



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5, 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 "Trees beside a Stream" by Eliphalet Fraser Andrews.
<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/trees-beside-stream-428>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Terre Johnson

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Though we may be inclined to brag,
let us come together with humility.

How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

Though we may be tempted to use harsh words,
let us come together with gentleness.

How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

Though we may want everything to happen quickly,
let us come together with patience.

How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

Though the world around often encourages hate,
let us come together in love.

How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity,

Let us worship the God who has called us together.

— written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her *Spacious Faith* blog.

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.

* 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.

Proclamation & Response

Bicentennial Memories

Ken Medema

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (*Pew Bible pg 639*)

Rev. Stone

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

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

Sermon

"Two Things Can Be True"

Rev. Stone

Thanksgiving & Communion

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

Ken Medema

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

* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Stone

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.**

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 428

For the Healing of the Nations

CWM RONDDA

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary

Terre Johnson



Ken Medema

Ken Medema is one of the most creative and authentic artists performing today. He is a Christ follower with a passion for social justice. Uniquely, he is also blind. For five decades, Ken has used music as a vehicle for creating conversation through storytelling and reflection. Today he performs in a variety of venues, including local congregations, charity fundraisers, high schools, university campuses, church youth gatherings, televised religious programs, corporate conventions, annual assemblies of national organizations, and more. Ken custom designs each performance, integrating new and old music with his gift of improvisation to suit the occasion. With an ever-growing circle of friends around the world, Ken's vocal and piano artistry and imagination have reached audiences of 50 to 50,000 in 49 United States and in more than 15 countries on four continents.

News of the Church

Faith & Film Sunday School Class | 5-week Study starting July 19

Join us for a 5-week journey exploring the intersection of storytelling and spirituality in our upcoming “Faith and Film” Sunday School class! Each week, participants will watch a film on their own, and during class, we will engage in insightful discussions that bridge cinematic narratives with theological reflection. We will kick off our series with a modern classic—*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Second Sunday Lunch UWF Fundraiser | July 12

On July 12th, United Women in Faith will be hosting Second Sunday Lunch. Friends, we need your help! Please bring your favorite salad. Also bring your generous donations to help the Esther Grace UWF Circle with their missions giving this year. No desserts needed as we will have an ice cream bar.

2026 Youth Mission Trip Recap

Our youth returned last week from their mission trip in Cullman, AL working with Harvest of Hope to learn about food insecurity locally & abroad. The youth got their hands dirty gleaning fields for produce that helped serve the community. They gleaned cucumbers, squash, corn and more - over 1200 lbs of fresh produce that went to 119 families & served 956 meals.

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

KEN MEDEMA
Special Musical Guest

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

For Mulberry's 175th Celebration on June 2, 2001, church members were asked to contribute their memories Mulberry. Below are excerpts written by the late Ed Sell, Jr.:

"It's fascinating to ponder the differences between the Mulberry of 1940 and the Mulberry of 2001. From the exterior, it would be somewhat difficult to see if there is any difference between the 1940 properties and the current ones. The fact of the matter is, however, that much work was done from time to time to upgrade and remodel the interior.

One of the first changes I recall was the addition in the 1950s, which added the present Fellowship Hall and made the ground floor under it usable. The Sunday School portion as it existed in the 1940s was semicircular in shape and on two floors. On the lower level were areas for Sunday School classes and assembly. On the upper floor, which was essentially a balcony, there were cubicles for Sunday school Classes. The ground floor of the Sunday School area was utilized for meetings of the Board of Stewards and other functions. This area, I have been told, was utilized for areas to entertain soldiers during World War II.

In the 1950s, it was decided that the Church needed to expand its programs and facilities. The result of that decision was to remove the semicircular building to construct a Fellowship Hall which provided a space for basketball, small theater productions, and dining room space adjacent to the kitchen which was also constructed as part of the 1950s project."

Season of Ordinary Time

The season of Ordinary Time emphasizes the church living & witnessing in the world. The color of the paraments is green to represent the church's growth & presence.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street
478.745.8601
mulberrymethodist.org
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm