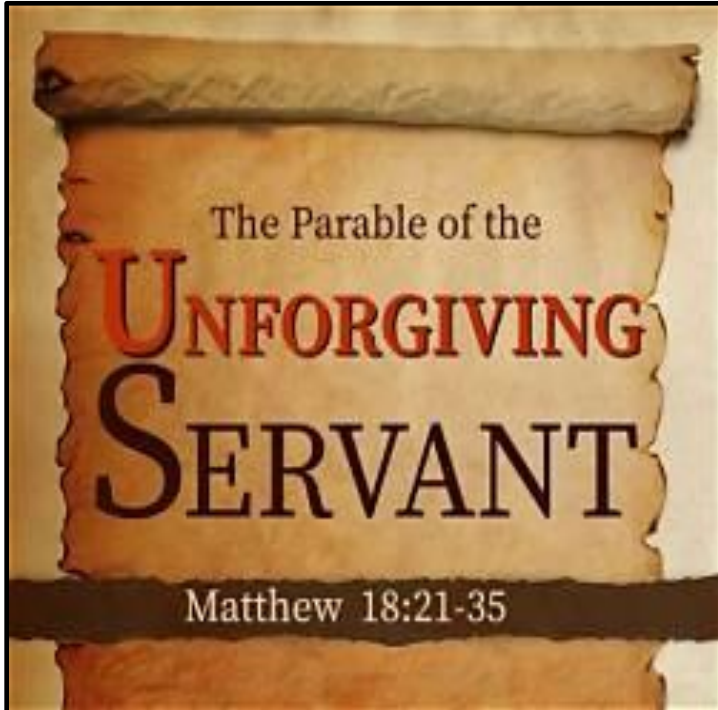


September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Pastor: Rob Bacon
Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Rev. Jerry Swanberg, Emeritus
501 2nd Street, PO Box 307
Maxwell, IA 50161
Office: (515) 387-8594
Website: <https://www.maxwellmc.org>

Unable to attend in-person service, join us at 10:00 am:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MaxwellGlobalMethodistYouTube>

Maxwell Methodist Church
September 20, 2026 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Robert Bacon; Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon

Pianist: Deb Mitchell

***Please stand if able**

Prelude. Deb Mitchell

Welcome/Announcements

We Worship as We Gather

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: **It is like precious oil on the head, running down on the collar of Aaron's robe.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Should you not have mercy on your fellow servant as I had mercy on you?"

People: **We come to worship the one who forgives and calls us to forgive.**

Leader: Come, let us lift our voices to the Lord of Mercy.

All: **Alleluia! We praise the God who delivers and forgives!**

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we confess that we continue to struggle to forgive as You have forgiven us. We hold onto resentment and fail to show mercy. Forgive us and teach us to forgive from the heart. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We are Led in Worship

Praise Team

We Worship in Song

*Opening Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Hymnal #279
V. 1, 2 & 6

We Worship in Prayer

Praise Offerings / 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 by Hearing the Word

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

We Worship in Song

Congregational Song "God, How Can We Forgive?" TFWS #2169

We Worship in Learning the Word

Message: "Forgiving From the Heart" Pastor Rob Bacon

We Worship in Song

*Closing Song. "Forgive our Sins as We Forgive" Hymnal #442

Closing Prayer

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
- **Wednesdays @ 6:00 – 7:00 pm**
- **September 23 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**: Women's Bible Study "Breathe" every week from September 10, 2026, through the end of May 2027 in the lower level.
- **September 26 @ 8:30 am**: Men's Breakfast
- **September 27 @ 5:15 pm – 7:00 pm**: Youth Group with Lee & Sheri Sharp at the church.
- **September 29 @ 9:00 am**: Volunteer Sewing Group
- **October is Clergy Appreciation Month**: Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Month is one specific day to nationally pay tribute to our clergy. Also referred to as Clergy Appreciation Day, this day of showing national gratitude for clergy members is celebrated on the second Sunday in October or anytime during October.
- **October 31, 2026**: The Maxwell City Council has declared October 31 as Begger's Night.

Church Keys A review of those who have church keys was reviewed at the last Ad Council meeting. The Lock Box Key in the church office has been borrowed and not returned. If you still have this key in your possession, please return to the church office. Thank you.

Coloring pages are on the table in the back of the sanctuary if your child would want one.

Directory: An updated directory is on the table in the back of the sanctuary. This directory does not have pictures and only lists those with known addresses.

Upper Midwest GMC Links: Check out what's happening. Stay connected.
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uppermidwestgmc/>
Website: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/>