

# Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

## From the Pastor:

Dear Gulf Cove,

PSA: FEB 14, once again Valentine's is Feb 14

Ah, February—the month of love! Everywhere you look, there are hearts, chocolates, and roses reminding us of romance and affection. But let's be honest—love isn't always sweet like a box of Valentine's chocolates. Sometimes, it's more like those sour candies that make your face pucker! And yet, love—real love—goes far beyond the chocolates and flowers. It's about loving not just the people who are easy to love, but also the ones who challenge us, frustrate us, and sometimes, dare I say, rub us the wrong way.

Jesus put it best when He said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31) And let's be honest, sometimes our neighbors aren't exactly sugar and spice! But that's the beauty of Christ's love—it's not based on how lovable someone is; it's based on the grace and goodness of God working through us.

Speaking of love in action, I have to say, I'm feeling pretty excited! A few of our wonderful congregation members have been stepping up with a desire to engage in ministries and even lead new ones. And while it may be just a handful for now, I believe this is just the

beginning of something beautiful. It's like adding the right ingredients to a recipe—when we each bring our unique gifts, talents, and yes, even our quirks, God stirs it all together to create something amazing.

So, as we celebrate love this month, I encourage you to consider: where might God be calling you to serve? Whether it's helping with outreach, music, children's ministry, or even just greeting folks with a warm smile on Sunday mornings, every act of service is a way to share the love of Christ with our church and community.

Let's make February a month where we embrace love in all its forms—the sweet moments, the sour challenges, and the unexpected surprises. And remember, God's love is the foundation that holds us all together, even when life gets a little sticky!

Love Y'all

Mike

P.S. If you're interested in finding a place to serve, let's chat! There's a ministry just waiting for your special touch.



## FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES

**February 2**

**Luke 5: 1-11**

**Put Out Your Nets**

**February 9**

**Luke 6:17-26**

**What In The World Is Happiness?**

**February 16**

**Luke 6:27-36**

**Love Your Enemies**

**February 23**

**Matthew 7:24-29**

**Rock On!**

## 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.

**JOINING GCUMC** ~ In the near future, we will hold a new-members class and lunch. If you are interested in joining GCUMC, **please notify the church office at 941.697.1747.**

- Members have their United Methodist membership only at GCUMC.
- Affiliate Members retain their United Methodist membership elsewhere in addition to their membership at GCUMC.
- Associate Members retain membership elsewhere in a different denomination in addition to their membership at GCUMC

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## **SPREADING JOY!**

In January, Dana Hanson was speaking with a Sunday worshiper. The woman told her that she loves our church because even in the midst of disrepair, we are still serving the community and each other – just like we did before Hurricane Ian hit. She felt that was fantastic!

## COMING THIS MARCH...

**What:** Women's Retreat

***Sisters of Faith Healing Together***

**Hosted by:** Susan & Lu Roy

**Where:** Here at Gulf Cove UMC

**When:** March 7 -9 (Friday evening until Sunday morning.)

**Cost:** \$125\* (includes all meals and materials)

Signup began January 26, and is open to all women of the community, limit 50.

\*New cost reflects offering for speaker.



**OFFICE CLOSED**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**PRESIDENTS DAY**

## 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. If you cannot do an entire month, please leave a note.

**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. We have helpers to clean up for the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. **Can you offer to help on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or occasional 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday?** Call the church office at 941.697.1747 if you can help in any way.

**Barn Boys**-Mowing and trimming-contact John Furtado at 941.830.0121.

**First Impressions**-Weeding and pruning – contact Ken Priest at 941.769.0581.



BARBARA DUNFEE  
BARTON WASHER  
CARLA SAPP  
DEBBEY STEELE  
EILEEN FULTON  
JEANNE RICHARDSON  
KEITH AUSTRALIE  
KEVIN SAPP  
LEHOLM LEANN  
LINDA TILLINGHAST  
LORI PERKINS  
MICHAEL YOUNG  
MICHAEL D WEAVER  
REBECCA EYER  
ROSEANN RANCKE  
SANDRA EVERITT  
SETH LEE  
SHIRLEY MARKEN  
SUSAN HARING  
WILLIAN BENYR

*We are pleased to share with you that the recent blood drive resulted in 21 units of blood. Remember, each donation can save up to three lives, so that means 63 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors at Gulf Cove United Methodist Church.*

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**CHANCEL FLOWERS** ~ 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 contact the office if you have any questions.





## · NOTICE · NEW HOURS

**MOTHERS HELPING MOTHERS** ~ The MHM Relief Trailer has changed its hours at GCUMC. It is still here on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, but its new hours are from **10:00am to 12:00pm**.

**CLOSET OF HOPE** ~ Effective February 1, the hours that the Closet is open have changed **9:30am to 12:00pm**. Families will no longer be limited to one bag of clothing per month.

**ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND** ~ will no longer be open to clients in the evening. Their regular hours are unchanged:

**Wednesday - 8-1**

**Thursday - 8-1**



Donations can be placed in the EHH bin in the Narthex entry or delivered to EHH on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays (except for holidays) from 8am to 1pm. Please do not leave donations other than those hours due to the fact that the raccoons have been visiting and feasting on anything they are able to open.

**Remember, Sunday, February 9 is Souper Bowl Sunday.** Wear your favorite team jersey, and more importantly, bring soup for the pantry. **Please be sure items have not expired.**

# Fellowship



**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Friday, February 28, 6pm.** Join us as we watch Disney's "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day."



Follow the exploits of 11-year-old Alexander as he experiences the most terrible and horrible day of his young life - a day that begins with gum stuck in his hair, followed by one calamity after another.

**Free popcorn; BYO snacks & drinks. Please, no kid drop-offs.**

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**Ladies Who Lunch** will meet next on Sunday, **February 9, at 12:30pm** in the church sanctuary. We are having a "Tea Party." Please bring your favorite mug or tea cup and tea bag. Hot water provided. Please contact Nancy Spaulding at 386.868.8604 regarding your contribution. Think finger foods and bite sized sweets. All are welcome!



### Dinner for Six

Our Dinner for Six small groups are still going strong. More people are joining and we would love to have you, too. **Watch our**

**website for sign up information coming in March.** If you have any questions, please call Kathy Mortensen at 530.210.6149.

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### NEW TIME!! MahJongg with Friends ~



Meets Mondays at church from 9:30am – 12:30pm, Contact Linda Edwards for more details. 253.350.7264.

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**COMFORT CREATIONS** meets at 9:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is February 11, 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 open to the public every Thursday from 10am-12pm in room #101.

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.



### Review of Current Finances

DECEMBER		YTD
Total Spendable Income Received	63,389	456,221
Operating Expenses	44,327.72	458,909.52
Surplus/Deficit	(13,660.78)	(36,076.94)
Reserve Money Used	15,000.00	30,000.00
Designated Funds Received	6,282.10	87,605.56

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

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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 February, the Communion Offering is designated for Englewood Helping Hand.**

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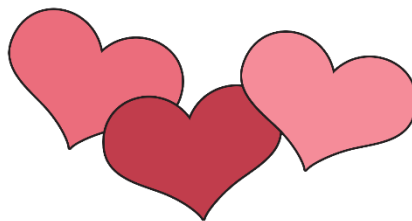
**SECOND SUNDAY ~ SECOND MILE GIVING** is another opportunity to go above and beyond your normal giving to support the church. This collection always goes to our reserve fund, so that we may pay our bills when gifts and tithes wil not cover our regular monthly expenses

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Judy Tomlin	2/4
Robert Ehnert	2/6
Randy Clarke	2/7
Dallis Walchle II	2/10
Jess Hollenbeck	2/12
Renee McVety	2/16
Lois Moore	2/16
River Gray	2/17
Deb Crandall	2/19
Bill Bart	2/20
Cindy Freer	2/20
Joe Marchert	2/23
Mike Thonnerieux	2/24
Sue Pickell	2/24
Doug Corns	2/26
Sara Anne Reese	2/27
Mark Porter	2/28

C.T. & Patty Twardzik	2/4
Scott & Annette Furto	2/6
Randy & Beth Clarke	2/7
Joshua & Macie Stenseth	2/10
Ralph & Janet Saczawa	2/14
Derek & Sherry Hughes	2/14
Terry & Doris Hixson	2/14
Barbara Crosby & John Purdy	2/14
Sam & Becky Walters	2/21
Bill & Mary Ann Bart	2/25



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