



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 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 memory of Mickey Pope by Carol Pope.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Harbor and Orchard" by Arthur Wesley Dow.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/359418>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Selections from
Partita on “Houston”
II. Cantabile
III. Fantasia

Tune by Kathleen Thomerson
Setting by John A. Behnke

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.

Our God, the author of life, prepares the way for us this day:

We come to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Jesus Christ, our Savior, draws us all by his grace.

We respond to the grace of Christ as we open our hearts.

The Spirit is at work in our world, in our church, and in our lives.

We are receptive to the Spirit: strengthen us, empower us, and guide us!

Let us worship!

* Opening Hymn No. 206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

* 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

**Glorify 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

Isaiah 30:18-21 (Pew Bible pg 574)

Rev. Varnell

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. Yea, O people in Zion who dwell at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you.

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Then you will defile your silver-covered graven images and your gold-plated molten images. You will scatter them as unclean things; you will say to them, "Begone!"

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.

* Hymn No. 462

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

TRUST IN JESUS

Anthem

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Kelley Dixson, Flute; Scott Gunn, Oboe

Arr. Mack Wilberg

My Shepherd will supply my need:
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provision of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.

- Isaac Watts

* Second Reading

Matthew 7:13-23 (*Pew Bible pg 788*)

Rev. Varnell

“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.

Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.’”

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

Sermon

“Traveling Along The Way”

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

My Tribute

by Andrae Crouch

Kelley Dixon, Flute arr. Tom Fettke & Joseph Linn

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved yet You gave to prove Your love for me;
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude
All that I am and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee

To God be the glory, to God be the glory
To God be the glory for the things He has done

With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me;
To God be the glory for the things He has done

Just let me live my life
Let it be pleasing, Lord to Thee
And if I gain any praise let it go to Calvary

With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me;
To God be the glory for the things He has done

*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. 398

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Grand Chœur in G, Op. 68 No. 2

Théodore Salomé



News of the Church

Second Sunday Lunch | Today, September 13 | 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!

New Short-term Sunday School Classes Launching

You're invited to join in on the two short-term Sunday School classes that started today!

Parables: Godly Play for Adults - Hear the authentic voice of Jesus through selected parables shared visually through the storytelling method of Godly Play. We'll explore the scriptural text after seeing and hearing the story in the circle and discern the meaning these centuries-old stories have for us today. This class will meet in the Parlor at 10:00 AM on Sundays through October 18 (6 weeks).

Before the Message - Join us for a relaxed discussion where we look ahead at Sunday's scripture. No preparation needed - just a heart willing to listen. This short-term study will run through October 11, 2026. Each week will stand alone, so don't be afraid to start attending in the "middle" of the class either! This group meets in the Mustard Seed Room, Second Floor off the Atrium stairs.

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

The whole Mulberry family is invited to come out for a picnic and afternoon of fellowship and fun at Fickling Farm on Sunday, September 27! We'll grill hot dogs & hamburgers, play games for kids & adults alike, and have a great time of fellowship together! Fickling Farm Entrance: 5215 Rivoli Drive, Macon, GA.

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!

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

WILL MAGDA

Crucifer

EMILY CARROLL

& BAXTER JAMES

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

Meeting Minutes of the Building Committee during the renovation of the sanctuary after the fire of April 1965:

"The meeting was held on October 13, 1965 with Mrs. Ella Mae Ellis League requested to present preliminary sketches for the restoration of the sanctuary. The principal difference between the 2 plans was that in one of them, the existing organ chamber would be occupied by a circular altar rail with the altar located therein and the present organ machinery and the choir would be located in the balcony. Under the other plan the organ would be in its present position with the choir behind a screen and immediately in front, and the choir divided and seated in pews set at right angles to the sanctuary pews. It was noted that both plans involved the moving of the front wall between the towers 30 inches towards Mulberry St. Mrs. League stated she disliked the idea of relocation the front upper wall of the church sanctuary closer toward Mulberry St. to gain more space for the balcony because in her judgement this would destroy the effect of the two towers. It was then generally agreed that the 1st decision which must be made was a determination as to whether the choir and organ would be in the balcony or in their present location. The meeting was then adjourned."

A letter later addressed to Mrs. League from Ed S. Sell, Jr. stated: "I quote here with the motion which was unanimously adopted by that committee at its last meeting: "It is the sense of this Committee that the choir should preferably be located in the front of the church and that it not be divided." (to be continued)

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.