



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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 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 artwork on the cover is "Temptation in the Wilderness" by Briton Rivière.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56821>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary Partita on “Leoni” arr. Alfred V. Fedak

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

Greeting & Call to Worship Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Come, all who seek the Lord this day.

We confess, we pray, and we turn from our sin.

Christ our King meets us here.

Jesus is our one true hope.

Come, let us worship our King.

We worship, we praise, and we serve our King forevermore.

* Opening Hymn No. 369 *Blessed Assurance* ASSURANCE

* 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.

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 10:7-14 (*Pew Bible pg 932*)

Rev. Stone

Do not be idolaters as some of them were. We must not indulge in immorality as some of them did. We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did; nor grumble, as some of them did. Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, shun the worship of idols.

* Hymn No. 398

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

Anthem

Christ Be With Me

Terre Johnson

Christ be with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

Christ on my right side, Christ on my left side,
When I lie down, when I sit down,
Christ when I arise!

In the heart of all who think of me,
In the mouth of all who speak of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that sees me.
Amen.

- *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

* Second Reading

Luke 4:1-13 (*Pew Bible pg 835*)

Rev. Varnell

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of

the world in a moment of time, and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

And he took him to Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you, to guard you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Sermon

“Overcoming Temptation”

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

There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

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. 415

Take Up Thy Cross

GERMANY

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Fantasia in d minor

Johann Krieger



News of the Church

Second Sunday Lunch | Today, following worship | Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly potluck lunch. Come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table!

Macon Volunteer Clinic Grand Opening | March 14 | 10 am

MVC has invited the community to join them for a Ribbon Cutting & Open House Celebration for their new location! Come support our community partner, and see the newly renovated building. Location: 770 Walnut Street, Macon GA.

Weekly Worship & Prayer Service for Lent | Starting Wednesday, March 12

Join us for this special weekly Lenten series from March 12 to April 9. This 5-week journey will provide an opportunity to deepen our faith through prayer, contemplative practices, and worship. 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.

Downtown Tapestry Family Picnic & Play Day | March 15 | 11 am - 1 pm

Come for a walk with a friend or neighbor, bring your kids to play or grab a blanket and a good book for a lunchtime break as we come together to enjoy sunshine, nature, and a delightful picnic in the park. We will meet at Amerson River Park from 11 am to 1 pm.

Pick up a “Easter at Mulberry” Yard Signs!

It's time to pull out your Easter yard signs and show off your Mulberry spirit! Help advertise our Easter schedule to your neighbors with the reusable yard signs we've had for the past few years. If you don't have one, you can pick up a sign in the church office! Suggested donation \$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](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

EMILY STANSFIELD

Crucifer

RUTH STANSFIELD

& EMILY CARROLL

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 from the Report of
the Music Committee to the Board of Stewards
November 23, 1953**

Aims: Support an inspiring worship service with dynamic and inspiring music [and] to bring more active participation in the music program.

Progress: Music Director and Director of Religious Education are collaborating on a Christ Carol-Sing to be given out doors in the Church courtyard on Friday night December 17.

The Hymn of the Month has been instituted. Each month a hymn is featured and a page is written about it. It is distributed throughout the Sunday School and at the worship services one Sunday in each month.

New Junior Choir vestments have been purchased and Vesper Choir Robes are on order.

We now have three choirs in operation; the Junior Choir with 28 members, the Vesper Choir with 15 members and the Adult Choir with 14 members. Anyone who either sings commercially or just likes to sing for the fun of it, contact Mrs. Ingley so that we may find a place for you in the Music program of our Church.

Season of Lent

Lent is a season of 40 days, not including Sundays, which leads to Easter. It is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for Easter celebration. The color of the paraments is purple to represent penitence and mourning.



Mulberry Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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