

September 27, 2026
Eighteenth 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 27, 2026 – Eighteenth 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: I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old.

People: We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord.

Leader: Jesus said, "Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and
And your 'no' be 'no.'"

People: We come to worship the one who calls us to faithful action.

Leader: Come, let us lift our voices to the Lord who leads in truth.

All: Alleluia! We praise the God who provides and guides!

We are Led in Worship

Praise Team

***Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that our words do not always match our actions.
We proclaim You as Lord but then fail to follow through on our commitments
to You and others. Forgive us and help us to live with integrity and humility.
We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We Worship in Song

***Opening Hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Hymnal #1
Vs. 1, 2, 3 & 4**

The Reception of New Members

- Dannie Lee Jorgenson – Profession of Faith
- Carol Hart – Transfer from the Ames Collegiate Presbyterian Church
- Emily Pfeffer – Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria, VA

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 21:23-32 (NIV)

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus replied, **"I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?"**

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, **"Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."**

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ **"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'** ²⁹ **"I will not," he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.**

³¹ **"Which of the two did what his father wanted?"**

"The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, **"Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you."**

³² **For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him."**

We Worship in Song

Congregational Song. . . . "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing". . . . Hymnal #37

We Worship in Learning the Word

Message: "The Authority of Jesus Christ". Carol Bacon

We Worship in Song

*Closing Song. "Eternal God Transcending Time". Green Book.#3030

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** SSNOW
- **Thursdays @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**: Women's Bible Study "Breathe"
- **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.

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/>

Methodist Roots: <https://www.globalmethodist.org/methodist-roots>