

FEBRUARY
2026

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

St. Paul UMC Celebrates Black History Month

Gulfside Assembly had the honor of presenting its documentary at St. Paul UMC in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on February 1, 2026. People from across the district attended this special gathering to learn more about Gulfside's rich history and lasting impact.

A highlight of the evening was the presence of Mrs. Dahmer, a longtime friend of Gulfside who is 100 years young. She shared vivid memories of the time she spent at Gulfside Assembly and what those experiences meant to her.



We were also pleased to have students from the University of Mississippi in attendance, many of whom were learning about Gulfside's history for the very first time.

We are deeply grateful to Rev. Lindsey Robinson for coordinating and inviting us to share *The Gulfside Assembly Story* documentary and for helping us celebrate the legacy and continuing influence of Gulfside Assembly.

Gulfside's story continues to inspire new generations, and we invite you to be part of preserving this historic place. Visit Gulfside, share its story, and support the ongoing work to protect and restore this treasured legacy. Your partnership—through visiting, volunteering, and donating—helps ensure that Gulfside Assembly's history, mission, and impact will continue for generations to come.



Senior Lunch & Learn Workshop

Celebrating Black History Month: The History of Soul Food

Our beloved seniors recently gathered for a wonderful morning filled with fellowship, education, laughter, and love as we celebrated Black History Month. This year's theme, "The History of Soul Food," provided an opportunity to explore the cultural roots of soul food while also learning about the important connection between the foods we eat and our overall health.

Participants enjoyed an engaging and informative workshop that highlighted how traditional foods can be prepared in ways that support healthier lifestyles. The discussion encouraged attendees to reflect on the role nutrition plays in maintaining good health and empowered them with knowledge to make informed decisions about their meals and daily habits.



Guests were treated to a delicious and healthy lunch catered by our local Chef, Bertha, whose thoughtful menu complemented the day's focus on nutritious eating. The meal was both enjoyable and educational, reinforcing the workshop's message that healthy food can also be flavorful and satisfying.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our faithful volunteers who did a phenomenal job ensuring the event ran smoothly. From setting up and decorating to greeting guests, directing traffic, tending to participants' needs, and assisting with cleanup, their dedication and teamwork made the day truly special.

The workshop was facilitated by our Executive Director, Cheryl Thompson, whose leadership and passion for community wellness created a welcoming space for learning and meaningful conversation.

We are grateful to everyone who attended and helped make this event a success. Moments like these remind us of the power of community, culture, and shared knowledge to inspire healthier and more connected lives.



The Gulfside Story

Members of Bethany and Cornerstone UMC recently gathered for a preview of Gulfside Assembly's documentary, *The Gulfside Story*. As they watched and listened attentively, many were deeply moved and began reminiscing about their own experiences at Gulfside.

Memories quickly filled the room—retreats, conferences, picnics, swimming, fellowship, and joyful outings on the beautiful grounds of Gulfside Assembly. For many, Gulfside was more than just a gathering place; it was a place where lifelong friendships were formed and faith was strengthened.

Several attendees also reflected on the challenging times of the pre-Civil Rights era, recalling how Gulfside served as a safe place of refuge, renewal, and community for African American families and clergy during those difficult years.



The stories shared reminded us why preserving Gulfside's history is so important. We invite you to help keep this legacy alive—visit Gulfside, share its story, and support the ongoing efforts to protect and promote this historic treasure for future generations.

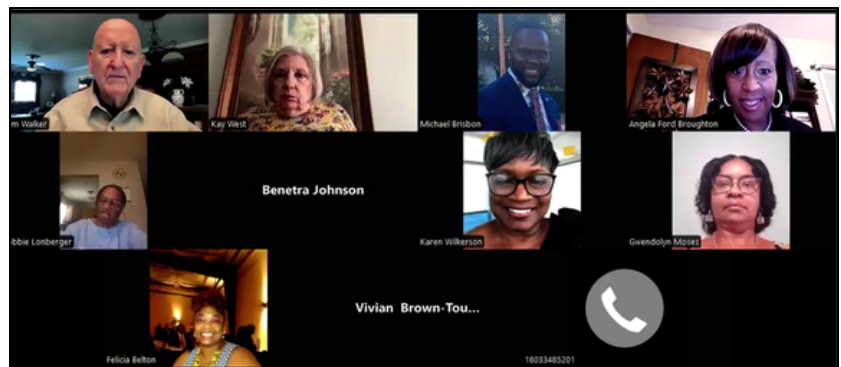
Gulfside Assembly Faith-Based Coalition Ministry Leadership Development Training Series – 2026

The Gulfside Assembly Faith-Based Coalition Ministry is hosting a hybrid Leadership Development Training Series on the 4th Tuesday of each month in 2026 at 12:00 p.m. These sessions are designed to offer reflection, renewal, and practical encouragement for clergy across faith traditions.

The series began in January with an in-person session entitled “Breathe...Keeping Your Light Burning for the Journey,” developed and facilitated by Dr. Karen Wilkerson.

In February, participants gathered in person and via Zoom for “My Cup Runneth Over! Lessons in Ministry Leadership from the 23rd Psalm,” facilitated by Rev. Angela Ford Broughton.

The leadership development curriculum that will guide the rest of the year was developed by Rev. Angela Ford Broughton, Pastor of New Life UMC in Walterboro, South Carolina.



Participants have shared that these sessions provide powerful teachings from seasoned leaders and have been exactly what they needed—leaving them spiritually fed, strengthened, and encouraged.

The Leadership Development Training Series will continue this year on the 4th Tuesday of each month, with the exception of June, November, and December. Clergy and ministry leaders who are interested in participating are invited to contact us to be added to the participant list.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3/4/2026 The Gulfside Assembly Story documentary showing at Bethany United Methodist Church, New Orleans, LA
- 3/10/2026 GOALS Meeting at Gulfside Assembly
- 3/24/2026 Faith-Based Coalition Meeting at Gulfside Assembly
- 3/25/2026 Senior Lunch & Learn at Gulfside Assembly
- 3/30/2026 The Gulfside Assembly Story documentary showing at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, New Orleans, LA
- 4/ 16-17/2026 Gulfside Assembly Board of Directors Meeting
- 6/3-5/2026 Mississippi Annual Conference
- 6/9-12/2026 Louisiana Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, LA
- 7/23/2026 Gulfside Assembly Board of Directors Meeting

Want to Donate to Gulfside?

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:

**Through the Advance of
the United Methodist
Church**
[https://umcmmission.org/
advanceproject/760235/](https://umcmmission.org/advanceproject/760235/)



**By Mail Make your check
payable to:
Gulfside Association Inc.
PO Box 27
Waveland, MS 39576**

Althea Belton - GBGM CCW
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