

January 11, 2026
Baptism of the Lord



**Mission Statement: To Bring People to Christ
And Nurture Them in the Faith**



Pastor: Rob Bacon
Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Rev. Jerry Swanberg, Emeritus
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Maxwell Methodist Church
January 11, 2026 – Baptism of the Lord
Pastor: Robert Bacon; Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Pianist: Deb Mitchell

*Please stand if able

Prelude. Deb Mitchell

Welcome/Announcements

We Worship as We Rejoice

Praise Team

We Worship as We Gather

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
The God of glory thunders.

People: The voice of the LORD is powerful and full of majesty.

Leader: Jesus came to be baptized, fulfilling all righteousness.

People: We come to remember our baptism and rejoice in God's grace.

Leader: Come, let us worship the one who calls us beloved.

ALL: We lift our voices in praise to our Savior and King!

We Worship in Prayer

***Merciful God, we confess that we fail to live as Your beloved children should live. We forget our baptismal vows and seek our own way. Forgive us, LORD JESUS, and renew in us the power of your Holy Spirit. Help us to walk in the light of Your grace. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We Worship in Song

***Hymn. "When Morning Gilds the Skies". Hymnal #110**

We Worship Together in Belief

***The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, He rose again,

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Worship by Hearing the Word

Scriptures. (NIV) Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1-9

The Servant of the LORD

- ¹“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

²He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

³A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

⁵This is what God the LORD says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:

⁶“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,

⁷to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

⁸“I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.

⁹See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you.”

***The Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

***Gloria Patri Hymnal #33**

We Worship in Prayer

Praises and Requests

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

We Worship in Giving

Offering plates are at both doors as you enter or leave and will not be passed.

***Doxology / *Offertory Prayer**

We Worship in Song

***Hymn. "Shall We Gather at the River" Hymnal #632**

We Worship in Learning the Word

Sermon. "The Baptism of Jesus" Carol Bacon

We Worship in Song

***Hymn. "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" Hymnal #29**

Benediction

Postlude. Deb Mitchell

Announcements

- **Pastor's Office Hours** : By appointment. Rob 515-460-8885; Carol 515-460-8969
- **Bulletin Announcements**: Please forward bulletin announcements to office@maxwellmc.org by Wednesday.
- **Fellowship Sign-up**: Please sign up to bring refreshments for fellowship time.
- **SNNOW**: Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- **January 11 @ 5:15 – 7:00 pm**: Youth Group Meet at church
- **January 15, 2026, @ 6:30pm**: Bible Babes Bible Study.
- **January 19, 2026 @ 9 am**: Volunteer Sewing Group

2025 Finance Summary

The two numbers below are a comparison of contributions to the **General Fund** that we use to pay most of the church's bills.

2024	2025
\$57,190	\$62,568 Offering Plate

Total giving, however, also included some employer matching gifts, a few direct deposits and some transfers from the Parsonage Rent Fund which made that number higher, \$68,840.

At first glance, this looks good (our giving increased) AND our expenses last year (\$67,224) were slightly less than this income. **BUT** while we paid our bills in full, those **bills increased in 2025** causing us to also use some aforementioned transfers from the Parsonage Rent Fund **and** use some of the carryover from last year's General Fund ending balance to pay them.

The reality is, there is reason to celebrate but we also need to be aware this pattern will likely catch up to us at some point.

It's safe to say our largest budget expense increase came from our insurance bill which we can't control. In my opinion, there are no obvious expenses to cut so we are thankful that we have the Parsonage rent income currently (\$13,200) as yet another source besides the 3 mentioned above (plate, direct deposits and employer matching) to also use when necessary.

As usual, I thank God and this church for its consistent giving. It continues to amaze me what we are both giving, and unfortunately what our expenses have become.

Thanks for listening, and thank God for all the blessings he has bestowed on us.

Financial secretary Rich Wehrman