



Mullins Messenger

Mullins United Methodist Church

4 North Mendenhall Road

Memphis, TN 38117-2698

901.685.8253

www.mullinumc.org

December 2023

Dear Friends,

I hope your Thanksgiving was filled with joy and peace and that your knowledge and love of God have enriched your thankfulness to God and His gift of grace in Jesus Christ.

The first Sunday in December is Advent and the beginning of the new church year. As you look back to last year and the song, *We Are Climbing Jacobs Ladder*, have you grown in your faith and relationship with God in this past year?



Christmas Blessings!
From the Pastor and Staff

Russell Morrow

Andre Duvall

Tom Machen

Susan Tutt

Lisa Crawford

Cecelia Cordera

Especially as we consider our questions answered and unanswered relating to the “Human Experience” of good and evil, justice and injustice, and the social, economic, and health care disparities among people.

Many of us continue to wrestle with the question, “If God is so good, why is there so much crime and suffering in our city, nation, and global community?” And we all continue to cope with the grief of death, the concerns of sickness, the stress and strains of life.

As we end this church year and prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth, I ask you to reflect on the question, “How is it with your Soul?” Be mindful of our journey together over this past Church year as we ask these questions and others. I invite you to think about our journey as a Church Family through the preached and taught word of God, our faith disciplines of fasting and praying, through our acts of worship, study, service and witness and fellowship.

Consider the following questions:

- *Have you grown in your faith?
- *Have you succeeded in your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure?
- *Have you experienced the presence of God or glimpses of His glory?
- *Have you had a life-changing experience through the love of God made known to us through Jesus Christ?

Wherever we are on our journey, now is the starting place for the next round on the metaphorical Jacob’s Ladder, with “The Lord Being Our Help.” Peace & Blessing, **Pastor Russell**



Advent Begins!

The season of Advent begins Sunday, Dec. 3, with the lighting of the first Advent candles in our 8:30 and 10:50 services. *Join us on the journey!*

Men's Breakfast Dec. 2

Family members and friends are invited to the Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 am Saturday, Dec. 2 in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Bill Marler and Brent Milton are coordinating. RSVP to office. (Donations for meal costs to be collected.)

Hanging of the Greens

Joyful servants will gather at 9 am Saturday, Dec. 2 to decorate Mullins for Advent and Christmas. All are welcome.

United Women in Faith

UWF members will gather at the Women's Exchange at 11:30 Tuesday, Dec. 5 for a holiday luncheon. Christmas blessings to all!

Maanza a Leza 'Building Hope'

The slogan for Maanza a Leza takes on a new meaning when you look at a photo of our 5 classroom buildings under construction in Zambia.* We are seeing progress! We are seeing HOPE! May the HOPE you see be a small remembrance of the greatest HOPE brought to all believers through Jesus' birth. Merry Christmas from MaL ministry! **Brenda Carson**

**Shop the Maanza jewelry sale in the Hall of Apostles Dec. 3 & 10 and see photo on display!*

Community Orchestra

Individual members of the Mullins Community Orchestra are volunteering at **Salvation Army** kettle collection sites again this year. The entire group will play for the bellringing finale at Kroger, 540 S. Mendenhall, on Dec. 22. from 4:30 to 7. *Channel 3 will cover the event and interview Kent Stratton at 5:15.*

Bread Making Class

Learn to make bread and leave with a loaf you've made Dec. 9, from 9-12, in Fellowship Hall! Call Charlotte Milton, 901-283-1655.

New Acolytes Celebrated!



On Dec. 3, new acolytes will be recognized during the children's message in the 10:50 worship service.

We will celebrate the following: Eli Zermeno, Lucy Zermeno, Livvy Lyons, Charlotte Williams, Matthieu Jam-

bard and Luke Scruggs! —**Margaret Brown**

Christmas Cantata Dec. 10, 6 pm

The Mullins Chancel Choir will present "Go Sing It On The Mountain" by Pepper Choplin at 6 pm Sunday, Dec. 10. It is a sweet retelling of the Christmas story with a country flair. Invite family and friends to join us for this joyous occasion. Plan to stay afterwards for a reception in the Narthex.

Reception To Follow Cantata

Immediately following the Christmas Cantata Dec. 10 you are invited to gather in the Narthex for light refreshments and fellowship. Special thanks to Kathy Carter and the New Directions Class for hosting!

Quarterly Celebration

Gather in the Narthex after worship Dec. 17 to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and new members, hosted by the Crossroads Class.

Christmas Eve Worship Events!

*Mullins will worship at 10:50 am in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 24. (No 8:30 chapel service.) *Please check individual Sunday School Class schedules.*

*At 4 pm there will be a special service in the Chapel with New Heights. Please join us!

One New Year's Eve Service 10:50

Mullins will have one service at 10:50 am in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 31. (No 8:30 service.) *Check Sunday School schedules.*

Giving Thanks!

Special Appreciation!

Thanks to all who shared God's love during the Thanksgiving season, including donors to the Mid-South Food Bank at our community Thanksgiving service with friends from New Heights and other congregations.

Gratitude for Gift Cards

Appreciation to those from Mullins who provided gift cards for family meals through United Methodist Neighborhood Centers!

Molly Tracy & Brenda Carson

Blessing Bags

Extra donations boosted bag totals! Read one man's perspective on this ministry in Voices from the Congregation on website.

Bake Sale Success

The Maanza a Leza ministry benefitted from a Fall bake sale organized by Margaret Carbaugh. Thanks to all participants! Sweet!

Golden Cross Senior Ministries

New director Laurie Garrison wants all Wesley residents to have a wonderful quality of life. She shares news that the fall Golf Tournament raised \$3,000 more than last year, and she thanks donors for Thanksgiving meals and Christmas meals and gifts.

Barbara Kercher & Frances Speer

Christmas Cantata

You Are Invited!

6 pm Sunday, Dec. 10

"Go Sing It On The Mountain"
by Pepper Choplin

presented by
the Mullins Chancel Choir

featuring Andre Duvall, Pianist

with performances by
Julia Howell, banjo
Ranna Christenson, fiddle

Directed by Tom Machen



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Name	Date
Stephanie Mason	1
Taylor Richardson	1
Susan Sharp	1
Lisa McLeroy.....	4
Charles Bradley	8
Christopher McNeil	9
Suzanne Ruleman Sorrentino	10
Vicki Rush	11
Lana Marler	11
Ava Mae Webb	12
Carolyn McCutcheon Carter	12
Ann Smith	16
James Williams	17
Olivia Lyons	20

John Taylor	21
Debi Gray	24
Jenny Eggers.....	25
Sally Lehning	27
Robert Love	29
Colleen McNeil.....	29
Levi Lienhard.....	30
Michael Pittman	31

Anniversaries

Bob & Cyndi Watkins	8
Margaret & Dave Brown	9
Charles & Kathy Carter	10
Taylor & Mary Beth Richardson.....	17
Camille & Charles Bradley	20
Brenda & Wayne Carson.....	21

December Worship

Weekly on-site services are live-streamed and also posted online for later viewing at <https://vimeo.com/mullinsumc>

December 3– 1st Sunday in Advent

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow*

Altar Flowers: In honor of Susan Sharp in celebration of her birthday by the Pittman Family

December 10– 2nd Sunday in Advent

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow*

Altar Flowers: In honor of my lovely bride, Kathy, in celebration of our anniversary on Dec. 10, by Charles Carter

Special Music: Mullins Community Orchestra

December 17— 3rd Sunday in Advent

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow*

Altar Flowers: Poinsettias

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow*

Altar Flowers: Poinsettias

December 31--New Year's Eve

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow*

Ushers: Johnny Welch, Kathy Carter,
Marcia Taylor, Cyndi Watkins

Liturgist: Terrye Mastin

Communion Offering: Maanza a Leza



Altar Flowers

Sign up to honor or remember loved ones with flowers. The 2024 calendar will be posted outside the church office, or call the office and we will be happy to assist you. The cost is \$75 per arrangement.

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

Lynn Bergwerk

Bet Hendon Jim Sledge

(Note: Copies of the complete prayer list are available at church entrances. Please contact office with any changes or additions)



Our Sympathy

*To the family & friends of **Imogene Joyner**

*To **Ruth Graves** in the loss of her sister

On Site Presence

	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26
8:30 am Chapel	-----21-----	18-----	11-----	14
10:50 am Worship	--106-----	87----	88-----	87

Special Gifts

Budget:

In memory of Marge Gresham by Paulette Forrest

In memory of Rhodes & Frances Vawter by Phillip & Barbara Dagastino

Note of Appreciation

It would be impossible to thank each one of you in person for the cards, calls and prayers and visits. Thank you, Pastor Morrow and Elaine, for your visit. I am humbled by your love and kindness. Mullins is indeed a loving caring church. May God bless each of you.

Ruby Thompson

e-Giving

Remember that e-Giving is available at Mullins in addition to giving by cash and check. You may give online from our web-site, by clicking the Give Here link. You also may text "Mullins" to 73256.

December Calendar

General Weekly Schedule (check for holiday changes)

Sundays

8:30 am, Chapel service (no chapel Dec. 24 & 31)

9:45 am, Sunday School (check holiday sched)

10:50 am, Worship, Sanctuary

Wednesdays

11 am, Women's Prayer Grp-Lamplighter Rm

Noon, Pastor's Bible study

5:45 pm, Fellowship meals (on hiatus in Dec)

6:50 pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

6:30 pm, Community Orchestra rehearsal

6:30 pm, Discipleship study (zoom)

Monthly Meetings & Special Events

Saturday, Dec. 2—Men's Breakfast, 8 am

Hanging of the Greens, 9 am

Sunday, Dec. 3--1st Sunday in Advent

---Homebound Communion

---MaL holiday sale

---Girl Scouts, 2 pm, FH

Monday, Dec. 4--Trustees, 6 pm, Conf. Rm

---Adm Council, 7 pm, Conf. Rm

Tuesday, Dec. 5--UWF Christmas lunch

Saturday, Dec. 9—Bread Class, 9-12, FH

Sunday, Dec. 10--2nd Sunday in Advent

—MaL holiday sale

---Christmas Concert, 6pm

—Reception

Sunday, Dec. 17--3rd Sunday in Advent

— Reception, Narthex

Thursday, Dec. 21--Church Office Closed

Friday, Dec. 22—Community Orch Event, 4:30

Sunday, Dec. 24---Sanctuary Service, 10:50 am

---Special Service, 4 pm Chapel

Monday, Dec. 25--Merry Christmas

Tuesday, Dec. 26—Office open

Wed. & Thurs., Dec 27-28—Office closed

Sunday, Dec. 31-- One Service, 10:50 am

LOOKING AHEAD to 2024

Monday, Jan. 1—Church office closed

Jan. 6, Men's Prayer Breakfast

Jan 7, Epiphany Sunday

Home Communion

Jan. 9, UWF General Meeting, 10:30

Jan. 10, Fellowship Meals resume, 5:45

Jan. 19, Lifeline, Gym

Jan. 20, Church planning day

Jan. 21, Installation of church officers

Staff Contact Information

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow

russell@mullinsumc.org

Administrative Assistant

Susan Tutt

susan@mullinsumc.org

Director of Music Ministries

Tom Machen

tom.machen1949@gmail.com

Organist/Pianist/Director of Handbells

Andre Duvall

clavier385@sbcbglobal.net

Financial & Membership Administrator

Lisa Crawford

lisa@mullinsumc.org

Interim Nursery Staffer

Cecelia Cordera

Mullins Messenger

The Mullins Messenger is prepared electronically and posted on the first of each month on the Mullins web site. Printed copies are available through the church office. Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 15.

Mission Statement

We are the hands and feet of Jesus by loving our church family and cherishing our diverse community through worship, study, service and witness.

Photos Available

Amy Carr photos of Mullins events, organized by month, are available for viewing and sharing. Watch for new access information or check with the office.

Commitment Cards

A gentle reminder: Please fulfill 2023 pledges before year end. Also, please place any remaining 2024 commitment cards in offering plate or return to office.