

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**May 19, 2024** **Day of Pentecost**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*Pentecost is about the moment the church was born. It is about what the church of Jesus Christ is supposed to be. It is about the Holy Spirit bringing people together as one in spite of their differences: different cultures, different languages, different traditions, different beliefs, different interpretations, different theologies. Pentecost is about being unified in words, and in a salvation that is for all people.*



### **RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**Inviting the entire community to join in worship**

### **PRELUDE**

### **GATHERING**

**Words of welcome and announcements**

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

Feel the caress of the Holy Spirit in the healing breath of hope. See the bright embers of faith beckon each of us to unity in God. Greet one another in the assurance that the peace of Christ is ever present.

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

With tongues of flame, the Holy Spirit descends to burn in our hearts anew.

**Unite us, Holy Spirit!**

Like the rush of wind, we sense God's presence blowing afresh throughout the world.

**Unite us, Holy Spirit!**

Across the barriers of language and culture, Christ's message of love and grace is heard.

**Unite us, Holy Spirit!**

Divine Advocate, we seek your guidance as we search for the Spirit of Truth.

**Unite us, Holy Spirit! Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

***"Spirit of the Living God"***

**(UMH #539)**

1. O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,  
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.

Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;  
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

2. Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free  
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.  
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,  
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal.

3. Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,  
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;  
till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,  
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

4. So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save;  
so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave;  
and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole;  
till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

### **OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

**Holy One, ignite within us a fiery passion for your mission in the world today. Warm us by the Spirit's dancing tongues of flame, that we may feel your kindling blaze within, urging us to do your greater good. Make us wholly present to experience a new birth, and awaken possibilities within us to share your love in the world. In this love and abundance, we come to celebrate your harvest—a harvest bearing the first fruits of the Spirit within us. Show us how to use these gifts, as we listen for your truth in the gentle breeze of your Spirit.**

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

### **SILENT PRAYER**

Let us share our doubts with God.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

**Acts 2:1-21 (CEB)**

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them

speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

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

**Heavenly Father, you dwell within us in sighs too deep for words, yet we cannot hear you. Caring Mother, you wrap us tenderly in fierce love, you give us the breath of life, yet we cannot touch you. Brother Jesus, we yearn for your presence, we seek your abundant grace, yet we cannot feel it. Sister Spirit, you prepare to sear our souls for your purpose, yet we allow our somber selves to intrude, shutting our minds to your power. Remind us, we pray, that we need only trust in the giver of life to find the hope and faith you have promised. Gather us up in the winds of your favor and carry us to ever greater heights, through Christ who loves us still. Amen.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 15:26-27 (CEB)**

“When the Companion comes, whom I will send from the Father—the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

### **MESSAGE**

**“May the Force Be with You!”**

**Pastor Terry**

### **HYMN**

***“As A Fire is Meant for Burning”***

**(FWS #2237)**

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God’s name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.
2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way. We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.

By our gentle loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.

3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

### **INVITATION TO SHARE**

The church exists because God's Holy Spirit has called us together and bound us in covenant for the purpose of a particular mission. With our gifts let us affirm and support God's mission.

### **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)**

**Precious Lord, we hunger for the light and strength that only the Spirit can bring.  
Feed us and strengthen us, as we learn to feed others. Fill us with the breath of  
your spirit as you search our hearts. Take our lives as proof of our faithfulness.  
Take our gifts as proof of our love. Use them to your purpose here on earth.**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

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

**The Holy Spirit is the fire that doesn't consume or destroy, but energizes, warms,  
and excites! The Holy Spirit is the wind that lifts us up to heights beyond joy!  
The Holy Spirit is the birth that brings us into life with Christ, as a mother births  
a child! The Holy Spirit calls us to testify to the truth!**

#### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"***

**(UMH # 404)**

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke.  
All around me looks so shine, asked my Lord if all was mine.  
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

2. Jordan River runs right cold, chills the body, but not the soul.  
Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back.  
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

**(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)**

*Following the Postlude, please proceed outside to the area near the elevator entrance where we shall dedicate our new church bench to the community and people of Macon.*

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 40**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

*Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for updated 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. May 19 11:00 am Dedication of Church Bench  
Wed May 22 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's office  
Wed May 22 7:00 pm Administrative Meeting; Pastor's office  
Sun May 26 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. May 26 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun June 2 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. June 2 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun June 9 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. June 9 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. June 23 11:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; pastor's office

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

May 22 Max Moyer

## **MISSIONS**



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit and vegetables, canned soup, pasta sauce, and shampoo. Cash donations are always welcome.