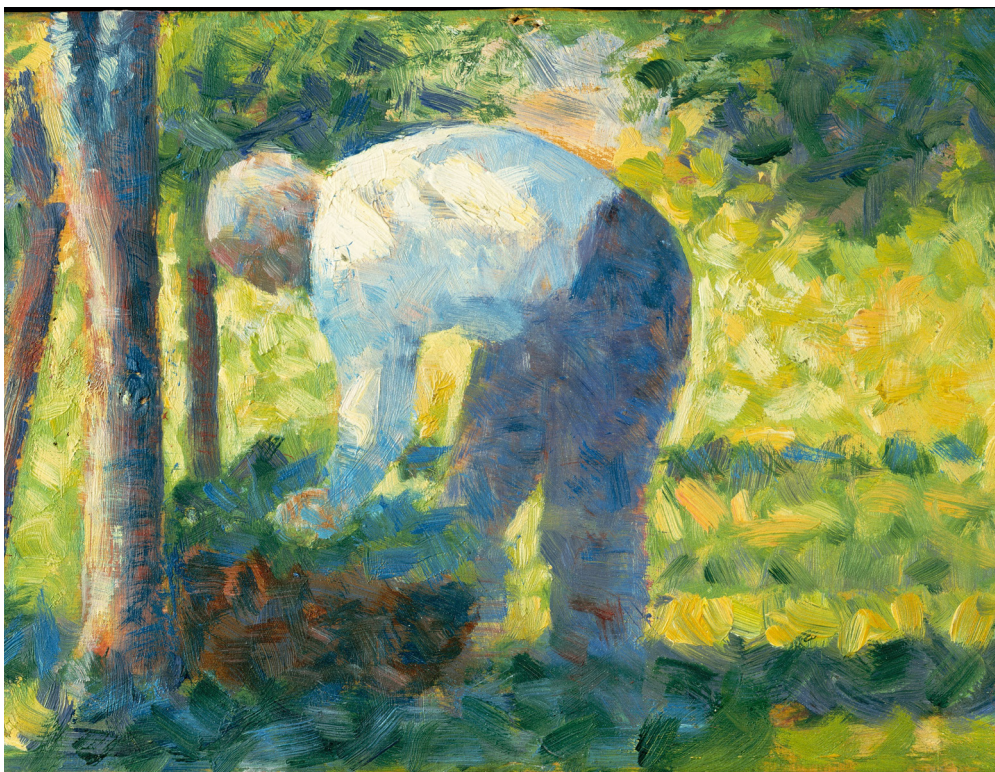


MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 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 loving memory of our parents Rev. Albert and Alouise Ray, and Rev. Harold Chapman, Sr. and Madge, by Harold and Freeda Chapman.

*The artwork on the cover is "The Gardener" by Georges Seurat.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437656>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Charles Callahan

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.

God calls us today out of the worries and fears of the world.

We seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness.

God invites us into fellowship with one another through the Church.

Together, we are strengthened by grace and sustained by faith.

So, let us trust in the goodness of our heavenly Father this day.

We worship the One who knows our every need!

* Opening Hymn No. 540

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

ST. THOMAS

* 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

GREATOR EX

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.

Back to School Blessing

Call and Response Prayer

When prompted, the congregation responds:

Caring God...
we offer these backpacks...
as a sign of our thanks...
for all you will do ...
with us and for us...
this year at school...
We bless these backpacks...
as companions to us...
as we learn and grow...
May they carry ...
food for bodies...
and food for thought. ...
Let them be a reminder ...
that you are as close to us...
as the backpack on our back ...
always and forever...
Amen!

- Written by Marcia McFee

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.

Proclamation & Response

* Hymn No. 92

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

Anthem

The Road Home
Katie Trotter, soloist

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost,
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done.
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong:
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

- Michael Dennis Browne

* Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:25-34 (Pew Bible pg 787)

Rev. Varnell

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

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

Sermon

“The Age of Worry”

Rev. Varnell

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

Shaker Song

Wilbur Held

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. 130

God Will Take Care of You

MARTIN

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Plein Jeu a la Couperin

Gordon Young



News of the Church

The Ainsworth Choir - Music for our Bicentennial Year

During the first half of our bicentennial year of 2026, the Ainsworth Choir highlighted the music of the early American church with a selection of anthems from the 19th and 20th centuries. The culmination of this was the choir's performance of the Mozart Requiem during our bicentennial weekend celebrations, given in memory of our beloved Mulberry members down through the church's history.

Now in the second half of 2026, the choir will be performing a variety of choral pieces from recent years, including newly composed pieces, as we celebrate the present and look toward the future of our church.

Family Fun Day | September 27 | 4 pm | Fickling Farm

Save the date on your calendar - our Family Ministries is holding a Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 27! The whole Mulberry family is invited to join in on the fun for all ages - we'll grill hot dogs & hamburgers, play games for kids & adults alike, and have a great time of fellowship together!

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

GEORGE DUNN

Crucifer

THOMAS DUNN

& RAMZI HARLEY

Candle Lighters

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

"Saturday Mornings in the Sixties"

by Gary Dunn, from the *Mulberry Quarterly* Spring 2012 edition, featuring his memories of Mulberry's Youth Center. Continued:

"My attention was on the bowling alley. It seemed everyone could bowl and that's just what I did. Kids younger than me would be at the other end setting up pins and returning balls by rolling them back up the return rail. We all would take turns at this job, serving the next groups up testing their skills.

Mid-morning was, for me, the highlight of the day. Mr. Ayers would set up the projector for movie time. It would not be a Disney movie or a family picture, but horror. Always horror! Maybe "Dracula" or "Frankenstein vs The Wolfman." My favorite was "The Creature From The Black Lagoon." Maybe you know it. Cheaply made, awful acting, black and white, but darn scary to a 12 year old in the dark with a room full of older kids waiting to sneak up behind and frighten the daylights out of you.

After the movies, we could make ceramics with Mrs. Ayers. I think I must have made a hundred ashtrays for my dad. I knew one day I would make the perfect ashtray and he would actually use it. It never happened.

Lunchtime would come and I would settle into one of the cool genuine Naugahyde chairs and open my lunch bag. Egg salad. Oh well, time for my dime."

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