
COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

Embracing Renewal: A Message for the New Year

Reflecting on the Journey

A new year often feels like taking a restorative breath after an arduous climb—a chance to pause, observe our surroundings, and recognize that even in the midst of tough times, we are still progressing. This moment invites us to reflect on the path we have walked and the resilience we have shown.



Overcoming Adversity Together

For more than one hundred years, Gulfside has faced numerous challenges. From the devastating fire that destroyed the Jackson House, to enduring three major hurricanes, and weathering financial hardships, the journey has been anything but simple. Alongside us, individuals in our community, partner organizations, and congregations have confronted their own obstacles. These experiences have tested us, stretched our capacities, and ultimately transformed who we are. Yet, through it all, we remain steadfast, choosing to hold onto hope for better days ahead. This decision to keep believing exemplifies a quiet yet profound courage.

Welcoming the New Year with Hope

As we enter this New Year, let hope emerge within us like the gentle arrival of dawn—calm, unwavering, and unstoppable. May love gently weave itself through our days in unexpected ways, serving as a reminder that we are never truly alone. And may joy, even in its softest forms, visit us time and again, assuring us that brighter chapters are continually unfolding in our story.

A Wish for the Year Ahead

May this year bring you renewed strength, meaningful connections, and moments that affirm your worth, your capacity for love, and your resilience. You are valued, cherished, and stronger than you think.

Romans 12:12 (ESV): "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Cheryl Thompson, Executive Director

MLK Celebration

On January 19, 2026, the Hancock County NAACP hosted a celebration at Greater Mt. Zion AME Church in Pearlington, MS, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. under the theme “Not a Day Off but a Day of Service.” Community leaders and youth groups, including the Hancock County Boys and Girls Club and St. Rose De Lima, participated by sharing their talents and reflections. The event highlighted Dr. King’s legacy of faith, humility, nonviolence, and dedication to justice, urging everyone to follow his example by loving others, serving their communities, and using their voices and votes to stand against injustice.



Winter Garden Preparation

Our Community Garden Committee Members worked diligently in our winter garden amending the soil and planting vegetables. Cynthia Simpkins and Ginney Littlefield work tirelessly nurturing the garden weekly. They have taken the lead to ensure the health of the produce planted. We are grateful for their dedication and for everyone else who have toiled in the soil, donated time and supplies, and provided input.



Senior Lunch & Learn

Our Senior Lunch & Learn was held in Pearlington, MS on December 3, 2025. A presentation was given to assist seniors in choosing the best healthcare plan to fit their needs along with recognizing insurance scams. Participants were given information on Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace Insurance along with upcoming changes to insurance plans. The next Senior Lunch and Learn is scheduled for February 25, 2026 and the topic will be Navigating the Healthcare System.



Upcoming Events

- 2/1/26 The Gulfside Assembly Story documentary showing at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Hattiesburg, MS
- 2/26/26 Senior Lunch & Learn Workshop entitled "Navigating the Healthcare System"
- 3/4/26 The Gulfside Assembly Story documentary Showing at Bethany United Methodist Church, New Orleans, LA
- 4/16-17/26 Gulfside Assembly Board of Directors Meeting
- 5/11/26 Freedom Tour Pilgrimage called "Walk our History Discern our Present, Shape our Tomorrow" New Orleans LA and Waveland, MS. (A pilgrimage to understand our past and shape our future)
- 6/3-5/26 Mississippi Annual Conference
- 6/9-6/12/26 Louisiana Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, LA
- 7/23/26 Gulfside Assembly Board of Directors Meeting

We at Gulfside Assembly are grateful for your support of our ministries. Your support helps provide impactful ministries to our communities. Prayers, supplies, and monetary donations are always welcomed.

For monetary donations, there are several ways to give:

<p>Through the Advance of the United Methodist Church https://umcmmission.org/ advanceproject/760235/</p>		<p>By Mail Make your check payable to: Gulfside Association Inc. PO Box 27 Waveland, MS 39576</p>
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