



Mullins Messenger

Mullins United Methodist Church

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Memphis, TN 38117-2631

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www.mullinsumc.org

October 2025

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and support during my Clergy Renewal Leave, and to Rev. Camille Bradley for standing in the gap during my absence along with Pat, David, Tondala, Renee, and Louis who brought the messages each week with Camille.

Isaiah 43:18–19 (NIV) reminds us:

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

This season of renewal has been a profoundly meaningful and significant part of my journey toward eternal life. It was both necessary and timely, truly worth the time and effort invested. During this journey, I had the blessing of traveling across the country, touching three oceans, visiting every church I have pastored across four states over the course of 44 years of ministry, and visiting historical Black colleges and universities, including my alma mater, Wilberforce University. Along the way, I spent time with family and friends, and I was able to attend the funeral of a mentor who had helped shape my journey nearly 38 years ago. I had not seen him in over twenty years, yet his influence was still present in my life.

Throughout this pilgrimage, I encountered what I can only describe as God winks, divine moments where brief conversations, unexpected encounters, and unusual experiences revealed God’s presence in ways that might not make sense to others but spoke deeply to me. Most importantly, I was able to rest, be still, commune with God, and listen intently for His voice. This time allowed me to write and clear what I have

often described as the “traffic Jam” of life—those lingering and stagnant places that needed clarity and renewal. I experienced joy and sorrow, rest and release, memory and vision, all as gifts of grace, reminding me that God continues to shape, guide, and carry me forward. My journey was in no way like that of Ebenezer Scrooge (thank God, LOL), but it was just as enlightening. Truly, God’s grace is sufficient.

It is good for each of us to take time to reflect on our journeys. For me, I celebrate the strong, though not perfect, moral foundation I received at home with my family, extended through the church, and reinforced by the community of faith that nurtured my sisters and me. As I continue forward with my family, our church family, and my life’s call and purpose, I carry with me two key takeaways from this season:

1. Isaiah 43:18–19 has real application in my life. God has indeed been doing a new thing through the seasons of my life, even when I did not fully realize it at the time.
2. The Lord’s Prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving. Every phrase is an acknowledgment of God’s grace and mercy. Try praying it this way: “Our Father, I thank You that You are...”—and let gratitude shape the way you pray.

As we move through the remainder of this conference year, let us continue to be mindful of the work we have begun, stay focused on what we have identified as our priorities, and, prayerfully in unity with Christ Jesus, face the challenges before us with grace, truth, and love. Together, we will complete the work we began in 2022.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Russell

Blessing Bags

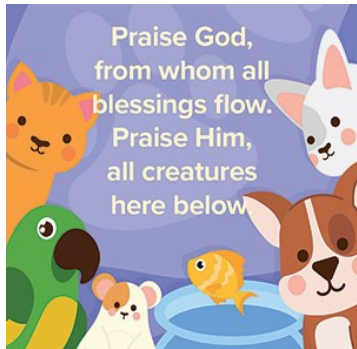
Appreciation to all who made donations! We'll have a new supply of bags ready for distribution to neighbors in need this month! ---Suzie Morris



Litter Mates Oct. 4

This month's community clean-up will be 10 - 11 am Saturday, Oct. 4 at Treadwell Middle School, 920 N. Highland. Coffee, donuts, & equipment provided. Thank You to those who came out in September, especially considering the weather!---Emily Pittman

Blessing of the Animals!



Saturday, Oct. 4th, 1 pm
Mullins UMC Circle Drive
4 North Mendenhall

Bring your pet (or a picture of your pet)
for a brief service of blessing!
Treats for pets! Fun for all!

World Communion Sunday



World Communion Sunday is Oct. 5. This year we want to bring our global remembrance into focus by highlighting a specific area, namely Sichebeya, Zambia. The table may look a little different, the bread may taste a little different, but together we are one in His body and blood. ---Luanne Hearn

Home Communion



Mullins offers Holy Communion to members who are homebound on the first Sunday of each month. Please contact office for more information.

Circle Meeting Update

UWF members will meet at 10:30 am Oct. 7 in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Diane Harrison will speak on Grace Place prison ministry!



Wesley Lunch

Mullins will provide lunch to students at the Wesley Foundation on the U of M campus Oct. 16! Volunteers welcomed!

Julia Howell & Maggie Lyons

Laity Sunday Oct. 19

Good news! Our Laity Sunday speaker will be Allison Webb.



Mullins to Host District Event

The District UWF Annual Day & Sharing Event, which Mullins will host, is 10 to 12 Saturday, Oct. 25, in Fellowship Hall! Registration begins at 9:30.

Chess Club Invitation

Chess Club meets @ 1:30 Saturdays. (No mtg Oct. 4 during Animal Blessing.) Join our growing fellowship! ---Greg Forsyth

St. John's Food Ministry

Mullins will serve a meal and provide carryout bags for guests at St. John's UMC soup kitchen Oct. 25. To learn more, please see Maggie Lyons.



UMNC Yard Sale Oct. 25

Support the giant yard sale 7 am-1 pm Oct. 25 at St. Luke's UMC for UM Neighborhood Centers. See flyers in office.

Citizens Climate Lobby

Friendly Reminder: Citizens Climate Lobby is launching a local Memphis chapter at 1 pm Oct. 25 in Mullins' Chapel. See bulletin announcements! ---Rev. Camille Bradley

Soup Fundraiser

Maanza a Leza is offering a special lunch of delicious soups after the 10:50 service Oct. 26. Enjoy a great selection on-site or for takeout!





October Birthdays



Name	Date
Luanne Hearn	1
Danny Lyons.....	2
Jackie Westergaard	6
Huston Likely	7
Steve Black	9
Cheryl Eddins	12
Hal Baker	13
Ellis Shelton	13
Olivia Burton.....	13
Carolyn Rose.....	14
Charles Speer	15
Pam Stratton	16
Kent Stratton	17
Laura Doyle	17
Bill Dugger	18
Sandra Rice	19
Theresa Kennedy	20
Amy Wood.....	20
Angie Smith	23
Allison Webb	23
David Cox.....	25
Scott Shelby	25
Payton Campbell	27
Almeda Zent	27

Anniversaries

Judy (Cohen) & Alan Miller.....	9
James & Katie Williams	15
Philip & Ginny Wilcox.....	17
Jimmy & Edna Williams.....	25



Sunday School Request!

A blessing to Mullins has created a need for your help! Children's attendance has increased and we need to grow our volunteers. We have a list of regular dedicated helpers BUT sometimes all just aren't available. PLEASE be prayerful to see how you can help Children's Sunday School 9:40-10:50 and Extended Care 10:50-12. PLEASE contact **Margaret Brown** 901-573-1307 (call or text) or 388-9190 (leave a message).

All Saints Sunday

LOOKING
AHEAD

Families of members who have gone to be with the Lord in the past year are being invited to our All Saints service Nov. 4.

Concord Chilly Chili 5K

Concord Academy is sponsoring its 12th Chilly Chili 5K Run for Neurodiversity on Saturday, Nov. 8. This will be a day filled with fitness, fellowship, and, of course, great chili. Located on the Mullins UMC campus, Concord has been preparing students with learning differences for lifelong success since 1983. Supporters may register, donate, or sponsor a student in the 5K.

Veterans Sunday

Annual event: Mullins will recognize members who are veterans Nov. 9.

Fall Bake Sale

Nov. 23 is the date of the great Fall Bake Sale to benefit Maanza a Leza. Please think about donating some homemade breads & desserts as well as shopping for goodies at this special event! To learn more, please contact **Margaret Carbaugh**.



Community Orchestra

The Mullins Community Orchestra is scheduled to perform at 6 pm on Nov. 23 at The Jewish Home. **Contact: Kent Stratton**

Golden Cross Senior Ministries



Key Women will work in October to provide special Christmas Stockings for Wesley Living residents. Thanks to all who support us. (See note of appreciation on page 5)

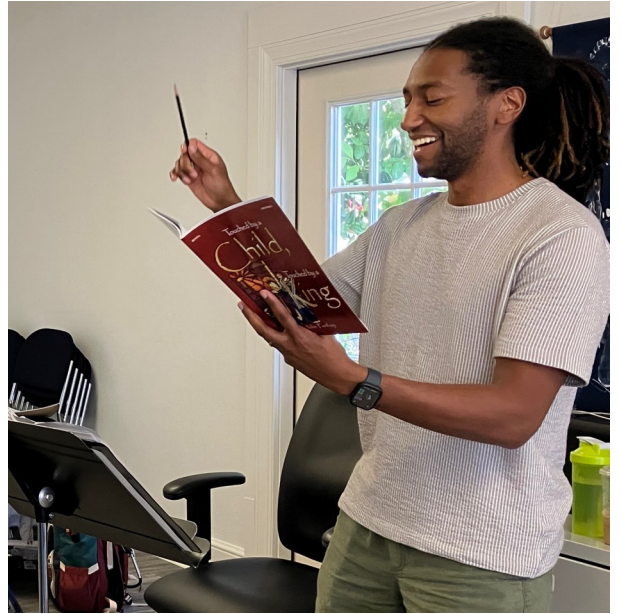
—**Barbara Kercher**

Grief Support Group

Grief Support Group meets the second & fourth Wednesdays each month at 10 am in Parlor. All welcome! (Save the date: Remembrance Tree Ceremony Dec. 7, Chapel)



Guest Pastors
"Encourage One Another!"



Cantata music introduced at choir retreat!



Prayer Group Friends



Chess Club Fun



Joyful servants prepare Labor Day BBQ



Children's Message

Worship Notes

(10:50 Worship services are live-streamed)

Join us for a weekly message of
Hope, Deliverance, and Victory!

October 5—World Communion

Message: Dr. Russell Morrow



October 12

Message: Dr. Russell Morrow

Altar Flowers: In honor of my grandson,
Ellis, in celebration of his birthday, by
Maura Shelton

October 19—Laity Sunday

Message: Allison Webb



October 26

Message: Dr. Russell Morrow

Liturgist: Charles Bradley



Ushers: Johnny Welch, head usher, and
United Women in Faith members

Communion Offering:

Reelfoot Rural Ministries



e-Giving

You may give online from our website, by clicking the Give Here link. You also may text "Mullins" to 73256.

Altar Flowers

Sign up to honor or remember loved ones with flowers. The calendar is posted outside the church office. (\$75 per arrangement)

Monthly Prayer List



Recent Requests:

Tommy Scruggs Wayne Carson
Margaret Brown Diana Wright
Bill Tutt Nancy Shelby
Mary Taylor Molly Tracy
(Complete Prayer List on tables at church entries)

Our Sympathy

*To the family and friends of our brother
in Christ, **Clint Trusty**

*To the family and friends of our sister
in Christ, **Juanita Freeman**

On-Site Attendance

Sept.	7	14	21	28
8:30 am Chapel	20	17	24	17
10:50 Worship	77	93	68	75

Special Gifts

Budget

In memory of Agnes Sims by Wilson Foundation;
In memory of Juanita Freeman by Scott & Nancy Shelby, Charles & Frances Speer

Music Fund

In memory of Juanita Freeman by Carolyn Childs, Paula McGoldrick ; In memory of Clint Trusty by Paula McGoldrick

Blessing Bags

In memory of Clint Trusty by Ann Smith

Notes of Gratitude



* Dear Mullins Prayer Friends,
Your constant prayers are keeping me lifted up during my recovery following surgery. I am blessed to have my church family praying for me.
Love, **Margaret Brown**

* Thanks to the Lamplighter and Cross-roads Classes, to the Women's Prayer Group, and to the caring individuals supporting our Golden Cross Christmas plans to bring joy to Wesley Living residents. **Barbara Kercher**

* We love Litter Mates and the fun way they engage volunteers in different parts of the city every month! Such a great example of taking care of our city while creating community!
Memphis City Beautiful

October 2025

Meetings & Events

- Oct. 1—Charge Conference
Oct. 4—Litter Mates
—Blessing of the Animals
Oct. 5—World Communion Sunday
—Home Communion
—Girl Scouts
Oct. 6—Administrative Council, 6 pm
Oct. 7—UWF Circle, 10:30 am, FH
—Trustees, 6 pm
Oct. 8—Grief Support Group
Oct. 16—Wesley Lunch
Oct. 19—Laity Sunday
Oct. 22—Grief Support Group
Oct. 25—UWF District Annual Day
—UMNC Yard Sale, St. Luke's UMC
—Citizens Climate Lobby
—St. John's ministry
Oct. 26—MAL Soup Lunch, FH

LOOKING AHEAD

- Nov. 1—Litter Mates
Nov. 2—All Saints Sunday; DST ends
Nov. 4—UWF Gen Mtg
Nov. 8—Concord Chilly Chili 5K
Nov. 9—Veterans Sunday
Nov. 18—Wesley Dinner
Nov. 23—Maanza Bake Sale
Nov. 27—Thanksgiving (Office closed)
Nov. 29—Hanging of the Green
Nov. 30—1st Sunday in Advent
Dec. 7—Remembrance Tree
Dec. 14—Cantata

General Weekly Schedule:

Sunday

- 8:30 am, Chapel Service
9:45 am, Sunday School
10:50 am, Worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday

- 11am, Women's Prayer Group
Noon, Pastor's Bible Study, Gym Classroom
6 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

- 6:30, Community Orchestra rehearsal

Saturday

- 1:30, Mullins Chess Club (no mtg Oct. 4)

Staff Contact Information

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow
russell@mullinsumc.org

Administrative Assistant

Susan Tutt
susan@mullinsumc.org

Financial & Membership Administrator

Lisa Crawford
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Director of Music Ministries

Terrell Hall
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Musical Accompanist

Rebecca McGuire
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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. Please submit articles to office. Deadline for the November issue is Oct. 23.

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.

