

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
August 30, 2026 **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.” ~ Proverbs 3:3 NIV

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

How shall we get along with one another in this world?

The Apostle Paul said that our love should be genuine. We should hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good.

We should honor one another with kindness and compassion.

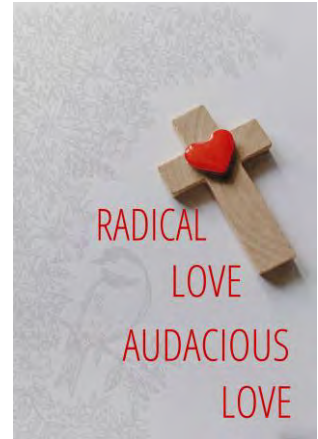
We should always be strong in our enthusiasm to serve God.

Come, let us joyfully worship God in all that we do.

Let us praise God in our words, our thoughts, and our actions.

Rejoice, for you are standing on holy ground.

Praise the Lord! Amen!



***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

Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our trust in your eternal love. Enable us to be more effective in our witness to that love by word and deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service. These things we pray in Jesus' name. 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.

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

Matthew 5:43-45 (CEB)

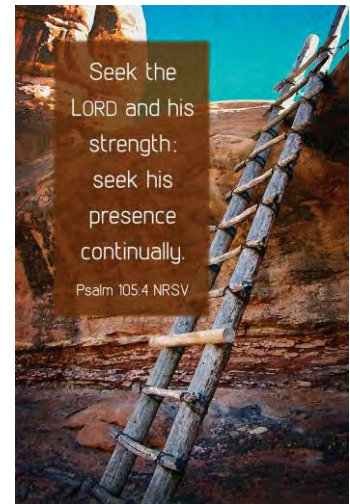
“You have heard that it was said, you must love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous.



SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-25, 45c (CEB)

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make His deeds known to all people! Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all His wondrous works! Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord! Pursue the Lord and His strength; seek His face always! Remember the wondrous works He has done, all His marvelous works, and the justice He declared—you who are the offspring of Abraham, His servant, and the children of Jacob, His chosen ones. That's how Israel came to Egypt, how Jacob became an immigrant in the land of Ham. God made His people very fruitful, more powerful than their enemies, whose hearts God changed so they hated His people and dealt shrewdly with His servants. God sent Moses His servant and the one He chose, Aaron. Praise the Lord!



SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:21-28 (CEB)

“From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that He had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding Him, began to correct Him: “God forbid, Lord! This won’t happen to You.” But He turned to Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan. You are a stone that could make Me stumble, for you are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “All who want to come after Me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow Me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of Me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Son of Man is about to come with the majesty of His Father with His angels. And then He will repay each one for what that person has done. I assure you that some standing here won’t die before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

MESSAGE

“Radical Love, Audacious Love”

Rev. Tami Werschey-Kessinger

SCRIPTURE (Main Focus)

Romans 12:9-21 (CEB)

⁹Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. ¹⁰Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. ¹¹Don’t hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! ¹²Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you’re in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of God’s people, and welcome

strangers into your home. ¹⁴ Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. ¹⁶ Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. ¹⁷ Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. ¹⁸ If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. ¹⁹ Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, *Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord.* ²⁰ Instead, *if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.* ²¹ Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.



HYMN

“Bind Us Together”

(TFWS #2226)

Bind us together, Lord bind us together
 With cords that cannot be broken
 Bind us together, Lord bind us together
 Lord, bind us together in love.
 There is only one God.
 There is only one King.
 There is only one body.
 That is why we sing.

Bind us together, Lord bind us together
 With cords that cannot be broken
 Bind us together, Lord bind us together
 Lord, bind us together in love
 Made for the glory of God
 Purchased by His precious Son
 Born with the right to be clean
 For Jesus the victory has won

Bind us together, Lord bind us together
 With cords that cannot be broken
 Bind us together, Lord bind us together
 Lord, bind us together in love
 You are the family of God
 You are the promise divine

You are God's chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine
Bind us together, Lord bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord bind us together
Lord, bind us together in love

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

***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)**

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

***CLOSING PRAYER**

***CLOSING HYMN *"They'll Know We Are Christians"* (TFWS #2223)**

1. We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
will one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know
we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,

we will walk with each other,
we will walk hand and hand,
and together we'll
spread the news
that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know
we are Christians by our love.

3. We will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
we will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know
we are Christians by our love.

4. All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know
we are Christians by our love.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

Jesus has called you and placed his trust in you. Go into this world, bearing the words of hope and healing. Reach out to others in compassion. For it is Jesus' name, that you are sent out to serve. AMEN.

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. 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
Sun. Sept 20 8:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Sept 20 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Sept 20 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 02 Jack Hinkle

Sept 04 Russ and Marsha Hedges

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 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

Confirmation will be on September 6, 2026 with District Superintendent Jessica Baldaga officiating.

SERVICE PROJECTS

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

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.

FOOD PANTRY WORKERS for September

Sept. 05	Randy Wells; Cheryl Lasakowski Lori and Eric Nixon
Sept. 12	Eugene Mura; Connie Baker Denise and Brad Hunt
Sept. 19	Chad and Sheila Rappe` Garry and Christine Cutler
Sept. 26	Ross and Susannah Moyer Grace and Henry Moyer