

May 2023

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



Beach Tidings Newsletter

God's hands

Exactly a century ago, Irish physician Alexander Irvine published *My Lady of the Chimney Corner*, a book dedicated to his saintly mother. The protagonist, Anna, lives and ministers to others as Irvine's own mother had done.



In the story, Anna visits a neighbor who has just lost a son at sea. After talking for a while, Anna suggests they pray together. With heads bowed, she reaches to place a loving hand on the grieving mother's forehead. Afterward, the woman says, "I think I felt his touch upon my brow," referring to God.

Anna says, "God is everywhere looking for hands to use. Sometimes he takes the hand of a doctor and uses it in healing. Sometimes he takes the hand of a mother to soothe the brow of a fevered child. And sometimes he takes the hand of an old critter like me to bring a bit of help and comfort to a neighbor. But they are all God's hands, and God is everywhere looking for hands to use."



Honor your mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

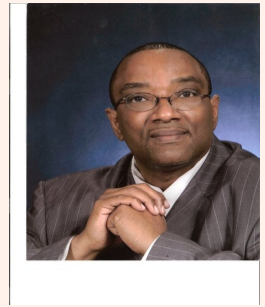
At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

A Word from Pastor Michael

I find these words in Philippians 2:2-4 both fitting and comforting:

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.



Often when we go to church for many years, we see one another as we go through our seasons of change. We see children as they become young adults, and adults become older adults. In the cycle of life, we witness many changes in people, some we may understand others we may never have a clue what they are or what a person is experiencing.

In our wonderful congregation over the past months there have been some changes we are experiencing. Yes, people have come and joined the church and yes, we have managed to stay in touch with members. This is a wonderful blessing! However, there are several members and families who are affected by some type of memory disorder. This is very painful for everyone to see these changes occur. Memory disorders are defined as suppressed cognition abilities leading to the deteriorated ability of reasoning and decision making. This will further create hindrance in communication skills, leaving the sufferer to forget the words an individual wanted to speak out. Many notable disorders immensely affect the brain's progression and its formability.

No matter what name you give these disorders the bottom line is, there is a sense of helplessness and hopelessness that goes with these disorders, and it affects a great deal of people in the process. These times can be known as the "Long Good-Bye," which can be very hard to cope with even under normal circumstances.

As a community of faith, I would like to encourage us to do a few things for those we know in our congregation experiencing these challenging times. First, always **smile**. You never know what the warmth of a smile can do for a person. Next, always **pray**. I will not say what to pray for or how to pray for a person but, prayer always helps and prayer as we know works. And finally, I would ask that you remember the words of Philippians 2: 3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

Let us always care for one another the way that Christ cares for his church. Those are the blessings that can help us no matter what we are going through.

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.

The Women of the Church Evening Bible Study- Monday, May 1st at 5:30pm

The women of the church evening Bible study will meet on Monday May 1 at 5:30 in the fellowship area. This is our last meeting until fall. We will conclude our study of Celebrate the Sabbath. All women are invited.

Church Workday-May 14th

we will meet after worship to do small, odd jobs around the church. Many hands make light work. Please join us to help with the upkeep of our church.

Fun Friday- May 19th

Fun Friday Will be on Friday May 19. We will gather at the church at 11:00. We will take a brown bag lunch out to St. Andrew's state park for a picnic. We will visit the nature center and explore the park.

Presbytery Meeting

We have been invited to help with sponsoring the Presbytery meeting at Dogwood Acres on Saturday May 20. We will need donations of breakfast items such as pastries and muffins. Please drop these off in the fellowship area before Friday May 19. Mark them for the Presbytery meeting so they do not get mixed with the food pantry donations.

Tuesday Foodies May 23rd- 5pm

Tuesday foodies had a great time at the Cocina Latina this month. Our next outing will be on Tuesday May 23. We meet at 5. The location will follow later. Everyone is welcome.

Potluck- Sunday, May 28th- After Worship

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

Food Pantry-

The number of people the Food Pantry serves has increased. We are in need food donations so we would like to resume asking the congregation to donate on a monthly basis. This month we will be collecting **Peanut butter, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, Powdered Milk and Pork and Beans**. 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.



Men's Walking Group

All Men are invited to join this group as they meet at Aaron Bessant park parking lot and walk together at 7: 00am every Tuesday.



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.



Supporting Bay County Schools

The faculty and students at Breakfast Point Academy would like to thank the members of Gulf Beach for their generous donations throughout the school year. The donations have been appreciated by everyone.

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 at: Prayers271@gmail.com.



Camp for All

This year the session has decided to support the Urban Youth Camp which will be held at Dogwood Acres Retreat and Campground on the Third and Fourth week of July. Dogwood Acres is sponsored by the Presbytery USA of Florida. Its mission is to provide a retreat environment in which individuals and groups can grow in faith, enjoy wholesome recreation, and nurture Christian fellowship in a natural and unspoiled part of Creation. Many of the children and young people of our Congregation have attended and Counseled at Dogwood Acres. We will have a campaign for this Ministry in the month of May and hope to receive enough donations for scholarships for some Urban children. Your support is greatly appreciated.

How you can help

You can sponsor a child in several ways:

- Donate to cover the \$415 cost of camp
- Adopt a child to support at camp. Helping with needed clothes, transportation and sending letters to them at camp.

Please keep watching the announcements for more information.





Birthdays /Anniversaries

May Anniversaries

9-Ted & Tracy Schoppe,
17-Mike & Suzanne
Burke,
27- Tony and Sandra
Young

May Birthdays

5-Marion Lankford,
12-Elise Wiselogel,
18-Sandra Young
20-Barbara Galbraith,
26-Roger Coons

"" God of strong and tender love,
thank you for those who have
shown me your love in motherly
ways, and for the opportunities I
have to care for others.

""God has not called you to your life
mission in spite of who you are; he has
called you precisely because of who you
are."

—Reggie McNeal, *Practicing Greatness**

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We remember

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.



**May the 4th
be with
you!**