



Gulf Breezes

October, 2018

I recently read a Facebook post from someone upset that so many churches were celebrating that “pagan” holiday, Halloween. This irritation is as perennial as church pumpkin patch fundraisers.

Some suggest that churches are bowing to culture and diluting Christ’s Gospel, or that celebrating Halloween crosses an idolatrous border. It is true that Halloween isn’t found in Scripture, but neither is Mother’s Day, Independence Day or Ash Wednesday.

And even though ringing someone’s doorbell dressed as the Great Pumpkin in order to get a bag full of a dentist’s worst nightmare doesn’t quite express the gospel story, Halloween does have roots in the Christian tradition.

All Hallows’ Eve (October 31) and All Saints Day (November 1) is one day (sunset to sunset) set apart to celebrate the lives of the saints who have revealed God’s beauty. The evening is usually reserved for official saints of the church with the morning devoted to remembering all of our brothers and sisters who have died.

I would agree that dressing up like a sexy nurse or a brain-hungry zombie misses the reason for the season, but in banning Halloween or pretending that it doesn’t happen or shunning the children who do knock on your door (when was the last time children rang your doorbell without selling cookie dough or wrapping paper?), we miss an opportunity re-narrate a culture begging to share in God’s story.

So keep the lights on, carve a pumpkin, wrap up snack-sized bags of popcorn and offer hospitality to those who need it most. Here’s a thought. Why not say a prayer for every new family you meet? Why not wear your church T-shirt while handing out taffy?

Why not go all out and fire up the grill to make mini-hot dogs for those who stop by? It’s better for their teeth, and it would take breaking bread with your neighbor to a new, awesome place.

Or you could keep your lights off, call them pagans, and get angry about it on Facebook.

Pastor Mike

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FYII: For Your Information & Interest

SUPER CHARGED CONFERENCE

This is the last year for our Superintendent Rini to be with us, so he has set up a Super Charged Conference for Saturday, October 27 at 9am to 12 noon at Christ UMC, 1475 Center Road, Venice FL 34292. Our church will be among 39 other churches. Arrive with an open heart and open mind. This is the first time doing this ever in our district. The voting of administrative matters will be a brief portion of the gathering, and the larger part will be vision-casting, great speakers sharing excellent ideas and worship. During the event, have fun! This will be a holy conferencing at its finest. Show our church pride - bring a sign with the church's name on it, wear your church t-shirts if you have one. They will not be serving breakfast that day. Please be sure you have your morning breakfast and coffee before you arrive.

CHARGE CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP AUDIT

These are people that have either not been actively attending or not attended for some time. If you know of a person that is on this list that has been actively attending, please let us know so we can update our records. If you have information needed to contact these people, please call the church office so we can contact them concerning their membership at Gulf Cove. We have tried contacting all people on the list, and either they have not responded or have been unreachable.

Second Year List *(No Forwarding Address)

Tony & Alica Adamo
*George & Marilyn Beatty
*Joyce Marie Bryant
Kathy Bullok

First Year List

Bill Baird
Tracy Costello
Larry & Brenda Dalton
Tamara Kibble
Dallas Walche & Dale Martin
Jim Nimmer
*Caitlin Powers
Justin Raines
Esther Tendam



TRUNK OR TREAT FALL FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 4-6pm

We want to provide a fun, safe place for children to show off their costumes. We would love for all our adults to decorate their cars/trunks in a non-scary way to pass out candy. You can even make a game or something to add a little spice to the evening. Join us Saturday, October 27! We would like to plan fun for kids with games, prizes, bounce house, and much more. We will need *your* help! Feel free to make a donation of large bags of candy or a cash donation. Last year we had a tremendous turn out and served over 400 hotdogs. All questions can be directed to Holly Tozer or Pastor Mike. Come join the fun!



The United Methodist Men will be having a Barn Sale on Friday, November 9 and Saturday, November 10 from 9:00- 3:00pm.

We welcome donations of furniture, household goods and hardware items, etc. Please NO computers, no mattresses, old TV's, sofa beds, books or clothing. The Men are at the barn on Thursday mornings if you wish to bring items for the sale. If you need assistance, please contact Tom Eisele @ 941-268-4933.

CHURCH FAMILY BOWLING

Join us each Sunday night at 6:30pm at Treasure Lanes in Port Charlotte for a fun evening of bowling and fellowship! Cost is \$3/game, plus shoe rental. No reservations are necessary, and all ages are welcome to participate.

OUTREACH "UNDIE SUNDAY!"



It's time once again for Undie Sunday! This clothing drive helps area families with the most basic of necessities. As in the past, your socks and undies will be given to the Closet of Hope. All you have to do is bring a package of new socks or underwear to church with you on Sunday, October 14, and drop them in one of the boxes by the church entrances. Thank you for your support of this outreach program.

FINANCES

FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY for Aug.

TOTAL INCOME	\$25,708.65	\$274,016.23
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$7,971.15	\$61,017.12
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$717.36	\$6,347.35
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,504.90	\$36,039.20
STAFF SUPPORT	\$23,601.34	\$193,896.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,794.75	\$297,300.07
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(\$11,086.10)	(\$23,283.84)

TOTAL INCOME W/Reserved Funds		YTD
	\$37,708.65	\$292,016.23

OPERATING EXPENSE	\$7,971.15	\$61,017.12
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$717.36	\$6,347.35
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,504.90	\$36,039.20
STAFF SUPPORT	\$23,601.34	\$193,896.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,794.75	\$297,300.07
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$913.90	(\$5,283.84)
Reserve Fund Bal.		\$26,574.26

SCRIPTURES FOR OCT, 2018

10/7

START Acting Like a Child
Mark 10:1-12

10/14

Fast Forward Faith
Mark 10:46-52

10/21

Finding Our Place
Job 38: 1-18

10/28

Bring It On
Hebrew 4:15-16



MEN'S BREAKFAST



We meet twice a month for fellowship in the form of devotions, breakfast and business decisions. Come join us!
8:00 am October 2 & 16 @ Perkins in North Port.



Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions

We welcome your donations through any method you choose to give. And for those

who choose to give electronically, we want to offer a special word of thanks. e-Giving is faster, more secure, provides much-needed donation consistency and strengthens our stewardship program.

Electronic and traditional givers accustomed to texting can now give through Give+ Text. Make one-time or recurring offerings by simply sending a text to our secure account at [941-236-5788]. It's a convenient solution when you can't attend services or don't have cash or checks with you.

We hope you'll try this new way to give. Stop by the church office or visit our website to learn more.

We thank you and all givers for supporting our mission.

MINISTER TO YOUR MINISTERS

In honor of Clergy Appreciation Month, use these alphabetical reminders of how to treat your pastors:

- Accept them as people.
- Build them up. Say "thank you."
- Communicate with them.
- Defend them when someone tries to run them down.
- Entertain them. They like to have fun, too!
- Family. Allow them to have a family life.
- Genuine. Be honest with them. Be yourself around them.
- Honor them. Don't put them on a pedestal, but respect them.
- Income. Pay them enough so money isn't a concern.
- Judge not! Avoid being critical.
- Kind. Treat pastors as you want to be treated.
- Love. See 1 Corinthians 13.
- Maintain. Their families have the same needs as other families.
- Nurture. Help them grow in grace.
- Offer to help. The list of things you can do is endless.
- Pray for them. Lift up their names to God daily.
- Quelch not. Encourage instead!
- Rejoice in and with them.
- Surprise them – in little and big ways.
- Trust them. Believe in them.
- Understand them. Put yourself in their place.
- Vacation. They need time away.
- Welcome them into your home. Don't wait for an invitation.
- eXpend yourself, not them.
- Yoke. Help them bear their burdens with grace and dignity.
- Zap all gossip!

"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

- Oct. 3-Baked Spaghetti
- Oct. 10-Chicken & Rice
- Oct 17-Sloppy Joe w/Pasta Salad
- Oct. 24-Chicken & Dumplings
- Oct. 31-Meatball Sandwich

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!

STICK WITH IT!



"If I've learned anything about friendship, it's to hang in, stay connected," says journalist Jon Katz. "Don't walk away, don't be distracted, don't be too busy or tired, don't take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together."

This applies to church life too. When we're annoyed by some aspect of congregational life or caught in conflict with other members, it's tempting to drift away to another church — or no church. Even when all is fine, we sometimes let church take a back seat. But our bonds with the family of God are "part of the glue that holds life and faith together." For the sake of the benefits we gain and give, may we "hang in [and] stay connected" with our church family. May we not "walk away [or] be distracted, ... be too busy or tired." May we not take one another for granted but thank God for this "glue" — even when things get a bit sticky!



10/01	Bev Trueman	10/01	Darlene Norell
10/01	Emmett Leonard	10/02	Carolyn Nido
10/02	Luke McDaniel	10/03	Judy Carns
10/04	Tim Marsh	10/05	Betty Hansell
10/05	Ray Dunfee	10/05	Luke Wenzel
10/06	Anne Devilbiss	10/07	Cecilia Paolo
10/09	Blair McVety	10/09	Kathy Bullock
10/11	Bill Weinheimer	10/11	Ed Peterson
10/11	Diane Nyalka	10/12	John Blount
10/14	Fred Bryce	10/14	Wanda Huggins
10/15	Joyce Hammond	10/15	Sue Jones
10/15	Wayne Sexton	10/15	Jerry Spurgeon
10/16	Jim McGee	10/16	Colton McVety
10/17	Marilyn Calladine	10/17	Howard Coon
10/17	Kelsi Bertheaume	10/19	Carol Stein
10/19	Lu Ann Zink	10/19	Mike Weaver
10/21	Bob Rohrbaugh	10/21	Sandy Palmer
10/21	Ann Reid	10/22	Ginny Hardy
10/22	Dave Fonder	10/22	Donna Wallace
10/24	Marilyn Baker	10/28	Toni Samsel
10/28	Bern Weidenaar	10/31	Wilma Marsh
10/31	Terry Thonnerieux		



10/02	Tim & Debi Orchard
10/07	Steve & Linda Benz
10/14	Steve & Deb Crandall
10/20	Ron & Ann Reid
10/20	John & Joyce Furtado
10/20	Terry & Anita Ten Brink
10/24	Ralph & Joan Calisti
10/24	Jim & Barb Vanderford

THANKSGIVING IS FAST APPROACHING AND WE NEED YOU!!!

We will need volunteers to help with our traditional Thanksgiving dinner. There are many volunteers who come to help. So many in the area plan on coming here, as they have nowhere else to go, so please help us continue this service in our community by volunteering. Keep an eye on upcoming bulletins with more information coming next month.



Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 12:30. Please join us!

CUBA CONNECTION



It is time to start thinking about mission trips to Cuba in 2019. Please know

we travel on Religious Visas and to receive approval for this visa I need to have your application in 100 days prior to departure. If you have an interest in any of these trips please request an application form and return to me as soon as possible. These trips fill up fast. The eight-day trip cost is the same as 2018: \$1,960.00 (subject to change if we receive an increase in travel charges).

There are open spaces on all the 2019 trips.
 February 25 – March 4: Holguin Norte District
 April 26 – May 3: Guantanamo District
 September 10 -15: Designation yet to be determined
 October 7 – 14: Holguin Norte District
 October 14 – 21: Holguin Norte District, subject to change to : Guantanamo
 Eight travelers per trip is the maximum number allowed.

I caution you this is not a vacation trip, travel can be difficult, conditions can be challenging at best. I also must caution you that you will have your heart opened to the love of Jesus Christ that you have never

experienced before. These trips are not for the faint of heart, but they will change your heart.

Dan Christopherson, Southwest District Mission Program, Inc.
 Email: christforcuba@gmail.com
 Direct Line: 941-468-7209

WALK TO EMMAUS

The Men's Emmaus walk has been moved to February 7 to 11 and Women's walk will be February 14 to 17. The Emmaus Board made this decision to allow for a better walk experience for the pilgrims. If you are thinking of sponsorship please get the applications in as the walks will be filled with first applicants first, others will go on a wait list for the next walk.

Thank you, JoAnn Hopkins



Dear Friends, We want to thank our church family for all the prayers and condolence cards we've received this month. The death of our son has been a difficult time, but your caring concern and support has been a heart warming experience. We praise God for bring us to Gulf Cove and all you loving people. In His Love, Marilyn & Ralph Calladine



Oct 2	8am	Tuesday	Men's Breakfast
	6:00pm	Tuesday	At Ease Ministry
Oct 6	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204
Oct 8	12pm	Monday	Newsletter Deadline
	7pm		Trustee Meeting #103
Oct 14		Sunday	Undie Sunday
	8:30	Sunday	Blood Drive
	12:30pm	Sunday	Ladies Day Out
Oct 15	7pm	Monday	Finance Meeting #103
Oct 16	8am	Tuesday	Men's Breakfast
Oct 17	2:30pm	Wednesday	Inglenook Visitation
Oct 20	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204
Oct 22	7pm	Monday	Church Council
Oct 23	12pm	Tuesday	Friend To Friend Lunch
Oct 27	9-12pm	Saturday	Charge Conference
	4-6pm		Trunk or Treat

Sundays:

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

Mondays:

5:30pm	Girl Scouts	#108
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	Weekly Bulletin Deadline	
12pm	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
6pm	Youth Group	P#206
6pm	After Dinner Group	#102
6pm	Faithful Ladies	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 Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30pm	NA Recovery Meeting	P#109/110
7pm	Journey In Faith	P#201

