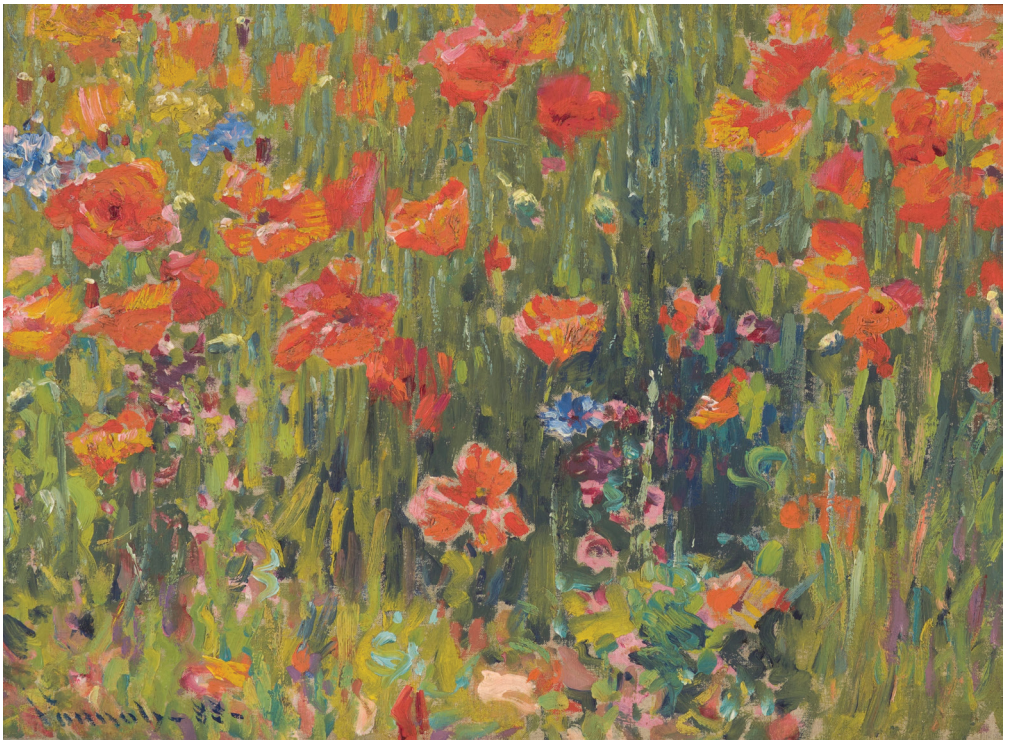
MULBERRY STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2026 | Eleven O'clock

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 worshiping 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!

CHECK IN

We're glad you've chosen to worship God with us here today! One of our healthy church initiatives is to give thanks particularly for your presence, so please note your attendance on the pad found in your pew or by "checking in" on Realm, our church app, when you are prompted.

CONNECT WITH US

Please fill out a Connection Card found in the back of the pew if you are visiting with us, 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 in honor of William Palmieri, David William Palmieri, and William Colton Marsh who share their birthday on Veterans Day, by Candace Palmieri Wood.

The artwork on the cover is "Poppies" by Robert William Vonnoh.
https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/59736

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

Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary — Prelude on "Aberystwyth" — arr. Don Hustad

Welcome & News of the Church — Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship — Rev. Benjy Varnell

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, and resources to God this day.
Let us worship!

* Opening Hymn No. 66 — *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* — LAUDA ANIMA

* Affirmation of Faith — *The Apostle's Creed* — Rev. Benjy Varnell

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 — 1 Chronicles 29:10-14 *(Pew Bible pg 336)* — Rev. Benjy Varnell

> Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.
>
> Both riches and honor come from thee, and thou rulest over all. In thy hand are power and might; and in thy hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank thee, our God, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from thee, and of thy own have we given thee."

* Hymn No. 399 — *Take My Life, and Let It Be* — MESSIAH

Anthem — *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* — Terre Johnson

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

- *Charles Wesley*

* Second Reading Luke 18:18-30 *(Pew Bible pg 853)* Rev. Jack Varnell

> And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."
>
> But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." And Peter said, "Lo, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no man who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive manifold more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

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

Sermon "A Sacrifice For The Kingdom" Rev. Jack Varnell

Morning Prayer Rev. Benjy 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 — Prelude on a Southern Folk Hymn — arr. Gordon Young

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. 396 — *O Jesus, I Have Promised* — ANGEL'S STORY

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. Jack Varnell

Closing Voluntary — "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" — arr. Harold DeCou

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!

The United Women in Faith will also be selling Equal Exchange products: Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa Mix, Chocolate Bars, and Olive Oil.

Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer | November 11 | 5:30 pm

Join us for this monthly time of song and prayer! We will share a meal and then move into a time of worship. Engage with prayer stations & activities, and meditate on scripture.
We will meet at 5:30 for dinner, and the service begins at 6:15.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | Nov 19 | 6 pm | First Baptist Church of Christ

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held by the Downtown Tapestry will be Thursday, November 19 at 6 pm at First Baptist Church of Christ. Join us for an evening of worship and service with other downtown congregations in our community where we will give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. An offering for Middle Georgia Food Bank will be collected during the service.

Advent Study: The Redemption of Scrooge | Starting Nov 29 | Mustard Seed Room

Starting Sunday, November 29, Julia Magda will be leading a short-term Sunday morning book study for "The Redemption of Scrooge" by Matt Rawle. Rediscover and reinvigorate your Christian faith this Advent & Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith. Everyone is invited to participate! Be sure to purchase the book at your favorite bookseller; a youth edition also available!

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

ANNA RESPESS
& DREW MORRIS
Candle Lighters

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

A brief history of The Youth Center, composed by the late Ann Henry, Church Historian.

"In 1954, Leonard Hill Cochran was appointed as Mulberry's senior pastor. The church had prior to his coming begun plans for improving the facilities and $257,000 had been raised. The old Sunday School annex behind the sanctuary was torn down, and the addition included the church offices, the choir room, and the dining room. Downstairs the Youth Center (now Outreach) and the chapel were added. While this was going on, Wednesday night church suppers were held at Wesleyan Conservatory. While there the youth discovered the Conservatory's gym and pool, and petitions to the Board by that group resulted in the use of these facilities as a quasi-youth center. This reinforced Dr. Cochran's desire for a youth center at Mulberry.

He secured the service of Bob Ayers as director and after the completion of the new addition to the church, the downstairs youth center was filled with young people on the weekends. Friday nights were Jr. High students, Saturday mornings for the children who skated in our now dining room, Sr. High students met on Saturday nights. Activities included bowling, pool and Ping-Pong, dancing and watching movies. Coming to Youth Center was 'the thing to do' and youths from all over Macon flocked to Mulberry. Over the door was a sign which read, 'Not far from where we play, we pray.' At one time over 1,000 young people were registered members of Mulberry's Youth Center.

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.