



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 5, 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 artwork on the cover is a composite image made by Millie Thompson.

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Toccata on “McKee”

arr. Yasmin Phillip

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.

God is holy and God calls us to be holy.

Create in us a clean heart, O God.

God calls us to cast aside the ways of this world.

Put a new and right spirit within us.

God draws us together as one body.

Together, we are the church, we are one,

let us worship the Holy God!

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. 64

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICAEA

* 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

Anthem

Where Can We Find Thee, Lord, So Near
Katie Trotter, Violin

Terre Johnson

Where can we find thee, Lord, so near,
So real, so gracious, so divine,
As at the table set with love
By those who know themselves as thine.

Where may we thy salvation know
In fullest, gladdest certainty,
As with the emblems of thy grace
Spread out for sinful man to see?

Thus to thy table would we come,
Remembering thee with bread and wine,
Rejoicing most of all to know
That here we nourish life divine.

- Thomas B. McDormand

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 10:14-17 (*Pew Bible pg 932*)

Rev. Varnell

Therefore, my beloved, shun the worship of idols. I speak as to sensible men; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

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

Communion Meditation

“Together At The Table”

Rev. Varnell

Thanksgiving & Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Stone

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

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

arr. Daniel McIntosh

Make your offering to God online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give or in the offering plate.

* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Varnell

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

Ave Verum Corpus

W. A. Mozart

sung in Latin, English translation:

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for man,
From whose pierced side flowed water and blood,
Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.
O sweet Jesus, O merciful Jesus, O Jesus Son of Mary.
Amen.

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.**

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 383

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

BEGINNINGS

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Fugue in F,
from *Magnificat Octavia toni V*, no. 12

by Johann Pachelbel



News of the Church

Blessing of the Animals | Tonight, 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. 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!

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!

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

Join us again this year for a special Halloween organ concert on the evening of Friday, October 31. Be sure to save the date on your calendar - you will not want to miss this chance to hear the spookiest sounds of the season!

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

CHRIS & LESLIE BROWN
Lay Communion Servers

CAROLINE DENT
Crucifer

**EMILY CARROLL &
REYNOLDS HEFNER**
Candle Lighters


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:

Some of Mulberry's pastors experienced dramatic conversions and subsequent calls to what was once known as the "Methodist itinerancy." Below are excerpts from *The Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgia*, published 1935:

Consider Ignatius Alphonso Few, our pastor in 1829, 1830 and 1834. One night in 1825 Methodist preacher Joseph Travis, who was spending the night in Few's home, fell into debate with the agnostic Few over the Reality of God and the supremacy of faith. Later during the night, Few was taken with an attack of bleeding of the lungs and sent for Travis. "I told you that I was not afraid to die," he said, "But, oh, Sir, it is not so." After Few recovered, the wise Methodist preacher, Travis, influenced Few to re-examine his stance. The result was a bright conversion.

Also consider John B. Payne, our pastor in 1844. Payne was the overseer of a plantation. He was an awful drunkard, but had a good Methodist wife. One night in 1834, when attending a meeting with his wife, he united with the church while drunk. Next morning when he was sober his wife said to him, "James, do you know what you did last night?" "No, what did I do?" "You joined the society." "Did I? Well, God helping me I'll stick to it." And he did and soon afterwards became converted and made a useful pastor.

— *World Communion Sunday* —

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday, where we experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. Today, we recognize that we are a part of a whole body of believers spanning continents, cultures, and languages, and we are united in Christ's love.