

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
October 25 2026 **Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Paul expresses gratitude for the Thessalonian's faith, love, and endurance and recounts his relationship with them. He also describes his desire to return to them.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are chosen children of God, bound together by the holy spirit

We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another

When we feel tested by hard decisions, calls to advocate against injustice, competing narratives, and worrying misinformation, we remember

We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another

When we struggle with damaged trust and the need to repair our relationships with God and one another, when we are called to go against the social current to build communities of mercy and justice, we remember

We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another

Come let us worship God, whose grace surrounds us when we feel tested and tried, empowering us to remain faithful disciples of Jesus Christ when we face chaos, division, injustice, and hardship.

We come to worship God who chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the body of Christ in a broken and hurting world. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"His Name Is Wonderful"

(UMH # 174)

His name is wonderful; His name is wonderful His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord

He is the mighty King; Master of everything His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord

He's the great Shepherd; The Rock of all ages Almighty God is He

Bow down before Him; Love and adore Him His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord

His name is wonderful; His name is wonderful His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord



OPENING PRAYER: (pastor)

Happy are we, O God, when our hearts are full. Our ways are yours, our spirits enlivened by your call. Happy are we, O God, when our lives are guided by delight. We gather here today for just that, holy God. We gather to draw on all you would give us to be more fully yours. In Jesus name. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE

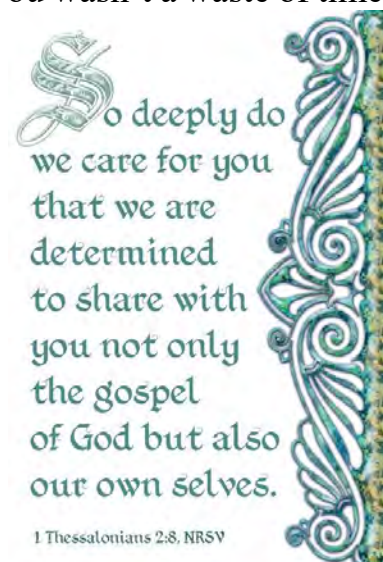
1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

As you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, our visit with you wasn't a waste of time.

² On the contrary, we had the courage through God to speak God's good news in spite of a lot of opposition, although we had already suffered and were publicly insulted in Philippi, as you know. ³ Our appeal isn't based on false information, the wrong motives, or deception. ⁴ Rather, we have been examined and approved by God to be trusted with the good news, and that's exactly how we speak. We aren't trying to please people, but we are trying to please God, who continues to examine our hearts. ⁵ As you know, we never used flattery, and God is our witness that we didn't have greedy motives. ⁶ We didn't ask for special treatment from people—not from you or from others—⁷ although we could have thrown our weight around as Christ's apostles.

Instead, we were gentle with you like a nursing mother caring for her own children.

⁸ We were glad to share not only God's good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much.



SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 22: 34-46

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. ³⁵ One of them, a legal expert, tested him. ³⁶ "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

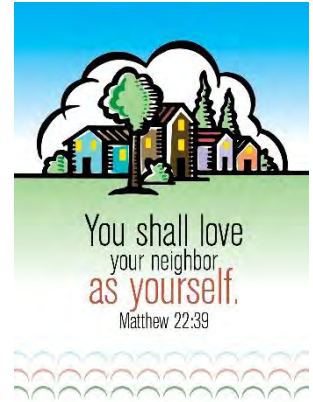
³⁷ He replied, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.*" ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

⁴¹ Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them,

⁴² “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?”

“David’s son,” they replied.

⁴³ He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, ⁴⁴ *The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool’?* ⁴⁵ If David calls him Lord, how can he be David’s son?” ⁴⁶ Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.



MESSAGE

“But to Please God”

Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

HYMN

“Pass it On”

(UMH #572)

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going, And soon all those around
Can warm up in its glowing. That’s how it is with God’s love
Once you’ve experienced it; You spread his love to everyone;
You want to pass it on.

2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding;
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That’s how it is with God’s love once you’ve experienced it;
You want to sing, it’s fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I’ve found; you can depend on him, it
matters not where you’re bound. I’ll shout it from the mountaintop;
I want my world to know; the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.
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)**

Loving God, you call us not only to believe the gospel, but to live it. You test our hearts not with trials meant to break us, but through the daily invitation to serve,

to love, and to share our lives with one another. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our willingness to embody the good news of Christ. Use what we offer to nurture communities of compassion, where faith is lived gently, courageously, and with humility. May our witness--like Paul's--be rooted not in pride or gain, but in love that gives itself freely for others. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

***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

Numbers 6: 24-26 ESV

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: 28

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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
Sun. Nov 22 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 22 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 26	Mary Lee Melhorn	Oct 28	Denise Jones
Oct 29	Dale Moyer	Oct 29	Rhonda Moyer

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

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 November 12-14, 2026. Kirk will cover pastoral duties.

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