



# 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

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

*January 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](https://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](https://mulberrymethodist.org/worship/bulletins).

### GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](https://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.

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*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in celebration of the baptism of Alexander Malcolm Stone by his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. William Stone.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Neonian Baptistry", dating to the 5th century, Ravenna, Italy. Image by Petar Milošević, via Wikimedia Commons.*

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



## Baptism

Alexander Malcolm Stone  
Son of Payton and Mallory Stone

*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 Xander 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 Xander with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he 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*

**Xander, Xander, 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.**

**Xander, Xander, 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.**

**Xander, Xander, 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.**

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

*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.*

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*Proclamation & Response*

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First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21 (Pew Bible pg 586)

Rev. Stone

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Anthem

*The Glory of the Father*

Egil Hovland

The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.  
In the beginning was the word. The word was with God.  
In him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
He came to his own, and his own received him not.  
The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- John 1

\* Second Reading John 1:1-9 (pg 863); Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (pg 834)

Rev. Varnell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.

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. Now when all the people were baptized,



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## *News of the Church*

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### **Second Sunday Lunch | Today, following worship | Fellowship Hall**

Kick off the new year with our first Second Sunday Lunch of 2025! Everyone is invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship for this time of food and fellowship.

### **Commissioning of our Lay Leaders | January 19 | 11:00 am worship**

Join us for worship on January 19 - during the service we will pray over our lay leadership for this year and commission them for their work.

### **Montgomery Civil Rights Pilgrimage | March 11-13**

Join with other South Georgia United Methodist Churches on this journey to explore the heart of the Civil Rights Movement in Montgomery, AL from Tuesday, March 11 through Thursday, March 13. Over three days, we will visit key landmarks in Montgomery that highlight the fight for justice, equality, and freedom. Don't miss this unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of civil rights history and its ongoing relevance today. The cost to attend is \$475 (\$450 with early registration before January 19).

You can find more details and information on how to register in our weekly newsletter, or by contacting the church office.

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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**

**BEN MORRIS**  
Crucifer

**DREW MORRIS**  
**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:*

Minutes from The Board of Stewards Meeting,  
July 27, 1917

“W. G. Solomon was chosen to preside over the regular meeting of the Board on this date, both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being absent. The Pastor offered prayer. Minutes of the last meeting and current report of Treasurer were both heard and approved for record. The Finance Chairman reported on the condition of the Church with respect to indebtedness.

The Pastor, Dr. T. D. Ellis, asked the Board to appoint a committee to co-operate with him in extending invitations to the military men soon to encamped near Macon to attend the Church services and also to greet the men at Church. A motion to that effect prevailing, the Chair named as the Committee: G. W. Lingo, H. Persons Heath and Frank Branam.

The Pastor also asked the Board's approval of his tentative plan to employ the use of the Sunday School rooms for entertaining the men of the Army on Saturday nights. The Board approved of same.”

  
**Mulberry Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street  
478.745.8601 | mulberrymethodist.org  
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm

## —— Season of Epiphany ——

The season of Epiphany is the period of time following Christmas through Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Epiphany represents the manifestation of Jesus Christ as a Savior for all. The color of the paraments is white to represent God's incarnation in the birth of Jesus Christ.