



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 28, 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, 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 honor of
Betsy and Jim Abbott on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary!
By their sons Jay and Chris Abbott.*

*The artwork on the cover is "The Windstorm" by Antônio Parreiras.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55645>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

It is Well with My Soul

arr. Marilyn Arison

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.

From generation to generation, we know that God is our refuge.

In every season, God is our strength.

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we know that God's love endures.

We find our peace in God's eternal care.

Let us worship God together!

* Opening Hymn No. 117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

* 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.**

*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

Psalm 37:1-9 (Pew Bible pg 443)

Rev. Stone

Fret not yourself because of the wicked, be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off; but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land.

* Hymn No. 377

It Is Well with My Soul

VILLE DU HAVRE

Anthem

Be Not Afraid

Taylor Davis

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you.
Be not afraid, I've called you by name.
My love for you is everlasting,
My love for you shall have no end.
When you pass through the waters, I will surround you.
When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed.
You are my child,
You are my child,
You are so precious to me.

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you.
Be not afraid, I've called you by name.
My love for you is everlasting,
My love for you shall have no end.

When you pass through the waters, I will surround you.
When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed.
You are my child,
You are my child,
You are so precious to me.

You are my child, and I'll love you always.
Just hold my hand, and I'll bring you home.
When you feel lost, always remember:
I am right here, just call out my name.
When you pass through the waters, I will surround you.
When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed.
You are my child,
You are my child,
You are so precious to me.

- Taylor Davis, based on Isaiah 43:1-7

Second Reading

1 Kings 19:9-12 (Pew Bible pg 284)

Rev. Varnell

And there Elijah came to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." And he said, "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord."

And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

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

Sermon

"The Still Small Voice"

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

IV. Quasi Adagio in D-Flat Major
from *Tröstungen* S.172

by Franz Liszt

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 Mighty Power of God

FOREST GREEN

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on *Ellacombe*

arr. Albert L. Travis



News of the Church

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!

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!

Fall Festival Candy Donations | Starting October 5

Our annual community-wide Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat will be Sunday, October 26 from 4-6 pm. We will begin collecting candy donations next Sunday, October 5. Please bring bags of individually-wrapped candy to drop off in the church atrium & narthex so we will have plenty of candy to give out!

October Second Sunday Lunch | October 12 | Following Worship

Our October Second Sunday Lunch is October 12 - bring a side dish or dessert to share and enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table! This monthly potluck is a great opportunity to connect with each other and with God while sharing a delicious meal. There's a spot at the table just for you - come and experience the joy of the Lord that is created when we gather together to share a meal!

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

HENRY CARTER

Crucifer

KATE EVANS

Candle Lighter

———— *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:*

**Excerpts from a partial Mulberry history written
by the late Ann Henry, Church Historian:**

In 1893, Orville A. Park came to Macon to teach at Mercer Law School, and was an author & historian. He served as Mulberry's Sunday School superintendent for 41 years. In 1882, funds were raised to repair the church building and build an addition for the Sunday School. Prior to this time the entire Sunday School met in the sanctuary – children, youth and adults. One of the teachers almost succeeded in drowning out all the other teachers. This addition (referred to as “The Annex”) was a semi-circular or horseshoe shape and the open end was attached to the sanctuary. There was a speaker's platform with the speaker's stand facing out toward an area where the entire Sunday School could assemble. Here the S. S. superintendent led the “opening exercises”. The outer rim of the semicircle was divided into classrooms with doors. Those doors let down into the basement below using weights and cords, much like a window. Although this building provided separate room, the classes all continued to meet together. Mr. Park saw the need for dividing the school by grades and began organizing classes according to age and school grade. But there were many problems, students did not want to leave their friends, teachers were accustomed to keeping their students until they died or dropped out. Later teachers and pupils became reconciled and regular promotions were accepted.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

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mulberrymethodist.org

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