



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 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 "By Lamp Light" by Harriet Backer.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/58168>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

No. 11 in D Major
from 12 Short pieces for the Organ

Samuel Wesley

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.

The God of all comfort and compassion welcomes you today.

We are grateful to be in the presence of God!

The Lord invites us to give our hearts to him in worship.

We worship the Lord in spirit and in truth!

The Spirit of God moves in our midst this morning.

We open our hearts to the Spirit's guidance and work!

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. 96

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

AMSTERDAM

* 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

**Glorify 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

Anthem

Offertory

John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man;
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?
- Micah 6:6-8

* Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24 (*Pew Bible pg 787*)

Rev. Varnell

“Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

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

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

There is a Balm in Gilead

arr. Robert J. Powell

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

* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Varnell

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. 339 *Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast* HURSLEY

* Benediction & Sending Forth Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary "Fugue in G" Johann Pachelbel
on Magnificat octavi toni: mode VIII, No. 1



News of the Church

Back to School Sunday | Sunday, August 16

Join us in worship on August 16 as we celebrate our students & teachers kicking off a new school year! Bring your book bags for a special backpack blessing during the service. 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 Include: \$ Donations for shipping (\$15 per care package); College Ruled Composition Books; Spiral Notebooks; Post-it Notes (3x3 size); Sharpie Gel Pens (Assorted Colors); Lance Sandwich Cracker Assortment.

Find a full list of supplies in the weekly newsletter & online!

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.

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!

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

DANIEL MCINTOSH
Organist

MILLIE THOMPSON
Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

SPENCER & MEGAN SMITH
Lay Communion Servers

WILL MAGDA
Crucifer

**EMILY STANSFIELD
& RUTH STANSFIELD**
Candle Lighters


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

This week we step back into the pages of Mulberry's UMW's 1990 cookbook, "Under The Mulberry Tree," where dozens of historical notes were sprinkled among the recipes.

1888 - A committee was appointed to look into the building of a stable and buggy-shed on the parsonage lot.

1896 - It was resolved to contract with the new Telephone Company for 5 years at \$12.00 per annum.

1902 - It was reported by the Sexton of the Cemetery that Mulberry owned a cemetery lot in need of attention.

1907 - Brother Canon authorized the building of a porch for a downstairs Sunday School Room, and a brick walk from the entrance to First Street.

1912 - In view of the movement by Macon businessmen to install electric lights in the principal business blocks, Mulberry's Board of Stewards voted to install streetlights in front of the church.

1928 - Water containers and paper cups finally replaced the wine-barrels used for drinking water in the church.

1946 - During World War II, 207 service men and their fiancées were married at Mulberry.

1963 - The Official Board was entertained at a bird and venison supper hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Cochran. Dr. Cochran collected the game by various means - most of which were legal! The delicious meal was prepared by Joe Stallworth at the Grady Coffee Shop.

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.