



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## The Church at Worship FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*May 3, 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).

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*The artwork on the cover is "Exorcism of the Gerasene Demoniac".*  
<https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59733>

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary                      Prelude on “St. Anne”                      arr. Healey Willan

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 gather, we continue to give thanks for 200 years of our church’s history.

**We are so thankful for God leading us this far.**

On this Communion Sunday, we remember that it’s all grace, it’s all gift.

**We open our hands to receive God’s marvelous gift today.**

We come to worship the living God who leads us into our next 200 years.

**To God be the glory, this day, and forevermore.**

**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. 98                      *To God Be the Glory*                      TO GOD BE THE GLORY

\* 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.**

\* Gloria Patri                      GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;  
world without end. Amen.**

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*Proclamation & Response*

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Anthem

*I Am His Child*

Moses Hogan

*Refrain*

I may not be all that you are,  
I may not be a shining star,  
But what I am,  
I thank the Lord for making me His child.

Thank you, Lord, for hearing every prayer.  
Thank you, Lord, for just being there.  
Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,  
For I am not worthy of your love.

*Refrain*

Thank you, Lord, for hearing every prayer.  
Thank you, Lord, for just being there.  
Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,  
For I am not worthy of your love.

*Refrain*

So don't use me or abuse me,  
For I am his child.  
Don't tease me or mistreat me,  
For am still his child.  
You can even talk about me,  
But I am still his child.

- Moses Hogan

Scripture Reading

Luke 8:26-39

Rev. Varnell

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as he stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

Communion Meditation

Rev. Varnell

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*Thanksgiving & Communion*

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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

*Herzliebster Jesu,  
was hast du verbroschen*

Johann Christoph Oley

Make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give) or in the offering plate.

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.*

#### 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.**

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*Sending Forth*

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Closing Voluntary      Organ Sonata No. IV in B-flat Major Op. 65      Felix Mendelssohn  
IV. Allegro maestoso e vivace



## *News of the Church*

### **May Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, May 6 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall**

Join us for Worship & Prayer in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 6! Start your month with music, prayer and special activity stations. We will share a meal and then move into a time of meditation, silent prayer & modern worship. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, and we will move into our time of worship at 6:15.

### **Senior Recognition Sunday | Sunday, May 17**

We will celebrate our graduating High School Seniors on Sunday, May 17! Everyone is invited to join us for a potluck breakfast at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, and we will continue the celebration by honoring our graduates during our 11 am Sanctuary worship service.

### **No May Second Sunday Lunch**

We will not meet for our monthly Second Sunday Lunch in May; we will instead meet on Sunday, May 17 for a potluck brunch in honor of our graduating High School Seniors.

## *Keep up with us online!*



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.facebook.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**

**BILL & CINDY JARRARD**  
Lay Communion Servers

**BEN MORRIS**  
Crucifer

**DREW MORRIS  
& EMILY CARROLL**  
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 from the minutes of the Quarterly  
Conference of Mulberry Street UMC  
dated March 2, 1945:**

“The Quarterly Conference was held in the Solomon Bible Classroom on Wednesday, February 26, 1945. The Conference passed a resolution authorizing the Board of Trustees to accept, receipt for and administer a bequest to said church by the late Mrs. Nettie Dunlap Worthan. Said bequest was a one-half undivided share in the estate of Mrs. Wortham, the other one-half undivided interest being a bequest to Wesleyan College. In order for Mulberry Church and Wesleyan College to make a division of said estate it is necessary for the sale of certain assets in said estate. The Authority to sell was given by the Quarterly Conference to the Board of Trustees of Mulberry, as required by law as stated in the 1944 Discipline.

The law of The Methodist Church as set forth in the 1944 Discipline covering the sale of property belonging to the Methodist Church, requires the written consent of the District Superintendent and the Preacher in charge. We, Samuel T. Senter, District superintendent, Macon District, The Methodist Church and Silas Johnson, preacher, in Charge of Mulberry Street Methodist Church, do, and by this instrument, give our written consent to the sale of any and all assets of said bequest as covered by said resolution, giving authority to the Board of Trustees of Mulberry Street Methodist Church to sell assets in the said bequest.

————— *Eastertide* —————

The Easter Season begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The paraments in the sanctuary are white to represent purity & joy.

  
**Mulberry Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street  
478.745.8601

[mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org)

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