

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
August 16, 2026 **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

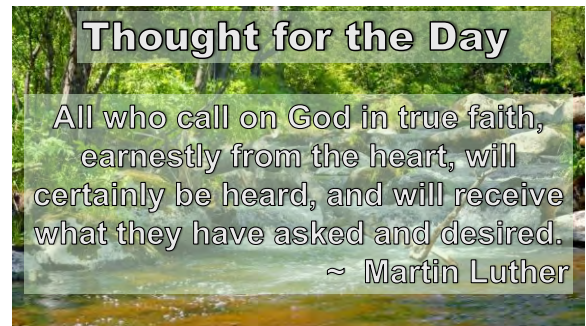
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired. ~ Martin Luther

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations



***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,
and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.

We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,
we gather as people who have been called to see the world from a different viewpoint.

Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—
outsiders and insiders, old-timers and new-comers, the young, old and the in-between.

Come as you are, for this is God's house—
a house of prayer for all people, and God welcomes each one who comes.

God has called us together, to be part of a community.

God challenges us to consider questions of priority as we engage with the world.

In this time together, may God open our hearts, minds and eyes, allowing us to see deeper,

helping us to live in the world while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee

(UMH #452)

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine!

2. May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire! As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!
3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.
4. When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then in love,
fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

OPENING PRAYER

In this moment, gracious God, you have called us away from the world to a place and a time where we can commune with you and with one another. Hallow this communion, we pray. Calm our anxious spirits, that we may be set apart to hear your word of truth through which we receive grace to bring about the obedience of faith. Open us to the reality of your all-embracing love, both in this place and in the wider world. May we, by our words and actions, be bearers of your kingdom, in the name and Spirit of the Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

God wants to hear from you. As we continue in our time of prayer, take a moment of silence and lift your prayers up to the Father, who hears your pleas and cries of your heart. (60 seconds)

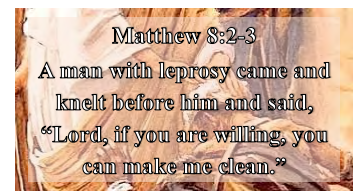
THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said,
“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Matthew 8:2

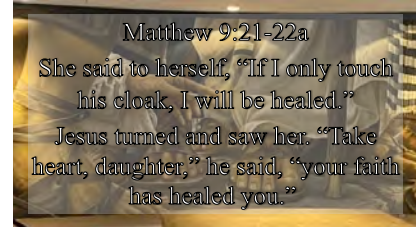


SCRIPTURE READING

She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."

Matthew 9:21-22a



SCRIPTURE READING



For we live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

SCRIPTURE READING

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3



MESSAGE

“Having A Great and Beautiful Faith”

Rev. Tami Werschey-Kessinger

HYMN

“Walk by Faith”

(TFWS #2196)

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; with gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod; yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound; to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:

4 That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light may we behold you as you are, in full and endless sight.

5 We walk by faith, and not by sight; with gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

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)**

Faithful One, when hunger threatens our world, you bless us with dreams that we can save the children of our day. Bless this offering, that your dreams for a world without want may bless the lives of your children. Transform these gifts into vessels of grace that have the power to make all people one. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Randy Wells

CLOSING PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN**

"How Firm A Foundation"

(UMH #529)

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;

I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;

for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

BENEDICTION (pastor)

POSTLUDE

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

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.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 33

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Aug 23 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Aug 23 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Aug 30 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Aug 30 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Sept 06 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Sept 06 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Mon. Sept 07 Labor Day
Tues. Sept 15 6:00 pm United Women of Faith; Fellowship Hall

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 16 Shirley Kilzer Aug 20 Marlan Chaney

MISSIONS



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

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Aug 16 Tami Werschey-Kessinger, Pastor
Aug 23 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Aug 30 Tami Werschey-Kessinger, Pastor
Sept 06 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Sept 13 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Sept 20 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Sept 27 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation class will meet one more Sunday. The first Sunday in September is the Confirmation Service.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS ASSISTANCE

Considering giving to the Food Pantry jug at the back of the sanctuary. Their rent has increased. Make checks payable to Macon UMC, memo line: pantry. September is Macon UMC's volunteer time at the pantry. See Connie Baker to sign up.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Contact Susannah or Denise if you would like the confirmation kids to come to you to do a service project.

RICE-MEAL PACKING

Thirty-two volunteers packed rice meals feeding 7,200 people.