

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
July 16, 2023 **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.” Nelson Mandela

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Come, let us worship God!

Come, let us worship our Creator!

God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God’s life-giving love.

God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener’s love and grace to transform us into good soil.

God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

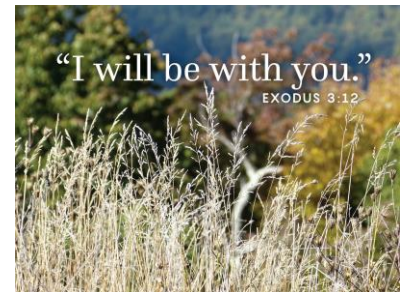
May we nurture and grow God’s new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God’s creation. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *“For the Healing of the Nations”* (UMH # 428)

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead your people into freedom, from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how, through care and goodness, fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.



4. You, Creator-God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

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INVOCATION (unison)

God of Jacob, who rested his head on a stone pillow and saw visions of your angels, be with us this day. Give us a vision of your presence in the midst of our strife. Give us courage and confidence that you are with us, calling us to be your loving people in the world. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

SILENT PRAYER

Communicate with God about your faith.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-15 (NIV)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have

sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful, but we fall short. We get so comfortable that we sleep when we need to be vigilant about the errors in our own lives and the injustices around us. We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives and threatens to overwhelm the good we do. We do not pay attention to the unjust systems which shape our lives, that we must work to transform so that your Beloved Community may come to be. Forgive us. Keep us awake so that we can produce the lives you call us to live. Amen.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

“The Names of God--Part Three”

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

“Hymn of Promise”

(UMH # 707)

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

OFFERTORY

INVITATION TO SHARE

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 94)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Meridian Junior High School Band

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Let me find peace within so that I may be calm throughout. Let me find silence within so that I may find compassion throughout. Let me be reminded that some things are worth waiting for. Let me be reminded that the journey is more important than reaching the destination. Let me see that the non-doing is as much a part of life as the doing. Let me be reminded that it is in these moments of holding on that I can find quietude and renewal. It is within these times of inaction that I can find rest. It is in these times of emptiness that I can become full. (Kenneth Langer)

***CLOSING Hymn “Let There Be Peace on Earth” (UMH # 431)**

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live
each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude

**Please rise as you are able*

Special thankyou's to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 33

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maconilumc>

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for update information about the church, events and news. Please use webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com to submit updates or additions to the church website.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. July 16 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. July 16 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Wed. July 19 10:00 am Community Senior Group at Elwin—Self Defense
Sun. July 23 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. July 23 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Wed. July 26 6:30 pm Administrative Council meeting at the church
Wed. July 26 7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting at the church
Sun. July 30 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. July 30 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 20 David Huggins`

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Vegetable soup, chicken-noodle soup and tomato soup, any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit, toilet paper and dish liquid. Cash Donations are always welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

Expenses \$3,816; Incomes \$6,525

CHURCH BENCH

Plastic cap and lid collection continues. We still need about forty pounds of plastic bottle caps and lids to reach our goal so that we may obtain a bench in front of the church (made from recycled plastic). Be certain to wash the items thoroughly. The bench will be available to anyone that needs a respite while walking or running through town, a simple place to rest or to meditate.

RICE MEALS



Join us Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 1 to 4 PM at the Macon UMC Fellowship Hall. All are invited to help pack rice meals for the hungry. One bag feeds six people and includes a vitamin packet, dehydrated vegetables, soy, and white rice. The packets are distributed through the Midwest Distribution Center and given to trusted non-profits throughout the world. To help, contact the Methodist outreach committee: Christine Cutler 217 433-4407; ccut31@gmail.com or Lori Nixon 217 972-6069; lawn64@yahoo.com. Please sign-up by August 1.

BACK TO SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT

The Elwin NOW Committee is hosting an All-church Movie Night on Sunday, August 13 at 6:00 pm showing "The Jesus Revolution." Elwin invites the Macon and Zion Chapel Churches (including the youth group) to join them at the movie. Popcorn and soda will be provided.



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH AT BOSS

Please support some of our youth members as they perform in the Decatur Park District summer arts program July 21 and 22 at the Devon. www.decatur-parks.org/the-arts/best-of-summer-stock-boss/