

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
July 13, 2025 **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

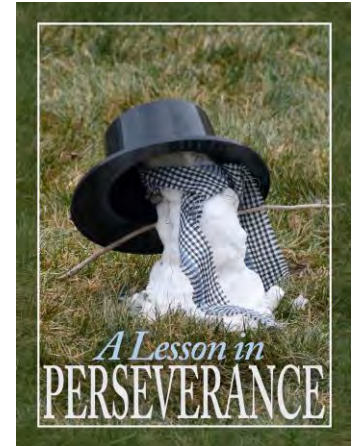
***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)** **Psalm 67** **(UMH # 791)**

- ¹ O God, be gracious to us and bless us
and make your face to shine upon us,
² **that your way may be known upon earth,**
your saving power among all nations.
³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
⁶ **The earth has yielded its increase;**
God, our God, has blessed us.
⁷ God has bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear God!.

OPENING HYMN** ***“Open My Eyes, That I May See” **(UMH # 454)**

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.



Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

OPENING PRAYER

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

"Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for him when he arrives and knocks on the door. Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them. Happy are those whom he finds alert, even if he comes at midnight or just before dawn. But know this, if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he wouldn't have allowed his home to be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Human One is coming at a time when you don't expect him."

Luke 12:35-40 (CEB)



EPISTLE SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:7-11 (CEB)

These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.



NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

My brothers and sisters, think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy. After all, you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let this endurance complete its work so that you may be fully mature, complete, and lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4 (CEB)



MESSAGE

“A Call to Persevere”

Rev. Tom Leeper

HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

(UMH # 526)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

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)**

Gracious God, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude for your steadfast love. We offer these gifts as signs of our joy and devotion, knowing that you use them for good in the world. May they be a source of light and hope to all who are in need. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Pass It On”

(UMH # 572)

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going, And soon all those around
Can warm up in its glowing. That’s how it is with God’s love
Once you’ve experienced it; You spread his love to everyone;
You want to pass it on.

2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding;
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That’s how it is with God’s love once you’ve experienced it;
You want to sing, it’s fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I’ve found; you can depend on him, it
matters not where you’re bound. I’ll shout it from the mountaintop;
I want my world to know; the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 38

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.

RICE MEAL PACKING

Our church will be packing rice meals for distribution on Saturday, August 2, 2025. Volunteers are need for August 2.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. July 13 11:00 am AED Demonstration and Instructions

Sun. July 20 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. July 20 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. July 27 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. July 27 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 14 Lorraine Hallam

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned fruits and vegetables; canned soup; canned pasta; shampoo; bar soap; toothpaste, and antiperspirant. Cash donations are always welcome.