

MAY
2026



Community Outreach Newsletter

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Fun, Fellowship, and Friendship



I am deeply grateful for the invitation to attend St. Rose De Lima Catholic Church's Senior Sociable. We shared a delightful afternoon of tea, lunch, fellowship, and meaningful conversation. The radical hospitality extended to me was truly heartwarming, and the love and laughter shared throughout our time together created lasting memories. I immediately felt welcomed and at home.

While I may not remember every name in the days ahead, I will certainly remember the way everyone made me feel. Moments like these remind us of the power of community and the beauty of genuine connection. As Scripture reminds us, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). That spirit of love and fellowship was evident throughout the gathering and serves as a beautiful reflection of faith in action.



United Women in Faith Assembly 2026



The Annual United Women in Faith Assembly was held in Indiana, bringing together 3000 faithful members and supporters from across the connection. Attendees gathered for a meaningful time of worship, learning, fellowship, and inspiration, united in their commitment to faith, service, and mission. The Assembly provided opportunities to strengthen connections, celebrate a shared purpose, and renew the collective call to make a difference in communities near and far.

A special highlight of the event was hearing from Stacey Abrams and her mother, Carolyn Abrams. Their shared wisdom, powerful reflections, and commitment to community activism offered inspiration and hope, particularly during challenging times. Rev. Carolyn Abrams is a retired United Methodist Pastor from Mississippi. Their message served as a reminder of the importance of faith, perseverance, and the ongoing work of creating positive change.



Watching Our Youth Flourish



What a delight it is to witness our youth growing and flourishing before our very eyes. I first met these young ladies four years ago, and from the very beginning they have been a joy to know. Over the years, I have had the privilege of watching them grow not only in age, but also in confidence, character, and spirit.

Now in their teenage years, their unique personalities continue to shine brightly. It has been inspiring to witness them maturing and growing into a deeper understanding of their identity and who they are becoming. Moments like these remind us of the importance of encouraging, supporting, and investing in our youth as they discover their gifts and purpose. Watching them blossom has been a blessing, and I look forward to seeing all that the future holds for them.

Thank you!



Thank you Hancock County Boys and Girls Club for the invitation to your Open House. We are proud to be a community partner and grateful for the important work you do each day impacting the lives of our children and youth. Your commitment to providing support, guidance, and opportunities for young people continues to make a meaningful difference throughout our community.



Friends of Gulfside Campaign

Gulfside is launching its Friends of Gulfside Campaign, a renewed invitation to stand with a ministry that has offered hope, healing, and hospitality throughout its remarkable history. Today, our ministries are stronger and more vibrant than ever — and you can see that growth firsthand on our website at gulfsideassembly.org.

We are blessed to be outgrowing our current space, and we continue to look toward the day when we can rebuild on our historic beachfront property. In these challenging times, the needs of the communities we serve are greater than ever, and your partnership helps us meet them with strength and compassion.

What It Means to Be a Friend of Gulfside

When you become a Friend of Gulfside, you join a circle of dedicated supporters committed to building a brighter future for communities across the region. As a

Friend:

Your name or memorial recognition will be included in our newsletter, website, and other publications.

You help preserve a historic place of ministry, justice, and renewal.

You ensure that Gulfside's mission continues to thrive for generations to come.

How to Become a Friend

Simply commit to a monthly or annual gift at one of our giving levels.

You may send your donation by mail or give through our secure online platform.

More details can be found in this newsletter.

Together, we can strengthen this historic ministry and carry its mission forward for years to come.

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

John Wesley

**FUEL THEIR
SUMMER!**

**BAY ST. LOUIS-WAVELAND
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**NO COST.
NO REGISTRATION.
JUST GOOD
FOOD!**

FREE SUMMER MEALS!

★ **HEALTHY MEALS.**
★ **STRONG KIDS.**
★ **STRONGER COMMUNITY.**

FOR ALL CHILDREN 18 & UNDER!

WEEKLY MEAL BOXES

GRAB & GO!



FREE for all children
18 and under



Do **NOT** have to attend
Bay St. Louis-Waveland
Schools to participate



Meals distributed at
Gulfside Assembly,
950 S Beach Blvd,
Waveland, MS



Every Monday in June
starting **JUNE 1ST**
between **7-10AM**

**RESERVE YOUR
CHILD'S MEAL BOX
TODAY!**



HOT SUMMER MEALS

BREAKFAST & LUNCH!



BREAKFAST
7:45AM - 8:45AM



LUNCH
10:45AM - 12:30PM



**NORTH BAY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
602 PINE STREET,
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520

**DO NOT
HAVE TO ATTEND
BAY ST. LOUIS-
WAVELAND
SCHOOLS TO
PARTICIPATE!**



**COME HUNGRY.
LEAVE HAPPY.**



**GOOD FOOD.
GREAT PEOPLE.**



**STRONGER
TOGETHER.**

★ **THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.** ★

MAY

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Gulfside Assembly Invites you to its
Senior Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at Noon
301 Herlihy Street, Waveland, MS

“Mind in Bloom: How to Nurture Your Mental Well-being”

Recognizing the causes of your anxiety, self-care and
when to seek help

Presented by: Dr. Karen Wilkerson



Lunch will be provided
Please RSVP by May 22, 2026
to Cheryl Thompson
at 504-710-4884



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SERIES

Reflection. Renewal. Practical Encouragement.



An interactive leadership series for clergy, associate ministers, lay leaders, and anyone committed to **strengthening ministry leadership** across faith traditions.



Our next session will be held on

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

at 12:00 p.m. Central Time via Zoom.

The Zoom link is provided below, along with the session title, description, and key areas we will explore.



Session Led by
REV. KEN NELSON

District Superintendent of the
Orangeburg and Walterboro
Districts of the
South Carolina Conference
of the United Methodist Church

TOPIC:

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR FAITHFUL AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY

*A Practical Conversation for
Medium and Small Membership Churches*



TIME: May 26, 2026
12:00 PM Central Time
(US and Canada)



JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8384072074?omn=81256667946>



MEETING ID:

838 407 2074



ONE TAP MOBILE

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+13126266799,,8384072074# US (Chicago)

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This ecumenical Lunch and Learn for pastors will explore how strategic planning can help congregations move from simply maintaining ministry to leading with greater clarity, purpose, and intentionality.

Together, we will examine how churches can:

- ✓ Prayerfully discern direction
- ✓ Align ministry with mission
- ✓ Respond faithfully to changing community needs
- ✓ Create practical pathways for ministry effectiveness and growth

WE WILL EXPLORE THE FOLLOWING:



What strategic planning is and why it matters in the life of the church



How churches can move from drifting to intentional leadership



Ways to clarify mission, vision, and ministry priorities



Practical tools for setting ministry goals and action steps



How churches can respond faithfully to changing communities and new generations



The importance of stewardship, accountability, and evaluation in ministry

FOUR KEY QUESTIONS EVERY CONGREGATION SHOULD REGULARLY ASK:

1

Where are we now?

2

Where is God leading us?

3

How will we get there?

4

How will we measure progress?



HOSTED BY

Gulfside Assembly



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 to make your gift.
- Mail your donation to: Gulfside Assembly, PO Box 27, Waveland, MS 39576.
- Questions? Email cthompson@gulfsideassembly.org or call 504-710-4884.



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