

January 18, 2026
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany



**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 18, 2026 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Pastor: Robert Bacon; Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Pianist: Deb Mitchell
***Please stand if able**

Prelude. Deb Mitchell

Welcome/Announcements

We Worship in Song

*Hymn "Hallelujah I Am Free!" Hymnal #543

We Worship as We Gather

***Call to Worship**

Leader: I waited patiently for the Lord,
He inclined to me and heard my cry.

People: **He put a new song in my mouth,**
a song of praise to our Lord.

Leader: Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sin of the world!

People: **We come to follow Him and proclaim His grace.**

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

ALL: **We lift our voices in praise to Jesus,**
The Lamb of God!

We Worship in Prayer

*Gracious God, we confess that we too often resist Your call. We seek our own way instead of trusting Your plans for us. Forgive us for our brokenness and help us to follow the Lamb of God wherever He may lead. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Worship in Song

Hymn. "I Love to Tell the Story" Hymnal #160

We Worship as We Rejoice

The Praise Team

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 Hearing the Word

Scriptures. Psalm 40:9-10, John 1:29-34 (NIV)

Old Testament: Psalm 40:9-10

⁹I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;
 I do not seal my lips, LORD,
 as you know.
¹⁰I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
 I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness
 from the great assembly.

*The Gospel: John 1:29-34

John Testifies About Jesus

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³²Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

We Worship in Learning the Word

Sermon. “The Lamb of God”.....Pastor Rob Bacon

We Worship in Song

*Hymn. “Redeemed”..... Hymnal #532

*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 19, 2026 @ 9 am**: Volunteer Sewing Group
- **January 22, 2026, @ 6:30 pm**: Bible BABES (Build And Bless Every Soul) Study
- **January 25, 2026**: Ad Council following worship
- **December 31, 2026 @ 8:30 am** Men's Breakfast

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