



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 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 given to the glory of God and in memory of her brother, Martin Westmoreland, her parents, Carl and Blanche Westmoreland and her uncle, Herman Westmoreland by Susan Dann.

*The artwork on the cover is "Shadow of Death" by William Holman Hunt.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/58409>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Air de Trompette

George Phillip Telemann

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

Stephanie Henson

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

As we come together, we are gathered by a God who amazes and astounds.

We are gathered to experience again God's power and healing.

We are gathered by God who has stepped

into our reality as a human being, Jesus Christ

And we are gathered by God who reshapes our reality

and what it means for us to be human.

We are gathered in the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So let us worship God.

- Jacob Traeger

* Opening Hymn No. 154

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CORONATION

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

Stephanie Henson

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 78:1-4, 12-16 (Pew Bible pg 468)

Stephanie Henson

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders that he has done.

In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. He divided the sea and let them pass through it and made the waters stand like a heap. In the daytime he led them with a cloud and all night long with a fiery light. He split rocks open in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

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. 168

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON

Anthem

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go
David Patton, French Horn

Terre Johnson

O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee:
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that follows all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee:
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

O love that will not let me go.
- George Matheson

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13 (Pew Bible pg 954)

Rev. Stone

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Sermon

“The Real Thing”

Rev. Stone

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.

Offering of our Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

Meditation on "Crucifer"

arr. Charles Callahan

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. 159

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on "Coronation"

arr. Jason D. Payne



News of the Church

Family Fun Day | Today, 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 this afternoon! 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.

Blessing of the Pets | October 11 | 5 pm | Mulberry Courtyard

On Sunday, October 11 at 5 PM, bring your furry friends to the Mulberry courtyard for our annual Blessing of the Animals! We will have a brief service where we thank God together for our pets and their presence in our lives, and our pastor will offer a blessing over them. All creatures big and small are welcome!

Fall Festival | October 25 | 4 pm | Mulberry Parking Lot

Our annual Fall Festival will be Sunday, October 25 at 4 pm! Come show off your costume, and enjoy all the fun - trunk or treat, games, face painting, a food truck and so much more! This year we are partnering with two other downtown congregations, Centenary UMC & First Baptist Church of Christ. In the coming weeks, we will share information on volunteering and candy donations!

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

ANNA RESPESS

& 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

These excerpts appeared in the Church Bulletin on Sunday, November 4, 1945.

"The Past Year: Our annual conference will open in Waycross, Tuesday, November 7th. The report of this Church for the past year, November 1, 1944, through October 31, 1945, is very good indeed. Among other things it will show:

The final payment made on the Golden Rule Fund, \$25,232.29, paid this year.

The Church School enrollment was 1,922 with an average attendance of 528 and a total raised of \$11,244. A grand total of \$77,930 has been raised by Mulberry this past year. A large classroom has been finished on the 3rd floor, a number of small rooms on the 2nd floor have been converted into larger rooms and refinished, the lighting system has been improved and equipment added to the heating system and other additions.

A Boy Scout troop has recently been organized, and a Girl Scout troop is in the process of organization. Plans are being made for an enlarged program for the cultivation of the youth of the Church. The W.S.C.S. and The Wesleyan Service Guild are both active, growing organizations. Increased interest and activity are manifested through the Church School, the Board of Stewards and the Board of Trustees.

We are indeed grateful for the past year but feel we have a larger responsibility for the new year and a greater opportunity for service."

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