



# Gulf Breezes

May, 2018

Jesus in a Whopper

I've had the joy of seeing God in action through hearts of individuals, hearts of organizations, hearts of the church, but yes, as the title of this article states, I've Had the Experience to See God's Interaction Through That of a Whopper Sandwich. You know, the Whopper, the Burger King's competitor for the McDonald's Big Mac. If you've never tried either one, please come by the church office and I will do my pastoral duty to have you at least experience one of these. But while we chuckle or smile at my intro, it is the death that lead to a gift of a Whopper.

The other Sunday when the Kairos Prison Ministry and Team Cuba were sharing their journeys, I mentioned this story. During my time in Kairos, I was with a gentleman who reminded me of a Morgan Freedman type character. We had a chance to connect. He seemed a little bit on the fence for a large portion of this ministry, yet, it was one night at dinner when I saw his heart strangely warmed. While many times within the ministries in prison, the food is purchased from outside restaurants giving the brothers in blue a sense of normalcy, this meal was extra special.

That meal they received, what you and I would call a simple Whopper hamburger, Nick as we'll call him, opened up his package and seeing this sandwich started to break down, pushing the sandwich away, and then approaching to wrap his hands around it once more, and then again, pushing it away. You and I would think he was given a check for two million dollars, but in the act of watching him unwrap this Whopper and taking a bite, and then re-wrapping it as if he was a photographer for a food advertisement magazine. Every single bite looked as if it were pristine for a photo.

He shared with me the last time he had a Whopper was when they had been celebrating the Whopper's one-year anniversary. Think about that. It had not been his last meal, but it was a meal that was given to him the last week before he wound up in the prison situation where he is currently. See, for Nick, he experienced a person that was told they were an outcast, a person whose past had become their only identity, a person who was seen as many on the outside would call him scum, or bottom of the barrel. For a moment he was treated as a child of God, and a person of worth.

Lack of people loving him, that they would donate time and monies, sweat equity to be present with him before even knowing him isn't just a plug for this prison ministry, but it's an illustration of what God through Jesus is wanting to do with us, to us, through us.

Who would have thought a cheap burger would have transformed or been a gateway to what can transform or the seeds to what would transform a person's life? See, God calls you and I to be life changers, life transformers, not by these great grandioso acts of theological education beyond the spectrums, but through every day interactions with you and I just being who God created us to be, for being present in someone's life, and if at sometimes use words if we must.

Church, In the pews I've heard so many of us doubting ourselves and our abilities to share God's love, but we have a gift. It starts with you just saying, God use me. It starts with you and mw treating everyone as God's creations, everyone as God's children, no matter where they walk, or how similar, or how extremely different they are to you. Love them as Jesus has loves them.

For some, it's being able to build sanctuaries for them. For some, it's being able to provide hundreds and thousands of dollars. For the majority of us its by sharing a real moment with someone. Would you let today be the day that you open your hearts to let God use you, not just to buy a Whopper for a stranger, but to share a King Size Double Decker dose of grace for a sister and a brother?

Pastor Mike

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

1100 McCall Road, Port Charlotte, Florida 33981

(941) 697-1747

• Fax: (941) 697-1528

• E-mail: [gulfcoveumc@gmail.com](mailto:gulfcoveumc@gmail.com)

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

## FYII: For Your Information & Interest



### Vacation Bible School

VBS this year will be held on Monday through Friday, June 11-15, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. It is open to kids in pre-kindergarten through

grade 5. Right after the opening ceremony, a light dinner will be served to all VBS kids (and their families if they choose to stay).

Our program this year is **Babylon, Daniel's Courage in Captivity**. Kids will interact with Daniel, who was torn from his home and forced into the king's service. They will explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar, learn songs in Temple Music, and expend energy at the Palace Playground. The kids will find that they're not much different from Daniel and his friends, who kept their faith in a faithless culture. To make this a memorable night for all the children who attend, we need over 50 volunteers. A few of the positions have been filled, but if you have an interest in any of the following, please notify Holly Tozer:

- 5 cooks to select and prepare the dinner.
- 12 leaders & assistants to take charge over each tribe of children (max. of 10 in a tribe).
- 2 Nursery attendants for those younger than PK
- 3 actors for the daily segment Daniel's Adventures (Daniel, Ashpenaz, & a guard on day 4 only).
- 3 actors to portray Shadrach, Mesach, & Abednego, Daniel's friends who roam the marketplace & interact with the children.
- 2 leaders to take charge of the daily Palace Playground segments.
- 8 marketplace owners (Food Court, Astronomy School, Cylinder Seal Shop, Hanging Gardens Nursery, Jewelry Bazaar, Metalworking Shop, Mosaic Studio, & Music Shop).
- 2 marketplace assistants (Food Court & Astronomy School).
- 10 actors for a short drama each day (Ettu, Ku-Aya, Iltani, Rihat, Sargon, Balashi, Ia, Kuri, & bullies).
- 1 VBS Director.
- 1 VBS Registrar.
- 1 VBS Celebration Leader.
- 1 VBS Music Director (also Temple Music leader).
- 2 VBS Soundbooth Workers.
- 1 VBS Photographer.
- Several people to help with decorations prior to June 11.

### LEAVING FOR THE SUMMER?



Please put an N (for North) beside your name on the pew pad the last Sunday you will be here. You will be missed. However, you can keep up with what is happening at GCUMC on our website [gulfcovechurch.com](http://gulfcovechurch.com) and/or

have our Mid-Week News sent to your E-mail address. Just send your request to [gulfcoveumc@gmail.com](mailto:gulfcoveumc@gmail.com)



Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, May 6 at 12:30. We will be celebrating Mother's Day! 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).

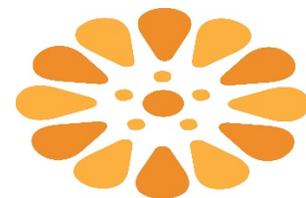
### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Gulf Cove United Methodist Men - join our men's group for prayer, fellowship and fun! We meet the first and third Tuesday each month, 8:00am at Perkin's in North Port. .

### ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND



Every seventh week during the year, our church provides assistance to Englewood Helping Hand, located on the grounds of the Englewood United Methodist Church. Volunteers help on Monday through Thursday from 9:30am to 2:30pm by putting donations on the shelves and filling food bags. It is Gulf Cove UMC's turn to provide volunteers on May 14-17. If you are able to help one day, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Volunteer bulletin board in the Education Wing or contact Kim Bruemleve at 260-580-1307 or [kimbruemleve@yahoo.com](mailto:kimbruemleve@yahoo.com). Shopping lists of needed items are in the Narthex and Education Wing. Non-perishable food items can be put into the EHH bins located in the narthex and in the Education Wing. Thank you!



# FINANCES

## FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY for March

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$35,609.84	\$119,848.33
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$8,309.02	\$20,751.73
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$1,124.20	\$2,716.50
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,504.90	\$13,514.70
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$23,553.27</u>	<u>\$73,139.18</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$37,491.39	\$110,122.11
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>(\$1,881.55)</b>	\$9,726.22
Reserve Fund Bal.		<b>\$25,664.37</b>



5/06	Bernie & Ginny Torr
5/07	Bob & Eva Knorr
5/11	Rick & Linda Starck
5/15	Jerry & Judy Spurgeon
5/16	Steve & Mary Beimer
5/18	Dave & Anne Devilbiss
5/20	Maryanne & Norman Carrico
5/20	Danny & Dolores Wilson
5/22	Dan & Bre Carter
5/26	Bryan & Liza McDaniel

### Scriptures May 2018

May 6

Compassion Fatigue  
1 John 4:7-21

May 13

Power Failure  
Acts 1:1-11

May 20

Its 9 o'clock Somewhere  
Acts 2:1-21

May 27

Family Matters  
Romans 8:12-17



### "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:

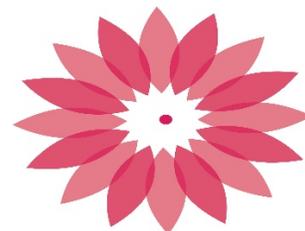
- May 2-Mac & Cheese w/Ham Casserole
- May 9-Chili
- May 16-Chicken & Rice
- May 23-Ham & AuGratin Potato Casserole
- May 30-Beef & Potato Casserole

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, the After Dinner Group, meets in #102, and a Women's Bible study "Ever After" meets in P#201. At 6:15pm, Genesis Small Group, another adult Bible Study, meets in the room #114. 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!



5/01 Doug Phillips	5/02 Jack Gill
5/05 Betsy Mac Donald	5/05 Carla Wilson
5/06 Kathy Wohlleb	5/07 Arlene Garrett
5/08 BJ Saville	5/08 Robin Easterling
5/08 Elaye Wong	5/10 Jim Marshall
5/10 Barbara Garafolo	5/10 Don Teague
5/12 Debbie Jamison	5/16 Bruce Heacock
5/17 Bill Baird	5/18 Jim Boaz
5/19 Marian Brumley	5/19 Dawson Welch
5/21 Joan Priest	5/22 Alice Horecki
5/24 Ted Thelin	5/24 Carol McGuire
5/25 Beth Clarke	5/26 Gene Roark
5/27 John Dorotics	5/28 Shirley Brown
5/28 Grace Gray	5/30 Chris Andrews
5/30 Deaglan Flaherty	5/31 Janet Rowe
5/31 Marina Welch	



## Calendar Highlights

May 1	8am	Tuesday	Men's Breakfast	May 16	2:30pm	Wednesday	Inglenook Visitation
May 5	9:30-12pm		Closet of Hope P#204	May 19	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204
May 6	12:30	Sunday	Ladies Lunch Out	May 21	7:00pm	Monday	Finance Meeting #103
May 8	4pm	Tuesday	At Ease Ministry	May 28		Monday	Office Closed/Memorial Day
<b>May 14</b>	<b>12pm</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>May 29</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Church Council Meeting</b>
	7pm		Trustee Meeting #103				
May 15	8am	Tuesday	Men's Breakfast				

**Sundays:**

8am	Traditional Service	
9:30am	Contemporary Service	
	Seekers II Sunday School	P#201
	Kids' Church/Sunday School	#109/110
10:45am	Sermon Discussion	P#201
11am	Traditional Service	
	Adult Sunday School	#109/110
6:30pm	Family Bowling	
5-8pm	ECHO Youth Group Gr. 9-12	P#206

**Mondays:**

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

**Tuesdays:**

1pm	Friend to Friend	#109/110
	Health Dept. 1 <sup>st</sup> &3 <sup>rd</sup>	#101
2pm	SM P.S. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	#102
5:30pm	Praise Team	Sanctuary
7pm	Al-Anon	#109-110

**Wednesdays:**

12pm	Weekly Bulletin Deadline	
	Mid-Week Boost Bible Study	#102
4:30pm	Pastor's Bible Study	P#201
5:30pm	Food for the Soul Dinner	
6pm	Jesus Rocks	#109/110
	ECHO Youth Group	P#206
	After Dinner Group	#102
6pm	Ever After Women's Study	P#201
6:15pm	Genesis Adult Bible Study	Sanctuary

**Thursdays:**

8am	Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn	
9am	Crafty Ladies	Oak's Cove
5pm	Handbell Practice	P#203
5:30pm	Praise Team	Sanctuary
6:30pm	Choir Practice	P#203
	Girl Scouts 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	#109/110

