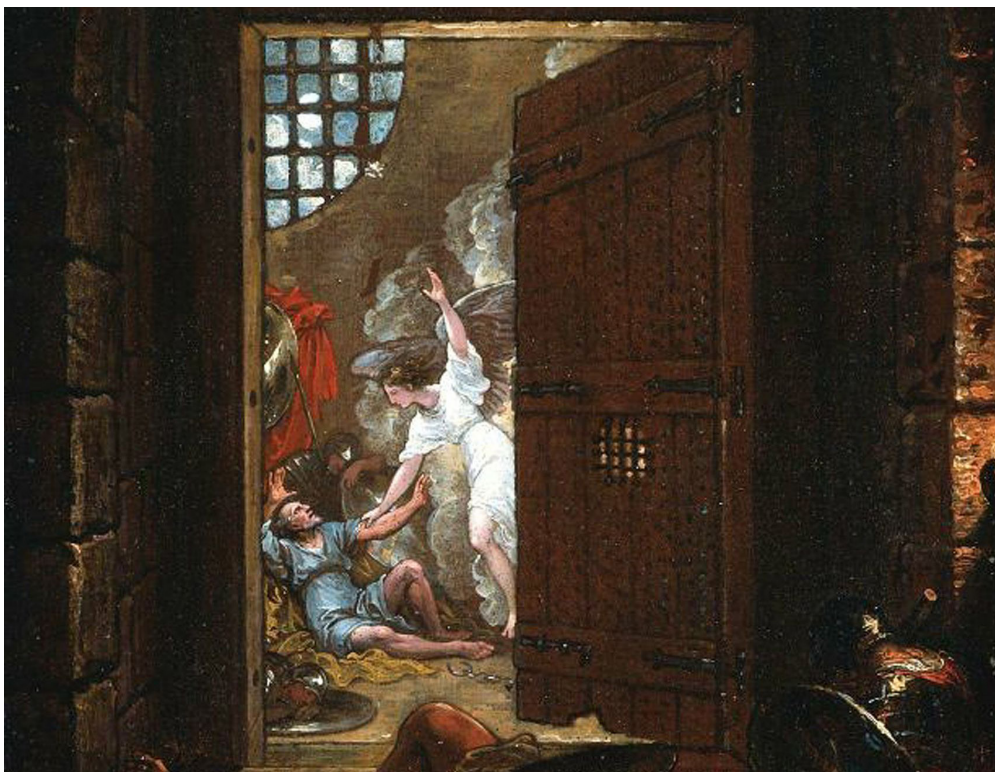


MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 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 appreciation of our church staff by Beth and Waverly Golson.

*The artwork on the cover is "St. Peter Released from Prison" by Benjamin West.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/51103>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Windows of Comfort, Book 1
IV. "...beside the still waters."

Dan Locklair

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship

Bruce Stanfield

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Almighty God, we come to worship you this day.

We place our trust in you.

When life is difficult and things are hard,

We place our trust in you.

When life is full of joy and happiness,

We place our trust in you.

O God, in all things, in all times, in all situations,

We place our trust in you and we declare your greatness.

Let us worship!

* Opening Hymn No. 77

How Great Thou Art

HOW GREAT THOU ART

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

Bruce Stanfield

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.**

Proclamation & Response

First Reading

Psalm 34:1-8 (Pew Bible pg 441)

Bruce Stanfield

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
and saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Happy is the one who takes refuge in him!

*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. 292

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

Anthem

Angels Visit When We Sing

Tom Trenney

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Angels visit when we sing, and the morning stars rejoice,
We can hear them echoing in each faithful heart and voice;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Angels visit when we sing, as they did at Jesus' birth,
And the music that they ring links the heavens with the earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Angels visit when we sing, and remind us with their praise,
Sin and death have lost their sting, for the crucified is raised!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Angels visit when we sing, and our hearts are touched by fire,
As our hymns and anthems ring with the sound of heaven's choir.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

- Tom Troeger

Second Reading

Acts 16:25-34 (Pew Bible pg 901)

Rev. Varnell

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

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

Sermon

"The Gift of Salvation"

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

Organ Sonata No. 4 in B flat, Op. 65
III. Allegretto

Felix Mendelssohn

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. 732

Come, We That Love the Lord

ST. THOMAS

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Fanfare Postlude on “St. Thomas”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner



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](https://www.instagram.com/MulberryMethodist)

Visit our website at mulberrymethodist.org for our calendar,
service recordings, newsletter archives, and more!

News of the Church

Second Sunday Lunch | Today following worship | Fellowship Hall

Following worship, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for this monthly time sharing a meal together! Come enjoy good food & fellowship!

Blessing of the Pets | Today, October 11 | 5 pm | Portico (Back of Church)

This evening at 5 pm, bring your furry friends 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! ****We will be meeting at the back of the church under the Portico****

October Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, October 14 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Join us for this monthly time of song and prayer! We will share a meal and then move into a time of meditation, silent prayer, and worship. We engage with many different practices throughout the service, drawing from ancient traditions of prayer. This month we will be led in worship by Rev. Hannah Pye, the director of the Wesley of Macon college ministry!

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

Charge Conference | Monday, October 19 | 6:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

Mulberry St. Charge Conference will take place Mon, Oct 19 in the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. Our District Superintendent Rev. 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.

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!

We are collecting candy for the trunk-or-treat - bins are in the Church Atrium & Narthex! To volunteer to help with the Festival, scan the QR code or call the church office!



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

BAXTER JAMES
Candle Lighter

BRUCE STANFIELD
Lay Reader

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

**Excerpts from the 2012 Winter copy of
The Mulberry Quarterly:**

**Mulberry's Stained Glass Windows
'The Resurrection.'**

Mulberry owes much of its sanctuary's beauty to the fine stained-glass windows which enhance each worship service with their exceptional details and glowing colors. All of the windows in the sanctuary, save one, were created by The Payne-Spiers Studios of Patterson, New Jersey.

However, 'The Resurrection' is the work of Mayer & Company of Munich, Germany. Franz Mayer windows are noted for the detail in the faces of the figures depicted and installed in hundreds of cathedrals world-wide, including St. Peter's in Rome.

'The Resurrection' is our finest, most valuable window and the first piece of true stained glass placed in the church. It was given in memory of Samuel Scott Dunlap in 1902, twenty years after the existing walls of the sanctuary were erected. He was a long-time member of Mulberry and the father of 5 children.

On many a cold windy winter's morning during Sunday services as the sun goes in and out behind the clouds, these beautiful glass creations will darken, then lighten again and almost seem to come alive at the special hour of our expression of devotion and allegiance as we bow our heads in prayer to our Heavenly Father.

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