

FEBRUARY 2021

MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church



VIRTUAL ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday, February 21 at 3pm

For the beginning of Lent, Dr. Ted Gentry will present a virtual organ recital featuring Maxwell Street's Rieger pipe organ. Ted will play works by Bach, Boëllmann, and Liszt. There will be watch party to view the recital on Sunday afternoon, February 21, at 3 pm on our church's YouTube Channel. A link will be provided in the Friday email. The recital will also be available for viewing after that date.

PROGRAM

Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578 – Johann Sebastian Bach

The recital opens with Bach, who of course needs no introduction, and an unsurprisingly impressive, upbeat fugue. It is one of Bach's best known fugues, composed between 1703-1707. As one writer notes, "...the music is bursting with enjoyment. It conjures up a picture of Bach writing enthusiastically and enjoying his own theme while composing. It's as though he can't get enough of it, as it is a relatively long time before the second entrance appears."

Prière à Notre-Dame – Léon Boëllmann

Boëllmann's best-known composition is *Suite Gothique* (1895), of which *Prière à Notre-Dame* is the third movement. Born in Alsace in 1862, he served as organist at the church of St Vincent-de-Paul in Paris from 1881 until his early death in 1897. Although the *Toccata* from this Suite is probably the best known movement, the pious and lyrical *Prière à Notre-Dame*, provides an assuring sense of calm.

Nun danket alle Gott – Franz Liszt

Missing travel? Ted and our Rieger organ are sure to transport you to the great gothic cathedrals of Europe with this spectacular organ choral arrangement of the beautiful hymn, "Nun danket alle Gott" composed towards the very end of Liszt's life in 1883. The piece is a grand expression of gratitude for the love God has shared with each of us, including through the music ministry of our congregation's organist, Dr. Ted Gentry.

REMINDER

**Deadline for the March 2021 MIM is
-- Friday, February 12, 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

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WE NEED TECH VOLUNTEERS

As we prepare to resume in-person worship services, we are in need of volunteers willing to operate new video recording and live-streaming equipment that will enable us to record and publish our worship services. Some familiarity with such software would be helpful, but not required. Contact Rich Copley (richcopleyphoto@gmail.com) for more information.

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

February 7

Matt Preaching, Communion

February 14

Rachel Preaching

LENT BEGINS

February 17

Ash Wednesday, 7:00pm - Facebook Live and Zoom

February 21

Matt Preaching

February 28

Matt Preaching



LENT 2021

“Morning by Morning” New Mercies and the Consolation of God

The opening words of Isaiah 40, “Comfort, Comfort my people,” are among the best known lines in the Bible, because they are used in Handel’s Messiah. These words mark a significant transition in the history of prophecy in the Hebrew tradition. Up to this point in the Old Testament, the oracles of the prophets preserved in scripture have prophesied “war, famine, and pestilence” to use Jeremiah’s language - oracles of judgment. Now, in the 40th chapter of the book of Isaiah, we find a prophet whose main theme is consolation.

This will be the theme we will be exploring throughout the season of Lent, beginning on Wednesday, February 17th with our Ash Wednesday service. Some of us think of consolation as a prize for those who get 2nd place, but as we will discover, divine consolation is not simply pity or even just helping someone feel better (although that is certainly part of it), but consolation provides alleviation, restoration, and even fortification. Isaiah is writing to the people of Israel whose period of exile was drawing to a close. Not only had she served her term, she had “paid double for all her sins.” (Isaiah 40.2) These were words written to people who were feeling desperate and desolate, people who were feeling unmoored from who they had been just a few generations before. They were words written to a people who were embarking on a journey that would result in them having a new identity and understanding of what it meant to be children of God.

Typically, passages from 2nd Isaiah* are read during the daily services of Holy Week. This year, it seems appropriate to pull these texts from Holy Week and spread them over the entirety of the season of Lent in a 5-week sermon series we’re calling Morning by Morning: New Mercies and the Consolation of God. While we have never been completely without hope or joy over the past year, we have certainly experienced a period of time with few consolations. There have been plenty of moments when we have felt drained, inadequate, and ill-equipped. No longer up to the tasks and challenges at hand. We have been surprised when our reserves of empathy have run dry, and we have found ourselves without words or the energy to help others. As vaccines are beginning to be rolled out and we enter into a new season in the story of being God’s people, we recognize the significance of this past year’s desolations and an opportunity to experience ourselves and offer one another the kind of consolation that only God can provide.

A Fun Tradition For You Shrove Tuesday

Traditionally Lent is the season of penance. We are called to give up pleasures, make sacrifices, fast, and repent. The 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday seem the antithesis of celebration, but, in Roman Catholic cultures particularly, Lent is launched by Mardi Gras (Fat or Shrove Tuesday). It begins with the generosity of Epiphany (Three Kings Day), and though it has often evolved into debauchery, it celebrates abundance. It was Christianized to shine the spotlight on life with Christ and, in doing so, to spark the gratitude needed to carry believers through the Lenten weeks of penitent reflection.

God desires that every human being should live life abundantly—brimming with generosity and gratitude. I include generosity first because it is the spigot that fills gratitude to overflowing—not vice versa. I guarantee that if you spend time with God you will be infected with God's generosity. Gratitude will follow, overflowing into everything you do.

As you share in the fun and God's abundance this coming Shrove Tuesday, we want to invite you to eat more than your share of pancakes, engage in some good natured revelry, and also to share some of your abundance through the One Great Hour of Sharing. Maxwell Street's most popular mission offering of the year, One Great Hour of Sharing, began as an ecumenical plea after World War II to help alleviate the results of that human disaster. OGHS continues to be received from seven denominations, including the PC(USA).

The funds collected are divided between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People, and the Hunger Fund, each representing a facet of Jesus' ministry to the poor, hungry, broken, and disenfranchised. These three ministries celebrate the compassion and dignity bestowed so freely by Jesus in supporting projects that do likewise. *You can give to One Great Hour of Sharing through our website: www.maxpres.org/online-giving.*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Recipe

3 T. butter
1 egg
1 c. milk
1 c. all purpose flour
1/2 c. cornmeal
1 3/4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 T. sugar

Beat eggs. Melt butter. Add milk and butter to egg. Combine all dry ingredients in a separate bowl. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix until most lumps disappear. Drop by large spoonfuls onto hot griddle. Enjoy!

Lenten Home Kits

The church is putting together a "Lenten Home Kit" for anyone interested in a handful of items and practices that will help you participate in Ash Wednesday and Holy Week and guide you through Lent from home alongside other MSPC members. There will be items for kids, youth, and adults included based on each household's members.

A part of the kit will be a way for every individual or family to raise money alongside the MSPC children throughout Lent. Our children are picking a cause or group to give to together and invite you to join them! More information, ways to connect spiritually throughout the journey of Lent, and the Lenten devotional will all be included in the kit. Sign up on MSPC's website, Facebook, or through the weekly email. **The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 10. The kits will be available for pick up at the church on Ash Wednesday from 10am-5pm and on the Saturday, February 20 from 9am-12pm.**

Ash Wednesday

ZOOM SERVICE

Wednesday, Feb 17 at 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever. This year, we will not have drive-by ashes or an in-person Ash Wednesday service because of the ongoing pandemic. However, we will hold an online, live service at 6:30pm by Zoom and live-streamed to our Facebook page.

Ashes for the service are traditionally made from the dried palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday worship service mixed with just a little olive oil. You can achieve similar results at home by burning paper in a fire. A nice practice might be writing confessions or hopes for the season of Lent on the piece of paper prior to burning them. Wood ash can be too acidic as it will burn your skin, so it's not recommended. After burning the paper and collecting the ashes, add just a few drops of oil to darken the ash, but not too much. It's a little tricky to get the mix right. Another alternative is to use a little soil.

2021 FINANCIAL NEWS



Every year MSPC has an external financial review performed to ensure that our financial records are accurate and that we are abiding by appropriate accounting restrictions. That review will begin in late January after we have closed out the year. Until the review is completed by our external accountants, we will not issue a December financial report.

We have, however, given a preliminary report to Session that gives a very general sense of our financial status at the end of 2020. Because of the extraordinary dedication of you, the congregation, we ended the year in very good financial shape. People kept up their pledges and even gave above their pledge to keep us going. Some people donated their stimulus checks and a few gave extra to help “where needed.” In addition, we spent less than usual because of some curtailed programming and less use of the building. We also received a PPP loan that greatly helped us.

We are thankful to all of you for your continued loyalty and support of MSPC. Through this pandemic, we have been able to accomplish so much as a congregation. One big example is the Home for the Holidays program. A kind and generous donor felt compelled to do something

for folks who, because of COVID-related financial problems, were facing loss of housing in the winter months. That donor pledged \$15,000 toward a rental assistance project. In addition, the donor said that if we made this a matching program, they would match up to another \$10,000. We announced this initiative in November, and as of this writing, people in our congregation and beyond have donated well over \$28,000, which with the initial donation and match makes over \$53,000. You can read about what is being accomplished with these gifts elsewhere in the newsletter.

This is just one example of what we have accomplished this year with your generosity of spirit and “treasure.”

Thank you.
- Michelle Gardner

SESSION

January Session Meeting

The first Session meeting of 2021 was held over Zoom on Saturday, January 9th. We opened the meeting with worship at 9:30am, focusing on the words of Jesus and the questions that are asked of Ruling Elders at the time of Ordination and Installation. The PC(USA) has designated 2021 to be the Year of Leader Formation.

As noted in an announcement from the Office of the General Assembly, “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.”

We started this leadership training with an article by Rev. Dr. Joan Gray entitled, “The Body of Christ.” Even though our Session, Deacons and ministers are leaders of the church, we are still called to follow Christ. “The Book of Order reminds us that God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body. The Church’s life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ’s ongoing life and work (F-1.0201). No matter how much we love our church, it is not really ours. The church belongs to Christ. In making decisions, we must always be seeking God’s will, not our own.”

Session reviewed the work of the various committees of the church and decided who would be serving on those committees. Regular meeting dates and chairs would be decided by the committees at their next meeting. A listing of committees and the elders serving on those committees can be found below. A recommendation was put forth by Rev. Matt Falco and Rev. Rachel VanKirk Mathews to change the committee structure to better serve the educational and fellowship needs of the church. They recommended that the Education

Committee and Family Life Committees be dissolved and a new committee called the Christian Formation Committee be formed. A description of this committee and its structure follows this article. A motion was made and seconded by a Ruling Elder, and after explanation and discussion, the motion passed.

The session reviewed the year-end financial information that can be found elsewhere in MIM. We ended the year in a financially sound position, and are feeling confident that the support of the congregation will sustain the mission of the church in 2021. The budget for 2021 was approved at the December 2020 meeting.

Our meeting closed with a fun “Who is Maxwell Street exercise?” and we adjourned at 12:00pm.

Elders Present at the Retreat Selected to Serve on the following Committees:

Christian Formation:

Dan Farrer, Denise Reynolds, Jeff Smith, Holly Cason

Mission Committee:

Mary Iwamoto, Allison Hight, Jeff Smith

Trustees:

Bill Smith, Jay Vessels, Jordan Strickler, John Shaw

Worship:

Janet Lumpp, Becky Kemper, Mary Waxham

Social Justice:

Katie Whaley, Jim Nelson, Allison Hight

Welcome: Tom Carter

Personnel:

Dan Goulson, Mary Iwamoto, John Shaw

Endowment:

Denise Reynolds, Becky Kemper

Green Team:

Jordan Strickler, Katie Whaley

Campus Ministry:

Amanda Hale

MAXWELL STREET

Job Opening for Business Manager

Under the direction of the Senior Pastor, this position is responsible for performing a variety of bookkeeping and accounting duties including processing payroll bi-weekly, financial record keeping and transactions including A/P, A/R, monthly billing, and General Ledger. Desired individual will have experience with Excel and/or Quickbooks working in the nonprofit setting, attention to detail, demonstrated professionalism and tact in communications with a diversity of individuals, and an outgoing and friendly personality.

Responsibilities for Business Administrator

- Perform payroll functions in an accurate and timely manner, and submit payroll taxes
- Manage all aspects of day to day bookkeeping and accounting processes including but not limited to A/P, A/R, journal entries, and bank reconciliation.
- Conduct reconciliation of all accounts on an as needed basis
- Maintain and balance the general ledger in an accurate, complete, and up-to-date manner
- Perform all activities related to the accounts payable function including reviewing, coding, and processing contributions/payments
- Perform account receivable functions including invoicing, deposits, collections, and revenue recognition
- Prepare financial reports through collection, analysis, and summarization of data
- Interpret and apply accounting policies, rules, and regulations to all work in order to ensure compliance with applicable standards
- Attend Monthly Stewardship (Finance) Committee Meetings
- Prepare annual budget with direction from Senior Pastor and Stewardship Committee
- Maintain capital assets inventory



Qualifications for Position

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field
- 3-5 years relevant experience working in accounting and bookkeeping
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of GAAP
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient skills in Microsoft Excel and/or Quickbooks
- Experience with accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and general ledger
- High degree of accuracy and attention to detail

20 hours per week, compensation commensurate with experience.

Send Cover Letter and Resume to matt@maxpres.org

MISSION

A Home for the Holidays UPDATE

On Sunday, November 22nd, MSPC announced the beginning of the 'Home for the Holidays' campaign. With matching funds, our generous donor spearheaded an opportunity to raise up to \$50,000 to be used for housing stabilization for those financially affected by Covid 19. On the following Sunday, November 29th, we were all introduced to the Advent theme of "Those Who Dream". For the next 4 weeks, we heard from individuals and families telling us their dreams as we lit the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. For some, dreaming is synonymous with praying. And for others perhaps, prayers turn into dreams come true.

With your dreaming, praying, and generous holiday spirit, and perhaps a little bit of Christmas magic, we not only reached our goal of raising \$50,000, we surpassed it! As of the first of January, you have helped raise \$53,110 for those experiencing housing insecurity due to Covid (applause, applause). Of this amount, \$15,000 has already been distributed to our diverse community through CRC, The Nest, and our mission outreach office. We continue to reach out to other non-profit and benevolent agencies here in Lexington to share our joy and give hope to those populations of people who are underserved and at highest risk of home displacement. Here at Maxwell Street, we have helped 14 families with up to \$400 each to secure their home for another month.

Our 'Home for the Holidays' campaign remains open to donations through the end of February, 2021. Although our matching funds have been met, there is still time to participate in this amazing community gift. With your continued generosity, we can restore a sense of peace and love to those experiencing housing insecurity due to Covid 19, well into "The Happy New Year"! If you would like to contribute, please send a check to MSPC (Memo: HOME), give online, or contact Michelle Gardner.

Toiletries

Thank you to everyone who has been sending toiletry items to mission outreach through Amazon. Your donations have helped stock the shelves. Currently, our greatest need is for more long johns, both mens and womens.

Help Wanted?

"I'm not sure if I'm going to be able to pay next month's rent."

"I have no idea how I'm going to feed my family for the rest of the month."

"How in the world am I going to be able to pay all of these bills?!"

If you, or someone you know has these thoughts/questions, please know that you are not alone, and help is just a phone call away. The mission outreach office is also here to help members of our MSPC congregation. All inquiries will be kept confidential. You can even say you are 'asking for a friend'. Please contact Tish Platt in the mission office at 859-233-0723, or via email at tish@maxpres.org. You may also contact Rev. Matt or Rev. Rachel to request assistance - matt@maxpres.org or rachel@maxpres.org

Random Acts of Kindness February is Black History Month, and Heart Health Month.

To celebrate Black History Month:

- Support a locally black owned restaurant with dine in, or carry out.
- Support a locally black owned business
- Participate in community events/parade/marches (as Covid allows)

To celebrate Heart Health Month:

- Give blood
- Say thank you to the first responders in your zip code (fire, police, rescue). Thank you's can be a card, flowers, a song, or brownies, fruit basket, your idea
- *Send 'love' to a single or struggling neighbor (male or female). Cards, phone calls, meals, brownies,

DOUBLE UP:

- Purchase a meal/item from a black owned business and gift it to someone else.



Thank you to Matt McMahan and Tish Platt for putting together the 'community stocking' for the Christmas Eve meal folks. Thank you, Kate and Pam for distributing!!

THANK YOU'S



Thank you to Matt McMahan and Tish Platt for putting together the 'community stocking' for the Christmas Eve meal folks. Thank you, Kate and Pam for distributing!!

Christmas Eve Thursday Night Meal at MSPC. The weather was cold and snowy, but the food was hot and the guests were hungry and thankful.

Thanks to all those who provided warm items for our neighborhood friends. We have distributed over 80 pairs of long johns (20 just in one week in January). Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to Katie Thompson and Gerry Gillespie for donating food to the Community Meals.

Thank you to Jody Lambert for delivering food to those in need. And thanks for volunteering with Community Meals.

Thank you to those who served as liturgists in the services: Derrick, Shana, Theo and Garrett Meads, Sam Koyagi, Madison Cissell, Douglas Ensminger and Meg Parker.

Thank you to those who provided special music for the services: Josh Andreatta, Ben Boutell, Susan Carey, Caroline Copley, Lauren & Jonah Falco, Allison Hight, Olivia Hubbard, Wes Mathews, Ted Gentry, Emma Scott, Kason Speir, Chip Weitkamp, and Beth Wilson.

Thank you from...

God truly blessed me when he led me to the Maxwell Street Church. This past year has not been easy, but your generous cards, gifts, yard help, and prayers have helped. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and making me like part of the Maxwell Street Church Family. ~ from Karen Akin

Thank you to all who took the time to write a note when my mother died in November. I received an outpouring of love and I appreciated each card very much. It is always hard to lose a loved one, and that is especially true during a pandemic. I felt very loved and cared for; thank you for being here for me, even if we cannot be together physically. I am very grateful for you, my church family. A special thank you, as well, to my anonymous friend who sent me a thoughtful gift card! ~ from Carol Jordan

*Dear Maxwell Streeters,
Once again, your generosity has overwhelmed us. Thank you for all you continue to do for the homeless in our community. Charles and I appreciate your kindness so much. We hope you have a wonderful holiday. -
Sincerely, Hope Mobile Staff: Mary & Charles
~ from Hope Mobile Staff*



Happy New Year from Keller Campbell, his dog and his great grandchildren!

Congratulations...

Congratulations to Mary Anna and Fayette Stepp on the birth of their fourth great grandchild, Emil Thomas born on January 19



Congratulations to Grace and Brandon Foley on the birth of Sussana Leet Foley born on January 15.

Congratulations to Gentry and Sarah Barnett on the birth of Charlie Marie and Hugh Wallace on, January 12.



CHILDREN'S NEWS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Liam Gardner Feb 22

Ellory Linscott Feb 28

Lenten Home Kits



The church is putting together a “Lenten Home Kit” for anyone interested in a handful of items and practices that will help you participate in Ash Wednesday and Holy Week and guide you through Lent from home alongside other MSPC members. There will be items for kids, youth, and adults included based on each household’s members.

The kit for children will contain some fun at home activities put together by Miss Michelle. A part of the kit will be a way for every individual or family to raise money alongside the MSPC children throughout Lent. Our children are picking a cause or group to give to together and invite you to join them! More information, ways to connect spiritually throughout the journey of Lent, and the Lenten devotional will all be included in the kit. We welcome anyone who would like to participate to sign up on MSPC’s website, Facebook, or through the weekly email.

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 10. The kits will be available for pick up at the church on Ash Wednesday from 10am-5pm and on the Saturday, February 20 from 9am-12pm.

THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMITTEE

Let’s begin with a definition of Christian Formation. There are many out there, but I think it’s best to begin with our Book of Order where it states that the Great Ends of the Church include... “the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.” It goes on to say that Session is responsible “for the nurture of the covenant community of disciples of Christ.” This responsibility shall include... “providing programs of nurture, education, and fellowship.”

Christian Formation, in my mind, can be best summarized as the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to grow in our understanding of our faith and is an opportunity to express it; the challenge is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live what is sometimes a countercultural life.

The good news is that the CFC is not starting from scratch on this endeavor to nurture the children of God who call Maxwell Street their spiritual home. We have wonderful education, fellowship, music, social justice and mission programs and staff that help do the work we have been tasked to oversee as a committee. We have a Board of Deacons that have been tasked with building up the fellowship of the community. Our vision for the CFC is to oversee these various programs through the Staff Members assigned to them. Each staff member will be expected to form their own support committees for their various programs. The CFC will be made up of active elders, deacons, and at-large congregation members who commit to serving three year terms.

- Matt

YOUTH NEWS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Rowan Doherty Feb 23

Spring 2021 Curriculum



The Ten Commandments: The youth have spent time over the last few years learning about the love of God and the different ways we can love our neighbors. This is because Jesus taught that the greatest commandments were to love the Lord our God with all our being and to love our neighbor as ourselves. His teaching came in response to the question, “What is the greatest commandment?”

Often, Christians are tempted to understand the New and Old Testaments as very different stories, but we believe the New Testament is a continuation of God’s story in the Old Testament, the story of God told through the stories of the Hebrew people. God did not become all-loving only once Jesus appeared.

This semester, the youth group will study the 10 commandments in search of a better understanding of the God of the Old Testament and how, “all of the Law and Prophets” hang on love (Matthew 22:40).

High School Girls’ Small Group

This semester, we have a great group of high school girls! During regular youth group time, after games and fellowship time with the all youth, high school girls are invited to participate in a small group together. We will be reading the book *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie over the course of the semester together. The book is a great read and provides a platform for asking many meaningful questions about faith and young adulthood. Please let Rachel know if you or your youth is interested. Books can be provided for each youth.

SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION EFFORTS IN FEBRUARY

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7

Every year, the youth gather loose change and donations as a part of Souper Bowl Sunday, a nationwide effort of youth groups to raise money for local hunger relief nonprofits. Annually, the effort raises over 10 million for local nonprofits. Usually, MSPC youth will stand outside the sanctuary with soup pots to gather donations.

Since we cannot raise money in-person for Souper Bowl Sunday this year, the youth families are putting together a small recipe book of favorite soups and chilis to give in exchange for any Souper Bowl Sunday donations! We’re excited to gather recipes and to raise money. All money raised will go to God’s Pantry, a food pantry that helps MSPC to serve our neighbors and provides food for so many in Kentucky. If you would like more information on making a donation to receive a cook book, please contact Rachel - rachel@maxpres.org

Ash Wednesday food drive for CRCKY, February 17

In partnership with the youth group of Ohavay Zion Synagogue, the youth of Maxwell Street are hosting a food drive for the Community Response Coalition of Kentucky (CRCKY). The youth at Ohavay Zion are hosting the food drive during the Jewish holiday of Purim. The two youth groups plan to get together over Zoom to learn about CRCKY, why our faiths call us to care for immigrants, and each other’s religious holidays.

Maxwell Street has been a great supporter of CRCKY in the past, a nonprofit that provides aid to immigrant families and individuals especially those without documentation. Begin the season of Lent with generosity by bringing anything from the list to the church on Ash Wednesday from 10-5. Donations can be made another time if coordinated with the church office. The youth of MSPC thank you for your generosity!

FELLOWSHIP & STUDY

Matt's Sunday School Class: The New Testament

This spring, we are doing an overview of the New Testament. The purpose of the New Testament is to teach us about Jesus. Through his life, many come to know the power of God's presence. Through Jesus' death, many experience and learn a new understanding of God's love. In Jesus' resurrection, many come to discover the power of God's transformation and share in Peter and the disciples' confession of faith: in Jesus Christ there is eternal life. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, God's promise is fulfilled in a new and marvelous way. Join us on Zoom at 9:00am. Email Matt Falco for more information.

Kerygma Matt's Midweek Bible Study



This month, Kerygma will be studying the Book of Psalms. Protestant reformer John Calvin called the Psalms, "An anatomy of all the parts of the soul." Calvin says, "There is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as a mirror." The Spirit of God brings to life on these pages "all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short all the distracting emotions" with which our minds are likely to be perplexed. Some parts of the Bible instruct us in God's law; others tell us stories of God's people. The Psalms invite us to pray, reminding us, as Calvin says, that genuine and earnest prayer proceeds first from a sense of our need, and next, from faith in the promises of God."

We will be using Michael Jenkins' book, "*Invitation to Psalms*" as a guide for our conversations, but it's not required. Join us Wednesdays on Zoom at 10:30. Email Matt Falco for more information.

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

N.A.D.Y.A. is reading *Oona Out Of Order: An Novel by Margarita Montimore*. Questions? Jason Williams at jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com

Words & Wine

is reading *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. This book is a portrait of a young woman in India who escapes an abusive marriage and becomes a highly sought-after henna artist. Join them on February 5 at 6:30 on Zoom for book discussion and fellowship. Questions? Contact Lauren at laurenfalco@yahoo.com.

Needles & Angels

Needles & Angels will meet February 11th and 25th 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. Question? contact Donna (donnalynnail@icloud.com) or Elise (elisekalika56@gmail.com).

Presbyterian Women

Our January meeting was opened with the following thoughts for the new year:

Hello, welcome to Flight #2021. We are prepared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away.

Should we lose pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith.

Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.

The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff. Destination GREATNESS.

As we pass into 2021, we know that your prayers and faith will help you find positive thoughts and activities at your destination.

OUR NEXT MEETING

February 4 at 10am

Join us via Zoom. Here is the address:

Meeting ID: 824 1011 4430

PW: 186221

Fellowship time is 10-10:30. Then we'll have a short business meeting and a book study led by Karen Williams. We be discussing chapter 3 in *Listening for God*, volume 2, "Saved" written by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. If you need a copy of the book we are using for our book discussion, on can be shipped to you. Contact Mary Waxham at mwaxham@hotmail.com.

UKIRK & YOUNG ADULTS

UKIRK

CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS!



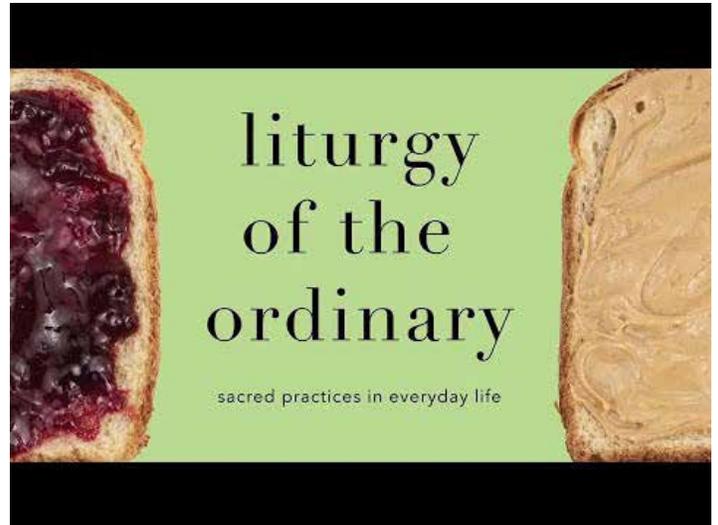
There is a unique hope, joy, and sense of purpose that comes with working with college students. Our UKirk college students at MSPC are no different! They are energetic about learning, serving, being together, and having fun. The campus ministry committee supports UKirk in four main ways:

- coordinating weekly meals
- volunteering to be present at weekly events
- building relationships with new students
- supporting annual events

Through these responsibilities, members of the committee have the opportunity to nurture college students and be nurtured themselves through relationships, fellowship with, and by learning from college students. The campus ministry committee meets four times a year and WE NEED YOU to join us in supporting and building the campus ministry of Maxwell Street. If being around college students and the work of the committee interests you, please join us for our first meeting, Sunday Feb. 21 from 1:30-2:30. Please email committee chair, Amanda Hale, amandamdunn@gmail.com with any questions or for the Zoom info for the meeting. You can join us for our first meeting of the year, just to learn more, no commitment necessary for your first meeting.

YOUNG ADULTS

Theology on Tap- Spring Lent study *Liturgy of the Ordinary*



Theology on Tap is a discussion and fellowship group that is open to all young adults or anyone who enjoys lively conversation that is often at the intersection of culture, theology, history, and current events. All are welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month. We hope you join us in February on the 22nd at 7:00 pm. We continue to meet on Zoom, Reach out to Rachel for Zoom info.

The last year has taught us that our faith shouldn't be rooted in the church building. Instead, it should be rooted in our daily lives, our homes, workplaces, and interactions. God and the sacred are all around us. With practice and intentionality, the everyday can become more and more meaningful and spiritually enriching. As we walk through Lent, simplifying, reflecting, journeying together towards Holy Week. The young adults of MSPC will read the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* together beginning in February. Reach out to Rachel for help acquiring a book if need be. All are welcome to join us in this seasonal read!



CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

Guns, Violence, and Faith

Peacemaking in the Old Testament is a creative process. And law in the Old Testament was necessary for creating a society that worked well for all people. As followers of the nonviolent Jesus, it is easy to see how the commandment, “Thou shall not kill,” is a call to preserve all of life. The topic of gun violence and gun regulation can feel too polarizing, divisive, or gridlocked to wade into. But, as Christians, called to peacemaking and preserving life, we are beckoned to understanding and action by the Holy Spirit towards creative solutions to a highly violent American culture, high rates of gun homicide and suicide, and low regulation of guns.

The PC(USA) hosted a series of webinars on the topic of Gun Violence called Standing Our Holy Ground. At the beginning of each episode, the host goes over 10 common understandings that the conversations begin with to bring the participants together to a starting point. These common

understandings are adopted from Gun Violence Gospel Values (PC(USA)) and presentations by Virginia Classick, co-chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. All 10 of these are important, but the fifth states, “The gun violence prevention movement is not anti-gun.” The Maxwell Street Social Justice Committee has adopted this same stance and hopes that provides some room for more participation, conversation, and creativity from everyone.

The eighth understanding says, “As people of faith, we must pay attention to the discrepancies between the teachings of our faith tradition and the messaging of media and special interest groups.” In this spirit, the Social Justice committee invites you to join them in a journey over the next three months to:

- Better understand what our faith tradition says about violence
- Investigate our own consumption of violence and misconceptions about gun violence
- Humanize and make pressing the epidemic of gun violence for victims, perpetrators, and all Americans

Violence Self-Audit:

Americans consume and produce so much violence. As Christians, our desire to be peacemakers should include being intentional about what we consume and produce. As we begin these few months of gun violence education and action, let us do violence self-audits together. Overconsumption of violence can lead to anxiety, fear, desensitizing, dehumanizing victims or perpetrators, or glorifying violence. Take a few moments when you have them to ask yourself the following questions. Allow yourself to sit with the exercise and your answers. Each person may arrive at a different conclusion for themselves, but self-awareness is the goal for all of us.

- Over the last week, did the majority of your tv shows, tv news, and movies contain violent images, scenes, or plots?
- Over the last week, did the majority of the podcasts or music you listened to contain violent stories or imagery?
- Over the last week, did you consume violent news stories for greater understanding or for entertainment?
- Do you use any slang terms that are unnecessarily violent? (ex: shoot an email, take a stab at it)
- Think over your daily habits and living, where else might you be consuming or producing violence?

Educational Opportunities:

Please journey along with the Social Justice committee as we learn about one of Lexington-Fayette county's gun violence homicide 2020 victims each week in the Friday mailer over the next three months. We pray this journey will bring the loss of our neighbors and nation closer to our hearts and more pressing on our minds. Please open up your hearts to compassion for and prayer for the victims, their families, and all affected by gun violence.

Using episodes from Standing Our Holy Ground, please join the Social Justice committee in three conversations: Violence and our Faith, Gun

Violence and its Victims, Gun Violence and its Perpetrators. Series episodes will be linked to on our website and Zoom information will be available in our church weekly emails.

Feb. 28: Join us for a conversation with Rabbi Wirtschrafter- Violence, Faith, and the Old Testament.

Please watch "Standing Our Holy Ground: The Theological For Our Gun Violence Policies" before the meeting.

March 28: Gun Violence and its Victims.

Please watch any of the following episodes before the meeting:

- "Too Close to Home: Guns and Domestic Violence"
- "The Racial Divide in Gun Violence"
- "The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence in Urban Contexts"
- "The Impact of Gun Violence on LGBTQ+ Communities"

April 25: Gun Violence and its Perpetrators.

Please watch the documentary Behind the Bullet and "Standing our Holy Ground: Behind the Bullet" before the meeting. Warning, the documentary and web series contain discussions of suicide. Please let Rachel know if you need financial help purchasing or renting the documentary.



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