



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 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 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.

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
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Roberts.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Moses presenting the tablets of law" by Valentin Bousch.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/193343>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary Prelude on “St. Thomas” arr. Healey Willan

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.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We come with glad hearts to worship the Lord our God.

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who calls us to be the Church.

We offer ourselves to Christ in faith and obedience.

We give thanks for the gracious work of the Holy Spirit,
who builds up the Church and makes us one in Christ.

**We are open to the Spirit’s renewing power, that we may be transformed
in heart, mind, and soul. Let us worship God 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. 92 *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

* 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.

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

Romans 12:9-21 (Pew Bible pg 922)

Rev. Stone

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

* Hymn No. 732

Come, We That Love the Lord

ST. THOMAS

Anthem

The Word Was God

Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by Him.
Nothing was made that He has not made.

- John 1:1-3

Second Reading

Exodus 20:12-13 (*Pew Bible pg 58*)

Rev. Varnell

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

You shall not kill.

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

Sermon

“It’s A Wonderful Life”

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

Adagio

by John Bennett

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. 152

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

FOREST GREEN

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Dale Wood



Updates to Church Building Access

We want to share with you a few small changes to building access on Sundays to help create a safe and welcoming environment for all.

- **9:00 AM** – You are welcome to enter through the Atrium entrance at the rear of the church. Come in, grab a cup of coffee and a doughnut, enjoy time visiting with friends, and head off to Sunday school at 10!
- **10:30 AM** – As we prepare for worship, our front doors facing Mulberry Street will be opened, with ushers ready to greet you.
- **11:00 AM** – The Atrium entrance will be locked, so if you arrive after this time, please plan to come through the front doors.

Please note:

- All other entrances to the church will remain locked at all times.
- The ramp entrance off the courtyard will be unlocked as needed, especially for visitors and guests with accessibility concerns. For our regular members, we ask that you continue to use the Atrium entrance and elevator if you need accessibility accommodations.
- Thank you for helping us keep our church safe, warm, and welcoming for all who come to worship.

News of the Church

September Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, September 3 | 5:30 pm

Join us September 3 for Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer! Our 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!

CCM Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser | September 18 | \$10 Tickets

The Children's Center at Mulberry will host a to-go Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Thursday, September 18. Tickets cost \$10 per plate and can be purchased at the CCM office during the week or by calling the church office at 478-745-8601. Pickup will be available from 3-6 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. We hope you can take part in this fundraiser & show your support for the Children's Center!

New Sunday School Group | Begins September 14 | 9:45 - 10:45 am

We're excited to launch a new Sunday School group just for young adults and parents with school-aged kids, and we'd love for you to be part of it!

When: Every other Sunday, 9:45-10:45 AM

Where: Second floor, Children's Wing (in one of the classrooms, TBD)

Starts: First hangout on Sunday, September 14th

This group will meet every two weeks to align with our youth confirmation schedule and children's Sunday School. December plans are still TBD.

If you're interested or want to learn more, contact Elisa and Payton. We're excited to get this going and grow together. Hope to see you soon!

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.instagram.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


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street
478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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

— *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 4

Excerpts from various church meetings:

At the Official Board meeting Sept 26, 1966, the building committee reported that the insurance amounted to \$265,000. The first two phases will costs approximately \$120,000 which leaves \$145,000 for the 3rd phase which included the interior, seats, organ, etc. Our hope of being in the sanctuary Easter of 1967 will certainly not be realized but every effort is being made to have this ready as soon as possible.

On Jan 15, 1967 at a Church Conference called meeting, slides were shown which pictured the old church then the proposed one. The Eugene Stetson family is giving \$25,000 to expand the organ so Mulberry will have one of the finest church organs in the State. The estimated costs of the new building will be \$530,000 and the church now has \$305,000 leaving a balance of \$225,000. It was explained that the reason for the difference between the insurance payment and the costs of building was due to 5 reasons. One was the cost of complying with Macon's new construction code increased costs by some \$100,000. Two, was where there had been wooden floors, etc. before, all this had to be to steel and concrete which necessitated a greater outlay of money. Three, the insurance company paid only for what was lost, and heating and air conditioning units in the other part of the building were not destroyed but these units are old and will have to be replaced. Four, the vaulted ceiling in the sanctuary will add to the costs. Five, inflation since the time of the fire has made building costs rise at the rate of about 1% per month. It was stated that it could be reasonably expected to occupy the new sanctuary by September, 1967.