



GULF BREEZE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Wave



75 Fairpoint Drive | Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 | 850-932-3594 | gbumc.org
Worship at the Water | 661 Pensacola Beach Blvd

Alive and Sent

An Easter People



There is a temptation every year to rush past Easter.

We move quickly from the empty tomb to business as usual. The lilies fade, the music quiets, and before long, it can feel like Easter Sunday was a beautiful moment... but just a moment.

But the truth of our faith is this: Easter is not a day. Easter is a season.

Even more, Easter is a way of life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not simply something we celebrate—it is something that shapes us.

Because Jesus is alive,
everything is different.

Because Jesus is alive,
grace has the final word over sin.

Because Jesus is alive,
hope stands stronger than despair.

Because Jesus is alive,
the Church is not a gathering of perfect people, but a community continually being restored, renewed, and sent.

That is the heartbeat behind our upcoming Eastertide series: *Alive and Sent*.

In the weeks following Easter, we will walk together through the Scriptures and discover what it means to live as resurrection people.

We will see how the risen Christ restores us (even when we've failed), holds us securely in His care, gives us a future filled with hope, dwells among us through His Spirit, and calls us into unity with one another. And ultimately, we will celebrate Pentecost—the moment when the Holy Spirit fills the Church and sends us out into the world with courage and joy.

This is the story we are living.
Not just that Jesus was raised...

But that we are being raised with Him into a new kind of life.

As we move through this season, we also do so in the midst of change and transition. And while transitions can bring a mix of emotions, Easter reminds us that God is always at work bringing new life out of every season. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in His Church—guiding, strengthening, and preparing us for what is ahead.

So I invite you: don't rush past Easter.

Stay with it.

Lean into it.

Live into it.

Come and see what the risen Christ is still doing—among us and within us. Because we are not just people who believe in the resurrection. We are a people being shaped by it.

Grace and peace,
Dr. Erik



Senior Pastor

Pastoral Appointments

Effective July 2026

Each year clergy in the United Methodist Church are appointed to serve churches on an annual basis. Recently, we were informed of a projected change in our senior pastoral leadership. Dr. Erik Mays has received a projected appointment to serve a congregation in the North Georgia Conference for the coming appointment year effective July 1st. We are grateful for the time he has served us at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church and pray for God's blessing over Erik and his family in this new appointment.

The new projected appointment for senior pastor of Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church is Rev. Dr. Nathan Attwood, also effective July 1st. His first Sunday with us will be July 12th. Nathan, who has served churches across the Alabama- West Florida Conference, currently serves as senior pastor of First United Methodist Church of Marianna, Fl. We look forward to meeting him and his family in the coming months.

Additionally, it has been projected that our associate pastors, Rev. Pam Avery and Rev. Josh McLamb, will return to Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church. Please pray for our pastors and church during this transition period.

Blessings to all,

Jureda Lambert

**Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair*

**This committee provides oversight for clergy and staff.*

Pastoral Appointments



Rev. Dr. Nathan Attwood has served Marianna First United Methodist Church for the past ten years. Previously, he has served as senior pastor of First UMC of Millbrook, AL and St. Mark UMC in Montgomery, AL, and as Associate Pastor of Montgomery First UMC and Panama City First UMC. He has served on the Conference Resource Center staff for the Alabama-West Florida Conference and served a student appointment while in seminary at Pittsview/Hatchechubbee Charge.

Dr. Attwood holds a B.A. in Theological and Historical Studies from Oral Roberts University, M.Div. from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and D.Min. from Columbia Theological Seminary. He has served under appointment in the Alabama West Florida Conference since 1999 and was ordained Elder in Full Connection in 2005.

Dr. Attwood has been married to his wife Shawna for 30 years. She is a Behavioral Specialist at the Florida State Hospital. They have two daughters, Rev. Lauren Cowan, who serves as Associate Pastor at Marianna First UMC, and Maggie, a freshman at Marianna High School. Lauren and her husband, Cody, have two boys, John Parker and Nathan Woods.

Dr. Attwood currently serves as a Teaching Parish facilitator for Candler School of Theology's Teaching Parish Program. He is secretary of the Alabama-West Florida Candler Club. He is an active member of Jackson Hospital's volunteer chaplain program, Mainstreet Marianna, Jackson Country NAACP, and Rotary Club. He also writes a weekly inspirational column for the Jackson County Times. Among many denominational leadership roles, Dr. Attwood has served as chair of the Alabama-West Florida Conference Boards of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Church and Society, and dean of the Licensing School. He has chaired the Panhandle District Committee on Ordained Ministry, served the Candler School of Theology Alumni Board and the Clergy Advisory Board of Embrace Florida's Kids. He is active in the Walk to Emmaus Movement.

Dr. Attwood's ministry has been marked by an emphasis in mentoring emerging leadership. His doctoral work created an intern partnership between Huntingdon College and Montgomery First UMC that has produced dozens of clergy and lay staff ministers. Under his leadership, Marianna First UMC served thousands of victims of Hurricane Michael, hosted dozens of mission teams, and built 11 new homes. He has a passion for ministry that is deeply connected to people, the community, and the greater church.

HOLY WEEK



Prayer Labyrinth Mon. Mar. 30-Fri. Apr. 3
7am-7pm Chapel

The labyrinth was adopted during the early years of Christianity to serve as a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A labyrinth is a sacred path to walk and pray as you center your heart, mind, and spirit on God.

Lenten Lunch
Tues. Mar. 31. Noon.

Retired Trinity Presbyterian Church pastor, Rev. Dr. Hugh Hamilton will be our guest speaker. Feast on carved beef sirloin roast, petit carrots & green beans, baby potatoes, tsalad bar and vanilla bread pudding with brown sugar roasted peaches for dessert. .



Holy Thursday
Thurs. Apr 2. 6pm

Remember the Last Supper and Jesus' words in the breaking of the bread and taking of the cup.

Good Friday
Fri. Apr 3. 6pm

The passion of our Lord is the center of this special service. Worshippers come to remember Christ's sacrificial offering of Himself on the cross for the sins of the whole world.



EASTER

The shout of “Christ is risen!” met with the joyful response “Christ is risen indeed!” begins our Easter worship. This holiest day of the Christian year is a celebration of the Lord’s victory over sin and death. Love’s redeeming work is done!

Hallelujah!



Sunrise Service 6am
Mariners Landing
(at the base of the three mile
bridge northbound)

We will come together for a time
of praise, worship and a short
message as the morning sun rises.
We'll bring the coffee and donuts.

Please bring a chair.



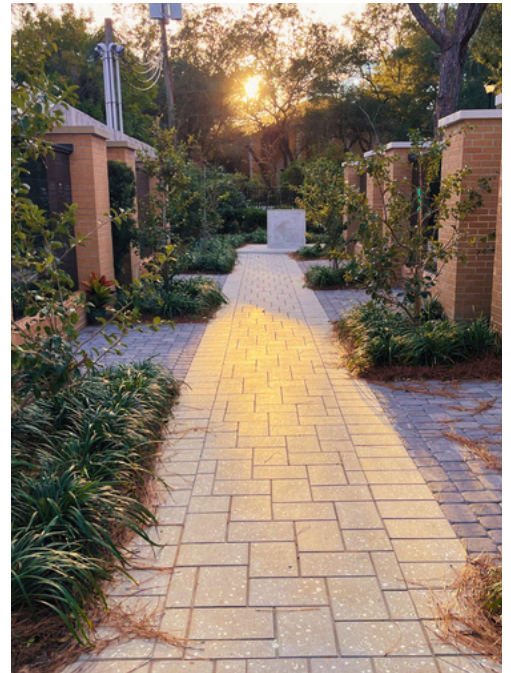
Easter Worship
8:00, 9:30, 11:00am

Come worship the risen Christ with
glorious music, magnificent flowers,
and a message of hope and healing.
Be sure to pause by the flower cross
to take a picture with your family.
Children K-5th grade will visit a life-
sized empty tomb. Childcare available
for children 8wks-4yrs.

We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty



A year ago, our church observed our 70th anniversary in a spectacular celebration of ceremony and tradition all carefully planned to the last detail by our senior pastor, staff and lay leadership.



And this year we haven't slowed down. On March 1st, with gratitude to the many generous donors, we unveiled the restored prism and brought this unique and distinctive GBUMC icon of God's presence back into our sanctuary.

Then on the same steps where last year our pastors stood for our 70th celebration, this year we burned our mortgage in a monumental achievement.

On April 26th at 10:30, we will add to our list the re-dedication of the memorial garden, with its additional columbariums.

Thank you to all who have played such integral parts in reaching these milestones.

SERMON *Series*



MESSAGE SERIES APRIL 12 – MAY 24, 2026

Easter does more than declare that Jesus is alive – it forms a Spirit-breathed, Spirit-empowered Church. Throughout Eastertide, we will explore what it means to be a people shaped by resurrection, held together in unity, filled with the Holy Spirit, and sent into the world as witnesses of hope.

APRIL 12 Second Sunday of Easter
Peace in the Room

The risen Christ meets fearful disciples behind locked doors and breathes peace upon them. The Church begins not in strength, but in vulnerability and encounter. Resurrection creates a community marked by peace, courage, and shared faith.

APRIL 19 Third Sunday of Easter
Restored and Commissioned

The risen Jesus restores Peter publicly and calls him to shepherd the flock. The Church is built not on perfection, but on grace and restoration.

APRIL 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Held in His Hand

The Good Shepherd forms a secure and confident people. The Church's strength is found in belonging to Christ and being held in His care.

MAY 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter
A Church with a Future

Focus: The vision of a new creation shapes the present mission. The Church lives as a preview of God's renewal of all things.

MAY 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter
The Dwelling Place of God

Focus: Through the Holy Spirit, God makes His home among His people. The Church is not merely an institution but the living temple of God's presence.

MAY 17 Seventh Sunday of Easter
That They May Be One

Focus: Jesus prays for unity among His followers. The Church's unity is both gift and calling, revealing God's glory to the world.

MAY 24 Pentecost Sunday
Filled and Sent

Focus: The Holy Spirit empowers the Church for bold witness. Pentecost reminds us that the Church is Spirit-filled, multi-generational, and sent into the world with courage and joy.

WHAT'S Cooking?

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday | 5-6pm

APRIL 8

Tortellini Pasta
w/ Ground Beef Marinara
Garlic Green Beans
Bread & Salad Bar
Dessert

APRIL 15

Meatball Stroganoff
Egg Noodles
Buttered Broccoli
Bread & Salad Bar
Dessert

APRIL 22

BBQ Pulled Pork
Baked Beans
Bacon Green Beans
Bread & Salad Bar
Dessert

APRIL 29

Chicken Pot Pie
Steamed Vegetables
Bread & Salad Bar
Dessert

Recipe Roundup Food Fan Favorites

“This is delicious. I want this recipe.”

Do you have a recipe that's a fan favorite? A pot luck dish that always comes back scraped clean? A family recipe that's been handed down for generations? A meal that you make on repeat?

Beginning in May, this column will be dedicated to church family recipes.

So send your recipe to Sarah at sbennett@gbumc.org or drop off a written copy at the front desk.

Please include your name and phone number in case there are any questions and let us know if you don't want your name printed in the newsletter.

Let's Eat!

Music Notes

by Director of Music, Don Snowden

Welcome to a new column in The Wave, where we'll be exploring the "hows" and "whys" of our wonderful music program. If you've ever been curious about our musical traditions, please email me at dsnowden@gbumc.org. I would be happy to answer your questions in a future issue!

One question I frequently hear is: "Why does the organ only chime three times to mark the hour?"

While many churches have different traditions, our three chimes represent the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We time these chimes to the exact second to signal the official start of our worship service. After the chimes, we have a prelude for you to quietly contemplate or pray.

As for the sound itself, the melody played before the Trinity chimes is modeled after London's Big Ben, as is the specific "E" note used for the three final strike.

Want to join the choir?

The Silvertones Choir rehearses every Tuesday morning at 10:30 am.
The Chancel Choir rehearses at 6pm on Wednesday nights.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sing and Ring

MON | 2:30-4:30PM
MUSIC SUITE

1st -5th graders sing and learn to play handbells, chimes, and percussion.

STUDENT MINISTRY

The CrossWalk

WED | 1:30-5:00PM
YOUTH BLDG

6th -8th graders meet for snacks, games and a time to grow in their relationship with Christ and one another.

SENIOR ADULTS

Sharing & Caring Luncheon

2ND MON | 11AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come enjoy a scrumptious meal prepared by Chef Ian alongside great company.

Lunch Bunch

1st & 3RD WED | 11AM
GATHERING AREA

Travel with the bunch to local area eateries.

ADULT MINISTRY

Messiah Class

SUN | 9:30AM
LECTURE HALL

Weekly study and discussion of scriptures. Led by class member

SUN | 4:30PM
Join Pastor Pam for a study of the Old Testament via Zoom. Email pavery@gbumc.org for link.

Verse by Verse Look at the Bible

TUES | 9AM | ROOM 2

We will delve into the book of Matthew with Rev. Pam Avery.

Men's Bible Class

WED | 9AM | ROOM 1

Join this weekly study taught by Dr. Erik Mays.

Growing Wiser Bible Study

WED | 10AM | ROOM 2

Senior adult study led by Rev. Dawn Bond.

JOY CLASS

SUN | 11AM | ROOM 1
A special ministry that serves our special-needs adults offering a place to grow in the love and knowledge of God.

CARING MINISTRY

Card Ministry

Volunteers send cards to those who need comfort or sympathy.

Flower Delivery

MON | 10AM

Volunteers deliver flowers to the those recovering from illness or injury or needing a pick-me-up.

Memorial Receptions

Teams of volunteers host a light reception following a memorial service.

Prayer Shawls

WED | 10AM-NOON

Shawls are knitted with prayers in every stitch so the recipient is blanketed in prayer.

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children & youth.

Lillie Parris Circle

2ND MON | 9:30AM
ROOM 1

Sarah Circle

2ND MON | 5:00PM
ROOM 1

CHOIR & WORSHIP

The Breeze Bells Rehearsal

MON | 5:45PM
SANCTUARY

Handbell choir.

The Silvertones Rehearsal

TUES | 10:30AM
MUSIC SUITE

Senior Adult Choir

Dulcimer Instrument Class

WED | 3:00PM
MUSIC SUITE

Group for all skill levels.

Choir Rehearsal

WED 6:00PM
MUSIC SUITE

Adult Choir

Taize' Service

4TH THURS | 5:30PM
CHAPEL

Healing service combined with Holy Communion.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Centering Prayer

SUN 9:15AM
WED 9AM & 5PM

Method of contemplative prayer that involves sitting in silence and using a sacred word to help focus on God.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Qigong

MON | 9:30AM
RECEPTION HALL

Gentle mindful movement, centered on breathing.

Faithfully Fit

MON | 10:00AM
RECEPTION HALL

Class focused on core strengthening, stretching, and muscle retention.

Al-Anon

TUES | 10:00AM
ROOM 5

Group for those impacted by another person's alcoholism.

Overeaters Anonymous

TUES | 12:00PM
ROOM 3

Support for those recovering from compulsive eating and food behaviors.

Weight Watchers

TUES | 12:30
ROOM 1

The #1 doctor-recommended weight-loss program promoting healthy eating.

OUTREACH

Methodist Meals

MON-FRI

Drivers carry hot noon-time meals to the elderly and home-bound.

Bright Bridge Ministry

2ND TUES | 8:30-NOON

Volunteers prepare and serve food to the homeless.

Interfaith Ministries

Offers food, clothing and financial support for those in need in our community.

Good Samaritan Clinic

Provides limited health care to Santa Rosa County residents without health insurance.

Family Promise

Connects struggling families with local and government programs that can provide assistance, guidance and support with the goal of combating homelessness.

Embrace Florida Kids

A faith-based agency focused on providing homes, healing and hope to vulnerable children who come from families in crisis, placed in foster care at no fault of their own.



SENIOR PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Erik Mays



SENIOR ASSOCIATE
PASTOR
Rev. Pam Avery



ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Rev. Josh McLamb

OUR TEAM

- SARAH BENNETT Book Place and Communications
- JONATHAN CLARK Contemporary Music Director
- VIRGINIA CLARK Director of Student Ministries and Communications Assistant
- LISA CONWAY Finance Assistant
- CLARENCE FRONTZ Maintenance Manager
- BETTE HARRIMAN Hospitality Director
- TAMMY MACDONALD Administrative Assistant
- LINDSEY MAYS Nursery Coordinator
- RHONDA MERRILL Church Administrator
- KAREN MIZE Community Health Coordinator
- JIM MURDY Maintenance Assistant
- JAHLEEEL ORDONEZ Youth Ministry Assistant
- DON SNOWDEN Traditional Music Director
- IAN WHITCOMB Chef and Kitchen Manager

TO EMAIL A STAFF MEMBER: ENTER FIRST INITIAL AND LAST NAME @gbumc.org

W@W
is moving
April 12 to
661 PB Blvd.



REV. JOSH MCLAMB

JONATHAN CLARK

Sundays at 8:30 AM

PENSACOLA BEACH ELKS CLUB 661 PENSACOLA BEACH BLVD

HOW TO...

Give

Click [here](#) to give online.
Give in person or by mail:
75 Fairpoint Dr. Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.

Become A Member

Click [here](#) to become a member.

Volunteer

Service in the church and community helps us grow closer to Christ and to one another. GBUMC.org/volunteer

Connect With Us



Visit GBUMC.org for more information and to give.



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Worship at the Water | 655 Pensacola Beach Blvd, 3rd Floor