

MAY 2021

MAXWELL IN MOTION

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church



Thank you note from Matt

Dear Maxwell Street family and friends,

It was so kind of you to share your concern for my family and me during the difficult time of my father's death. Your calls, cards, and thoughtful expressions of compassion over the past couple of weeks have been a balm. As some of you are probably aware, my dad was sick for many years. Sharing with you some of my experiences of his decline in classes, meetings, and many one-on-one conversations has been healing and supportive. You helped me understand my relationship with him more deeply and the impact he had on my life. Lauren, Lucas, Jonah, and I are so fortunate to be part of a church that has such a tradition of caring so deeply for those who they call to be their pastor. I give thanks that God's love has been so plainly revealed through you and your ministry to me. I will continue to covet your prayers as my family and I adjust to life without my dad's physical presence in our lives.

Grace and Peace,
Matt

REMINDER

**Deadline for the June 2021 MIM is
-- Monday, May 17, 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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Welcome Tina Durbin, our newest Staff member!



First and foremost, thanks for welcoming me into the family at MSPC. As a local racial justice activist and a survivor/advocate of ending domestic violence, it means a great deal to find a church home that aligns what I do with who I am and what I believe. I am a lifelong Lexingtonian and an educator with over 30 years of teaching and administrative experience. My passions include selling jewelry to support my personal non-profit endeavor called "11;11, Messages of Hope from Angels" through which I work with survivors to design a piece of jewelry that has been paid for by an Angel. I am also working to re-launching my podcast to support the voices of those marginalized in our communities, called "Love Over Coffee." My hobbies include drinking coffee with Phoebe Anne, my greyhound girl, who has "Greyt Diva" status in the house. She knows I know she owns the couch. Please let me know if I can do anything to make your time at MSPC more hospitable.

WORSHIP NEWS

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 2

Matt preaching

May 9

Youth Sunday - Rachel preaching

May 16

Matt preaching

May 23 - Pentecost

Guest Preacher - Rev. Brittany Fiscus van Rossum

May 30

Matt preaching

In-Person Worship update

Like you, we're eager to resume in-person worship and we're hopeful it won't be too much longer before we can. We're sure that Easter was a wonderful forecast of the good things to come! We want to thank everyone for coming out to the service and for demonstrating your desire to keep people safe even when we gather together, and our goal will continue to be to keep our members and community safe.

When will be the right time? Our session has done a wonderful job of engaging in the work of discernment to try to determine what the right day will be. Discernment is the Christian practice of seeking insight into God... where God is leading, what God is calling the church to do, what God desires of or for us. There are so many sources we can turn to for this understanding: scripture, the confessions of the faith, the leaders of our congregations, our community, the gifts of creation, and the inner mind. There are probably more! But a faithful approach is to weigh these things together.

My sense is that there won't be one single moment, but rather a gradual progression of moments until the day arrives that we are worshipping together again. Again, Easter was just the beginning and just last week, we welcomed Confirmation Students and their families to worship. My hope is that by the time you're reading this, the number of infections have started going back down again and our next Session meeting will be right around the corner and we'll pick a Sunday to allow a small percentage of our congregation worship with us on Sunday.

Please know that we're eager, just like you, to be in worship together again soon!

Celebrate Pentecost with us on Sunday, May 23

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. We celebrate that God poured out the Holy Spirit so that people of every identity and language can hear a word of welcome into God's household. All belong in God's household. We learn together and celebrate together. In honor of this occasion, it is popular tradition to wear red to church to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit in our community and our unity in Christ. Whether we are at home or (maybe) in person, our church will be blazing in red. May you enjoy a Spirit-filled celebration!

Our Scholar Singers

Ben Boutell and Kason Speir will both be graduating this May and relocating/moving on to new respective jobs. We would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincerest thanks to both of them for their years of dedicated service to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church as tenor scholar singers. Additionally, Parker Van Houten has accepted an internship for this summer, so Mason O'Brien will serve as a bass substitute for Parker throughout the summer months. You will be missed, gentlemen!



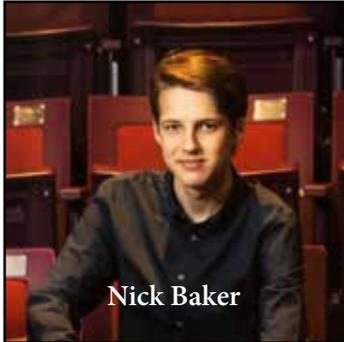
Ben Boutell



Kason Speir

2021 GRADUATES

Congratulations TO OUR GRADUATES!



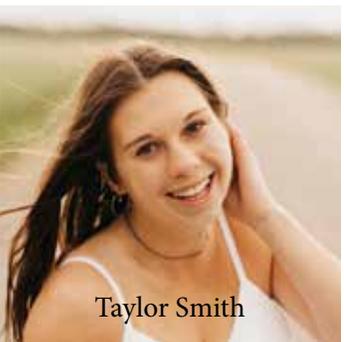
Nick Baker



Tatum Colvin



Christina Lumpp



Taylor Smith

High School Grads

Nick Baker is graduating from STEAM Academy. This fall, he plans to attend the University of Kentucky as a history major.

Caroline Blich is graduating from Henry Clay High School and will attend the University of Kentucky. She has not declared a major but excels in math and science and plans to explore opportunities in those areas at UK. She currently works at Lucky Dog Eventing, based in Lexington, and plans to ride for the UK Eventing Team on her horse partner Oliver.

Tatum Colvin is graduating from the MSTC program at Dunbar High School and plans to attend Centre College in the Fall to study behavioral neuroscience.

Seth Greer is graduating from Madison Central High School and plans on attending Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

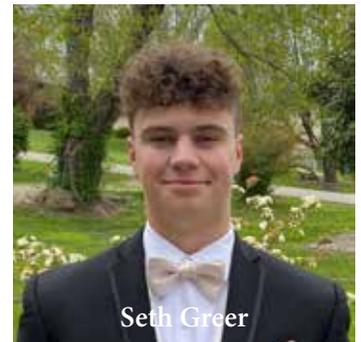
Christina Lumpp is graduating from the MSTC (Math, Science Technology Center program at Dunbar High School and plans on attending Purdue University in the fall.)

Madison Smith is graduating from Dunbar High School. This fall, she will attend North Central College in Naperville, majoring in accounting. She also will play soccer for Naperville.

Taylor Smith is graduating from Dunbar High School. This fall, she plans on attending North Central College in Naperville, majoring in exercise science. She is signed up to play soccer for college as well.



Caroline Blich



Seth Greer



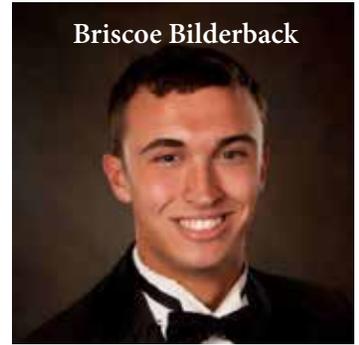
Madison Smith

College Grads



Chelsea Anderson-Cooper graduated in December from the University of Kentucky.

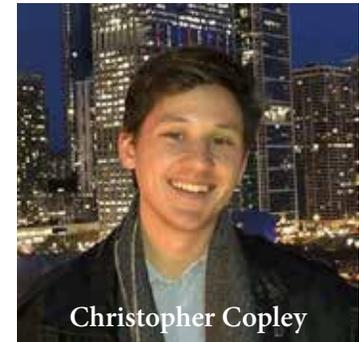
Briscoe Bilderback who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Mechanical Engineering in December from the University of Kentucky. He started as Internal Logistics Project Manager at Toyota in January.



Madison Cissell is graduating with her BA in Psychology with a Jewish Studies minor and Peace Studies Certificate at the University of Kentucky. She plans on taking a gap year at Heartwood Refuge & Retreat (Meditation) Center in Hendersonville, NC!



Christopher Copley is graduating from the University of Chicago with bachelors of arts in music and geographical sciences. He will be pursuing a masters in the fall in Urban Planning.



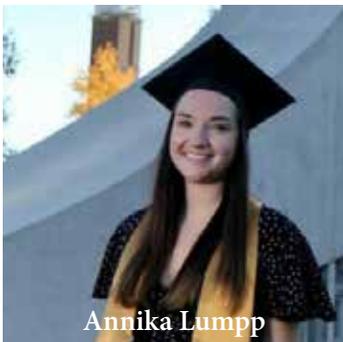
Allie Gregory is graduating with a bachelor's degree in Middle School Education in Math and Social Studies, and a minor in interdisciplinary arts from the University of Kentucky. She looks forward to traveling this summer and serving as counselor at Burnamwood. She plans to begin teaching in the fall.



Henry Johnson is graduating with a BBA in Finance and a BA in Foreign Language and International Economics. He plans to stay in Lexington after graduation where he has accepted a job with Equitable Advisors! Henry has been an active member of UKirk, played on the UK Rugby team, and is engaged and planning a wedding with his wonderful fiancée, Honey.



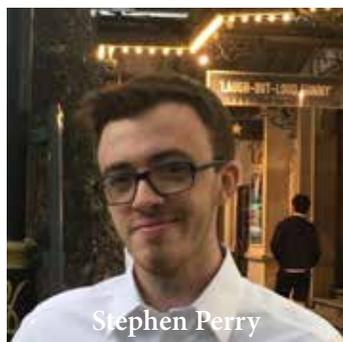
Annika Lumpp graduated in December from Purdue University with a BS in Electrical Engineering and is now working remotely for Northrup-Grumman and pursuing her master's degree.



Ben Lumpp graduated in December from Purdue University with a BS in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering and now works for Space Tango here in Lexington.



Stephen Perry is graduating with bachelor degrees in Philosophy and in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky this spring. He will begin a PhD program in Philosophy [with specialization in Philosophy of Science] at University of Pittsburgh in the fall.



Margaret Scripps is graduating at the end of the summer with a bachelors of science in health promotion and education and a minor in political science from the University of Cincinnati.



MISSION

Hunger on America's College Campuses

The COVID-19 pandemic added to already increasing financial issues among Americans. Pre-pandemic, 44% of Americans reported living paycheck to paycheck. Now, 63% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Unfortunately, financial struggles, food insecurity, and education access often go together. Feeding America data indicates that 31% of food-insecure individuals had to choose between paying for food or education. Furthermore, 38% of college students self-identify as food insecure and according to a study by Temple University's Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, 45% of college students surveyed deal with some form of food insecurity. College students can apply for SNAP benefits, but they must work at least 20 hours per week or meet a specific exemption. Shopping at discount grocery stores and using free food pantries, like the Big Blue Pantry, helps. More than 700 food pantries operate on college campuses, demonstrating the large need among college students.

College food insecurity impacts both individual students and America as a whole. When students cannot focus on their studies due to hunger, their grades suffer and they may end up dropping out. If food insecurity continues, the future workforce could struggle with finding qualified talent. (Information from Feeding America -feedingamerica.org)

Random Acts of Kindness

Big Blue Pantry



The Big Blue Pantry, the University of Kentucky food assistance program for students, is open and in need of donations. They are doing grab and go bags for the foreseeable future in order to stay as

contact-less as possible. You can find a full list of items needed at:

www.uky.edu/basicneeds/big-blue-pantry

Current most-needed items include:

Small jars of pasta sauce (typical size is also good, but the smaller the better for bag packing purposes)

Spaghetti noodles

Rice (boxed or bagged & not too big)

Ravioli/Spaghetti-Os (microwaveable is preferred, currently, since students can't self-select for what they have to cook with appliance-wise)

Peanut butter (we're essentially out, so this is a big need)

Fruit cups

Canned chicken

Soups

Items can be dropped off at the church (contact the church office first to make arrangements) Monetary donations also may be made to UK's Big Blue Pantry through MSPC's website or by mailing a check made out to MSPC with Big Blue Pantry in the memo line.

"Necessity Is the mother of invention."

I can no longer count the number of times I have heard this proverb over the past 15 months since Covid-19 began, nor can I tell you the number of times I have mouthed those very words. Many components of our daily and church lives stopped, were put on hold, or 'creatively' changed. Although the community assistance office was closed to in-person visits, your generous donations of financial support and amazon purchased packages allowed MSPC to continue a thriving mission outreach.

Maxwell Street staff continued supporting our community through 'take out' Thursday night meals, sandwiches for the Hope Mobile, long johns, gloves, scarfs, and hats for the homeless, help with utilities, rent and more. Our greatest creative moment was our Home for the Holidays campaign. Spearheaded by our anonymous donor, YOU helped raise \$57,308.27 to help our Lexington community with shelter during the winter cold and Covid months. To support our mission of diversity, \$25,000 of this was shared with Lexington agencies who have close relationships with those

most effected by the pandemic: African-American families, Hispanic/Latinx families, and families with single mothers, many of whom who were unable to work secondary to the closing of child care services, or the need for home schooling. In addition, the mission outreach office has distributed nearly \$20,000 to 45 individuals/families who lost their jobs and financial resources due to covid. We continue to work toward diversity distribution for the remaining HOME funds.

‘Out of necessity’ also came the development of the Interfaith Covid-19 Compassionate Volunteer program by our community partner, Catholic Action Center. Many of our MSPC members made phone calls to help with the distribution of community funds. These conversations which continue today, include many community leaders with the single goal of shepherding those with eviction notices, loss of lease renewals, and utility disconnect notices through the court systems via ZOOM! with an advocate by their side.

Behind the scenes of community and interfaith outreach, our mission outreach office has continued to provide assistance with utility bills, laundry cards, toiletries, household sundries, clothing, IDs, birth certificates, and automobile gasoline. We have recently started providing bus passes to help our community neighbors get to medical and employment appointments. Whereas the majority of our services have been remote via telephone, those reaching out for help have also been provided with employment resources, budgeting resources, community resources, and a place to tell their sacred story. For the first 3 months of 2021, MSPC has assisted 60 persons financially, with the majority going to KU electric to keep our community warm. Covid may have closed our doors, but it did not close our hearts!

SESSION

April Session Meeting

The Session met for their April meeting on the 12th. The first item of business was to hear our Confirmation student’s statements of faith and to receive them into membership. Our book of order instructs that when those who have been baptized as children are ready to make a public profession of faith and accept the responsibility of life in the church (sometimes called “confirmation”), the session shall provide an opportunity for them to do so. They are to be instructed in the faith, examined by the session, received as active members, and presented to the congregation in public worship. Each of the students put forth a thoughtful statement that reflected the kind of faith we would hope life at Maxwell Street would instill and that our children would hold. 8 students were confirmed and 1 student was approved to be baptized as part of the confirmation service. That service is scheduled for April 18th.

The second major item of business for the Session on the 12th was to hear a request from MSPC’s Board of Trustees to engage the services of Luke Morgan esq. and MSPC congregation member in a matter related to the balcony glass railing. Not long after installation, the glass began cracking. The installation company has so far failed to help correct the situation. The Trustees and Session will oversee the attempt to seek a resolution that will result in a safe barrier for the

balcony. Until the matter is resolved, seating in the balcony will be limited should we be able to return to in-person worship.

The final major matter discussed by the Session was the resumption of in-person worship services. The outdoor Easter worship service was so well received and it is clear that many people are eager to return to worshipping in-person. Given that the rate of infection remains in the orange category, the plan remains to re-examine resuming in-person worship at the May 10th Session meeting. Meanwhile, the staff will continue to work towards beginning live-stream services. This transition will allow us to continue to provide online worship experiences once we begin in-person services. The hope is to begin online streaming on April 18th.

Other highlights from a very full meeting include an approval of an in-person Vacation Bible School program (should the numbers of infections continue to approve and the way be clear, as we presbyterians like to say), UKirk Campus ministry participated in the University of Kentucky’s Pride Week, and the Endowment Committee received approval to make explicit in their bylaws that “all undesignated gifts made in memory of individuals or at the time of death are to go towards MSPC’s Endowment.”

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church
Income and Expense Statement
 3/31/2021

	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Budget Difference	Annual Budget
INCOME					
Pledges	32,742	162,086	182,180	(20,094)	526,800
Congregational Giving	3,485	6,545	5,428	1,117	25,000
Loose Offering	0	0	750	(750)	3,000
Sunday School	0	15	0	15	0
Other Designated Gifts	50	2,905	1,120	1,785	8,000
Per Capita Donation	231	546	750	(204)	3,000
Ky Campus Ministry Board	0	0	0	0	8,200
Interest Income	28	80	25	55	100
Rentals	759	3,915	3,750	165	15,000
Workcamp Fees	0	0	1,000	(1,000)	10,000
Coupons for Missions	0	516	500	16	2,000
Spec Offering for Hunger	1,353	5,565	5,000	565	20,000
Spec Off for Assistance	750	4,850	2,500	2,350	10,000
TOTAL INCOME	39,398	187,023	203,002	(15,980)	631,100
EXPENSES					
Subtotal Mission & Benevolences	2,941	7,282	11,413	4,130	43,250
Subtotal Payroll Expenses	31,327	94,641	97,340	2,699	4,161
Subtotal Church Programs	0	1,559	5,728	4,169	21,400
Subtotal Utilities & Maintenance	10,483	26,575	23,059	(3,516)	77,850
Subtotal Operating Expenses	9,810	18,989	23,550	4,561	49,200
Subtotal Worship And Fellowship	145	212	1,025	813	4,100
Subtotal Presbytery Support	4,700	4,700	3,199	(1,501)	19,200
TOTAL EXPENSES	59,406	153,959	165,314	11,355	631,100
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	(20,008)	33,064	37,689	(4,625)	0

OTHER GIFTS (NOT INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL FUND REPORT) THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

100	CROP Walk	100	CRCKY Food
1200	Maxwell Street Legal Clinic	1218.39	One Great Hour of Sharing
737.82	SouperBowl Offering	110	Youth

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

57,308.27	Collected in the project
36,973.20	Spent Dec - March 31, 2021
20,335.07	Remaining

Gifts to the Endowment

10,000	Bequest	1491	Memorials
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THANK YOU'S

Thank you to those who participated in the worship services: Katie Whaley, Tracy Bruno, Maddie Andreatta, Bennett Blich, John Bradley, Holly Cason, AnnMarie Cissell, Lucas Falco, Mason Hart, Evie Smith, and Kathleen Pierce.

Thank you to all those who made our in-person services possible! Ralph Bollinger, Kate & Rich Copley, Josh England, Lauren & Matt Falco Brad, Hyde, Mason & Harris Hawkins, Suvad Karic, Lon and Angela Keith, Robby Lear, Ruth Rowles, Tony Sidor, Bill Smith, Andrea Williams, Joe & Sandy Kyle, Kay Roberts, Greg & Jean Harper.

Thank you to Lucy Ernst for decorating the flower cross.

Thank you to all those who provided special music for the services: Ben Boutell, Susan Carey, Lauren Falco, Ted Gentry, Olivia Hubbard, Doug Kalika, Janet Lumpp, Robin Morrill, Emma Scott, Kason Spier, Parker Van Houten, Allison Weitkamp, Beth Wilson, Josh Pierce, and Annie Noble.

Thank you to Quinn Linscott for acolyting in Easter worship.

Thank you to Sue & Steve Senft and Mary Iwamoto for donating food for the Thursday Evening Program.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards Arbor Youth.

Thank you to Michelle Gardner for making bows for in-person worship services.

Thank you to Warren Waxham for working to get a new water heater installed.

Thank you to those who volunteered with the backpack program recently: Allison Hight, Janet Kalika and Cara Blue, Pam Boldt, Ray & Denise Reynolds, Cynthia Bruno.

Thank you to Jim Lumpp, Kevin Moore, Bill Smith and Rich Copley for helping with the production side of worship.

Thank you Lon Leith for getting the van serviced.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Maxwell Streeter Cynthia Bruno on becoming Dixie Elementary's new principal! We're so happy for you and the families of Dixie Elementary.



Congrats to UK Women's Volleyball and to Katy Poole (Assistant Athletic Trainer for the team) on their 2021 NCAA Championship victory! Go Cats! Katy and her parents (from PA) are regular visitors and friends of MSPC.

Welcome baby Waddell! Sara Baird and Alan Waddell welcomed their second child Wednesday. Margaret Baird Waddell "Maggie" and mom and both doing well. Big sister, Ellie, and grandparents, Wayne and Marguerite, are very excited to welcome a baby sister/granddaughter.

Thank you from...

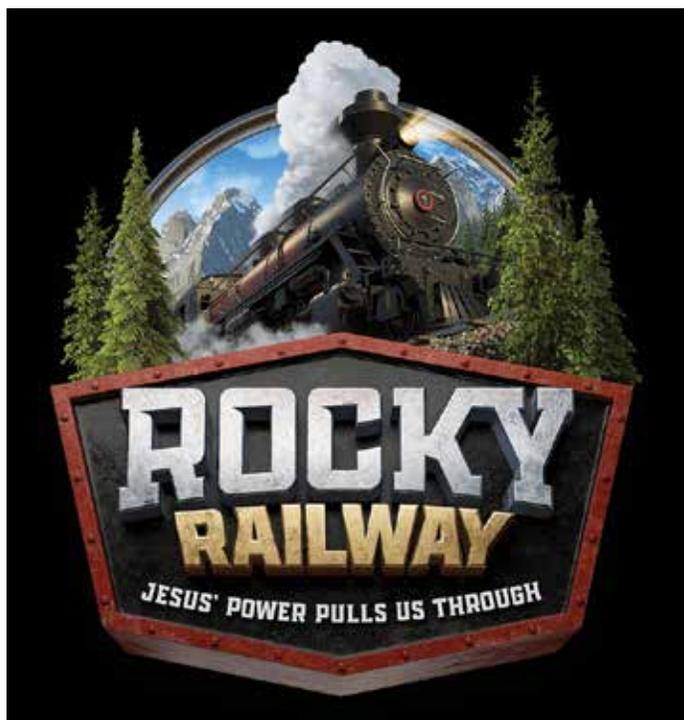
Dear Maxwell Street friends,
Thank you very much for your cards, calls, notes, prayers and good wishes. You have warmed my heart and helped my body heal. Thank you, too, for your support of John. We are grateful to be part of such a caring community. ~ Cindy Cantrell

Dear MSPC Family,
Gentry and I cannot thank you enough for the care you have provided for us during these challenging months. The food has provided such a warmth and comfort for us. Also, the deacon gifts were adorable! I love the baby clothes! We cannot wait to return to church. We love you all! ~ Sarah, Gentry, Charlie and Hugh.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Alice Koyagi	May 3
Kathryn McMahan	May 9
Joey Weitkamp	May 17
Julia Weitkamp	May 26
Matthias Williams	May 29



Vacation Bible School Day at Maxwell Street

Saturday July 17, 2021 9:00- 4:00

Children are invited to join us for a fun filled day aboard the Rocky Railway. Climb aboard for mountains of fun at rocky railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

SIGN UP ONLINE

Please sign up online at www.maxpres.org/vbs2021 to attend our Vacation Bible School Saturday. We are looking forward to it!

GENEXT SUMMER CALENDAR



GeNext is a program designed for 4th and 5th graders to give them a place to connect and prepare for Youth Group. During the Summer we will meet with our current 4th and 5th graders in June and July and our rising 4th and 5th graders in August. Here are the dates for these events Place and Time to be determined.

Saturday, June 12, 3-4:30 p.m. at MSPC
(If we are back to in person worship we will meet Sunday June 13th immediately following worship)

Saturday, July 10th - Mystery Trip!
Time and Place to be decoded!

August 21st -Welcome new students!
For those students in 4th and 5th grade at the start of the school year. 3-4:30 p.m. at MSPC

YOUTH NEWS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Miranda Reese **May 7**
Caroline Costich **May 12**
James Ackerman **May 15**

April was a big month for the MSPC youth program! One of our youth was baptized, seven of our eight youth were confirmed during worship (stay tuned for Youth Sunday for the eighth confirmation), and the youth gathered for their first in-person event since last October!

One of our confirmands, Evie Smith, said in her faith statement that, “meeting over the past year for confirmation over Zoom taught her how important connection was.” Like probably every one, the youth have used technology to connect so much over the past year. When we finally gathered for our first in-person event this year, a hike at Raven Run, we were able to laugh and chat so much more and more easily than we had at any time over Zoom. And we were outside, together. There is a unique specialness to enjoying the Kentucky River’s shade of green or the purple flowers with another. It’s a pure wonder and happiness and simplicity.

All of us hold different amounts of anxiety about gathering again and about the future. Whatever pace and whatever frame of mind you have found feels most comfortable for you is good. The youth of Maxwell Street share with you the joy and peace we have gathered up from our first time together, for you to have in whatever space you find yourself in this day. We have so many prayers for the future, too! May we all have more and more chances to really connect, O God.



UKIRK CAMPUS MINISTRY

Celebrating Pride



Along with students and staff from Hillel, the Jewish campus group at UK, and St. Augustine’s Chapel, the Episcopal and Lutheran campus ministry at UK, UKirk hosted an “interfaith open and affirming faiths” table at UK’s Pride fest. We handed out snacks, fun stickers, and coloring sheets we made of Bible stories that feature queer characters (Joseph’s robe of many colors, Esther and the king’s court, David and Jonathan, etc.). We already have plans to be at the resource fair

hosted by UK’s LGBTQ* Office in the Fall and to host an interfaith theology discussion later in the semester in the office. The students of UKirk have a vision of being an open space for all students, with theology and hospitality that makes room affirms all demographics, backgrounds, and doubts. Maxwell Street shares in this expansive, welcoming vision too and empowers us to go and love and welcome as Christ loves and welcomes us all. We thank you, Maxwell Street, for that!

End of year Cookout

May 4th, 5:30-7:30

Hot dog (and veggie dog) cookout for UKirk Lexington, PC(USA) campus ministry to UK, Transy, and BCTC students. Behind Maxwell Street, in the campfire, grill area. High school seniors attending UK, Transy, or BCTC are invited to come and see what UKirk is like! Outdoor event, masks required.

FELLOWSHIP & STUDY

Matt's Sunday School Class

Our year with the Bible draws to a close this month. What a wonderful journey it has been! Starting June 6, Matt will be offering a Sunday School in 30 minutes class following worship called: "Belonging to Church" A recent Gallup poll indicated that for the first time since Gallup has been keeping track (since 1937) fewer than 50% of people belong to a house of worship. Historically, what has it meant to belong? Should we think about church as something we belong to? What other kinds of congregational models besides belonging are there? What does it mean to belong to Maxwell Street? What questions do you have about belonging to church? Join us for this 4 week class... time details to be announced in the Friday mailer.

Kerygma

Matt's Midweek Bible Study

Our semester draws to a close with the subject of Christian Nationalism. Our last class will be May 12th on Zoom. We'll gather for an outdoor picnic at an area park. We'll be following all covid protocols. Keep watching the Friday mailer for special summer Kerygma gatherings!

Words & Wine

Words and Wine: May's meeting will be on the 7th, and the book is "*American Dirt*" by Jeanine Cummins. Given that pandemic numbers have improved so much and many of us have been vaccinated, we're planning a "hybrid" meeting for May. Becky Kemper will host us on her deck at 2128 Rollingdale, and we'll also have the Zoom meeting going for those who feel more comfortable attending remotely. Becky will provide the wine and disposable cups, but we'll each bring our own food this time. If you have any questions or concerns about the format, you're welcome to get in touch with me at laurenefalco@yahoo.com or 814-273-0882. I hope you're able to join us in some way next month!

For June 4, we'll read "*The Dew Breaker*" by Edwidge Danticat. This story gives us glimpses of 1960s Haiti as well as present-day New York City. We'll wait until next month to make a decision about the meeting format & location for June.

NADYA Book Group

We will finish up Dumplin' on Sunday, May 2 from 6-7:30 on Zoom. Our next book will be *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the F.B.I.* by David Grann. So you may want to keep an eye out for copies. Watch for details on meeting times. Questions: contact Jason (jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com).

Presbyterian Women

OUR NEXT MEETING

May 6 at 10am

We gather around 10am just for conversation on how everyone is doing... "How was your Easter? Did you get to the open worship in the parking lot at church? Have you seen Rachel's son, Benny? - He's a cutie." Or whatever you want to talk about. Last month we elected new officers for the 2021-2022 year and will install them today.

Here are the new officers:

Moderator: Mary Waxham (797-4409)

Secretary & Historian: Caroline Thomas (699-2172)

Treasurer: Sue Senft (273-3324)

Community Outreach: Caroline Thomas (699-2172)

Global Missions: Jeanne Woodberry (268-2867)

Personal Faith: Rowena Johnson (233-3720)

Nominating: Georgia Bacquet (278-3172) & Angela Keith (368-0222)

Our book study will be led by Angela Keith - We'll be discussing chapter 7 in *Listening for God*, volume 2, "Seeing, Weather Report: August 9 and Getting to Hope" written by Kathleen Norris.

Chancel Choir Chats

Part of the joy of singing in the choir is sharing in fellowship and visiting with one another. Beth Wilson will host Chancel Chat with the choir members virtually. Join Beth on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 on Zoom. Questions, contact Beth (beth@maxpres.org).

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Systemic Racism, Gun Violence, Poverty, what can we do?



Please join the Social Justice committee as we use our power and privilege to support the requests of the Black Faith Leaders of Lexington and Vicinity (BFLLV) through letter writing to our local officials. In their last statement to the press, the BFLLV stated the following demands:

- **A permanent ban on no knock warrants**
- **Stricter enforcement of police body camera policy and procedure**
- **Establishment of a civilian review board for police disciplinary occurrences**
- **LFUCG spend and make policy to spend 15% of private sector contracts with racial minority owned businesses**
- **FCPS Superintendent search committee take serious Lexington's need for a Superintendent with experience in urban contexts**
- **City and civic organizations work to increase voter engagement across all demographics**

Some helpful background information that the BFLLV shared in their most recent statement, "The Louisville Metro Council gave the green light to

pass the ordinance creating the Civilian Review and Accountability Board and Fischer signed it into law last year. The group adds another layer of oversight to the LMPD and will work with the city's new inspector general, creating a new process for independent reviews" (WLKY). You can read more about the Louisville Civilian Review and Accountability Board on the internet.

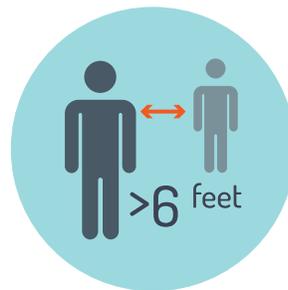
In 2020, of Lexington's business contracts, "Less than 1 percent went to black-owned businesses, city data showed. Only Hispanic-owned businesses received less with about 0.49 percent. Asian American-owned businesses received the second most with 2.1 percent followed by Native American-owned businesses with 1.7 percent" (Lexington Herald Leader). Civic Lex is a great resource for learning more about Lexington city government.

The Mayor's Commission for Racial Justice & Equality published a report with 54 recommendations in October of 2020 including the ban of no-knock warrants and spending goals for specifically racial minority owned businesses. You can access the full report on LFUCG's webpage: lexingtonky.gov/commission-racial-justice-and-equality.

We hope you will join us in exercising listening, solidarity, and decentering our own opinions as most right as we try to do justice work. You can write to our mayor, police chief, and city council about particular items you feel comfortable with or all of them. The Social Justice committee is putting together a sample letter for anyone who needs a starting place! Reach out to Jim Nelson if you are interested in the sample letter, have any questions, or would like to get more involved in the social justice committee.

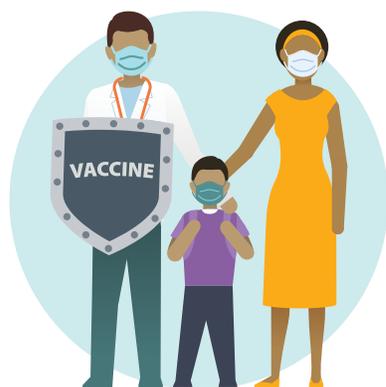
COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccines (shots) are one of the tools we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.



To stop this pandemic, we need to use all of our prevention tools. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent disease. Vaccines work with your body's natural defenses so **your body will be ready to fight the virus**, if you are exposed (also called immunity). Other steps, like wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth and staying at least 6 feet away from other people you don't live with, also help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Studies show that COVID-19 **vaccines are very effective** at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. These vaccines cannot give you the disease itself.



The vaccines are safe. The U.S. vaccine safety system makes sure that all vaccines are as safe as possible. All the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same standards as any other vaccines produced through the years. A system in place across the entire country that allows CDC to watch for safety issues and make sure the vaccines stay safe.

Different types of COVID-19 vaccines will be available. Most of these vaccines are given in two shots, one at a time and spaced apart. The first shot gets your body ready. The second shot is given at least three weeks later to make sure you have full protection. If you are told you need two shots, make sure that you get both of them. The vaccines may work in slightly different ways, but all types of the vaccines will help protect you.



www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines

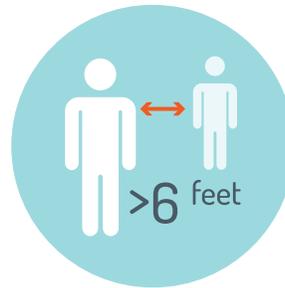


The vaccines may cause side effects in some people, like sore muscles, feeling tired, or mild fever. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. For most people, these side effects will last no longer than a day or two.

Having these types of side effects does NOT mean that you have COVID-19. If you have questions about your health after your shot, call your doctor, nurse, or clinic. As with any medicine, it is rare but possible to have a serious reaction, such as not being able to breathe. It is very unlikely that this will happen, but if it does, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

When you get the vaccine, you *and* your healthcare worker will both need to wear masks.

CDC recommends that during the pandemic, people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside their household, when in healthcare facilities, and when receiving any vaccine, including a COVID-19 vaccine.



Even after you get your vaccine, you will need to keep wearing a mask that covers your nose **and** mouth, washing your hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from other people you do not live with. This gives you and others the best protection from catching the virus. Right now, experts don't know how long the vaccine will protect you, so it's a good idea to continue following the guidelines from CDC and your health department. **We also know not everyone will be able to get vaccinated right away, so it's still important to protect yourself and others.**



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