

Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor

Dear Church,

Happy New Year! As the calendar flips to 2025, let's press pause on the usual chatter about resolutions. Let's face it: most of those promises to ourselves barely survive January. Who's still hitting the gym every day or nibbling kale by Valentine's Day? (If that's you, please share your secret strength!) Instead of resolutions, let's focus on *blessings*—giving them, sharing them, and living in them.

In Philippians 3:13-14, Paul encourages us: *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

This year, let's shift our goals from self-improvement projects to heart-improvement ones. Instead of "New Year, New Me," how about "New Year, More Jesus"? What joy could 2025 bring if we focused on being more like Him—gentle, patient, forgiving—and less like the ugly harshness that too often seeps into our world?

Imagine starting each day with a blessing for someone else: a kind word, a helping hand, or simply a prayer whispered on their behalf. Jesus showed us that small acts of love can ripple into great waves of grace.

Proverbs 11:25 reminds us:

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

So, let's refresh the world in 2025! Let's be the salt and light that flavors conversations with love and dispels darkness with kindness. And hey, if you slip up and snap at someone in traffic, just remember—Jesus forgives, and so will the guy in the next lane (probably).

In all seriousness, the joy of walking this path together will make this year brighter than we can imagine. Whether it's through our prayers, our actions, or simply our presence, let's share God's blessings widely and extravagantly.

Here's to a year filled with less striving and more thriving—less meanness and more Christlikeness. And if kale must still be a part of your journey, may it be seasoned liberally with God's grace (and maybe a little bacon).

P.S. on a personal note, I want to thank each and every one of you for your blessings, cards, gifts, and the love you have showered my family this year and in the past. We love you, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With love and New Year's blessings,

Mike and the rest of the Weavers

THE BIG Red Bus will be at



Gulf Cove UMC

Sunday, January 19

7:30am – 12:30pm

COMING THIS MARCH...

What: Women’s Retreat
Hosted by: Susan & Lu Roy
Where: Here at Gulf Cove UMC
When: March 7 -9 (Friday evening until Sunday morning)
Cost: \$110 (includes all meals and materials)
 More details to follow....



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 Sunday.

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.



Mahjongg With Friends
~ Meets Mondays at church from 10am – 12:30pm, room 108, starting January 13. 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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

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

Handy Helpers-The trustees, Richard Jacoby and Jim Brown, are forming a task force to help with small projects around the church. If you are handy and want to help, sign-up in the back of sanctuary or contact Jim at 712-299-2084.

Kids Church-Holly Tozer needs help with Kids Church on Sunday mornings at 9:30. If you can help one Sunday a month (or more), please let Holly know.

Greeters/Ushers-sign-up at the back of the sanctuary.

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.

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

First Impressions-Weeding and pruning – contact Ken Priest at 941-769-058.



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.



CHANCEL FLOWERS ~ Starting January 5, you may reserve your special dates to place flowers on the chancel. Gulf Cove invites you to make a gift toward 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.

2025 GIVING ENVELOPES ~ If you have not received your 2025 giving envelopes, please contact the office. The counting team appreciates your using them!

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 January, the Communion Offering will be designated for our general fund, as we need to "catch up" and start the year off on a solid footing.

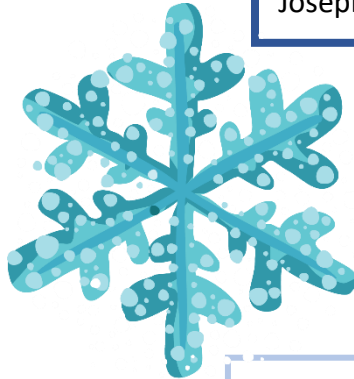
SECOND SUNDAY ~ SECOND MILE GIVING is another opportunity to go above and beyond your normal giving to support the church. This collection always goes to our reserve fund, so that we may pay our bills when gifts and tithes will not cover our regular monthly expenses.



Dick Morrow	1/01
Jim Vanderford	1/04
Mimi Hamilton	1/08
Samantha McVety	1/09
Beth Leone	1/09
Zinnia Gray	1/13
Janice Botelho	1/13
Linda Thatcher	1/13
Patricia MacKenzie	1/16
Wendy Lisbon	1/18
Kari Sue Telles	1/18
Caleb Waterman	1/19
Gerri McGee	1/20
Lorna Ryan	1/21
Dan Taylor	1/21
Cleo Grayden	1/23
Kathy Mortensen	1/24
Sandy Doty	1/24
Suzanne Ludwig	1/24
Al Crosby	1/24
Kelly Weaver	1/27
Pat Hitchcock	1/30
Jan Hahn	1/30
Ron Wolfe	1/31
Julie Thoman	1/31
Myra Ehnert	1/31



Dick & Susie Morrow	1/19
Joseph & Linda Coffey	1/28



JANUARY SERMON SERIES	
January 5	Discover the Surprise of Christmas Matthew 2:1-12
January 12	Searching for Jesus Luke 2:41-52
January 19	Miracle Whip John 2:1-11
January 26	Rejected Luke 4:22-30

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