

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**July 23, 2023** **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*God's word is not just to be heard and repeated; it is to be breathed, lived, and emulated with each action". Steve Maraboli*

## **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements

## **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

One: Despite hardship, our ancestors dared to dream God-sized dreams.

**Many: Praise God for hope-filled dreams.**

One: Do it again, Lord. Dream big dreams through us today!

**Many: Praise God for new dreams for our generation.**

One: Invisible God, be visible through our faith today.

**Many: Praise God who empowers us with faith to see what others miss.**

One: Will we stop building a better future because of evil?

**Many: No! Our God will deliver us from evil!**

One: Will we concede our neighborhoods because evil walks the streets?

**Many: No! God will judge all evildoers!**

**All: Come now, Lord, and fulfill your dreams in us today!**

### **\*OPENING HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (UMH # 694)**

1. Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;  
wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,  
giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;



but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide;  
come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

#### **INVOCATION (unison)**

**Holy One, you call us to find your kin-dom already hidden in our world—in tiny, transforming possibilities; in beauty that calls us to surrender all; in complicated choices that call for wisdom. Reveal yourself here in this moment and heighten our senses that we may find you and join you in building this kin-dom of love, and hope, and peace. In the name of the One who calls us to seek, Jesus, the Christ. 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**

#### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

**Romans 8:12-17**

So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn’t an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. All who are led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons and daughters. You didn’t receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, “Abba, Father.” The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God’s children. But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God’s heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

**When faith is tested to the limit, and we stumble, forgive us. When feet stray from the path, and we wander, forgive us. When our neighbor is in need, and we pass by, forgive us. When the voices of this world, drown out your whisper, forgive us. When love draws us to your feet, in repentance, forgive us.**

#### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds

among the wheat and went away. When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

“The servants of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Master, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?’ “‘An enemy has done this,’ he answered.

“The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them?’

“But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them. Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvest time I’ll say to the harvesters, “First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.”’

Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

Jesus replied, “The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Those who have ears should hear.”

## **A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN**

### **MESSAGE**

**“Walking As the Light”  
Rev. Terry McDorman**

### **HYMN**

***“Nearer Thy God to Thee”***

**(UMH # 528)**

1. Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

2. Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down, darkness be over me, my rest a  
stone; yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

3. There let the way appear, steps unto heaven; all that thou sendest me, in mercy  
given; angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

4. Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise, out of my stony griefs  
Bethel I'll raise; so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

5. Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky, sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,  
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to  
thee!

## **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)**

**Holy God, we are living in days of division and polarization, and we regretfully confess that your church is not exempt from that statement. Regardless of where we stand, it is far too easy to look at those who see things differently and see them as weeds, stunting the good fruit we could bear. As we bring our offerings to you, the temptation to focus on our own agenda is strong. Help us to give generously without judging. Give us the faith to put them to your use, and humility to know that only you can see clearly what is wheat and what is weed. We pray in the name of Christ who knows all hearts. Amen**

### **PECIAL MUSIC**

**Jacob Baker**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**Creator God, Holy Gardener who sustains and nurtures all life, open us today to your life-giving grace and transformative love. As we notice our internal struggles, empower us to greet the wheat and the weeds in our own hearts with care and compassion. As we recognize the challenges and suffering in our community, inspire us to meet the weeds and the wheat in our neighbors with acceptance and hope. We know that you alone have the final say, and so we give ourselves over to you as instruments of hospitality and grace that we would tend our neighbors even as we are tended by you. Amen**

**\*CLOSING HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (UMH # 206)**

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In Him, there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.  
In Him, there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus  
In Him, there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude*

*\*Please rise as you are able*

*Special thankyou to all those that assisted with worship today.*

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 55**

**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](mailto:webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com) to submit updates or additions to the church website.*

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

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 23	Ross and Susannah Moyer	July 27	Randy Wells
July 28	Craig Boggs	July 28	Madilyn Kapchinske
July 29	Marsha and Alan Baker		

## **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](mailto: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.

