



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## The Church at Worship FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*September 14, 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.**

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*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of our parents, General Flannery & Miriam Pope and Dean & Inez King by Mickey and Carol Pope.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Moses, Procession of the Transfiguration".  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58902>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on “Michael”

arr. Charles Callahan

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.**

We gather today to celebrate the faithfulness of our God.

**God’s love and faithfulness endure to all generations.**

In every season of life, God’s presence remains with us.

**We trust in the God who never lets us go.**

Even when we have strayed from the path, God is faithful and true.

**We praise God for his faithfulness this day and forevermore!**

*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. 132

*All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded*

MICHAEL

\* 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.**

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*Proclamation & Response*

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First Reading

1 John 1:5-2:1 (Pew Bible pg 989)

Rev. Stone

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

\* Hymn No. 707

*Hymn of Promise*

PROMISE

Anthem

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

Arr. Dan Forrest

My Jesus, I Love thee, I know thou art mine;  
for thee all the follies of sin I resign.

My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee in life, I will love thee in death,  
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;  
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

- William R. Featherstone

Second Reading

Exodus 20:14-15 (Pew Bible pg 58)

Rev. Varnell

| You shall not commit adultery.

| You shall not steal.

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

Sermon

“Faithfulness Is Great”

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.**

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*Offering of our Tithes & Gifts*

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Offertory

Impromptu No. 3 in G flat Major Op. 90  
by Franz Schubert

played by  
Julia Blackwood

*You can make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give)  
or in the offering plate.*

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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.**

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## *Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 140

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Prelude in G Major BWV 557

Attr. to J.S Bach



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## *News of the Church*

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### **Second Sunday Lunch | Today, following worship | Fellowship Hall**

Everyone is invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall after Worship for our monthly potluck lunch. Come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table!

### **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!

### **Blessing of the Animals | October 5 | 5:00 pm | MSUMC Courtyard**

Bring your furry friends for this special service, where we will bless them and thank God together for their presence in our lives! All creatures big and small are welcome, so join us on Sunday, October 5 at 5:00 in the Mulberry Courtyard!

### **Confirmation Kick-off | Sunday, September 28**

Join us in prayer as our newest class of Confirmands begin their journey through Confirmation on Sunday, September 28. We are excited to support these students as they learn what it means to be professing members of the Church!

### **Monthly Organ Tour with Daniel | September 21 | Following worship**

Next Sunday 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!

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## *Keep up with us online!*

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Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

To sign up, visit [bit.ly/mulnews](https://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](https://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**

**GEORGE DUNN**

*Crucifer*

**THOMAS DUNN**

**& KATE EVANS**

*Candle Lighters*



719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

[mulberrymethodist.org](http://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:*

### **Mulberry Methodist Churches and building committees from 1828 to 1945**

#### **Society formed 1826**

Church built 1826 – 1828

Building Committee: Thomas Gardner, Pastor:  
Alexander Richards, Elbert Crews

#### **Rebuilt 1882 – 1883**

Building Committee: W. R. Branham, Pastor: C. W.  
Raines, B. F. Ross, R. W. Smith, M. E. Rylander, R. E.  
Washington

#### **Remodeled 1882 – 1883**

Building Committee: J. O. A. Cook, Pastor: N. T.  
Johnson, W. R. Singleton, Emory Winship, W. R.  
Rogers, S. S. Dunlap, J. F. Hanson, A. G. Butts, W. G.  
Solomon, J. M. Jones

#### **Again remodeled and Sunday School Annex added 1894 – 1896**

Building Committee: Alonzo Monk, Pastor: S. S.  
Dunlap, W. G. Solomon, Issac Hardeman, G. R.  
Glenn, R. E. Park, G. S. Jones, W. B. Hill, L. Clay

#### **Centennial Building 1926**

Commenced under Pastorate of Walter Anthony,  
Completed under Pastorate of Charles R. Jenkins  
Building Committee: Orville W. Park, James H.  
Porter, Warren Roberts, W. R. Rogers, Louis A  
Burghard, Walter K. Greene, Giles G. Hardeman, H.  
Person Heath, Charles H. Lewis, R. Holmes Mason,  
Robert L. McKenny, J. R. Riley

Bonded indebtedness paid during pastorates of  
Edmund F. Cook, 1938 – 1937: George Stoves, 1937  
-1942: Silas Johnson 1942- 1946

#### **Church School Plant dedicated May 26, 1945**

*For pictures and more history visit  
[mulberrymethodist.org/about-us/our-history](http://mulberrymethodist.org/about-us/our-history)*