



August 2023

Gulf Breezes



From the Pastor's Desk:

The new school year will begin again this month, just like always.

Students will get up earlier, just like always.

They will have new teachers, perhaps different subjects, new classmates, and maybe a new school, just like always.

But is it “just like always”? Starting over again sounds matter-of-fact, like it's no big deal. And most of the time it is. But “beginnings” can stir up hope inside of us to do better and try harder.

We're not just talking about school here, starting over stirs up hope inside of us to do better and try harder. We're not just talking about school here.

It happens every year. School starts over again. Emotions build as students face the unknown. This isn't just true for students starting school. In many ways, we all start over again throughout life, venturing beyond what is familiar and growing in the process.

The wonderful thing about starting over again is that it's entirely new each time. However, going back to the familiar (the way school still looks and even, smells) is comforting so students can turn their focus on trying new things, establishing new friendships, becoming part of a team, studying harder, and finding a deeper sense of purpose.

All of this leads to something even greater when it's time to start over again with God. Repeat: **WHEN** it's time to start over again with God, not **IF** it's time to start over again. No matter our age, our gender, our place in life, our rank among others, our role in society - the need for God is always there.

When we sin, we start over again in faith to do better. When we graduate and venture out into the world, we start over again with God's Word as our guide. Over and over we start over again, and we grow inside ourselves when we do it with God.

If you have a little one who is starting school this month for the first time, this is not a “start over again”. This will be brand new, and it's up to you to help her/him to be excited more than scared. God will give you the right words to soothe your child and make the first experience with school great. That is, until the next year when it starts all over again and can be even greater!

May this year be one of many blessings you all of us students of the great Teacher,

Sunday Mornings

8:00—Traditional Worship Service

9—9:30 Coffee Fellowship

9:30—Contemporary Worship Service

10:30—11 Coffee Fellowship

11:00—Traditional Worship Service

Pastor Mike

Learning is a gift from God.

As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both.

Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day.

We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates and friends.

We ask that you bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

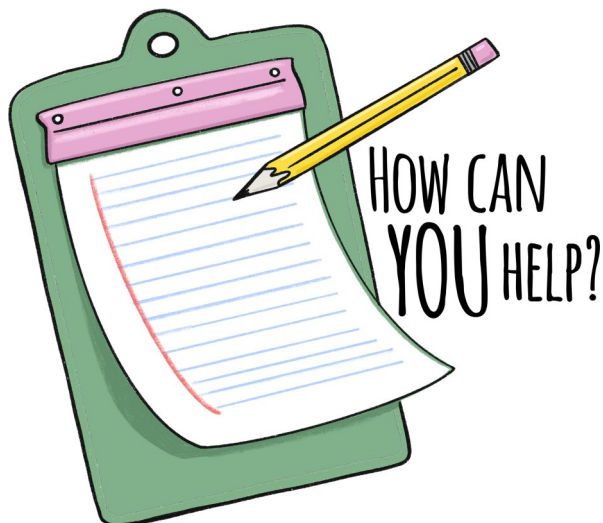
We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

Amen.



Dave and Anne Devilbiss have moved to Rockwood, TN near Knoxville area. Their extensive food ministry work on behalf of Gulf Cove is much appreciated and their service will be missed. Because of the speed of the sale and their moving, we were unable to have a farewell gathering for them, so we thought it would be fun to give them a "card shower." During the month of August, please bring in a *Welcome to your New Home* card, a *Thank You* card, a *personal note*, or whatever you choose and place it in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary, or drop it off in the office. Once collected, we will mail them in one box with a gift card from all of us. We plan to mail the box at the end of August. Let's thank them for their countless hours of love they gave to Gulf Cove.

If you prefer to send something directly, the address is Dave and Anne Devilbiss, 161 Barrington, Rockwood, TN 37854.



WHAT DO YOU FIRST SEE? For most people, the first thing they see when they come to our campus are the 10 acres which include our church. Like the buildings, the grounds also need to be maintained. The Barn Boys handle the machinery (mowers, trimmers, edgers, etc.) to keep the 10 acres in shape. The First Impression people water, weed, and trim the flower beds and planters around the church. We only have 5 men who care for our grounds, and only 1 or 2 people each week who water the flowers. We are in dire need of volunteers to assist with both of these missions. If you are willing to help, please contact Ken Priest or John Furtado

Englewood Helping Hand, Inc. is a community-supported human service agency that provides food, utility and other assistance to our clients as well as referral services to other agencies in both Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, working to prevent homelessness.

Open: Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Englewood Helping Hand Co-Captains for GCUMC:

Kim Bruemleve 260.580.1307 kimbruemleve@yahoo.com

Jan Hahn at 717.557.9058 or jan.l.hahn@gmail.com



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

It's officially summer time in the South West district! The typical rhythm of our ministry work often shifts a bit in the summer time, to embrace other things like camp, Vacation Bible school, mission trips and other outreach, as well as future planning and even in some cases, ministry transitions. We are grateful to welcome some new faces to ministry life in our district and we are fortunate to have several familiar faces just changing roles and remaining within our district. There's a list below that you can reference for more details and also to add these congregations and pastors to your prayers lists in this season of transition.

This month I start Year Two as your District Superintendent! In some ways this year has flown by and in other ways it has felt a bit longer. Maybe you can relate. And yet despite a major hurricane and disaffiliations, there has been hope and joy and it has been a good first year here of establishing trust and rebuilding connection. I have particularly enjoyed the opportunities to get around the district and meet with pastors and laity, participate in worship, tour churches and see ministries in action. This is our work together – I see my role as your district superintendent as one of equipping and resourcing laity, clergy and congregations for vital discipleship in Jesus Christ throughout the South West district. By July 9th I will have made my goal of having been to every single church and mission in the district at least once and then then I will reset the counter over again for year two. This fall we will be doing individual charge conferences also, so if I didn't make it to your congregation for a charge conference last year, know you will be on my schedule for this fall.



I am looking forward to what God will do in us and through us together in this coming year. And I am continuing to claim our theme from Annual Conference of Abounding in Hope – so I leave you with this prayer from Paul in Romans 15:13: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you. May abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”



COMFORT CREATIONS ~ This group of individuals creates lap robes, shawls, baby blankets, and similar items which are prayed over and given to those who need them. Their monthly meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday, **next on August 9th** – at 10:00am in #101. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Doty at 941.875.4199 or ssdoty975@yahoo.com.



JESUS ROCKS meets every Wednesday from 6-7:30 in Room #109. All children from PK through grade 5 are welcome! Join us for a light dinner, fun, games, and Jesus! Questions? Contact Holly Tozer, our children's director, at GCUMCkids@gmail.com.



Youth will be returning to the fall schedule, meeting on Wednesdays @ 6 and Sundays @ 4. Questions? Contact Jackie Guerin. 941.661.6821



The Crafty Ladies will meet on August 10th and August 24th. If you're a crafty lady, please join us at 10am, in Oaks Cove. Unfortunately, we are still not "open to the public." If you have any questions, contact Kathy Grawcock at 260.226.0240.



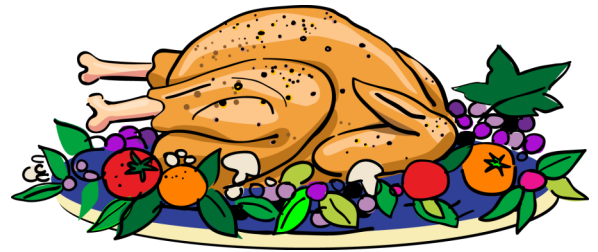
This group is open to all ladies from the church. They meet on the 2nd Sunday @ 12:30 at the Perkins in North Port. Contact Nancy Spaulding for more information.

(386) 868-8604

Community Outreach



We are still working on getting the Closet of Hope up and running. Unfortunately we are not able to take any donations until further notice, nor are we open to the public at this time.



Our Community Thanksgiving Dinner

is being organized by Alfred Current. He will be taking the lead, but he will need many helpers. If you have not already signed up, please contact Alfred or the church office to get on the list.

704.718.0951

alfred@alfredandcharlies.com

gcreceptionist1@gmail.com

Youth Fundraiser



Flamingo Flocking will occur twice a month, and continue through at least June 2024. ☐ Flocks will be placed on Sunday evening and picked up on Wednesday evening. To have someone flocked, the donation is \$45. There is no fee for flocking-pick-up. However, for an other-than-Wednesday-evening removal, the donation is \$15, to be paid, of course, by the flockee. ☐ Specialty Flocking: The flockor selects the non-Sunday flocking date and how long the flock remains standing at the flockee's home, along with any sign they would like the youth to create. The donation for a specialty flocking is \$100. ☐ Anti-flocking insurance may be obtained by anyone who does not want their yard flocked for a \$45 donation. The insurance will be good through June 2024.



Mike Hahn	8/01
Helen Unglaub	8/01
Sherry Hughes	8/01
Sean Priest	8/03
Dani Stout	8/04
Joe Hitchcock	8/05
John McGuire	8/07
Adeline Pariseau	8/07
Ella Case	8/07
Judi Corns	8/08
Everett Gilchrist	8/10
Annette Furto	8/11
Bill Blount	8/12
Linda Benz	8/14
Barb Vanderford	8/14
Jenna Alvarez	8/15
Sam Walters	8/16
Jerry Andrews	8/16
Zak Alvarez	8/17
Ula Christopher	8/17
Linda Coffey	8/18
Gene Saville	8/19
Jack Miller	8/19
Linda Norris	8/20
Loretta Barche	8/20
Judy Spurgeon	8/20
Dave Jenkins	8/21
Cathy Jeannerat	8/21
Ron Basso	8/22
Dave Jeannerat	8/24
Lorraine Fitzpatrick	8/25
Becky Walters	8/26
Bill Perry	8/27
Dave Cosgray	8/27
Charles Hilton Jr.	8/27
Noah Egan	8/28
Jack Sapp	8/28
Mary Sue Felumlee	8/29
Sue Falzone	8/30
Ron Meyer	8/30
Denny Howell	8/31



Jack & Ann Sapp	8/01
Dave & Linda Cosgray	8/05
Mike & Linda Schwallie	8/08
Larry & Tawnee Burrows	8/10
Rudy & Simone Sutter	8/11
Richard & Bonnie Jacoby	8/12
Dave & Beverly Fonder	8/16
Wayne & Stella Derflinger	8/17
Bill & Jana Blount	8/19
Russ & Sandy Palmer	8/20
Mike & Kelly Weaver	8/21
Ed & Julie Thoman Jr.	8/22
Rick & Wanda Huggins	8/22
Mark & Cindy Freer	8/23
Ron & Penny Wolfe	8/25
Doug & Judi Corns	8/26
Craig & Renee Baumgartner	8/26
Bill & Julie Perry	8/27