



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 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 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.

*The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of
J. V. "Buncie" and Mary Miller Skinner family.*

*The artwork on the cover is "Sermon on the Mount" by Károly Ferenczy.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56296>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* arr. Diane Bish

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

Greeting & Call to Worship Rev. Varnell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

We gather this day, stranger and friend,

Known and unknown,

All loved by God.

We gather to worship,

To offer concern and joy,

To be reminded to love as we have been loved.

So let us worship God.

-Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

* Opening Hymn No. 400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

* Affirmation of Faith *The Apostle's Creed* Rev. Varnell

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

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (Pew Bible pg 37)

Rev. Varnell

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.'

* Hymn No. 377

It Is Well with My Soul

VILLE DU HAVRE

Anthem

I Will Be a Child of Peace

Shaker Hymn
Arr. Elaine Hagenberg

O holy Father, I will be
a child of peace and purity.
For well I know thy hand will bless
the seeker after righteousness.

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

Sermon

“Love, Even When It Doesn’t Make Sense”

Rev. Stone

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

II. “Adagio molto” from Organ Sonata no. IV, Op. 56

Alexandre Guilmant

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. 402

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary

Prelude in C Major BWV 553

Attributed to J.S Bach



News of the Church

Reception for Mickey & Carol Pope | Today, after Worship | Parlor

You are invited to a punch & cookies reception immediately following worship to honor Mickey & Carol Pope, who have been faithful church members for over 50 years. Mickey has been a Lay Leader & has held many other leadership roles at Mulberry, also chairing the District Board of Missions for many years. Carol has been a longtime instrumental leader in the women's missionary society & member of the Ainsworth Choir. All are welcome!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | March 4 | 6-8 pm | Fellowship Hall

Our Youth Ministries is holding a Pancake Supper fundraiser for Shrove Tuesday on March 4 from 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall! Our youth will be serving up pancakes and sausage, and Mulberry organist Daniel McIntosh will be playing us some tunes on the piano. We'll see you there!

Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes | March 5 | Dinner at 5:30 | Service at 6:30

Join us for our annual service of ashes to mark the beginning of Lent, where we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

Weekly Worship & Prayer Service for Lent | Starting March 12

Join us as we continue our monthly Worship and Prayer service with a special weekly Lenten series from March 12 to April 9. This five-week journey will provide an opportunity to deepen our faith through prayer, contemplative practices, and worship. Each week, we will gather for a fellowship dinner at 5:30 pm, followed by a time of scripture, song, and guided prayer at 6:15 pm. Whether you are seeking a new Lenten discipline or simply longing for a space to draw closer to God, we invite you to make the most of this season with us.

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.facebook.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

STEBIN HORNE
Crucifer

**RAMZI HARLEY
& SANFORD HORNE**
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:

Excerpts taken from The Pastor's Report to the Board of Stewards meeting, February 7, 1946.

"The recent City-wide Religious Survey reveals a most challenging opportunity for this Church. During the next three months all of the activities will be built around the Evangelistic responsibility and opportunity of this Church. It is time for all of us to make the old Revival Song our theme, "Revive Us Again." ... If this Board will throw all of its magnificent support in this enterprise, success is assured.

The definite trend in Church life is for a larger, well directed program of activities for young people...Mulberry Street Church should take immediate steps to convert the old Sunday School annex into the proper facilities for such a program... We would have on the ground floor sufficient space for three bowling alleys, a Boy Scout Room...expansion of the kitchen facilities and an ample space for ping pong tables, etc. On the second floor a Girl Scout Room, a state and a social room that would seat three hundred and fifty people, and class rooms. On the third floor, two large class rooms and an assembly room. I submit this to you, and I do so not to be dismissed as something the pastor wants, but a need for your Church and your children."

————— *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 green to represent hope, peace & growth.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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mulberrymethodist.org
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm