

Gulf Breezes

Monthly Newsletter of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Helping Everyone

EXPERIENCE EMBRACE ENGAGE

Jesus & Community

From the Pastor

A Note from Pastor Mike

Well, somehow it is already June. In Southwest Florida that means it is hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk, and the love bugs are apparently trying to join the church.

One of the biggest highlights this month is Vacation Bible School. We are deeply grateful for every person who has volunteered, donated supplies, decorated, prayed, or signed up to help. VBS is far more than crafts, snacks, and excited kids with endless energy. It is one of the greatest outreach opportunities we have.

Lives are changed during VBS.

Children hear about Jesus in ways they can understand. Families connect with the church. Seeds of faith are planted. And honestly, the volunteers are often changed too.

VBS Celebration Sunday & Father's Day

The Sunday following VBS will be our VBS Celebration Sunday, which also falls on Father's Day. We will have one combined worship service at 10:00 AM instead of our normal three services.

Our children will sing, share, and help us celebrate what they learned during VBS. This is not a Sunday you want to miss.

When children look out and see full pews, smiling faces, and encouragement, it leaves a lasting impact. Even if upbeat kids' songs are not your usual worship style, your presence matters. You do not have to dance or know the hand motions. If you can smile and clap somewhere close to the beat, you are already doing great.

Father's Day can bring mixed emotions. As a church, we give thanks not only for fathers and biological families, but also for those who stepped into those roles when others could not or would not: grandparents, mentors, teachers, neighbors, coaches, and faithful church members who reflected Christ's love.

"Two are better than one... if either should fall, one can pick up the other."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

"I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are living according to the truth."

3 John 1:4

Rebuilding & Giving Thanks

This summer also marks something we have prayed, worked, and waited for: seeing the majority of our church campus restored after the hurricanes.

In many ways, things are coming back even better than before.

What once felt overwhelming has become a testimony to God's faithfulness, generosity, perseverance, and community. Thank you to

everyone who helped, donated, cleaned, encouraged, and stayed faithful.

Annual Conference

June also means Annual Conference season for the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Annual Conference is not church camp with pastors roasting marshmallows while discussing budgets. Different event.

It is the yearly gathering of United Methodist churches across Florida where pastors and elected lay members gather for worship, prayer, ministry updates, voting, and conversations about the mission and future of the church.

Please keep all pastors, delegates, and churches in your prayers during this important gathering in Lakeland.

Summer Is Still Ministry Season

Summer may change schedules, but ministry never stops. Throughout June we continue worship, outreach, children and youth activities, rebuilding efforts, fellowship, and serving our community.

Thank you for being a church that shows up with generosity, kindness, flexibility, humor, and servant hearts.

You are making a bigger difference than you probably realize.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8am** Traditional Worship Service
- 9:30am** Contemporary Worship Service
AND Kids Church (PK-5) #109
- 9:30am** Adult Sunday School - #Youth Rm
- 11am** Traditional Worship Service
- 4-6pm** Youth Group (gr 6-12) - #Youth Rm

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 Band Rehearsal ~ 6pm.

JUNE SERMON SERIES

- June 7 **Ready For A Change**
Matthew 9:9-13
- June 14 **Which Cup?**
Matthew 9:35-38
- June 21 **VBS SUNDAY**
ONE SERVICE AT 10AM
NO POTLUCK –
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
- June 28 **What Are You Afraid Of?**
Matthew 10:24-39

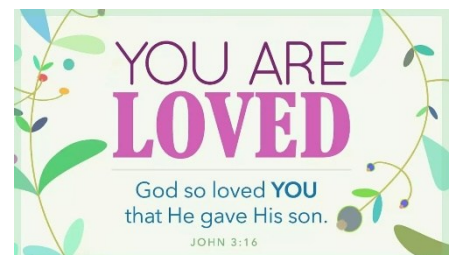


OFFICE CLOSED

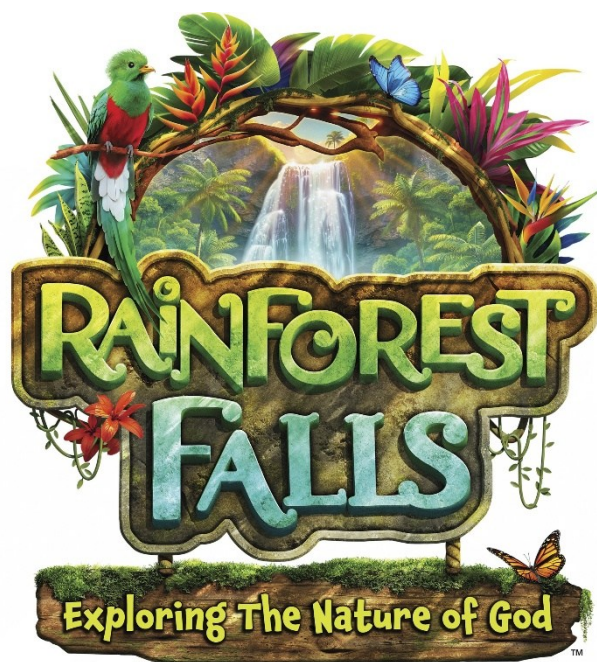
Friday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.



For July, the deadline to submit items is Thursday, June 18. Articles may be submitted by email to gcreceptionist1@gmail.com.



VBS 2026



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
Please visit our webpage

IMPORTANT VBS DATES

- VBS Decorations Prep, Saturdays, June 6 & 13, starting at 9am.
- Final Set-Up: Sunday, June 14, starting at noon.
- VBS, Mon-Fri, June 15-19, 5:30 - 8:30pm.
- **VBS Sunday, June 21. One service at 10am. No Potluck. Happy Father's Day!**

Please contact Holly Tozer if you would like to help at gcumckids@gmail.com.

GREAT NEWS—

THE 2027 WOMEN'S RETREAT IS A GO!



Because of the strong response to our interest survey, we've reserved the Palms Lodge at Riverside in LaBelle, Florida—a beautiful location along the Caloosahatchee River.

The Women's Retreat Planning Team is hard at work creating a meaningful and welcoming retreat experience for **January 30–31, 2027** at Riverside Retreat Center in LaBelle, Fl. Inspired by the Bible's Book of Ruth and the theme From Bitter to Beloved, the retreat will include worship, table conversations, creative activities, quiet prayer spaces, music, reflection, laughter, and time to simply rest and connect. Women will journey together through themes of loss, commitment, belonging, risk, and restoration—discovering again that God meets us in every part of our story. We can't wait to share more in the months ahead!

- Patty

Registration for the event will happen later this year, so for now, just mark your calendar and help us get the word out. Please note: even if someone did not fill out the information survey, they will still be able to register for the retreat when the time comes.

Thanks again from your Retreat planning team! Get in touch with any one of us if you have questions:

Rev. Patty Frick, Lead, ocpatty1@gmail.com,
Sue Haring, suefab2000@yahoo.com,
Joan Priest, joanpp51@comcast.net, and
Jeanne Richardson, jmr1547@gmail.com.



What CAN you do?

Greeters/Ushers-sign-up at the back of the sanctuary for 8am and 9:30am services. Talk with Nancy Spaulding at 386.868.8604 for 11am service.

Hospitality -Help when you can- one week or one month. It's up to you! Make beverages first thing, set out goodies before and after both the 8am and 9:30 services, or clean up at the end of the morning, either after the 11am service starts, or after it ends. Sign-up in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office at 941.697.1747.

Barn Boys-Mowing and trimming-contact John Furtado at 941.830.0121.

First Impressions-Weeding and pruning – contact Ken Priest at 941.769.0581.

STEPHEN MINISTERS ~ If you or someone you



STEPHEN MINISTRY

know needs one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered care due to grief, illness, caregiving stress, job loss, transitions, and more, contact

Andy Frick, our Stephen Minister Leader at 520.309.0098 or andrewfrick30@gmail.com.



Fellowship



Ladies Who Lunch is a fellowship group open to all women of the church. They meet once a month to share a meal and fellowship. Meetings are usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Next meeting is Sunday, June 14, 12:30pm at Cheddar's.

Contact Nancy Spaulding to RSVP or if you have questions at 386.868.8604.



Mahjongg with Friends meets on Mondays at 9am for friendly games and fellowship. Any level player is welcome. Contact Linda Edwards at 253.350.7264 for more details.

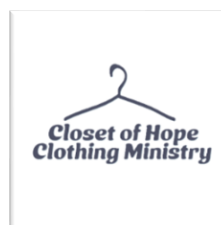


ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND



Service opportunities are coming up on July 29-30 and Sep 30 & Oct 1. Look for signup sheets in the Narthex as we get closer to the dates.

The pantry needs the following: shelf stable or powdered milk, bar soap, toilet paper, condiments, instant mashed potatoes, ramen noodles, rice, tuna, canned chicken, canned beans (kidney, black, refried, baked), canned pasta, canned chili, soups, peanut butter, cereal, or any shelf stable foods. Donations can be placed in the EHH bin in the Narthex entry. 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. Anyone interested in helping with this outreach ministry should contact Sandy Palmer at 941.204.3322.

Stewardship

is heart work



"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:19-21

COMMUNION OFFERING ENVELOPES

Each month a different fund is chosen by our church leadership to receive these special gifts. If you wish to give above and beyond your usual tithe for June, the Communion Offering is designated for Community Outreach.

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.

APRIL		2026 YTD
Spendable Income Received	58,421.39	189,669.62
Expenses	45,126.10	178,096.23
Surplus/Deficit	13,295.29	11,573.39
Reserve Funds Used	0	0
Restricted Funds Recd	39,929.62	129,780.94
Restricted Funds Expenses	31,046.78	118,356.98
Surplus/Deficit	8,882.84	11,423.96

THANK YOU GULF COVE UMC

We received this beautiful note and wanted to share it with all of you.

Dear Pastor Mike and Gulf Cove UMC Congregation,
We wanted to share some of our thoughts and observations after being part of your church over the past three months. Upon our arrival in

Port Charlotte, we had intended on visiting two or three Methodist churches in the area and decide on a church to attend during our stay. Gulf Cove was the first church we attended and we never thought of going to any other church after meeting the congregation and listening to Pastor Mike's sermon. We were greeted warmly and noticed how people interacted with each other and how Pastor Mike worked the crowd prior to the start of the service. As time went by, we commented to each other that this was a congregation that enjoys worshipping together and values their friendships.

Approximately 10 years ago we spent five months in Memphis, Tennessee. We attended First United Methodist Church. That church was in the midst of recovering from a catastrophic fire loss to its structure and was vastly under-insured for such an event. We witnessed a congregation that unified to overcome numerous challenges to rebuild their church. Fast forward 10 years and our arrival at Gulf Cove UMC where we found another congregation that had found the strength, fortitude and endurance to recover from a catastrophic loss to its church.

Michelle was welcomed to join the handbell and chorus choirs and made great friendships. On Sunday mornings when the choirs were doing their fine tuning for their performance Jim enjoyed listening to them. We want to give a shout out to Sue Betz, as we really liked her enthusiasm in leading the choirs and her selection of music.

Every Sunday Pastor Mike would come up to us and welcome us. Members of the congregation would do the same, with a hug and "good morning".

Our experiences have taught us that a pastor is more than the spiritual leader of a church. They are also the CEO of the organization that requires an extraordinary amount of time and energy to fulfill their duties. Pastor Mike seems to truly enjoy his calling and seems to be a perfect fit for Gulf Cove UMC. His self-deprecating humor and enjoyment of coffee humored us on Sunday mornings. As we traveled back to our home in Michigan, we

commented that if our United Methodist Church had an opening for a pastor, we would recruit him and his family to come and experience the four seasons of Michigan. We are sending you a bag of our favorite coffee from Guenther House, San Antonio, Texas, to keep Pastor Mike going on Sunday mornings!

The winter of 2027 has us going back to Galveston Island, Texas. This is where we spent our first winter when we retired in 2015. We hope that in 2028 we will be able to renew our friendships made at Gulf Cove United Methodist Church.

In Christian love,
Jim and Michelle Kelly



Larry & Judy Sprague	6/4
Russ & Nancy Treible	6/8
Dean & Judy Tomlin	6/9
Mark Porter & Elaye Wong	6/11
Mike & Sue Charbonneau	6/13
Rick & Laurie Rakestraw	6/14
Jeremy & Heather Johnson	6/15

Macie Stenseth	6/1
Linda Cosgray	6/2
Holly Tozer	6/2
Dana Hanson	6/3
Phoebe Gray	6/3
Doraleigh Egan	6/3
Priscilla Jordan	6/4
Dave Crandall	6/6
Jana Blount	6/7
Samuel Carter	6/8
Mike MacKenzie	6/9
Annabelle Chaffee	6/9
Bill Bart	6/9
Dennis Guzik	6/10
Bea Adkins	6/12
Bonnelle Lewis	6/14
Karen Bodo	6/15
Sue Charbonneau	6/15
Judi Van Landegend	6/16
Susie Morrow	6/17
Naomi Price	6/19
Dean Tomlin	6/20
Virginia Bathurst	6/21
Dee Grafe	6/22
Denise Henderson	6/23
Alfred Current III	6/24
Makenna Kuhns	6/25
Michael Alvarez	6/25
Al Geyer	6/26
Erin Katsarelas	6/29

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