

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
August 23, 2026 **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Lord is their help and shield.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE



GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP (in unison)**

The Apostle's Creed # 881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he

ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

OPENING HYMN** ***"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" **(UMH # 110)**

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same; and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever!

OPENING PRAYER

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

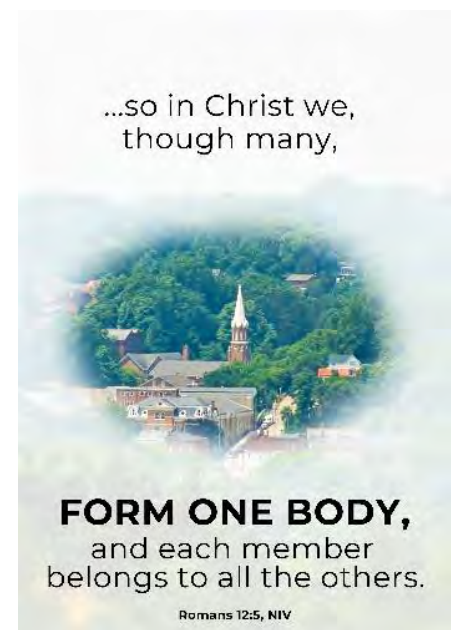
THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12: 1-8

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. ² Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

³ Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. ⁴ We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. ⁶ We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. ⁷ If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. ⁸ If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.



MESSAGE

“A Living Sacrifice”
Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

HYMN

“Take My Life, and Let it Be”

(UMH # 399)

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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 God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are--your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Macon UMC Bell Choir

CLOSING HYMN**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*****(UMH # 557)**

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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: 37**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70****OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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
Sun. Sept 13 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Sept 13 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Tues. Sept 15 6:00 pm United Women of Faith; Fellowship Hall

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 24 Darlene Spires
Aug 29 Dave Craft

Aug 25 Steve and Kerry Craft
Aug 29 Matthew Nixon

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 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.

