



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing the heart of God from the heart of downtown Macon.*



## The Church at Worship

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

*January 25, 2026 | 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.

For information or comments on accessibility, contact Hunter Godsey at [hgodsey@mulberrymethodist.org](mailto:hgodsey@mulberrymethodist.org).

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*The artwork on the cover is “Landscape with Moses and the Burning Bush” by Domenichino. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436205>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary No. IX from Twelve Short pieces for the organ      Samuel Wesley

Welcome & News of the Church      Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship      Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

God calls us, in love, to be his people today.

**We are honored to be the people of God.**

God calls us to continue his work in this world.

**We gladly take part in God's mission each day.**

God calls us to share good news of Christ to others.

**We receive the good news, we live the good news, we pass it on!**

**Let us worship!**

\* Opening Hymn No. 384      Love Divine, All Loves Excelling      BEECHER

\* 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.**

Children 5th grade and under are invited to leave for Godly Play at this time.  
Children may be picked up on the 2nd Floor in the Godly Play classroom after the service.

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*Proclamation & Response*

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First Reading

Romans 8:31, 35, 37-39 (Pew Bible pg 919)

Rev. Stone

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

\* Hymn No. 475

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

Anthem

Every Time I Feel the Spirit  
Luke Baker, soloistTraditional Spiritual,  
Arr. Moses Hogan

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Verses:

On the mountain my Lord spoke,  
out His mouth came fire and smoke.  
Down in the valley, on my knees,  
Asked my Lord have mercy please.

Jordan river, chilly and cold,  
chills the body not the soul.  
All around me looked so fine,  
asked my Lord if all was mine.

Ain't but one train on this track,  
runs to heaven and right back.  
St. Peter waitin' at the gate,  
said come on sinner, don't be late.

Second Reading

Exodus 3:1-8, 10-12 (Pew Bible pg 44)

Rev. Varnell

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain."

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

Sermon

"When God Calls"

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

Rev. Stone

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.**

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## *Offering of our Tithes & Gifts*

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Offertory

“Larghetto” from Organ Sonata No. 2

Alexandre Guilmant

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

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

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.

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## *Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 586

Let My People Seek Their Freedom

EBENEZER

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on “Ebenezer”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer



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## *News of the Church*

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### **The Ainsworth Choir Music for Our Bicentennial Year**

During the bicentennial year of 2026, the Ainsworth Choir will highlight music of the American church during the 19th and 20th centuries. These anthems will come from the many traditional spirituals and early-American hymns that have defined the sound of worship in the American south since the founding of Mulberry Street United Methodist Church and our neighbor churches. In April, we will celebrate the church's bicentennial weekend with a special performance of Mozart's Requiem in memory of our beloved Mulberry members down through the church's history. And in the second half of 2026, we will sing a variety of choral pieces from recent years, including newly composed pieces, as we celebrate the present and look toward the future of the church.

### **Give Altar Flowers in Honor or Memory of Loved Ones**

The Flower Guild is looking for sponsors for the altar flowers in 2026. This is a beautiful way to honor loved ones. To donate flowers or learn more, contact Beth Smith at 478-719-9041.

### **Annual Chili Cook-off & Apple Pie Contest | Sunday, February 8 | 12:00 pm**

Pull out your chili recipe and start prepping your spices - our annual Chili Cook-off and Apple Pie Contest will be Sunday, February 8 at our Second Sunday Lunch. Bring a pot of chili or an apple pie and put your recipe to the test!

### **Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, February 4 | 5:30 pm**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this monthly time of prayer & worship together. We will share a meal and then move into a time of meditation, silent prayer & modern worship.

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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**

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*A Bicentennial Moment*

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

**Excerpts from September 9, 1956 church bulletin**

"Let's Go Visiting!! Next Sunday is the day we have selected for our usual project - 1,000 visits in one afternoon! The entire membership will be visited. We need 250 workers to visit 4 families each, for your convenience these families will be assigned in your general neighborhood. Mr. Jim Brenner, Chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism states that if you are timid you need not worry about thinking up something to say to these families because you will be provided with a sheet containing the details of the fall program of the church."

One of the items noted inside of the bulletin is:

"Official Opening. Our dreams of a new educations building have finally been realized. From 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesday September you will have the opportunity to inspect the new building you have waited so long to see. 8:00 to 9:00 informal social period in the dining hall and an inspection of the building. 9:00 to 10:00 introduction of special guests and guest speaker, Dr. Paul Hardin, pastor of first Methodist Church, Birmingham, Ala. See you Wednesday Night!!"



719 Mulberry Street  
478.745.8601  
[mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org)  
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm

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*Season of Epiphany*

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The season of Epiphany is the period of time following Christmas through Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Epiphany represents the manifestation of Jesus Christ as a Savior for all. The color of the paraments is green to represent hope, peace & growth.