

Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor:

Hey Church,

It's August! That sacred time of year when for many of us -the beach towels are still wet, the school supplies are mysteriously multiplying in our kitchens, and somewhere, a child is dramatically mourning the end of summer while wearing a brand-new backpack.



As the school buses warm up their engines and the smell of crayons fills the air, and a new batch of paste is being made (yum), I'm reminded that life with God is a bit like going back to school. Sometimes we're ready and eager to learn, and other times... well, we drag our feet and ask, "Do I have to?" But every new season brings with it fresh lessons, new relationships, and growth we didn't see coming. Jesus himself was called "Rabbi" – Teacher – and He invites us to keep learning, keep growing, and keep showing up, even when we're not sure we've got it all figured out.

So, as we head into this new school year, let's keep our teachers, administrators, support staff, and students in our prayers. This includes everyone from principals to bus drivers to cafeteria crews—because whether they're shaping minds or serving meals, they are making a difference. We see you. We love you. And we're praying for a year filled with grace, peace, and maybe even a little less homework.

And speaking of showing up... our Pig Pickin' is coming up SOON! 🍷🔥 You can practically smell the excitement already. This isn't just a barbecue

(although let's be real—it's definitely a barbecue). It's a celebration of fellowship, fun, and the faith that's been keeping us moving forward. We'll have more details in the coming weeks, but mark your calendars now for September 12, and come hungry—physically and spiritually!

Our building repairs are moving right along, and it's such a blessing to see things getting put back together. From roofs to newly painted walls and portables, the physical restoration mirrors the spiritual renewal happening among us. We're starting to dust off some of the ministry ideas that had to be paused, and dreaming up some new ones, too. If God's been stirring something in your heart—some kind of outreach, event, or way to connect with the community—let us know! The Spirit is moving, and we want to be ready to go where God leads.

Don't forget: We'll be celebrating a combined worship service on Sunday, August 31st, at 10:00am. Any month that has five Sundays, we bring the whole church family together for one big, joy-filled service. There's nothing quite like worshiping with the full house of faith—all ages, all backgrounds, all voices lifted in praise. Bring a friend, and let's pack the pews.

As we start fresh in so many ways—school, ministry, restoration—I leave you with this promise from Isaiah 43:19:

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

And this prayer from Philippians 1:6:

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion...”

God’s not done with us—not by a long shot. He’s still teaching. Still healing. Still building. And yes, even still barbecuing.

Let’s stay faithful, stay joyful, and keep dreaming big together.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



The Office will be closed on **Monday, September 1**, in recognition of Labor Day.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8am** **Traditional Worship Service**
- 9:30am** **Contemporary Worship Service**
AND Kids Church (PK-5) #109
- 9:30am** **Adult Seekers in Portable D**
- 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.
- Praise Team Rehearsal** ~ 6pm.

AUGUST SERMON SERIES

August 3
Luke 9:10-17
Feeding the Soul

August 10
Hosea 11:1-11
Do You Know?

August 17
Psalms 50:1-23
What to Give the God Who Has Everything

August 24
Jeremiah 1:4-10
The Lord Needs You

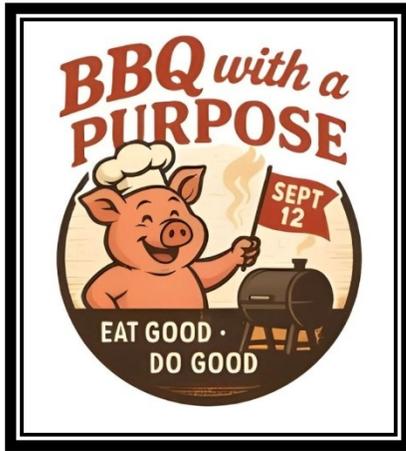
August 31, 10am
Jeremiah 2:4-13
Have We Been Slicked?



August 31
5th Sunday
ONE COMBINED SERVICE

@ 10am
followed by an
All Church Potluck.





REBUILD HOPE—ONE PLATE AT A TIME!

Through hurricanes and hardship, we never stopped showing up for our community. Whether it was sharing food, offering prayer, or helping neighbors clean up—we’ve kept being the hands and feet of Jesus outside our walls.

Now, we’re raising funds to repair our building—not to focus inward, but to keep launching love outward. A strong foundation helps us host community events, serve more families, and grow the outreach that defines who we are.

This BBQ isn’t about fixing a building—it’s about fueling a mission.

Every bite supports the cause. Every ticket helps us keep loving boldly. See you there!

🇺🇸 Get ready to PIG OUT! Mouthwatering BBQ Pork, Baked Beans, Bun, Cole Slaw and Pickle

**This is an all hands on deck church fundraiser.
How can you help?**

Pray - about the success of our fundraiser.

Participate – by purchasing and selling tickets, and spreading the word.

Volunteer – look for signup sheets coming soon.

**Friday, September 12, 11am – 7pm.
Tickets are \$20 per plate, which feeds one hungry adult or 2 children.**



**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 heading back to school and families have more expenses..

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

VOLUNTEER
opportunities



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! 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 2nd Sundays. **Can you offer to help on the 3rd or 4th 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 Who Lunch will meet next on Sunday, **August 10, at 12:30pm** This is planned to be a Taco potluck. Please contact Nancy Spaulding at 386.868.8604 for more information. All ladies are welcome!



Comfort Creations meets at **9:30** on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is August 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 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.



	JUNE	YTD
Total Spendable Income Received	\$28,215.13	\$237,188.21
Operating Expenses	\$ 43,814.79	\$251,376.90
Surplus/Deficit	(\$15,599.66)	(\$14,188.69)
Reserve Funds Used	\$0.00	\$0.00
Designated Funds Received	\$8,372.62	\$95,997.62

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 August, the Communion Offering is designated for UMCOR/Texas Flooding.**

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.



Hurricane Update August 2025

In the seven months since my last update, the repairs to our campus are becoming more visible. The outside of our church looks new! The landscaping is beautiful and being maintained by faithful members of our church.

The three portable structures have undergone total renovation with new: roofs, insulation, drywall, siding, windows, doors, flooring, A/C units, lighting, video and Wi-Fi functions. Perhaps an open-house is in order so our congregation can appreciate how these buildings contribute to the ministries of our church and community. Many volunteer hours were dedicated to completing this task.

Our sanctuary and narthex have also seen many changes. Drywall repair, ceiling tiles and grids, lighting, painting of walls, doors, trim work has been accomplished by skilled laborers and many volunteers. Adjacent rooms, the administrative area and the education hallway are still works in progress. Currently hurricane doors and windows are being installed, but as is often the case, unanticipated issues are slowing this progress. Flooring choices have been selected, but installation will likely be delayed due to unforeseen issues with the campus that have impacted us financially during this reconstruction work.

Our FEMA/insurance team is continuing to work diligently to secure proper insurance reimbursement and Public Assistance. This has and continues to be a very slow process. To date, our insurance has reimbursed us the majority of funds due, but the FEMA process is slow and tedious. We are NOT GIVING UP!

Diligent leadership and many volunteers have enabled us to be very good stewards of monies

received from insurance, donations, grants and gifts. Our effort is to complete this project without debt. So please continue to pray for success in order to continue to bring Christ's love and light to our community and beyond.

"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you." Matthew 6:33 NIRV

In Christ's Service,
Joan Priest - Chair of Leadership Board

TEAM CUBA: John McGuire advised that Kathy Kaiser's trip to Cuba was postponed from October to November. Our semi-annual support for our two sister churches totals \$5,800, and we will make sure that Dan Christopherson has it prior to the trip so he can take it with him. Starting in August, we will ask the congregation for more over the counter medications which can be taken to Cuba. John Furtado said that the July 6 communion offering for Cuba brought in \$548. **Thank you, Congregation!!!** The \$900 which we promised the Frank Pais church to purchase a gas generator was taken down by Dan in July. Joan said that Agape Air has two flights that have been approved to fly to Cuba, but both have already reached their 3,500 pound limit. It is upsetting because we are sitting on 75 pounds of goods that we have held onto for over a year because we can't get it down there.



Youth Sunsplash and Lock-In has been moved to August 30th – 31st. See Jackie for more details.



Mike Hahn	8/1
Helen Unglaub	8/1
Sean Priest	8/3
Mike Tattersall	8/6
Ella Case	8/7
John McGuire	8/7
Deborah Salmon	8/7
Judi Corns	8/8
Everett Gilchrist	8/10
Annette Furto	8/11
Bill Blount	8/12
Barb Vanderford	8/14
Jenna Alvarez	8/15
Sam Walters	8/16
Ula Christopher	8/17
Zak Alvarez	8/17
Ruth Provine	8/17
Linda Coffey	8/18
Gene Saville	8/19
Loretta Barche	8/20
Judy Spurgeon	8/20
Cathy Jeannerat	8/21
Ron Basso	8/22
Dave Jeannerat	8/24
Lorraine Fitzpatrick	8/25
Jay Henderson	8/25
Becky Walters	8/26
Bill Perry	8/27
Noah Egan	8/28
Jack Sapp	8/28
Sue Falzone	8/30
Ron Meyer	8/30
Denny Howell	8/31



Jack & Ann Sapp	8/1
Larry & Tawnee Burrows	8/10
Richard & Bonnie Jacoby	8/12
John & Kathy Kaiser	8/16
Bill & Jana Blount	8/19
Russ & Sandy Palmer	8/20
Mike & Kelly Weaver	8/21
Ed & Julie Thoman Jr.	8/22
Mark & Cindy Freer – 50th	8/23
Jim & Gerri McGee	8/24
Ron & Penny Wolfe	8/25
Doug & Judi Corns	8/26
Craig & Renee Baumgartner	8/26
Bill & Julie Perry	8/27



Ken & Marian Brumley have moved to Maryland.
 Fred & Judy Boyer have moved to Indiana

If you attend Gulf Cove Church and would like their new addresses, please phone the office.



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