



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 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 17, 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 appreciation to Beth Smith, Carol Pope, Melissa Anderson, Marilyn and Jack Armstrong for their dedication and commitment to the Altar Guild at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.

*The artwork on the cover is "Moses receiving the tablets of the law on Mount Sinai".
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55133>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary On Jordan's Stormy Banks arr. Norman Johnson

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.

Brothers and sisters, draw near today to the God of love.

We come to be close to God.

Draw near to the Holy One in this place.

We come to give ourselves to God.

Draw near to the one with power to change us.

We come to be changed. We come to be transformed.

We come to be renewed. Let us worship together!

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. 731 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken AUSTRIAN HYMN

* 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.

Proclamation & Response

First Reading

James 4:4-10 (Pew Bible pg 982)

Rev. Stone

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

* Hymn No. 451

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Anthem

Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls

Z. Randall Stroope

When the final timber lay 'gainst the measured stones,
With the doorposts in their place overlaid with gold,
The Lord appeared to Solomon, blessing all the house,
Also the temple of the ark of God, pure and whole.
Come dwell in Solomon's walls,
Come and dwell in the house of the Lord.
Where the humble bow down, seeking wisdom and strength,
For the Lord dwells within and heals their land.
Come dwell in Solomon's walls,
Come and dwell in the house of the Lord.
Where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness,
Join at the feet of God.

When the people of this house kneel and humbly pray,
When they turn from dark to light and your will obey,
O Lord of heaven and Lord of earth, show favor on this house,
And heal, restore, forgive, and bless, Lord, we pray.
Come dwell in Solomon's walls,
Come and dwell in the house of the Lord.
Where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness,
Join at the feet of God.

Second Reading

Exodus 20:1-6 (*Pew Bible pg 58*)

Rev. Varnell

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

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

Sermon

"First Things First"

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

Voluntary in E

by William Walond

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. 399

Take My Life and Let It Be

MESSIAH

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

The Solid Rock

arr. Don Hustad



News 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!

UWF Esther Grace Circle September Meeting | September 12 | 1 pm

The new school year has begun and the Esther Grace Woman's Circle has a meeting scheduled for Friday, September 12 at 1pm in our church conference room. All women are urged and invited to join us as we plan ways to serve God! We will also study *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. If you are interested in ordering this \$10. book, please let Elyene Thompson (elyenet@att.net) know. It's going to be a great year!

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 3

Excerpts from the Board Meeting, April 26, 1965:

The meeting was held in the Chapel of the 1st Presbyterian Church with 67 members present. Dr. John Richardson, pastor of 1st Presbyterian, welcomed the group and stated that the facilities of the 1st Presbyterian Church were available for Mulberry's use. Chairman Hatcher stated all services and programs will continue as planned; 11:00 Sunday services will be held in The Fellowship Hall, 9:00 services in the chapel. Wednesday night supper will continue as usual.

It was announced that the general insurance coverage totaled \$900,000 and another \$35,000 insurance for the stained glass windows.

Dr. Robertson also recognized the many invitations extended to the membership of Mulberry offering the use of their facilities. These included: Mr. Block of the Dempsey Hotel, use of their banquet hall; Masonic Grand Lodge of Georgia; Al Sihah Temple; Vineville Methodist Church; Temple Beth Israel; Mercer University. Second Street Methodist Church offered hymnals.

It was suggested that a committee should handle clean-up operations, salvage hymnals and other articles and was advised that caution should be used until adjustors have made their inspections, warned that the tall sanctuary walls are hazardous. Dr. Robertson reflected on the events of that day, recounted the children coming school and embracing him, an 11 year boy, wielding a mop, offered his money for rebuilding, the many people trying to express what was in their hearts.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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