

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**September 22, 2024**                      **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*“All are truly welcome in God’s house where the language of love is spoken by all present.” Barbara Hoover*

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**  
**sound forth the presence of Christ**

**PRELUDE**



**GATHERING**            **Words of welcome and announcements**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

Who is wise and understanding among us?

**Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day. Those who delight in God and meditate on God’s law.**

Come, learn more about the wisdom from above,  
a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

**O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels. We draw near to you.**

**\*OPENING HYMN            “Lord I Want to Be a Christian”            (UMH # 402)**

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
- 4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

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

We draw near to you, O God, Source of all understanding, and ask you to draw near to us. Teach us your wisdom from above, that we may bear good fruit in our lives. Root us beside the streams of your wisdom, that the green leaves of our goodness, fed by your insight, may not wither. 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**

The truly happy person doesn’t follow wicked advice, doesn’t stand on the road of sinners, and doesn’t sit with the disrespectful. Instead of doing those things, these persons love the LORD’s Instruction, and they recite God’s Instruction day and night! They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don’t fade. Whatever they do succeeds.

### **Psalm 1:1-3 (CEB)**



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

O God, we live our lives as best we can—dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for your insight. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. Amen.

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Matthew 28:18-20 (CEB)**

Jesus came near and spoke to them, “I’ve received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

### **BLESSING OF THE BLANKETS (responsively)**

Gracious God, you have given us so many good gifts. Help us to share these gifts with others.

**God of love, grant our prayer.**

Let us pray for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the oppressed, the unemployed, and those in any need.

Gracious God, bless the givers of these blankets. May they demonstrate your love through the giving of these gifts.

**Bless the blankets they have provided. Bless those that deliver them and those that receive them. Bless the lives of all who will receive these blankets, with God's great love.**

**God of love grant our prayer. Amen.**

## **MESSAGE**

### **“Together, We Serve”**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

## **HYMN**

### ***“Together We Serve”***

**(FWS #2175)**

1. Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.
2. We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.
3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.
4. Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

*The writer of Proverbs teaches that God's Wisdom is present and active in our lives in this way: “She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.” Jesus lived this wisdom in his life, and called his disciples to this same generosity. Let us give out of this same generous wisdom—a wisdom that seeks a presence and purpose in our lives on behalf of all.*

## **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 Love and Mercy, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts, honoring your enduring guidance in our lives. Just as Wisdom works with willing hands and provides for those in need, may these gifts be used to nurture and uplift our community. Inspire us to follow your teachings of kindness and generosity. Transform our contributions into acts of love and justice, spreading your light in the world. May we always give credit to your divine wisdom and grace. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

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

**We ask for your wisdom, O God, not the earthly wisdom that we hear and see every day. Let your understanding flow through our lives like a stream, so that we may bear the good fruits of welcome and compassion. Teach us that our true dignity is found in honoring you by serving others. Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN                                      “The Gift of Love”                                      (UMH # 408)**

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

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### **BENEDICTION**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 51**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

*Our sincere appreciation to all those that contributed to this worship experience!*

*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.*

## **BISHOP FRANK BEARD**

Bishop Beard, who spoke at our 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary worship, has retired on disability. As a result, for the next four years the Illinois Great Rivers Conference will be sharing bishops with the Michigan and Iowa Annual Conferences.

Bishops David Alan Bard and Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai will be installed as presiding bishops of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference on Saturday, September 28, 2:30 p.m. at Normal Calvary UMC.

Both bishops will begin serving the Illinois Area on September 1. Bishops Bard and Bigham-Tsai will also have additional oversight responsibilities. Bishop Bard also serves as bishop of the Michigan Area and Bishop Bigham-Tsai serves as bishop of the Iowa Area.

The Installation Service is a worship experience and the public is invited to attend.

## **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY/BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, OCT 6.**

We shall celebrate Holy Communion in unison with Christians around the world. Following our worship, Pastor Terry will be blessing pets in front of the church. Please be certain that animals are either *leashed or in a cage*.

## **CAROL CONOVER RETIREMENT**

Carol Conover, recently retired (this month) from the Episcopal Secretary position in IGRC. Carol has been married for 36 years to her wonderful husband, Bill. They have two adult daughters who both live in Chicagoland. They are the grandparents of two Great Pyrenees dogs and one mix breed cat. Carol became a certified lay servant in 2005 and became a certified lay speaker in 2016. Carol has been the Director of the Sangamon River District (now Central District) Lay Servant Ministries since 2019.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

Wed. Sept. 25 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office  
Wed. Sept. 25 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office  
Sun. Sept. 29 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept. 29 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Sept. 29 10:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office  
Sun. Oct. 06 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Oct. 06 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service World Communion  
Sun. Oct. 06 11:00 am Blessing of the Animals

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Sept 22	Dione Osman	Sept 24	Judy Green
Sept 26	Dan Moyer		

## MISSIONS



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

**Macon UMC is collecting canned vegetables for the food pantry for the next two months. Contest between female vs male. Let's have Great Participation!!**

