



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 12, 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 and in appreciation of our church staff by Beth and Waverly Golson.

*The artwork on the cover is "The Return to the Fold" by Anton Mauve.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437042>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary “Arioso” from Cantata BWV 156 by J.S Bach

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.

Are you looking for life?

We find our true life in Jesus Christ alone.

Are you feeling weighed down by heavy burdens?

We find our true freedom in the care and compassion of Jesus.

Are you anxious amidst all the turmoil of this world?

We find our true peace here together as the Body of Christ.

Let us worship Jesus this day, our Christ, our Lord, and our King!

* Opening Hymn No. 138 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ST. COLUMBA

* 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.**

Children's Moment

Elisa Reece

*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

Ezekiel 34:11-16 (Pew Bible pg 702)

Rev. Stone

For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.

Anthem

Beautiful Savior

Arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

-Moravian Hymn, tr. Joseph Augustus Seiss

* Second Reading

John 10:7-10 (*Pew Bible pg 872*)

Rev. Varnell

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

Sermon

“Choosing The Right Door”

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

Contemplation on “Tallis’ Canon”

arr. Richard I. Purvis

*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. 381

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Harold DeCou



News of the Church

October Second Sunday Lunch | Today, following Worship

Join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship today - come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table! 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!

Offering a Blessing to the Teachers & Staff of the Children's Center at Mulberry

After many wonderful years of service in ministry, the Children's Center at Mulberry will soon be closing, and we want to honor the teachers & staff who made it so special through a severance gift. If you would like to contribute toward this gift, please do so by October 22. You may give in worship, bring your gift by the church office, or give online. You can make it out to the church and then note it is for the CCM Severance on your check or envelope. Give online at **mulberrymethodist.org/give** and select "CCM Severance" in the Fund drop-down.

Fall Festival Candy Donations | Through Sunday, October 26

Our annual community-wide Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat will be Sunday, October 26 from 4-6 pm. Candy collections for our Trunk-or-Treat have begun - 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!

All Hallows Eve Organ Concert | October 31 | 7:30 pm | Sanctuary

Join us on the evening of Friday, October 31 for a special Halloween organ concert! Mulberry organist Daniel McIntosh and guest organist Chase Douthit will perform a selection of John Williams pieces. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

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**

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

WILL MAGDA

Candle Lighter


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:*

Minutes from The Board of Stewards Meeting, March 28, 1913.

In 1971, the Macon District United Methodist Churches began supporting an Inner-City Ministry, with Bobby Brenner, as minister located at "His House." Brenner requested that a clothing bank be established and Paula Motes, UMW vice-president, led the UMW's response to this request. C. W. Hancock, Mulberry's pastor, approved the location.

By 1980, Bill Hurdle asked for help with the poor and transients and "snack packs" were assembled by Helen Matthews. And in response to these needs, the ladies established the "Outreach Office" and Bill Hurdle announced that an Outreach office had been established at Mulberry and was open from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. dealing with need related to food, rent and utilities. In 1987, a Board of Directors of Macon Outreach was organized. And in 1988, the first annual Outreach dinner was held.

Nancy Lee Cater was appointed director in 1993 and planning for Handicapped Accessibility initiated and Outreach began serving breakfast once a week. The "Flood of 1994" saw Macon Outreach become one of three agencies designated by The Red Cross for distribution of emergency food. And in 1996, the first radio telethon with 26 stations participating, celebrated Macon Outreach's 25th anniversary.

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.