

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
October 18, 2026 **Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When your friends are there, then everything's alright. (Elton John)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Like the crowds who pressed into the house in Capernaum, we come from different places carrying our own heavy burdens, our quiet exhaustion, and our deepest needs. **We come seeking the presence of Jesus, trusting that He has the power to heal and to forgive.**

When the way was blocked, friends did not turn back; they tore through the barriers and brought their loved one straight to the Savior.

Lord, give us that same persistent faith—to carry one another in prayer, and to trust Your grace when life feels paralyzed.

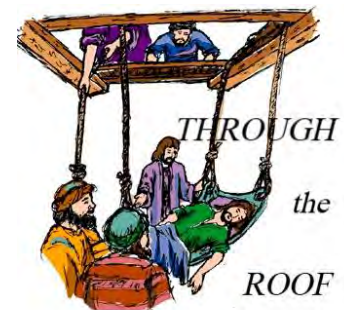
He sees our faith, He speaks His mercy, and He raises us to walk in newness of life. Open our hearts today to hear His voice: "Your sins are forgiven. Get up, take your mat, and go."

All: Praise be to Christ, who offers us forgiveness, restoration, and a new way to live! Amen

***OPENING HYMN** *"All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name"* (UMH # 154)

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.



3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord Jesus, You have all authority in heaven and on earth to forgive and to heal. Forgive us when we let busyness crowd You out of our lives. Give us a flexible and open mind to recognize Your power when You move in unconventional ways. Tear down the walls and clear the path so we can see Your kingdom at work right in front of us. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

² Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵ who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103: 1-6, 8



SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 2: 1-12

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”



MESSAGE

“Through the Roof”

Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

HYMN

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

(UMH # 526)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

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)**

Dearest Lord, You've placed before us Your wonderful world, with its blessings and its difficulties. You've called us to be bearers of Your light, offering our lives and our gifts in Your service. You've blessed each of us, and there is no small or insignificant gift for You to bless and use. Help us to joyfully place our hopes, dreams, and lives in Your loving care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of friends and for their help and support. Like the four men who carried their friend to Jesus, we pray that we would be as bold and courageous in our love for others. Help us to never hesitate to reach out to those who are sick or in need, to carry our family and friends to You in prayer. Let us be the ones who go beyond what is comfortable, who persevere in the face of challenges, and who lift others up. Fill our hearts with compassion for those struggling in mind, body, or spirit. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord of The Dance”

(UMH # 261)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone'
but I am the dance and I still go on.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
5. They cut Me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die,
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

(after 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Lord Jesus, You heal those who are broken and console those who are afflicted. You are our refuge. Take us by the hand and walk with us. And may the love of God, the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and forevermore. 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: 35

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Oct 25 9:00 am Trustee meeting; pastor's office.
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
Sun. Nov 15 8:00 am Men's breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Nov 15 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 19 Lynette Puckett Oct 24 Jerri Forden 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 November 15, 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.



Saturday, October 31, 2026, 5:00 to 7:00pm