



# Gulf Breezes

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March, 2019

In a stroke of marketing genius, Netflix released the show *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo* on New Year's Day, just as people were making resolutions to clean up and get organized. But the show has also provoked some backlash as well.

When the book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* came out in 2014, it sold six million copies and became a No. 1 New York Times best-seller. It seemed like everyone was employing the KonMari method of removing clutter. In the show, Marie Kondo herself visits the houses of eight individuals and families to teach them her method and help them organize their lives and their stuff. The thesis undergirding the show seems to be that, by sorting, organizing, and discarding our "stuff" based on whether or not it "sparks joy," we will have more energy, time, and space for the things that truly matter.

As with any method, every part of it is not for everyone. When Marie Kondo herself stated that, ideally, she keeps fewer than thirty books, there was some backlash on social media. Other criticisms concern the spirituality that Kondo brings to her method, which includes thanking things for their service before being discarded. At times, the tone is slightly discordant — as if organizing our homes and things might somehow quell our existential anxiety in the face of the effects of climate change and growing wealth inequality.

On one hand, the KonMari method is a challenge to our typical American consumerist ethos that demands we continuously purchase more and newer things only to find ourselves surrounded by a lot of things we don't even like. It asks us to be intentional about our possessions in an era of cheap consumer goods. To that end, it gave me permission to dispose of those ill-fitting but expensive pants I never wear and those gifts I'd received that weren't quite my style but that I felt obligated to keep.

On the other hand, all of this organizing feels a bit like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. The first episode features a couple with two young kids where the father is working sixty hours a week, and the mother is the primary caregiver and housekeeper on top of working part-time. Both of them appear overwhelmed, with an undercurrent of dissatisfaction with their lives and each other. This is about more than their possessions; it's also about the unending demands of late-stage capitalism on their time and relationships.

From a faith perspective, what might Marie Kondo and her television series teach the church? Some of our churches have become dumping grounds for things that no longer "spark joy," that we feel obligated to hold on to "just in case" or out of fear of offending a donor. Or we might be clinging to items that remind us of a more robust era in the community, like outdated Sunday School curricula when the youngest member is 48. In other words, it isn't just our homes that are drowning in "stuff."

More broadly, we might ask if involvement in faith communities is something that "sparks joy" in the lives of people. Joy is not necessarily the same thing as happiness, but in a world where the people in our pews are overwhelmed by the demands on their time and energy, the church needs to be something besides another obligation for overworked individuals struggling just to keep their heads above water. The church can be a place to experience the transcendent, a helpful community where members pitch in to help one another, and a place where we are reminded of God's grace no matter how messy our houses are.

Like Kondo does in her show, the church needs to meet people where they are right now, not the imagined, idealized world of fifty years ago. The decline of trustworthy institutions and existential fears about the future of our economy and our planet weigh heavy on the minds of people who are being asked to do too much to prove their value. As we move into post-Christendom, it is more important than ever that the church not replicate the ways of the world but stand distinct from them as a place of grace, peace, and joy.

Pastor Mike

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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



**Sunday, March 10, 2019**



**LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT**

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Edgewater UMC, 19190 Cochran Blvd,  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

ONLINE REGISTRATION at [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org)

Or for more information.

[Thrive Leadership Training](#)

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE BARN**



**SALE APRIL 12 & 13**

The GCUMMEN'S Group are having their annual April Barn Sale. If you have anything in your house or garage you would like to donate to this project, the men will be at the barn on Thursday from 8am to 11:30am to accept your donations. Sorry, they are not accepting sleeper sofas, appliances, or electronics. Tom Eisele @941-268-4933 or the church office @ 941-697-1747

**FINANCES**

**FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY** for

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$48,529.80
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$7,526.54
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$332.50
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,499.60
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$26,801.25</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$39,159.89
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	\$9,369.91

**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 Perkins in North Port.

**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)

**ATTENTION 2019 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!!!**



The time has come for you to apply for the Losh Memorial Scholarship and Henry Memorial Scholarship. Applications can be picked up at the church office or in one of the three brochure racks. Deadline for completing applications for the Scholarship Committee is April 1. Remember, an official transcript from your high school or college and an essay on God's influence in your life are required with the application.

**LADIES DAY OUT**

March 10 at Ruby Tuesday. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. You can carpool from church at 12:15pm or meet us at Ruby Tuesday in Town Center Mall, center/north side. Contact Sandy Doty at 941-875-4199 or [ssdoty975@yahoo.com](mailto:ssdoty975@yahoo.com).

**GULF COAST EMMAUS INC.**

March 23, 2019  
4:30pm to 6:30pm

**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** \$10.00 (\$5.00 for Children under 10 yr.)

includes: Garden Salad, Bread, Spaghetti w/Sauce and Dessert. Beverage Included: Lemonade, Water, coffee. Grace Church, Central Campus, 2415 Grand Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901  
Call (941) 661-1976 or See Jo Ann Hopkins for Tickets.





**Scriptures March 2019**

3/3

Treasure Hidden In a Clay Jar  
*2 Corinthians 4:5-12*

3/10

LENT: The Passion of Christ: "Tempted"  
*Luke 4:1-13*

3/17

LENT: The Passion of Christ: "Betrayed"  
*John 13:21-30*

3/24

LENT: The Passion of Christ: "Denied!"  
*John 13:36-38*

3/31

Youth Sunday

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army this year. I can always depend on so many to participate and really have fun as well.

Many were dressed as Santa's elves and helpers, many had music and sang, the ukulele players participated again this year...so many different things happening.

Along with members of the Village of Holiday Lake, this was another uplifting and positive community event, as well as a successful one for the Salvation Army.

We live in a community that is caring and generous and the people we met were, many times, a blessing to us. The stories we heard were awesome, as well as sad at times.

My heartfelt thanks and blessings to everyone who helped make my task easy. It can only succeed with your time and effort...**YOU** are the ones who **Make It Happen**.

Looking forward to the challenge and your help next year. Sandy Doty (Head Ding-A-Ling).

**March Anniversaries**

- 3/01 Ken & Marian Brumley
- 3/02 Bruce & Charlotte Halbert
- 3/06 Charlie & Mary Hilton Jr.
- 3/11 Paul & Nancy Gebauer
- 3/16 Alfred & Karen Current III
- 3/18 Ernie & Linda Ovitz
- 3/25 Jess & Mary Hollenbeck
- 3/30 Ray & Barbara Dunfee
- 3/30 Ron & Loretta Barche

**March Birthdays**

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/01 Charlotte Halbert | 3/02 Addison Wareham    |
| 3/02 Maryanne Carrico  | 3/03 Earl Brumfield     |
| 3/03 Bruce Halbert     | 3/04 Sami Paolo         |
| 3/05 Kerry Eckinger    | 3/06 Dan Carter         |
| 3/06 Jo Ann Hopkins    | 3/07 Cindy Gettle       |
| 3/07 Cathy Unger       | 3/08 Don Baker          |
| 3/11 Bob Wollmacher    | 3/11 Dallis Walchle III |
| 3/13 Herb Bradley      | 3/14 Sue Payne          |
| 3/14 Sarah Taylor      | 3/15 Ginny Torr         |
| 3/16 Herb Bryant       | 3/17 Tom Eisele         |
| 3/21 Russ Treible      | 3/21 Ed Bryant          |
| 3/22 Ron Reid          | 3/23 Charlie Carter     |
| 3/23 Chuck Russell     | 3/24 Noah Reid          |
| 3/25 Joyce Furtado     | 3/25 Ilene Sokolich     |
| 3/25 Eli McDaniel      | 3/30 Kathy Green        |
| 3/31 Ruth Sherman      | 3/31 Bernie Torr        |
| 3/31 Chet Hallett      | 3/31 Bev Ernest         |
| 3/31 Chuck Mortenson   |                         |

**"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 5:30-6pm. The weekly cost is \$4/per Adult; \$2.50/per Child under 12; \$12/Family maximum. This month's menu includes

- March 6-Simple Soup & Bread
- March 13-Chicken Soup
- March 20 -Chili
- March 27 -Chicken & Potato Casserole

Reservation deadline is the previous Sunday--you can list your reservation on the pew attendance pad on Sunday mornings: Mark "W"& 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. Faithful Ladies meet in #101. At 6:15pm, Genesis Small Group, another adult Bible Study, meets in the #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!



**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 March 11 to 14. 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). You can also check the weekly bulletins for items that are needed. Non-perishable food items can be put into the EHH bins located in the Narthex and in the Education Wing. Thank you!

Calendar Highlights

March 2 9:30-12pm Sat Closet of Hope P#204  
 March 5 8am Tues UM Men's Meeting  
6pm At Ease Veterans  
 March 6 7-9am Wed Ashes To Go  
 5:30pm Simple Soup & Bread  
 6pm Ash Wednesday Service  
 March 9 9:30pm Sat Thrive Edgewater Church  
 March 10 2am Sun DST Begins  
8:30am Blood Drive  
 12:15pm Sun Ladies' Day Out

March 11 12pm Mon Newsletter Deadline  
 7:00pm Trustee Meeting #103  
 March 16 9:30-12pm Sat Closet of Hope P#204  
 March 18 7pm Mon Finance #103  
 March 19 8am Tues UM Men's Breakfast  
 March 20 2:30pm Wed Inglenook Visitation  
 March 23 4:30pm Sat. Emmaus Spaghetti Dinner  
 March 25 7pm Mon Church Council

**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  
 2-5 Girl Scouts Troop #538 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) #108  
 5-7pm Youth Group P#206  
6:30pm Family Bowling

**Mondays:**

6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop #899 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) #108  
7pm Boy Scouts P#201  
 Journey to the Cross #101

7:30pm AA Support Group #109/110

**Tuesdays:**

1pm Friend to Friend #109/110  
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  
 Youth Group P#206  
 After Dinner Group #102  
 Faithful Ladies #101  
6:15pm Genesis Adult Bible Study #114

**Thursdays:**

8am Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn  
9am Crafty Ladies Oak's Cove  
1:30pm Journey to the Cross #P201  
4:45pm Handbells Rehearsal P#203  
5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal Sanctuary  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal P#203  
6:30pm NA Recovery Meeting #109/110

