



Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor:

My God will meet your every need out of his riches in the glory that is found in Christ Jesus.

-Philippians 4:19 (CEB)

When I was a kid, one of the best parts of October was going door-to-door on Halloween night. The excitement was in wondering which houses had the “good bars” and hoping not to end up with bricks of taffy, candy corn dust, or — worst of all — a toothbrush. Even then, there was a sense of trust that something sweet would be waiting. And isn’t that just like God? From the manna He gave in the wilderness to the daily ways He provides now; God has always taken care of His people. His provision doesn’t always look like a candy bar, but it arrives right when we need it.

I can still remember the thrill of picking out a costume. One year it might have been a He-Man, Masters of the Universe getup with plastic muscles and a mask that never quite fit right. Whatever the disguise, the fun was in becoming someone else for a night. Yet behind the colorful costumes and cheerful masks, there were still shadows. That’s the way life can be sometimes — darkness trying to hide behind something bright. But the good news is that God’s light always shines through. Where shadows cover, Christ brings clarity. Where false coverings pretend to give us power, God’s love reminds us who we really are.

At the end of this month, we’ll get to see our parking lot come alive with joy, laughter, and generosity at our annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 25.

Sure, there will be plenty of good candy to hand out, but it’s about more than sweets. It’s about sharing a meal together. Now, hot dogs may not be porterhouse steaks, but in their own way they’re even better. They’re served with smiles, community, and the love of Christ. Last year we welcomed over a thousand people, and we’re praying for even more this year. Whether you decorate a trunk, pass out candy, help with food, or simply show up with a warm spirit, you’ll be part of showing children and families that God’s goodness never runs out.

The very next day, on Sunday, October 26, we will gather for our Church Conference. This is the time when we come together to vote on our leaders for the upcoming year, vote on budgets, and set salaries. It may sound like simple business, but it’s holy business — faithful work that ensures our church remains strong and ready for all the ministry ahead. It’s the way we make sure the structure is in place so that God’s Spirit can move freely through our life together.

From manna in the desert to candy buckets filled with surprises... from hot dogs shared in fellowship to the faithful work of voting on leaders and budgets... God meets us right where we are, and provides exactly what we need. His light is greater than shadows, His grace is deeper than disguises, and His provision never fails. And unlike that last piece of Halloween candy that melts into the couch cushions or shows up in June at the bottom of a backpack, God’s grace never disappears, never spoils, and never runs out.

Blessings,

Mike

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.

NOTICE:

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church 2025 Church Conference

is scheduled for Sunday, October 26,
2025 at 4pm in the church sanctuary.
Rev. Dennis Lewis from Faith UMC,
Fort Myers, presiding. Open to all
church members.



OUR BBQ WITH A PURPOSE FUNDRAISER

WAS A SUCCESS, THANKS TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HELPED BY SELLING OR PURCHASING TICKETS, MAKING MONETARY OR IN-KIND DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERING, AND PRAYING.

Held on Friday, September 12, 11am – 7pm.
Tickets were \$20 per plate, which fed one hungry adult or 2 children. No child plates were offered.

We presold 375 tickets, sold another 77 tickets at the event, and 29 tickets online. Total tickets sold was 481 tickets, accounting for \$9,620 income.

We received \$2,463 in monetary donations, as well as some in-kind donations valuing \$296.

There were 43 volunteers who helped throughout both set-up and day of the BBQ.

Our out-of-pocket expenses so far total \$2,455.93, and our total income from ticket sales and donations is \$12,082.75, leaving a profit of \$9,626.82. This number is as close as we can get today, but is subject to change. Nice work everyone.

FAMILY CRAFT PARTY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 6:30 – 7:30PM
RESERVE YOUR SPOTS BY SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 11

Cost: \$10 for a family of 4

\$5 for a family of 2

RSVP to Holly at 517.260.6167.

Together We Learn
for
An Informational Session
On Financial Issues for People of Faith
at
Gulf Cove UMC
on
Monday, October 6, 2025, 2:00pm

Presented jointly by:

- Shelley Strickland - CEO of the Charlotte Community Foundation
- Alfred Current - Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Certified in Long-Term Care (CLTC), Certified Tax & Business Advisor (CTBA)
- Katharine Payne - Florida Bar Board Certified attorney in wills, trusts and estate planning, Master's in Tax Law
- Pat Courtney-Strong - Moderator

Come learn about topics dear to many faith-based folks with servant hearts, such as why we give, information on estate and tax planning, ideas on avoiding financial pitfalls, and more.

Open to the public.



Bounce House, Food, Candy and Fun!! All Free!!!



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



Current needs include condiments, ramen, canned pastas like Spaghettio's, toilet paper and bar soap. Donations may be dropped off in our

Narthex.

Please be sure items have not expired.



The Closet of Hope

at Gulf Cove United Methodist Church offers free clothing for children and adults of all ages. The Closet is open the first and third Saturdays of the month (except holidays),

from 9:30am until 12pm. Donations can be brought to the Closet on Thursday mornings at 9:30am or when they are open on Saturdays.



TEAM CUBA

We are collecting supplies for Kathy Kaiser to take with her on her November Cuba trip. There are lists near the collection box that you may take with you shopping.

Barn Sale and Crafty Ladies Sale
November 14 & 15
Friday & Saturday
8am – 2pm



Donations now accepted between 7:30 and 10am on Thursdays only. Please No Clothes, No Electronics, No Furniture. Contact John Furtado for more information.



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 on Sunday, **October 12, 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 are back from hiatus. More people are joining and we would love to have you, too. Current session runs from September through November. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Mortensen at 530.210.6149.

Gulf Cove Women's Club

This club promotes education, health and social activities. Proceeds from their activities are used for a Nursing Scholarship. The club meets at 10am on the second Monday of each month from September to May at the Gulf Cove United Methodist Church. The next meeting of this season is Monday, October 13. All area women are welcome. Please contact Jean Mennenga for more information. **401.580.7205**.

CANDY NEEDED!!!
LOTS OF
CANDY
NEEDED
FOR OUR
ANNUAL



COMMUNITY TRUNK or TREAT.
Donations can be dropped off on Sundays or at the office when it is open.



Comfort Creations meets at **9:30** on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is October 8, 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.



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 October, the Communion Offering is designated for the World Communion Sunday Special Offering.**

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.

We love it when our church family is passionate about a cause or a certain ministry. Please remember that without **General Ministries** offerings, we cannot keep the church going, and therefore, cannot do any outreach from here. Mundane things like lights, A/C, staff salaries, supplies, etc., are all a part of our annual budget, and are paid for from General Ministries offerings.

	AUGUST	YTD
Total Spendable Income Received	\$34,164.76	\$302,504.57
Expenses	\$45,413.13	\$336,540.54
Surplus/Deficit	(\$11,248.37)	(\$34,035.97)
Reserve Funds Used	\$11,000	\$16,000
Designated Funds (not including FUMF transfers) Received	\$9,657.17	\$108,466.06

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” – Malachi 3:10



Darlene Norell	10/1
Carolyn Nido	10/2
Pat Morse	10/4
Betty Hansell	10/5
Ray Dunfee	10/5
Mindy Wilson	10/7
Billie Jones	10/9
Laurie Rakestraw	10/9
Blair McVety	10/9
Mary Hollenbeck	10/11
Diane Nyalka	10/11
Sue Jones	10/15
Jerry Spurgeon	10/15
Jim McGee	10/16
Marilyn Calladine	10/17
Kelsi Bertheaume	10/17
Linda Edwards	10/18
Lu Ann Zink	10/19
Mike Weaver	10/19
Jackie Carter	10/20
Sandy Palmer	10/21
Bob Rohrbaugh	10/21
Ann Reid	10/21
Donna Wallace	10/22
Lanie Strong	10/25
Joel Wilson	10/25
Scott Perkins	10/30
Terry Muhlenbruch	10/30
Terry Thonnerieux	10/31



Dave & DeAnna Crandall	10/4
Michael & Jenna Alvarez	10/10
Ted & Dawn Eckbreth	10/16
John & Joyce Furtado	10/20
Ron & Ann Reid	10/20

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

October 5

World Communion Sunday

Luke 17:1-10

More Than Meets The Eye

October 12

Luke 17:11-19

Did You Write that 'Thank You'?

October 19

Laity Sunday

October 26

Luke 18:9-14

Discounted Costumes



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