



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 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 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.

The flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of John H Kennington, loving father and WWII veteran by Johnny & Charlotte Kennington.

*The artwork on the cover is "I Will Make Thee Fishers of Men" by Edie Mae Herrel.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59802>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

No. 2 in G major
from "Twelve Short Pieces for the Organ"

By Samuel Wesley

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

Kate Evans

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Friends, remember that we are all students of the Lord.

Today, we are eager to learn and grow in faith.

We are disciples, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

He is our teacher, our guide, and our friend.

So come, let us worship the Lord with joy!

Let us lift our hearts to the God who loves us all!

* Opening Hymn No. 100 *God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us*

LAUDA ANIMA

* 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.**

Back to School Blessing

Call and Response Prayer

When prompted, the congregation responds:

Caring God...

we offer these backpacks...

as a sign of our thanks...

for all you will do ...

with us and for us...

this year at school....

We bless these backpacks...

as companions to us...

as we learn and grow....

May they carry ...

food for bodies...

and food for thought. ...

Let them be a reminder ...

that you are as close to us...

as the backpack on our back ...

always and forever...

Amen!

- Written by Marcia McFee

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

Isaiah 40:9-11, 49:8-9 (Pew Bible pg 582)

Baxter James

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart. This is what the Lord says: "In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'"

Anthem

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears;
The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:
Before the Throne, my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive them, O, forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die.”

My God is reconciled, His pard’ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear:
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

- Charles Wesley

Second Reading

Mark 1:14-20 (Pew Bible pg 812)

Rev. Varnell

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.” And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.

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

Sermon

“The Gospel Awakens”

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

Offertory on “Kingsfold”

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. 396

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Rejoice, the Lord is King

arr. Healey Willan



News of the Church

Second Sunday Lunch | Today | Immediately following Worship

Everyone is invited to join us after Worship today for our monthly Second Sunday Lunch! We'll have a catered lunch, and we will continue our back-to-school celebration! This is a catered lunch - come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table!

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

DANIEL MCINTOSH

Organist

MILLIE THOMPSON

Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

———— *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 2

**Excerpts from a letter written by Albert S.
Hatcher, Chairman of the Board of Stewards on
April 27, 1965 to the Mayor and Council, City of
Macon plus excerpts from the Executive Board
meeting April 30, 1965.**

At at meeting last night of the full official Board of Stewards of Mulberry Street Methodist Church, they unanimously voted and instructed me to convey to you their sincere appreciations for the job our Macon Fire Department did in confining the fire to the sanctuary and not letting it spread and destroy all of our Mulberry Street Methodist Church.

The subject of seating capacity of the Fellowship Hall was discussed and it was stated that we have presently made arrangement to borrow sufficient number of folding chair for use on Sunday. These chairs are to be returned to the owners the following Monday which creates quite a problem in transporting, handling some 200 chairs each week. After discussion, it was decided that the number of chairs needed should be purchased inasmuch as our building program will be under way for approximately 18 months.

The organ had been inspected and was reported that it was not too badly damaged although the console was 100% damaged from water.

In conclusion, the senior pastor mentioned that fire safety devices should be installed throughout the church and also noted the the church is receiving contributions from many people outside the city towards the rebuilding program.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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