MULBERRY STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

The Church at Worship

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 22, 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 artwork on the cover is "Pharisee and the Publican" by James Tissot.
https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56474

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

Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary — Variations on the Shaker Hymn "The Humble Heart" — arr. Robert Lau

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.

Come, all who seek the Lord this day.
We confess, we pray, and we turn from our sin.

Christ our King meets us here.
Jesus is our one true hope.

Come, let us worship our King.
We worship, we praise, and we serve our King forevermore.

* Opening Hymn No. 526 — *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* — CONVERSE

* Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Stone

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Stone

Almighty God, your blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations. And, as you know the weakness of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Children's Moment — Elisa Reece

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 — Proverbs 16:17-19 — Rev. Stone

> The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; he who guards his way preserves his life. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

* Hymn No. 492 — *Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire* — CAMPMEETING

Anthem — *Saints Bound for Heaven* — Arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Our bondage it shall end by and by, by and by,
Our bondage it shall end by and by;
From Egypt's yoke set free,
Hail the glorious jubilee,
And to Canaan we'll return by and by, by and by,
And to Canaan we'll return by and by.

Our Deliv'rer He shall come by and by, by and by,
Our Deliv'rer He shall come by and by;
And our sorrows have an end,
With our three-score years and ten,
And vast glory crown the day by and by, by and by,
And vast glory crown the day by and by.

And when to Jordan's floods we are come, we are come,
And when to Jordan's floods we are come;
Jehovah rules the tideAnd the waters He'll divide,
And the ransom'd host shall shout we are come, we are come,
And the ransomed host shall shout we are come.

Then with all the happy throng we'll rejoice, we'll rejoice,
Then with all the happy throng we'll rejoice;
Shouting glory to our King
'Til the vaults of heaven ring,
And thro' all eternity we'll rejoice, we'll rejoice,
And thro' all eternity we'll rejoice.

Second Reading | Philippians 2:3-8; Luke 18:9-14 | Rev. Varnell

Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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

Sermon | "The Almighty God of Me" | 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 | Chant Donné | Maurice Duruflé

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

* Doxology	*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*	HAMBURG

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 714	*I Know Whom I Have Believed*	EL NATHAN
* Benediction & Sending Forth		Rev. Varnell
Closing Voluntary	Fancy in A	Thomas Tomkins

Found Faithful at Mulberry & First: Celebrating 200 Years

This year we are celebrating 200 years of this Church worshiping and serving our community on this corner of First and Mulberry. We will be marking this milestone with a variety of events throughout the year. To learn more about our Bicentennial year and how we're honoring our past, celebrating our present, and envisioning our future together, visit **mulberrymethodist.org/bicentennial**.

Important Spring Dates:

Sunday, April 26 - Bicentennial Celebration Sunday
Saturday, April 25 - The Mozart Requiem featuring the Ainsworth Choir
Saturday, April 25 - 200 Remarkable Years: A 1-Hour History Stroll with Creede Hinshaw
March 20-24 - Old City Flower Show, hosted by Mulberry Street UMC
March 23-27 - Cherry Blossom Organ Concerts

News of the Church

Easter 2026 Events

- **Easter Egg Hunt on Coleman Hill | March 29 | 3-5 pm**
- **Holy Week Services | March 30 - April 3 | Noon | 30-minute Services**
  Lunch following in the Fellowship Hall
- **Maundy Thursday Service | April 2 | 6:30 pm**
- **Easter Sunday | April 5**
  Sunrise Service on Coleman Hill | 7 am
  Butterfly Release in the Courtyard | 10 am
  Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

Put out your "Easter at Mulberry" Yard Signs!

It's time to pull out your Easter yard signs and show off your Mulberry spirit! Help advertise our Easter schedule to your neighbors with the resuable yard signs we've had for the past few years. If you don't have one, you can pick up a sign in the church office! Suggested donation $15.

Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer | March 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. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, and Worship begins at 6:15 pm.

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**

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

GEORGE DUNN
Crucifer

EMILY CARROLL
& THOMAS DUNN
Candle Lighters

Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street
478.745.8601
mulberrymethodist.org
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm

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.
Carolyn Kennedy Dominy, Church Historian

Excerpts from Mulberry's Order of Worship, Sunday, April 1, 1923.

Rev Walter Anthony, D.D., Pastor –
717 Mulberry Street Phone 15
T. M. Bailey, Assistant Pastor –
108 Magnolia St. Phone 4566
'Speak to Children of Israel that they go forward'
A Church with a Message and Mission Welcomes You

Announcements:

At a meeting of some 75 men held on Friday evening, March 23rd the matter of the financial status of the church was discussed. It was found there was an indebtedness of $6,250 for repairs, balance on the building fund, current expenses and special missionary pledges. A hearty response was made by those present and $4,452 was pledge. On Sunday morning, March 25th, the same matter was presented to the general congregation with the good response of $1.962.37 making a total of $6,414.37. With the payment of these pledges, we shall be loosed from the bondage of indebtedness and free to progress under the leadership of His Spirit. The pledges notes will be held for collection at window No. 7, Macon National Bank.

Next Friday evening, April 6th, the Methodist laymen of Macon will meet in Mulberry Street Church at a rally and inspirational gather looking to the payment of the remainder due on the Centenary pledges.

Season of Lent

Lent is a season of 40 days, not including Sundays, which leads to Easter. It is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for Easter celebration. The color of the paraments is purple to represent penitence and mourning, and the altar is left bare to reflect the season's spirit of austere solemnity.