

MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 17, 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 flowers on the Lord's Table are given in loving memory of
Roy Lee Kennedy, Jr., by his family.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Road in the Woods" by Constant Troyon.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437847>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Here I Am, Lord

by Daniel Schutte
arr. Lloyd Larson

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.

Today we recognize our seniors with joy and thanksgiving.

We are grateful for who they are and who they are becoming.

Wherever life leads them next, they do not go alone.

God goes with them, and this church goes with them in love.

And God goes with us all, and continues to lead us into the future.

For this and for all of God's many blessings, we give thanks.

Let us worship!

* Opening Hymn No. 368

My Hope Is Built

THE SOLID ROCK

* 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

GREATORIX

**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.**

Recognition of Seniors

Introduction of Graduates

Elisa Reece

Presentation of Awards & Honors

Rev. Varnell & Rev. Stone

Recognition of Senior Acolytes

Martin & Julia Magda

Congregational Prayer for Graduates

Rev. Stone

God of our beginnings, we thank you for the excitement, the wonder, curiosity, and energy of these, our graduates.

Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we are a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they take their next steps into a waiting world accompany them with the full knowledge of your divine presence.

Strengthen their resolve to follow Jesus. Give faith to guide them, hope to sustain them, and love to enrich them.

Be for them the way of life. Save them from the pitfalls of darkness. Call them to lead church and society in paths of righteousness.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Proclamation & Response

* Hymn

Go, My Children, With My Blessing (see insert)

AR HYD Y NOS

Anthem

Arise, My Soul, Arise
Katie Trotter, Violin

Arr. Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice
in my behalf appears.
Before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears,
received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers,
they strongly plead for me.
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled;
his pard'ning voice I hear.
He owns me for his child,
I can no longer fear.
with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.
- Charles Wesley

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (Pew Bible pg 943)

Rev. Varnell

I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated.

Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

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

Sermon

"Moving From Weakness To Strength"

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.

Offering of our Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

V. *The Call from "Five Mystical Songs"*
Lyrics by George Herbert, Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Adam Schulte, Soloist

Come, my way, my truth, my life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love

In this season of Eastertide, we reflect on the resurrection of Christ and how his love and strength were displayed. This poem by George Herbert reflects on the sacrifice and power of Jesus, even to overcome death.

You can make your offering to God online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give
or in the offering plate.

* Doxology

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 383

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

BEGINNINGS

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

An Important Event
from "Scenes from Childhood" Op. 15, No. 6

by Robert Schumann



News of the Church

Family Fun Day | Sunday, May 31 | 4 pm | Fickling Farm

The whole Mulberry family is invited to join in on the fun Sunday, May 31 at Fickling Farm! Our Family Ministries team is hosting a Fun Day for all ages - we'll grill hot dogs & hamburgers, play games for kids & adults alike, and have a great time of fellowship together! Fickling Farm Entrance: 5215 Rivoli Drive, Macon, GA

VBS 2026 - Snowball Mountain Challenge | June 8-12

9:00am - 12:00pm M-F | PreK (4) - 5th Grade | This year for VBS, we're heading up Snowball Mountain! Together with Ollie the Arctic Seal, kids will learn how to find their strength in God, based on Philippians 4:13- "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Contact Elisa Reece with questions or to volunteer! Register kids at mulberrymethodist.org/vbs.

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. Although its console and bellows have been taken out for restoration, you can still come get a behind-the-scenes look of all of the pipes that make up the organ, and hear about the restoration process and what it entails! Meet at the front of the sanctuary following worship to join the tour.

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

BEN MORRIS

Crucifer

DREW MORRIS

& EMILY CARROLL

Candle Lighters

A Bicentennial Moment

In conjunction with Mulberry's 2026 Bicentennial Celebration, the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of Mulberry history.

Carolyn Kennedy Dominy, Church Historian

Excerpts taken from The Pastor's Report to the Board of Stewards meeting, February 7, 1946.

As reported in last week's Bicentennial Moment, at the death of Clara Dunlap Bagley in 1945, the estate of Mrs. Nettie Dunlap Wortham was to be divided equally between Mulberry Street Methodist Church and Wesleyan College. In a letter dated March 1945, a report was made on the furnishings and personal possessions found in the home located at 267 College Street with preliminary plans to dispose of such items by a public sale.* There are several detailed lists of items that were appraised and offered for sale. Among them was a room-by-room list of items that included 179 items of silverware, china and glass. Also was a list of furs such as a black broadtail coat, a 2-skin silver fox scarf, and a black velvet coat with ermine collar. Plus, in the inventory was a 1927 Pierce Arrow car.

Mrs. Wortham's entire estate of stocks, bonds, securities, Macon real estate, jewelry, furniture, etc. was valued at \$426,837.69. Proceeds from the estate sale was divided equally between Wesleyan College and Mulberry Street Methodist Church in 1946.

The Wortham bequest as outlined was the "seed money" for today's Mulberry endowment funds. In the late 1940s, the Board of Trustees provided funds for the installation of a stained-glass window in the sanctuary dedicated to the memory Nettie Dunlap Wortham in appreciation of her generosity. (*the Wortham home is now numbered as 195 College Street)

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

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

Celebrating Our Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to these young men and women whose hard work, dedication and faith have brought them to this incredible milestone.

Seniors, as you move into this next chapter of your lives, we pray that you continue to seek God's voice and walk confidently in your faith.

From your Mulberry family, we are so proud of you!



Molly Berg

Parents: James & Valli Berg

High School: First Presbyterian Day School

College Attending: University of Georgia

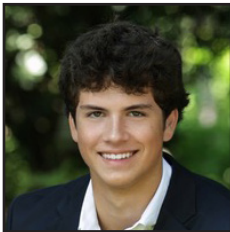


Ellis Bridges

Parents: Charlie & Meredith Bridges

High School: Stratford Academy

College Attending: Georgia College & State University



Henry Carter

Parents: Austin & Karen Carter

High School: Academy for Classical Education

College Attending: Georgia College & State University



Caroline Dent

Parents: Gary & Anne Dent

High School: Stratford Academy

College Attending: Georgia College & State University



Reynolds Hefner

Parents: Eric & Margaret Hefner

High School: Stratford Academy

College Attending: University of Alabama



Maggie Jamison

Parents: Mel & Melis Jamison

High School: Stratford Academy

College Attending: Covenant College



Campbell McIntyre

Parents: Chris & Marion McIntyre

High School: Stratford Academy

College Attending: University of Georgia



Stella McIntyre

Parents: Chris & Marion McIntyre

High School: Stratford Academy

College Attending: University of Georgia



Sarah Ellis Walker

Parents: Stuart & Jenny Walker

Brandon Walker

High School: Toombs County High School

College Attending: University of Georgia

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Jaroslav Vajda

AR HYD Y NOS



1. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clo - ser to me;
4. I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;

5

S.
A. Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;

T.
B.

9

S.
A. In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I the Lord will be your Fath - er, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.

T.
B.

13

S.
A. go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.
Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

T.
B.