



Gulf Breezes

July, 2018

An article from a college in ministry that I want to share with you this month:

Back in 2011, comedian Pete Holmes announced to his audience on the Conan show that he had an iPhone, adding, “I have Google on my phone now. . . . It’s ruining life because we know everything, but we’re not a lick smarter for it. . . . You don’t know something? Wait two seconds. You will know! Having Google on your phone is like having a drunk know-it-all in your pocket. There’s no time for mystery or wonder. . . . The time between not knowing and knowing is so brief that . . . life is meaningless.”

In the past decade, we’ve seen an explosion in what might be called “on-demand” culture. Whenever we want, we can watch practically any movie ever made on Netflix or Amazon Prime; we can see what our friends and acquaintances are up to from minute to minute through their most recent Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts; and we can text or email anyone in our contact list whenever the feeling hits us, whether they live down the street or on the other side of the earth. We can use an app on our phones to get a ride from a stranger or order meals and have groceries delivered to our house. In certain zip codes, Amazon offers same-day delivery, but who needs that when a credit card and one click can download a book instantly to Kindle?

Research indicates that this culture of convenience and constant access has changed us. As people of faith, we’re challenged to understand how these cultural shifts have changed who we are and to figure out how to respond to these changes in keeping with our faith, worship, and our values.

How does on-demand culture affect us?

The benefits of these changes are obvious. Used judiciously, on-demand culture can save us time and perhaps even money. The liabilities, on the other hand, are less obvious. We may well use all the time and money we save to do more “on-demanding” and in the process hurt both our character and our relationships. A February 2, 2013, article in The Boston Globe titled “Instant Gratification Is Making Us Perpetually Impatient” indicates that the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project studied people under the age of 35 who led “hyperconnected lives” and concluded, “Negative effects include a need for instant gratification and loss of patience.”

How do we respond?

A desire for wonder and mystery is a good place to start counteracting our on-demand culture, especially when the 24/7 cycle of news and information is instantly available through our smartphones and social media offers us a constant forum to chat about it. In a 2017 Sojourners post, Joe Kay writes of how he is drained by the daily recital of injustice: “A sense of fatigue sets in on those of us who feel a divine call to protect the vulnerable, fight injustice, and treat God’s creation as sacred.” He says that this “background noise . . . can slowly drain our energy, inspiration, and courage if we allow it to happen. We need daily moments of awe and wonder to rejuvenate and recharge us — especially now.”

Jesus modeled for us the value of taking time for solitude, contemplation and prayer in the midst of his public ministry. He took time for moments of awe and wonder and recommended the same to his disciples: “Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these” (Matthew 6:28b-29).

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FYII: For Your Information & Interest

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, calls contemplation “a positive choosing of the deep, shining, and enduring divine mysteries that are hidden beneath the too-easy formulas.” Among those enduring mysteries are love, creation, beauty, justice, and wisdom, none of which can be reduced to mere information. Rohr says that in contemplative prayer, “we let go of habitual thoughts and sensations and connect with an Inner Witness (Romans 8:16)—God’s presence within — that gazes back at ourselves and out at reality with an Abiding Love.”

Love you Church, Pastor Mike



Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, July 9, 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

debowell3902@yahoo.com

FINANCES

FUNDING GOD’S MINISTRY for May

TOTAL INCOME	\$31,594.08	\$195,783.61
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$7,906.44	\$35,579.58
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$880.75	\$4,042.83
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,504.90	\$22,524.50
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$23,587.49</u>	<u>\$122,773.07</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,879.58	\$184,919.98
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(\$5,285.50)	\$10,863.63
Reserve Fund Bal.		\$41,952.94



Scriptures July 2018

7/1

Pastor Becky Preaching

Mark 5:21-44

7/8

Authenticity

Exodus 34:29-35

7/15

Chickens With Eyeglasses

2 Cor 2:1-10

7/22

How Can We Stand on Holy Ground?

Psalms 24:1

7/29

Dividing Walls

Eph. 2:11-22



7/07	Liza McDaniel	7/09	Dolores Wilson
7/11	Cathy Rohrbaugh	7/13	Gwen Miller
7/13	Irv Hopkins	7/14	Tom Case
7/10	Ginny Kolbe	7/16	Diane Brown
7/17	Craig Baumgartner	7/17	Dawn Tesauro
7/19	Mary Hilton	7/20	Norm Sanford
7/20	Jim Inman	7/22	Will Schmidt
7/22	Wally Whitford	7/23	Dave Keith
7/25	Nancy Mikilia	7/26	Dale Martin
7/27	Anna Egan	7/27	Ana Roy
7/27	Meredith Welch	7/29	Jan Horthrop
7/30	Nettie Russell		



7/01	Joe & Pat Hitchcock
7/07	Ken & Joan Priest
7/07	David & Anna Welch
7/08	Ron & Pat Meyer
7/15	Tim & Wilma Marsh
7/15	Wayne & Kelly Sexton
7/17	Irv & Jo Ann Hopkins
7/18	Don & Thelma Zartman
7/18	Mike & Terry Thonnerieux
7/20	Roy & Darlene Norell
7/22	Dennis & Jennifer Guzik
7/29	Fred & Judy Boyer
7/31	Bud & Joyce Hammond

"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:
 July 4- Holiday/No Classes or Meal
 July 11- Hot Dogs
 July 18- Kid Friendly Meal
 July 25- Kid Friendly Meal

Reservation deadline is the previous Sunday--you can list your reservation on the pew attendance pad on Sunday mornings. Several small/study groups are meeting following dinner--there's a place for children, youth, and adults!
 During July, only Jesus Rocks and the YOUTH will have events on Wednesday nights. Dinners will be at 5:30pm with activities to start at 6pm.



A PRAYER FOR THE 4TH

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right

NEW MEMBER CLASSES



We will be offering our New Member Classes July 28, Aug 1 and 8. and invite you to come! These sessions include an evaluation of our spiritual gifts, a brief history of our own church and the United Methodist Church worldwide. Please indicate your desire to attend by either marking on the attendance pad "WISH TO JOIN THIS CHURCH" or calling the church office at 941.697.1747. We look forward to seeing you!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Whew! Hard to believe that it is the middle of 2018. Have you made your Christmas plans yet, who's coming to dinner? Have you started shopping? Are you someone who watches for sales all year long and has your shopping done by December 1st? Well, when you are working with Team Cuba, you need to start early to beat all the red tape. No, we don't mean red decorative wrapping tape, we mean the old fashioned "get in your way red tape".

Last year Frank Pais our sister church in Cuba, started a new tradition. Out of their meager funds they prepared a Christmas Dinner for single mothers, widows and elderly in their village. This was a meal that would not have been possible without the miracles going on in the church. Can you imagine a special Christmas dinner when even clean drinking water is your daily challenge? Reports that this outreach brought joy to the people and the people to the church. The Lord is at work.

Look for the Christmas in July Tree. Can we get it fully decorated this month? Make a donation into the wooden box and hang a present on the tree. We hope you will share some money and many Christmas prayers. Thank you in advance for growing Christianity in Cuba. Our generosity lets them reach into more of their communities, showing God's love to all. When they are required to live on \$25 a month, our gifts are monumental!

If you have any questions, please contact John & Carol McGuire jmcguire@centurylink.net

**SUMMER BIBLE STUDY
 JESUS AND THE MOVIES**

Mondays 6:00pm in the Sanctuary
 Enjoy a lite dinner and a MAJOR movie, followed by a lively discussion.



7/9	The Young Messiah	7/16	Godspell
7/23	Jesus Christ Superstar	7/30	Risen
8/6	Hacksaw Ridge	8/13	The Shack

Pastor Becky Stephenson will lead this study. Come join in the fun and get a different perspective on the movies. Mark "M" on the pew pad so we have a dinner count.

Calendar Highlights

July 3	8am	Tuesday	UM Men's Breakfast	July 16	12pm	Monday	Newsletter Deadline
July 4		Wednesday	Office Closed	July 18	2:30pm	Wednesday	Inglenook Visitation
July 7	9:30am	Saturday	Closet of Hope	July 21	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204
July 8	12:30pm	Sunday	Ladies' Day Out	July 25	6pm	Wednesday	New Members Class
July 11	5:30	Wednesday	Youth Trivia Night	July 31	12pm	Tuesday	Youth Sun Splash

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 Youth Group Gr. 9-12 P#206

Mondays:

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

Tuesdays:

9am Youth Bible Over Breakfast McDonalds
 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*
 5:30pm Food for the Soul Dinner
 6pm Jesus Rocks #109/110
 Faithful Ladies P#201
 Youth Group P#206

Thursdays:

8am Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn
 9am Crafty Ladies Oak's Cove
 5:30pm Praise Team Sanctuary




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