

OBITUARY FOR LILLIAN PARKER GAINES

A Loving Tribute to a Remarkable Woman

In Loving Memory

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our cherished mother, Lillian Parker Gaines on August 30, 2025. She departed this world peacefully in her sleep at the age of 97, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, resilience, and unconditional love.

A Life Well Lived

Born in Culpeper, Virginia on August 20, 1928, as the only child of Amanda Hart Parker and John Wesley Parker, the family moved North to Poughkeepsie, New York to seek better opportunities and to leave behind the treachery of the Jim Crow south in the 1930's. Lillian excelled in school and went on to graduate from Columbia University's School of Pharmacy in New York City. She was one of only a few women and the only black woman in her class. After college, Lillian worked as a pharmacist in Chester, Pennsylvania. During that time, she met the love of her life, Frederick Douglas Gaines whom she married in March of 1956. They remained married for more than 69 years until Frederick's passing on June 28, 2025 (only a couple of months before Lillian's passing). Lillian and Fred welcomed their daughter Joy into the world in November of 1957. It was not long thereafter that Lillian decided to go into the field of education. She taught high school level Chemistry and Physical Science at Jules E. Mastbaum High School for more than 33 years until her retirement in 1992. She dedicated her life to teaching and nurturing her students. Her warmth was felt by everyone who knew her, and her home was always open to friends and neighbours alike. She was not only the heart of our family but also a pillar of strength and wisdom in our community.

Her Passions and Achievements

In her spare time, Lillian was passionate about many things— art, music, the theatre and scrapbooking. She found joy in spending time with her dear friends in a group they called Club 8. She was the last surviving member of the group, but their daughters continue to stay in touch. Her faith was of great importance to her, attending the First United Methodist Church of Germantown regularly in person (and remotely in the wake of the Pandemic). Her generosity extended beyond her family, touching the lives of many through her selfless acts.

Family and Legacy

Lillian is survived by her daughter Joy (Ross), her grandchildren Joel and Rachel (Andrew), her Great-Grand Pups Stella and DeSean, and all those who were blessed to call her a family member or a friend. Her legacy lives on through the values she instilled in us: compassion, integrity, and a steadfast devotion to finding meaning and purpose in each day.

A Fond Farewell

We will forever hold her in our hearts, remembering her laughter, her kindness, and the countless memories we shared. Though she is no longer with us in person, her spirit will continue to guide and inspire us every day. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered always.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LILLIAN PARKER GAINES



August 20, 1928 - August 30, 2025

First United Methodist Church of Germantown
Saturday, November 8th, 2025

Thank you for your attendance this morning to celebrate the life of Lillian Parker Gaines.
You are invited to a brunch reception in Pilling Hall following the postlude.



Service Notes:

Congregational responses are in bold type.
UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

Special thanks to our tech crew: Wayne Snover, John Bustard, Barbara Revere, Geovanni Andujar
Organist: Paul Fleckenstein | Soloist: Moses Possible.



First United Methodist Church of Germantown
Saturday, November 8th, 2025

Prelude	Paul Fleckenstein	Hymn	UMH 474
		<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i>	
Words of Grace & Greeting		Eulogy	Rev. Alisa Wailoo
Opening Hymn	UMH 700	Music	Moses Possible
	<i>Abide With Me</i>	<i>It Is Well With My Soul</i>	
Words of Comfort & Prayer		Prayer of Thanksgiving	
Scripture Reading	Rev. Lawrence Richardson	The Lord's Prayer	
	<i>Psalms 91:1-9</i>	Our Mother-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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.	
Music	Moses Possible	Closing Hymn	UMH 706
	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	<i>Soon and Very Soon</i>	
Personal Reflections	Rachel Thompson Kornberg, Granddaughter Joel Thompson, Grandson Ross Thompson, Son-in-Law	Benediction	
Obituary and Reflection	Joy Thompson, Daughter	Postlude	Paul Fleckenstein
Video Presentation			
Scripture Reading	UMH 821		
	<i>Psalms 100</i>		