



Gulf Breezes

January, 2020

Most people are excited by a great celebration — particularly, those celebrations which include delicious food, party favors, decorations, games, door prizes, and good company. However, excitement should not be confined to only celebrations with a party atmosphere. Christianity has many faith celebrations. Some are festive and some are solemn, but all should inspire excitement.

Some Christian denominations, such as United Methodists, celebrate the liturgical seasons and are excited to do so. For example, Advent is a time of anticipation and eagerness for Christmas to arrive. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

The liturgical Christmas season begins at sundown on December 24 and lasts through January 6 (Epiphany). These are the twelve days of Christmas. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent which lasts until Easter. Lent is not considered a festive celebration but is a time of self-denial and self-examination.

The beginning of the Easter season depends on when the first full moon after March 21 occurs, because Easter Sunday begins the first Sunday after that full moon. The Easter season lasts fifty days. There are lesser emphasized liturgical seasons but actually, all of them should be celebrated with excitement because together they remind us of the life and mission of Christ.

Living with excitement

Liturgical seasons are not the only faith celebrations to generate excitement. The sacraments of Holy Communion and baptism are celebrations of faith. Mission projects, whether hands-on or support-based, are also celebrations of our faith. Weddings, funerals, sick and shut-in visitations, and many other activities are faith celebrations as well.

Think about it. Our celebrations of faith are celebrations of life. They are not only about the life of Christ but also our lives in Christ. Jesus stated in John 10:10b: "I came so that they could have life — indeed so that they could live life to the fullest." Let's commit ourselves to living a "life to the fullest," filled with excitement and passing on that excitement to the next generation.

Church, Happy New Year!!!!

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

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FYII: For Your Information & Interest



Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, Jan. 12 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 4debbowell@gmail.com.

SCRIPTURES FOR JAN 2020

Jan 5

Heading Home

Matt 2:2-9

Jan 12

Awkward Introductions

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Jan 19

Aha! I See It Now!

John 1:29-42

Jan 26

An Invitation That Went Astray

Matthew 3:13-17

SECRET PRAYER PARTNERS

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan 25 at 10:00am. We will meet in #103 for coffee and a snack to reveal for whom we have been praying. See you there. Maryellen

MEN'S BREAKFAST



The men will meet his month for fellowship in the form of devotions, breakfast and business decisions. Come join us! 8:00am, Jan. 7 & 21 @ Perkins in North Port.

2020 FLOWER CHART

You may reserve your special dates to place flowers on the chancel. When your week comes, you pay for the flowers by putting a check for \$30.00, marked "Flowers" on the memo line, in the offering plate. The chart is on the bulletin board in the Education Wing. Please be sure to note whether you are taking the flowers or not. Flowers left at the chancel are taken to our hospitalized, homebound, or given to Tidewell Hospice by our Caring Ministry.



FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY for Nov

		YTD
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,968.99	\$400,381.35
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$9,885.73	\$103,519.48
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$459.50	\$10,385.78
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,499.60	\$40,496.40
STAFF SUPPORT	\$26,173.11	\$274,658.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$41,017.94	\$429,060.50
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$1,951.05	(\$28,679.15)
YTD With Reserve Fund		
TOTAL INCOME		\$424,381.35
OPERATING EXPENSE		\$103,519.48
EDUCATION/NURTURE		\$10,385.78
APPORTIONMENTS		\$40,496.40
STAFF SUPPORT		\$274,658.84
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$429,060.50
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		(\$4,679.15)

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

Statements will be emailed in January. Hard copies will be available upon request. Signup sheets are on the boards in the Narthex and Education Wing. They will be in the back of the sanctuary the last two weeks of January or in the office, Mon ~ Thurs, 9-2.

Thank you for your continued gifts and tithes to Gulf Cove UMC through your financial contributions.



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 Jan. 27-30. 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. You can also check the shopping list in the Narthex and Education Wing. 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!

“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
 Jan 1 – No Dinner or Classes
 Jan 8–Ham & Bean Soup
 Jan 15-Chii
 Jan 22–Chicken & Rice
 Jan 29-Sloppy Joes

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 #D, the After Dinner Group meets in #102, and a Women's Bible study, "Faithful Ladies," meets in #101. 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 the #101 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!

JANUARY Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1/01 Bob Mac Donald | 1/01 Dick Morrow |
| 1/01 Keith Russell | 1/02 Kim Thomas |
| 1/04 Bob Gasiorek | 1/04 Jim Vanderford |
| 1/04 Heather Reid | 1/05 Pat Hansell |
| 1/05 Christopher Reid | 1/07 Helen Boyce |
| 1/09 Steve Wohlleb | 1/11 Tex Borden |
| 1/11 Sue Anne Bruzzese | 1/12 Jeanne Shrout |
| 1/12 Mardy Wilson | 1/13 Shureen Nyvold |
| 1/13 Janice Botelho | 1/13 Linda Thatcher |
| 1/16 Pat MacKenzie | 1/17 Steve Benz |
| 1/18 Dann Franks | 1/18 Mary Nelle Franks |
| 1/18 Susie CvC | 1/19 Caleb Waterman |
| 1/20 Gerrie McGee | 1/21 Dan Taylor |
| 1/21 Lorna Ryan | 1/21 Carrie Humke |
| 1/22 Helen Roberts | 1/23 Cleo Grayden |
| 1/24 Al Crosby | 1/24 Anita Ten Brink |
| 1/24 Suzanne Ludwig | 1/24 Sandy Doty |
| 1/24 Kathy Mortenson | 1/27 Kelly Weaver |
| 1/28 Don Zartman | 1/29 Rick Richter |
| 1/30 Pat Hitchcock | 1/31 Myra Ehnert |
| 1/31 Ron Wolfe | |
| 1/31 Nadia Carlston | |

JANUARY Anniversaries

- | | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1/01 | Harold & Dee Grafe |
| 1/19 | Dick & Susie Morrow |
| 1/27 | Marty & Carla Wilson |
| 1/28 | Joseph & Linda Coffey |
| 1/29 | Tom & MaryEllen Eisele |
| 1/29 | Don & Kris Grein |

LOVE IN ACTION

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with "absolute commitment to the way of love."

Love, declared the minister and activist, "is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." And, he said, anyone who's "devoid of the power to love" is "devoid of the power to forgive."

King distinguished between true love and "empty sentimentalism," however. He taught – and showed – that love is "the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another."

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate "active outpouring" of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

"Because of Calvary I'm free to choose," writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. "No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves."

ARTS AND CRAFT SHOW ANNUAL PIG PICKIN' and COOKIE DASH



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
 Friday Craft Sale 10-6pm
 Pig Pickin' 11-7pm
 Cookie Dash 11-7pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22,
SCOUTS BREAKFAST
 Saturday 7:30-1pm
 Craft Sale 8-2pm

Calendar Highlights

Jan 1		Wed	Office Closed	Jan 15	2:30pm	Wed	Inglenook Visitation
Jan 4	9:30am	Sat	Closet of Hope (C)	Jan 17	7pm	Fri	Youth Lock In
Jan 6	8am	Mon	Office Open	Jan 18	9:30am	Sat	Closet of Hope (C)
Jan 7	8am	Tues	GCUM Men's Breakfast	Jan 19	4pm	Sun	Dinner @ Stephenson's
Jan 10	7pm	Fri	Pig Pickin' Meeting	Jan 20		Mon	Office Closed/MLK Day
Jan 12	12:30pm	Sun	Ladies Lunch Out	Jan 21	7pm	Mon	Leadership Board Meeting
	1-4pm	Sun	Girl Scout Cookie Rally	Jan. 25	10am	Sat	Secret Prayer Partners #103
Jan 13	12pm	Mon	Newsletter Deadline				

Sundays

8am	Traditional Service	
9:30am	Contemporary Service	
	Seekers II Sunday School	#A
	Kids' Church/Sunday School	#109
11am	Traditional Service	
5-7pm	Youth Group	#D
6:15pm	Family Bowling	

Mondays:

7pm	Boy Scouts	#A
	AA Support Group	#109

Tuesdays:

1pm	Friend to Friend	#109
7pm	Al-Anon	#109

Wednesdays:

12pm	Weekly Bulletin Deadline	
	Mid-Week Boost Bible Study	#101
2pm	Disciple I Class	#101
4:30pm	Pastor's Bible Study	#101
6pm	Jesus Rocks	#109
	Youth Group	#D
	After Dinner Group	#102
	Faithful Ladies	#101
	Praise Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:15pm	Genesis Group	#114

Thursdays:

8am	Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn	
9am	Crafty Ladies	Oak's Cove
4:45pm	Handbells	#B
5pm	Daisy Troop	#108
6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	#B
	NA Recovery Meeting	#109



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