

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
October 11, 2026 **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Psalm 19:7-11

“What shall we do, then, brethren? Shall we become slothful in well-doing, and cease from the practice of love? God forbid that any such course should be followed by us! But rather let us hasten with all energy and readiness of mind to perform every good work. For the Creator and Lord of all Himself rejoices in His works.”

(Clement, Bishop of Rome)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

" A Non-sharp Dressed Man"



(Psalm 106:1-5, 48)

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

For His mercy endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord?

Who can declare all His praise?

Blessed are those who keep justice,

And he who does righteousness at all times!

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor You have toward Your people.

Oh, visit me with Your salvation,

That I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones,

That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation,

That I may glory with Your inheritance.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting!

And let all the people say, “Amen!”

All: Praise the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN**

“We Gather Together”

(UMH # 131)

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;

he chastens and hastens his will to make known.

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.

Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

(From *The Book of Common Prayer*; 20th Sunday After Pentecost)

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

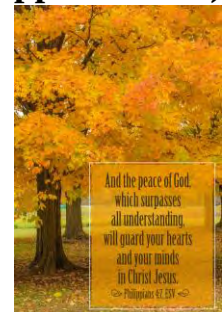
FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Philippians 4:1-9)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) (Psalm 106:6-7,16-17,19-23, 43-45, 47)
We have sinned with our fathers. We have committed iniquity. We have done wickedly. Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders. They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, but rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea... When they envied Moses in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the Lord, the earth opened up and swallowed Dathan, and covered the faction of Abiram ...They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molded image. Thus they changed their glory into the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God their Savior who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, awesome things by the Red Sea. Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them... Many times He delivered them; but they rebelled in their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, when He heard their cry; and for their sake He remembered His covenant, and relented according to the multitude of His mercies ...Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise. Amen.

***GOSPEL READING**

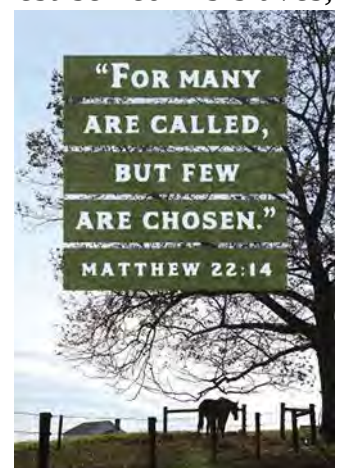
(Matthew 22:1-14) (NRSV-UE)

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”



“A Non-Sharp Dressed Man”
Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.
Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus; he'll embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

3. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.
I will arise and go to Jesus; he'll embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

4. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.
I will arise and go to Jesus; he'll embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

***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.**

(from “*All Good Gifts*”, John Tebelak & 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.

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CLOSING PRAYER

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** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* (UMH # 384)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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: 32

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Oct 18 8:00 am Men's breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Oct 18 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 18 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 25 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 25 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 25 11:00 am Pastor Appreciation Potluck; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Oct 31 5:00 pm Trunk or Treat
Sun. Nov 01 8:30 am Grief Group; Pastor's Office
Sun. Nov 01 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 01 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Nov 08 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 08 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 12	Sheila Rappe`	Oct 12	Denise Hunt
Oct 14	Gary Henschen		

MISSIONS



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

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Oct 18 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Oct 25 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Nov 01 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Nov 08 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Nov 15 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Nov 22 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Nov 29

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is October 18, 2026 at 8 am in Fellowship Hall.

PASTOR APPRECIATION POTLUCK

A Pastor Appreciation potluck will be held after church on October 25 right after worship service.

PASTOR ABSENT

Pastor Bev to be gone October 9-19, 2026. Kirk will cover pastoral duties. She will also be gone November 12 through 14. Pastor Bev will ask Kirk to cover this also.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is October 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. If you are not able to sponsor a trunk, bring a bag of candy starting Sunday, October 4, 2026.

FOCUS GROUP November 1 at 8:30 am will be the first meeting of the Focus Group which will focus on grief, loss, and mental health. We will meet every first Sunday at 8:30 for one hour prior to worship. Feel free to bring your own coffee. Questions can be directed to Pastor Bev at 217 825 9010 call or text.