

*In Loving Memory of*



*Julia Orrease Mitchell*

September 9, 1936 - September 30, 2021

Wednesday, October 5, 2021 - 12:00 PM

**Unity Baptist Church**  
212 Pierson St., Orange, NJ 07050  
Pastor Dolores Johnson, Officiant

# *Obituary*

**Julia Orrease Mitchell** departed this life on Thursday, September 30, 2021. Julia was born on September 9, 1936 to the late Myrtle Duncan and James Butler.

Julia or Nanny, as she was affectionately known, was born in Glenridge, NJ and later moved to Brooklyn, NY. She spent 18 years in Brooklyn where she graduated from a Catholic High School. She relocated to Montclair, NJ where she resided for 29 years before relocating to East Orange, NJ in 1984. She maintained her residency in East Orange until her passing.

Nanny was employed as a Home Health Care Aide early in her career. She later maintained employment with Andre Products, weaving pool covers, while also maintaining employment at the DLV lounge as a bartender. Later in life, she worked as a seamstress making beautiful curtains of fine fabric.

Nanny was a loving, selfless woman who opened her door and heart to all. She passionately cared for all children that were blessed to be within her sphere of love. Nanny loved having family gatherings in her home preparing a huge feast for everyone, weekly. She never knew who was going to show up and it didn't matter. Once you entered the door, you were family and there would be enough for you to eat.

She had a love for reading books of all genres, but especially loved her bible and any religious material. She didn't read the bible to be able to appoint an authoritative finger at anyone, rather, she read it to get closer and closer to God. In her library, you would find books by James Paterson, Danielle Steele, TD Jakes and even National Geographic. Just as her library was open to many books regardless of the cover, so was her heart open to all regardless of their background or beliefs.

Two things that she is especially proud of was being a good mother and grandmother. As a mother she worked several jobs and did whatever she could to make ends meet. As a grandmother, she spend most of her days cooking, laundering, cleaning, checking homework, hugging and correcting. As a grandmother is where she became Nanny and that is the name that most everyone began to call her to this day.

Nanny was predeceased by her husband Norman P. Mitchell Jr, her sister Grayce Cooper and her daughter Theresa Maxine Leftwich.

Nanny is survived by her beloved children Arthur E. McClearin, Norma Mitchell Johnson, Bonnie (Ronnie) Mitchell Rodgers, Norman G. (Wanda) Leftwich Jr. and Kim Murray, treasured grandchildren Vincent (Bethany) Watson, Rhonda N. Saunders; Morrease (Iquana) Leftwich; Shaheed (Syreeta) Leftwich; Reginald D. Johnson Jr.; Fatimah L. Leftwich; Norman G. Leftwich III; Fard A. Murray; Julia O. Leftwich; Ashley M. Rodgers; Janelle K. Leftwich and Travers (TJ) McClearin; many Great Grandchildren; loving brother James S. (Shirley) Butler; devoted friends Jean Coelho and Ann Jones and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Nanny would like for everyone to remember her for what she meant to you and the memories that you shared with her.

# *Order of Service*

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**Musical Prelude**  
Minister Kevin Johnson

**Opening Hymn**

**Scripture Reading**  
Old Testament - Psalms: 96 - Pastor Dolores Johnson  
Old Testament - Proverbs: 31 - Rev. Raymond Bowens

**Invocation**  
Minister Fatimah Tolbert

**Selection**

**Remarks**  
Elder Anita Holcomb

**Reflections**  
Family & Friends

**Acknowledgements & Obituary**  
Mrs. Iquana Leftwich

**Solo**  
Minister Kevin Johnson

**Eulogy**  
Minister Keith Barton  
*Pocono Church Of Christ*

**Committal & Closing Prayer**  
Minister Keith Barton  
*Pocono Church Of Christ*

*Final Disposition*  

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Evergreen Crematory  
Hillside, New Jersey

# *A Letter To Mom*

Mommy,

First, let me thank you for caring for the three of us. I know it was tough but you did it. You never wavered when it came to us. Mom, you were an angel without wings here on Earth, but now you have wings as you are floating to heaven. Mom, it is so easy to stay in contact with you now. No phone, no doorbell. All I have to do is say your name and look up, I love you throughout all eternity.

Ducie



# *Nanny's Leaky Heart*

The doctor said she had a leaky heart valve for the last 7 years. But I knew the doctor was wrong. I hate to be the person to second guess the medical professional. I hate to be that family member that is always correcting the doctor. But the truth is that her heart had been leaking all 46 years of my life. So, I'm assuming it probably had been leaking all 85 years of her life. Medically speaking a leaky heart valve can affect your circulation and make you tired. The fluid leaks into your lungs and takes up space that should have been reserved for oxygen. It then begins to affect your kidneys and opens you up to infections as your body is no longer eliminating toxins.

But I'm not a doctor. The leaky heart that I have been lucky enough to witness is different. All of my life her heart leaked love and selflessness on me. She leaked on me when I was sick, sad, hungry and afraid. Oh, that heart leaked on so many people. It leaked on her husband, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other family members, friends and even strangers. Her leaky heart got into my lungs and taught me how to scream and shout for the Lord! That leaky heart spread from Mission street to the DLV to Stockton Place. Her heart leaked at Bright Hope Baptist Church, St James AME Church, New Vision and Unity Baptist Church and other places of worship. She even leaked at the polls while people were trying to exercise their civic duty to vote. That old heart dripped out seafood dinners that were good enough to feed kings and she opened the doors to anyone that smelled it. I can't even count the number of people that enjoyed her ox tails, deviled eggs, smothered pork chops over rice, or the most delectable peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in the world. Nanny and Pop Pop should have had a sign on the door that read "come hungry, leave happy." Almost everyone to include people her age called her Nanny. By definition a nanny is someone assigned to care for others in domestic way. We expect a nanny to love and care for anyone that is put under her watch. She was not professionally employed as a nanny, rather she was Godly deployed as one.

Due to her leaky heart, so many people have now been infected with a case of the Nanny's. How do you know if you were infected? Some of the symptoms are if you have ever said, "I'm going to Nanny's", I'm going to eat at Nanny's, I'm going to stop by Nanny's, I am going swimming at Nanny's, I'm going to spend Thanksgiving at Nanny's, I'm going to spend Christmas at Nanny's, I'm going to drop the kids off at Nanny's, I had fun at Nanny's, I played football at Nanny's, or I played basketball at Nanny's."

So, I guess the doctor was right about her physical heart which is evident as her body lays at rest. But I'm right about the metaphysical heart that she shared with everyone. I know it was her hope that we can all develop leaky hearts like hers.

Morrease Leftwich





*My Grandmother,*

*My Mother,*

*My Best Friend*

When I think of you I recall all the great moments throughout my entire life. There is no other grandma in this world who can compare to you. You were one of a kind; very rare. The way you cared for us all in such a special way; the hugs, the kisses, the constant encouragement and prayer. You have overcome many different hurdles in life but was determined to make the best out of every situation with the power of prayer, faith and resilience. I know it took a lot but you never gave up and for that, I am forever Thankful to and for you. I love you more than I can even express my Dear Grandmother, Mother, and Best Friend.

You are forever in our Hearts

Julia O. Leftwich





# *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me*



When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see if the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me. I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today, while thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say. I know how much you love me, as much as I love you, and each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too. But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand that an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand and said, "My place was ready, in heaven far above and that I'd have to leave behind, all those I dearly love." But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home. When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne. He said "This is eternity, and all I've promised you."

Today for life on earth is past, but here it starts anew. I promise no tomorrow, for today will always last. And since each day's the same way, there's no longing for the past. So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart. For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

*-Author unknown*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the many acts of kindness, comforting words, and prayers shown during our time of bereavement.*

*Professional Services Provided By:*

*The Family Funeral Home, LLC*

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