



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## The Church at Worship ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*August 9, 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](http://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](http://mulberrymethodist.org).

Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

Visit [bit.ly/mul-news](http://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](http://mulberrymethodist.org/bulletins).

## GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://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](mailto:hgodsey@mulberrymethodist.org).

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*The flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of John H Kennington, loving father and WWII veteran by Johnny & Charlotte Kennington.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Serena" by Richmond Barthé.  
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57917>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary

Prelude in G

Henry Coleman

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 Lord Almighty welcomes us today, so let us praise the Lord:

**Who loves us more than we can ever know!**

The Lord Almighty invites us to know him deeply, so let us praise the Lord:

**Who gives us the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus!**

The Lord Almighty calls us into a living relationship, so let us praise the Lord:

**Who blesses us all richly, that we may be a blessing!**

**Let us praise the Lord together!**

\* Opening Hymn No. 139

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

*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.**

**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.**

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*Proclamation & Response*

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First Reading

Psalm 25:1-10 (Pew Bible pg 436)

Rev. Stone

To thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in thee I trust, let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Yea, let none that wait for thee be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me, for thou art the God of my salvation; for thee I wait all the day long. Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord, and of thy steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to thy steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

\* Hymn No. 496

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

SWEET HOUR

Anthem

*Sometimes God Sings*

Terre Johnson

Sometimes God sings  
in the beauty of a springtime day;  
in the freshness of the falling rain;  
in the ever-blooming world God made.

Sometimes God sings  
in the touch of one extending care;  
in the words of someone's thoughtful prayer;  
and the song makes me new again.

God's song is ever near me  
if I will be still and hear.  
Never a solitary tune,  
but melody, harmony, rhythm, expression  
in search of a choir to sing, to soar!

Sometimes God sings  
in the worry and the pain I feel;  
in the way I sometimes fail to kneel;  
but the song lifts me higher until I can see  
that by joining the song, lending my voice,  
filling the world with beauty and grace,  
God's glorious song is singing in me.

- Terre Johnson

\* Second Reading

Matthew 6:5-15 (*Pew Bible pg 787*)

Rev. Varnell

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: 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 debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

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

Sermon

“The Jesus Prayer”

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.**

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## *Offering of our Tithes & Gifts*

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Offertory

*Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown*

arr. Dale Wood

You can make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give)  
or in the offering plate.

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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.**

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## *Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 492

*Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire*

CAMPMEETING

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

*Praise God, You Christians, All Together*

Dieterich Buxtehude



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## *News of the Church*

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### **Second Sunday Lunch | Today | Fellowship Hall | 12:00 pm**

Join us immediately following Worship in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly potluck lunch! Come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table!

### **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!

### **Wednesday Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, August 12 | Fellowship Hall**

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.

### **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.

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## *Keep up with us online!*

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Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

To sign up, visit [bit.ly/mulnews](https://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](https://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**

**GEORGE DUNN**

*Crucifer*

**THOMAS DUNN**

**& WILL MAGDA**

*Candle Lighters*

  
**Mulberry Street**  
*UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

[mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org)

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

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## *A Bicentennial Moment*

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*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*

**From 2009 to 2016, Mulberry members published a magazine titled "Mulberry Quarterly".**

**Below is an article written by Gary Dunn titled "Saturday Mornings in the Sixties."**

It was early on a Saturday morning back in the '60s, and my mother was calling downstairs to my brother and me as she did every day. "Chip and Gary, time to get up." This was the standard wakeup call but today was Saturday! No school. No homework. It was Saturday and Saturday meant my brother and I would be going to the Youth Center at Mulberry. It didn't take long to feel the excitement of going to one of the most popular places in town on a Saturday morning. My mother handed us our brown paper lunch bags. We didn't know what she had made for us, but we knew it would be especially good when lunchtime rolled around. The reason it would taste better on Saturday at the Youth Center was because there was a Coke machine at the center. It was no ordinary machine. It not only had Coke, but it had Nehi Orange. Not just any Nehi Orange. It was the coldest Nehi Orange that you ever had. And when I would place my dime in the machine and pull down on the handle, out would drop the sweet, orange, ice cold treat that made any sandwich taste better, even egg salad.

My brother and I would arrive at the church and find that the kids were already beginning to separate into their respective groups. Some of the older teens were in the back playing pool and you could hear the laughter and competitive barbs being thrown around. I am not sure what the girls were doing, but what 10 or 12 year old boy is paying attention to them anyway? *(to be continued)*

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## *Season of Ordinary Time*

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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.