



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 4, 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 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 artwork on the cover is “Mary, Martha and Jesus” by Kathleen Peterson.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56572>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary Gelobet deist du, Jesus Christ BWV 604 J.S Bach

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.

In the beginning of this new year, remember who our God is:

Our God makes all things new.

Remember that the good news of Christmas remains with us always:

God is with us, God loves us, God is our firm foundation.

Let us worship!

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.

* Opening Hymn No. 529 How Firm a Foundation FOUNDATION

* 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 GREATOR EX

**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

Anthem

Be Not Afraid

Taylor Davis

Be not afraid for I have redeemed you,
Be not afraid I've called you by name.
My love for you is everlasting,
My love for you shall have no end.
When you pass through the waters I will surround you,
When you pass through the flood it will not sweep o'er,
When you walk through the fire you will not be consumed.
You are My child,
You are My child,
You are so precious to Me.

Be not afraid for I have redeemed you,
Be not afraid I've called you by name.
My love for you is everlasting,
My love for you shall have no end.
When you pass through the waters I will surround you,
When you pass through the flood it will not sweep o'er,
When you walk through the fire you will not be consumed.
You are My child,
You are My child,
You are so precious to Me.

You are my child and I'll love you always,
Just hold my hand and I lead you home.
When you feel lost always remember,
I am right here, just call out my name.
When you pass through the waters I will surround you,
When you pass through the flood it will not sweep o'er,
When you walk through the fire you will not be consumed.
You are My child,
You are My child,
You are so precious to Me.

- based on Isaiah 43

* Scripture Reading

Luke 10:38-42 (Pew Bible pg 845)

Rev. Varnell

Now as they went on their way, he entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that

my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.”

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

Sermon

“The First Essential of Life”

Rev. Varnell

Thanksgiving & Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Stone

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Stone

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Offertory

I Need Thee Every Hour

arr. Emma Louis Diemer

Make your offering to God online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give or in the offering plate.

* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Varnell

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sung Communion A (pages 17-18)

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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.

Breaking the Bread

Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of parents.

Let an usher know if you wish to be served in the pew.

Gluten free bread is available on the pedestal at the base of the steps.

An offering plate along the sanctuary wall is available for a communion offering, which is designated for the pastor's discretionary fund.

Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 414

Take Up Thy Cross

GERMANY

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

We Three Kings of Orient Are

arr. Carolyn Hamlin



News of the Church

“Work Out Your Salvation!” 7 Week Sunday School Class



You are invited to be a part of a 7 week Sunday School class, starting January 4 through February 15! “Working Out Your Salvation,” based around Philippians 2:12, will be led by Creede Hinshaw. The class will be 10 – 10:45 am each Sunday and will meet on the 2nd Floor of the Education Building (enter by the atrium, follow signs). We will have coffee, juice, and biscuits! For more information: call or text Creede Hinshaw (912-713-5191) or email at hinnie@cox.net.

January Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, January 7 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this monthly time of prayer & worship together. We will share a meal and then move into a time of meditation, silent prayer & modern worship.

Second Sunday Lunch | January 11 | 12 pm | Fellowship Hall

Immediately following Worship, we will head to the Fellowship Hall for our monthly potluck! Bring a side dish or dessert to share and enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table! This monthly potluck is a great opportunity to connect with each other and with God while sharing a delicious meal.

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

BRUCE & DEE STANFIELD

Lay Communion Servers

ELLIS BRIDGES

Crucifer

EMILY STANSFIELD

& RUTH STANSFIELD

Candle Lighters

———— *About Our Worship* ————

Worship begins with God. When we gather for worship, God meets us and speaks to us, and we listen to God and respond. At Mulberry, our order of worship (liturgy) is divided into four movements.

In our “**Entrance and Praise**,” we come together in response to God’s invitation and prepare ourselves to hear God’s Word.

In our “**Proclamation and Response**” we are addressed by God through Scripture and our musical anthem; in this movement, we listen to readings from the Bible as well as a sermon, wherein God’s word is interpreted for the gathered community.

Once a month, we participate in “**Thanksgiving and Communion**.” In this movement, we come to the Table to celebrate what God has done in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, and we’re nourished by the special outpouring of grace offered in this sacred act.

The fourth and final movement is the “**Sending Forth**,” where we are blessed and sent into the world to share the heart of God with a world in need.

———— *Epiphany Sunday* ————

Epiphany is the day we remember the coming of the magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The color of the paraments is white to represent God’s incarnation in the birth of Jesus Christ.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

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mulberrymethodist.org

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