



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 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 and in loving memory of Fran Thompson and Martha Ackerman, and in honor of Glenn and Nita Smith, by their granddaughter and daughter, Mary-Catherine Miller.

The rosebud on the altar is placed in celebration of the birth of Robert "Cord" McCord Persons, Jr., born August 18, 2026, to Robert & Isabella Persons. Proud grandparents are Peter & Colyar Persons and Andrew & Lydia Moak.

The artwork on the cover is "Burning Bush" by Joe Schumacher.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55954>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary Partita on “Leoni” arr. Alfred V. Fedak

Welcome & News of the Church Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship Rev. Varnell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Give thanks to God, who is good,

Whose faithful love lasts forever!

When we are hungry and thirsty, lost in the wilderness,

God satisfies our thirst, and fills the hungry with good things.

God turns deserts into pools of water, and thirsty ground into springs.

So let us worship God.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.

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. 116 *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

* 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.

* Gloria Patri GREATOREX

**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

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (*Pew Bible pg 484*)

Rev. Varnell

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham. And the Lord made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes, whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants. He sent his servant Moses and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

Praise the Lord!

* Hymn No. 724

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

PROMISED LAND

Anthem

Give Me Jesus

Spiritual, Arr. L. L. Fleming

O, when I am alone,
O, when I am alone,
O, when I am alone,
Give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus;
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

O, when I come to die,
O, when I come to die,
O, when I come to die,
Give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus;
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

And when I want to sing,
And when I want to sing,
And when I want to sing,
Give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus;
You may have all the rest,
And when I am alone,
Give me Jesus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

*This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.*

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

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

"Holy Ground"

Geron Davis, arr. Tim Doran

*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. 593

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in G

Johann Krieger



News of the Church

Wednesday Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, September 9 | Fellowship Hall

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this monthly time of prayer & worship together. We will share a meal and then move into a time of meditation, silent prayer & worship. 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.

Second Sunday Lunch | September 13 | Fellowship Hall | 12:00 pm

We will meet on Sunday, September 13 for our monthly potluck lunch! Immediately following worship, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for this monthly time sharing a meal together. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, or just bring yourself!

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**

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

BEN MORRIS

Crucifer

DREW MORRIS

& KATE EVANS

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

Excerpts from the Nov 3, 1929 Church Bulletin titled "Welcome South GA. Annual Conference."

Some Paragraphs From The Pastor: "For the first time in these years, I am host of this great Conference, or rather the joint host with preachers and people of Macon. The Conference never had a more royal welcome than it is now receiving in our hearts and homes. We will not forget your visit, Brethren. It is an unspeakable pleasure to have you. We hope that we are making your comfortable and happy."

Our Recreational Activities: That our people are enjoying the recreational features of our work is attested by the fact that, during the last 2 weeks there have been in attendance at our parties and social good times, 765 persons. All ages were represented from Beginners to Adults. Special mention should be made of the "Prom" for the Wesleyan and Mercer students. 250 as fine young men and women as could be gathered anywhere, enjoyed the social good time until a late hour, and then were loath to leave. Several of our people furnished autos to transport the young women "in and out" and we thank them for their splendid service. Our church believes that the right kind of recreation builds character and is trying to give just this kind.

Church School Attendance and Offering November 3, 1929; Department with Attendance and Offering as noted as below: Cradle roll and nursery - 35 - \$1.13. Beginners - 71 - \$3.49. Primary - 105 - \$5.54. Junior - 139 - \$5.97. Intermediate - 78 - \$3.57. Senior - 85 - \$4.01. Young People - 135 - \$5.93. Adults - 407 - \$35.20. Totals 1,055 attendance - \$85.17 offering."

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.