



# Gulf Breezes

---

January, 2018

The beginning of each new year always brings talk of making resolutions and starting or stopping some habits. As adults we promise ourselves that this is the year we're going to lose those extra ten pounds, stop smoking, get out of debt, make better choices, or fix a broken relationship. Young people might see the new year as an opportunity to start over in certain areas of their lives, to exercise more, to make straight A's, or to get along better with their parents. With resolution making on our minds, the beginning of 2018 is a great time to think about the commitments we make and consider whether or not we are choosing well.

Commitments say a lot about who we are. Decisions to add or discard habits speak to things that are important to us—health, wholeness, family, relationships, and so forth. When we choose to make commitments, we test ourselves to see if we can be true to our word.

The first of the year is also a great time to think about the whys and the whens of our commitments. Sometimes we over commit or over promise and find ourselves in over our heads. So maybe, instead of a long list of new resolutions or promises this year, we can just resolve to make the best possible choices in our commitments and learn to let each “yes” be yes and each “no” be no.

## **Making Good Choices**

The starting point for choosing well is to examine our current commitments. Begin by asking: *Are my choices meaningful and worthy of my time and effort, or do they just add pressure and expectations?* We all live with so much pressure and expectation that we don't need the added burden of commitments that steal the joy from our daily lives.

An Ignatian spiritual practice can help us think about the activities we say “yes” and “no” to in the coming year. Imagine that you are holding a decision, commitment, or choice in your hand. Close your eyes and think of all that comes along with that decision, commitment, or choice—the stress, sacrifice, happiness, guilt, and so forth. Now imagine that there are two poles, one on each side of you. To the left is desolation, the land that's full of burden and no joy. To the right is the land of consolation, offering peace, joy, and satisfaction. When you consider the decision you hold in your hands, does it feel more like desolation or consolation? Does the commitment make your heart leap with joy or sink in despair?

Commitments that feel like a journey to the land of desolation very likely will not be fulfilled; and, even if they are fulfilled, they may turn into pressure, stress, and probably some guilt. Decisions that feel like a journey to consolation give us pep in our step and keep us focused on following through with our commitment.

## **Seek God First**

A sure way to choose well is to seek first the kingdom of God. When we are in constant communion with God, we are more in tune with our capacity and are able to say yes or no at the right time. In the coming year young people will encounter plenty of opportunities that sound too good to pass up. But we can help them— and also learn with them—about saying yes to commitments that are life-giving and saying no to the things that, although fun, only add busyness and pressure to the daily routine. Let us make but one resolution—to say yes to life-giving things of God and no to life-draining things of sin.

Happy New Year Church!!      Mike

---

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

1100 McCall Road, Port Charlotte, Florida 33981

(941) 697-1747

• Fax: (941) 697-1528

• E-mail: [gulfcoveumc@centurylink.net](mailto:gulfcoveumc@centurylink.net)

• Website: [gulfcovechurch.com](http://gulfcovechurch.com)

FYII: For Your Information & Interest

Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, January 7 at 12:30.



Please join us! Contact Sandy Doty at 941- 875-4199 or [ssdoty975@yahoo.com](mailto:ssdoty975@yahoo.com) or Deb Howell at 330-441-2852 or [debhowell3902@yahoo.com](mailto:debhowell3902@yahoo.com).

**COURAGE OVER CANCER**

Hope is a lifeline we offer to those whose lives are affected by cancer. We learn to do this in *Courage Over Cancer* classes. Hope, compassion and practical means enable us to help others on their journey with this disease.

If you feel called to learn more about this Christian based ministry of hope and compassion, please join us *Sunday January 21, 2018 at 12:15pm in room #109* for an organizational meeting.

**SCRIPTURES FOR JAN., 2018**

**Jan 7**

Experience  
*Matthew 2:9-12:*

**Jan 14**

Embrace  
*Jeremiah 24:4-7:*

**Jan 21:**

Engage  
*Matthew 4:18-22*

**Jan 28**

*Mark 1:21-28*

**Secret Prayer Partners**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan 27 at 10:00am. We will meet in #103 for coffee and a snack to reveal for whom we have been praying. See you there. Maryellen



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The men will meet once this month for fellowship in the form of devotions, breakfast and business decisions.

Come join us! 8:00am, Jan. 19 @ Perkins in North Port.



**FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY** for October

		YTD
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$37,916.40	\$365,108.47
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$13,315.73	\$96,673.84
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$627.84	\$8,367.84
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,252.40	\$38,271.60
STAFF SUPPORT	\$27,887.81	\$251,641.94
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$46,083.78</u>	<u>\$394,955.22</u>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>(\$8,167.38)</b>	<b>(\$29,846.75)</b>
<b>Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$16,323.07</b>	

**"FOOD FOR THE SOUL"**



Please join us on Wednesday nights for a chance to grow closer to God and others in our church family. Dinner is served from 5:30-6:00pm. The weekly cost is: \$4/per Adult; \$2.50/per Child under 12; \$12/Family maximum. This month's menu includes

- Jan. 3-Roast Pork
- Jan. 10-Chicken Soup
- Jan. 17 -Tater Tot Casserole
- Jan. 24-Chili
- Jan. 31-Ham & Bean Soup

Reservation deadline is the previous Sunday--you can list your reservation on the pew attendance pad on Sunday mornings: Mark "Food" & the number of people.

Clean-up is at 6pm, then there are various activities for ALL ages. Children have Jesus Rocks in #109/110; Youth, gr. 6-12, meet in P #206; and an adult Bible study, the After Dinner Group, meets in #102. At 6:15pm, Genesis Small Group, another adult Bible Study, meets in the Sanctuary. For those who prefer an earlier evening, Pastor Mike leads a Bible study at 4:30pm in P#201 where they study the scripture text he will be using for the following Sunday's sermon. You can join a study group without having dinner; likewise eat dinner without joining a study group. Please make Wednesday nights a time you spend with your church family so you can feed your body...and soul!

**APOSTLES BUILD-HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Preparations are underway for the Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build 2018. Gulf Cove United Methodist, as well as 11 other local churches, has taken part in the past and will again this year. Our participation includes 10 people to help install trusses on January 20, 9am thru 3pm. A sign-up sheet will soon be available. We are also responsible for contributing \$4,000 toward the new home, which as I understand, it is not a budgeted expense and will be raised thru donations from the congregation. The co-chairmen for our church this year will be Sam Walters and Larry Davis

The location is 21472 Dranson Ave., Port Charlotte, 33952 A slab blessing will be held January 12 and all are invited. Gulf Cove will set trusses on Saturday January 20, 10 volunteers are needed. Gulf Cove will finish trusses, fascia and housewrap on Wednesday January 24, 5 volunteers needed. Volunteer forms will be available after services and in church office. Three of the 2x4 studs to be used in construction of the new home will be located at the back of the Sanctuary to be signed with names and blessings by the congregation. A donation box will also be located in the same area to help raise the funds for our \$4,000 commitment to this project. Thank you, Sam Walters

**2018 FLOWER CHART**

You may reserve your special dates to place flowers on the altar. When your week comes, you pay for the flowers by putting a check for \$30.00, marked "Flowers" on the memo line, in the offering plate. The chart is on the bulletin board on the Education Wing. Please be sure to note whether you are taking the flowers or not. Flowers left on the altar are taken to our hospitalized, homebound, or given to Tidewell Hospice by our Caring Ministry.



- 1/01 Harold & Dee Grafe
- 1/19 Dick & Susie Morrow
- 1/27 Mardy & Carla Wilson
- 1/28 Joseph & Linda Coffey
- 1/29 Tom & MaryEllen Eisele



- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1/01 Bob Mac Donald     | 1/01 Charlotte Hallett |
| 1/01 Dick Morrow        | 1/01 Keith Russell     |
| 1/01 Elio Karr          | 1/02 Kim Thomas        |
| 1/04 Bob Gasiorek       | 1/04 Jim Vanderford    |
| 1/04 Heather Reid       | 1/05 Pat Hansell       |
| 1/05 Christopher Reid   | 1/07 Helen Boyce       |
| 1/08 Mimi Hamilton      | 1/11 Tex Borden        |
| 1/11 Sue Anne Bruzzese  | 1/12 Jeanne Shrout     |
| 1/12 MardyWilson        | 1/13 Shureen Nyvold    |
| 1/13 Janice Botelho     | 1/13 Linda Thatcher    |
| 1/16 Patricia MacKenzie | 1/17 Steve Benz        |
| 1/18 Edna Bradley       | 1/18 Dann Franks       |
| 1/18 Mary Nelle Franks  | 1/19 Caleb Waterman    |
| 1/21 Dan Taylor         | 1/21 Lorna Ryan        |
| 1/21 Carrie Humke       | 1/22 Helen Roberts     |
| 1/24 Tippy Burgess      | 1/24 Lois Potter       |
| 1/24 Al Crosby          | 1/24 Anita Ten Brink   |
| 1/24 Suzanne Ludwig     | 1/24 Sandy Doty        |
| 1/24 Kathy Mortenson    | 1/25 Bill Morgan       |
| 1/25 Odetta Neumann     | 1/27 KellyWeaver       |
| 1/28 Don Zartman        | 1/29 Rick Richter      |
| 1/30 Pat Hitchcock      | 1/31 Myra Ehnert       |
| 1/31 Ron Wolfe          | 1/31 Nadia Carlston    |

**END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS**



Statements will be emailed in January. Hard copies will be available at the back of the sanctuary the last two weeks of January or in the office, Mon ~ Thurs, 9-2.

Thank you for your continued gifts and tithes to Gulf Cove UMC. Through your financial contributions we are able to continue the many wonderful ministries that the "Blue Roof Church" has become known for throughout our community.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH BIBLE STUDY**

**2pm Friday afternoons in P#201  
Starting January 19**

Leader Rev. Rebecca Stephenson  
Call 440.465.8665 or

**Sign up at the Education Wing Bulletin Board**  
The Journey in Faith study is designed to answer many questions you have wondered about for years.



Calendar Highlights

Jan 2	8am	Tuesday	Office Open	Jan 15		Monday	Office Closed/MLK Day
	1-4pm		Health Department	Jan 16	8am	Tuesday	GCUM Men's Breakfast
	3-5pm		Food Bank		1-4pm		Health Department
Jan 6	9:30am	Saturday	Closet of Hope (P#204)		7pm		Finance Meeting #103
Jan 7	12:30pm	Sunday	Ladies Lunch Out	Jan 17	2:30pm	Wednesday	Inglenook Visitation
<b>Jan 8</b>	<b>12pm</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	Jan 20	9:30am	Saturday	Closet of Hope (P#204)
	7pm		Trustee Meeting #103	Jan 21	12:15pm	Sunday	Course Over Cancer #109
Jan. 9	4pm	Tuesday	At Ease Veterans		7pm	Monday	Church Council Meeting
				Jan. 27	10am	Saturday	Secret Prayer Partners #103

**Sundays:**

8am	Traditional Service	
9:30am	Contemporary Service	
	Seekers II Sunday School	P#201
	Kids' Church/Sunday School	#109/110
	Youth Sunday School	P#206
11am	Adult Sunday School	#109/110
11am	Sermon Discussion	P#201
11am	Traditional Service	
5-8pm	Youth Group Gr.6-12	P#206

**Mondays:**

7pm	Boy Scouts	P#201
7:30pm	AA Support Group	#109/110

**Tuesdays:**

1pm	Friend to Friend	#109/110
7pm	Al-Anon	#109/110

**Wednesdays:**

12pm	<i>Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>	
	Mid-Weed Boost	#102
4:30pm	Pastor's Bible Study	P#201
5:30pm	Food for the Soul Dinner	
6pm	Jesus Rocks	#109/110
	After Dinner Group	#102
	Youth Group Gr. 6-12	P#206
6:15pm	Genesis Group	Sanctuary

**Thursdays:**

8am	Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn	
9am	Crafty Ladies	Oak's Cove
4:30pm	Handbells	P#203
5:30pm	Praise Team	Sanctuary
6:30pm	Girl Scouts 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
	Choir Rehearsal	P#203
Friday	Journey In Faith	P#201



**1100 S. McCall Road  
Port Charlotte, FL 33981**