



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 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. This year we are celebrating 200 years of this Church worshipping 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 "Peasants Resting" by Léon Augustin Lhermitte.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58737>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary Prelude in G minor Op. 16 No. 1 Clara Schumann

Welcome & News of the Church Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship Rev. Varnell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Come, all of you who are weary and heavy laden.

We find our rest in Christ alone.

Come, all of you who are feeling the crushing weight of sin.

We find our forgiveness in Christ alone.

Come, all of you who are seeking to draw close to God in this season.

We find our peace in Christ alone.

Let us worship Christ our Lord this day!

* Opening Hymn No. 500 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

* Affirmation of Faith Rev. Varnell

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died for us and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort. We believe in God's Kingdom now and in the life to come. And so, we commit ourselves to the way of Christ: to take up the cross; to love and serve others; to pray for and forgive our enemies; to share the good news of the gospel; and to give ourselves in faith, hope, and love, entrusting our lives to our faithful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, both now and forever. Glory be to God on high. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Varnell

Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh, to teach us the way of love and mercy, to suffer death upon the cross and be raised again, to bring us abundant life. Grant us forgiveness for our sins, cleanse our minds and hearts, make us partakers of the resurrection life. 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

Romans 5:1-8 (Pew Bible pg 917)

Rev. Varnell

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

* Hymn No. 390

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

Anthem

I Will Arise

Arr. Robert Shaw & Alice Parker

I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount. I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing. Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.

I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Second Reading Exodus 34:6; James 1:19-21 (*Pew Bible pg 71, 980*)

Rev. Varnell

The Lord passed before Moses, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

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

Sermon

"And I'm About to Break"

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

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

Prelude on "Rockingham"

arr. Healey Willan

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. 129

Give to the Winds Your Fears

FESTAL SONG

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Fugue on the Magnificat
secundi toni: II.10

Johann Pachelbel



News of the Church

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

Everyone is invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall after Worship for our monthly potluck lunch. Come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table!



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. 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

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

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

THOMAS DUNN

& BAXTER JAMES

Candle Lighters

————— *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 175th celebration on June 2, 2001. At that time Mrs. Helen Matthews had been a member of Mulberry for the longest number of years – 88 years, and she was asked to write her memories of Mulberry.

“My Precious Church: The church as I remember as a child was a red brick building. You entered the sanctuary very much as you do today. There were two aisles on either side of the church, with rows of benches in 3 sections. Up close to the rostrum there were 2 benches on either side. Around the altar (pulpit) was a railing with a kneeling pad. There was only one stained glass window in the sanctuary and that was the Dunlap window on the right-hand side of the church. As people began to give memorials (for the windows), it was moved to the left side of the church. I remember that the back room of the church was a large room for Sunday School where chairs were arranged in a circle. There were classrooms all around with additional ones in the balcony. The Sunday School was initially organized for little children. The children used the upstairs rooms until they were old enough to join the teenagers on the main floor. It has been so interesting growing up in Mulberry and I want to thank all the members for their love, support and contributions to our ministry and all the good they have done for my precious church. It has been most interesting living through the 20th century at Mulberry!”

————— *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.



Mulberry Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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