



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing the heart of God from the heart of downtown
Macon by fostering healing for the broken places of life.*



The Church at Worship

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024 | 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.

The flowers are in honor of Rev. Jack Varnell and all of the wonderful people of Mulberry: congregation, volunteers, committees, ushers, acolytes, choir, musicians & staff by Charlotte & John Kennington.

*The artwork on the cover is "Picnic" by Maurice Prendergast.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57048>*

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

**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

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (*Pew Bible pg 926*)

Gail Springstead

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* Hymn No. 589

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or Sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heav'ns joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

- Traditional Irish

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:24-25 (Pew Bible pg 976)

Rev. Jack Varnell

²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging
one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

Sermon

“Church - Why Bother?”

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

Rev. Varnell

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

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

arr. Dale Wood

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. 581 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

BEACH SPRING

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553

J. S. Bach



News of the Church

Second Sunday Lunch Honoring Rev. Jack Varnell | Today after Worship

Head to the Fellowship Hall after worship today for Second Sunday Lunch! Everyone is invited to share this meal, which is in honor of our new pastor Jack Varnell - join us for this monthly time of food and fellowship!

Mulberry Book Group September Meeting | September 15 | 10 am | Parlor

Highly recommended by Payton, *Gilead* is a Pulitzer-winning novel by Marilynne Robinson set in mythical Gilead, Iowa in 1956 as a letter from a father to his son describing his life and that of his ancestors. With themes centered on creation, grace, wisdom, and generational bonds, this book will be hard to put down!

Order your copy from Amazon or your favorite bookseller. At just under 250 pages, you'll want to get started and have plenty of time to savor the storytelling.

Family Game Night | September 15 | 4 pm | Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to join in on trivia, popcorn, pizza, and prizes! Join our Family Ministries team for a night of intergenerational fun and games!

Keep up with us online!



Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

To sign up, visit bit.ly/mul-news 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

GAIL SPRINGSTEAD

Lay Liturgist

———— *About Our Worship* ————

Worship begins with God. When we gather for worship, God meets us and speaks to us, and we listen to God and respond. At Mulberry, our order of worship (liturgy) is divided into four movements.

In our “**Entrance and Praise**,” we come together in response to God’s invitation and prepare ourselves to hear God’s Word.

In our “**Proclamation and Response**” we are addressed by God through Scripture and our musical anthem; in this movement, we listen to readings from the Bible as well as a sermon, wherein God’s word is interpreted for the gathered community.

Once a month, we participate in “**Thanksgiving and Communion**.” In this movement, we come to the Table to celebrate what God has done in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, and we’re nourished by the special outpouring of grace offered in this sacred act.

The fourth and final movement is the “**Sending Forth**,” where we are blessed and sent into the world to share the heart of God with a world in need.

———— *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.



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