

Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor:

Dear Church,

As we find ourselves settling into the rhythm of a new school year, there's a palpable shift in the air. The lazy, languid days of summer are behind us, replaced by the structure and routine of school schedules, extracurricular activities, and the daily grind. But before we know it, the whirlwind of the holiday season will be upon us—Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas—bringing with it a flurry of events, responsibilities, and celebrations. This season, while filled with joy and anticipation, can also be overwhelming, making it easy to let our faith take a backseat.

In this transition from summer to school year, and then to the holidays, there is a temptation to become complacent. We might find ourselves going through the motions—attending church, saying our prayers, and participating in community events—without truly engaging with the heart of our faith. Yet, Scripture reminds us of the importance of staying vigilant and joyful in our daily walk with God.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV) encourages us: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Paul's words serve as a powerful reminder that even in the midst of our busiest seasons, we are called to rejoice and take joy in our faith. This doesn't mean we ignore the challenges or stresses of our daily lives, but rather that we bring them before God with a heart of gratitude and trust. It's about finding the sacred in the ordinary—the joy in the routines and the presence of God in every moment, not just during special occasions or holidays.

As we prepare for the upcoming months, let's make a conscious effort not to become complacent in our faith. Let's use this time to cultivate a deeper relationship with God, finding joy in the everyday moments. Whether it's during a quiet morning prayer, a family meal, or

even in the hustle and bustle of school drop-offs and pickups, God is with us, inviting us to experience His peace and joy.

So, as we get into the groove of the school year and anticipate the holiday season, let's also recommit ourselves to our faith. Let's rejoice in the Lord always, embracing the routine and the special moments alike with a heart full of gratitude and a spirit of joy. In doing so, we'll find that our faith becomes not just a part of our lives, but the very rhythm that guides us through every season.

Church, you are so loved,

Pastor Mike



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 8am** **Traditional Worship Service**
- 9:30am** **Contemporary Worship Service**
AND Kids Church
- 9:30am** **Sunday School (gr PK-5) #109**
- 9:30am** **Adult Sunday School #D**
- 11am** **Traditional Worship Service**
- 4-6pm** **Youth Group (gr 6-12) #D**

WEDNESDAYS AT GULF COVE

Midweek Boost ~ meets with Pastor Mike at 12pm.

Pastor's Bible Study ~ meets at 4:30pm.

Jesus Rocks ~ Grades K-5 meet from 6-7:30pm.

Youth ~ Grades 6-12 meet from 6-7:30pm.

All groups are open to new people. Just call the church office to make sure we didn't have to cancel for the week. We would love for you to join us!! Really!!!

SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES

September 1

Mark 7:1-8

Good Taste or Good Religion?

Pastor Mike

September 8

John 15:26-27; John 16:13-15

The Greatest GPS Ever!!

Jackie Carter, Lay Servant

September 15

Mark 8:31 – 9:1

The Path to Real Success

Pastor Mike

September 22

Mark 9:33-37

Driven to Serve

Pastor Mike

September 29

Mark 9:42-50

Losing Favor or Losing Flavor?

Pastor Mike



Upcoming EVENTS

CUBA DONATION DRIVE – NOW UNTIL OCTOBER 13.



As many of you know we have two people traveling to Cuba in October. Kathy Kaiser and Joan Priest will be leaving October 20th to visit our two sister churches. You know the drill, since we had two visitors go to Cuba back in March of this year.

This provides us the opportunity to send much needed supplies to be used by the congregations there. They have pharmacies in Cuba, but as we have shared with you in the past, the shelves in the Cuban pharmacies are empty most of the time. The shortages are so severe that when the Cuban people go to the hospital, they are required to take their supplies with them.

Our first priority will be Over-the-Counter medicines. As you can see on the list that follows, in addition to OTC meds, we would like to send vitamins and supplements, medical devices, hygiene items, and reading glasses.

A bin will be located in the back of the church and if you would prefer that we do the shopping for you, there will also be money donation box. **Deadline for donations will be Sunday, October 13.**

If you bring in any item with an expiration date, please check the date. It must be at least 12 months out, which means October 2025 or later.

The need is great and we are very grateful that with the help of our travelers we can avoid the obstacles and excessive cost of shipping these supplies. Thank you so much! -TEAM CUBA

Needs for Cuban People

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINES

- Ibuprofen for adults and children
- Pain relief capsules and gel for adults and children
- Antacids and digestive aids
- VapoRub ointment
- Arnica gel
- Antibacterial ointment
- Benadryl ointment
- Nose drops
- Eye drops
- Bandages and dressings
- Anti-lice shampoo

VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS

- Daily vitamins for adults and children (no gummies)
- Vitamin C, B-12, D3
- Supplements – Calcium, magnesium, Omega 3, Glucosamine
- Pedialyte for children

MEDICAL DEVICES

- Thermometers
- Blood pressure monitors
- Syringes
- Suture thread

HYGIENE ITEMS

- Toothpaste
- Shampoo

READING GLASSES – Different strengths



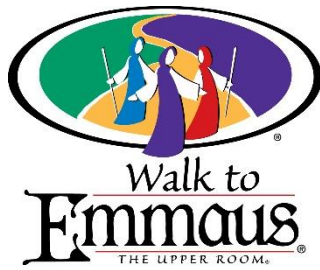
**BARN SALE ~
Friday, November 1,
Saturday, November 2,
8am – 2pm.**

Donations are now being accepted on Thursday mornings before 10am. Please bring items to the Barn by 10am on Thursday mornings; **no furniture, no electronics, no clothes.** Direct Barn questions to John Furtado at 941.830.0121.



PAINTING PARTY Friday and Saturday NOVEMBER 22 & 23.

Upcoming Events continued from p.3)



Emmaus Reunion Potluck ~ All people who have previously attended an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Walk are invited to a potluck meal on Saturday, September 21, 12 –

2pm. Contact Janet Saczawa for more details. 256.777.3966.

Fellowship



Ladies Who Lunch will meet next on Sunday, **September 8, at 12:30pm** at the North Port Perkins. Please contact Nancy Spaulding at 386.868.8604 for more details. All are welcome!



Dinner for Six

Our Dinner for Six small groups are going strong. The current round runs from September through November. If you missed the sign-up, or are just getting back for the season, contact Kathy Mortensen at 530.210.6149.

GULF COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VENDORS NEEDED

Not just a Craft & Vendor Fair
Saturday, November 16, 2024
9 AM - 3 PM

VENDOR: SPOTS \$50
FOOD VENDOR: \$100

Contact Susan at 302.563.4479
nannieof2beauties@comcast.net

1100 S. MCCALL ROAD
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33981

Visit our website for more information:
gulfcovechurch.com



Watch the website for more information on how to sign up for a booth or be a volunteer.

TRUNK 'R TREAT EVENT



October 19, 4pm – 6pm. Start thinking about candy. We give out around 1,000 pieces from each trunk, so a lot is needed. Please watch for sales and consider helping fill the trunks.



The Closet of Hope at Gulf Cove United Methodist Church offers free clothing for children and adults of all ages. The Closet is open the first and third Saturdays of the

month (except holidays), from 10am until 1pm. Individuals must present a photo ID at the door which reflects their residence in Charlotte County or in Englewood, North Port, or Venice in Sarasota County. Families are limited to one bag of clothing each month. Donations can be brought to the Closet on Thursday mornings at 10am or when they are open on Saturdays.

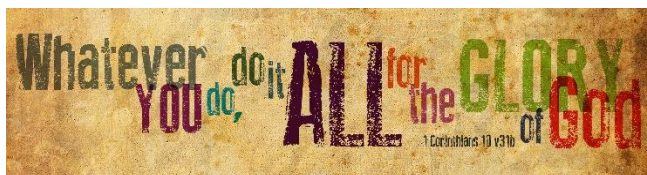
(Outreach continued from page 4)

Mothers Helping Mothers is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides basic necessities, baby items, and resources free of charge to families in Sarasota, Manatee, and surrounding counties. GCUMC hours: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10am-1pm.





Englewood Helping Hand needs the following: shelf stable or powdered milk, condiments, bar soap, toilet paper, instant mashed potatoes, ramen noodles, rice, tuna, canned beans (kidney, black, refried, baked), canned pasta, canned chili, soups. Donations can be placed in the EHH bin in the Narthex entry. Please be sure items have not expired.



STRONGER TOGETHER: Charlotte County Homeless Coalition to Merge with St. Vincent de Paul CARES

"Combining our resources and expertise will allow us to provide more comprehensive support to those experiencing homelessness," said Cheryl Maymon, Homeless Coalition Board President. "Together, we will be stronger advocates for the vulnerable populations we serve."

This organization is a place to which we often take extra food after large events. The merger was official as of August 1, 2024, and the Homeless Coalition is now a part of St. Vincent de Paul. This program is now called:



Charlotte CARE Center



8:00 & 9:30 COORDINATORS FOR GREETERS &



USHERS ~ This position finds individuals who can greet people and perform a few ministerial

tasks during the Sunday morning services (such as collect the offering and distribute/gather attendance pads). If you have any questions, please contact the office.



Thank you all for your generosity of heart.

Review of Current Finances

	JULY	YTD
Total Spendable Income Received	\$39,018.90	\$284,803.55
Monthly Budgeted Expenses Spent	\$40,135.59	\$289,044.95
Surplus/Deficit	(\$1,116.69)	(\$4,241.40)



2024 GIVING ENVELOPES

If you are not using them but would like to, OR if you want to

switch from weekly-to-monthly envelopes or vice versa, please fill out the 2024 sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact the office during the week. Your Counting Team appreciates your using them! You do not have to be a member to receive envelopes. They are available for anyone who gives regularly and it helps us keep track of your giving.



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 September, the Communion Offering is designated for Outreach.

Ministry	Contact
Kids Church, Sunday mornings	Holly Tozer, 517.260.6167
Crafty Ladies, Thursday mornings	Kathy Grawcock, 260.226.0240
Closet of Hope, 1 st & 3 rd Sats.	Sandy Palmer, 941.204.3322
Mothers Helping Mothers, 2 nd & 4 th Sat.	Roberta Timberman, 941.704.7457
Comfort Creations, 2 nd Wed.	Sandy Doty, 941.875.4199
Trustees Handy Helpers	Jim Brown, 712.299.2084 Richard Jacoby, 484.560.3412
Barn Boys (campus grounds)	John Furtado, 941.830.0121
First Impressions (plant/flower beds)	Ken Priest, 941.769.0581
Greeters & Ushers, Sunday mornings	8:00 ~ Office, 941.697.1747 9:30 ~ Office, 941.697.1747 11:00 ~ Nancy Spaulding, 386.868.8604
Hospitality, Sunday mornings (serving room clean up)	Office, 941.697.1747



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.

CHANGES ARE COMING



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024

We will not be doing carry out or drive through meals this year. We will focus on the dine in experience, and also continue to provide meals to homebound individuals.

Watch for more information as the planning progresses.



COMFORT CREATIONS will begin meeting at **9:30** on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, rather than 10am. This change begins Wednesday, September 11, 9:30am, room #101.

Comfort Creations is a group of women who create knitted or crocheted blankets and shawls to give away to people who need to feel God's comfort. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact Sandy Doty. 941.875.4199.



Starting September 5, the Crafty Ladies will be open to the public every Thursday from 10am-12pm in Oaks Cove.

Crafty Ladies is a group of women who sew or create specific items that are then sold to the public. Monies received from these sales are used for purchasing supplies and donating to various causes. If you would like to help, please contact Kathy Grawcock. 260.226.0240.





C.T. Twardzik	9/1
Zack Grove	9/3
Pat Birt	9/6
Carole Satterfield	9/7
Ted Eckbreth	9/7
Russ Palmer	9/8
Bob Segur	9/8
Kathy Kaiser	9/10
Becky Stephenson	9/13
Rick Carlson	9/13
Stacey Corn	9/13
Cliff Jones	9/13
Karen Current	9/13
Cathy Weist	9/13
Briggs Gray	9/14
Nancy Steneck	9/17
Miles Gilchrist	9/17
Robert Wolpert	9/19
Karlie Weaver	9/20
Joanie Marshall	9/20
Bonnie Jacoby	9/20
Jackie Miller	9/21
Lisa Brown	9/22
Stella Derflinger	9/24
Ed Thoman Jr.	9/25
Jeanne Richardson	9/25
Joseph Coffey	9/26
Azalea Gray	9/26
Legend Timberman	9/27
Shane Crandall	9/27
Erin Kuhns	9/30



Zack & Alison Grove	9/3	25 th
David & Jean Pepper	9/6	
Gene & BJ Saville	9/8	
Don & Carol Teague	9/10	
Al & Shirley Marken	9/11	
Chuck & Kathy Mortensen	9/17	
Mike & Patricia MacKenzie	9/20	50 th
Jay & Denise Henderson	9/20	
John & Carol McGuire	9/30	

