

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
May 5, 2024 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. John 14:2



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**

In the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ, let us share signs of peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

Sing to God a new song,

for God has done marvelous things!

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,

for God is still doing marvelous things!

Break into joyful song!

Sing praises with lyre and melody and trumpets!

Let the seas roar and the floods clap their hands!

For God is coming to judge the world with righteousness.

God is coming to judge the world with equity.

Sing to God a new song!

OPENING HYMN** ***"Come Thou Font of Every Blessing" **(UMH #400)**

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of songs and marvels, old and new, your powerful love for this world continues to astound us. In these last days of Easter, we gather to recall the love that brought Jesus into this world and into our lives: as savior, friend and brother. We thank you for welcoming us into your household and for trusting us with your marvelous work to draw all people into the spacious home of your love. Amen.

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 10:44-48 (CEB)

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, "These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?" He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Jesus, friend and brother, you taught us to abide in your generous love, for it completes our lives and gives us joy; you ask us to love others as you have loved us, for it brings your creation to fruition. We sometimes struggle to love the people in our lives as you have loved us. Forgive us, we pray, and teach us your love again. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:9-17 (CEB)

“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

MESSAGE

“Bound for the Promised Land!”

Pastor Terry

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR CHARMIN COPENHAVER

(Please open your hymnals to page 33)

A CHORAL CELEBRATION

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”

INVITATION TO SHARE

Filled with the hope to which Christ has called us, let us lay our gifts and offerings at the foot of the cross.

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)**

God of all creation, powerful Spirit, Savior of all, use our gifts to bring hope to a world that is in need of your grace. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Please see video screen)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are invited to come forward and partake in the Lord's Feast. Take a piece of bread from the plate and dip it into the juice in the cup and then eat. If you are unable to come forward, please advise the usher and the elements will be brought to you. The bread is gluten-free.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

God of love, do not let us grow weary of living our lives according to the example of your child, Jesus. Loving one another is a great challenge and a high calling. We do not want to fail our friend and brother. Pour out upon us your spirit who reminds us that we bear Jesus' love and life within our very being--a powerful gift for our world. Out of this gift may we bear the fruit of love. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"The Summons"

(FWS #2130)

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 46

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 to submit updates or additions to the church website.

DR. DALE SPIRES' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 10:00AM at Macon UMC.

RICE MEALS

Macon UMC would like to host another rice-meal packing event this summer. The congregation has contributed \$1380 toward the required \$1,350 needed for the project.

PASTORAL CARE

Did you know that the church has a ministry of pastoral care to serve those that reside in retirement and/or multi-level care facilities? If you or someone you know might benefit from a visit or phone call, please let the church office know so that contact can be made.

DEDICATION OF CHURCH BENCH

On Sunday, May 19 at 11 a.m., we shall dedicate our new outdoor bench to the people of Macon. After several months of collecting plastic caps, the bench, made of recycled plastic, has been installed near the elevator entrance. It is to serve as a place of respite, contemplation and welcome. Thank you to all that made this possible. Please plan on attending and invite your neighbors as the bench is for them.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. May 5 11:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; Pastor's office
Sat May 11 10:00 am Dr. Dale Spires' Memorial Service, Macon UMC
Sun May 12 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 12 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun May 19 7:00 am UMM Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sun May 19 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 19 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. May 19 11:00 am Dedication of Church Bench
Sun May 26 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 26 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 04 Chad Rappe` May 09 Wayne and Donna Hays

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.