



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 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 "Peaceable Kingdom" by Edward Hicks.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=53085>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S Bach

Welcome & News of the Church Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Lighting of the Advent Candle Camilla Packroff & Lyman Hinson

* Opening Hymn No. 203 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* ELLACOMBE

* 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'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

Isaiah 11:1-6, 10 (Pew Bible pg 558)

Rev. Stone

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

* Hymn No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Anthem

The Dream Isaiah Saw

Glenn L. Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,
Leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,
Blood will darken the Earth that God made.

Little child whose bed is straw,
Take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
Life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:
God will transfigure the Violence concealed
Deep in the heart of systems gain,
Ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.

Little Child whose bed is straw,
Take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
Justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent,
Nations obeying the call to repent,
All of creation completely restored,
Filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.
Little child whose bed is straw,
Take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
Knowledge, wisdom, worship awe.

- Thomas Troeger

* Second Reading

Luke 3:7-18 (Pew Bible pg 834)

Rev. Varnell

John said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he preached good news to the people.

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

Sermon

"What Should We Do?"

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

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645

J.S Bach

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. 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland arr. Georg Philipp Telemann



News of the Church

UWF Coffee & Chocolate Sale | Sundays in the Atrium

The United Women in Faith will be selling Equal Exchange products on Sundays in the Atrium. They will have Coffee, Chocolate Bars, Hot Cocoa Mix, & Tea. Help support small farmers & local agencies providing help & healing!
Selling on December 7.

Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, December 3 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Come prepare your hearts and minds for Christmas and the birth of Christ with this special Advent Worship & Prayer service! This time of intentional contemplation, prayer, and music will help you start the season well. We will meet at 5:30 for dinner, and the service begins at 6:15.

Christmas Caroling | Sunday, December 7 | following Worship

Let's spread some holiday cheer! We will meet after Worship next Sunday and go over to PruittHealth Lakeside Nursing Home (formerly Eastside) to sing our favorite traditional carols with the residents. We hope you'll join us for this fun annual tradition! Carolers, we will gather in the atrium before heading out.

Family Ministries Christmas Sponsorship | Through December 15

The Mulberry Family Ministries team is sponsoring 3 youth & 1 infant from the Methodist Home for Children & Youth this Christmas. If you would like to help fill out their wish lists, you can either donate gifts cards (Google Play, Target, Ulta, Amazon, McDonald's), or donate to our "Christmas Sponsorship" Fund to help purchase gifts. Donations can be made online, dropped off with Elisa or in the church office. Please write Christmas Sponsorship on your check, or choose the "Christmas Sponsorship" fund on the drop-down menu of the online giving form. Please make donations by December 15.

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

GEORGE DUNN

Crucifer

BAXTER JAMES

& THOMAS DUNN

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:*

**Continued – "125th Anniversary Mulberry Street
Methodist Church 1826 – 1926" written by James
W. W. Daniel**

Before the end of the year (1926) plans had been approved for the construction of new educational plant at a cost of \$250,000. The contract was let in the summer of 1927 and by late fall the work was about $\frac{2}{3}$ rd completed and \$126,418.92 paid on it.

During the building/reconstruction period, the pastor lived in a rental house on Orange Street and since the congregation had no home, several other congregations, among them the Jewish and the Mason Temple (on Mulberry) generously offered to share religious facilities until completion of the building program. Some Sunday School classes were held in The Bibb County Court House.

With the completion of the splendid educational building and remodeling inside and out of the church auditorium in the early spring of 1928 there seemed to come a new sense of religious fervor and pride of ownership among the communicants.

In 1929, one of the finest cathedral organs in the Southeast was presented to Mulberry by Mrs. Edith Stetson Coleman, Eugene Stetson, and James Stetson in memory of their mother, Mrs. Eugenia Pate Coleman. *(to be continued)*

Season of Advent

The season of Advent, which is the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ. It is also the beginning of the church year. The color of the paraments is blue to represent the hope and expectation that define Advent.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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