



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 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 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 flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Estelle Stevens Mason, mother, and Dr. R. Holmes Mason, father of Emily Estelle Mason.

The artwork on the cover is "Landscape with Moses and the Burning Bush" by Domenichino. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436205>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary No. IX from Twelve Short pieces for the organ Samuel Wesley

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.

God calls us, in love, to be his people today.

We are honored to be the people of God.

God calls us to continue his work in this world.

We gladly take part in God's mission each day.

God calls us to share good news of Christ to others.

We receive the good news, we live the good news, we pass it on!

Let us worship!

* Opening Hymn No. 384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

* 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 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 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)

Rev. Stone

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* Hymn No. 475

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

Anthem

Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Luke Baker, soloist

Traditional Spiritual,
Arr. Moses Hogan

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Verses:

On the mountain my Lord spoke,
out His mouth came fire and smoke.

Down in the valley, on my knees,
Asked my Lord have mercy please.

Jordan river, chilly and cold,
chills the body not the soul.

All around me looked so fine,
asked my Lord if all was mine.

Ain't but one train on this track,
runs to heaven and right back.

St. Peter waitin' at the gate,
said come on sinner, don't be late.

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain."

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

Sermon

"When God Calls"

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

Rev. Stone

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 “Larghetto” from Organ Sonata No. 2 Alexandre Guilmant

*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. 586 *Let My People Seek Their Freedom*

EBENEZER

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on “Ebenezer”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer



News of the Church

The Ainsworth Choir Music for Our Bicentennial Year

During the bicentennial year of 2026, the Ainsworth Choir will highlight music of the American church during the 19th and 20th centuries. These anthems will come from the many traditional spirituals and early-American hymns that have defined the sound of worship in the American south since the founding of Mulberry Street United Methodist Church and our neighbor churches. In April, we will celebrate the church's bicentennial weekend with a special performance of Mozart's Requiem in memory of our beloved Mulberry members down through the church's history. And in the second half of 2026, we will sing a variety of choral pieces from recent years, including newly composed pieces, as we celebrate the present and look toward the future of the church.

Tour the Mulberry Organ with Daniel | Today | Following worship

Today after worship, our organist Daniel McIntosh will be leading a tour of Mulberry's organ. Meet at the front of the sanctuary following worship to get a behind-the-scenes view of our beautiful organ!

Give Altar Flowers in Honor or Memory of Loved Ones

The Flower Guild is looking for sponsors for the altar flowers in 2026. This is a beautiful way to honor loved ones. To donate flowers or learn more, contact Beth Smith at 478-719-9041.

Church Office Holiday Hours - MLK Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, January 20. Though the church office will not be open, the dedicated on-call line is available for any emergency or urgent need. The on-call number is: 478-219-9926.

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.facebook.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

WILL MAGDA

Crucifer

EMILY CARROLL

Candle Lighter

————— *A Bicentennial Moment* —————

*In anticipation of Mulberry's upcoming
Bicentennial Celebration in 2026, the Leonard Hill
Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of
Mulberry history:*

**Excerpts from Mulberry history notes
written by the late Anne Henry:**

In 1878 at the time of the Semi-Centennial Celebration, 4 women's organizations existed at Mulberry - the Orphan's Home Aid Society, Parsonage Aid Society, Woman's Missionary Society and The Willing Workers. For 25 years these groups formed, merged, combined and changed their names finally boiling down to the Home Relief Society, Parsonage Aid Society, and Women's Foreign Missionary Society. As its name indicates, the Home Relief Society was concerned with the poor on our doorsteps. They dispensed food, clothes, and school books, repaired a chimney and bought a Bible for the jail. The Parsonage Aid Society provided support for ministers and families serving on the western frontier and at home served much as today's parsonage committee. The Mulberry Foreign Missionary Society consisted of reports of the activities of the missionaries, reading about missions in the So. Christian Advocate and other church newspapers. These 3 societies merged in 1911 to form the Woman's Missionary Society which continued covering all concerns until 1939 when the M. E. Church, South, and the M. E. C. reunited as The Methodist Church.

————— *Season of Epiphany* —————

The season of Epiphany is the period of time following Christmas through Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Epiphany represents the manifestation of Jesus Christ as a Savior for all. The color of the paraments is green to represent hope, peace & growth.



Mulberry Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

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mulberrymethodist.org

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