



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19, 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 altar are given to the Glory of God by the Mulberry Scampers in loving memory of our past leaders and members who left a legacy of Christian family camping and fellowship for present and future generations.

*The artwork on the cover is "Sun" by Edvard Munch.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56306>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Intrada
by Grayston Ives

Hunter Godsey

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.

We gather this day to give ourselves to God.

We come to worship the God who made all things.

We gather to be formed by God's Word into the Body of Christ.

God is God, we are not. We are Christ's disciples.

We gather to be filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of the living God, breathe new life into us this day!

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. 539

O Spirit of the Living God

FOREST GREEN

* 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.

**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

First Reading

Romans 12:1-2, 14-21 (*Pew Bible pg 922*)

Rev. Stone

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

* Hymn No. 549

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ST. PETER

Solo

Be Near Me Still
by Ferdinand Hiller

Adam Schulte

* Second Reading

Matthew 5:21-24, 38-48 (*Pew Bible pg 786*)

Rev. Varnell

"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there

before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

Sermon

“Shine On!”

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

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring
by J.S. Bach

Hunter Godsey

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. 188

Christ Is the World's Light

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Lobe Den Herren
arr. Hunter Godsey

Hunter Godsey



News of the Church

Macon Bacon Game | Saturday, August 1 | 7 pm

Mulberry is heading back to the ballgame! Join us on Saturday, August 1 for Family Night at the Macon Bacon. Each ticket includes free hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Tickets are \$17 each, and for every ticket purchased through Mulberry, the church will receive \$5 back for our Family Ministries! Purchase tickets through Realm or by calling the church office.

Mulberry Supper Club | Sign up on Realm

Get to know other members of Mulberry at monthly dinners hosted in homes from August through November! Mulberry's Supper Club is a fun way to build community and form spiritual friendships in the comfort of home. Those who sign up will be assigned to a small group that will meet once per month for 4 months to share a meal together in homes of people in our church community. Sign up through Realm or by calling the church office!

Back to School Sunday | Sunday, August 16

As part of our Back to School celebrations, our Family Ministries team is collecting supplies to send our Mulberry college students some care packages for the start of the school year! You can drop off supplies in the marked bins in the Atrium & Narthex.

Supplies Needed: \$ Donations for shipping (\$15 per care package); College Ruled Composition Books; Spiral Notebooks; Pocket Size Stapler & Staple Set; Pencil Sharpeners; USB Flash Drives – 64GB; Sticky Note Tabs; Post-it Notes (3x3 size); Sharpie Gel Pens (Assorted Colors); Sharpie Clear View Highlighter Sticks; 250/500 ct Flash Cards, 3x5 inch, lined; BIC White-Out EZ Correct; BIC Mechanical Pencils; Lance Sandwich Cracker Assortment; Goldfish Individual Packs; Z Bar Protein Bars; Nabisco Snacks- Individual Packs; Slim Jim Individual Packs

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**

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

MILLIE THOMPSON
Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

HUNTER GODSEY
Organist

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

On December 19, 1943, the Christmas Pageant "There Must Be No Bitterness" was held in Mulberry's sanctuary. The following is taken from the program for the evening:

Processional: Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Scene 1 - Still Life Picture of the Nativity

O Little Town of Bethlehem by the Senior Choir; Away In A Manger by Primary Department; Christmas Story as told by Luke by Wylene Dillard; For God So Loved The World by The Choir; Christmas Story as told by Matthew by Lina Jones; O Come All Ye Faithful by the Congregation.

Characters: Mary - Catie Ridley; Joseph - Paul Clark; Shepherds - W. B. Dasher, J. L. Hammond, Sam Lamback; Wise Men - John Everett, Paul White, E. L. Sanderfur.

Senior Choir members - Norma Martin, Hazel, Grace, Alice Crimmins, Margaret Hinton, Edith Middlebrooks, Margie Burton, Ann Dodd, Alleen Jones, Annie Anderson, Billye Wilkes, Stella Beaty, Dot Jarratt, Alma Luckert, Annie Martin Holmes, Billy Scott, James Dillard, Billy Sparks, Joe Carson, Roy Kennedy, Jr., Harry Johnson, Walter Chew, George Skene, Harold Beaty, Sam Crossley, John Hinton, George Stelljes

Scene 11 - Altar of the Church

Church, George Stelljes - Youth, George Skene - Director General Lehman, Harold Beaty - Voice in Distance - Dorothy Chew - Madam Chiang Kai-shek, Helen Farmer, Brother Burke, W. B. Burke

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