



# Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church  
*Helping Everyone*

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

*Jesus & Community*

## From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” – Ecclesiastes 3:1

September is a reminder that life never stands still. Some seasons come with excitement, others with challenge, but every season gives us a chance to see God at work. Up north, fall means crisp nights, colorful trees, and crunching leaves. Here in Florida, our version looks a little different: lovebugs decorating windshields, the slow trickle of snowbirds heading back, football rivalries that test household harmony, and pumpkin spice showing up everywhere—from coffee and donuts to potato chips, which might be proof that human creativity occasionally goes too far! Even without the visual signs of changing leaves, God still uses this time of year to nudge us toward fresh perspectives and renewed hearts.

The first weekend of September also brings Labor Day. The holiday began in 1882, when workers in New York City marched to honor the dignity of labor and the strength of community. By 1894, it was a federal holiday, reminding us as a nation to pause and give thanks for the contributions of those whose work keeps society running. For us as disciples of Jesus, Labor Day can be more than a long weekend. It calls us to remember that work is part of our discipleship when it is done with love. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, said it best: “Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” He wasn’t just talking about finances; he was talking about how to live faithfully. To earn with integrity, to live with

discipline, and to give generously is to honor God with the labor of our lives.

That spirit connects closely with empathy, which seems to be up for debate these days on social media. Some wonder if empathy is really a Christian trait. But if we look at Scripture and the life of Jesus, the answer is clear. Empathy is woven through the Gospels. Jesus didn’t just heal lepers—He touched them. He didn’t just raise Lazarus—He wept with Lazarus’ sisters. He didn’t just feed the crowds—He noticed they were hungry in the first place. Empathy is not weakness; it is the heart of Christ made visible. It is the ability to see someone else’s burden and care enough to step into their story. That is why the early Methodists organized themselves into “bands” and “classes,” not just to pray and study, but to bear one another’s burdens. Our Methodist heritage, stretching back to the “Holy Club” Wesley formed at Oxford in 1738, reminds us that faith without compassion quickly becomes hollow. Small acts of empathy—listening, serving, sharing—can ripple outward into movements that change lives.

That truth shapes us here at Gulf Cove today. As we rebuild our church and strengthen our outreach ministries, we are not just repairing walls or serving meals—we are practicing empathy. We are entering into the joys and struggles of our neighbors, and in doing so we reflect Christ to the world. Sometimes that looks like disaster recovery work or community outreach. Other times it looks as ordinary, and as sacred, as sitting down together over a meal.

Which brings us to something I’m excited about—our Pig Pickin’ BBQ Fundraiser on Saturday, September 12, from 11am to 7pm. Every plate sold will help restore our building and fuel ministries that bless

families in need. A plate of BBQ may not seem earth-shaking, but it can remind someone they're not forgotten. It can keep a roof over a sanctuary, or put food on another table. And if nothing else, it can teach us a few lessons about faith. For example: BBQ smoke is the closest thing we get to the pillar of cloud in Exodus. Sauce stains? They're proof of fellowship. The grill? That's the unofficial pulpit of the picnic table. And we all know revival can stall if the sweet tea runs out. Finally, I'm convinced that when Jesus fed the 5,000, if He had pulled pork and potato salad instead of bread and fish, there wouldn't have been a single leftover basket.

Humor aside, these gatherings are a picture of what the church is meant to be—work and worship coming together, flavored by joy, served with empathy, and lived out in community. They remind us that discipleship is not just what happens inside our walls on Sunday morning; it's what happens when we notice others, share life with them, and let God's grace flow through ordinary acts.

So as September unfolds, may we remember: God calls us to labor faithfully, to rest gratefully, to show empathy freely, and to celebrate joyfully. Seasons may not look very different here in Florida, but God is always at work bringing change in our hearts. May we be people who not only talk about love, but live it—whether in worship, in service, or around a table with a little barbecue sauce (and maybe even pumpkin spice dust) on our shirts.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mike

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

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### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

<b>8am</b>	<b>Traditional Worship Service</b>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Contemporary Worship Service AND Kids Church (PK-5) #109</b>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Adult Seekers in Portable D</b>
<b>11am</b>	<b>Traditional Worship Service</b>
<b>4-6pm</b>	<b>Youth Group (gr 6-12) #103</b>

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### 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.



### **REBUILD HOPE—ONE PLATE AT A TIME!**

**Friday, September 12, 11am – 7pm.**

**Tickets are \$20 per plate, which feeds one hungry adult or 2 children.**

We are 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!

### **We need everyone to participate!**

**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 in the sanctuary or call the office.



**Pantry Hours:**  
**Wednesdays & Thursdays, 8am-1pm.**  
Current needs include condiments, ramen, canned pastas like

Spaghetti'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.

### NEEDS FOR CUBAN PEOPLE

#### **OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE**

Ibuprofen for adults and children  
Pain relief capsules & gel for adults & children  
Antacids and digestive aids  
VapoRub ointment  
Arnica gel

*(Needs continued)*

Antibacterial ointment  
Benadryl ointment  
Nose drops  
Eye drops  
Bandages and dressings  
Anti-lice shampoo

### **MEDICAL DEVICES**

Thermometers  
Blood Pressure Monitors  
Syringes  
Suture thread

### **HYGIENE ITEMS**

Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Body wash  
Dental floss  
Toothpaste

### **VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS**

Daily vitamins for adults and children  
Vitamin B, C, D3  
Supplements – Calcium, Magnesium, Omega-3, Glucosamine  
Pedialyte for children

### **READING GLASSES**

Different strengths



**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.



# 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 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.

## 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 first meeting of this season is Monday, September 8. All area women are welcome. Please contact Jean Mennenga for more information. **401.580.7205.**



**Comfort Creations** meets at **9:30** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is September 10, 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.

# Fellowship



**Ladies Who Lunch** will meet on Sunday, **September 14, at 12:30pm**, at Olive Garden. 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.

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## Together We Learn

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 6:30pm  
&  
Monday, October 6, 2025, 2:00pm**

Join us for a town hall educational information session sponsored by Gulf Cove United Methodist church and presented jointly by Shelley Strickland, Kathrine Payne, Pat Courtney-Strong, and Alfred Current. This 90-minute information session will be composed of topics dear to many faith-based folks with servant hearts. Shelley, the CEO of the Charlotte Community Foundation, is well-versed in the 'why' of giving. Katherine, a well-respected tax attorney, brings many years' experiences in estate and tax planning. Alfred Current is passionate about sharing ideas regarding avoiding unknown and unnecessary financial pitfalls. Pat is the captain and moderator that keeps everyone focused and in sync. The objective of this informational session is to give you real, useful, and tangible ideas through a diverse disciplinary approach, yet symbiotic, that may prove helpful in your identifying needs, goals, concerns, and dreams.

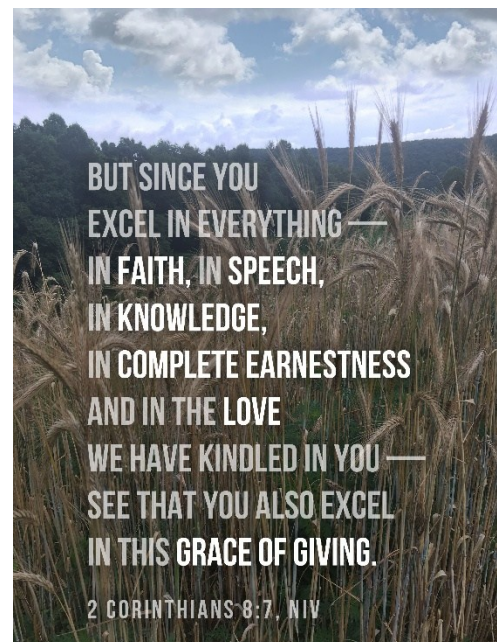
**COMMUNION OFFERING ENVELOPES** ~ Each month a different fund is chosen by our church leadership to receive these extra funds. If you wish to give above and beyond your usual tithe for September, the Communion Offering is designated for the Closet of Hope.

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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 will not cover our regular monthly expenses.

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	JULY	YTD
Total Spendable Income Received	\$31,151.60	\$268,339.81
Operating Expenses	\$39,750.33	\$291,127.43
Surplus/Deficit	(\$8,598.73)	(\$22,787.62)
Reserve Funds Used	\$5,000	\$5,000
Designated Funds (not including FUMF transfers) Received	\$2,810.93	\$98,808.89





C.T. Twardzik	9/1
Carole Satterfield	9/7
Ted Eckbreth	9/7
Russ Palmer	9/8
Bob Segur	9/8
Cyndi Kussow	9/10
Kathy Kaiser	9/10
Jean Mennenga	9/11
Cliff Jones	9/13
Karen Current	9/13
Becky Stephenson	9/13
Rick Carlson	9/13
Stacey Corn	9/13
Briggs Gray	9/14
Nancy Steneck	9/17
Miles Gilchrist	9/17
Robert Wolpert	9/19
Karlie Weaver	9/20
Joanie Marshall	9/20
Bonnie Jacoby	9/20
Jackie Miller	9/21
Lisa Brown	9/22
Ed Thoman Jr.	9/25
Jeanne Richardson	9/25
Joe Coffey	9/26
Azalea Gray	9/26
Cheryl Ross	9/26
Shane Crandall	9/27
Erin Kuhns	9/30



David & Jean Pepper	9/6
Al & Shirley Marken	9/11
Keith & Nettie Russell	9/14
Scott & Lisa Turan	9/15
Chuck & Kathy Mortensen	9/17
Jay & Denise Henderson	9/20
Mike & Patricia MacKenzie	9/20
John & Carol McGuire	9/30



#### SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES

**September 7**

*Are You Available?*

**Luke 14:25–35**

**September 14**

*Found It!*

**Luke 15:1–7; 15:8–10**

**September 21**

*A Good Picture of Bad People*

**Luke 16:1–15**

**September 28**

*Who Is Your Lazarus?*

**Luke 16:19–31**

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