



## From the Pastor:

Hello Church family,

“Blessed Are the Peacemakers” – Matthew 5:9

As we move into July, we are surrounded by reminders of national pride and celebration. Fireworks light up our skies, flags wave from porches, and families gather to honor freedom and independence. These are important and heartfelt traditions, but as a United Methodist Church, we are also called to see this season through the lens of our faith.

In a world so often torn by violence, division, and fear, we remember that our highest allegiance is to Christ—the Prince of Peace. Jesus did not rise to power through force or domination. He didn’t win over hearts wielding military might and wars. Instead, He knelt to wash feet, welcomed children, touched the untouchable, forgave His enemies, and died on a cross, not with fists raised, but arms wide open.

We live in a time when it’s tempting to make Jesus into our own image—strong, successful, always on “our side.” But the Gospel tells a different story:

“He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with grief... and by his wounds we are healed.” – Isaiah 53:3,5

Let’s be clear: Jesus is no weakling. But His strength is different. It’s the strength of love, mercy, and

justice. It’s the courage to speak truth without hate, to show compassion when others demand retaliation, and to work for peace in the face of violence.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” – Romans 12:18

As a church in the United Methodist tradition, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God. Our mission is rooted in grace, grounded in Scripture, and propelled by the Spirit to care for all people—especially those who are suffering, oppressed, or forgotten.

And Church, let me tell you—you’ve been doing just that.

This past month, our True North Vacation Bible School was a powerful witness of Christ’s love. With laughter, crafts, worship, and yes—Cool Cubes! — we welcomed children from our community and beyond. You, dear church, were the hands and feet of Christ.

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” – Luke 18:16

Your presence, your prayers, your volunteer hours—these are acts of peace. In a world screaming for power, you offered gentleness. In a culture obsessed with winning, you lifted up the least. That’s what the Kingdom looks like.

So, this July, let's wave our flags with gratitude, but let's also carry the cross with humility. Let's remember that true freedom is found not in national identity, but in the liberating grace of Jesus Christ. And let's pray for our world, aching and broken, that we may be bold enough to "seek peace and pursue it." – Psalm 34:14

May we walk this month as people of light in the darkness, people of courage in fear, and people of peace in a violent world.

Love you Church,

Pastor Mike

### JULY SERMON SERIES

July 6

Luke 10:1-24

**Cold Calling**

July 13

Luke 10:25-37

**Good Sam**

July 20

Luke 10:38-42

**Take Time To Pray**

July 27

Luke 11:1-13

**Teach Us To Pray**



### OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH FOR  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**JOINING GCUMC** ~ On **July 27**, 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.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**8am** Traditional Worship Service  
**9:30am** Contemporary Worship Service  
AND Kids Church (PK-5) #109  
No Adult Sunday School during July  
**11am** Traditional Worship Service  
**4-6pm** Youth Group (gr 6-12) #103

### 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.



In addition to the Wednesday Bible Studies with Pastor Mike, which are ongoing and open at any time to any adult, we will be forming new studies this fall.



**Adult Spiritual Formation**

**Gulf Cove UMC  
Small Groups  
Fall 2025**

Look for information about this, along with a survey, in your July 13 and July 20 bulletins.



**NOTICE: MOTHERS HELPING MOTHERS** ~ The MHM Relief Trailer WILL NO LONGER BE AT Gulf Cove UMC.

**CLOSET OF HOPE** ~ Because of repairs, the Closet will be closed during June and July. Please do not drop off any donations until we reopen.

#### ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

**Our next dates to volunteer at the pantry are Wednesday and Thursday, August 6 & 7. Look for signup sheets in the sanctuary.**

**Pantry Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays, 8am-1pm.**



Please keep families with children in mind when shopping for items to donate to the pantry, as many children are on summer break.

Donation may be dropped off in our Narthex.  
**Please be sure items have not expired.**

#### TEAM CUBA UPDATE



Hi All,

The following is what Team Cuba has been able to accomplish this year due to the generosity of our congregation:

1. In January, we were able to send funds to the Frank Pias church to purchase the home located on the adjacent property due to an anonymous donation.

2. Also in January, our church along with other churches in the district provided wheel chairs and walkers that were flown to Cuba on an Agape flight.
  3. We were able to assist the pastor at the Nicaro church with his seminary expenses and send funds for Valentine Day dinners for both churches in February.
  4. In March, Joan Priest and Kathy Kaiser visited our sister churches and were able to carry funds for the pastors' salaries that were provided by the Crafty Ladies and funds for church ministries/programs at both sister churches. They also hand-delivered much needed supplies, such as over-the-counter medicines, that were donated by our congregation.
  5. In May, Ray and Barbie Dunfee delivered additional supplies, clothing and solar phone chargers to our two sister churches.
  6. During the year additional items were purchased; such as water filter cartridges, a sound board, audio cables, and scooter tires, that are being held awaiting the next Agape flight.
- Although it appears that we have plenty of funds available in the Team Cuba Account, in reality it is less than one year's annual support; and special needs, such as the funds to purchase a generator, are being identified on a regular basis. Thank goodness every time it seems like we won't be able to meet the growing needs of our sister churches, God is always faithful, and our congregation and the Crafty Ladies are always generous.

God Bless,  
John and Carol

Thank you for your support.

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#### The Church Needs Volunteers



## Are You Able?

**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.

*More opportunities to serve on next page-*

**Hospitality** -Help when you can- one week or one month. It's up to you! We are still open to more team members for early morning setup. Clean up at the end of the morning is covered on the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. **Can you offer to help on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<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.

# Fellowship

*Ladies* **Ladies Who Lunch** will meet next on Sunday, **July 13, at 12:30pm** Please contact Nancy Spaulding at 386.868.8604 for more information. All ladies are welcome!



**Dinner for Six**  
Our Dinner for Six small groups have been very successful and a great deal of fun, but we are taking a break for the summer. See you in the fall.



**MahJongg with Friends ~** On hiatus until this fall.

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**Comfort Creations** meets at **9:30** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is July 9, 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 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.

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**YOUTH SUMMER** ~ Check with Jackie Guerin for more details

- Camp Week, Monday-Saturday July 7-12 at Warren Willis Camp in Fruitland Park
- Sunset at the Beach, Friday July 18
- Skating in the Afternoon, Friday July 25
- Lock-In & Sunsplash, Friday-Saturday Aug 1-2



|                                 | MAY       | YTD       |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Spendable Income Received | \$31,258  | \$208,973 |
| Operating Expenses              | \$40,226  | \$207,562 |
| Surplus/Deficit                 | (\$8,968) | \$1,411   |
| Reserve Funds Used              | \$0.00    | \$0.00    |
| Designated Funds Received       | \$6,689   | \$87,625  |

**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 July, the Communion Offering is designated for CUBA Ministry.

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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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|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| ·Checking Account Balance | 27,721  |
| ·Reserve Fund Balance     | 36,804  |
| ·FEMA Fund Balance        | 6,466   |
| ·Insurance Fund Balance   | 271,030 |
| ·Hurricane Fund Balance   | 12,413  |



The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and **lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Above is the new Vision of the United Methodist church.

Each part of this vision derives from Scripture.

- **LOVE BOLDLY**, inspired by [Matthew 22:37-39](#) and [John 13:34-35](#), means: United Methodists passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender and walk of life.
- **SERVE JOYFULLY**, inspired by [Psalm 100:1](#), [Nehemiah 8:10](#), [John 13:14-15](#) and [1 Peter 4:10](#), means: With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy.
- **LEAD COURAGEOUSLY**, inspired by [Joshua 1:9](#) and [Ephesians 6:10](#), means: Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation.

In this new season, God is calling United Methodists to embody this vision as we

- Grow and form disciples
- Develop Christ-like leaders
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and the most vulnerable
- Seek health and wholeness for all people and creation

# MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday Night Movie:** Friday, July 18, at 6pm, Free popcorn, BYO drinks and snacks.

Parents need to accompany kids. This month we will be showing *Paddington Bear in Peru*.



Full of Paddington's signature blend of wit, charm, and laugh-out-loud humor, *Paddington in Peru* finds the beloved, marmalade-loving bear lost in the jungle on an exciting, high-stakes adventure. When Paddington discovers his beloved Aunt Lucy has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the wilds of Peru to look for her, the only clue to her whereabouts a spot marked on an enigmatic map. Determined to solve the mystery, Paddington embarks on a thrilling quest through the rainforests of the Amazon to find his aunt...and may also uncover one of the world's most legendary treasures. Fun for the whole family.

## Trustees Notes



**Look around and see** all of the work that our trustees and volunteers have been doing, including finishing the portables, replacing missing walls, painting, and more. A detailed

accounting is available in the Leadership Board minutes, which are emailed to those who have provided an address. If you do not receive these emails and would like to, please email the church office to be added to the list.



**Pig-Pickin'/BBQ Fundraiser:** This fundraiser, to be held on **Friday, September 12**, is to recoup some of the money that we've spent on repairing the church after Hurricane Ian. Mark your calendar, as volunteers will be needed along with attendees.





|         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| July 1  | Patty Frick                       |
| July 11 | Cathy Rohrbaugh                   |
| July 13 | Bill Egan<br>Gwen Miller          |
| July 17 | Craig Baumgartner<br>Dawn Tesauro |
| July 19 | Mary Hilton                       |
| July 21 | Pat Tattersall                    |
| July 22 | Wally Whitford                    |
| July 26 | Dale Martin                       |
| July 27 | Anna Egan                         |
| July 29 | Jan Horthrop                      |
| July 30 | Nettie Russell                    |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| July 6  | Jim & Charlotte Shea   |
| July 7  | Rick & Barb Carlson<br>Dave & Cathy Jeannerat<br>Ken & Joan Priest |
| July 8  | Andy & Patty Frick<br>Ron & Pat Meyer                              |
| July 18 | Mike & Terry Thonnerieux   |
| July 19 | Bill & Doraleigh Egan  |
| July 20 | Roy & Darlene  |
| July 21 | Bob & Tracy Ehnert   |
| July 22 | Dennis & Jennifer Guzik  |
| July 23 | Joel & Mindy Wilson  |
| July 27 | Mike & Pat Tattersall  |
| July 29 | Fred & Judy Boyer  |



**Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**  
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