



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## The Church at Worship FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*September 6, 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 artwork on the cover is “Reapers Resting in a Wheat Field” by John Singer Sargent.  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/12162>*

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



arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Rev. Stone

**All:** And also with you.

**No one is called to bear the work of God alone.**

God pours out his Spirit upon his people.

**God gives us all gifts to be used for the good of all.**

Together, let us offer our lives in joyful service to the Lord:

**Together, let us praise the King of heaven!**

*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.*

LAUDA ANIMA

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.

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.**

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## *Proclamation & Response*

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Anthem

*Come and Taste*

Arr. Alice Parker

Come and taste along with me consolation flowing free,  
from the Father's wealthy throne, sweeter than the honeycomb.  
I'll praise God and you praise God, and we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
and we'll bless his Name forever.

All that come with free good will make the banquet sweeter still;  
Now I go to mercy's door, asking for a little more.  
I'll praise God and you praise God, and we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
and we'll bless his Name forever.

Goodness, running like a stream through the new Jerusalem,  
by a constant breaking forth sweetens earth and heaven both.  
I'll praise God and you praise God, and we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
and we'll bless his Name forever.

O, return, ye sons of grace, turn and see God's smiling face.  
Hark, he calls backsliders home, then from him no longer roam.  
I'll praise God and you praise God, and we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
and we'll bless his Name forever.

- John Leland

Scripture Reading    Numbers 11:4-6, 16-17, 24-30 (*Pew Bible pg 113*)

Rev. Varnell

Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving; and the people of Israel also wept again, and said, "O that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

And the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. And I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit which is upon you and put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and placed them round about the tent.

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was upon him and put it upon the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied.

Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested upon them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua the son of Nun, the minister of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, forbid them." But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

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

Communion Meditation

"All of Us – Together!"

Rev. Varnell

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## *Thanksgiving & Communion*

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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

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

arr. Edwin T. Childs

*Make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://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.*

**Communion Anthem**

**O, Taste and See  
Camilla Packroff, soloist**

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**

O, taste and see how gracious the Lord is;

Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

- Psalm 34:8

**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.**

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## *Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 141      *Children of the Heavenly Father*      TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA  
\* Benediction & Sending Forth      Rev. Varnell  
Closing Voluntary      Postlude on “Darwall”      arr. Healey Willan



## *News of the Church*

### **Office Closed for Labor Day | Monday, September 7**

The church office will be closed Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. Though the church office will not be open, the dedicated on-call line is available for any emergency or urgent need. The on-call number is: 478-219-9926.

### **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!

### **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. Come center yourself in song and prayer!

Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, and the service starts at 6:15 pm.

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

**LYNNETH WHITTEN &  
KARIN PAYNE**  
Lay Communion Servers

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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 an outline created by J. W. Daniel for the  
1976 Sesquicentennial celebrating  
Mulberry's 150th birthday.**

In 1882, under the pastorate of Dr. J. W. Hinton, the old 1850 building was torn away and a new Gothic structure, the 3rd building, was erected on the site. Though R. F. Burden, Superintendent of the Sunday School, had asked for a separate building, none was provided.

In 1890, Vineville Methodists re-organized as a separate church with James E. Dickey, student at Emory, later Bishop Dickey, as pastor. Fifty Mulberry members transferred to Vineville.

In 1892, a faction wished to sell the old church and move to College Hill. A vote by a church conference was 'taken amid sobs' and it was unanimously decided in 1892 not to move.

During the 1890s, Mulberry first began to support a missionary in Cuba and a school established in Havana which later became Candler College.

In 1929, Mrs. Edith Stetson Coleman and her son, Mr. Eugene Stetson, gave the church a fine cathedral organ in memory of their mother, Mrs. Eugenia Pate Stetson.

Missionaries to foreign countries from Mulberry included: Rev. W. B. Burke; Miss Nettie Peacock; Reverend Joe L. Gerdine, Thad E. Leland; Reverend E. E. Clements; Carlisle and Ruth Phillips and Dr. Morgan and Rosalie Johnson.

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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.

  
**Mulberry Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street  
478.745.8601

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

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