

Gulf Breezes

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor

Christ is Victorious!

There is a hymn by the title of “Victory in Jesus,” and the lyrics of the chorus are:

“Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me, and He bought me with His redeeming blood. He loved me ‘ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood!”

I doubt any of us would ever say we like to experience defeat in our lives. At least for me, I would rather be a part of a winning team than a losing team. My friend, I pray that you remember it's because of our Savior's Resurrection over 2,000 years ago that the victory WAS, IS, and WILL BE ours! We live in a world right now that seems to have the upper hand, as we look around and see sin and its consequences in so many areas.

While knowledge has increased exponentially over the past 100 years, the capacity for sin has also been on the rise. We are confronted daily with this fact, and for those who know Christ, we often find ourselves crying out for the return of Christ.

Remember, the Old Testament promised the first coming of Jesus as prophecies often told about one who was to come. The Father sent

Jesus in the “fullness of time” to die on the cross and ultimately rise from the grave in victory!

This was more than a temporary victory but is one that will continue to reverberate throughout the endless ages of eternity! Jesus rose from the grave in victory, and because He lives, we live also!

John 14:19: “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

That scripture reminds me of another powerful song written by Bill Gaither with the title “Because He Lives,” and the lyrics are as follows:

“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know, He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!”

I would encourage you today to keep your eyes on Jesus as you move through this journey of life.

He is victorious still!

Blessings in Christ,

Love you all

"Musings from a Music Director: A More Than Fond Farewell"

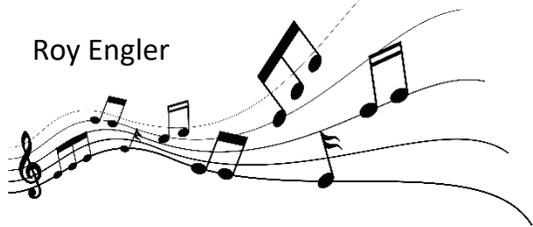
On a Monday night in February, 2012, I had just finished a rehearsal with the Suncoast Chorale when soprano Tony Samsel (a former music director at Gulf Cove) approached me at the door and said, "I just wanted you to know that the position of Music Director is opening up at our church." On Tuesday, I walked into Rev. Bill Fisackerly's office, and he looked at me, put his feet up, and said, "You saved me a phone call!" Rev. Bill and I had worked together in Estero, and I was very excited about the prospect of working together again. He always treated his staff with kindness and respect; he had a wild sense of humor and was a complete hoot to work with (much like our current pastor!), so I jumped at the possibility of a "Fisackerly-Engler, Pt. II." After an interview with representatives from Staff-Parish, and a chance to rehearse the choir, it became real, beginning on March 1, 2012.

As the first months went by, I found a family where love abounds, where the desire to help and heal is real, and good and beautiful things, great and small, can and do happen.

Be and I live fifty minutes away, and we often weary of the drive even before we get into the car, but we never, ever weary of the arrival! Love and joy are here.

So, as I am working on choosing these last hymns this month, and putting together these last anthems and arrangements, every piece of paper that I touch makes me stop and remember; each seems to have a holy quality; each is another warm experience in which I feel the love of our church. I love you all so much; you are my family, whether close or distant. God bless you!

Roy Engler



Holy Week
Worship
Schedule

PALM SUNDAY ~ March 24, with [regular service times](#) of 8, 9:30, and 11. A reception for Roy and Be will be held between the second and third services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ March 28, 5:00 pm ~ this will be a [shared potluck meal](#). Bring a simple dish to share if you are able, and if you cannot, please come anyway. Please sign up so we know how many tables to set up. The sheet is in the back of the sanctuary.

GOOD FRIDAY ~ March 29, 6:00pm ~ [Tenebrae Service](#). In this ancient service, darkness will be increased by gradually extinguishing candles, to symbolize the coming darkness of Jesus' death on the cross.

EASTER SUNDAY ~ March 31~ a [continental breakfast](#) will be available.

[Sunrise service](#) ~ 6:45am. This will be held outside, bring a chair.

[Traditional Easter Celebrations](#) at 8am and 11am, [Contemporary Easter Celebration](#) at 9:30am.



CHANCEL FLOWERS ~ Gulf Cove invites you to make a gift thanksgiving for, in celebration of, or in honor of a person or event. The donor's name(s) and appropriate dedication are printed in our Sunday bulletins. Donations are made directly to Gulf Cove's Flower Fund. The suggested donation amount is \$75 for two bouquets. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. Please note whether you are taking the flowers or not. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions.



EHH PANTRY NEEDS ~ ALL CONDIMENTS, BAR SOAP, TOILET PAPER, instant potatoes, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned beans, ramen

noodles, shelf stable milk, dry milk, canned pasta, canned chili. Donations can be placed in the EHH bin in the Narthex entry. Thank you for helping your neighbors in needs.



FAMILY PRAISE NIGHT

Families of our Gulf Cove Kids (both Sunday

School and Jesus Rocks) and Youth Group are invited to spend the evening with us. Join us for dinner, games, and Bible study. **Wednesday, March 6, 6:00-7:30pm.**

VBS PLANNING MEETING ~ Vacation Bible School is just a few months away, and it's time for our initial meeting! Mark your calendars – **Sunday, March 10**, in #109 at 11:45am (i.e., right after the 11:00 service is over).



In any church renovation project, the pastor's primary goal is the building of bridges.

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ENVELOPES AND SPECIAL OFFERINGS

2024 GIVING ENVELOPES ~ Everyone who attends our church regularly is invited to use giving envelopes. It helps us keep track of gifts and tithes separately from special offerings. The counting team appreciates your using them! If you have forgotten your envelope or do not have one for any Sunday, please use the ones in the attendanace pads.



Envelopes in the bulletins are for designated special offerings. See notes on

Communion Offering, Second Sunday, and Fifth Sunday special offerings

COMMUNION OFFERING ENVELOPES

Each month a different fund is chosen by our church



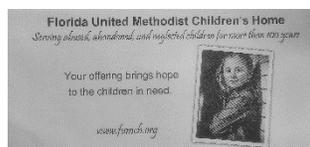
leadership to receive these extra funds. If you wish to give above and beyond your usual tithe for March, the Communion Offering is designated for our Outreach fund, allowing us to continue to reach out and serve members of our community.



SECOND SUNDAY ~ SECOND MILE GIVING is another opportunity to go above and beyond

your normal giving to support the church. This collection always goes to our reserve fund, so that we may pay our bills when gifts and tithes wil not cover our regular monthly expenses.

FIFTH SUNDAY ~ Every month that has a fifth



Sunday, we take up a collection for the Florida United Methodist Children's

Home. These monies are for the general operating budget for the facilites and are separate from any special events like Christmas in July.

Happy Easter

Children up to Age 12 and their parent(s) or adult guardian(s) are invited to join us for our:

Easter Festival
Saturday, March 30
11:00am – 1:00pm



Easter Egg Hunt starts at
11:15.

Enjoy free food, crafts, and
games.

Volunteers needed. Please contact Holly Tozer at 517-260-6167

MARCH Birthdays

Charlotte Halbert	03/01
Bruce Halbert	03/03
Ross Long	03/04
Heather Gilchrist	03/04
Kerry Eckinger	03/05
Shirley Marken	03/05
Liana Corn	03/07
John Roy	03/07
Cindy Gettle	03/07
Diana Heim	03/08
Al Marken	03/10
Bob Wollmacher	03/11
Dallis Walchle III	03/11
Derek Hughes	03/11
Sue Payne	03/14
Ginny Torr	03/15
Herb Bryant	03/16
Russ Treible	03/21
Jean Burrows	03/21
Ron Reid	03/22
Doris Hixson	03/24
Joyce Furtado	03/25
Sally Long	03/30
Kathy Green	03/30
Ian Newton	03/30
Chuck Mortensen	03/31
Chet Hallett	03/31
Charlotte Shea	03/31

MARCH Anniversaries

Ken & Marian Brumley	03/01
Bruce & Charlotte Halbert	03/02
Drew Washburn & Bonnie Rich	03/06
Paul & Nancy Gebauer	03/11
Alfred & Karen Current III	03/16
Jess & Mary Hollenbeck	03/25
Bob & Dalva Wollmacher	03/25
Ron & Loretta Barche	03/30
Ray & Barbara Dunfee	03/30



MARCH SERMON SERIES	
3/3	His Teachings - Luke 20:27-40
3/10	His Last Supper - Luke 22:7-38
3/17	Guest Pastor: Beth Bostrom
3/24	His Death - Luke 23:26-43
3/31	His Resurrection - John 20:1-9, John 20:10-18