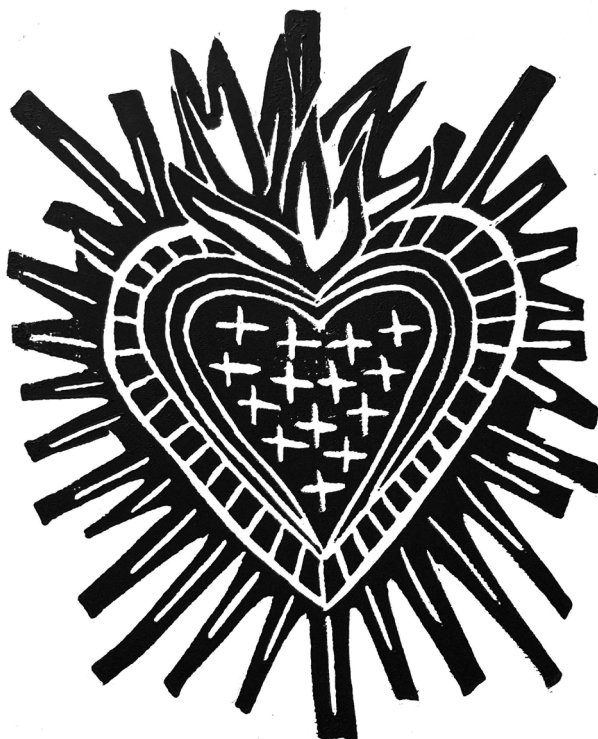


MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 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 in memory of our parents, Aubrey and Sue Allen and Sidney and Florence Camp, from Stephen and Florence Allen.

*The artwork on the cover is "Sacred Heart" by Lauren Plummer.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57133>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on *New Britain*
by Dale Wood

Hunter Godsey

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Youth Reflections

Emily Carroll, Kate Evans & Will Magda

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

People of God, we are invited to worship the Lord this day.

We come to give praise and honor to God!

We are invited to be open to God's work in this place.

We come to be transformed in Christ!

We are invited to experience the Lord in all his goodness and glory.

We come to be renewed by God's amazing grace!

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. 378

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

* 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

Hebrews 13:1-9 (Pew Bible pg 979)

Rev. Stone

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you."

Hence we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace.

* Hymn No. 365

Grace Greater than Our Sin

MOODY

Solo

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Arr. Lloyd Larson

Sierra Sanders

* Second Reading

Matthew 5:27-32 (Pew Bible pg 786)

Rev. Varnell

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

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

Sermon

“Holy Eyes and Righteous Hearts”

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
by Gordon Young

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. 355

Depth of Mercy

CANTERBURY

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Old Hundredth
by Fred Bock

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.

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

Wednesday Worship & Prayer Moving to Second Wednesday

Starting on Wednesday, August 12, our monthly contemplative Worship & Prayer service is moving to the second Wednesday of the month instead of the first. If you've never attended the service, we encourage you to come try it out! We engage with many different practices throughout the service, drawing from ancient traditions of prayer. Come center yourself in song and prayer!

Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, and the service starts at 6:15 pm.

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

SIERRA SANDERS

Soloist

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 from the meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of Mulberry Street Methodist Church, December 19, 1963:

"The meeting was called by Chairman George P. Rankin to consider several matters. Five members were present, four were absent. Also present was Pastor Leonard H. Cochran. Chairman Rankin stated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to consider the creation of means for channeling contributions to the trust funds of the church. Therefore, a resolution was presented calling for the establishment of the Mulberry Street Methodist Church Endowment. After more discussion and a number of amendments, including changing the name to the Mulberry Street Methodist Church Foundation, it was moved to adopt the resolution.

Board member Mr. W. A. Fickling raised the question of floodlighting the exterior of the Church in such a fashion that the stained-glass windows could be seen at night. He reported that Georgia Power Company had studied the matter, prepared specifications, and that the initial cost would be approximately \$4,300 and that in addition to that there would be an annual electric bill of about \$600. Also it was said that the plan would be to place clusters of floodlights on the ground shining in the direction of the church windows and that it would be necessary to have shrubbery in these clusters to prevent them from being visible from the street.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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

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.