



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 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 are placed on the altar in honor and thanksgiving for all the dedicated saints over the past 200 years and to the glory of God given by Mildred Howard.

The artwork on the cover is a detail from "Last Judgement" by Peter Paul Rubens.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55577>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on “St. Peter”

arr. H. Alexander Matthews

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Varnell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

We come before God seeking a wisdom greater than our own.

The Lord’s ways are right and true.

We come seeking mercy rather than judgment.

Fill us with grace that we may extend grace to one another.

We seek the God who is truly faithful and truly good.

Let us worship the immortal, invisible, and only wise God!

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. 103 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle’s Creed

Rev. Varnell

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 13:8-10 (*Pew Bible pg 923*)

Rev. Varnell

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,’ and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

* Hymn No. 549

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ST. PETER

Anthem

Created for Love

Terre Johnson

Love never ends, though all other things do;
All that we know will be obsolete soon.
But after our preaching and teaching are gone,
Love will remain, and its song will go on.

Once we were children in speaking and thought;
Crawling, not walking, to go where we ought.
But love keeps reminding us how to grow strong,
True love remains, and its song will go on.

For throughout our journey, whatever befall,
All things work for good as we answer God's call.
Living God's purpose, revealed from above,
We're made in God's image, created for love!

Through a glass dimly we only see part.
One day we'll clearly see straight to the heart.
And when that day comes, and all darkness is gone,
Love will remain, and its song will go on.

- Terre Johnson, adapted from 1 Cor. 13:8-13 and Rom. 8:28

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and turn to attack you.

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

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

Sermon

“Leaving Judgement Behind”

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

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

Adagio in E Flat

Adolph Hesse

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. 479

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on “St. Denio”

arr. Wilbur Held



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.

September Book Club Meeting | Wednesday, September 16

The Mulberry Book club is reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi for their September meeting! Hosted by Christi & Baxter James. Hosts will provide the main dish; sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. RSVP on Realm or by calling the church office. All are welcome!

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](https://www.instagram.com/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

SANFORD HORNE

Crucifer

BAXTER JAMES

& EMILY CARROLL

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

**Excerpts from the order of worship
at Mulberry for Sunday, July 18, 1942:**

"Dedication of Flags, Mulberry Street Methodist Church. During the morning worship service, the program consisted of these events: The prelude was "Piece Heroique" by Faulkes, then the call to worship, hymn no. 491 was sung, the Apostles Creed, Pastoral Prayer, responsive reading and singing of the Gloria Patri. The offertory music was "To An American Soldier" by Thompson and the solo "Land of Hope and Glory" was sung by Mr. Struby.

Following was the Dedication of Flags with presentation of the American Flag with the singing of "The Stars Spangled Banner." Then the presentation of The Christian Flag with the singing of "God Bless America" and the roll call of those of our church family who are now in the country's service. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was then recited by all present. After that the minister led a "Litany of Dedication: The Flags" with the congregation taking part. And finally, "The Pledge To The Christian Flag" was recited."

On the back of the church bulletin was a list of eighty names titled "Mulberry's Boys In Service". Some of those names that may be remembered today were Harold Beaty, L. Bayne Barfield, Julius Gholson, John B. Harris, Jr., Joseph League, Andrew Lyndon, Jr., Miller Lyndon, R. A. McCord, Jr., J. Clay Murphey, Jr., Charles L. Ridley, Jr., Dr. Tom Ross, Jr., Neil Spearman, W. Lee Wood, Jr., Melvin Yates.

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