

Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor:

Church,

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, many of us start dreaming about the perfect turkey, mashed potatoes, and, of course, pie—lots of pie! But beyond the food coma and family gatherings, Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on gratitude, service, and where we place our trust. Before we dive into those sweet potato casseroles (yuk), let's talk about something even more filling—community and faith.

Join us on Thursday, November 28th for our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. This event has become one of our church's most beloved traditions, and it's more than just a meal. It's an opportunity to share God's love with those around us—whether they are church regulars or someone walking in for the first time. We will be serving, laughing, and showing what true thanksgiving looks like—sharing from the heart.

If you'd like to help serve, please contact the church office to volunteer. And remember, no turkey carving experience required! (But we do need help with mashed potatoes... seriously, lots of mashed potatoes.)

Thanksgiving is biblical! As Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Now, this doesn't mean we have to love every circumstance, but it does mean that there's always room for gratitude, even in the messiness of life. We're reminded that giving thanks isn't just for when things are easy—it's an act of faith in God's goodness no matter what's on our plates (whether literal or metaphorical).

In Psalm 107:1, we are called to "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." It's a beautiful reminder that, as we look at the blessings and challenges of our lives, God's steadfast love is what truly sustains us.

With a heated presidential election season looming, it can feel like Thanksgiving tables will need peacekeepers as much as turkey and stuffing. But let's remember, as followers of Christ, our ultimate loyalty isn't to a political party, but to the One who reigns over all creation.

Colossians 3:15 gives us this timely reminder: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Amid the noise and debate, we're called to let Christ's peace guide us. After all, He's the true King, and no matter who's in the White House, we know Who's on the throne.

In this season, we are especially thankful for you, our church family. Whether you're bringing a pie, lending a hand at the dinner, or just showing up with a smile, your presence matters. Together, we're not just celebrating a holiday; we're living out the call to love and serve one another.

So, as you prepare your grocery lists and try to figure out where that one casserole dish went, don't forget to pause. Take a moment to thank God for the big and small things, and for the people in your life—even the ones who bring up politics at the dinner table (we're all thinking it!).

Let's come together in gratitude, faith, and, of course, lots of mashed potatoes.

Love Y'all

Pastor Mike

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 8am Traditional Worship Service
- 9:30am Contemporary Worship Service
AND Kids Church (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.
- Women's Bible Study ~ meets from 6 – 7:30pm.

NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

November 3
Mark 12:28-31
Love Actively


November 10
Matthew 25:35-40
Serve Impactfully

November 17
Mark 13:1-8, 32-33
On Your Mark, Get Set...

November 24
John 18:28-40
What Is True and Who Can You Trust



Upcoming EVENTS



Barn Sale
BARN & CRAFTY LADIES SALE
CANCELLED

Friday, November 1
 Saturday, November 2,
 8am – 2pm.



GULF COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Not just a Holiday

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

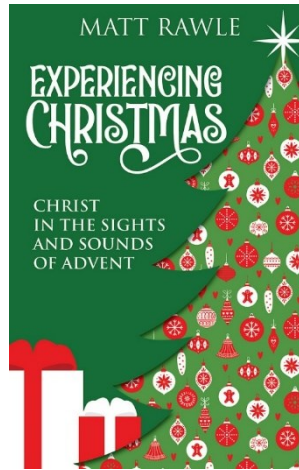
Visit our website for more information:
gulfcovechurch.com

Volunteer Signup Sheets are in the sanctuary.



BOY SCOUT TROOP #776
FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY
NOVEMBER 10,
FOLLOWING THE 11AM SERVICE.

ADVENT STUDY



Join Pastors Patty and Andy Frick this Advent to prepare your hearts again for the birth of Jesus. This 4-week study will guide us to see Jesus in the signs that point to

him during this time of year, the sights, sounds and smells that we associate with Advent and Christmas. Think of the candles that bring light into the darkness of the shorter days, the nativity displays that begin to appear, the Advent - Christmas hymns we sing in church, and the signs of peace that surround us. All this and more will be covered in the student book, *Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent* by Matt Rawle. It begins **Tuesday, November 26th and ends Tuesday, December 17th**. We will meet at **4:00 pm** in a room TBD. During our four weeks together, we will discover how everything changed when God was born. Please sign up on the sheet at back of sanctuary by **Sunday, November 10**. Books are available at a cost of \$15, payable to Gulf Cove UMC, and participants asked to read the 1st chapter before class starts.

Questions? Patty Frick 520.232.4939

Fellowship



Ladies Who Lunch will meet next on Sunday, **November 10, at 12:30pm** at Perkins in North Port. 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. Our next round will begin in January, and sign up is open. If you would like to

participate, contact Kathy Mortensen at 530.210.6149.

MahJongg With Friends ~ Meets Mondays at church from 10am – 12:30pm, room 108. All are welcome. Contact Linda Edwards for more details. 253.350.7264.





Interested in starting a new group? Call the office and we will help you get started. Groups can be anything you like, from prayer groups, Bible Studies, games, coffee time – it's up to you.



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.



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.



We will be collecting money for Residing Hope Children during the month of December. Be on the lookout for the donation box and more information.



Englewood Helping Hand needs the following: bar soap, toilet paper, shelf stable or powdered milk, condiments, instant mashed

potatoes, ramen noodles, rice, tuna, canned chicken, canned beans (kidney, black, refried, baked), canned pasta, canned chili, soups, peanut butter, cereal, or any shelf stable foods. Donations can be placed in the EHH bin in the Narthex entry. Please be sure items have not expired.



COMFORT CREATIONS meets at **9:30** on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is **November 13, 9:30am**, room #101.

Comfort Creations is a group of people 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.



CRAFTY LADIES IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO HURRICANE DAMAGE.

The ladies have been meeting on Thursday mornings in room 101, to work on projects. They will be selling their wares

at the **Notjusta Craft Fair** on **November 16.**

Contact: Kathy Grawcock. 260.226.0240.



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND ~ needs our assistance putting donations on the shelves and preparing food bags for distribution on **Wednesday and Thursday, November 20th and 21st**, from 8am-

1pm. Please consider volunteering for one day. Look for the Volunteer Sign up sheet on the tables as you enter the church or contact:

Kim Bruemleve at 260.580.1307. kimbruemleve@yahoo.com or

Jean Howard at 607.427.8994 jphoward_fnp@hotmail.com

PAINTING PARTY Friday and Saturday NOVEMBER 22 & 23. All materials supplied. Times TBA



We are always in need of Greeters and Ushers.

We ask that you sign up for a month at a time, but if you can only do 3 out of 4 Sundays, we still want you. Just make a note of when you will be gone during that month. All help is welcome!





**THANKSGIVING DINNER ~
NOVEMBER 28, 12pm – 3pm.**

This is a free meal for the community. We are having a Dine-In meal and all are welcome. Free will donations accepted. Homebound individuals within our delivery area may preorder a meal for delivery on Thanksgiving Day by calling the office at 941.697.1747. We will not be doing any drive through or take-out meals this year.

- **Interested in volunteering? Please call the office at 941.697.1747, or look for signup sheets in the sanctuary. Spots will be assigned on a first come first served basis. Volunteers need to sign up by Thursday, November 21.**



It's that time of year again! Bell Ringing will begin on November 18th at Winn Dixie, and November 30th at Publix. Shifts are 2 hours long, and begin at 9am, continuing until 7pm, when the last shift ends. Sandy Doty will be at the rear of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings to help you choose your shifts, or you may call or text her at 941.875.4199.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA - SING NOEL! ~ If you like to be considered for a reading part in our upcoming Christmas Cantata, "Sing Noel!" let Sue Betz know by **Sunday, November 17**, by texting 860.608.3686 or by emailing GulfCoveUMCMusicDirector@gmail.com. The reading parts are drawn from English poetry. Please give your preference for which service you would like to read, 8:00 or 11:00. Once all names are in, Sue will pick from a hat the lucky 20 readers (10 for each service). The cantata will be performed on **Sunday, December 15, at 8am & 11am.**



Do you have a musical gift? We are always looking for musicians to join us either one Sunday as a special occasion, or as part of our Choirs, Handbells, or Praise Team. Contact

Sue Betz or Fred Leseure if you can share your talent with us as we praise the Lord on Sundays. *****



Would you like to pray for our GCUMC family? Our E-mail Prayer Chain is an intercessory prayer ministry that is dedicated simply to lifting those who have

needs up to our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. You should have a desire to intercede in prayer for the needs of others.
2. You should commit to open your email as often as possible to pick up prayer needs.
3. Pray over requests immediately.
4. If requests are the type that need continuing prayer, copy and paste in a document so that you can review and pray over these types of needs.

Email Gulfcoveumc@gmail.com to sign up.

Stewardship

is heart work



NOVEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING is



dedicated for our in-house Hurricane Fund, which will be used

to cover expenses for hurricane repairs. If you wish to give above and beyond your normal gift or tithe and donate to this fund, look for the specially marked envelopes in your 1st Sunday bulletins.

SECOND SUNDAY ~ SECOND MILE

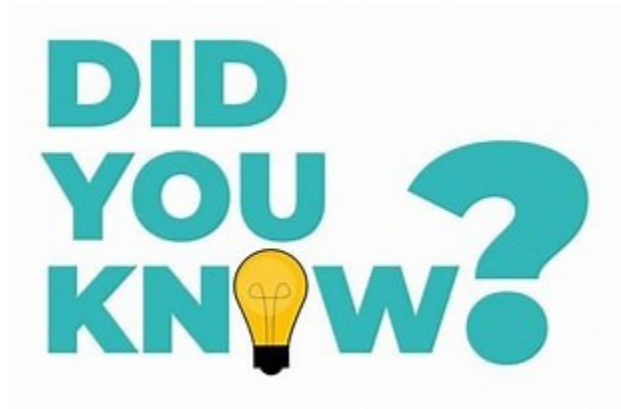


GIVING is another opportunity to go above and beyond

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.

Review of Current Finances

| | SEPT | YTD |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Total Spendable Income Received | 28,462 | 335,516 |
| Operating Expenses | 44,416 | 372,791 |
| Surplus/Deficit | (15,954) | (37,275) |
| Reserve Money Used | 0 | 0 |
| Designated Funds Received | 1,236 | 53,693 |



The Gulf Breezes Monthly Newsletter is posted online on our webpage at gulfcovechurch.com, along with our monthly calendar and other interesting happenings around the church. Check it out!

If you do not have internet access, a copy of Gulf Breezes may be found in the Narthex or you may request a copy be mailed to you by calling the office at 941.697.1747.





| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Betty Miller | 11/1 |
| Bishop Tozer | 11/2 |
| Drew Washburn | 11/3 |
| Lennox Alvarez | 11/3 |
| Crystal DePaolis | 11/3 |
| Nancy Treible | 11/5 |
| Beau Charbonneau | 11/6 |
| Amber Charbonneau | 11/6 |
| Ann Sapp | 11/7 |
| Barb Proper | 11/8 |
| Derek Walchle | 11/9 |
| Eileen Fulton | 11/14 |
| Jim Graham | 11/15 |
| Roy Norell | 11/15 |
| Celina Cummings | 11/16 |
| Tom Yager | 11/17 |
| Jack Stephenson | 11/17 |
| Sandy Norton | 11/19 |
| Joanne Eckinger | 11/20 |
| Christine Perry | 11/21 |
| Jennifer Guzik | 11/22 |
| John Furtado | 11/23 |
| Susan Haring | 11/23 |
| Carol Teague | 11/24 |
| Debbie Ludwick | 11/25 |
| Barbara Dunfee | 11/25 |
| Dick Peterson | 11/27 |
| Rick Rakestraw | 11/30 |
| Andy Frick | 11/30 |
| Sandy Palmer | 10/21 |
| Terry Thonnerieux | 10/31 |



| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Mike & Jan Hahn | 11/07 |
| Duff & Edna Duer II | 11/26 |
| Denny & Deb Howell | 11/27 |
| Al & Vernetta Crosby | 11/30 |