

Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor

Dear Church Family,

As we welcome the month of March, we find ourselves stepping into the sacred season of Lent—a time of deep reflection, purposeful change, and renewed commitment as modern-day disciples. This season invites us to pause, reflect, and intentionally shape our daily lives in the light of Christ's enduring love.

Embracing the Spirit of Lent

Lent calls us to revisit our inner selves with a humble heart. The ancient reminder on Ash Wednesday—"dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19)—resonates deeply, urging us to live with the awareness of our mortality while embracing the hope of renewal. As we hear the call of Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God," we are invited to transform our lives by letting go of what no longer serves us and nurturing what draws us closer to God.

Modern Discipleship: Living Scripture Today

Our daily walk as believers in this modern world can be both challenging and uplifting. In our fast-paced lives, Lent offers a pause—a moment to realign our priorities. Scriptures like Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness," remind us that when we center our lives on God, everything else finds its proper

place. Whether it's in our bustling work schedules, social media interactions, or community engagements, these timeless words guide us to live authentically and purposefully.

A Season of Sacrifice and Addition

One of the most personal aspects of Lent is the choice to either give something up or add something new to our routines:

- **Giving Something Up:** Many choose to forgo a habit or indulgence—perhaps reducing screen time, skipping that extra coffee, or cutting back on social media. This sacrifice is not just about renunciation; it's an opportunity to redirect that energy and time toward prayer, community service, or acts of kindness. By letting go, we make room in our hearts for more of God's love.
- **Adding Something New:** Alternatively, Lent can be a season of addition. You might decide to incorporate a daily prayer or meditation practice, commit to reading a scripture passage each morning, or engage in regular acts of service. Adding these positive habits reinforces our connection to our faith and strengthens our resolve as disciples living in today's world.

Living Out Our Faith

In our modern context, Lent is not merely a season of fasting or sacrifice—it's a time to actively live out our faith. As we reflect on our personal journeys, let us ask ourselves: How can

we make space for God in our busy lives? How can our actions—whether through giving up a habit or adding a new one—serve as a testimony to the transformative power of Christ?

May the spirit of Lent inspire you to deepen your relationship with God, enrich your community connections, and cultivate habits that mirror the love and grace of our Savior. Let us journey together through this sacred season, mindful that every step we take is a step toward renewal and hope.

Blessings and peace,

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.

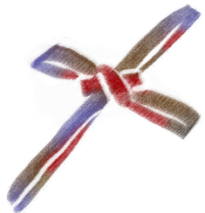
Jesus Rocks ~ Grades K-5 meet from 6-7:30pm.

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

Notes: Midweek Boost and Pastor's Bible Study are open to all adults. Discussions might be about the scripture for the upcoming Sunday, or a short video or book study. There are no requirements, no prep work – all are welcome. Bring a Bible and join us. Both classes are the same content, just different

times.

Jesus Rocks and Youth start out together with a light meal before splitting into their groups. All kids/youth are welcome!



**Ash
Wednesday**
March 5 Drive Through Ashes 7am - 9am
Evening Service 5pm



**SPRING
FORWARD**
Sunday, March 9



**COMBINED
SERVICE** 10AM

**March 30
One Service
10am
Potluck meal will follow**

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.

Hospitality -We currently need people who will come in very early Sunday mornings to set up coffee and put out treats when Bill and Mary Ann Bart are not available. They do this on a regular basis, but will need occasional volunteers to sub in. Clean-up after the start of the 11am service or at the end of the service is covered for the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month. We are looking for volunteers for the 3rd, 4th, and occasional 5th Sundays. Call the church office at 941-697-1747 if you can help.

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

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

Englewood Helping Hand ~ We are looking for a co-captain to work with Jean Howard. Please call the office if you can help.



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.



Review of Current Finances:
John Furtado advised that our average monthly budgetary

needs are \$43,600. Unfortunately, during January, spendable donations were only \$41,329. However, those spendable donations were \$17 more than our expenditures! So far during February, spendable income is \$27,300 with only one week left. Although it appears we will be considerably short this month, the end-of-January checking account balance was over \$27,000, so we will probably cover the excess expenses without pulling on the Reserve Fund.

	JANUARY	YTD
Total Spendable Income Received	41,329	41,329
Operating Expenses	41,312	41,312
Surplus/Deficit	17	17
Reserve Money Used	0	0
Designated Funds Received	16,430	16,430

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 March, the Communion Offering will be designated for our Outreach fund.

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.



Women's Workshop

Saturday, March 8, 2025

8:00am – 8:00pm

Cost: \$40 (due at check-in)

Location: Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Theme: Mental Health

Over the past 5 years, we have faced Covid, numerous hurricanes, and personal challenges. Now it's time to recognize the struggles and work on healing while celebrating victories.

Guest Speakers: (In order of talks)

Joan Priest

Beloved leader at Gulf Cove UMC

Dr. Elisa Niles Thorne

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Rev. Debbie Keller Allen

District Superintendent at SWFL Conference UMC

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME! Please register prior to the event by calling the church office at 941.697.1747, Monday -Thursday, 9am – 2pm.



**FRIDAY, MARCH 28
&
SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

9AM – 2PM

DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE BARN ON Thursday mornings starting March 13 until the sale. Please, no electronics, furniture or clothing.

Know Us Before You Need Us



Tidewell Hospice provides more than just end-of-life care. As a member of Empath Health, Tidewell is unified in empathy, providing patients and the community with **Full Life Care** for all. We want you to know us before you need us because knowledge is power, and everyone deserves to be empowered to make the best decision for care. Join us as we share information about the Hospice Medicare Benefit and the multitude of services Tidewell Hospice offers.

Tuesday, March 25th | 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

The Sanctuary

Speaker: Chris Parent - Community Partnership Specialist



**empath
TIDEWELL HOSPICE**

TidewellHospice.org | (941) 894-1777



Boy Scout Troop 776 Fundraiser

Saturday, March 29th

5 – 7:30 PM



Includes garlic bread, salad, meat sauce or plain sauce, dessert & drink.

LOCATION:

TICKETS:

Gulf Cove
United Methodist Church
1100 S. McCall Road
Port Charlotte, FL 33981

Adult (over 12): \$15
Child (5–12): \$8
Under 5: Free

Tickets also available at the door.



3/1 Charlotte Halbert
Weylin Carlton
3/2 Janet Followell
3/3 Bruce Halbert
3/4 Heather Gilchrist
3/5 Kerry Eckinger
Shirley Marken
3/7 Liana Corn
Cindy Gettle
3/10 Al Marken
3/11 Bob Wollmacher
Dallis Walchle III
Derek Hughes
3/15 Ginny Torr
3/16 Herb Bryant
3/21 Jean Burrows
Russ Treible
3/24 Doris Hixson
3/25 Joyce Furtado
3/30 Kathy Green
Ian Newton
3/31 Chuck Mortensen
Charlotte Shea
Chet Hallett

3/1 Ken & Marian Brumley
3/2 Bruce & Charlotte Halbert
3/6 Drew Washburn & Bonnie Rich
3/16 Alfred & Karen Current III
3/25 Jess & Mary Hollenbeck
3/30 Ron & Loretta Barche



MARCH SERMON SERIES

March 2 In the Middle of the Night
Luke 9:28-36

March 9 Life's Wild
Luke 4:1-13

March 16 Don't Give Up
Luke 13:31-35

March 23 Are You Thirsty?
Isaiah 55:1-3a, 6-9

March 30 **ONE COMBINED SERVICE AT 10AM**
The Waiting Father
Luke 15:11-32