



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 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 in honor and loving memory of their parents, Jim and Betsy, on the anniversary of their passing by Jay and Chris Abbott.

The single rose bud on the altar is given in celebration of the birth of Ezekiel "Zeke" Bradford Stone, born October 12, 2026 to Payton & Mallory Stone.

The artwork on the cover is "Dancing Willows" by Arthur Garfield Dove.
<https://collections.mfa.org/objects/35076/dancing-willows>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary Prelude on arr. Paul Fey
“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

Welcome & News of the Church Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship Martin Magda

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

The God who made the world invites us into this place.

We gather together to worship the living God.

God invites us to open our hearts to his presence.

We are open to God's presence in our lives.

God invites us to be renewed, restored, and transformed.

We seek God's power to make us new in this place.

Let us worship the God who reigns above!

* Opening Hymn No. 126 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

* Affirmation of Faith *The Apostle's Creed* Martin Magda

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's Moment

Elisa Reece

*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

Romans 12:9-18, 21 (Pew Bible pg 922)

Martin Magda

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

* Hymn No. 396

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

Anthem

One Thing Have I Asked
Katie Trotter, violin

Terre Johnson

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
I sing with all my heart for joy to the living God!

I shall dwell in the house of the Lord,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- Psalms 27:4, 84:1-2, 23:6

Second Reading

Joshua 24:1-2, 14-15 (Pew Bible pg 187)

Rev. Varnell

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Your fathers lived of old beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.'"

"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

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

Sermon

"You Must Choose"

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 Major, Op. 65
II. Andante religioso

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. 391

O Happy Day that Fixed My Choice

HAPPY DAY

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Organ Sonata No. 4 in B flat Major, Op. 65
I. Allegro con brio

Felix Mendelssohn



News of the Church

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!



All Hallows Eve Organ Concert | Sat, Oct 31 | 4 pm | Northminster Presbyterian

The annual All Hallows Eve organ concert will be October 31 at 4 pm in the Northminster Presbyterian sanctuary. Mulberry organist Daniel McIntosh will be joined by Colton Barber, Jackie Brettschneider, Lindsay Whatley, and David Kenney, Jr. for a fun night of Halloween music you won't want to miss!

Stewardship Sunday: Generosity Matters | November 8 at 11 am

Join as we celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 8! Our theme for the year is "Generosity Matters." We want to be known as generous people because God has been generous to us, God has entrusted us with his gifts, and God accomplishes so much through our giving. As we prepare for this special Sunday, we invite you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Mulberry for 2027. Pledge cards may be brought to worship that Sunday, mailed, delivered to the church office, or completed online. Together, may we continue to be a church of generous hearts!

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
Candle Lighter

MARTIN MAGDA
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

A history of the Edith Coleman Class, one of Mulberry's several ladies Sunday School Classes.

In the 1920s, a group of about 12 teenagers and pre-teens met at Mulberry for study and worship. Mrs. Edith Stetson Coleman was their teacher. They loved Mrs. Coleman so much that they often went to her home to continue their studies and to enjoy refreshments. They called themselves "Do Unto Others" class. Upon Mrs. Coleman's death in June 1946 the class was renamed the Edith Stetson Coleman Class in her honor. The stained-glass window in the sanctuary, 'The Home in Bethany' was given as a memorial in memory of Mrs. Colmen and installed in 1947.

The Coleman Class has been blessed with a long line of dedicated Christian teachers and members. Bake sales provided funds for the refinishing of the floors and two window air conditioners. The class has contributed generously to projects of the church – Vacation Bible School, Children and Youth ministries, The Methodist Home, Magnolia Manor, and more. In lieu of flowers, memorial or honorary gifts are sent to areas of work with Heart Fund, Cancer Fund, Lung Association, Mulberry's Bible Fund and the mission activities of the church.

The class devotes many hours in visitation to home members of the class and church. Fun, fellowship and Christian love are shared often by this group of ladies whose age varies, but whose spirit remains young.

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