



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2026

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# MIND IN BLOOM



Gulfside Assembly celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month with its Senior Lunch and Learn, themed “Mind in Bloom.” Dr. Karen Wilkerson led an inspiring session that encouraged seniors and community members to prioritize mental wellness and embrace healthy practices.

We are grateful for all who attended and volunteered, with special appreciation to caterer, LuBertha Parker for providing a warm and delicious meal.

“Mind in Bloom” reminded us that caring for our minds is essential at every stage of life and that each season offers opportunities for growth, healing, and renewal.

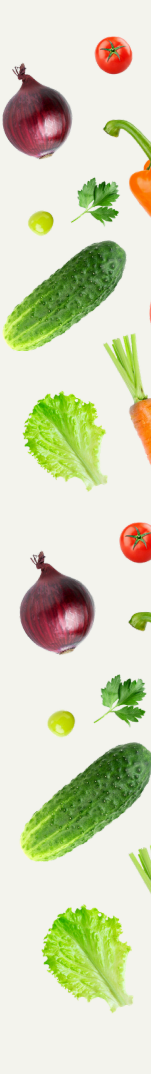
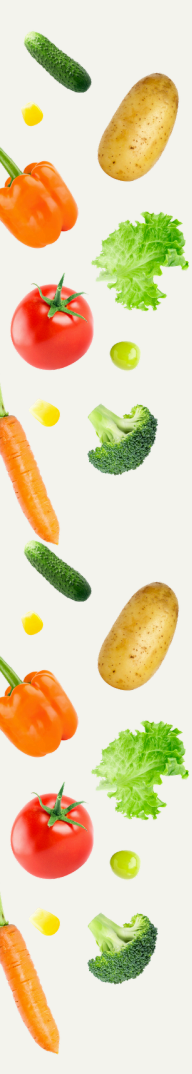




# GARDEN GROWTH & GRATITUDE

Our community garden is thriving after recent rainfall, with healthy vegetables, and lush greenery filling the space. Gardeners are beginning to enjoy the early results of their hard work, and the garden continues to bring people together through learning, fellowship, and shared purpose.

We extend sincere thanks to all volunteers whose dedication has made this garden flourish. We also appreciate the Mississippi State University Extension Office for providing valuable training and support. As we celebrate this season of growth, we look forward to a bountiful harvest and the continued positive impact the garden will have on our community.





# SUMMER MEAL BOXES SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES

Throughout June, the Bay-Waveland School District partnered with Gulfside Assembly to provide free weekly meal boxes to local children and families. In total, 1,300 meals were distributed, each box offering a seven-day supply of breakfasts, lunches, and snacks.

This effort was made possible by dedicated volunteers, including the Bay High School Soccer Team, district staff, and community members who ensured smooth and caring distribution each week. This communal effort reflects the strength of a community working together to support local children and families. We are grateful for everyone involved.





# IGNITING HOPE, INSPIRING ACTION: MSAC 2026

The 2026 Mississippi United Methodist Annual Conference gathered clergy and laity from across the state for a spirit-filled time of worship, fellowship, celebration, and discernment. United Methodists came together to rejoice in the work God is doing through local churches and ministries while seeking God's direction for the days ahead. This year's theme, "When Believers Pray, Vision Is Revealed," shaped every moment of the gathering. Through powerful worship, inspiring messages, thoughtful business sessions, and the sacred ordination of new Elders and Deacons, participants were reminded that prayer opens our hearts to God's wisdom and guides the Church toward faithful action.



A renewed sense of purpose emerged as the Conference embraced its mission: "Rooted in Christ, the vision of the Mississippi Annual Conference is to build churches, communities, and connections for all through outreach and innovation." This vision calls us to deepen our discipleship, strengthen our relationships, and extend Christ's love beyond our sanctuaries into the communities we serve.

As we return to our locations, we do so encourage, equipped, and inspired to live out our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, building vibrant communities of faith and hope for generations to come.



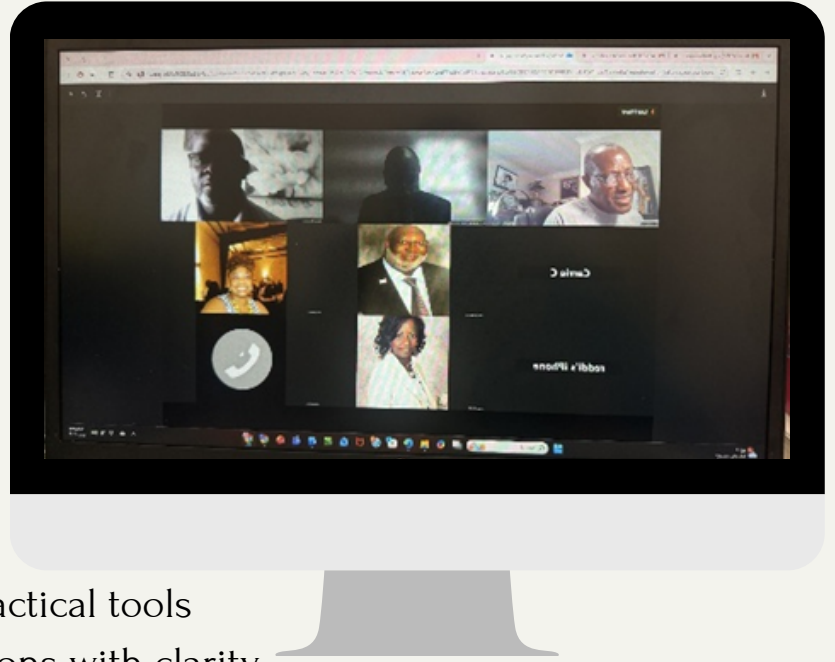
hope





# PLANNING WITH PURPOSE: LEADERS EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY IMPACT

Gulfside Assembly's monthly Faith-Based Leadership Development Series welcomed Rev. Kenneth L. Nelson, District Superintendent of the Orangeburg and Walterboro Districts of South Carolina, for an energizing session on Strategic Planning in the Life of Medium and Small Membership Churches.



Rev. Nelson offered pastors and laity practical tools and fresh insight for leading congregations with clarity and purpose in a rapidly changing ministry landscape. Participants were encouraged to seek God's vision for their churches, craft mission-aligned strategic plans, and implement them with faithfulness and intentionality.

Through meaningful discussion and hands-on application, leaders explored ways to strengthen ministry effectiveness, nurture congregational vitality, and expand outreach in their communities. The training emphasized that strategic planning is more than administration—it is a spiritual discipline rooted in prayer, discernment, and stewardship. Attendees left renewed, inspired, and equipped to lead with confidence. As churches continue navigating new opportunities and challenges, this session served as a timely reminder that when leaders seek God's direction and plan with purpose, ministry flourishes and communities are transformed.





# GULFSIDE ASSEMBLY

INVITES YOU TO IT'S

SENIOR LUNCH and LEARN

ON

Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 12 Noon

301 Herlihy St. Waveland, MS 39576

“A Little Bit of Sugar”

## DIABETES

Presented by: ***Daphne Ferdinand, PhD, RN***

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED



PLEASE RSVP TO **CHERYL THOMPSON**  
BY JULY 15, 2026 At **504-710-4884**







# Every **Legacy** Needs a Friend to Carry It Forward into the Future

## Become a Friend of Gulfside

Your support helps us continue providing quality programs in a safe, welcoming space. Choose the level that works for you:



### Friend of Gulfside \$30/month (\$360/year)

- ✓ Receive the Gulfside Newsletter
- ✓ Listed as a "Friend of Gulfside" in printed materials



### Special Friend of Gulfside \$50/month (\$600/year)

- ✓ Receive the Gulfside Newsletter
- ✓ Listed on Gulfside's website and printed materials as a "Special Friend"



### Sustaining Friend of Gulfside \$100/month (\$1,200/year)

- ✓ Receive the Gulfside Newsletter
- ✓ Listed on Gulfside's website and printed materials as a "Sustaining Friend"
- ✓ One free annual use of Gulfside Grounds (based on availability)

## How to Give:

- Scan the QR code or visit [www.gulfsideassembly.org](http://www.gulfsideassembly.org) to make your gift.
- Mail your donation to: Gulfside Assembly, PO Box 27, Waveland, MS 39576.
- Questions? Email [cthompson@gulfsideassembly.org](mailto:cthompson@gulfsideassembly.org) or call 504-710-4884.



Together, we can carry Gulfside's mission forward for generations to come.