

Macon United Methodist Church

190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133

October 19, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Persistence: just the fact that we gather week after week when the community around us does not see the point, might be a part of that persistence.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE



GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)**

We gather once again, Lord of all and Lord of us. We come to lift our prayers and to sing your praises once again. We come to ask and sing and hope and long to see your justice to the land. We worship in that hope and will work in that spirit.

***OPENING HYMN *"Wonderful Words of Life"* (UMH # 600)**

1. Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
all so freely given, wooing us to heaven.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

3. Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;

Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Heavenly father, be with us today as we persist in worshiping you. Enlighten us with your teachings. Refresh us with your Holy Spirit. Guide and direct us as we hear your word, sing your songs and pray to you. Be with us as we listen, reflect and learn, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Psalm 119:97-104)

⁹⁷ I love your Instruction!

I think about it constantly.

⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies

because it is always with me.

⁹⁹ I have greater insight than all my teachers because I contemplate your laws.

¹⁰⁰ I have more understanding than the elders because I guard your precepts.

¹⁰¹ I haven't set my feet on any evil path so I can make sure to keep your word.

¹⁰² I haven't deviated from any of your rules because you are the one who has taught me.

¹⁰³ Your word is so pleasing to my taste buds — it's sweeter than honey in my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ I'm studying your precepts — that's why I hate every false path.



GOSPEL READING

(Luke 18:1-8)

Jesus was telling them a parable about their need to pray continuously and not to be discouraged. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking, 'Give me justice in this case against my adversary.' ⁴For a while he refused but finally said to himself, I don't fear God or respect people, ⁵but I will give this widow justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise, there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me." ⁶The Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷Won't God provide justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he be slow to help them? ⁸I tell you, he will give them justice quickly. But when the Human One comes, will he find faithfulness on earth?"



MESSAGE

"Persistence As We Pray!"

**Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD
Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor**

HYMN

"Have Thine Own Way!"

(UMH # 382)

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.
2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and try me, Savior today! Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now, as in thy presence humbly I bow.
3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!
4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway. Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 95)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Persistent and just God, you do not turn away when your people cry out. Receive these gifts as acts of our faith, faith that keeps moving, faith that keeps hoping, faith that keeps working for justice, even when the world says its too late or too little. Make us a people who do not lose heart. Shape our prayers into action and our generosity into grace, until you kin-dom, comes on Earth as it is in Heaven. In the name of Christ, who still stands and knocks, Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, as we leave today, let us persist in being Christians, persist in living the Christian life. Help us to discern the holy path and help us to follow you on that path. Guide our steps, monitor our thinking and shelter us from harm. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Here I Am Lord"

(UMH #593)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who make the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a lone.
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
ere I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

May you continually wrestle with prayer. May you beseech the door of Heaven with shameless boldness. May your prayer produce in you, a countenance of joy. A gracious demeanor and a peaceful heart. And may the God of Hope, fill you with all peace that you may abound in hope assured that your prayers are heard by a loving and gracious father.

POSTLUDE

Beverly J, Matthews, PsyD
Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor
217 825 9010

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 28

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSIONS

The following information is provided in the event that you would want to donate to any or all of the nonprofit organizations who serve our greater communities.

Love Packages
220 Union St.
Butler, IL 62015
2175326701
www.lovepackages.org

Global Ministries
UMCOR
PO Box 9068
New York, NY 10087-9068 **designate Texas Floods or another focus**

**Africa University Development Office
Africa University (TN) Inc.
PO Box 340007
Nashville, TN 37203-0007**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Oct. 26 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct. 31 5:00-7:00 pm Trunk or Treat; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Nov. 2 9:00 am Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. Nov. 2 9:30 am Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. Nov. 2 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov. 2 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 19 Lynette Puckett Oct 24 Jerri Forden Henschen

Macon UMC will host Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 31, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in fellowship hall. If you cannot attend, your donations of candy can be delivered to the church.



MISSIONS



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

For holidays: instant mashed potatoes, evaporated milk, cake mixes, pie filling, French style green beans, canned cream corn, canned sweet potatoes, canned pineapple, jello and pudding mixes

The Wee Care Fund serves children in the Meridian School District and the Stonington areas. The two programs are “Back to School” and “Operation Christmas Gifts”. The funds are getting depleted, and the Christmas season is rapidly approaching. Our wonderful shopping volunteers will begin shopping in late November. Please consider a donation to the Wee Care Fund for them to purchase Christmas gifts to children in need.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Oct. 26 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

Nov. 2 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor

Nov. 9 Kirk Yenerall, CLM

Nov. 16 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

Nov. 23 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor

Nov. 30 Mark Dallner, CLS

Dec. 7 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor

Dec. 14 Kirk Yenerall, CLM

Dec. 21 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

Dec. 24 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor

Dec. 28 Mark Dallner, CLS