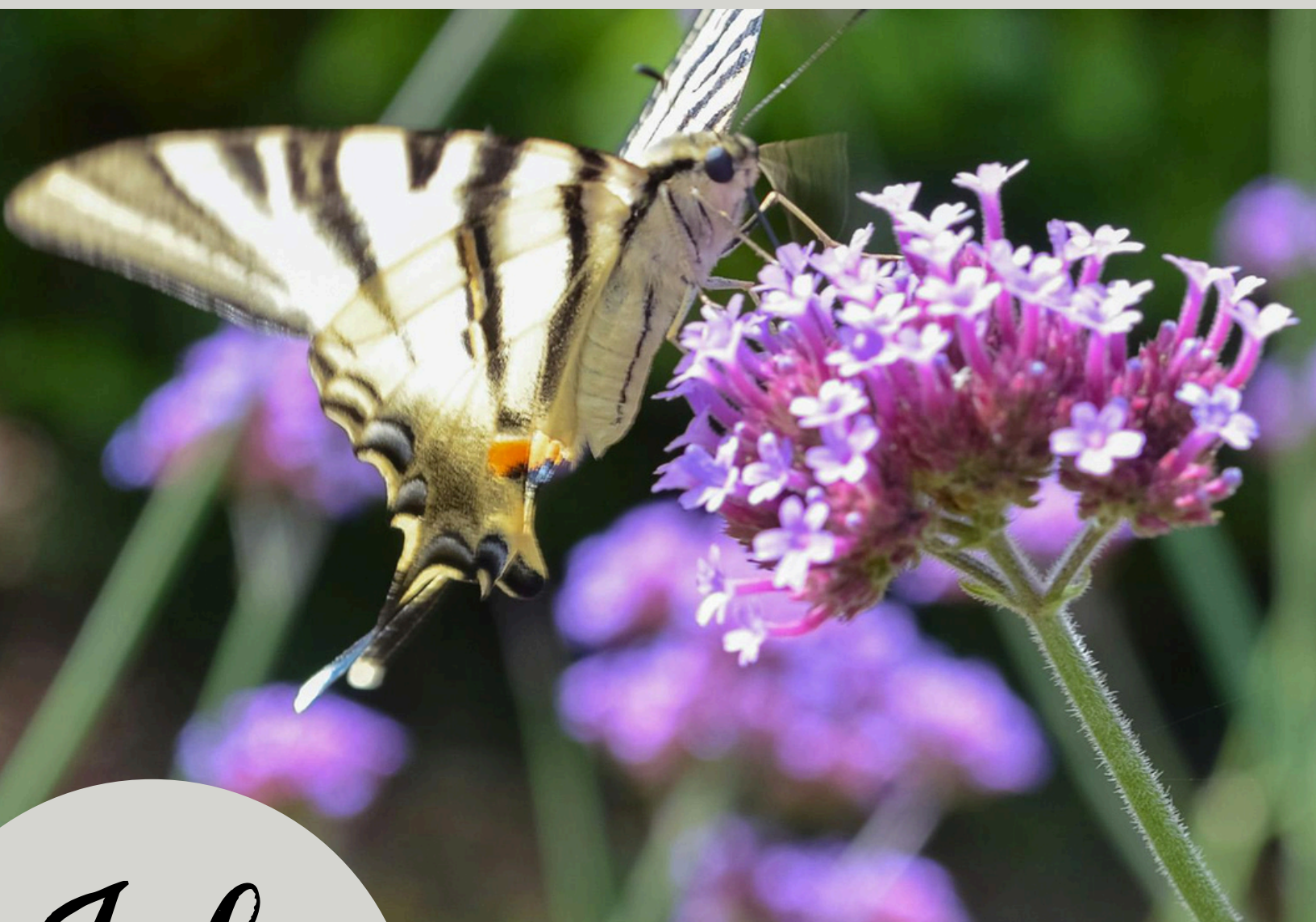




Community Outreach Newsletter



July
2026

Gulfside Assembly
301 Herlihy St.
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Waveland, MS 39576
www.gulfsideassembly.org

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Congratulations

to Outstanding Citizen of the Year Finalists



Gulfside Assembly proudly congratulates our Executive Director, Cheryl Thompson, and Sally Isaacs, President of the Hancock County Library System, on being selected as two of the ten finalists for the 2026 Outstanding Citizen of the Year award. This recognition is a testament to their exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and lasting contributions to the people of Hancock County.

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce will host its annual gala, Beyond the Horizon – A Night of Stars, on Thursday, August 27, 2026, celebrating the remarkable individuals who make Hancock County a stronger and more vibrant community. During the evening, the Outstanding Citizen of the Year will be announced.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Cheryl Thompson and Sally Isaacs on this well-deserved honor and wish them the very best as they are recognized alongside Hancock County's outstanding community leaders.

Building Skills for Life through Life Skills Training Education



Sixty-Five youth participated in Gulfside Assembly's Life Skills Training Program during summer break. Youth were provided meaningful opportunities to build practical life and leadership skills through guided discussions, role-playing activities, peer engagement, and hands-on projects.

Participants explored topics including Emotional Awareness, Emotional Regulation, Stress Management, Conflict Resolution, Critical Thinking, Decision Making, and Digital Well-Being, equipping them with tools to navigate everyday challenges with confidence and resilience. The program also offered practical skill-building experiences through Basic



Carpentry workshops and The Life Store Challenge, an interactive financial literacy simulation that helped participants practice budgeting, making informed financial decisions, and understanding the real-world impact of everyday choices

Through these engaging activities, youth strengthened their communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills while developing greater self-confidence and preparing for success in school, work, and life..

Gulfside Assembly is grateful for our outstanding facilitators and volunteers—whose expertise, dedication, and passion for empowering young people make our Life Skills Training Program a meaningful and lasting success.



A Testament of Faith, Courage, and Resilience: Gulfside's History Shared at the Chautauqua Lecture Series



As part of the nationwide celebration of America's 250th anniversary, Gulfside Assembly participated in the July Chautauqua Lecture Series through its partnership with Lakeside Chautauqua in Ohio.

Executive Director Cheryl Thompson and Board Member Eva Baham served as featured presenters, sharing the historical context behind the founding of Gulfside Assembly and examining the realities of race relations in the American South that made its establishment both necessary and visionary.

Participants viewed The Gulfside Assembly Story documentary, which chronicles Gulfside's rich history, enduring mission, and lasting impact. The presentation highlighted the remarkable resilience of Gulfside Assembly and its continued commitment to fostering faith, education, leadership, and reconciliation across generations.

The lecture provided attendees with a deeper appreciation for Gulfside's significant place in American history and affirmed its ongoing role as a beacon of hope, justice, and community transformation.

Wellness Warriors: Empowering Seniors Through Health Education

Gulfside Assembly's Senior Lunch and Learn: Wellness Warriors program continues to empower older adults by providing valuable health education and resources to the community. Approximately 50 seniors participate in these monthly sessions, where they receive practical information on a variety of health and wellness topics and learn how to become effective advocates for their own healthcare.

Each session is facilitated by experienced healthcare professionals who share current, relevant information and answer participants' questions in a welcoming and supportive environment. In addition to gaining knowledge and practical tools, attendees enjoy a nutritious meal and the opportunity to build meaningful relationships through fellowship and conversation.



Join Us for our next Senior Lunch
and Learn:
Wellness Warriors Session

Featured Speaker: Dr. Cierra Green

Date: August 26, 2026

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Gulfside Assembly
301 Herlihy St.
Waveland, MS 39576

Dr. Cierra Green, a primary care physician with Ochsner Health, received Ochsner Health Network's first Circle of Excellence recognition in 2025. Dr. Green will share practical strategies for maintaining good health, preventing chronic disease, healthcare advocacy, and partnering effectively with healthcare providers. Participants will leave equipped with valuable tools to advocate for their health while enjoying a nutritious meal and fellowship with friends.

We invite all seniors to join us for an informative afternoon of learning, wellness, and community.

Young Voices from Hancock County Featured in National Camp Meeting Celebration

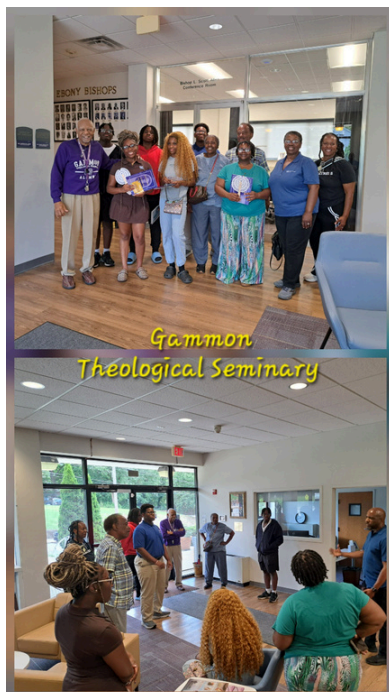


Children from the Hancock Boys & Girls Club were honored to represent our community as a children's choir featured in a video broadcast during the National Historic Camp Meeting Celebration on Sunday, July 26, 2026, at Lakeside Chautauqua in Ohio.

This inspiring hybrid worship event united historic camp meetings from across the nation for a dynamic celebration of faith, music, spiritual leadership, and historical reflection. The children's participation showcased the gifts and talents of young people from Hancock County while connecting them to a rich tradition of worship and Christian fellowship shared across the country.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Sandra Myles for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment in training and directing the choir known as the "Gulfside Singing Stars". Her guidance helped prepare the children for this meaningful opportunity to share their voices with a national audience. We are proud of each child who participated and grateful for this memorable experience that celebrated both faith and community.

Gulfside's 28th Annual College Tour Inspires the Next Generation



From June 23–28, 2026, Gulfside proudly hosted its 28th Annual College Tour, continuing a long-standing tradition of exposing young people to higher education while encouraging them to dream big and prepare for successful futures. During the tour, students visited Spelman College, Morehouse College, Gammon Theological Seminary, Paine College, and Claflin University. At each institution, they had the opportunity to meet with admissions recruiters, explore campus life, learn about academic programs, and receive valuable

information to help guide their college and career decisions. In addition to the campus visits, students participated in the SEJ-BMCR Youth Harambee, where they engaged in worship, fellowship, leadership development, and spiritual enrichment. This transformative experience encouraged them to grow not only academically but also in their faith and commitment to serving others. For nearly three decades, Gulfside's Annual College Tour has empowered youth by broadening their horizons, inspiring confidence, and demonstrating that higher education is within reach. We remain steadfast in our mission to nurture the intellectual, spiritual, and personal development of the young people we serve.



We extend our sincere appreciation to our donors, volunteers, chaperones, community partners, and faithful supporters whose generosity and dedication make this ministry possible. Your investment in our youth is helping to cultivate tomorrow's leaders and creating opportunities that will have a lasting impact for generations to come. Thank you for believing in our youth and for partnering with Gulfside as we continue to educate, inspire, and empower the next generation.



Every **Legacy** Needs a Friend to Carry It Forward into the Future

Become a Friend of Gulfside

Your support helps us continue providing quality programs in a safe, welcoming space. Choose the level that works for you:



Friend of Gulfside \$30/month (\$360/year)

- ✓ Receive the Gulfside Newsletter
- ✓ Listed as a "Friend of Gulfside" in printed materials



Special Friend of Gulfside \$50/month (\$600/year)

- ✓ Receive the Gulfside Newsletter
- ✓ Listed on Gulfside's website and printed materials as a "Special Friend"



Sustaining Friend of Gulfside \$100/month (\$1,200/year)

- ✓ Receive the Gulfside Newsletter
- ✓ Listed on Gulfside's website and printed materials as a "Sustaining Friend"
- ✓ One free annual use of Gulfside Grounds (based on availability)

How to Give:

- Scan the QR code or visit www.gulfsideassembly.org to make your gift.
- Mail your donation to: Gulfside Assembly, PO Box 27, Waveland, MS 39576.
- Questions? Email cthompson@gulfsideassembly.org or call 504-710-4884.



Together, we can carry Gulfside's mission forward for generations to come.