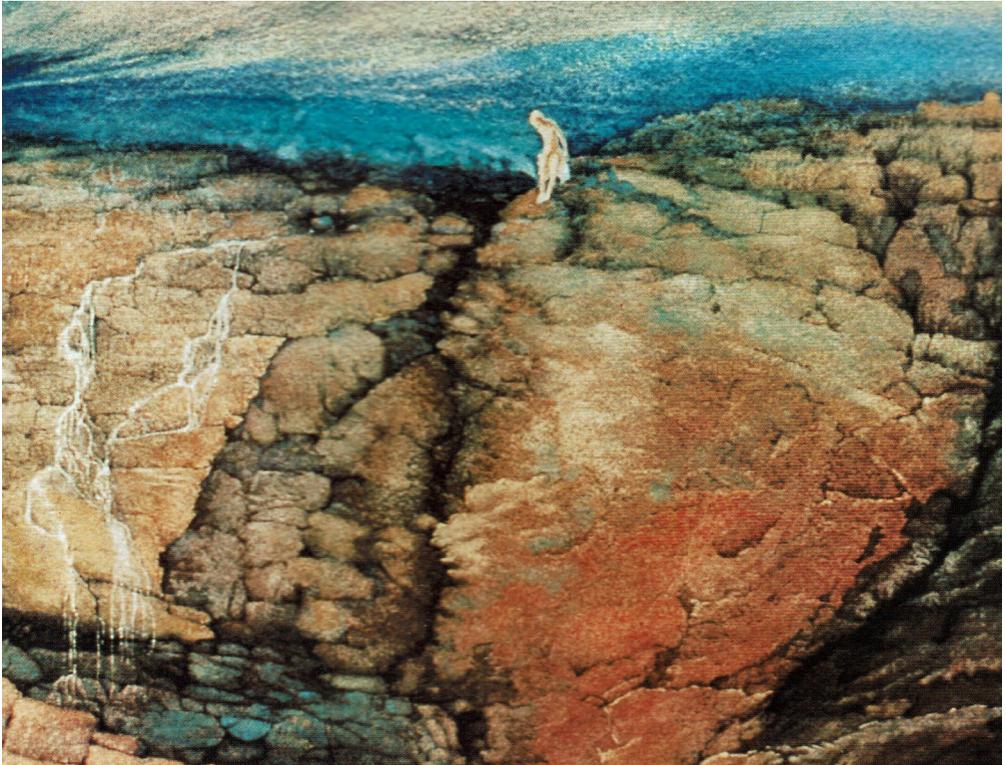


MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 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 "The Mind of Christ (temptation story)" by Frank Wesley.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59167>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Fugue on
St. Patrick's Breastplate

arr. John Hebden Schaffner

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.

Are you looking for meaning? Are you looking for purpose?

Open our eyes that we may see your goodness.

Are you facing worries and doubts?

Open our ears that we may hear your truth.

Are you tempted to navigate life by your own strength?

Open our hearts that we may be filled with the light of Christ.

* Opening Hymn No. 110

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

* Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Stone

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all His works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Stone

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done; and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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

Psalm 37 (Pew Bible pg 443)

Rev. Stone

Fret not yourself because of the wicked, be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday. Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him.

* Hymn No. 395

Take Time to Be Holy

HOLINESS

Anthem

Christ Be With Me

Terre Johnson

Christ be with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

Christ on my right side, Christ on my left side,
When I lie down, When I sit down,
Christ when I arise!

News of the Church

Tour the Mulberry Organ with Daniel | Today | Following worship

Today after worship, our organist Daniel McIntosh will be leading a tour of Mulberry's organ. Meet at the front of the sanctuary following worship to get a behind-the-scenes view of our beautiful organ!

Help Fill Easter Eggs! | Return by Palm Sunday, March 29

Pick up a bag of empty Easter Eggs (found in the Narthex & Atrium) and fill them up with individually-wrapped candies to help us get ready for our Easter Egg Hunt on Coleman Hill! Please return filled eggs by Sunday, March 29.

Looking for Pictures!

The Bicentennial Committee needs your photos! Please share any pictures of you and your family participating in activities at Mulberry. We especially want confirmation, Easter, Christmas, VBS shots. Please contact Nita Smith at 478 361 3928 or email at smithevelyn248@gmail.com

If your photos are prints we can get them scanned. Digital photos can be emailed.

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](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

HENRY CARTER

Crucifer

REYNOLDS HEFNER

& WILL MAGDA

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

**The following is from The Mulberry Quarterly,
2012 Spring Edition:**

"In 1917, three Macon brothers, Francis, Robert & Howard Williams, turned their efforts towards a form of worship that was not then held in Macon. During WW1, the Williams boys, musically inclined sons of late Mayor Luther Williams, had successfully been coordinating Sunday afternoon singing concerts with a regular attendance of some 4,000 people when they also decided to organize a sunrise service on Easter morning. As Howard Williams said, "there was no sunrise service in Macon then and we decided to have a time to pray for the servicemen and their families and a thanksgiving service for what our Savior had done for us." The first service drew some 10,000 worshippers.

Over the years, special music from barbershop chorus groups to a choir from the old Macon Hospital Nursing School have performed. Being a totally interdenominational and interracial service, featured speakers from local religious organizations of all faiths have taken part. In an interview for a local newspaper, Howard Williams made no secret of what being on Coleman Hill on Easter morning meant to him. "When the sun comes up over those Twiggs County hills, it is a beautiful sight to behold. I've had lots of people say it's silly to get up that time of the morning, but I remember the man who cared enough to climb a hill and die for me. I think of that and say 'yes, I'll get up and go.'"

————— *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