

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
September 13, 2026 **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it.”
– Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria (*On The Incarnation*)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**LOOKING
UP**



***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) (Isaiah 30:6, 9-11, 15, 18-21)**

Through a land of hardship and distress, of lions and lionesses, of adders and darting snakes, the envoys carry their riches on donkeys' backs,

their treasures on the humps of camels, to that unprofitable nation, to Egypt, whose help is utterly useless ...

these are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. They say to the seers:

“See no more visions!” and to the prophets, “Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things. Prophecy illusions.

Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!” This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:

“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.... Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more.

How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.

Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.

ALL: Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

HYMN “And Can It Be That I Should Gain?” (vs 1-3 & 5) (UMH # 363)

1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood!
Died he for me? who caused his pain! For me? who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
2. 'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies! Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore; let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore; let angel minds inquire no more.
3. He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),
emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!
5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine; alive in him, my
living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach th' eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own. Bold I approach th' eternal throne, and
claim the crown, through Christ my own.

OPENING PRAYER

(From *The Book of Common Prayer*; 16th Sunday After Pentecost)

O God, because without you we are not able to please you--mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-28

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: *“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”*

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (of Basil the Great) (unison)

O God and Lord of the Powers, Maker of all creation, Who, because of Your clemency and incomparable mercy, did send Your Only-Begotten Son and our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind, and with His venerable Cross did tear asunder the record of our sins, and thereby did conquer the rulers and powers of darkness: Receive from us sinful people, O merciful Master, these prayers of gratitude and supplication, and deliver us from every destructive and gloomy transgression, and from all visible and invisible enemies who seek to injure us. Nail down our flesh with fear of Thee, and let not our hearts be inclined to words or thoughts of evil, but pierce our souls with Your love, that ever contemplating You, being enlightened by You, and discerning You, the unapproachable and everlasting Light, we may unceasingly render confession and gratitude to Thee: The eternal Father, with Your Only-Begotten Son, and with Your All-Holy, Gracious, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

***GOSPEL READING**

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.



MESSAGE

“Looking Up”
Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister

HYMN

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

(UMH # 298)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died;
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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)**

(from “*All Good Gifts*”, John Tebelak and Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*))

We thank thee now, O Father, for all things bright and good, the seedtime and the harvest; our life, our health, our food; no gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts but that which thou desirest: our humble, thankful hearts. Amen

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

O Lord, who blesses those who bless You and sanctifies those who put their trust in You, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the whole body of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house. Glorify them in return by Your divine power and forsake us not who have set our hope in You. Grant peace to Your world, to Your churches, to the clergy, to our civic leaders, to the armed forces, and to all Your people. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, Father of lights. To You we offer up glory, thanksgiving, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and evermore. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”* (UMH # 286)

1. O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

2. What thou, my Lord, has suffered was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

3. What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for thee.

BENEDICTION (pastor) **(after 2 Corinthians 13:14)**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *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: 62

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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
Sun. Sept 27 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Sept 27 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 04 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 04 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Nov 01 8:30 am Grief Group; Pastor's Office

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

Sept 13 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Sept 20 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Sept 27 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

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. Volunteers should be present at 7:30am.

FOOD PANTRY WORKERS for September

Sept. 19 Chad and Sheila Rappe`
Garry and Christine Cutler
Sept. 26 Ross and Susannah Moyer
Grace and Henry Moyer

WOMEN OF FAITH

The Macon UMC United Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. They are holding a toy drive for ages 1 to 17. A collection box will be in the back of the sanctuary. The toy pickup is October 10.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is September 20, 2026 at 8 am in Fellowship Hall.