the book *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Questions? Contact Lauren Falco (laurenfalco@yahoo.com).

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

Sunday, September 20th, at 6:00pm

Hosted by Jason & Andrea Williams, N.A.D.Y.A. Book Group meets once a month to discuss interesting topics through literature. The group alternates between fiction and non-fiction. This month they will be reading and discussing, *"Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland"* by Patrick Radden Keefe. For more information on NADYA and to join the discussion, please contact Jason (jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com).

Stitchmates

Saturday, September 12, 12:00pm

Saturday, September 26, 12:00pm

We meet twice a month on Saturday in the Church Library to work on our current fiber arts projects including knitting, crochet, quilting, and other hand sewing crafts. Bring the projects you are working on and enjoy this time of fellowship! Questions? Contact Elise (elisekalika56@gmail.com).

3rd Space Sunday

Sunday, September 20th, 9:30am

3rd Space Sunday (aka Donut Sunday) happens on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the MSPC Welcoming Committee. We hope you can join us for a morning of donuts, coffee, and fellowship!

Rev. Douglas's Sunday School Class

Sundays, 9:30am, Field Room

Starting September 13th

What do YOU REALLY believe?! A free-wheeling seminar discussion where the only wrong answer is a dishonest one. We will discuss major elements of the Christian faith. On the first, third and fifth week we will discuss: "Lord" God, "Holy" Bible, Why are we here? We will look at some creeds, old and new, but most importantly, we will listen to each other. On the second and fourth weeks, we will focus on issues of faith that you suggest. The best part will be the last two weeks when we will share our personal creeds. If you are up to the challenge, join Rev. Douglas "The Hat" Ensminger at 9:30 Sunday mornings in the Field room starting Sept. 13. Each class session will stand on its own. If you cannot come all the time, come whenever you can!

FROM THE CONGREGATION

From A Choir Member

Ted encouraged members to send the “beauty” of being in the MSPC choir – just in case you receive more from choir members directly.

“The MPSC choir is a welcoming, ageless, most caring and sharing community. Regardless of voice, volume or occasional off-note singing.”

- Stan Brunn.

Montreat-Reconnection With a Purpose

Soul full, heart full, and cheeks hurting from laughing so hard! Spending this time at Montreat with such an incredible community was the ultimate reminder of how good it is to walk this path together. Between the endless laughter and shared meals, hiking, dancing, and our new friend-Bear, we found so much space to slow down, lean into worship, and quiet our minds to listen for God's voice. There is so much joy and peace in stepping out of the daily noise and reconnecting with purpose alongside people who feel like home. A big thank you to Michelle Jones for setting up the details!

We wanted to share a couple pictures (see right) of our wonderful weekend.



Maxwell Street PRIDE in Motion

Saturday, September 19, Coldstream Park

This year, Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church is sponsoring the annual PRIDE 5K Run/Walk in Lexington on September 19th. Frontrunners, a local LGBTQ+ organization that supports fitness in the queer community, hosts the PRIDE run every year, and last year a couple of congregation members ran the 5K Run/Walk. The PRIDE Run is one of the only opportunities in Lexington for Non-Binary/Gender nonconforming people to run in their own gender category. There are plenty of opportunities to participate with the Social Justice Committee on September 19th. You can register here to be a walker or runner for the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church Team at the QRC to the right. There is a \$35 fee to sign up for the race, and the proceeds support scholarships for the LGBTQ community in Lexington. If this is cost prohibitive for you, MSPC's Social Justice Committee will cover the fee. Please contact Kate (kate@maxpres.org) or Helen (richelenson@gmail.com) if you would like a scholarship. Additionally, there is an option to sign up as a race volunteer (free) to give walkers and runners directions.

We really need table volunteers on September 19th to help set up, giveaway wild-flower seeds, and take down the table after the race is over. The link to sign up and volunteer at MSPC's table is to the right.



Scan to register for the Pride Run



Scan to sign up to volunteer at MSPC's Table at the race.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

September Birthdays

Eli Cooper (September 1)
Andrew Spencer (September 2)
Lincoln Tremoulis (September 3)
A.J. Rose Schwake (September 4)
Alden Frye (September 15)
John Luke Palus (September 21)

Children's Calendar

September 20 - GeNext

September 27 - No Sunday School

Children's Choir

Begins Sunday, September 6th

Children's Choir rehearsals begin Sunday, September 6, 2026. Miss Robin is excited to start the school year off with the children. Look for emails from her regarding scheduling. If you did not receive an email from her and have a 3 year old – 5th grader that would like to join Children's Choir, please send her your information. (robinjanan@aol.com) Thank you, Miss Robin, for working with the children.



GeNext will meet again on Sunday, September 20th after worship. We will have lunch, play games and plan our year together GeNext is a group of vibrant 4th and 5th graders preparing to join Youth Group. For more information on GeNext, please contact Ms. Michelle (michelle.



Above: Sunday School started it's year on Sunday, August 23rd. We had 23 kids join us for Sunday School! Our first GeNext of the year also met, and had a great time!

Right: On August 9th, our congregation celebrated a Blessing of the Backpacks during Worship. Students of all ages including adults, as well as educators and school administrators were celebrated and blessed for a safe, happy, and healthy year ahead.



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Fall Calendar

September 27: No Youth Group

October 11: Crop Walk

November 6 - 8: MSPC Fall Retreat

Website Updates

Would you like to know more about Maxwell Street's Youth Group? Want to sign up to volunteer to take donations in the parking lot? Curious as to what events are coming up with the youth group? Check out the newly updated youth website at www.maxpres.org/youth

Kickball-Off

The youth group returned to the Hart Home on 8/16 to kick(ball)-off the new 2026-2027 youth year. The youth were large in numbers and won a close game, heading into the final inning down 1-4, coming back to win 5-4. Everyone enjoyed their time together and it was a fantastic start to the new year!



Youth Group Is Back

Following the Sermon on Sunday mornings, we invite all sixth-through-twelfth graders to join in the youth room to dive into how the message can be applied to everyday life. We do this over a meal (which is provided), games, and discussion together. For more information about Youth Group, please contact our Youth Director, Rob Wethington at rob@maxpres.org.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on August 3rd for its stated monthly meeting. The meeting opened with prayer by Katie Whaley. The meeting covered updates on matters related to the Personnel Committee, the Trustees, the Budget and Stewardship Committee, and other committee reports. The Session approved the transfer of Will Kendrick's membership. The Personnel Committee proposed and Session approved the hiring of Bailey Liebhart as the new campus minister.

The Trustees reported on extensive and costly repairs to HVAC, the wall behind the Pipe Organ, and the Blevins House, including a ceiling collapse and ongoing high utility

costs. Budget and Stewardship explained how they understand that the intent of the Major Maintenance Fund is to be used for large capital expenditures and not as a stop-gap for regular Building Maintenance budget overruns. They noted that the church remained in a solid financial position despite unexpected expenses. The session received the Committee Minutes, heard about upcoming events such as Trunk-or-Treat, and discussed the need for a structural integrity assessment of the Blevins House for safety and mission purposes. Members shared personal joys and concerns, including health issues, family updates, and a prayer request for a family facing eviction. The meeting closed with prayer.

Welcome New Member, Will Kendrick



We are so glad to welcome Mr. Will Kendrick to the Maxwell Street family. From Will- "I am a native of Prestonsburg, Floyd County, KY where I attended the public schools there, being brought up also in the First Presbyterian Church of Prestonsburg where my mother first took me when I was six (6) months old. I like to think I've been a Presbyterian ever since.

After finishing at Prestonsburg Community College I attended UK, majoring in English, also earning an MA in that field after my return from a two (2) year stint in the U.S. Army including service in Vietnam. I am a graduate of the University of Louisville law school. I practiced Law in Eastern Kentucky for 42 years before my retirement in 2018. My wife Leatha and I, who I met at an early orientation event for new Teaching Assistants my first day back at UK, have been married just over 53 years. We are the parents of three adult daughters and four grandchildren spread about in Charlottesville, VA, Durham, NC and Lawrence, KS (all good basketball schools).

I feel honored and grateful to be accepted into membership here at MSPC and hope to serve however I can."

Online Church Directory

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better. If you are not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, contact the Church Office.

1. Go to the App Store.
2. Search for "Instant Church Directory," and download.
3. Open the App and create an account. Enter your email as listed in the church directory. If you aren't sure - contact Kate@maxpres.org to make sure your email is listed.
4. Access your account through the Instant Church Directory app and contact other folks from Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church!

FINANCES

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church July 31, 2026 Income and Expense Statement

	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Annual Budget
INCOME					
Pledges	\$31,398.04	\$340,350.53	\$326,700.00	\$13,650.53	\$535,000.00
Congregational Giving	3,311.65	27,236.38	18,780.00	8,456.38	35,000.00
Loose Offering	461.00	3,816.00	2,840.00	976.00	5,000.00
Other Designated Gifts	1,470.00	2,885.00	2,331.00	554.00	4,000.00
Per Capita Donation	240.00	6,037.90	4,300.00	1,737.90	5,500.00
Grant Income	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Ky Campus Ministry Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00
Interest Income	426.07	2,920.88	1,750.00	1,170.88	3,000.00
PNC CD interest	227.59	1,674.24	2,333.31	(659.07)	4,000.00
Subtotal Interest Income	653.66	4,595.12	4,083.31	511.81	7,000.00
Rentals	2,269.12	18,109.90	14,583.31	3,526.59	25,000.00
Coupons for Missions	0.00	444.59	500.00	(55.41)	1,000.00
Spec Offering for Hunger	1,420.90	12,374.31	11,666.69	707.62	20,000.00
Spec Off for Assistance	5,060.87	5,995.51	0.00	5,995.51	2,500.00
Other Income	0.00	12.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
TOTAL INCOME	46,285.24	431,857.24	395,790.31	36,066.93	662,006.00
EXPENSES					
Mission & Benevolences	6,147.72	21,148.88	25,583.31	4,434.43	41,500.00
Payroll Expenses	45,427.11	258,801.31	267,594.07	8,792.76	440,968.00
Church Programs	2,173.23	13,551.75	16,316.23	2,764.48	22,750.00
Utilities & Maintenance	13,486.69	77,813.27	65,476.29	(12,336.98)	109,395.00
Operating Expenses	7,674.40	25,620.20	28,684.88	3,064.68	44,550.00
Worship And Fellowship	136.22	3,660.82	4,268.28	607.46	7,050.00
Presbytery Support/Per Capita	2,883.66	10,092.81	10,092.81	0.00	17,302.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	77,929.03	410,689.04	418,015.87	7,326.83	683,515.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$31,643.79)	\$21,168.20	(\$22,225.56)	\$43,393.76	(\$21,509.00)

New Wineskin Capital Campaign

Goal: \$735,000

To Date: \$523,262.74

Thank you so much to everyone who has submitted pledges and payments to the New Wineskins Capital Campaign. For the most part, we are on target; September's a great time to review and see if you've caught up on your second year pledge. If you have questions, please contact Kate in the church office (859-255-1074) or kate@maxpres.org.

MISSION

Thursday Night Meals

Volunteers Needed

Thursday Night Meal Program is a great way to give back to the community. Recently, we have welcomed between 35-70 guests through our doors. We provide an inviting, "like home" space for guests to enjoy nutritious meals and time to rest and have fellowship. Volunteers arrive between 5-5:30pm on Thursdays, and doors open at 5:30pm for our community friends. During the summer, Ashlee extended clothing closet hours to a second day and opened it up on the first Thursday evening (same time as the meal). We enjoyed the bounties of several of our congregants' gardens plus occasional surprises from Glean KY. I remember one guest enjoyed the stewed squash so much, he returned 5 times for just squash. Volunteers serve drinks, dessert, plate dinner in the kitchen & wash dishes. It's a great time to chat with your fellow congregants and with our neighborhood friends. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laura at volunteer@maxpres.org.



September Random Act of Kindness

MSPC Clothing Closet

Blankets and towels are in constant demand, and at this moment, they represent our greatest need. We kindly ask for your assistance in keeping the clothing room well-stocked. Please drop off any towels or blankets for donation at the Church Office anytime during open office hours.

Build A Bouquet

Kari and Pam Bodlt hosted a build your own bouquet fundraiser in August for folks to create lovely bouquets to take home or share with a friend. Their efforts raised \$373 for Maxwell Street's Hunger-related missions. Kari brought flowers from her own garden, and they were beautiful!



THANK YOU'S

Thank you to those who participated in August worship: Mason Hart, Jude Burnett, Katie Whaley, Kiersten Kerksmar.

Thank you to the acolytes: Blake Tremoulis, Lily Murphy.

Thank you to the choir and those who provided special music for the worship services: Lydia Rufin, Drew Palus, Susan Carey, Gabe Brown, Ryan McGuffey, Mary Beth McGuffey.

Thank you to those who sponsored flowers for the worship services: Kate & Rich Copley in celebration of their anniversary and Caroline & Alan's 3rd anniversary; Rowena & Harry Johnson, in celebration of Rowena's birthday; Tim & Julia Costich who celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.

Thank you to those who served punch following the worship services in August: Jude Burnett, Anne-Claire Linscott, Kennedy Feltner-Happy, Susan Liddle & Mark Summers, Shana Herron & Derrick, Garrett & Theo Meads, Zane Kerksmar, Hannah Allen.

Thank you to our greeters: Julia Costich; Denise Reynolds; Tom & Toni Carter; Katherine Barth.

Thank you to those who served as ushers: Tracy Bruno, Sarah Kerksmar, Zane Kerksmar, Lauren Falco, Jim Olive.

Thank you to Tom & Toni Carter for providing doughnuts for Third Space Fellowship Time in August.

Thank you to our GeNext volunteer, Doug Kalika. Thank you to Michelle Jones for creating such fun enriching experiences for GeNext.

Thank you to our Sunday School helpers: Mary Iwamoto, Carol Jordan, Kari Bodlt, Sara Baird.

Thank you to the Falcos & the Bullocks for providing lunches for Youth Group.

Thank you to our office support people: Ann Farrer, Ruth Rowles, Jean Harper, Cindi Kupar, Pam Boldt.

Thank you to those who made sandwiches for the Hope Mobile during the summer: Rich & Kate

Copley, Ray & Denise Reynolds, Mary & Warren Waxham, Sandy & Joe Kyle.

Thank you to those who volunteered with Thursday Night Meals: Leigh Buckley, Anne Chesnut, Bonnie Eads, Johnny Evans, Rich Copley, Bill Handley, Nancy Ricker, Susan Mossman, Katie & Barry Whaley, Kathy Riley, Angela Keith.

Thank you to Anne Chesnut and her husband, Donnie, for providing fresh cucumber salad for Thursday Night Meals.

Thank you to the Cooper family for donating fresh produce for TNM.

Thank you to Annie Quarrels & Jody Lambert for organizing clothes in the Clothes Closet.

Thank you to those who donated clothing and other items to the Clothes Closet.

Thank you to those who donated diapers for the Nest. So far, we have collected 1497 diapers as of 8/19/26.

Thank you so much to Kari Boldt and family for sponsoring the "make a bouquet" day in early August. Thank you to all who participated on this fun day!

Thank you to Julia, Anne-Claire Linscott, Kennedy Feltner-Happy & Ava Johnson for collecting for parking at the special tournament this month.

Thank you to the Hart family for hosting the annual youth kick-off celebration at their home.

Thank you to Carol Jordan and her sister, Tandy, for providing dinner the first night of the Women's Retreat.

Thank you to Michelle Jones for coordinating all the details for the Women's Retreat at Montreat. Maxwell Street sent 11 people to this annual gathering in Black Mountain. Look for details in early February if you're interested in attending the 2027 conference in August.



MSPC

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SEPTEMBER 2026

MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church

