



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 8, 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.

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

Visit 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.

GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting 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.

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of George & Sarah Grier and Brooks & Mary Beth Gaudry
by Frank & Mary Anne Gaudry.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Peace and Plenty" by William Hart.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57984>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* arr. Don Hustad

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.

Let us show our love for God in this holy time of worship.

We sing, we pray, and we hear God's word to us.

Let us show our love for each other and for the world.

We serve, we help, and we encourage

– that God's kingdom of love may expand.

* Opening Hymn No. 88 *Maker, in Whom We Live* DIADEMATA

* 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.

Proclamation & Response

First Reading

Psalm 116 (Pew Bible pg 491)

Rev. Stone

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. What shall I render
 to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and
 call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence
 of all his people. O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of
 your handmaid. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you the sacrifice of
 thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord
 in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in
 your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

* Hymn No. 408

The Gift of Love

GIFT OF LOVE

Anthem

O Love

Elain Hagenberg

O love, O love, O love that will not let me go;
 O love, I rest my weary soul in Thee.
 I give Thee back the life I owe,
 That in Thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O joy that seeks me through the pain,
 I cannot close my heart to thee;
 I trace the rainbow through the rain,
 And feel the promise is not vain... that morn shall tearless be.

O love, O love, O love that will not let me go;
 O love, I rest my weary soul in Thee.
 I give Thee back the life I owe;
 And in Thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be.
 That morn shall tearless be.

O love, O love, O love that will not let me go;
 O love that will not let me go.

- George Matheson

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13 (Pew Bible pg 934)

Rev. Varnell

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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

Sermon

“Livin’ On Love”

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.

Offering of our Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

Berceuse

Camille Saint-Saëns
Transcribed for organ
by Alexandre Guilmant

You can make your offering to God online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give
or in the offering plate.

* Doxology

OLD 100TH

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.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 422

Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love

AZMON

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on "AZMON"

arr. Marilyn Arison



News of the Church

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!

Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, February 18 | 5:30 Dinner & 6:30 Service

Join us for our annual service of ashes to mark the beginning of Lent, where we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be. We will have a dinner before the service at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and the service will begin at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

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.

Keep up with us online!



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

To sign up, visit bit.ly/mulnews or scan the QR code.

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube at [@MulberryMethodist](https://www.instagram.com/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

WILL MAGDA

Crucifer

DREW MORRIS

Candle Lighter

————— *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:*

**A list of Committees & Committee Chairmen
serving under the Board of Stewards
for the years 1950 – 1951**

Apportionment Committee – J Milton Heard, Jr.,
Chair

Finance Committee – J. Clay Murphy, Chair

Property Committee – George P. Rankin, Chair

Music Committee - George Stelljes, Chair

Sacrament Committee – E. T. Kirkland, Chair

Publicity Committee – J. Harry Burns, Chair

Parsonage Committee – J. Clay Murphy, Chair

Auditing Committee – W. M. Parker, Chair

Missions Committee – Dr. J. B. Stewart

Membership & Evangelism Committee – W. H.
Van Brackle, Chair

Ushers – J. A. Leverett, Chair

Collections – Hugh Quin, Chair

Christian Greetings – E. L. Sanderfur, Chair

Social Service – J. D. Applewhite, Chair

Boy Scouts – J. V. Skinner, Chair

Superannuate Fund – Leo Huckabee, Chair

Permanent Building Fund – W. P. Stevens, Chair

————— *Season of Epiphany* —————

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.



Mulberry Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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