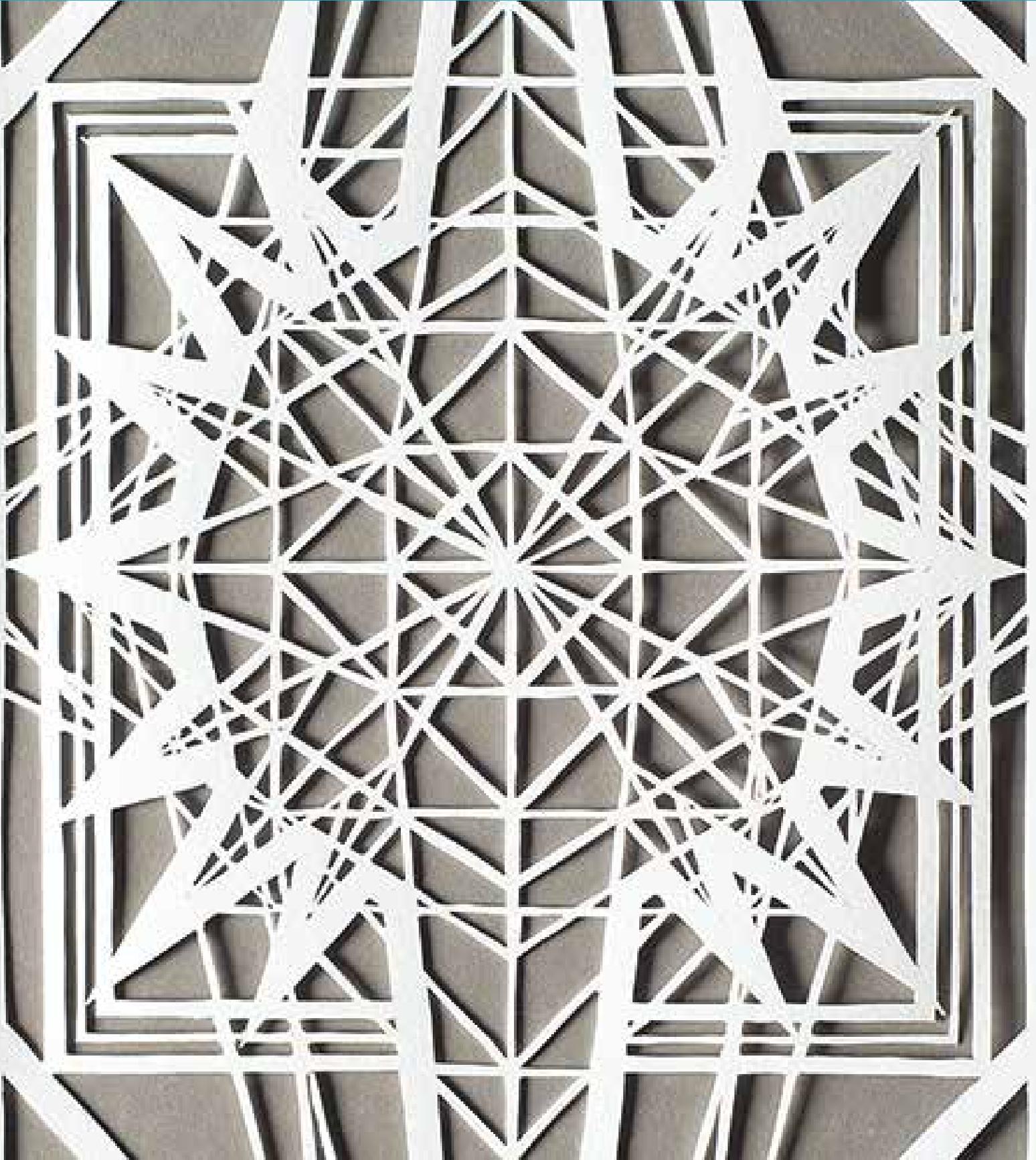


JANUARY 2021

# MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church



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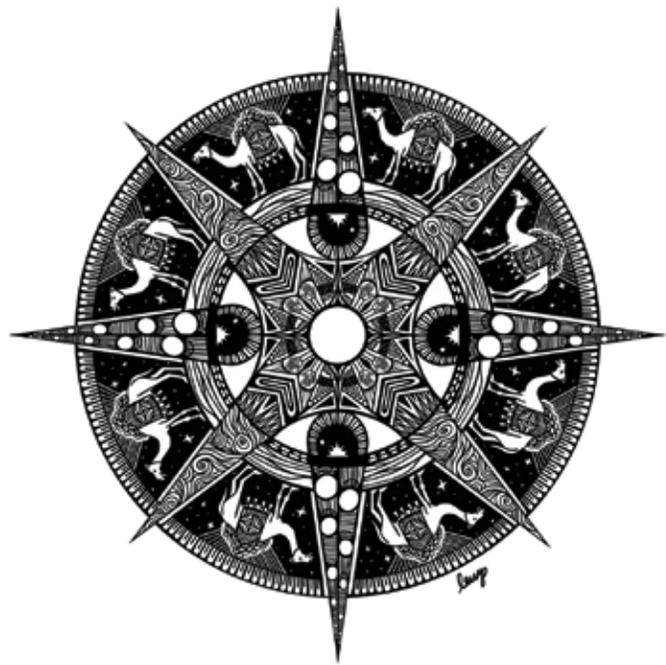
## REMINDER

**Deadline for the February 2021 MIM is  
-- Wednesday, January 13, 2021 --**

Please submit all items/articles to Marrienne Russell, our Communications Director. If you have articles ready before the deadline, send them in. You may submit a hard copy or send it via email to [marrienne@maxpres.org](mailto:marrienne@maxpres.org)

# CHURCH NEWS

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From Pastor Matt...

Nine months ago, as the Covid-19 virus was beginning to take root in our country, our Session made the decision to do what we could to limit creating additional risk for our congregation, staff, and community in the midst of the pandemic. However, this did not change our commitment to love God and one another as we love ourselves. Looking back on their decision and the work they have done together since, I admire their faith, imagination, and the energy that they have sustained throughout these challenging months.

As I think about the last year, I am thankful for the quick response of congregation members who helped make sure that our worship ministry would continue. I believe our online services were a model of what meaningful online worship can be like for other congregations and also served as a source of spiritual nourishment for people across the country who were unable to worship with their own faith communities. Our Sunday school program has added new children, we've had new members join the church, and because of your generosity, hundreds of people have been fed and received thousands of dollars in financial assistance. Our own congregation will likely end the calendar year with a slight surplus thanks to your continuing generosity, some gifts that have helped to meet the gaps created

by limited programming and not being to worship in person, and a Payroll Protection loan (that we have every reason to think will be forgiven in the coming weeks). All of these things together give me hope that we are continuing to do the ministry and to be the church God is calling us to be at Maxwell Street.

As we go into the new year, facing the challenges and opportunities that it will present, I'm grateful to be surrounded by such a courageous community of faith. While I personally am feeling optimistic and hopeful that a return to many of our usual activities will be possible in the coming year, I don't want us to overlook the suffering and challenges that we will endure together in the coming months as numbers of cases of Covid-19 and the loss of life due to the virus will continue to mount. Our local business community, schools, and public officials continue to face significant challenges. Our commitment at Maxwell Street remains to love God and to love Lexington, our beloved community, which does not need to face these difficulties alone. God is calling us to reach out to others, to share in our troubles and help each other find the path forward. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ who shares with us the way. Going into the new year, may you all be able to see it and may we follow it together where Christ leads.

Grace and Peace,  
Matt

## WORSHIP IN JANUARY

### January 3

Rachel Preaching, Communion

### January 10

Matt Preaching, Ordination and Installation

### January 17

Matt Preaching

### January 24

Matt Preaching

### January 31

Matt Preaching



**At Maxwell Street, we have a rotating slate of elected officers who lead our congregation. They are called ruling elders and deacons. They are ordained and installed into their positions during worship in January. The roles of deacons and ruling elders have long been an important part in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The parts they play in the life of the church may vary among congregations, but their significance cannot be overlooked. Leaders in the Office of the General Assembly are preparing to launch a year-long initiative that will focus on deacons and ruling elders.**

The initiative, “Year of Leader Formation: Investing in Ruling Elders and Deacons,” will incorporate a new training resource, a series of articles, a webinar series, and other tools to help participants grow in the role. “When we think of faith development, we tend to think of it focusing on children and young people, but all of us are continually developing, growing, and that’s the focus,” said Martha Miller with Ministry and Education Support in the Office of the General Assembly. “We are scheduling these opportunities as a focus for the year, but these resources will live beyond that.”

“We often talk about formation, but we don’t always talk about ecclesial formation and how important that is,” said Jiyhun Oh, director of Mid Council Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly. “Even though many church leaders get that, it is a lifelong journey and formation process.”

The Reverend Tim Cargal, Ministry Preparation and Support for Mid Council Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly, says he is seeing more

movement between denominations and even faith traditions in American society.

“One consequence of this movement is that people with excellent skills and gifts for ministry leadership in our PC(USA) congregations and worshiping communities may not also have significant knowledge about and experience with what makes our Reformed understanding of the Christian faith and community practice distinctive,” he said. “While we certainly want to be open to what we can learn about God’s mission in the world from others, we also need to be sure our leaders have training to enable them to bear witness to the world of the Presbyterian and Reformed understanding of God’s mission.”

Cargal says one of the primary contributions of Reformed and Presbyterian theology to the global church has been its insistence that ministry is not the exclusive domain of clergy and priests.

“The PC(USA) affirms that we are best able to join in God’s mission in the world through shared leadership among teaching elders, ruling elders, and deacons. These leaders do not do ministry for the rest of us — they lead all of us in this ministry. As a denomination, we know that this kind of leadership is complex and demanding. Effective training enables elders and deacons to lead with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom,” said the Reverend Dr. Barry Ensign-George, Coordinator for Theology and Worship in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. “The Year of Leadership Formation will provide just such training, both for the year, and beyond.”

Our leaders will be taking advantage of these new resources being provided by the PC(USA). Let’s keep our elders and deacons in our prayers as they begin their new year of ministry within our community.

Article Details from PCUSA News

Author: Rick Jones | Office of the General Assembly  
December 8, 2020

# FINANCIAL NEWS

## MSPC General Operating Fund: Income/Expense Report - November 30, 2020

Receipts	Nov-20	Year To Date	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Budget
Pledges	36,933	490,322	480,900	9,422	537,000
Congregational Giving	972	26,295	41,186	(14,891)	50,000
Loose	0	1,150	6,417	(5,267)	7,000
Other Designated	217	13,017	6,700	6,317	10,000
Offering for Per Capita	148	1,671	6,417	(4,746)	7,000
Campus Ministry Board	0	8,200	8,200	0	8,200
Interest	116	283	92	191	100
Rentals	1,000	14,924	16,592	(1,668)	18,100
Workcamp	0	0	20,000	(20,000)	20,000
Coupons-Missions	0	1,544	1,500	44	2,000
Spec Offerings-Missions	1,616	30,898	27,500	3,398	30,000
Other Income	75	75	0	75	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>41,077</b>	<b>588,378</b>	<b>615,503</b>	<b>(27,124)</b>	<b>689,400</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Mission & Benevolences	2,727	44,819	47,163	2,344	50,550
Payroll Expense	32,019	398,588	419,907	21,319	455,360
Church Programs	2,548	12,312	22,750	10,438	24,250
Utilities & Maintenance	4,600	68,753	78,576	9,823	84,400
Operating Expenses	1,332	46,984	54,592	7,608	56,100
Worship & Fellowship	(78)	2,303	4,950	2,647	5,400
Presbytery Per Capita	0	15,232	16,832	1,600	20,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>43,148</b>	<b>588,991</b>	<b>644,770</b>	<b>55,779</b>	<b>696,260</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(2,071)</b>	<b>(613)</b>	<b>(29,267)</b>	<b>28,655</b>	<b>(6,860)</b>

### Other Giving (Not included in General Operating Report above)

Special Offering Giving	Nov-20	2020 YTD	Endowment and Memorials - 2020	
Big Blue Pantry		846	Endowment Memorials	1,505
Burnamwood Support		1,000	Endowment Music Mem	1,567
CRCKY Food baskets		1,545	Regular Endowment gifts	
CROP	555	690	<b>Total Endowment Gifts</b>	<b>3,072</b>
Health Care Providers	212	212		
Home for the Holidays	2,098	2,098	<b>Other Memorials</b>	
Heifer tower		103	Emergency Assistance	972
Joy	100	100	Handbell	100
Long Johns	511	611	Youth Mission	5,745
Missionary		1,000	Toy Shop	1,745
OGHS		3,135	<b>Total other memorials</b>	<b>8,562</b>
Peace and Global Wit		220		
Pentecost		749		
Pres Disaster Assist		225		
Roof Repair		11,769		
Social Justice		100		
Souper bowl		421		
UKIRK Food		325		
Water		125		
Woodshop		1,000		
Other		143		
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL OFFERING</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>26,417</b>		

# SESSION

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## December Session Meeting

The Session met online on December 14th for it's final scheduled meeting for 2020.

The main work of the evening was to review and approve the budget proposed by the Stewardship Committee for 2021. You can find the approved budget below. While the Stewardship Committee is pleased with the results of the Stewardship Campaign, the reduction in giving due to the limited programming we are able to provide has reduced what we typically expect to receive in giving and program revenue. Unfortunately, as is often the case with nonprofits, this reduction will primarily have an impact on our staff.

First, it means that we will be unable to create a full-time mission coordinator position as we had hoped. However, Tish Platt will continue to be our Community Assistance Coordinator, working 16 hours per week to provide assistance to those in our community who need it most. Unfortunately, Session has also had to ask Pam Boldt, our Facilities Manager, to retire completely from her position. Although she had already reduced her hours to spend more time traveling and with family, we're grateful for her willingness to take on the title of Full-Time Grandma come March when she is anticipating the arrival of her first grandchild. Pam will also continue to work part-time for us

to help with our various meal ministries including Thursday Night Meals and Wednesday Fellowship dinners when they resume. The Session expressed it's deep gratitude for all that Pam has done for the congregation.

The Session also received news from the Personnel Committee that Michelle Gardner has announced her retirement effective February 28th. Michelle had made the Committee aware earlier this year that this was likely coming and has started the process to find her replacement. Again, the Session is very grateful to Michelle for her 20+ years of service to Maxwell Street. We wish her and Jim all the best in this new phase of their lives together.

During the remainder of the meeting, Session reviewed the various programs of the church. The Mission Committee reported that they had designated \$1,500 towards helping clients of the Community Response Coalition of KY with utility assistance. Nearly \$30,000 has been raised so far for the "Home for the Holidays" campaign. The Worship Committee expressed their gratitude for all those who have contributed to the online worship services, especially during the season of Advent.

The meeting ended with the Session expressing it's gratitude to Bonnie Eads, Hugh Huffman, Emily Koyagi, and Kathleen Pierce for their faithful service on Session. The Session will next meet on Saturday, January 9th by Zoom for their annual leaders retreat.

# STAFF UPDATES

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Dear Maxwell Street Friends and Family,

With mixed emotions, we announce the retirements of Michelle Gardner and Pam Boldt from their respective positions at Maxwell Street. To try to do justice to the task of summing up the contributions that they have made to our congregation individually, let alone collectively, in an announcement such as this is an impossible task.

Michelle's dedication to her ministry has been invaluable in our work together as a church. Through many stewardship seasons, budgeting sessions, and

the tenures of several pastors, Michelle earned the trust of the congregation and the staff's confidence by making all of our lives much easier. We will miss her concern for the details, the wisdom that she so generously shared, and her gentle sense of humor. Michelle's last day on staff will be February 28th, but we can still look forward to seeing her and Jim around church once we're back together again.

Pam's role, at least in my comparatively short time at Maxwell Street, has always been evolving. It did not take long for me to figure out that we could always count on her to take care of whatever it is that might

crop up and trust that she would do the task well. She has been a friend among her colleagues, and her experience and dedication have been invaluable to the pastors. I give thanks that although she is retiring from being our Property Manager effective January 31st, she will continue to help Maxwell Street provide its various meal ministries.

On behalf of the Session, congregation, and staff of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, we extend our deepest gratitude and wish you both all the best as you enter into this new phase of your lives. We look forward to celebrating both of them soon; details will be forthcoming.

Grace and Peace,  
Matt

## A letter from Michelle Gardner

The time has come. It is time for me to retire from my position as Finance Director for MSPC. I have been working here for over twenty years, first as a volunteer for some aspects of the finance office, and later as a paid employee. I have really enjoyed the work, and in the early years, its part-time nature allowed me to devote much time to the rearing of Will. I was extremely fortunate to find work that was meaningful and interesting, and that allowed flexibility. I have been more than fortunate to work with such a professional, kind staff. From Matt, as head of staff, and throughout the entire staff, all work toward the same goal and support each other in this work. The staff is family to me now, and I will greatly miss their comradery. I have worked closely with many committees, most notably the Budget and Stewardship Committee, and I have seen so many members devote much time and effort and dedication to the work of their committees. This church does not shy from hard work.

At this point, however, I find it is time to step away, ease up on a little of the stress, spend more time on volunteering and personal endeavors, and allow a new person with a fresh approach take over. I will stay on the job until the Personnel Committee hires my replacement, but our goal is by or before February 28, 2021.

I love this church. I love its mission and the congregation. I plan to help out in the children's library and continue to be involved with Michelle Jones in the children's ministry. So, I am not going

anywhere. When that long-awaited day comes that we are able to congregate together, you'll see Jim and me in our usual pew.

For now, thank you, Maxwell Street, for allowing me to serve in this position for such a long, rewarding time. My love and gratitude goes to each and every one of you.

- Michelle Gardner



## A letter from Pam Boldt

To My Maxwell Friends and Family

In the best interest of Maxwell Street, my family and myself, I am announcing my retirement from the part time office position at the church. I will be leaving my office responsibilities, but will continue my shared cooking position with Kate.

It is biblical that there is a time and a season for everything. God has a purpose for every stage of life. In a few months it will be time for me to begin my new adventure as a grandmother. I know that my years of sharing in the care of Maxwell's children has prepared me well to care for my granddaughter who will be born in March.

My last day in the office will be January 31, 2021. I will continue to treasure my MSPC friendships and look forward to the days when we can congregate and worship together again.

My new title will be "grandma" but I will always cherish the name that so many of you call me  
- Miss Pam.



# MISSION

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## A Home for the Holidays

*“God’s justice is one that brings good news to the oppressed, heals broken hearts, frees captives, proclaims abundance and freedom from debt, lifts up the lowly, and fills the hungry”.*

These are the words spoken by Rev. Rachel during her sermon on the 3rd Sunday in Advent on the subject of Sowing Joy and Justice. Justice and joy are the very characteristics that our MSPC community is bringing to our Lexington community through our ‘Home for the Holidays’ campaign. Matching funds are being pledged and donated up to 25,000 for those affected by Covid 19 who are experiencing housing insecurities.

At the time of this article, the CDC declaration to halt evictions will expire on December 31, 2020, allowing for eviction hearings to move forward. There are more and more families experiencing the trifecta of chaos and fear that is the Covid pandemic: decrease or loss of employment, fear of a deadly virus, and uncertainty about so many layers of the future. One of those layers is the stability

of their house and home. Of the families needing rental assistance, 46% are African American, and about 10% are Latinx or Hispanic.

With your generosity, **we have raised \$47,000** that is already being shared with single parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, families with reduced or no income, college students and others working in the service industry. These dollars are also being shared with our community partners which represent the diversity of Lexington. Together, we can share the MSPC goal of diversity, inclusion, and mission.

Our Home for the Holidays campaign will continue through January and February, 2021. Although our matching maximum is \$25,000 giving us the opportunity to raise \$50,000, there is no limit to giving. No amount is too small, or too BIG, and will be gladly received by check, giving on line, or by contacting Michelle Gardner. Your generosity is a blessing to our community, and “generosity helps create justice and joy”.

# STEWARDSHIP 2021



***“You are the fabric that makes up Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church”***

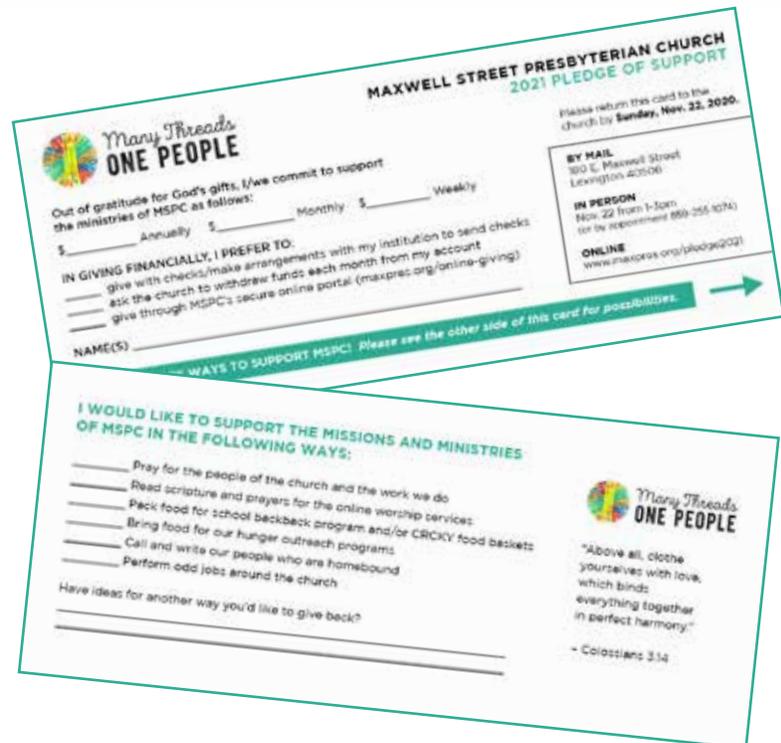
Maxwell Street is an amazing place. We are all going through a period of intense uncertainty with lots of stress. Yet our congregation comes together, again and again, to accomplish that which God calls us to do. Our missions and ministries are funded by your pledges, and we have gotten a good response so far to our call for pledges. THANK YOU to all who have let us know what you hope to give in 2021.

We are basing our 2021 budget on receiving pledges of \$526,800. To date, we have received pledges of \$454,300. We know many of you just haven't gotten your pledges in, yet. With your help, we can easily meet this goal.

If you have not returned your pledge, you may:

- Call the office to get a pledge card
- Go online to [maxpres.org](http://maxpres.org) and hover over the Online Giving tab at the top to view the 2021 pledge card.
- Email Michelle Gardner at [michelle@maxpres.org](mailto:michelle@maxpres.org)

A second part of our pledge campaign was to ask folks if they could commit to a gift of time. We got many responses to suggested ways that people could help. People have offered to pray, read scripture for worship, pack food for our new feeding programs, bring in food for these programs, call or write people who can't get out often, or perform odd jobs. We are giving this information to the pastors and program heads so they can call on people for help. Your gifts of time and talent are critical to the church. Thank you!



# CHILDREN'S NEWS

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Theo Meads Jan 1

Daniel Bruno Jan 6



## Advent Workshop 2020

We have had virtual Sunday School and Virtual VBS and now we have had our first (and hopefully last) Virtual Advent Workshop!

I want to thank Ralph Bollinger for creating the wooden Christmas Trees the families decorated and loved as you can see by the pictures.

I want to thank Michelle Gardner and Emma Scott for participating in our Zoom Sunday School classes and Advent Workshop this semester.

A special thanks to Rich and Chris Copley, Emma Scott, Robin Morrill and Allison Weitkamp for working together to create the Christmas Pageant for our December 20th worship service.

Finally, I want to thank the parents and grandparents who make Sunday School and our other activities a priority in our children's lives. Your commitment makes it all possible.

# YOUTH NEWS

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## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Seth Greer	Jan 5
Mason Hart	Jan 8
Evie Smith	Jan 9

## THANK YOU Pecans are still available!



Thank you also to those who ordered pecans to raise money for the youth program's future mission trips. You can still order pecans of the kind we have left-, pieces, chocolate, dark chocolate, glazed, and pecan clusters, for \$13 a bag. Contact Kate or Rachel to place an order.

## MSPC Youth Spring 2021



With any luck, we will be able to hold an in person (still following safety guidelines) end of semester gathering for Spring 2021. There may even be a chance for in-person service projects towards the end of the semester. Most likely, all of the youth programming will be online through Easter, with exceptions for really safe things like raking yards in family groups from this semester. Zoom youth group with games will be held every Sunday starting Jan. 10th with mission projects every Second Sunday and regular fellowship events.

## High School Girl's small group



Join Rachel for small group every other week on Sunday nights for reading and discussion that's relevant to your experience as high schoolers. An email invitation is coming your way!



## ADULTS NEEDED FOR CONFIRMATION

After a few more lessons in the Spring, our confirmation students will be ready and wanting to hear the faith experiences of MSPC members. If you're willing to meet with a youth 3 times in the Spring to discuss your own faith journey and let them process their questions, please let Rachel know. Your faith story is important, wise, and could offer much to a youth who is learning how unique and complex faith can be! Thank you!

# FELLOWSHIP & STUDY

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## Zoom Adult Sunday School

9:00AM - 10:00AM starting Jan. 10  
Zoom Meeting ID: 830 5570 8947  
Passcode: 986407

Study the scriptures with Matt and other friends Sunday on Zoom. This month, we begin the New Testament. Join us when you can and stay as long as you are able. All are welcome! For more information, contact Matt (matt@maxpres.org).

## Kerygma

Wednesdays at 10:30AM starting Jan. 13  
10:30AM Zoom Meeting ID: 867 8540 1543  
Zoom Meeting Passcode: 790803

Kerygma will resume on January 13th with a study of the Book of Psalms. The Psalms express the deep yearnings of faith: shouts of praise, cries of soul, songs of surrender. Praying the psalms is an ancient practice that can open the heart. They have served as guides to those who seek forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. Join us as we explore these words of scripture together. Submit your favorite Psalm to Matt (matt@maxpres.org) and join the conversation on Zoom.

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

meets on December 27 to finish *Christmas on Ice* and pick our next book. Meet on Zoom from 6:00-7:30pm on the 27th. Questions: contact Jason (jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com)



## Words & Wine

Words & Wine meets Friday, January 8 on Zoom to discuss “*The Exiles*” by Christina Baker Kline. Questions: contact Lauren (laurenefalco@yahoo.com).

## Needles & Angels



Needles & Angels will resume on the second Thursday in January (14th at 7pm). Anyone who would like to join the zoom group is welcome. It's a great way to relax and unwind while crocheting, sewing, needlepointing, knitting, etc. Questions: contact Donna (donnalynnmail@icloud.com) or Elise (elisekalika56@gmail.com).

## Presbyterian Women

New Year's resolutions are a good way to improve our lives. Perhaps your New Year's resolution can be to participate in Presbyterian Women. It will allow you to learn about others in our church and to study God's word through the bible and literature.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**January 7 at 10am**

Put that date on your calendar and plan to meet with us. We meet via Zoom at 10:00. The first half hour is a time to check in with each other to see what is new and to share family and church news. Our study book, *Listening for God (Volume 2)* this month is on the second chapter, *People Who Don't Know the Answers* by Anne Tyler. Carolyn Thomas will lead the discussion.

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who provided gifts for our Westminster Village families for Christmas. I know the gifts were very much appreciated. Thanks also to Caroline Thomas for coordinating the gifts and delivering them to Westminster Village.

Remember cleaning supplies and clothing are always needed by the residents. If you need help getting items to the Village – call Caroline Thomas (317-9372).

## We will meet in January and February

Usually PW does not meet in January or February because of the possibility for bad weather, but because we are meeting via Zoom we do not have to be concerned about the weather - thus will meet in January and February.

# UKIRK & YOUNG ADULTS

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## UKIRK

At the beginning of Chanukah, there was an incident of violence at the UK Jewish Student Center as the Chabad of the Bluegrass was celebrating a menorah candle lighting. Students of UKirk quickly wanted to respond with a statement that they wrote collaboratively, signed, and sent to leaders of Chabad and Hillel. We bring this up to the congregation of Maxwell Street to raise awareness that religious intolerance is still an issue, strong relationships with our interfaith siblings of God are necessary, and we hope you join us in using your voice generously and often against violence.

*"As the University of Kentucky's UKirk (Presbyterian(USA) Campus Ministry), we denounce any and all acts of antisemitism in our community. We are writing to voice our support for the Lexington and University of Kentucky Jewish community, and we extend our hands and hearts to all our interfaith friends at UK. Our faith calls us to support people of all faiths and belief systems, along with the many gifts you bring to our communities. As Presbyterians, we are called to interfaith cooperation and appreciation because the diversity of humankind is sacred. We believe God calls us to be channels of peace in an often violent world.*

*We are so very sorry violence came to your door and your people during a holiday of celebration and resilience. Together, we pray for healing and justice for the Chabad of the Bluegrass and the UK Jewish community. Please let us know if we can do anything to support your safety for Chanukah and in the future."*

## COMMUNITY SELF-CARE ACTIVITIES FOR WINTER BREAK:

- Online Puzzles
- Selfie Scavenger Hunt
- Meditations and Mandalas
- January Game Night
- Winter Book Read

*Stay plugged in to UKirk social media for more information!*

## YOUNG ADULTS

### Winter Theology on Tap *Celebrating Epiphany with Star Words*



Have you heard of star words? First, have you heard of Epiphany? It is the day almost two weeks after Christmas that we celebrate the part of the story where the caravan of the wise men travel and finally make it to see Jesus. In many church across the country, people pick a word out of many and this word becomes a guiding intention for the new year, much as the wise men were guided. Like any spiritual practice, it can become deeper, more meaningful, and sacred through our commitment to it and openness to it. As a way of beginning the year together with intention, hope, and community, young adults are invited to participate in star word letter writing. You will receive a word from the church and be invited to write a letter to yourself to open a month down the road inspired by your word. You will also have a star word pen pal and be invited to send them a card with a note inspired by your word. The practice is open ended with the possibility of repeating throughout the year or letting it begin your first month with intention. If you are interested in participating in this spiritual practice to start the new year, email Rachel ([rachel@maxpres.org](mailto:rachel@maxpres.org))

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

### Addressing Gun Violence



Last year, the pandemic pulled back the curtain about many social issues. Acts of violence and police violence led to a new wave of Black Lives Matter protests that have increased community organizing around systemic racism. The pandemic, also, disproportionately affected people of color. It was so clearly on display how disproportionately vulnerable communities of color are because of healthcare bias and economic disparity. In addition, we saw a rise in violence, particularly gun violence last year. There are few social issues the pandemic did not lay bare.

GVA - SIX YEAR REVIEW	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Deaths - Willful, Malicious, Accidental	12,418	13,537	15,112	15,679	14,789	15,208
Suicides by Gun	21,386	22,018	22,938	23,854	24,432	PENDING
Injuries - Willful, Malicious, Accidental	22,779	27,033	30,666	31,265	28,233	29,501
Children [age 0-11] killed or injured	603	695	671	733	670	692
Teens [aged 12-17] killed or injured	2,318	2,695	3,140	3,256	2869	3,068
Mass Shooting	269	335	382	346	337	417
Murder-Suicides	624	530	549	608	621	614
Defensive Use [DGU]	1,531	1,393	2,001	2,107	1888	1,547
Unintentional Shootings	1,605	1,969	2,202	2,039	1662	1,837

Number of Deaths, Injuries, Children, Teens killed/injured [actual numbers]  
 Mass Shooting, Murder-suicides, Defensive Use, Unintentional Shooting [number of incidents]  
 Suicide numbers supplied by CDC End of Year Report [actual numbers]

#gundeaths  
 www.gunviolencearchive.org  
 www.facebook.com/gunviolencearchive

© 2020 - GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE **GVA**

Locally, Lexington has set a homicide record this year, 32, as of mid-December. At least 26 of these were gunshot deaths. Nationally, incidents of almost every kind of gun related violence has risen since 2014- deaths both homicide and suicide,

children and teenagers killed or injured, and mass shootings. This year will be another record setting year. The number of children under the age of 12 killed or injured through gun violence in 2014-594; in 2020 so far- 935.

After a string of teenage deaths in Lexington due to gunfire in August, Mayor Gorton held a press conference and said, “I don’t want to simplify a complex issue.” In many ways, gun violence in a complex issue. There are many things that could and do put people at greater risk of being a victim or being violent themselves. In other ways, the issue of gun violence is simple. As people of faith, we chant along with activist groups around the country, “the violence must stop!” For the sake of everyone, but especially the most vulnerable, those at greater risk of committing or experiencing gun violence.

The General Assembly of our denomination (the national governing body) approved and published recommendations in the packet, “Gun Violence, Gospel Values,” concerning gun violence in 2010 that had 16 parts to it (there’s lot of work to do with regulating guns as they are barely regulated and highly integrated into our culture). Number 4 of the recommendations reads:

“That the church liturgies not only call for periodic preaching on gun violence but also contain prayers for the victims and perpetrators of gun violence and confession of our own complicity in the perpetuation and toleration of violence in all its forms in the culture.”

Over the next three months, Maxwell Street’s social justice committee hopes to fulfill that recommendation. We are planning accessible, online ways to learn more about the victims of gun violence and the lasting, rippling trauma they experience, as well as the perpetrators and the risk factors that can lead someone to violence against self or others. We hope this will lead us to greater understanding of the rising violence, action, prayer, and a deeper wisdom about what our own faith (which has its own violent roots) has to say about violence.

Please prayerfully enter into this time of confession, learning, compassion, and action with us and look out for ways to participate in January, February, and March.

# THANK YOU'S

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Thank you to all those who served as readers in the worship services: Kate Copley, James Weitkamp, Jonah Falco, Beka and Dean Jacobson; Anna, Rob & Thatcher Wethington, Stephanie & Matt Spencer; George & Nawanna Privett; Toni & Tom Carter; Bonnie & Bobbie Eads; Vicki & Tony Sidor; Shelli Gregory.

Thank you to all families who lit the Advent candles: Tim and Julia Costich; Becky, Mark & Micah Kemper; Rick, Carol, Eric, Amanda, Lily and Boone Bryant; Allen Gayheart, Clyde Adams and Billy Porter; Mary & Warren Waxham and Stella Anderson.

Thank you to the families and children of Maxwell Street who helped make this year's Christmas paegent a success: the Baird/Waddell family (Ellie, Sara, and Alan), the Falco family (Jonah, Lucas, Lauren & Matt), the Koyagi family (Alice, Max, Sam, Emily & Bob), the Linscott family (Anne-Claire, Ellory, Quinn & Julia), The Meads family (Theo, Garrett, Derrick & Shana), the Noble family (Annie, Sarah, David), the Weitkamp family (Joey, Julia, James, Chip and Allison), Sammie Smith, Jeff Smith and Darrell Maines, Meg, Geoff, Hazel and Clara Elise Parker.

A special thanks to Emma Scott, Robin Morrill and Michelle Jones for their hard work with the children's Sunday school and musical paegent. Thank you to Rich & Christopher Copley for assembling the program, and thank you to Bill Smith for completing sound in the accompaniment.

Thank you to the youth ensemble for playing for the Christmas Eve service: Tina Lump, Maddie Andreatta, Lucas Falco, Jonah Falco, Elizabeth Wilkerson, Julia Weitkamp, Bill Bradley, Annie Noble, Mason Hart, James Weitkamp, Max Koyagi, John Bradley. A special thanks to Allison Weitkamp for coordinating and directing this ensemble.

Thank you to those who provided special music for the services in Advent: Doug Kalika, Robin Morrill, Mary Jo Dendy, Lauren Falco, Allison Weitkamp, Ted Gentry, Mary Iwamoto, Vange Lear, Debi and Larry MacQuown, Mary Jo Dendy, Allison Weitkamp.

Thank you to Sue and Steve Senft for donating water and toiletries.

Thank you to Nancy Goulson, Harpers, the Bollingers and Leigh Buckley and so many more for donating gloves and warm items.

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth by either purchasing pecans or having your yards

raked this fall. Over \$600 was raised for the CROP Walk through raking, and the pecan profits will go toward youth mission trips. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to all who wrote extra Christmas cards during this holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who has been donating to our mission outreach pantry. Your donations are greatly appreciated and allowed us to give a personal toiletry bag to about 50 members of our community that came to the church for a hot home cooked Christmas Eve meal. (Thank you Pam Boldt and Kate Copley!) Your donations will be gratefully received into the New Year! May it be happy!

Thank you to Denise Reynolds, and Marianne Murray for knitting warm items for our neighbors.



## Thank you from...

*I want to thank deacon Derrick Meads who helped me with needed mulching in my yard and volunteers who bagged a multitude of fallen leaves on my property: Alicia Hart, her daughter Lauren, and Madison Cissel. I also want to thank Matt and Rachel and all the staff at Maxwell Street for their great efforts to keep all of us connected to each other and to mission.*

- Joan Colborn



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**JANUARY 2021**

# **MAXWELL IN MOTION**

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church

