

July

Mullins

2026

# MESSENGER

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"Where Do We Go  
From Here?" . . .



Forward in faith • Forward in hope • Forward together.  
Choosing community over chaos  
and Christ above all. . .

## Greetings, Friends:

My wife Lisa and I are so very excited to join you at Mullins United Methodist Church in service to God and to our neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to come and serve the City I love so much. Thank you for the many prayers and expressions of welcome that have been poured over us. We feel the love you are sending our way!

As I begin my time at Mullins UMC, I have a lot of questions because I have a lot to learn – about you and about our neighbors. In putting together a plan to get to know you and the church better, there are three questions I'll be asking: *“What would you like me to know about you?” “What would you like me to know about Mullins UMC?” and “What opportunities do you see for Mullins UMC to grow in mission and ministry going forward?”*

I'll kick us off by telling you a couple of things I would like you to know about me. First, I live fully into our United Methodist and Wesleyan tradition of believing that our faith in Jesus Christ should be a public faith. John Wesley famously said, *“The Gospel of Jesus Christ knows no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.”* For Wesley and the early Methodists this meant that true faith meant both personal devotion and active participation in a community of faith that includes service and witness to the greater community beyond the walls of the church. We are called to nurture faithful followers of Jesus and to make a difference in the lives of the people around us.

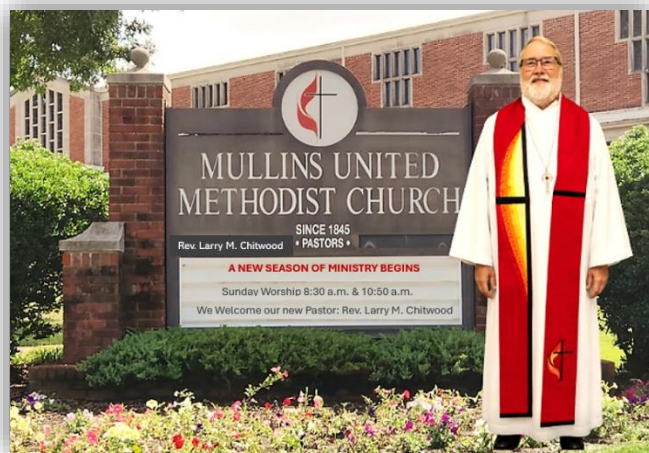
Secondly, I would like you to know that, for me, being a faithful follower of Jesus comes down to love – loving God with all that we are and all that we have and loving our all of our neighbors as much as God loves us. In the hands of the Holy Spirit, love is a force multiplier. I once spent an entire year reading “the love chapter,” (1 Corinthians 13) each and every morning. And, given the tensions and struggles we face in our culture today, I should probably do that again – and maybe we should all take this on! Mullins UMC has a rich history of loving God and loving and serving her neighbors. Our city



**Rev. Larry and Lisa Chitwood**

needs that kind of love and commitment now more than ever. Thank you for inviting me and welcoming me into the great history of Mullins UMC and into the fruitful and faithful future of Mullins UMC.

Grace & Peace,  
Rev. Larry M. Chitwood



Rev. Chitwood receives keys from Pastor Morrow

# July Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

| Name .....             | Date |
|------------------------|------|
| Kris Schielke.....     | 2    |
| Andy Mastin .....      | 7    |
| Charlsie Carrol .....  | 7    |
| Cyndi Watkins .....    | 7    |
| Susan Wilson .....     | 13   |
| Barbara Brown .....    | 14   |
| Nancy Shelby .....     | 16   |
| Robert Van Cleef ..... | 16   |
| Ellie Likely .....     | 18   |
| Marcia Taylor .....    | 18   |



|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Terrye Mastin .....    | 19 |
| Clarence Shepherd..... | 21 |
| Tom Machen.....        | 21 |
| Terry Durham .....     | 23 |
| Rachel Wiley.....      | 23 |
| Whitney Duval .....    | 25 |
| Ben Eddins .....       | 29 |

## Anniversaries

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Russell & Elaine Morrow..... | 12 |
| David & Ruth Cox.....        | 14 |

*(Please notify church office of changes/ additions)*

## Welcome Reception To Honor Chitwoods

Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship July 12 to give a warm welcome to **Rev. Larry & Lisa Chitwood!**

## Nonviolence Camp

United Methodist Neighborhood Centers' James & Dorothy Lawson children's camp, "A Walk into Nonviolence," is July 13-16 at St. Luke's UMC. *Poster in office.*  
**Mark Matheny**, 901-428-4633



## Litter Mates

Join the Litter Mates for one hour of service and start a great 250<sup>th</sup> Independence Day! (Cancer Survivor's Park, 10 am, July 4<sup>th</sup>!)

## 181<sup>st</sup> Celebration!

Mullins UMC will be 181 years old in July and members jump-started the occasion with a joyful gathering June 28 featuring ice cream and fireworks! Thanks to **Friends & Followers** and others for this event!



## Community Orchestra

Good news! The Mullins Community Orchestra recently was featured on *Art Scene*, the public library channel's monthly look at what's happening in the local arts community. Paired with a feature on the Memphis Youth Symphony, both segments were filmed in the Mullins Fellowship Hall. Host Rhonda Cloud interviewed **Kent Stratton**, MCO founder, and **Chip Houston**, director/conductor. Check it out online!



## Revival 2026

Mullins is grateful for our Revival participants, including **Rev. Dr. Jody Hill**, **Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Williams**, and **Rev. Larry Chitwood**, all entering new chapters in their lives and ministries. Guest lecturer **Rev. Michael Walker** preceded all three speakers, and musicians blessed each sacred gathering as well, reflecting the theme: "Where Do We Go from Here?"

## Golden Cross

Games such as bingo and Bible Trivia are greatly enjoyed by Wesley Living residents. Show love to these seniors by donating useful items for game prizes/gift bags. (See list posted outside office & place donations in nearby hallway container!) Thank you!

Contact: **Barbara Kercher**

## New Blessing Bags!

Please pick up blessing bags at church exits to share with neighbors in need!



**Litter Mates!**



**Blessed Arrival**



**Blessing Bag Assembly**

**Capleville UMC Revival Choir**



## Monthly Milestones

June was an active month, with Annual Conference, pastoral assignments, an Appreciation Breakfast, VBS and a revival!

During July, we celebrate the arrival of a new pastor and the start of a new conference year, as well as the church's 181st birthday and Independence Day! *Many thanks to all who join with us in the journey!*

## Giving Thanks!

\*To Mullins donors and volunteers who recently assembled a generous amount of summer blessing bags!

\*To Olive Branch (MS) High School choral students for donating special blessing bags for Mullins to distribute.

\*To **Margaret Brown** and **UWF** members for organizing pastoral receptions, and to **Sunday School classes** and individuals for providing wonderful food.

\*To **Carol Griffin** for creating beautiful reception flowers.

\*To pulpit guests during our period of pastoral transition, **Cyndi Watkins & Rev. Camille Bradley**



## Recent Highlights & Blessings!

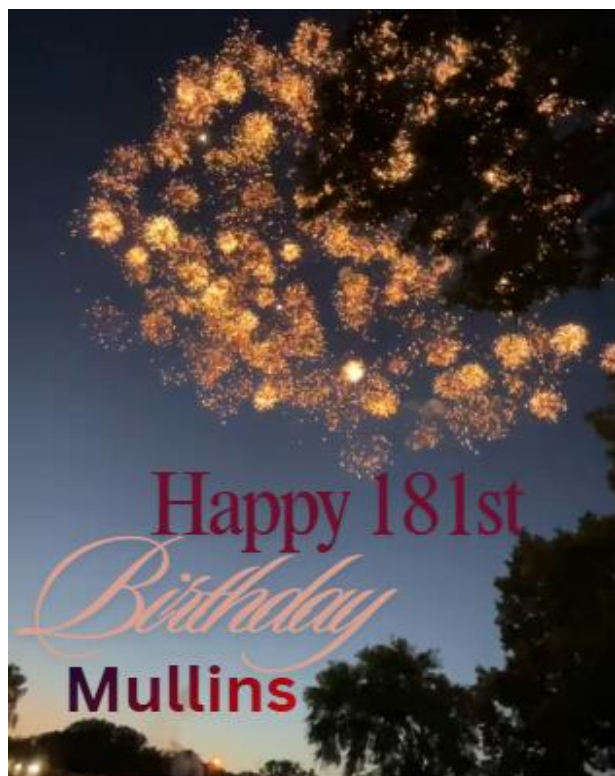
On Father's Day children joined family members for an Appreciation Breakfast in honor of the Morrows! During the 10:50 worship service they received special framed gifts from the pastor and sang "This Little Light of Mine" for the congregation.

## Vacation Bible School

Children were blessed by three nights of VBS during Revival week, learning how to put on "the full armor of God" and stand strong in our faith!

Heartfelt thanks to all participants, including UWF members who provided great snacks each evening!

**Tiffany Lane**  
Children's Ministry Director



# July Worship Notes

Weekly on-site worship services are live-streamed

## July 5—Holy Communion

Message: *Rev. Camille Bradley*



## July 12---Welcome!

Message: *Rev. Larry Chitwood*

(New pastor's 1<sup>st</sup> day in pulpit!)



## July 19

Message: *Rev. Larry Chitwood*



## July 26

Message: *Pat Mason*

## Communion Offering:

Golden Cross Senior Ministries

(*Serving residents of Wesley Living*)



**July Liturgist:** Charles Bradley

**July Ushers:** Johnny Welch, Bill Dugger  
Maggie Lyons, Danny Lyons

## Altar Flowers

Please sign up to honor or remember loved ones with flowers. The Flower Calendar is posted outside the office, or you may call the office, and we will be happy to assist you. The cost is \$75.

## e-Giving

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

# Prayer List

## Recent Requests:

Nancy Blankenship Barbara Brown  
Bob Earley Bill Tutt

(Note: The complete prayer list is on tables at church entrances. Please call office for removals or changes.)

## Condolences

\*To the family and friends of our sister in Christ **Lisa Stanley Johns**, including husband Roger ( Sonny) Johns & daughter Evie Johns

\*To Tommy & Sandy Scruggs in the loss of his mother, **Gere Scruggs**

## On-Site Attendance

|                    | June 7  | June 14 | June 21 | June 28 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 8:30 Chapel.....   | 16..... | 18..... | 25..... | NA      |
| 10:50 Worship..... | 66..... | 74..... | 95..... | 79      |

## Special Gifts

### Budget

In memory of **Fredda Benton** by Frances Speer, David Cox

In memory of **Paul Cox** and **Mary Nickless** by Gary Nickless

### Children's Fund

In memory of **Fredda Benton** by Barbara Kercher

### Music Fund

In memory of **Fredda Benton** by Carolyn Childs, Paula McGoldrick, Lamplighter Class



## Appreciation



Thank you to everyone who sent cards, called, made memorial donations, and prayed for my dad, my family, and me during the difficult weeks leading up to and following his death. We felt every bit of the peace and comfort and are so grateful for our Mullins family. **Gratefully, Maggie Lyons and Family**

My heart is grateful for the calls, cards, and prayers during the loss of my son in law, Mark McCoy. Your expressions of faith, love and concern mean more than I can say.

**Johnny Welch**

## **JULY 2026**

### **Meetings & Special Events**

**Wed., July 1**---TWK conference year begins  
**Sat., July 4**---Independence Day  
---Litter Mates, 10  
**Sun., July 5**---One combined 10:50 worship service  
---Rev. Camille Bradley preaching  
---Homebound Communion visits  
**Mon., July 6**---Office Closed (National Holiday)  
---New pastor's 1<sup>st</sup> day in Office  
**Wed., July 8**---Grief Support Group, 10, Parlor  
---Women's Prayer Grp, 11, Gym  
**Fri., July 10**---Lifeline Screening, gym  
**Sun., July 12**---New pastor's 1<sup>st</sup> day in Pulpit  
---Chitwood Welcome Reception, FH  
**Sun., July 19**---TBA  
**Wed., July 22**---Grief Support Group, 10, Parlor  
---Women's Prayer Group, 11, Gym  
**Sun., July 26**---TBA  
**Tue., July 28**---Trustees

### **Upcoming Events**

**Aug. 1**, Litter Mates  
**Aug. 2**, Back-to-School Sunday  
**Aug. 3**, Adm Council  
**Aug 15**, St. John's ministry  
**Aug. 30**, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday gathering

### **Weekly July Schedule:**

**Sunday**  
8:30, Chapel Service (no chapel July 5)  
9:45 am, Sunday School  
10:50 am, Worship in Sanctuary

**Wednesday**  
10:00, Grief Support Group, Parlor (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4th Wed)  
11:00, Women's Prayer Group, Gym (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4th Wed)  
6:00, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday**  
6:30, Community Orchestra rehearsal

## **Staff Contact Information**

### **Pastor**

**Rev. Larry Chitwood**  
[larry@mullinsumc.org](mailto:larry@mullinsumc.org)

### **Administrative Assistant**

**Elaine Winn**  
[elaine@mullinsumc.org](mailto:elaine@mullinsumc.org)

### **Financial & Membership Administrator**

**Lisa Crawford**  
[lisa@mullinsumc.org](mailto:lisa@mullinsumc.org)

### **Director of Music Ministries**

**Terrell Hall**  
[terrell@mullinsumc.org](mailto:terrell@mullinsumc.org)

### **Musical Accompanist**

**Rebecca McGuire**  
[rebecca@mullinsumc.org](mailto:rebecca@mullinsumc.org)

### **Children's Ministry Director**

**Tiffany Lane**  
[tiffany@mullinsumc.org](mailto:tiffany@mullinsumc.org)

## **Mullins Messenger**

The Mullins Messenger is prepared electronically and posted on the Mullins web site on the first of each month. Printed copies are available through the church office. Deadline for the August issue is July 23. Please submit articles to the office.

## **Mullins Mission Statement**

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

*To everything there is a  
season, a time for every  
purpose under Heaven.*

---Ecclesiastes 3:1