MULBERRY STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

The Church at Worship

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 1, 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. This year we are celebrating 200 years of this Church worshiping on this corner of First & Mulberry. To learn more about our Bicentennial year and how we're celebrating this milestone, visit **mulberrymethodist.org/bicentennial**.
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.

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 & YouTube. You can download the Sunday bulletin at **mulberrymethodist.org/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 "Summit of Cerro Arisco" by Ernesto Laroche.
https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57191

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

Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary — *Chorale* — by Ernest Reeves

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.

As we continue in this season of Lent today,
We slow down, we reflect, and we acknowledge our sinful ways.
But we are not alone on this journey – God is present.
God is with us to forgive us, to help us, and to empower us.
On this day of Holy Communion, come to give yourselves to the Lord.
We give ourselves to God, totally, fully, and completely.
Let us worship!

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.

* Opening Hymn No. 92 — *For the Beauty of the Earth* — DIX

* Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Stone

We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us. We believe in the forgiveness of sins. We believe in the Word of God. We believe in the church. We believe in the reign of God. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness, and in the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Stone

O God, your glory is always to have mercy. Be gracious to us who have gone astray from your ways and bring us again to the place of penitence and steadfast faith, to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word. Do all of this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Proclamation & Response

Anthem *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* Arr. Eric Nelson

Jaedyn Charleston, Flute; Faye Chu, Cello

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come…

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

- E. A. Hoffman

Scripture Reading Philippians 4:11-13 *(Pew Bible pg 955)* Rev. Varnell

> Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

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

Communion Meditation "Envy – The Bitter Enemy" Rev. Varnell

Thanksgiving & Communion

Invitation to the Table — Rev. Stone

Confession and Pardon — Rev. Stone

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 — *Offertoire* — by Ernest Reeves

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

* The Great Thanksgiving — Rev. Varnell

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.

Communion Music *Sanctus* by Ernest Reeves

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.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 128 *He Leadeth Me* HE LEADETH ME

* Benediction & Sending Forth Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary *Antioch* by Don Hustad

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.

Second Sunday Lunch | March 8 | 12 pm | Fellowship Hall

We will meet on Sunday, March 8 for our monthly potluck lunch! Immediately following worship, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for this monthly time sharing a meal together. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, or just bring yourself!

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

HUNTER GODSEY
Organist

MILLIE THOMPSON
Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

MAVIS TRICE
& CANDACE WOOD
Lay Communion Servers

WILL MAGDA
Crucifer

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 are from "Pastors of Mulberry" published 1964, Bessie Lester Hart, Author, featuring Archelaus Hughes Mitchell, Mulberry pastor 1833:

"Methodism had been at work since 1785 when the first preacher was commissioned. Reverend Mitchell was remarkable for his long career as a traveling preacher in the early days. The History of Georgia Methodism present a graphic picture of customs and conditions of early Methodist layman and preachers. They believed that Christians should be a peculiar people, especially preachers. The Old Discipline was the guidebook; dress and habit were patterned after Asbury and Wesley and strictly observed. The hours of the day and night were rigidly observed; arise at four; pray and sing until six; and then have family prayer. After these requirements a preacher, left by horseback to fill his assignments which most of the time were through the wilderness. Methodist members believed money in the church to be evil, so the early ministers earned at first $64 a year. Ministers found Methodist brethren to be generous with hospitality, if not with money. Each Monday the preacher returned home; the ride was long; the exposure great; the labor exhausting. Few preachers could endure the strenuous schedule very long. The Reverend Mitchell is a shining example of the stamina required of these early traveling preachers."

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.