



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 9, 2025 | 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 by fostering healing for the broken places of life. Methodists have been worshipping Father, Son, & Holy Spirit on this corner since 1826.

You are invited to become a living part of this vital congregation.

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.

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please find an usher to receive a welcome gift!

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. You can download the Sunday bulletin at **mulberrymethodist.org/worship/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 altar flowers are placed with thanksgiving for the staff and the congregations of the past and the present who have supported Mulberry St UMC with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness for the past 200 years. To God be the glory!

*The artwork on the cover is "Women Picking Olives" by Vincent van Gogh.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/486536>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on “Beach Spring”

arr. Janet Linker

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.

Today, we remember the great generosity of our God.

God brought the world to life and placed us in it.

God did not leave us in our sin but came to our rescue.

God brought us salvation through his Son Jesus Christ.

God has blessed us in more ways than we can possibly count.

**We bring our time, talents, worship, and resources this day,
all to the glory of God!**

* Opening Hymn No. 577

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

* 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.**

* 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.**

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.

Proclamation & Response

First Reading

Hebrews 13 (Pew Bible pg 979)

Rev. Stone

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you." Hence we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?" Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

* Hymn No. 581

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

BEACH SPRING

Anthem

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Arr. Mack Wilberg

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing;
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 Sung by flaming tongues above.
 Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it:
 Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
 Hither by Thy help I'm come.
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
 Seal it for thy courts above.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wand'ring from the fold of God;
 He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed His precious blood.
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
 Seal it for thy courts above.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be!
 Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
 Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
 Seal it for thy courts above.

- Robert Robinson

* Second Reading

Matthew 25:14-30 (Pew Bible pg 807)

Rev. Varnell

“For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’”

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

Sermon

“Putting Our Gifts To Work”

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.

Offering of our Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

II. "Adagio molto"
from Organ Sonata no. 3, Op. 56

Alexandre Guilmant

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. 584 Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

During the closing hymn, you are invited to bring forward your Commitment Card
and place it in the baskets at the front of the sanctuary.

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

God of Love and God of Power

arr. Paul Manz



News of the Church

November Second Sunday Lunch | Today, following Worship

Join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship today - come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table! There's a spot at the table just for you - come and experience the joy of the Lord that is created when we gather together to share a meal!

Charge Conference | Wednesday, November 19 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Mulberry St. Charge Conference will take place Wednesday, November 19 in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. Our District Superintendent Jeff Cook will be present to lead us as we celebrate the ministry of our church for another year. All elected leaders are encouraged to attend, and the meeting will be open to all others. Church Council members will need to stay for a brief discussion and vote after the Charge Conference.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | November 20 | 6 pm | St. Joseph Catholic Church

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held by the Downtown Tapestry will be Thursday, November 20 at 6 pm in the St. Joseph social hall. This year will include a potluck meal - bring a dish to share and join us in this gathering of Macon's downtown faith communities as we give thanks 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

CAROLINE DENT

& DREW MORRIS

Candle Lighters

A Bicentennial Moment

In anticipation of Mulberry's upcoming Bicentennial Celebration in 2026, the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of Mulberry history:

Excerpts from Rev. Anthony Hearn's report to the Board of Stewards, November 8, 1951.

It has been a joy to serve the Church during the past few months and I feel that I have made some real progress in the work but have been disappointed because of the slowness in some phases of it. Since my report of August 3, 1951, I have made 424 pastoral calls with 210 being in hospitals and 214 in homes and places of business. I have preached 31 sermons in the regular services, had 4 communion services. I have conducted 8 funerals, 5 weddings and 2 babies have been baptized. At our quarterly conference of October 31, we reported the addition of 38 new members and the loss of 60, nine of which were by death. Our present membership is 1,985 active and 394 inactive for a total membership of 2,379.

The committee appointed at the last board meeting to confer with the Pastor on the church's needs for employed workers and plans for the coming year met, resulting in the proposed budget and items which were present at the called board meeting, October 11. I recommend adoption of that budget. According to present records, we are some bit in advance of the total pledged at this time last year but we are working on an increased budget and it is essential that everyone continue to work persistently at the task.

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.



719 Mulberry Street

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mulberrymethodist.org

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