



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

Today's bulletin art is a sculpture by artist Billie Bond titled, "Flower Power", 2024. From the artist: "Inspired by the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi, a philosophy of seeing beauty in imperfection, the work questions the tension between destruction and repair, fragility and resilience and thoughts about what it is to be human."

INTROIT 405 - "Praise God for This Holy Ground"

1 Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound. (Refrain)

3 Praise God who through Christ makes known
all are loved and called God's own. (Refrain)

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - *Sheep May Safely Graze*, J. S. Bach, Robin Morrill, piano, played in loving memory of Nancie Field.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song, sing praise among the faithful.

Let the people of God be glad;

let us rejoice, dance, and sing.

For the Lord rejoices in the people;

God gives glory to the humble of heart.

+ **HYMN 17** - *Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!*

+ CONFESSION & PARDON

God of mercy, you are quick to forgive and ever more ready to hear us than we are to pray. We continue to hold onto the hurts and transgressions of others even though we regularly pray "forgive us as we forgive one another." For those times we have offended you and our neighbors, give us courage to admit our failures and seek mercy. Help us to trust in your reconciling power and do the difficult work of rebuilding relationships that remain torn apart. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

- 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

Source of Wisdom and Understanding, your word is our path and our guide. Deepen our understanding and open our minds and hearts to your way that we might grow in wisdom, righteousness and faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 119.33-40 OT pg 567 (NRSVUE)

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain; be gracious to me according to your word. Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us
ALL: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

OFFERING

- INVITATION
- OFFERTORY - *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*, arr. Larson, Chancel Choir, Susan Carey, piano

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 18.15-20 NT pg 19 (NRSVUE)

If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

SERMON - "Worth The Effort" - Rev. Matt Falco

+ STATEMENT OF FAITH - From The Confession of 1967 - The Inclusive Version

9.20 God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all.

+ HYMN 501 - *Feed Us Lord*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 our thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS & DEBTORS)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world — because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

+ **HYMN 475** - *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

+ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+ **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** - Hymn 372, *O For A World* (verses 1 and 5)

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

POSTLUDE - *Come, Thou Fount*, arr. Bish

Please join us in the Punch Parlor after worship in the West Parlor for conversation and community.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pat Huffman, Greg Harper, Carolyn Sayre; Susan Carey's husband, Joey; Kenny Way, Kay Morgan's son-in-law; Harry Johnson's brother and sister; Noah Hall's father, Wayne

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Matt Falco, Karen Williams, Janet Lumpp, Dr. Ted Gentry, and the Chancel Choir

USHERS: Tracy Bruno, Sarah Kerckmar, Lauren Falco, Jim Olive

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

Today's flowers are given in thanks to God for the gift of fathers and friends. Happy Birthday Bill Morgan and Hydee Hawkins.

Punch is served in the West Parlor by Janet and Jim Lumpp in memory of Marcia and Richard Degener, Janet's parents, on her Mom's 90th birthday.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for September 6, 2026

First Reading and Psalm: Exodus 3.1-15 and Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26, 45b

Alternate First Reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 15.15-21 and Psalm 26.1-8

Second Reading: Romans 12.9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16.21-29

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, BULLETINS, and HYMNS 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 Ministry

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.

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, September 6

9:30am - Adult Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
10:45am - Children's Sunday School
11:30am - Youth Group
11:30am - Children's Choir
1:00pm - Field Visitation
2:00pm - Field Memorial Service

Monday, September 7

Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

7:00pm - Mission Committee

Wednesday, September 9

10:30pm - Kerygma
6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm - UKirk Campus Group

Thursday, September 10

6:30pm - Neighborhood Meal

Saturday, September 12

12:00pm - Stitchmates

Sunday, September 13 - Rally Sunday

9:30am - Adult Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
10:45am - Children's Sunday School
11:30am - Youth Group
11:30am - GeNext
11:30am - Rally Sunday Pot Luck

RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday, September 13, after worship

We'll have some fun things planned for Rally Sunday on September 13, including a potluck after worship. Bring your favorite dish to share and stick around after worship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall to visit with your MSPC friends. If bringing food, please label ingredients/allergens, as we have several people in the congregation with food allergies. Cards will be available in the Fellowship Hall to do so if you forget prior to arriving at church.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Kerygma

Wednesdays at 10:30am

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. 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).

Rev. Douglas's Sunday School Class

Sundays, 9:30am, Field Room

Starting September 13th

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. Each class session will stand on its own. If you cannot come all the time, come whenever you can!

GENEXT

GeNext will meet on Sunday, September 13th.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Website Updates

Would you like to know more about MSPC'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.

UKIRK

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Welcome back College students! UKirk provides professional support, empowerment, and community for those engaged in campus ministry. For more information, please contact Bailey (bailey@maxpres.org).

PRIDE IN MOTION

Saturday, September 19, Coldstream Park

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church is sponsoring the annual PRIDE 5K Run/Walk! You can register to be a walker or runner for the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church Team at the QRC below. Additionally, there is an option to sign up as a race volunteer (free) to give walkers and runners directions. You can sign up to table at our MSPC Pride sponsor table (also free and includes fellowship). We can't wait to cheer you on in September at the PRIDE Run!

MISSION

September Random Act of Kindness

Blankets and towels are in constant demand in our Clothing Closet. We kindly ask for your assistance in keeping the clothing room well-stocked. Please drop off any towels or blankets at the Church Office any-time during open office hours.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

TODAY, September 6, after worship

Children's Choir resumes today after worship upstairs in the choir room. Come and meet our new director, Jay McNamee. He will be working alongside Robin Morrill to lead this new choir season. Rehearsals are only about fifteen minutes, and we are looking for children from age three through fifth grade. We are always done in time for lunch!