

January 2024

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



Beach Tidings Newsletter



A Word from Pastor Michael

I've mentioned before that one of my favorite chapters in the Bible is Matthew 25. The Presbyterian Church USA has developed resources for congregations that consider themselves as Matthew 25 congregations. These words speak loudly to me in my faith and as a pastor, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

Although our session has never voted to become a Matthew 25 congregation, we have many overtones suggesting that we might be one. Our church has shown in its ministry to the community and the world, through our work and generosity, that we seek to do God's will uniquely.

I am happy to announce that our session has voted to allow the American Red Cross to use our family center as a cooling and warming center for those who are homeless and who need a place to come when the weather becomes challenging for them who live in PCB. All our church will have to do is provide the space and open the doors; the Red Cross will take care of all the other items during these times.

If you would like to help, you can donate items like socks, gloves, hats, and blankets for the cold weather days. Please contact Sarah Waby so that we can find a place to make these items available when they are needed. You never know when these items can make a big difference to someone who may need them.

As I always say at the closing of these articles, "May you be blessed and a blessing to others." This is one of those blessings to others, and this is also how we respond to the words of Jesus, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" "

Once again, may you be blessed and a blessing to others.

Pastor, Mike

-850-980-3307- Askew.michaelsr@yahoo.com



ANNOUNCEMENT



Adult Sunday School

Sunday school is at 8:00am in a room in the Preschool wing. Class begins at 8:00 am. We will be studying Romans: A concise summary of the Gospel. Everyone is invited to attend.

Women of the Church-Monday January 8th at 5:30pm

We will meet at 5:30 in the fellowship area of the church. All women of the church are welcome to attend our study.

Beginning Monday, January 8th from 11-2-

Pastor David Leggett will be leading a bible study based on the book *"Life Lessons from John"* by Max Lucado. This group will meet every Monday

Women of the Church-Monday January 8th at 5:30pm

The Women of the church are beginning our fall Bible Study. We will meet at 5:30 in the fellowship area of the church. Our study for this year is **Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts**. All women of the church are welcome to attend our study.

Fun Friday-January 19th at 11:30

We will meet in the Gulf Beach family center to play Uno and have lunch.

Thursday Foodies - January 25th @5pm

We will go Boon Docks on Hwy 79
We meet at the restaurant at 5:00. Come join us for fun, food and fellowship.

January 28th- Sunday, following worship

There will be a Potluck lunch. The hospitality committee will provide the meat. Bring a side to share.

Congregational Meeting-January 28th

There will be a Congregational meeting following worship. This meeting is for the purpose of electing Corporate officers, Presenting the 2023 Budget and annual report of each committee.

The Hospitality committee will meet on January 31st at 9:00am.

School Supply Drive

In January we will collect Band-aids for the students at Breakfast Point Academy. There is a red box in the narthex for your donations.

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.

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.



75th Anniversary

We are celebrating the church's 75th Anniversary in 2024. To get the celebration started we are asking for our members past and present to share photographs from events in the life of our church. Give us the names of the people in the photo and what the event was. Please contact Sarah Waby if you have any questions. You can email pictures to gulfbeachpres@gmail.com.

First, contact

In *Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality and Mortality*, Richard Beck writes powerfully about Jesus healing a leper in Matthew 8:1-3. "What is intriguing about this story is the sequence. Jesus touches the leper first. Then the command 'Be clean!' is offered. That is, Jesus' first move is into ritual defilement. By first touching the leper, Jesus ... [is] standing in solidarity with the unclean." Beck finds this "striking" because typically we expect purification before contact. But Jesus' actions reverse the pattern: "Contact occurs first."

How fortunate for us, too, that God didn't wait to reach out to us until he had cleansed us of sin. God didn't save us from afar and only *then* come to live among us. Rather, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, ESV). And continuously, Jesus loves us, comes to us and touches our hearts, even when we are at our worst — straying from God, trapped in sin, unworthy, unclean, unrighteous. For it's not *our* righteousness or purity that heals and saves us, but Christ's.

Fellowship Walking Group

Every Tuesday

Everyone is invited to join this group as they meet at Aaron Bessant park parking lot and walk together at 7: 00am every Tuesday. If you are interested in joining this group please call Ron Coleman, 850-890-1172 or Lenny Zacher at 867-3770.

THE CHURCH & THE ARTS | CONCERT SERIES

Benefiting Beach Care Services

ALL PERFORMANCES START AT 6:00 P.M.

SAME DAY TICKETS \$15 | 2 FOR \$25 (SOLD AT DOOR)

2024

CELEBRATING
32
YEARS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH
TODD HERENDEN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH
IN FAITH (BLUE GRASS GOSPEL)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST
JANELLE FROST

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF SAINT ANDREWS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH
BOBBY VAN DEUSEN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH
LUCKY MUD

**Gulf Beach
Presbyterian
Church**

www.pinkchurch.org

271 South Arnold (Hwy 79)
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Season Ticket Information
850-867-3770

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry volunteers would like to thank you for your generous donations over the Holiday season. The Food Pantry provided 13 Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets to Breakfast Point Academy and more than 50 Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to the homeless in our community.

Thank you to the congregation and to the entire community. We could not do it without you.



Birthdays /Anniversaries

“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”

—Carl Bard.”

January Anniversaries

2-Chris and Molly Allen,
16-Kent and Phyliss Miller

January Birthdays

2-Christopher Allen,
4- Sally Erskine,
7-Darlene Dilamarter,
25-Ruth Breen,
29-Gary Schua,
30-Mike Burke

Our source of Light

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be! —Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, “It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City