



Gulf Breezes

June, 2018

Sometimes we fail to notice the Holy Spirit faithfully at work in our lives and the world. Pentecost creates a natural pause in our liturgical rhythm and reminds us that the Holy Spirit is present and at work all around us.

Part of the Christian tradition is to examine the world and identify the places we see the Holy Spirit at work, along with the people the Holy Spirit is using to do the work.

That dedicated practice reminds us and helps us to understand that while the world may make us anxious, we have hope because God's Spirit is at work and that hope helps us build spiritual endurance and keeps us moving forward in faith.

Pentecost is the longest season in the liturgical church calendar but probably the least celebrated. Yet, it is as worthy a celebration as Christmas or Easter! After all, the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost ushered in the birth of the church.

There were certainly followers of Christ before Pentecost but, with the arrival of the Holy Spirit, those followers were empowered to preach, teach, witness, and live in a way that helped the church grow exponentially. The same power that the 120 believers in the upper room received is still at work in believers today.

Promise fulfilled

When Jesus instructed believers to wait for the promise of God in the form of the power of the Holy Spirit, they had no idea how or when it would happen. They only knew that it would cause them to be witnesses of Christ to the whole world.

The group of 120 believers obediently waited for a promise they did not fully understand out of faith they were just beginning to comprehend. Ten days after Jesus' ascension, the promise was fulfilled in high drama.

There was a mighty rushing wind, split tongues of fire and the supernatural ability to speak in other languages. The 120 followers increased by 3,000, and then another 5,000. According to Pew Research Center's 2015 statistics, there are an estimated 2.3 billion Christians in the world today.

Living witnesses

The Holy Spirit's power still works in believers and empowers us to be living witnesses of Christ by the testimony of our words and our lives. We must never look upon Pentecost Sunday as celebrating an ancient, one-time-only event.

A believer is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit at conversion, and it is a daily Pentecostal event and cause for celebration. The Lord is still adding daily to the church those who are being saved and subsequently empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Blessings Church,

Mike

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FYII: For Your Information & Interest



Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, June 10 at 12:30. Please join us! Contact Sandy Doty at 941- 875-4199 or ssdoty975@yahoo.com or Deb Howell at 330-441-2852 or

debhowell3902@yahoo.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



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 helping, please notify Holly Tozer:

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.

FINANCES

FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY for April

TOTAL INCOME	\$44,341.20	\$164,189.53
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$6,617.67	\$27,369.40
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$306.58	\$3,023.08
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,504.90	\$18,019.60
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$26,046.40</u>	<u>\$99,185.58</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,475.55	\$147,597.66
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$6,865.65	\$16,591.87
Reserve Fund Bal.		\$27,030.72

Scriptures June 2018

June 3

Walking First Class
2 Corinthians 3:12-18

June 10

That's What Jesus Does for Me
Psalm 139:7-12

June 17

[VBS]

June 24

Moving Fences
2 Corinthians 5:11--6:2



6/01 Julie Perry	6/02 Holly Tozer
6/03 Dana Hanson	6/06 Dave Crandall
6/07 Jana Blount	6/09 Elaine Dorotics
6/09 Mark Burkhard	6/09 Mike MacKenzie
6/10 Dennis Guzik	6/14 Bonnelle Lewis
6/15 Karen Bodo	6/15 Rush Cox
6/15 Barb Jacobs	6/15 Sue Charbonneau
6/17 Jim Mc Cord	6/17 Ralph Calisti
6/18 Ken Brumley	6/19 Naomi Satterley
6/21 Virginia Bathurst	6/22 Alison Calder
6/22 Dee Grafe	
6/23 Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly	6/24 Marianne Owen
6/24 Alfred Current	6/26 Al Geyer
6/26 Jim Nimmer	6/28 Fred Boyer
6/29 Eva Knorr	6/29 Ginny Blanton
6/29 Ron Barche	
6/30 Bonnie Mc Andrew	6/30 Dave Devilbiss



Happy Father's Day!



6/01	Bonnie Mc Andrew & Howard Coon
6/02	Peter & Deborah Teune
6/08	Russ & Nancy Treible
6/10	Kerry & Joanne Eckinger
6/11	Rick & Pam Richter
6/11	Mark Porter & Elaye Wong
6/13	Mike & Sue Charbonneau
6/15	Dann & Mary Nelle Franks
6/15	Rush & Barbara Cox
6/17	Joe & Pat Marchert

BILLBOARDS FOR JESUS



An online search for “advertising fails” reveals some hilarious and cringe-worthy signs. Often the “fail” is due to an ad’s placement. For example, a billboard about childhood obesity appears next to one for a fast-food restaurant, and a promotion for *The Walking Dead* is posted near a mortuary.

As Christ’s ambassadors on earth (see 2 Corinthians 5:20), we serve as walking, talking billboards for Jesus and our faith. Despite our sinfulness — and often “cringe-worthiness” — Jesus lives in us, whom he created to do good works (see Ephesians 2:10).

Even though we will never be perfect billboards for Jesus, let’s not cover up our message. Instead, let’s embrace the privilege of being salt and light (see Matthew 5:13-16), proclaiming the gospel in a dark world.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Commencement speeches and greeting cards are full of advice for graduates, yet good intentions and careful plans can’t guarantee a perfect life — whatever that might mean.

“You can’t connect the dots looking forward,” said Steve Jobs. “You can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life ...”

As Christians, we can do more than that: We can trust in God. Yes, he may speak to us through a “gut” feeling, and our eternal “destiny” is assured. And we know that life, not death, will win out. But recent grads — and all of us — need not just sit and wait to see how the dots of our lives will someday connect. God has shown us through Scripture, the church and, above all, Jesus that the dots connect this way: from God’s heart, to Jesus’ sacrifice for us, to our entry into relationship with God, to our heart and finally to our own loving outreach to others.

Whatever shape your education, work and family take through the years, “commence” with this: God has drawn your life to connect with him and your neighbors. If you follow those Spirit-etched lines, you’ll be fine.

—Heidi Mann

"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:

- June 6-Ham & Bean Soup
- June 13-VBS no Wednesday Classes
- June 20-Chicken Broccoli Casserole
- June 27-Shepard’s Pie

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 “Faithful Ladies” meets in P#201. At 6:15pm, Genesis Small Group, another adult Bible Study, meets in #114. For those who prefer an earlier evening, Pastor Mike leads a Bible study at 4:30pm in P#109-110 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!

Calendar Highlights

June 2	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204	June 10	8:30am	Sunday	Blood Drive
June 3	2pm	Sunday	Decorate for VBS		12:30pm		Ladies' Day Out
	4pm		Youth Parents Meeting	June 11-15	5:30-8:30pm	M-F	Vacation Bible School
June 5	8am	Tuesday	Men's Breakfast	June 11	12:00pm	Monday	Newsletter Deadline
	1pm		Health Department	June 16	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204
	4pm		At Ease American Legion	June 18	7pm	Monday	Trustee Meeting #103
June 6-9		Wed.-Sat.	Annual Conference	June 20	2:30pm	Wednesday	Inglenook
June 9	12pm	Saturday	Youth Beach Bash	June 25	7pm	Monday	Church Council Meeting

Sundays:

- 8am Traditional Service
- 9:30am Contemporary Service
- Seekers II Sunday School P#201
- Kids' Church/Sunday School #109/110
- 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. 1st&3rd #101
- 2pm SM P.S. 1st #102
- 7pm Al-Anon #109-110

Wednesdays:

- 12pm *Weekly Bulletin Deadline*
- Mid-Week Boost Bible Study #102
- 4:30pm Pastor's Bible Study #109/110
- 5:30pm Food for the Soul Dinner
- 6pm Jesus Rocks #109/110
- ECHO Youth Group P#206
- After Dinner Group #102
- 6pm Faithful Ladies Women's Study P#201
- 6:15pm Genesis Adult Bible Study #114

Thursdays:

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

