



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*Sharing the heart of God from the heart of downtown  
Macon by fostering healing for the broken places of life.*



## The Church at Worship

### THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*September 7, 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 artwork on the cover is "Carrying the cross of Christ" by Gabriel Loire.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55872>*

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



John Stanley

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Rev. Varnell

**All:** And also with you.

**And so we meet this day, as friends, as neighbors,  
as sisters and brothers in Christ.**

Called together by God, we bring our offerings to God:

**Our songs, our hearts, our prayers, our lives.**

Grateful for this opportunity to give and receive, let us worship God.

-Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

*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.*

## FOUNDATION

Rev. Varnell

**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.

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.

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## *Proclamation & Response*

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Anthem

*Finish, Then, Thy New Creation*

Terre Johnson

O, how lovely is the dwelling  
of the Lord, Almighty God.  
Object of my deepest yearning,  
presence of the living Lord.  
Heart and flesh cry out together  
for the ever-living One!  
Blest are those who share your dwelling,  
praising God for evermore.

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter our trembling hearts.

Come, almighty, to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

- St. 1 - Terre Johnson, based on Psalm 84  
St. 2-4 - Charles Wesley

\* Scripture Reading

*Luke 14:25-33 (Pew Bible pg 850)*

Rev. Stone

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

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*Thanksgiving & Communion*

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Invitation to the Table

Rev. Varnell

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Varnell

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

Offertory

*One Bread, One Body*

arr. Ron Schmoltze

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

\* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Stone

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Sung Communion A (pages 17-18)*

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## 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.**

## Breaking the Bread

*Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of parents.*

*Let an usher know if you wish to be served in the pew.*

*Gluten free bread is available on the pedestal at the base of the steps.*

*An offering plate along the sanctuary wall is available for a communion offering, which is designated for the pastor's discretionary fund.*

## Communion Anthem

*Sicut Cervus*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*Sung in Latin, English translation:*

As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so longs my soul for you, O God.

- Psalm 42:1-3

## Prayer after Communion

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## *Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 414

*Take Up Thy Cross*

GERMANY

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on "Holy Manna"

arr. Wilbur Held



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## *News of the Church*

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### **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 Blue Room

**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!

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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**

**BERT & CATER THOMPSON**  
Lay Communion Servers

———— *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 taken from Commission on Christian Social Concerns, November 24, 1967:**

The past two months have been very busy ones for this commission. On Sunday evening, September 17th, the entire church night service was turned over to the commission and a program was presented giving the functions and activities of the commission in order to acquaint the congregation with the aims of this group.

On October 1st a programs was presented to the junior high students of our MYF on the dangers of smoking. This program was accepted very well by the young people and many questions asked. Again on October 22nd a program was given by a group of business and professional men in an effort to acquaint the young people with some of the requirements in the way of education for the various types of business and professional work. In November a commission meeting was held and many new programs were discussed and some of them initiated for the months immediately ahead. This commission has been very active and solicits your thoughts and suggestions.

———— *Season of Ordinary Time* ————

The season of Ordinary Time emphasizes the church living & witnessing in the world. The color of the paraments is green to represent the church's growth & presence.

  
**Mulberry Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street  
478.745.8601

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

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