



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing the heart of God from the heart of downtown  
Macon by fostering healing for the broken places of life.*



## The Church at Worship FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*July 6, 2025 | Eleven O'clock*

# Welcome to Mulberry Street UMC!

## WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP!

We are a church on a mission to share the heart of God from the heart of downtown Macon by fostering healing for the broken places of life. Methodists have been worshipping Father, Son, & Holy Spirit on this corner since 1826.

You are invited to become a living part of this vital congregation.  
Check out the back of the bulletin to see the news of the church!

### CONNECT WITH US

Please fill out a Connection Card found in the back of the pew if you are visiting with us, would like to sign up for upcoming events, have a prayer request, or need to update your contact information.

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please find an usher to receive a welcome gift!

We invite you to visit us at [mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org).

Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

Visit [bit.ly/mul-news](http://bit.ly/mul-news) to sign up.

Our 11:00 a.m. worship service is livestreamed on Facebook. You can download the Sunday bulletin at [mulberrymethodist.org/worship/bulletins](http://mulberrymethodist.org/worship/bulletins).

### GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give) or by scanning the QR code, which will take you directly to our church's secure giving website.



### ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing Assistive devices are available and can be found in the narthex by the usher station. Please ask an usher for assistance locating them.

*The artwork on the cover is*

*“In the Time of Harmony: The Joy of Life--Sunday by the Sea” by Paul Signac.*  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57980>

\*Please rise in body and/or in spirit. **Bold Type** indicates congregational participation



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Dale Wood

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

In the midst of our troubles, we cry aloud to God.

**God hears our cries and responds to our needs.**

God brings us up out of our trouble and sets us in a safe place.

**God comforts and restores our souls.**

The Lord has turned our mourning into dancing!

**We have been clothed with joy and hope! Amen!**

- Written by Nancy C. Townley for MinistryMatters.com

\* Opening Hymn

We Seek a Mighty Nation  
(Please see insert)

AURELIA

\* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

Rev. Stone

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;  
world without end. Amen.**

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## *Proclamation & Response*

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Solo

Ken Medema

Scripture Reading

James 2:8-13 (Pew Bible pg 981)

Rev. Benjy Varnell

If you really fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” said also, “Do not kill.” If you do not commit adultery but do kill, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy; yet mercy triumphs over judgment.

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Law of Liberty”

Rev. Varnell

Solo

Ken Medema

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## *Thanksgiving & Communion*

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Invitation to the Table

Rev. Varnell

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Varnell

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All pray in silence.

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

Offertory

Ken Medema

Make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give)  
or in the offering plate.

## \* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Stone

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.**

Sung Communion A (pages 17-18)

...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.**

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Breaking the Bread

Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of parents.

Let an usher know if you wish to be served in the pew.

Gluten free bread is available on the pedestal at the base of the steps.

An offering plate along the sanctuary wall is available for a communion offering, which is designated for the pastor's discretionary fund.

## Prayer after Communion

**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.**

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*Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 121      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

WELLESLEY

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in C Major BWV 553

Attr. to J.S Bach

*Ken Medema*

Ken Medema is one of the most creative and authentic artists performing today. He is a Christ follower with a passion for social justice. Uniquely, he is also blind. For five decades, Ken has used music as a vehicle for creating conversation through storytelling and reflection. Today he performs in a variety of venues, including local congregations, charity fundraisers, high schools, university campuses, church youth gatherings, televised religious programs, corporate conventions, annual assemblies of national organizations, and more. Ken custom designs each performance, integrating new and old music with his gift of improvisation to suit the occasion. With an ever-growing circle of friends around the world, Ken's vocal and piano artistry and imagination have reached audiences of 50 to 50,000 in 49 United States and in more than 15 countries on four continents.

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## *News of the Church*

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### **Second Sunday Summer Salads Lunch | July 13 | Fellowship Hall**

Our July Second Sunday Lunch will be a fundraiser for United Women of Faith Missions. Bring your favorite salad to share - drinks, sandwiches and crackers provided, as well as a Make-Your-Own Sundae Bar!

### **Purchase Macon Bacon Tickets! | July 25 | 7 pm game**

Mulberry is headed back to the ballgame - join us on July 25 for Country Night at the Macon Bacon! Each ticket includes free hamburgers, chips and a drink. Tickets are \$17 each, and for every ticket purchased here, the church will receive \$5 back for our Family Ministries! Support our kids & youth while cheering on the Bacon! Purchase at [bit.ly/mulbacon25](http://bit.ly/mulbacon25) or scan the QR code.



### **Youth Mission Trip to Columbus, GA | July 9-13**

Pray for our youth & volunteers this week as they travel to Columbus for their summer mission trip! They will be participating in River of Life along with youth groups from other South Georgia Methodist churches.

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### *Keep up with us online!*

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Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!  
To sign up, visit [bit.ly/mulnews](http://bit.ly/mulnews) or scan the QR code.

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube at **@MulberryMethodist**

Visit our website at **mulberrymethodist.org** for our calendar, service recordings, newsletter archives, and more!

**REV. JACK VARNELL**

Senior Pastor

**REV. PAYTON STONE**

Associate Pastor

**ELISA REECE**

Director of Family Ministries

**DR. TERRE JOHNSON**

Director of Music

**DANIEL MCINTOSH**

Organist

**MILLIE THOMPSON**

Director of Communications

**THE AINSWORTH CHOIR**

**REV. BENJY VARNELL**

Guest Preacher

**KEN MEDEMA**

Special Musical Guest

## — *A Bicentennial Moment* —

In anticipation of Mulberry's upcoming Bicentennial Celebration in 2026, the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of Mulberry history:

### Excerpts from the Board of Stewards minutes, May 8, 1908:

The Pastor read two interesting letters from an anonymous correspondent donating \$100 to be used in liquidating the unpaid assessments of worthy members who will notify the Pastor of their inability to pay, the members applying for the benefit of said fund and the donor to remain a secret, except to the donor himself and the Pastor.

Bro. Ainsworth announced that there were at least 50 names still upon the books of the church to whom letters to other churches had been granted, no such entry appearing upon the church register opposite such names. He further reported that he had made correction in every case where sufficient information could be obtained from an inspection of the books and register.

Bro. W. G. Solomon announced that the sexton of the cemetery had reported that Mulberry Street church owned a lot in the cemetery, it having been donated by the city to the church some years ago, and that the said lot now needs attention and care. It was resolved that Bro. Solomon be instructed to confer with Mr. Hall and arrange to have said lot attended to, and that he be authorized to call upon the Treasurer for the necessary funds to repair the same.



719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

[mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org)

Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm

## — *Season of Ordinary Time* —

The season of Ordinary Time emphasizes the church living & witnessing in the world. The color of the paraments is green to represent the church's growth & presence.

# We Seek a Mighty Nation

Terre Johnson

AURELIA

1. We seek a mighty na - tion where no one lives in fear, Where  
2. We seek a kin - dred na - tion where each is free to dream, Di -  
3. We seek a car - ing na - tion that nour - ish - es the weak, Where  
4. We seek a shin - ing na - tion, a bea - con to the world Of

strength is found in mer - cy and kind - ness is re - vered. We  
ver - si - ty is val - ued, and u - ni - ty is seen Not  
all the sick and need - y find com - fort and re - lief; Where  
grate - ful, hum - ble free - dom, of jus - tice free - ly served. We

seek a gen - tle na - tion where no one is a - lone, And  
in a com - mon dog - ma, but in a shared be - lief That  
wealth is found in giv - ing, pres - tige through acts of love, And  
seek to leave a na - tion to chil - dren yet to be Whose

those in need of shel - ter are glad - ly wel - comed home.  
in our free ex - pres - sions our na - tion is com - plete.  
those who are ag - gres - sors are taught to hum - bly serve.  
great - est at - tri - bu - tion is cen - tu - ries of peace.