

July 2023

**GULF BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**271 SOUTH HWY 79**  
**PANAMA CITY BECH., FL 32413**



## Beach Tidings Newsletter

**The Witness and Evangelism** committee is continuing it's **WE SERVE** program. We are looking for the people who volunteer their time in service. Volunteer time includes the food pantry, the Red Cross, schools, Council on Aging, walking a neighbor's dog and taking someone to an appointment to name a few. There will be a poster in the fellowship area for you to log your hours. All you need to do is put your name down, the activity you did and the hours involved. If you want to volunteer somewhere, let us know your time and talent and we will work with you to find an appropriate place. Let's see how many volunteer hours we can count! We are a church that serves in the community.

### **Ever outward**

Poet Rainer Maria Rilke said, "I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world." Indeed, we all do. As newborns, we focus only on ourselves. But as we grow, little by little we learn that the people and things around us are separate from us. Soon we can attend to others' actions, needs and feelings. Like ripples from a stone dropped in water, our circles of care widen from family (biological or otherwise) to friends (playmates, classmates, colleagues), church family, community, country and finally even people across the globe.

The ministries of Jesus and his disciples also were widening circles: first "to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matthew 10:6; 15:24, NIV) but soon to "all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Early church leaders took the gospel message ever outward, as Jesus had directed them: first to Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria, and finally even "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV).

As our faith matures, our impact spreads outward too. Some people move geographically farther from home, while others use prayer, communication and technology to widen their reach of spiritual, emotional and financial support. How exciting that God's love encircles us all and that we can share it far and wide!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

### **Gratitude, all year long**

It's not Thanksgiving time. But what if we made a point to practice gratitude all year long?

In her book *Grateful*, theologian Diana Butler Bass writes: "As human beings, we possess an intuitive awareness that we depend on others to survive. We are safer and happier when we care for each other in community, when we do things for each other. ... How we live together in and with gratitude makes all the difference in the world. Indeed, living gratefully makes the world different."

## A Word from Pastor Michael



You may not realize that our church does ministry outside the walls. We are not unique in doing ministry outside the church walls, but I have heard several of you mention that for our congregation to be small, we do a lot of positive things. I will agree to that and say Amen as well. Ministry is done in many ways and not just done on Sunday. We come to Worship, and we leave

to serve, and you have been an excellent example of that in so many ways.

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is one of our denomination's offerings during the spring each year. Congregations from around the United States like ours take up a special offering that is used to support three ministries supported by the Presbyterian Church USA. I would invite you to visit our Presbyterian Church USA website to find out more about the history and purpose of OGHS. You will be surprised by the wonderful work that has been done through the contributions of people who seek to make a difference in their communities and communities around the world. Here are a few points I would like to share with you.

Allocations within our denomination have also changed over the years, but the 202nd General Assembly (1990) voted to accept the current structure:

- **32 percent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**
- **32 percent to the Self-Development of People**
- **36 percent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program**

I have shared on occasions that this congregation either directly or indirectly is involved in all three of these ministries. During the time we were involved in the Rebuilding of Bay County, our Family Center was used by workgroups who came from across the United States and had a safe place to stay, fellowship, and do God's work. This is an example of how funds are used in PDA.

As you know our food pantry has been and continues to be a blessing to many people in our community for many years in helping with their food needs. Although we help others by giving food on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, we also receive donations of food and monetary donations from community groups and organizations as well as individual giving. This is an example of a Hunger Program in Action.

Finally, I will have the privilege of serving as the chairperson of the Self-Develop of People committee for the Presbytery of Florida. This ministry has been very meaningful to me throughout my thirty-plus years in ministry. As I am embarking on this task it holds a special meaning to me because I will know that through your contributions through OGHS, you also become a partner in ministry with the groups we will fund in this process. Matthew 7:16 gives us these inspiring words: By their fruit, you will recognize them.

I would like to thank you for sharing your fruit and being a partner in the ministry of each one of these endeavors.

May you be blessed and a blessing to each other.

Pastor, Mike

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# ANNOUNCEMENT



## **Adult**

### **Sunday School**

Sunday school is at 8:00am in a room in the Preschool wing. Everyone is invited to attend.

### **Women of the Church-Tuesday, July 11th**

The ladies of the church are invited to dinner and devotions at 5:30pm in the fellowship area

### **Concert Series Planning Meeting-July 16th**

The concert series planning team will be meeting the 3rd Sunday of every month after worship. Everyone is invited to come and help plan our next Concert Season.

### **Witness and Evangelism- Wednesday, July 12th**

This ministry will have its monthly meeting at 9:00am in the fellowship area.

### **Fun Friday- July 21st**

We will gather at the church at 11:30 for a cookout and potluck. Bring a dish to share. We will play Hershey Kis Bingo after lunch.

### **Monday Foodies July 24th- 5pm**

We have moved the Tuesday Foodies to Monday for July and August. We will go to Gulf Coast Burger Company on Middle Beach Road (next to Wicked Wheel) Meet at 5:00pm. Come join us for Burgers. Everyone is welcome.

### **Potluck- Sunday, July 30th After Worship**

The church will provide the meat and we ask you to bring a side dish to share.

### **Food Pantry-**

We are in need of food donations so we would like to resume asking the congregation to donate on a monthly basis. This month we are asking for **Jelly, Mixed Vegi's, Powdered Milk, Canned Chicken.**

**We also need small pop top single use cans of Pork & Beans, and vegies.** Please place your donations in the

box in the narthex. Thank you. As always, monetary donations are welcomed. Write for Food pantry on your envelope.



## **Fellowship Walking Group**

Everyone is invited to join this group as they meet at Aaron Bessant park parking lot and walk together at 7:00am every Tuesday. For information on this group please call Lenny Zacher at 867-3770.



### **Online giving with ease**

We have made giving simpler. Whether you are giving to your pledge or making an end of year gift, it is now as easy as scanning the QR code with your phone.

We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain. Although we speak of "making friends," friends cannot be made. Friends are free gifts from God. But God gives us the friends we need when we need them if we fully trust in God's love.

Friends cannot replace God. They have limitations and weaknesses like we have. Their love is never faultless, never complete. But in their limitations they can be signposts on our journey towards the unlimited and unconditional love of God. Let's enjoy the friends whom God has sent on our way.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*



### **Community Prayer Line**

Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church, the Little Pink Church, has established a Community Prayer Line. If you would like to submit a concern, joy, or sorrow, please send your short message to our Prayer email



*We pray for the well-being of the places we live and this community where we minister, for in their welfare is ours as well (Jeremiah 29:7).*

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**OCTOBER 28TH**

**Breast Cancer Walk**

**We will have a team this year. Watch for more information about signing up**





## Birthdays /Anniversaries

### July Anniversaries

15-Ron and Linda Coleman


### July Birthdays

11- Ron Prottzman

26-Tracy Schoppe

31-J. D. Schoppe

""In the cause of freedom we have to battle for the rights of people with whom we do not agree. ... If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own."

A festive collage for Independence Day. It features a hot air balloon with the American flag pattern, a string of red and blue stars, a blue star-shaped ornament with a heart, a red and white striped lollipop, a blue and white striped hat, a red maple leaf, a blue flower, and a small red cat silhouette. The text is centered within the collage.

**"As our nation celebrates Independence Day, let us remember and proclaim that God so loved the whole world that he sent Jesus to share in this life. —Thomas Merton—  
Reggie McNeal, *Practicing Greatness*\*\*\***

## Finding freedom

What does freedom look like to you? In *GraceLaced*, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.

I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits.

A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ.