



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 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, 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
in memory of C J Bridges, Sr. and Vivian H Bridges given by the family.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Flight by Night" by Henry Ossawa Tanner.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58179>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Come, praise the eternal God!

All you in the heavens, angels above—**praise God!**

Sun, moon, and stars in the sky—**praise God!**

Dolphins and whales, fish in the sea—**praise God!**

Lighting and thunder, snow and rain—**praise God!**

Mountains and hills, desert and prairie—**praise God!**

Fruit trees and cedars, flowers and weeds—**praise God!**

Kings and presidents, prime ministers and judges—**praise God!**

Men and women, young and old—**praise God!**

Let them all praise the name of God!

For God's name stands alone, above all others;

God's glory shines over earth and heaven.

Let's worship God together!

* Opening Hymn No. 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

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.**

Baptism

**Edith “Edie” Chandler Payne
Daughter of Amy and John Payne**

When prompted, the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ’s body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Edie now before you in your care?

With God’s help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Edie with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Sung responses (Hymnal page 53)

... through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God’s mercy each day.

... and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ’s works to the nation, his glory among all the people.

... that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory,

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

Baptismal Hymn

God Claims You

**Edie, Edie, God claims you,
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.**

We this day do all agree a child of God you’ll always be.

**Edie, Edie, God claims you,
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.**

We your family love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.

**Edie, Edie, God claims you,
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.**

We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way.

**Edie, Edie, God claims you,
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.**

- Written by Stanley M. Farr, from the Book of Worship © 1981

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 63:7-9 (Pew Bible pg 605)

Rev. Stone

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Solo

Give Me Jesus
Luke Baker, soloist

Spiritual, Arr. Mark Hayes

Second Reading

Matthew 2:13-23 (Pew Bible pg 784)

Rev. Stone

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of

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

Sermon

“A Baby Changes Everything”

Rev. Stone

Morning Prayer

The congregation responds to “Hear us, O God”
with the words **“Your mercy is great.”**

Rev. Stone

Written Bass Mitchell on his Homilies by Email website. Altered slightly.

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.

Offertory

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.**

* Closing Hymn No. 249

There's A Song in the Air

CHRISTMAS STORY

Closing Voluntary



News of the Church

End of Year Giving for 2025

For year-end gifts to be credited to your 2025 giving record:

1) hand-deliver the gift to the church office before 12:00 p.m. on December 30

OR

2) mail the gift with a postmark date of no later than December 31.

NOTE: Please mail checks to the church's PO Box: PO Box 149, Macon, GA 31202.

We thank you for support of Mulberry Street UMC and its many ministries!

“Work Out Your Salvation!” 7 Week Sunday School Class



You are invited to be a part of a 7 week Sunday School class, starting January 4 through February 15! “Working Out Your Salvation,” based around Philippians 2:12, will be led by Creede Hinshaw. The class will be 10 – 10:45 am each Sunday and will meet on the 2nd Floor of the Education Building (enter by the atrium, follow signs). We will have coffee, juice, and biscuits! For more information: call or text Creede Hinshaw (912-713-5191) or email at hinnie@cox.net.

January Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, January 7 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this monthly time of prayer & worship together. We will share a meal and then move into a time of meditation, silent prayer & modern worship.

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

HENRY CARTER

Crucifer

RAMZI HARLEY

& REYNOLDS HEFNER

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:*

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

Sunday, October 17, 1937, a great congregation assembled to celebrate the settlement of the debt and to received The Book of Remembrance, a beautifully bound volume in which are inscribed in Old English script the names of all who made contributions of the payment and also the names of those who contributed to the original 1926 building fund. Finally under the leadership of Dr. Silas Johnson, without encroachment on any of the other financial interests of the church, the moral obligation of the bonded indebtedness [to the original purchasers of Mulberry bonds] was paid in full in 1945.

A day of celebration was set aside for the dedication of the Church School plant for May 20, 1945. And on a tablet in the narthex of the church was the following statement:

‘We have had two objectives in paying this moral obligation: One ‘As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also to them.’ Two, to fortify the church in the righteousness and undergird her with moral and spiritual rectitude, in order that she may discharge her full duty to God and man.’

Season of Christmas

The season of Christmas begins Christmas Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany. It is a time of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. The paraments in the sanctuary are white to represent the joy and festivities of the season.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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