

Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor:

Church family,

I cannot believe it's already December. One minute we're wondering if fall will ever reach Florida, and the next minute every radio, phone, and smart speaker in our house decides it's time for Christmas music whether we were ready or not. But honestly, I love it. This season has a way of bringing joy right when we need it.

And of course, December also brings family gatherings — the fun ones, the loud ones, the memorable ones, and the ones where we quietly pray, “Lord, give me patience... and maybe a cookie.” Some of us have wonderful memories, some of us are anticipating new ones, and all of us are probably juggling a little holiday stress. You are not alone!

But in the middle of all that, I want us to pause and remember why we do all this in the first place:

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” — Isaiah 9:2

Jesus — our Light and our Hope — came to us in the simplest, most unexpected way. And one of the greatest gifts He gives us (besides salvation and grace) is this church family. Whether you've been here for years or you're brand new, you bring joy to this community.

I'm proud of this church. You understand the real needs around us — loneliness, disconnection, and the growing challenges many in our community face. We can't solve everything, but we can love well, serve faithfully, and reflect Christ in everything we do. That heart of compassion comes straight from the manger.

This Advent we begin a new sermon series called “Reel Advent.” We'll be using some of our culture's favorite Christmas movies to help us reconnect with the true story of Jesus' coming. (And no — before anyone asks — “Die Hard” is not in the lineup.)

Let's celebrate this season with joy, kindness, and hope. Jesus is with us — Emmanuel — and that changes everything.

Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Pastor 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) #D

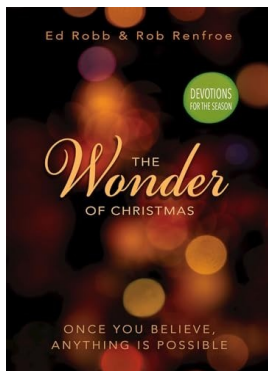
WEDNESDAYS AT GULF COVE

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.
Praise Team Rehearsal ~ 6pm.

NOTICE: OFFICE CLOSED Monday, December 8 for staff business. OFFICE CLOSING Wednesday, December 24 for Christmas and New Year's Day and reopens on Monday, January 5.

ADVENT STUDY

The Wonder of Christmas, by Ed Robb and Rob Renfroe. Books (\$10, checks payable to GCUMC) can be picked up on Sunday, November 30. In preparation for the first session on Tuesday, Dec 2nd at 6pm, we ask that you begin the daily devotional readings on November 30th. Please bring your bible to each session. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Langford at 813-957-6585 (text) or sslangford@msn.com. We look forward to being with you on Tuesdays, 6pm, December 2, 9, 16, & 23, Room #109.



POINSETTIA ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN. FILL OUT ORDER FORM FROM BULLETIN BY DECEMBER 15, OR CALL THE OFFICE. \$12 PER PLANT.



DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

Reel Advent: Hope, Love, Joy on the Big Screen

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - November 30: HOPE

- **Title:** "I Triple Dog Dare You!"
- **Movie:** A Christmas Story
- **Text:** Luke 1:35-38
- **Theme:** Hope & Expectation

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT – December 7: LOVE

- **Title:** "You Guys Give Up, or Are You Thirsty for More?"
- **Movie:** Home Alone
- **Text:** Matthew 1:18-25
- **Theme:** Love & Reconciliation.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - December 14: PEACE

LESSONS and CAROLS

Enjoy a peaceful morning of Music and The Word

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT –December 21: JOY

- **Title:** "The Best Way to Spread Christmas Cheer..."
- **Movie:** Elf
- **Text:** Luke 2:8-20
- **Theme:** Joy That Cannot Be Contained

NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY – December 28

- **Title:** "Every Time a Bell Rings..."
- **Movie:** It's a Wonderful Life
- **Text:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **Theme:** New Beginnings





**Englewood Helping Hand -
Pantry Hours: Wednesdays &
Thursdays, 8:15am-1pm.**

Current needs include
Canned vegetables

Canned pasta (SpaghettiO's, etc.)

Canned chicken

Canned tuna

Canned fruit

Ramen

Bar soap

Toilet paper

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.



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 for one or more
Sundays during December.

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 **Ladies Who Lunch**
will meet on Sunday, **December 14,**
12:30pm at church. Christmas
Party! Bring a favorite holiday
dish to pass and an ornament
valued at \$10 or less for our grab
bag gift exchange. Please stay in budget.
Contact Nancy Spaulding at 386.868.8604 for
more information. All ladies are welcome!



Dinner for Six
Our Dinner for Six small groups
are getting ready for the next
round. More people are joining
and we would love to have you,

too. Sign up starts in December for the January,
February and March Rotation. Look on our
website for registration forms or use the one in
the bulletin when it comes out. If you have any
questions, please call Kathy Mortensen at
530.210.6149.



Mahjongg with Friends
Meets Monday mornings in
room #109 at **9am**. All levels
are welcome – from learners
and beginners to experts. We
are a fun group! Please join us. Contact Linda
Edwards for more information at 253.350.7264.

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, December 8. All area women are welcome. Please contact Jean Mennenga for more information. 401.580.7205.



Comfort Creations meets at **9:30** on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is December 10, 9:30am, room #101. For more information, 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 to support various causes. If you would like to help, please contact Kathy Grawcock. 260.226.0240.



YOUTH COOKIE FUNDRAISER - The youth are accepting orders on Sundays through December 14, for chocolate chip, sugar, or peanut butter cookies. Delivery on Sunday December 21. Proceeds help with camp and mission trips.

	OCTOBER	YTD
Spendable Income Received	27,742.21	355,960.49
Expenses	36,521.70	418,152.72
Surplus/Deficit	(8,779.49)	(62,192.23)
Reserve Funds Used	0	31,000.00
Designated Funds (not including FUMF transfers) Received	13,510.07	213,712.85

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 **December, the Communion Offering is designated for the Pastor's Discretionary 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 will not cover our regular monthly expenses.





Advent Study ~ The Wonder of Christmas
Tuesdays at 6pm, room #109.

Traditional Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 14 at 8am and 11am.

**Contemporary
Service of Word and Music**
Sunday, December 14 at 9:30am.

Blue Christmas Service
A service of remembrance and hope for
those having a difficult time this season
Friday, December 19, 6pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Wednesday, December 24
5pm Contemporary Service
7pm Traditional Service
11:30pm Communion Service

*Please join us this season as we celebrate
the birth of Jesus, and worship our
newborn King and Savior!*



PARENTS NIGHT OUT
Saturday, December 20, 6-8pm.

Need time for last minute shopping,
wrapping gifts, relaxing?
Gulf Cove Kids and Youth are
sponsoring a free Parents Night Out
with fun activities and a movie.
Free to all children of elementary
school age. Contact Holly Tozer for
more information.

SAVE THE DATE>>>

**THE EARP MEMORIAL
HANDBELL CHOIR
PRESENTS**

A decorative border of colorful musical notes and symbols in red, green, blue, and orange.

Tickets will be available starting
December 14th during the 8:00 and 11:00
services. Please see Sue Betz or any
members of Bell Choir or Chancel Choir if
you would like to buy tickets for this
wonderful performance!

Call or text Sue at 860.608.3686.

This will make a great Christmas present!
Give the gift of Music

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR CHOIRS



Nancy Spaulding	12/1
Jean Pepper	12/2
Mary Robinson	12/2
Erin Gray	12/3
Barbara Comeyne	12/3
Doreen Alvarez	12/4
Lisa Turan	12/4
Bonnie Gardner	12/4
Ezekiel Carlton	12/5
Bonnie Rich	12/7
Mona Muhlenbruch	12/8
Tina Mennenga	12/9
Shirley Smith	12/9
Brian Beckwith	12/15
Mark Freer	12/15
Josh Stenseth	12/15
Liam Hogan	12/17
Anna Welch	12/18
Jim Wilkin	12/20
Roger Behrens	12/21
Sue Betz	12/21
David Pepper	12/22
Bob Steneck	12/27
Mike Charbonneau	12/27
Nicole Lyon	12/28
Hazel Charbonneau	12/30
Renee Baumgartner	12/31
Jackie Guerin	12/31
Myleigh Weaver	12/31



John & Lu Ann Zink	12/2
Wally & Julie Whitford	12/6
Ralph & Beth Butts	12/6
Bob & Cathy Rohrbaugh	12/6
Jim & Joanie Marshall	12/8
Bob & Marilyn Segur	12/14
Terry & Mona Muhlenbruch	12/16
Stacey & Liana Corn	12/19
Brian Beckwith & Susan Haring	12/29

DONATE BLOOD



Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 14

7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

All donors receive*

- \$20 eGift Card
- Oneblood Sweatshirt
- Chick-fil-A Coupon
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS NEEDED.

PLEASE CONTACT BOB STENECK AT
631.831.9735 OR STOP BY THE TABLE ON
SUNDAYS. THANKS.

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Rev. Michael Weaver II, Pastor
1100 S. McCall Road, Port Charlotte, Florida 33981
941.697.1747 Fax: 941.697.1528
www.GulfCoveChurch.com GulfCoveUMC@gmail.com