



**MULBERRY STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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



**CONFIRMATION  
SUNDAY**

**The Church at Worship**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

*March 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. 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](http://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](http://mulberrymethodist.org).

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

Visit [bit.ly/mul-news](http://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](http://mulberrymethodist.org/bulletins).

## GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://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](mailto:hgodsey@mulberrymethodist.org).

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary                      *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*                      arr. Dale Wood

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.**

If you are seeking to worship Jesus, you are in the right place.

**We come to worship Christ in the beauty of this sanctuary.**

If you are seeking to grow in holiness, you are in the right place.

**We come to grow into who God wants us to be.**

If you are seeking to serve others, you are in the right place.

**We come to be filled with love that we may go out to serve the world!**

**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. 73                      *O Worship the King*                      LYONS

\* 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.**

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## *Confirmation Class of 2026*

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### Candidates

Charles Thomas Dunn

Charles Baxter James, III

Andrew Christopher Morris

Jameson Walden Weatherford

### Mentors

Baxter James

Eric Hefner

Andy Watson

Chris Abbott

### Congregational Commendation & Welcome

Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these young people whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy Church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.**

**With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

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## *Proclamation & Response*

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Anthem

*His Voice as the Sound*

American Folk Hymn;

Arr. Robert Shaw & Alice Parker

His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet  
is heard through the shadows of death;  
The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet,  
the air is perfumed with his breath.  
His lips as a fountain of righteousness flow  
to water the garden of grace,  
From which their salvation the Gentiles shall know,  
and bask in the smile of his face.

Love sits in his eyelids and scatters delight  
through all the bright regions on high;  
Their faces the Cherubim veil in his sight,  
and tremble with fullness of joy.  
He looks, and ten thousands of angels rejoice,  
and myriads wait for his word.  
He speaks, and eternity filled with his voice,  
Re-echoes the praise of her Lord.

- Joseph Swain, 1790

Scripture Reading

Revelation 3:14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Rev. Varnell

And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.'"

There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs.

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

Sermon

"Consumed with the Wrong"

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.**

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## Offering of our Tithes & Gifts

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Offertory

Chaconne in A minor

by Johann Kaspar  
Ferdinand Fischer

You can make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://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.**

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## Sending Forth

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\* Closing Hymn No. 415

Take Up Thy Cross

GERMANY

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Fugue in D minor BWV 554

attr. to J.S Bach



### 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](http://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

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## *News of the Church*

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### **Cherry Blossom Organ Concerts | Beginning Monday, March 23**

Join us for our annual Cherry Blossom Organ Concerts, thirty-minute concerts held in the sanctuary beginning at 12:00 noon each day March 23rd-27th. In these performances, there will be connections to the past and present of Mulberry's 200 years represented by these talented individuals.

Monday: Charles Douthit

Tuesday: Hudson Moss

Wednesday: Steven Wooddell

Thursday: Ibiyefiebo Harry

Friday: Dr. Laura Ellis

### **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.

### **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

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## *Keep up with us online!*

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Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!  
To sign up, visit [bit.ly/mulnews](https://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](https://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**

**EMILY STANSFIELD**

Crucifer

**RUTH STANSFIELD**

**& RAMZI HARLEY**

Candle Lighters

————— *A Bicentennial Moment* —————

*In conjunction 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 written by J. W. Daniel, January 15, 1959 titled "Mulberry Near The Turn Of The Century (as nearly as I remember it)."**

"In September, 1906, my membership was transferred from Murfreesboro, TN to Mulberry Street during the ministry of Dr. T. D. Ellis. My memory lingers on my first several years there because of the unusual privilege I had then of intimate associations with four men. For some years on Sunday mornings and evenings and Wednesday evenings Mr. C.B. Adams, Mr. O. A. Park, Mr. J. B. Riley, Mr. W. G. Solomon and I met at the gate of Mr. Solomon at the corner of College and Forsyth Streets and together walked to morning and evening services at the church. Mr. Adams, as long as he lived, took the collections plates every Sunday; Mr. Riley was treasurer; Mr. Solomon taught the Baraca class - later the Solomon Bible Class; and for many years Mr. Park was superintendent of the Sunday School.

It was interesting to hear of several pastors who had preceded Dr. Ellis. One was Dr. Alonzo Monk. In his pastorate was built the semi-circular annex at the back of the main building, recently taken away from the building of the present Educational building. My understanding is that just before Dr. Monk, Dr. J. McFerrin was sent to Mulberry for the purpose of moving Mulberry church to College Street, near Wesleyan. But after considerable controversy Mulberry remained where it is and has always been.

————— *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