

# Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

## From the Bishop:

March 30, 2024  
FLUMC

Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of the passing of retired Bishop Timothy Whitaker on Thursday, March 28.

Bishop Whitaker was assigned as Resident Bishop of The Florida Conference in 2001 and served for three four-year terms in Florida until his retirement in 2012. You can read more about his faithful service to The United Methodist Church [here](#).

Funeral services will be held on April 8 at 1:30 p.m. at Johnson's UMC in Machipongo, Va., Northampton County.

Please join me in prayers for his wife, Melba, and sons, Eric and Scott, as we embrace the hope of our resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Bishop Tom Berlin  
Resident Bishop, Florida Conference  
The United Methodist Church

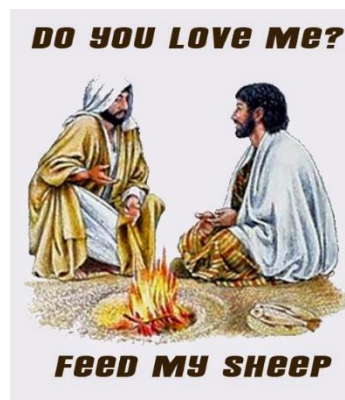
## To the Pastor:

Instead of hearing from Pastor Mike, we would like to take the time to thank him and his family for all the ways that they love us and teach us to show Jesus' love to the least, the last, and the lost.

Our pastor is very "hands on" and takes the lead in our outreach programs, including events like the Myakka River Elementary School STEAM night, where many people were fed, and the Easter Festival, where again we fed many people and welcomed many children.

His family is always there to support him and help, too.

We love you, Weavers.



# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

## Help Wanted in and around Gulf Cove Church What CAN you do?

**Greeters/Ushers** -sign-up at the back of the sanctuary or contact the office.

**Hospitality** -Help when you can- one week or one month. It's up to you! Make beverages first thing, set out goodies before and after 8am service, or clean up at the end of the morning. Sign-up in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office at 941-697-1747. **UPDATE:** Mary Ann and Bill Bart set up first thing, but they need help when they are out of town. If you can fill in, or clean up after 11, please call the office.

**Barn Boys** -Mowing and trimming-contact John Furtado at 941-830-0121.

**First Impressions** -Weeding and pruning - contact Ken Priest at 941-769-0581.



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**Lay Servant News has a new website:**

<https://www.flumc.org/swd-lay-servant-ministries>

**Are you being called by God to do something more?**



**EHH PANTRY NEEDS** -As of 3/11/2024, Englewood Helping Hand is in need of the following: bar soap, toilet paper, condiments

(ketchup, mayo, mustard), pancake syrup, instant potatoes, ramen noodles, shelf stable milk, dry milk, canned pasta, canned chili, canned tuna. Donations can be placed in the EHH bin in the Narthex entry. Thank you for helping your neighbors in need. Donations can be placed in the EHH bin in the Narthex entry. Thank you for helping your neighbors in need.

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### FINANCE SNAPSHOT FOR FEBRUARY

GULF COVE UMC INCOME & EXPENSES FOR FEB.	FEB	YTD
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$38,333.97	\$70,928.69
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$14,976.69	\$24,363.82
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$1,308.65	\$2,140.56
APPORTIONMENTS	\$3,795.20	\$7,590.40
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$26,573.81</u>	<u>\$52,679.28</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$46,654.35	\$86,774.06
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>(\$8,320.38)</b>	<b>(\$15,845.37)</b>

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### 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 April, the Communion Offering is designated for the Conference Special Offering.

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**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 will not cover our regular monthly expenses.

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FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST  
CHILDREN'S HOME IS NOW



**Why the New Name?**

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was first established in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage. Since that time it has grown into a holistic organization serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children from across the state of Florida. In addition to providing a higher level of therapeutic residential care in two locations, we also provide foster care and outpatient counseling in multiple counties.

We realized that we had outgrown the Children's Home name, and needed something that better represented the purpose we serve and the care we provide. That new name is **Residing Hope**. The word hope is commonly used to mean a wish or desire. But in the Bible, hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and the strength of His faithfulness.

Residing Hope expresses optimism and the opportunity of a better life of the children and youth we serve. It's that compassionate care that drives everything we do across all of our services and locations.

**Look for a new website coming soon at ResidingHope.org.**

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**THANK YOU**

Debbie Ludwick sent us a letter expressing thanks for your prayers.

Thanks Alfred for cooking for STEAM Night at Myakka River and thanks to all the volunteers that came out! Way to be a witness!



**BARN SALE:** Are you ready to start your spring cleaning? Please consider donating your clean, ready-to-use, in-good-

shape 'stuff' to the Barn Sale. Remember, we cannot accept furniture, electronics, large appliances, or clothing. Just bring your items to the Barn on Thursdays from 8am – 10am, or please contact John Furtado for more information at 941.830.0121.

**CRAFTY LADIES will be open during barn sale.**

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**WHAT DOES THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAY ABOUT TITHING?**

While Methodism's founder John Wesley did not talk directly about tithing, he had plenty to say about stewardship. In his sermon on "The Use of Money," he described money as "an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends."

"In the hands of his children," Wesley said, "it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked: it gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of an husband to the widow, and of a father to the fatherless. We may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain; it may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, a lifter up from the gates of death!"

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*~Matthew 6:19-21*



Terry Ten Brink	4/1
Pat Meyer	4/2
David Plummer	4/3
Ken Priest	4/3
Nancy Gebauer	4/4
Richard Jacoby	4/4
Theresa Peterson	4/4
Julie Whitford	4/4
Patty Twardzik	4/7
Gerry Olson	4/9
Brenda Carter	4/12
Alison Grove	4/13
Tim Matthews	4/13
DeAnna Crandall	4/14
John Zink	4/14
Ralph Saczawa	4/14
Quinn Gray	4/18
Edna Duer	4/19
Julie Anne Kern	4/20
Johnny Roy Jr.	4/20
Penny Wolfe	4/20
Donna Palmer	4/22
Sandra Sullivan	4/23
Lynne Gill	4/24
Dawn Eckbreth	4/26
Roran Egan	4/26
Barbara Indermaur	4/27
Wanda Shaffer	4/28



Pat & Betty Hansell	4/3
Dick & Theresa Peterson	4/4
Jimmie & Jessie Choate	4/20
Samuel & Jackie Carter	4/24



**APRIL SERMON SERIES**

<b>April 7</b>	<b>Locked Doors</b> <b>John 20:19-23</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Pass the Biscuits</b> <b>Luke 24:35-48</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Thy Rod and Staff</b> <b>John 10:1-21</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>The Jesus Connection</b> <b>John 15:1-17</b>