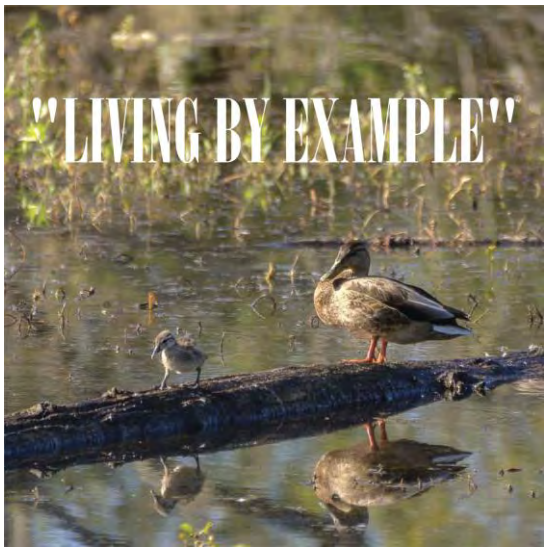
Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
November 1, 2026 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
All-Saints Sunday



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
As in times of loss, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to remain strong in faith. This fits into the Bible's overall teaching that God is faithful through trials and suffering. The original audience was the church in Thessalonia, which was a young congregation, facing persecution. Understanding their struggles helps modern readers grasp the importance of perseverance and hope in Christ's return.

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
As we gather to remember the saints who formed us in faith, we give thanks for their living witnesses to God's love, showing us that:
We belong to God, and through God, we live as family in Christ, bound together by love.
We give thanks for the influence of the saints in our lives who demonstrated God's love and saving grace, so that we could know in our bones that;
We belong to God, and through God, we are saved to love one another.
Come, let us worship God who blesses us with witnesses to divine love that we may be witness' of love with everyone we meet.
We come to worship God who chooses us, and inspires us to live as witnesses of love in communion with the saints of every age. Amen.

OPENING HYMN ***"Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know"*** **(UMH # 163)**

1. Ask ye what great thing I know, that delights and stirs me so?
What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

2. Who defeats my fiercest foes? Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my fainting heart, healing all its hidden smart?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

3. Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be?
Who will place me on his right, with the countless hosts of light?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

4. This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so:
faith in him who died to save, him who triumphed o'er the grave:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

OPENING PRAYER: (pastor)

God, our teacher, please instruct us in the ways of humility and love. Help us to live in community with one another rather than in competition with each other. Give us your heart for serving our neighbor. Assure us of your abiding presence and release us from the hierarchies of this world. May your kingdom come with power and gentleness as we strive to live as embodied witnesses of the good news in Christ Jesus, Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

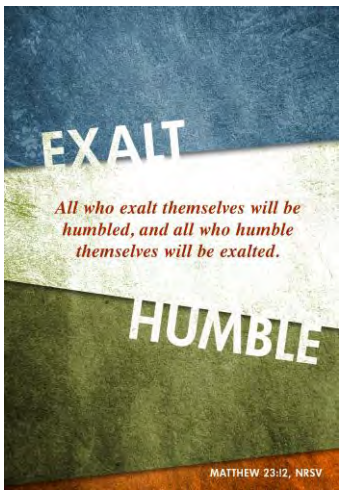
THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE **1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13**



9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked
night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,
while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are
witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and
blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you
know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each
one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a
manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom
and glory.
13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 23: 1-12**



Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, [2] "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, [3] so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. [4] They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. [5] They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, [6] and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues [7] and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. [8] But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. [9] And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. [10] Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. [11] The greatest among you shall be your servant. [12] Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

MESSAGE **"Living By Example"**

Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

HYMN ***"Its Me, Its Me Oh Lord!"*** **(UMH # 352)**

Refrain:
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

1. Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer; not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

2. Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer; not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

3. Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer; not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERRINGS

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)**

Ethereal God, we give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us--those whose lives bore witness to your grace and whose faith still shapes the church we share today. As we remember them with gratitude, we offer these gifts as signs that their witness continues through us. Open our eyes to see your work in the world. Use our voices to give witness to what we have seen of your love and mercy. Use these offerings to strengthen your church, that our lives may also become a testimony to your living word at work among us. Through Christ, our lord, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION Table I, (UMH # 9)

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come

when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with you always
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*G*od), now and forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD
Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP
The body of Christ is given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ is given for you. Amen.
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH
Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING HYMN **"*We Are The Church"*** **#558**
Chorus I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building, The church is not a steeple
The church is not a resting place, The church is a people.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces
All colors and all ages too, from all times and places.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

3. Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,
Sometimes it's riding sometimes hiding, always it's learning.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

4. And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

5. At Pentecost some people Received the Holy Spirit
And told the Good News Through the world to all who would hear it.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

BENEDICTION: (pastor)
May God bless you with reminders of the saints who have gone before, so that, inspired by their witness, you may live as witnesses to love here and now. And may God surround you with the assurance that nothing--neither life, nor death, nor anything else in all creation--can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. 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: 41 **ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun.	Nov 08	9:00 am	Sunday School
Sun.	Nov 08	10:00 am	Worship and Zoom Service
Wed.	Nov 11		Veteran's Day
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	Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun.	Nov 22	9:20 am	Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun.	Nov 22	10:00 am	Worship and Zoom Service
Thur.	Nov 26		Thanksgiving Day
Sun.	Nov 29	10:00 am	Worship and Zoom Service
Sun.	Nov 29	10:00 am	Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov	02	Isaac Hunt	Nov	04	Cheryl Goaley
Nov	05	Donna Hayes	Nov	06	Nicholas Hunt

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, or cereal bars; canned fruit; canned vegetables; canned pasta; shampoo; and antiperspirant; boxes of jello or pudding; corn muffin mix. 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 Rev. Kris Shelton

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is November 15, 2026 at 8 am in Fellowship Hall.

PASTOR ABSENT

Pastor Bev to be gone November 12-14,2026. Kirk will cover pastoral duties.

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.

