



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

October 25, 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 memory of Eden & Pink Persons and Eden Persons Perkins from their family.

*The artwork on the cover is "First Steps, after Millet" by Vincent van Gogh.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55507>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Great is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Mariyln Arison

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship

Amy Harper

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

People of God, you are invited to enter this time with a spirit of worship.

We come to worship God and to give God our best.

Enter this time with a spirit of humility.

We come with humility to learn and grow in our faith.

Enter this time with a spirit of joy.

We come with joyful hearts to follow Christ wherever he leads.

Let us worship God!

* Opening Hymn No. 577

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

Amy Harper

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 8:31, 35, 37-39 (Pew Bible pg 919)

Amy Harper

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* Hymn No. 144

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

Anthem

Create in Me

Terre Johnson

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit in me.

Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of thy salvation
and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Create in me, O God.

- Psalm 51:10-12

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and burning incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them in their fortresses. My people are bent on turning away from me; so they are appointed to the yoke, and none shall remove it.

How can I give you up, O Ephraim! How can I hand you over, O Israel! How can I make you like Admah! How can I treat you like Zeboiim! My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger, I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come to destroy.

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

Sermon

“Will God Ever Give Up?”

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

This is My Father's World

arr. Dale Wood

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. 140

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

arr. Johann Pachelbel



News of the Church

Fall Festival Is This Afternoon! | 4-6 pm | Parking Lot

It's not too late to help out with Fall Festival! See Elisa to find out how you can help. The parking lot will close at 3:00, and volunteers & trunks will need to be set up and ready to go by 3:30.

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!

New Sunday School Class | 10 am in the Parlor

A Scripture-based curriculum as current as this week's news! Led by Bernard & Wende Meyer von Bremen, this new class meets in the Parlor for weekly discussions structured around biblical commentary and questions related to a topic in that week's news. If you are interested in participating in this class, please call the church office at 478-745-8601 or contact Bernard or Wende!

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!

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
& EMILY CARROLL**
Candle Lighters

AMY HARPER
Lay Reader


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street
478.745.8601
mulberrymethodist.org
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm

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 a Report of the Building Committee regarding the Sanctuary Rebuilding after the Great Fire of April 1965.

"While informal reports to the congregation on the progress of re-building the sanctuary have been made by the Pastor, your Building Committee feels that it is now appropriate to make a more detailed report. The following is a statement of the project as it now stands:

Plastering - all has been completed except for a rear wall in the sanctuary. This must be delayed until the antiphonal organ brackets have been installed and cannot be in place until the scaffolding is removed.

Organ - work began in the installation about 3 weeks ago. Completion will take from 2 to 3 months.

Stained Glass Windows - these have been ready for installation but could not be installed until the windows were freed from scaffolding and the woodwork above the windows completed.

Altar - a beautiful altar was received sometime back and awaits installation.

Completion Date - A conference was held with the architect and contractor to fix a completion date but neither our architect nor our contractor deems it wise at the present time to fix a final completion date.

Your Committee is entirely pleased with the quality of the work. The necessity to build within the confines of the existing walls has in effect required that the Church be hand-crafted in its re-construction. This will add, of course, to its beauty when completed, but at the same time has contributed to the length of time involved."

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.