

January 25, 2026
3rd 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 25, 2026 – 3rd 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 as We Rejoice

The Praise Team

We Worship as We Gather

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord is my light, and my salvation:
Whom shall I fear?

**People: We seek Your face, O Lord,
And wait for Your guidance.**

Leader: Jesus calls us to follow Him and
Proclaim His good news.

**People: We come to worship the one who
is the light of the world.**

Leader: Come, let us worship Christ,
our Savior and King.

**ALL: We lift our voices in praise and
follow Him in faith!**

We Worship in Prayer

***Gracious God, we confess that we are slow to respond to Your call and often ignore it altogether. We cling to our creature comforts and ignore Your invitation to follow You. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to walk in Your Light. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We Worship in Song

Hymn "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" Hymnal #67

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 Learning the Word

Scripture. Matthew 4:17-22 (NKJV)

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

We Worship in Song

Hymn. "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"TFWS #2158

We Worship in Learning the Word

Sermon. "Come, Follow Me"Pastor Rob Bacon

We Worship in Song

*Hymn. "Take My Life and Let It Be "Hymnal #586

***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 25, 2026 Today**: Ad Council following worship
- **January 29, 2026, @ 6:30 pm**: Bible BABES (Build And Bless Every Soul) Study
- **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.

<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
\$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