



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing the heart of God from the heart of downtown
Macon by fostering healing for the broken places of life.*



The Church at Worship EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 2025 | 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.

In honor of National Friendship Day! Let these flowers of friendship remind us of the love, grace, kindness and the bonds that bless our lives.

*The artwork on the cover is "Valley with Fir" by Henri-Edmond Cross.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/459094>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on “Martyrdom”

Franklin Ritter

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Varnell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather to worship the Lord our God.

We lift our eyes to heaven, to the giver of every good and perfect gift.

We are open to God’s power and God’s word to us.

We come to be renewed and restored by the Holy Spirit.

We remember that all our differences melt away at the feet of Jesus.

We are one body together, the Body of Christ,

in unity, in love, and in service.

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. 384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle’s Creed

Rev. 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.

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Arr. Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

- Isaac Watts

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:1-11 (*Pew Bible pg 957*)

Rev. Varnell

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

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

Communion Meditation

Rev. Varnell

Thanksgiving & Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Varnell

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Varnell

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 Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

John A. Behnke

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.*

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Varnell

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 398

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Nun Danket

James Pethel



News of the Church

Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer | August 6 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Ancient prayer practices meet modern styles of worship. This monthly time of contemplative practices, prayer and worship is a great opportunity to deepen our faith together. Dinner begins in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm, followed by the service at 6:15 pm. We'll see you there!

Back to School Sunday Celebration | August 10

Next week will be our Back to School Celebration Sunday! We will mark the start of the school year with a special service of Worship, including the blessing of backpacks, the dedication of our school supply drive, and our kids & youth will help lead Worship! We will also have a special catered Second Sunday Lunch.

Help Feed College Students at Wesley! | Tuesday, September 2

Mulberry friends, we have a great opportunity to support the Wesley Foundation of Macon as their students kick off a new semester of worship and community! On Tuesday, September 2, we're providing dinner for their weekly gathering. There are lots of ways to help:

- Donate money to help cover the cost of food
- Bake or cook something delicious
- Join Payton and hang out with the Wesley students that evening

Payton will also be preaching that night, as incoming Wesley director Rev. Hannah Pye will be on maternity leave.

If you'd like to contribute or come along, please contact the church office or reach out to Payton directly. Let's show these students some Mulberry love!

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

HUNTER GODSEY
Organist

MILLIE THOMPSON
Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

BILL STEMBRIDGE
BERT & CATER THOMPSON
Lay Communion Servers

———— *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:

“The Great Fire” — Part 1

On Monday, April 26, 1965, a raging fire at Mulberry Street Methodist Church roared through the attic and roof of the sanctuary, totally destroying that part of the church. It was considered a “5 general alarm fire” with 15 units of the Macon Fire Department battling the flames for more than two hours, successfully preventing the spread to other parts of the church. The cause was contributed to the use of a blow torch by a painter on the outside of the church underneath one of the stained glass windows. It was being used to burn off old paint on the wooded framing around the windows and sparks entered a crack on the side of the window framing and spread upward through a narrow vertical opening, being fed with combustible materials located inside that space. The fire reached the attic and gained headway because this opening was concealed.

The sanctuary was considered a total loss but fortunately the stained glass windows except for minor damage survived the event. However, a week later, a large beam from the burned out ceiling fell to the floor, bounced upwards, then through two of the stained glass windows.

Fortunately, no life was lost in the fire and the extensive educational building, youth center and chapel adjacent to the sanctuary were spared.

On that same Monday night, the official Board of Mulberry met and began work on plans to rebuild the church sanctuary. On May 2nd, the Sunday following the fire, Mulberry began their usual 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Fellowship Hall with hundreds of folding chairs set up for the occasion.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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