



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## The Church at Worship

### SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*September 20, 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 flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Roberts*

*The artwork on the cover is "A City on a Rock," painted in the Style of Goya.  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436553>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on “Michael”

arr. 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.**

Jesus calls us not only to hear his words, but to live them out.

**By God’s grace, we will build our lives upon the way of Christ.**

When the storms come and the winds blow, God remains our sure foundation.

**Renew us, O God, and make us faithful in love and service.**

Come, and let us seek the will of God in this place.

**May this time of worship shape our hearts and lives.**

\* Opening Hymn No. 132

*All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded*

MICHAEL

\* 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.**

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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First Reading

James 1:19-25 (Pew Bible pg 980)

Rev. Stone

Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing.

*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. 142

*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Anthem

*Jubilate Deo*

Peter Anglea

*Sung in Latin; English translation:*

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.  
Serve the Lord with gladness:  
come before his presence with singing.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
and his truth endureth to all generations.

- Psalm 100:1, 5

“Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And every one who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.”  
And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

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

Sermon

“Building On The Rock”

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

Rev. Stone

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.**

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*Offering of our Tithes & Gifts*

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Offertory

Poco allegretto in G, Op. 67 No. 1

Théodore Salomé

*You can make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give) or in the offering plate.*

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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.**

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## *Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 368

*My Hope Is Built*

THE SOLID ROCK

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*  
BWV 642

Johann Sebastian Bach



**The Methodist Home**  
for Children & Youth

### **Methodist Home Sunday - Show Your Support**

Sunday, September 20 is Methodist Home Sunday. The Methodist Home provides care for children and families in need across South Georgia including a continuum of residential care (Children's Homes), community foster homes, specialized treatment programs and counseling services. Your support of The Methodist Home for Children & Youth helps provide hope & healing in the lives of children across Georgia.

To donate by check, please put "Children's Home" in the memo line and place your check in the offering plate.

To give online, visit **[TheMethodistHome.org/Donate](http://TheMethodistHome.org/Donate)**.

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## *News of the Church*

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### **Third Sunday Organ Tour | Immediately Following Worship Today**

Meet Mulberry's organist Daniel McIntosh after the postlude today at the organ console for a special organ tour. On the tour, you will be able to see some of the newly restored components that are awaiting installation on the second floor of our building. Daniel will also be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the organ restoration.

### **New Short-term Sunday School Classes**

**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.

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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**

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**

**GEORGE DUNN**

*Crucifer*

**EMILY STANSFIELD**

**& RUTH STANSFIELD**

*Candle Lighters*

  
**Mulberry Street**  
*UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

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

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

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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*

**The following was written by the late Ann Henry, Church Historian, regarding the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room during the South Georgia 150th Annual Conference at Mulberry.**

"In 1981, the South Georgia Conference was celebrating its 150th anniversary. During the preceding years, Mrs. W. P. Stevens had been collecting items related to Mulberry's history. Her interest and concern led to the publication of 'The Pastors of Mulberry' and the creation of the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room.

With the approach of the 1981 Annual Conference, the trustees wished to display The Historical Room. Aware that the room had been used for many purposes and that it needed a thorough cleaning and organizing, they asked a committee composed of John Talley, Martha and Winifred Colquitt and myself to get the room ready for display at Annual Conference. This we did and thought our job was finished. John Talley felt that since the administrative board wanted to display the artifacts as well as information about the history of the church, the room needed to be refurbished. We drew up a plan to present to the Finance Committee. I was chosen to be the committee spokesperson. I had carefully prepared a speech explaining the value of the records and the need for their presentation. I had hardly uttered the first sentence when a voice from the back of the room said, "Just tell us the bottom line." I responded '\$28,000'. Before I could catch my breath, a motion was made and passed with the recommendations that James Berg be added to the committee and that the \$28,000 expenditure be approved."

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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.