



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 21, 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 Sandra Akins Ellwood, loving mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother and a faithful role model by the James A. Manley III family.

*The artwork on the cover is "Moses with the Ten Commandments" by Rembrandt.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55126>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Fugue in G
from *Magnificat Octavia toni* VIII, no. 10

Johann Pachelbel

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.

Come, people of God, and walk in the way of truth.

We will speak with honesty and live with integrity.

And may we seek to find joy in the blessings the Lord has given.

We will be content, for God's grace is enough.

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. 126 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

* 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

1 John 5:1-5 (*Pew Bible pg 991*)

Rev. Stone

Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and every one who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

* Hymn No. 369

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

Anthem

Hope in Me

Terre Johnson

Katie Trotter, Violin; Daniel McIntosh, Saxophone; Karin Payne, Piano

Have you not known me from the beginning?
Have you not heard it since life began?
I am the everlasting Creator,
Heaven and earth sprang forth from my hand.

Hope in me and you will be strengthened,
Run every race and I will revive.
Walk without fainting, mount up as eagles;
Hope in me, for I am God.

Look at the sky and try to imagine
who could have formed the stars and the sun;
All you can see and more that is hidden,
I chose their orbits, I named each one.

Hope in me and you will be strengthened,
Run every race and I will revive.
Walk without fainting, mount up as eagles;
Hope in me, for I am God.

Although it seems your pathways are hidden,
I will bring peace to the future you dread.
I made the earth, the seas and the heavens,
I can give strength for what lies ahead.

Hope in me and you will be strengthened,
Run every race and I will revive.
Walk without fainting, mount up as eagles;
Hope in me, for I am God.

- Terre Johnson, based on Isaiah 40:20-31

Second Reading

Exodus 20:16-17 (Pew Bible pg 58)

Rev. Varnell

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

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

Sermon

“False Life or True 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

Melody in F

Eric Thiman

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. 467

Trust and Obey

TRUST AND OBEY

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Prelude on
“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

arr. Paul Fey



News of the Church

Monthly Organ Tour with Daniel | Today, Immediately 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!

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!

October Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, October 1 | 5:30 pm

Join us for our monthly Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer on Wednesday, October 1. 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!

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!

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

SANFORD HORNE

Crucifer

BAXTER JAMES

& EMILY CARROLL

Candle Lighters

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:*

A brief history about the building of Mulberry's first church and its founders

Prior to 1821, Fort Hawkins and the settlement around it stood guard on the western frontier of Georgia. In 1821, a treaty with the Indians opened the land west of the Ocmulgee to the Flint River for settlement. The legislature created Bibb and adjacent counties, and named the town Macon. In 1823 at the request of Rep. Tarpley Holt and one Thomas Gardner, an act was passed setting aside 2 acres for a Methodist Episcopal Church. The chosen site was located on the west side of First St. at Mulberry, outside the city limits, a wooded lot with a stream running nearby.

At the same time, Thomas Gardner was holding religious services at the Court House which wasn't much more than a shanty. Preaching regularly, he gathered together 8 men and 13 women. There was a Methodist mission at Forsyth and it possible that a preacher came from there occasionally. However, there is no record of such and by 1826, Gardner and his followers had formed a Methodist Society.

Gardner applied his skills as a carpenter to the building of the church which was completed in 1828. It was a frame building 60' by 40' with a balcony which was used by the slaves and a belfry on top. Possibly there were two doors, as was the custom in many churches, for men and women who sat on opposite sides. In 1827 a notice appeared in the newspaper thanking the citizens of Bibb County for their contributions of the \$86.57 to the building of a House of Prayer, then referred to as "The Macon Church".


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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