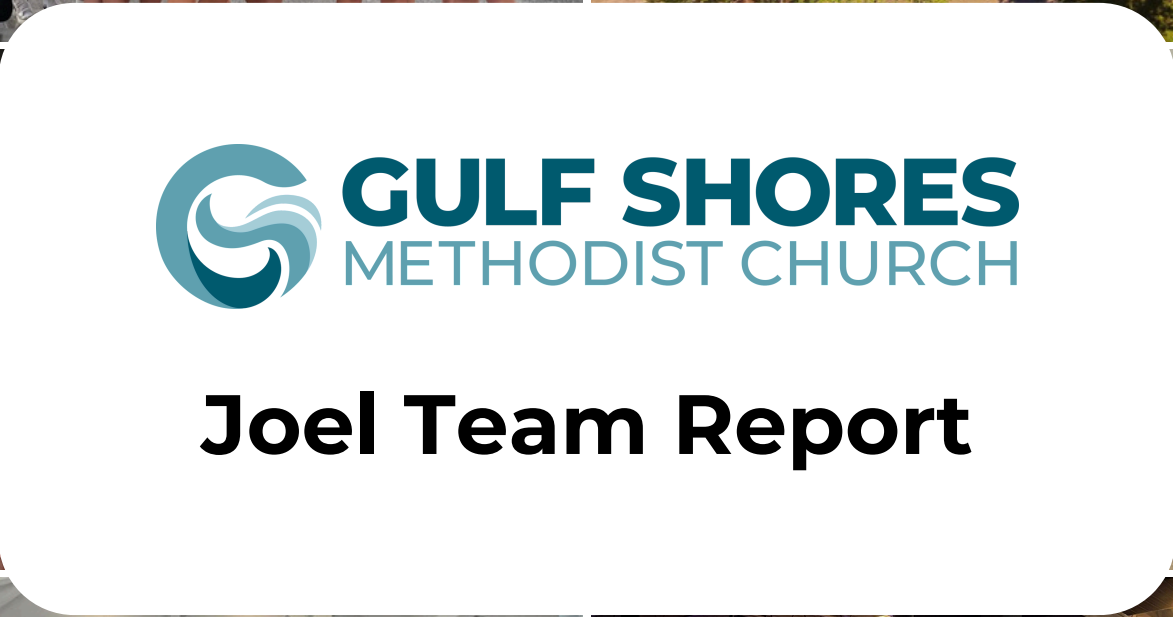




In Joel 2:28-30 the prophet Joel shares a vision about the future of God's people. In it God says,

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth..."

This is the basis of the Joel Team's work! We want to know God's dream for our church going forward and how it will impact the lives of the people in our community and around the world.

On August 1st 2023 the Joel Team began meeting, gathering information, and visioning for a preferred future for the life and mission of Gulf Shores Methodist Church. In early 2024 the team's report was unanimously approved by the Church Council and was later presented to the church on September 8th 2024, along with a new five year strategic vision called **Imagine 2030**.

In this report you'll find the work of the Joel Team, including GSMC's new mission statement and ministry essentials, along with information gathered about our community, a spiritual health assessment that was given to the church, a plan to create a guest friendly campus, and a renewed focus to reach the next generation for Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your commitment to Gulf Shores Methodist Church and being a part of this vital kingdom work! We invite you to pray for our future and join with us in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Rusty Hutsy
Senior Pastor

Mark Morgan
Lay Leader

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Mission Statement and Ministry Essentials

When creating a new mission statement we wanted a mission statement that was simple, clear, easy to remember, and aligned with the Global Methodist Church's mission. One of the first tasks of the Joel Team was to look at what the Bible says about the church and its mission.

The team was divided into groups and asked to prayerfully read and consider Matthew 28:19-20. In this famous passage Jesus gave the disciples this commission:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

From this text it's clear that the mission of all disciples should first and foremost be to make other disciples of Jesus Christ. After some discussion the team felt led and were in agreement that our new mission statement should be "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ".

Mission Statement

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

This brought up another set of questions. How does the church accomplish this? What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like?

To answer this the team looked to the early church and a passage found in Acts 2:42-47:

They (the disciples) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Here we find the church doing a number of important things. First, they worshiped together. Acts says they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and regularly gathered together. Second, they grew in their faith. They didn't follow Jesus Christ alone, but did so together in

community. Third, they served one another. They took care of and gave to those in need. Finally, they connected with those in and outside the church; so much so that the Lord added to their numbers daily.

The team used this text as a starting point for crafting four new ministry essentials: **worship**, **grow**, **serve**, and **connect**. This is how the early church made disciples and this is how Gulf Shores Methodist can make disciples today. Every disciple was created by God to do these four things and everything we do as a church can be found in these four essentials.

Ministry Essentials

Worship

We worship and pray with joy and a desire to place God at the highest place in our church and in our lives.

Grow

We believe in coming as we are to church, but not staying where we are. All followers of Christ need to be growing in their faith.

Serve

We have been called by Jesus to serve. This is how we carry out our faith and become like Him.

Connect

We need to be supported and be a supporter of others. This happens as we connect with others and find fellowship in the church. We also need to connect with those outside the church who are seeking a relationship with Christ.

Beliefs

ABOUT GOD: God is the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. | Genesis 1-2 | Matthew 28:19 | John 10:30

ABOUT HUMANITY: We are made in the image of God, to be like Him in character. We are the supreme object of God's creation. Although we have tremendous potential for good, everyone is marred by an attitude of rebellion toward God called "sin". Sin separates people from God. | Genesis 1-3 | Romans 3:23

ABOUT ETERNITY: People are created to exist forever. Every person will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is heaven. Heaven and hell are places of eternal existence. | Ecclesiastes 3:11 | Romans 6:23

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST: Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary by miraculous conception, lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days, demonstrating His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory, where He is the only Mediator between God and people, and will return again to earth. He will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. | John 10:30 | Luke 2-24 | Philippians 2:6-11

ABOUT SALVATION: Salvation is a gift from God to all people. Men and women can never make up for their sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can a person be saved from sin's penalty. Jesus is the only way to salvation and an eternity in heaven. When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He gives assurance in His Word that He will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation. | Ephesians 2:8-10 | Romans 10:9-10

ABOUT PRAYER: Prayer is our vital link to God. More than just bringing a list of wishes, wants and concerns, prayer is a constant conversation that happens naturally as our love for God grows. We live and move and have our being in Him, therefore we should be in communication with Him. God always answers our prayers. Sometimes with a "yes" and sometimes with a "no". Either way He is hearing our requests and carefully choosing His answers based on what is best for us and His will for our life. | 1 Thessalonians 5:17 | Proverbs 3:5-6

ABOUT GOD’S DEPENDABILITY: Because God gives man and woman eternal life through Jesus Christ, and adopts them as His own, salvation is received and maintained by the grace and power of God—not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives believers the assurance of salvation. No power in the universe can separate God’s children from Him. | Romans 8:35-39

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. | Luke 11:13 | John 14:26 | Romans 8:26-27 | Galatians 5:25

ABOUT THE BIBLE: The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is God’s word to all. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are inspired by God alone. They are the unique, full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice, and there are no other writings similarly inspired by God. | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

ABOUT HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS: The Bible is clear that marriage is between one man and one woman bound together in a covenant relationship before God. Single people are also bound by a covenant to remain sexually abstinent until married. We were made by God to be in community with other believers. Our earthly relationships are important to our spiritual growth and connection to the church. | Genesis 2:24 | Hebrews 13:4 | 2 Cor. 6:14 | Romans 1:24-27 | Acts 2:42-47

ABOUT FAITH AND PRACTICE: Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible. | Proverbs 30:5-6 | Romans 8:12-14 | John 16:13

ABOUT THE SACRAMENTS: We have two sacraments in the Methodist church: baptism and communion. Holy Communion in the Methodist church is open to all Christians, regardless of denomination. Here at GSMC we offer communion in each of our morning services once a month. Baptism is open to anyone who has given their heart to Jesus Christ. It is an outward sign of an inner commitment and a spiritual new birth. In the Methodist church we practice three modes of baptism: sprinkling, pouring, and immersion. Methodists are more concerned with the inner experience than the outward expressions, so we both practice and accept any mode of baptism. If you would like to be baptized, just call the church office and set up an appointment with one of our pastors. We accept both the baptism and membership vows from any other Christian church. If you don’t have membership at another church we will be glad to take you in based on your commitment to Christ and your baptism. If you would like to join our church just call the church office and set up an appointment with one of our pastors.

Community and Church Demographics

The purpose of the Demographics Team was to collect information to determine the *demographics* of our community and our church, and how our church might faithfully respond as our community changes and grows.

Guiding Questions

1. How many visitors, people in groups, people serving, people giving, etc...do we have at Gulf Shores Methodist?
2. What does the growth of our community look like? In what ways is our community changing?
3. What are the demographics of our community: age, race, income, employment, household size, number of children, etc...
4. What do city leaders see as their biggest needs and how can the church help? How does meeting these needs make disciples?
5. How can we faithfully respond to the growth and change?
6. What future should we vision and plan for?

Our Community

1332 people worshiped at Gulf Shores Methodist in 2023
(and provided an address).

811 of the people who worshiped with us live within a 45 minute driving distance to the church.

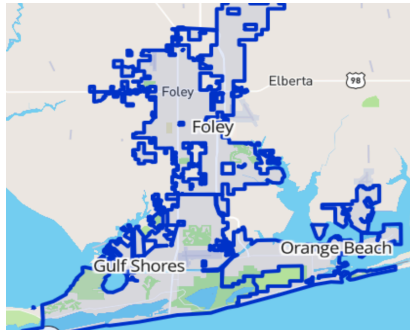
60% of our people are local to Baldwin County

Of the 811 people who live here full time:

- 76% live in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach
- 23% live in Foley
- 1% live in surrounding towns (Elberta, Loxley, Fairhope, etc.)

Our Growing Population:

2000: 20,542
2010: 31,270
2023: 45,020
2028: 49,468
2033: 53,844



The City of Gulf Shores

- Projected 3-5% growth every year over the next 10 years
- 7 million visitors per year who generate \$5 billion in revenue
- Multiple new housing and condo developments (north of bridge)
- Projected 7000+ new jobs
- \$100 million of roadway improvements
- New intercoastal waterway and pedestrian bridge to be completed in 2026.
- New \$131,000,000 high school coming in 2026
- New airport terminal for new commercial airlines to be constructed by 2025

The City of Foley

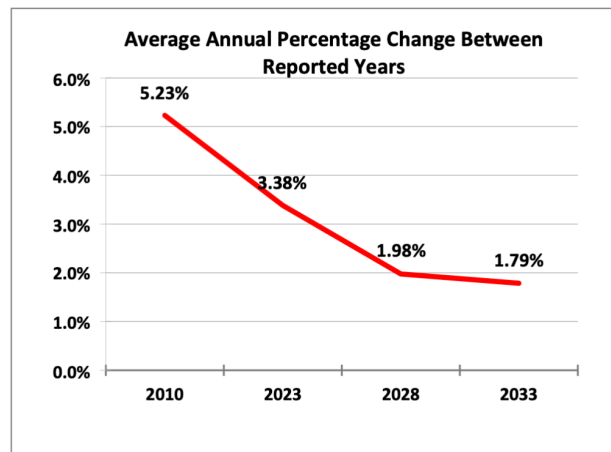
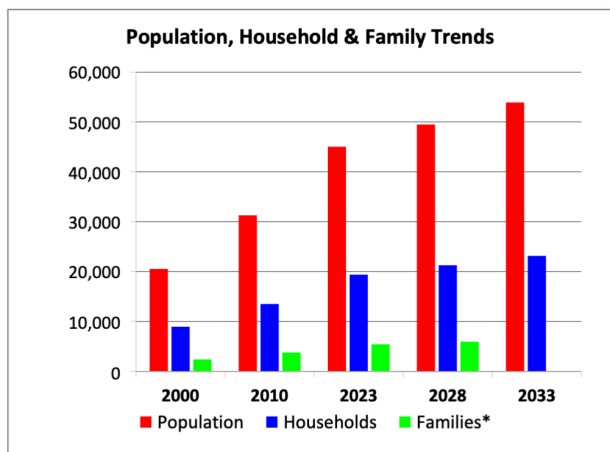
- Fastest growing city in Baldwin County
- Second fastest growing city in AL (6% yearly projected growth)
- 120 Acres dedicated to new J1 / seasonal worker housing
- \$76 million in planned city improvements

The City of Orange Beach

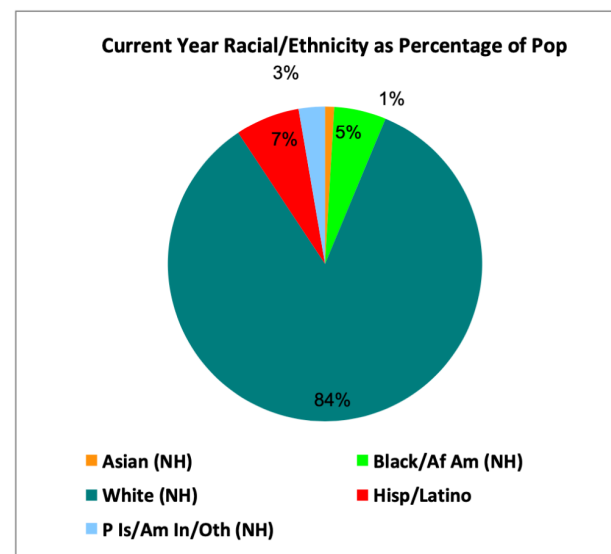
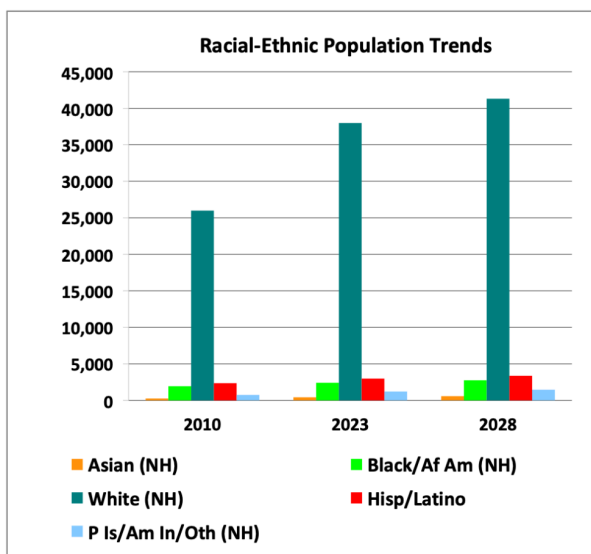
- 1.5-2% yearly projected growth
- Approved \$46 million in school expansion
- Continued 40K feet of expansion at The Wharf
- Record setting retail sales in 2023 of \$1.4 billion

Population Trends

Population/Households & Family Trends		2000	2010	2023	2028	2033
Population		20,532	31,270	45,020	49,468	53,884
Population Change			10,738	13,750	4,448	4,416
Percent Change			52.3%	44.0%	9.9%	8.9%
Households		8,951	13,508	19,386	21,269	23,150
Households Change			4,557	5,878	1,883	1,881
Percent Change			50.9%	43.5%	9.7%	8.8%
Population / Households		2.29	2.31	2.32	2.33	2.33
Population / Households Change			0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
Percent Change			0.9%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Families		2,402	3,793	5,430	5,948	
Families Change			1,391	1,637	518	
Percent Change			57.9%	43.2%	9.5%	

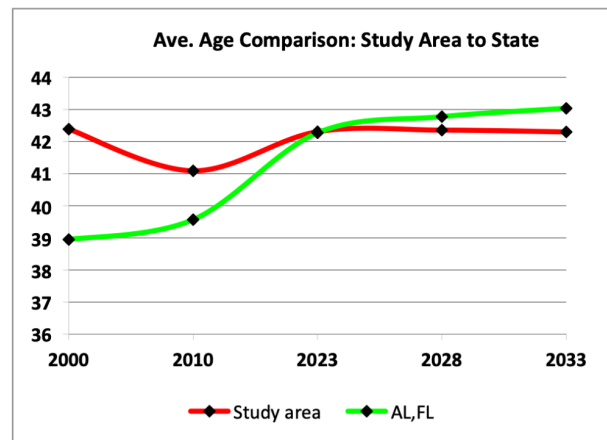
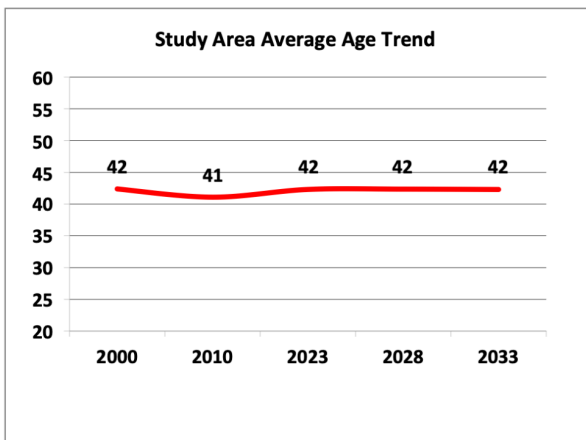


Ethnicity



Age Trends

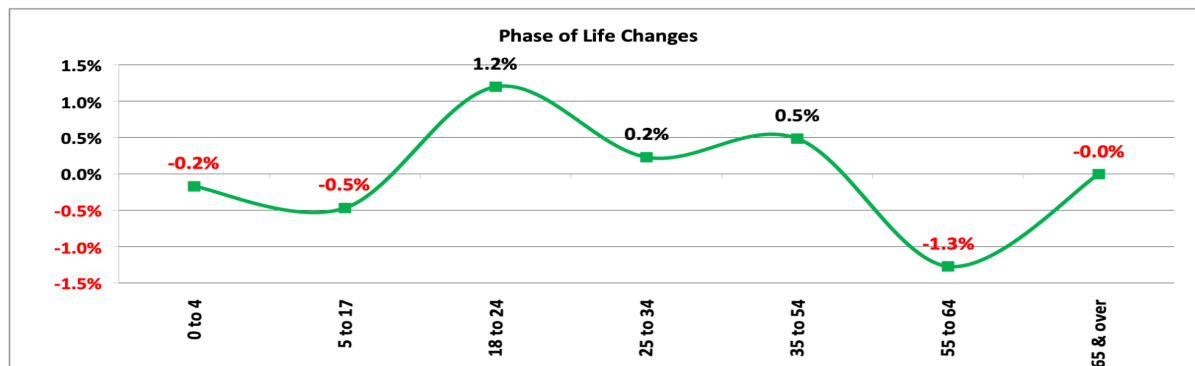
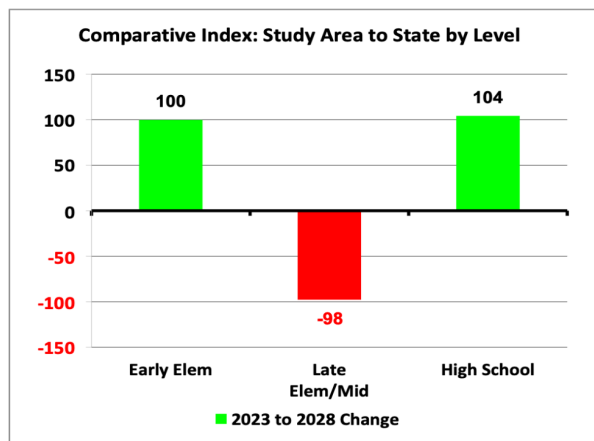
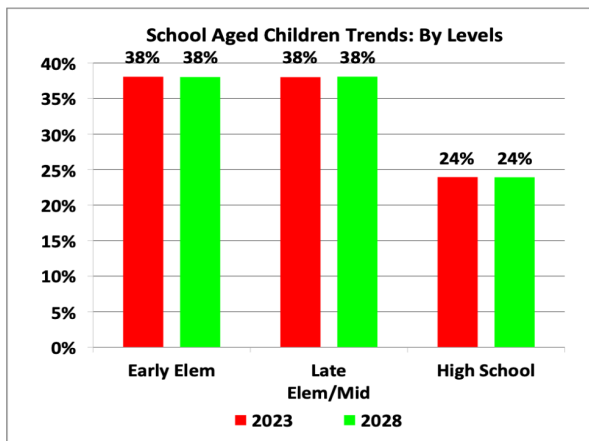
AGE					
<i>Average Age Trends</i>	2000	2010	2023	2028	2033
Average Age: Study Area	42.39	41.09	42.31	42.36	42.30
Percent Change		-3.1%	3.0%	0.1%	-0.1%
Average Age: AL,FL	38.95	39.57	42.27	42.78	43.04
Percent Change		1.6%	6.8%	1.2%	0.6%
Comparative Index	109	104	100	99	98
Median Age: Study Area	42	42	41	41	41



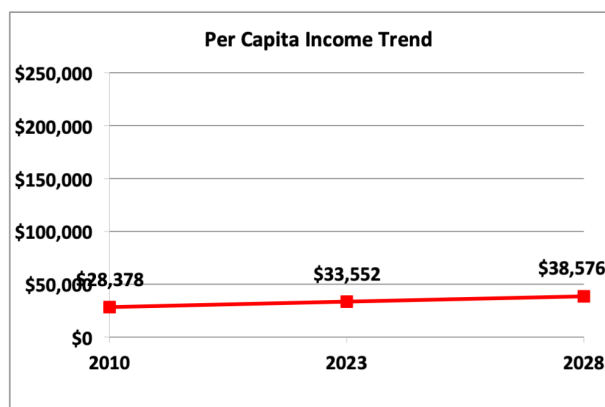
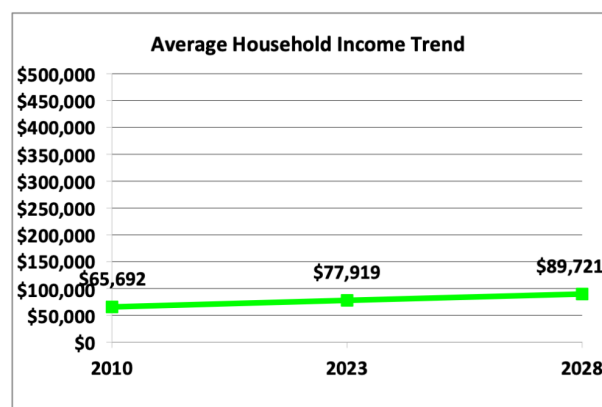
Our Changing Community

<i>Phase of Life</i>	2010	2023	2028	2033	2010%	2023%	2028%	2033%	Estimated 10 Year %pt Change 2023 - 2033
Before Formal Schooling									
Ages 0 to 4	1,920	2,591	2,776	3,009	6.1%	5.8%	5.6%	5.6%	-0.2%
Required Formal Schooling									
Ages 5 to 17	4,409	7,063	7,660	8,201	14.1%	15.7%	15.5%	15.2%	-0.5%
College/Career Starts									
Ages 18 to 24	2,631	3,454	4,270	4,780	8.4%	7.7%	8.6%	8.9%	1.2%
Singles & Young Families									
Ages 25 to 34	3,933	5,221	5,521	6,373	12.6%	11.6%	11.2%	11.8%	0.2%
Families & Empty Nesters									
Ages 35 to 54	8,012	10,985	12,308	13,410	25.6%	24.4%	24.9%	24.9%	0.5%
Enrichment Years Sing/Couples									
Ages 55 to 64	4,466	5,607	5,664	6,026	14.3%	12.5%	11.4%	11.2%	-1.3%
Retirement Opportunities									
Age 65 and over	5,899	10,098	11,269	12,085	18.9%	22.4%	22.8%	22.4%	0.0%

<i>School Aged Children</i>	2010	2023	2028	2010%	2023%	2028%	Estimated 5 Year %pt Change 2023 - 2028
Early Elementary							
Ages 5 to 9	1,665	2,688	2,912	37.8%	38.1%	38.0%	0.0%
Late Elementary-Middle School							
Ages 10 to 14	1,660	2,684	2,916	37.7%	38.0%	38.1%	0.1%
High School							
Ages 15 to 17	1,084	1,691	1,832	24.6%	23.9%	23.9%	0.0%

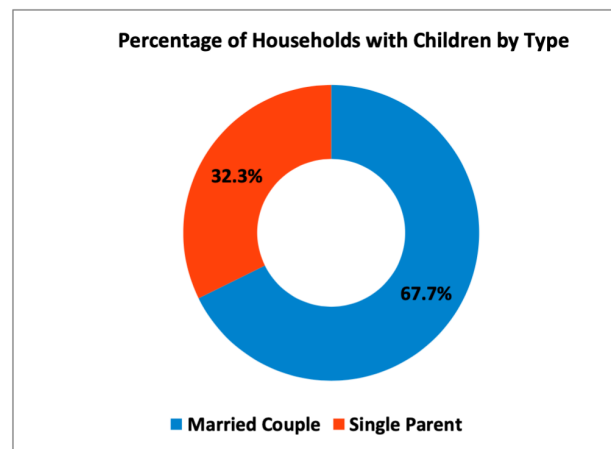
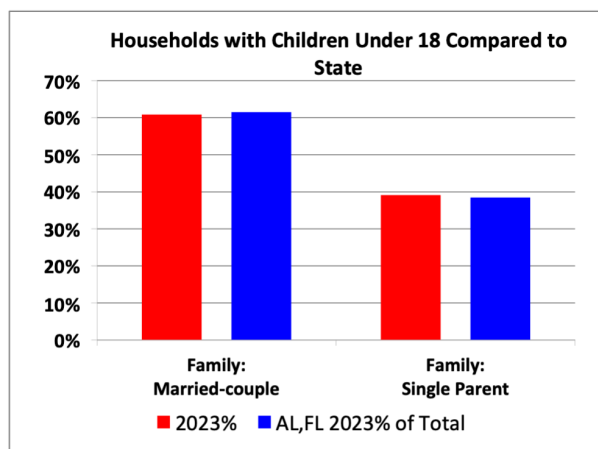
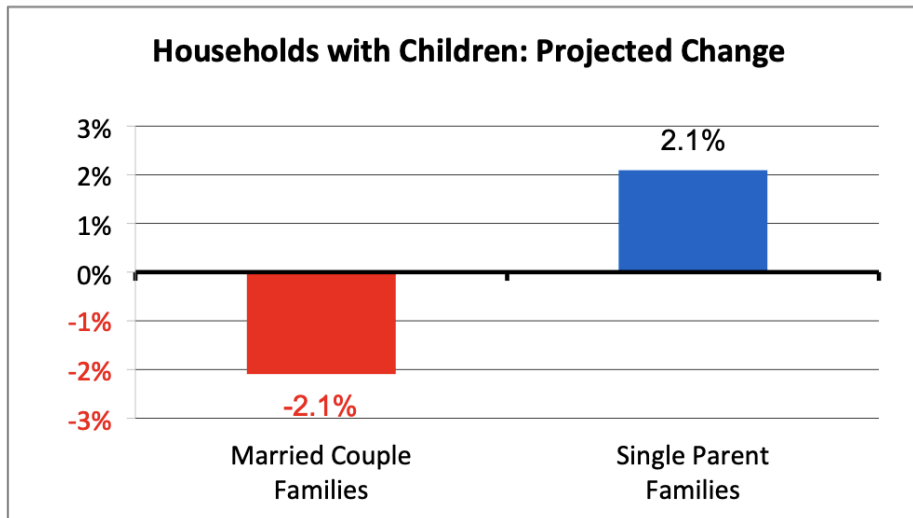


Household Income



Income Trends	2010	2023	2028	2010%	2023%	2028%	Estimated 5 Year %pt Change 2023 - 2028
Households							
Less than \$10,000	797	877	876	5.9%	4.5%	4.1%	-0.4%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	853	941	721	6.3%	4.9%	3.4%	-1.5%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,862	1,384	1,684	13.8%	7.1%	7.9%	0.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,723	2,034	1,836	12.8%	10.5%	8.6%	-1.9%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,865	2,760	2,432	13.8%	14.2%	11.4%	-2.8%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,603	3,754	3,888	19.3%	19.4%	18.3%	-1.1%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,619	2,632	2,688	12.0%	13.6%	12.6%	-0.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,155	2,848	3,722	8.6%	14.7%	17.5%	2.8%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	395	1,122	1,915	2.9%	5.8%	9.0%	3.2%
\$200,000 or more	636	1,034	1,505	4.7%	5.3%	7.1%	1.7%
Totals	13,508	19,386	21,267				

Households with Children



Marital Status

	2010	2023	2028	2010%	2023%	2028%	2010 to 2028 %pt Change
Population by Marital Status: Age 15+							
Never Married	5,645	9,614	10,554	21.4%	25.6%	25.4%	4.0%
Married	15,459	18,296	20,189	58.6%	48.6%	48.7%	-10.0%
Divorced	3,121	5,022	5,472	11.8%	13.3%	13.2%	1.4%
Separated	491	834	955	1.9%	2.2%	2.3%	0.4%
Widowed	1,647	3,853	4,312	6.2%	10.2%	10.4%	4.1%

Occupation

EMPLOYED CIVILIAN POPULATION BY OCCUPATION

	2023	AL,FL 2023	Comp. Index	Interpretation
Employed Civilian Pop 16+ by Occupation				
Bldg Maintenance & Cleaning	7.6%	4.3%	177	Well above the state average.
Construction	9.5%	8.9%	107	At about the state average.
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0.1%	0.5%	21	Well below the state average.
Food Preparation Serving	7.9%	5.9%	133	Well above the state average.
Healthcare Support	1.9%	2.9%	66	Well below the state average.
Managerial Executive	15.3%	15.9%	97	At about the state average.
Office Admin	13.3%	11.8%	112	Well above the state average.
Personal Care	1.8%	2.8%	66	Well below the state average.
Production Transportation	9.1%	11.7%	77	Well below the state average.
Prof Specialty	14.5%	21.5%	68	Well below the state average.
Protective	1.8%	2.4%	77	Well below the state average.
Sales	17.1%	11.4%	150	Well above the state average.

Community Challenges

- Many of the “World War 2” snowbirds have left, or are not staying as long as they used to during the winter.
- Increased lodging taxes on vacationers
- There’s a large unmet demand for multifamily units and apartments
- Infrastructure and growth challenges
- The city is challenged with traffic and growth management problems
- “The residential growth north of the bridge is significantly greater than south of the bridge. You can essentially say that all of the growth is north of the bridge.” – Robert Craft, Mayor of Gulf Shores

Community Challenges: Education

- “Tutoring is absolutely the biggest need” – Dr. Matt Akin, Gulf Shores City Schools
- The elementary and middle schools are willing to pay tutors and provide after school programs.
- There’s a high level of interest in collaborating with local churches to fill the need.
- Preschools and daycares are in high need
- Increasing number of transient students
- Grandparents raising grandchildren in the home
- Growing mental health concerns in elementary and middle schools

- Economic disparity: 51% of Gulf Shores students are on free lunch

Community Challenges: Poverty

- Number of people Served: 4,347
- Food Pantry Meals: 15,100
- Meals on Wheels in South Baldwin 9,928
- Home Repairs: 46
- Christmas Sharing: Children 750, Elderly 11
- \$218,313 in rent
- \$1384 in medical
- \$9748 in transportation
- 5624 food units

Community Summary:

Gulf Shores, Foley, and Orange Beach are experiencing significant and sustained growth, with a diverse demographic influx expected over the next decade. The rising cost of living is anticipated to persist in these areas, particularly north of the bridge, where the majority of residential expansion is projected. The communities are actively preparing for this growth, anticipating substantial infrastructure changes and challenges. Education remains a top priority, and there is a gradual increase in ethnic diversity. The prevalence of single-parent households is on the rise, while the age distribution is shifting towards a larger proportion of young adults, young families, and those aged 34-54. However, challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, and a lack of affordable housing will continue to impact city services, schools, and churches in the foreseeable future.

Our Church

Worship

- Worship Attendance: 24,493
- Average Weekly Attendance: 462
- Total unique individuals who attended worship: 1605
- Total who attended more than once: 1079
- Percent who attended more than once 67.2%
- Total who attend at least an average of once every two months: 616
- Percent who attended at least an average of once every two months: 38.3%
- Attend an average of once a month: 418
- Percent who attended at least an average of once every month: 26%
- Total Members: 520

Attendance History

2018: 37048

2019: 39256

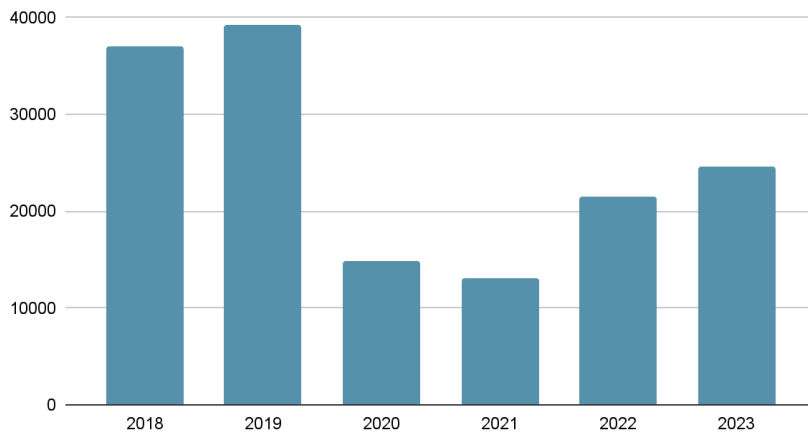
2020: 14785

2021: 13011

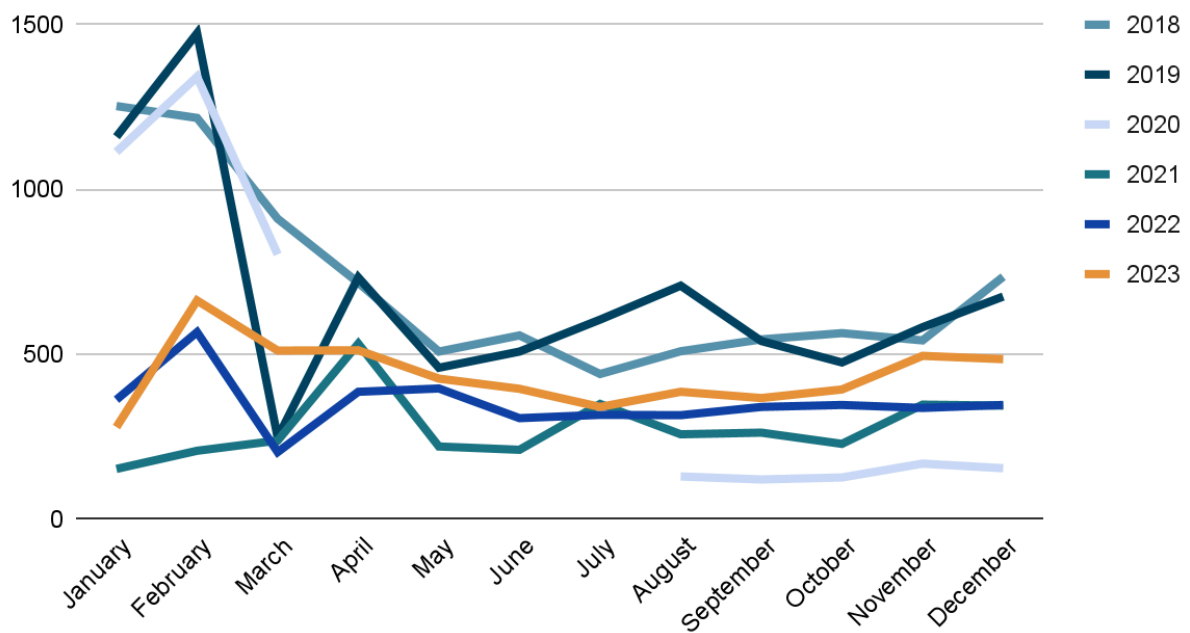
2022: 21493

2023: 24635

Historical Attendance



Historical Attendance



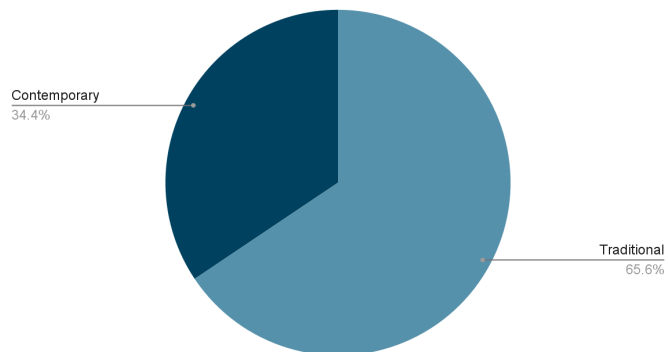
Traditional vs. Contemporary Worship

2019

65.6% Traditional Worship

34.4% Contemporary Worship

2019 Worship Services

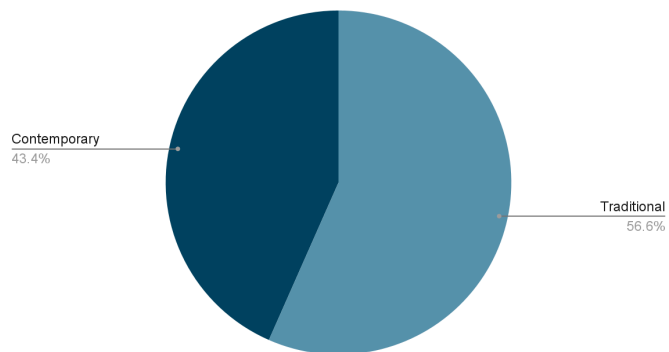


2023

56.6% Traditional Worship

43.4% Contemporary Worship

2023 Worship Services



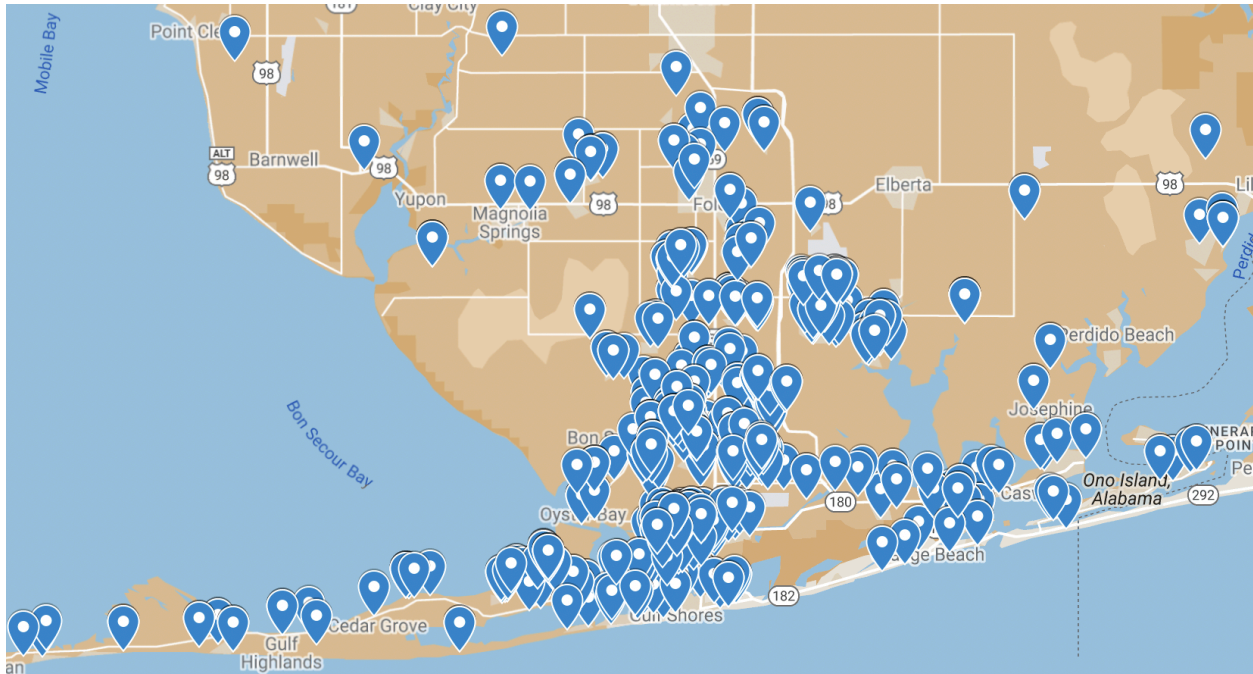
Membership

2023: 520

2022: 1116

- Most members that left did not transfer their membership to the GMC because they moved away or we were unable to get in touch with them.
- While it's impossible to know the exact amount, approximately 40 members, or less than 4% of membership, may have left due to disaffiliation.

Location



Gulf Shores: 350 Households

Foley: 135 Households

Orange Beach: 61 Households

Gulf Shores households on the island: 150

Orange Beach households on the island: 59

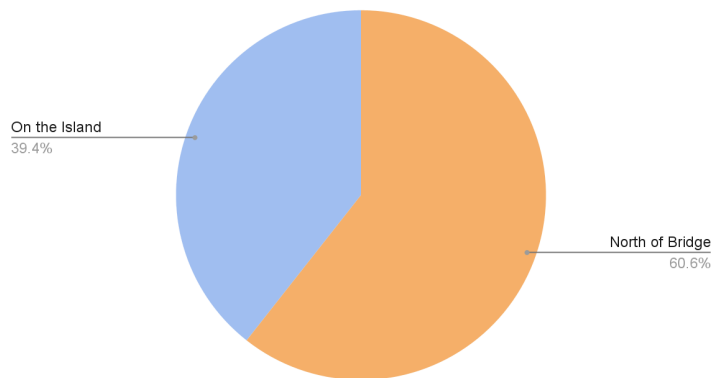
Gulf Shores, Foley, and Orange Beach households north of the bridge: 337

Location Comparison

60.6%
North of the Bridge

39.4%
On the Island

Location



Group Attendance

- Total people in groups: 385
- Percent of people who've attended that have been to a group at least once: 23.9%
- Total people who've attended a group four or more times: 276
- Percent of people who've attended a group four or more times 17.1%

Serving

Total service areas: 16

Total serving: 189

Percent of total people who've attended that are serving: 11.7%

Percent of of people serving out of membership: 36.3%

Giving

Total giving to the general fund in 2023: \$1,309,407

Average Weekly Giving: \$25,180

Giving Units: 500

Average yearly gift: \$2618

Average weekly gift: \$50.34

Yearly Giving

2023 - \$1,309,407

2022 - \$1,265,579

2021 - \$1,198,998

2020 - \$1,221,336

Giving Units

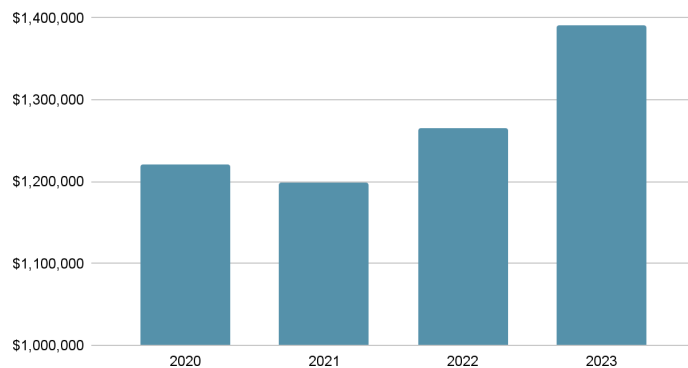
2023 - 500

2022 - 498

2021 - 465

2020 - 649

Yearly Giving



Average Yearly Giving

2023 - \$2618

2022 - \$2541

2021 - \$2578

2020 - \$1881

Summary

- Total who attend worship, participate in a group, serve, and give: 86
- Percent who attend worship, participate in a group, serve, and give: 5.3%
- Percent of membership who attend worship, participate in a group, serve, and give: 16%

Gulf Shores Methodist has been growing year over year in several important metrics that are vital to church health:

- Worship attendance
- Number of new visitors
- New members joining
- Number of people giving
- Average amount given per family
- Amount of service opportunities offered
- Amount of groups offered.

If Gulf Shores Methodist grows at its current rate in 5 years

- Sunday worship attendance will be **900**
- Yearly contributions will be **\$2,000,000**
- 4 additional full time staff members will be needed to support the growth

Gulf Shores Methodist has challenges that if not addressed can act as barriers to future growth.

- 23.9% of those who worship have attended some type of small group or class at GSM. Research has found that healthy churches are at 40-50%.
- 11.7% of people serve at least once a month in one ministry or more. Research has found that healthy churches are at 30-45%.
- 5.3% of people worship, grow, serve and give. This shows that there is considerable room for improvement.

Opportunity – Tutoring and Afterschool Care

Administrators, counselors, teachers, and school leaders have all said that tutoring and afterschool care is a growing need in our community. Gulf Shores Methodist is in close proximity to the elementary school, has good connections with school leaders, and has a proven history of having a successful tutoring program.

How does this opportunity make disciples?

- A healthy tutoring and afterschool program builds bridges to kids, parents, and teachers.
- It's already been demonstrated that kids who attend tutoring on campus are more likely to attend Wednesday night programming.
- This ministry would provide new opportunities for the people of GSM to serve and invite new families into the life of the church.

How long would this take to accomplish?

2-3 years

What would we need to do?

- 1 - Secure a location on campus for permanent kids and youth programming. Establish a small start up budget.
- 2 - Hire a part-time director and build up a volunteer team to offer tutoring one or two days a week.
- 3 - Evaluate needs, capacity, and funds before expanding. Consider applying for grants as needed.
- 4 - Regularly evaluate how many kids and youth are attending and what type of results we're getting, share wins with the congregation, and continue to invite families to attend worship services, connect in groups, and participate in events.

Opportunity - New Multisite Location

- Baldwin County is experiencing an influx of new residents and the best chance at reaching them is by planting new churches and/or having established churches launch new locations.
- Research has shown that most people will not drive more than 20 minutes to attend a church. Most people attend churches that are within 10 miles of where they live.
- Instead of hoping that people will come to us, we need to bring the church to them.

How does this opportunity make disciples?

- Gulf Shores Methodist is the largest GMC church west of Florida and south of Montgomery. The church already has (or is on the path to having) the people, resources, vision, and leadership to launch a second location north of the bridge.
- Experts agree that going multisite is one of the best strategies for healthy churches to multiply their reach and be on mission.
- A second location north of the bridge will create new opportunities for connecting with unchurched people.

How long would this take to accomplish?

1-3 years

What would we need to do?

- 1 - Form a small subcommittee to pursue the viability and timing of a second campus.
- 2 - Identify a campus pastor, form home groups in the desired location, and develop a launch team.

- 3 - Start a seed fund offering (\$200,000 - \$300,000) to help launch the campus and move it towards being fully self-sustained within its first couple years.
- 4 - Find a temporary location for worship, hold interest gatherings, and execute a launch plan.
- 5 - Identify (or build) a permanent location if and when needed.

Opportunity – Servant Ministry Taskforce

Gulf Shores Methodist has earned a reputation for supporting its community through its bread ministry, disaster preparedness and relief, and by partnering with ecumenical ministries and organizations.

Due to growing challenges around food insecurity, poverty, homelessness, and mental health needs, *there's more opportunity now than ever for servant ministries to help those who need it most.*

To expand what servant ministries can accomplish it needs:

- 1 - A “taskforce”, a committee, to determine what needs we can meet and an action plan for meeting those needs.
- 2 - A renewed focus on getting more people in and outside of GSM to participate in service opportunities.

How does this opportunity make disciples?

- By being hyper-focused on tangible needs and results, the servant ministry taskforce can take on current and future challenges with increased focus and more buy-in throughout the church.
- By establishing a task force, servant ministries can keep a better eye on short and long term projects that call the church into deeper levels of commitment and connection.
- By increasing our service footprint the church can help more people more often.

How long would this take to accomplish?

6 months - 1 year

What would we need to do?

- 1 - Form a diverse and capable team who can serve on the committee. Establish short and long term goals and benchmarks.
2. Create a sustained rhythm of meeting and reporting on wins and challenges.
- 3 - Keep asking, “is this making disciples? Is this the best use of our time, efforts, and resources?”
- 4 - Evaluate and add projects as needed.

Conclusion

The Demographics Team was tasked to gather essential data to comprehend the dynamic changes in both our community and church. Research centered on questions about our community's growth and demographics, and how our church can meaningfully respond to evolving needs. Gulf Shores, Foley, and Orange Beach are witnessing significant population growth, accompanied by numerous changes and challenges.

Detailed insights into our church's statistics highlight a consistent upward trajectory in worship attendance, membership, and contributions. This underscores the importance of strategic planning to effectively navigate these trends. Opportunities abound for our church, including the initiation of a tutoring and afterschool care program, launching a new multisite location north of the bridge, and strengthening servant ministries to combat challenges like food insecurity and poverty.

We envision an active and responsive church that proactively engages with our evolving community, while making a lasting impact centered on a renewed focus to make disciples.

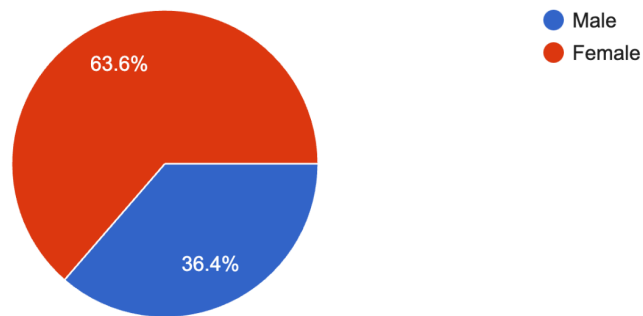
Spiritual Health Assessment

In January of 2024 the Spiritual Health team created a spiritual health assessment for the entire church to participate in.

The following is the results of that assessment:

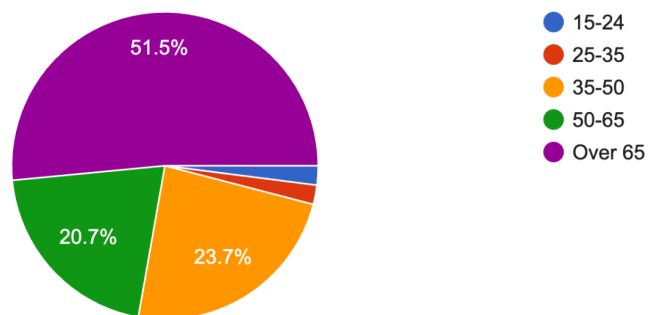
Male/Female

198 responses



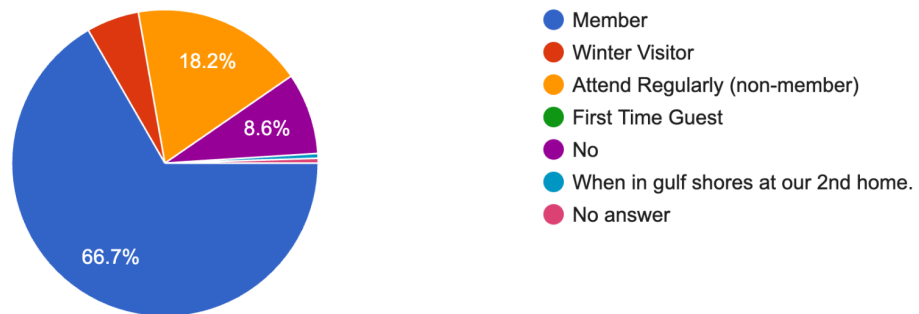
Age Range:

198 responses



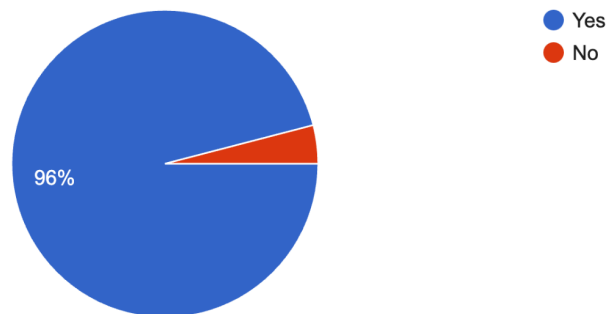
Choose One

198 responses



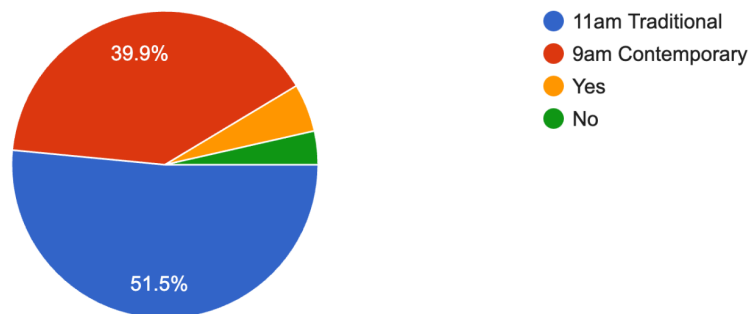
I attend worship at least twice per month

198 responses



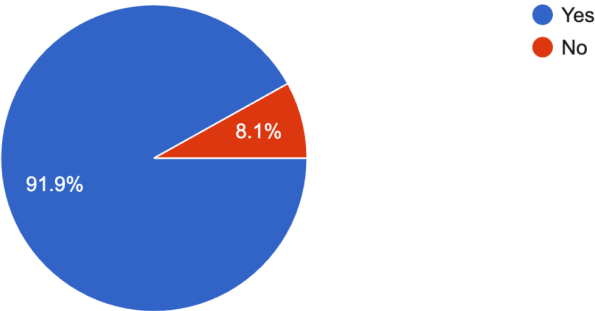
Please choose your preferred service. Contemporary or Traditional

198 responses



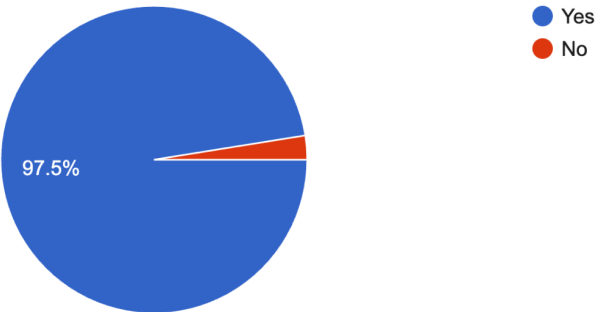
Throughout the week I think about something that stood out from the previous Sunday. (i.e. message, music, prayer, etc)

198 responses



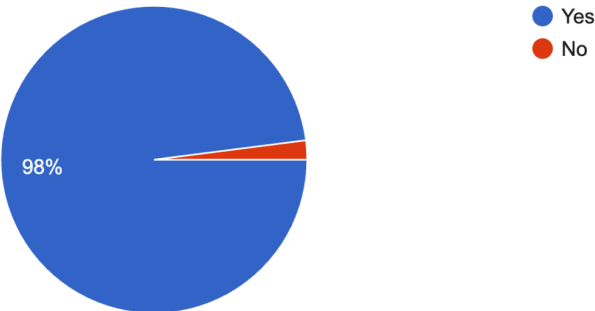
I believe attending worship is vital to living as a Christian

198 responses



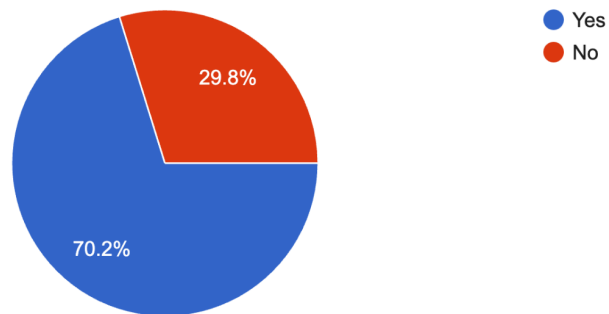
I believe that Worship is intended to glorify God and not just to satisfy myself

198 responses



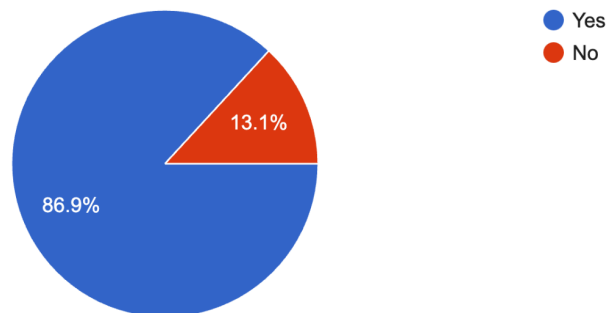
I have a daily worship routine

198 responses



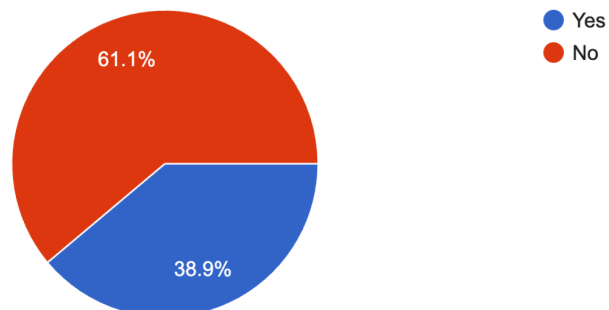
I actively seek new information/experiences to enhance my understanding of Christ

198 responses

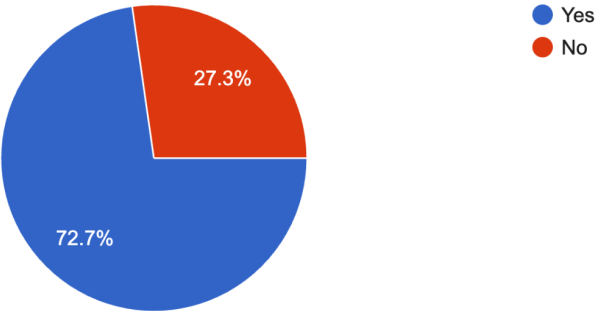


I regularly invite people to our Church

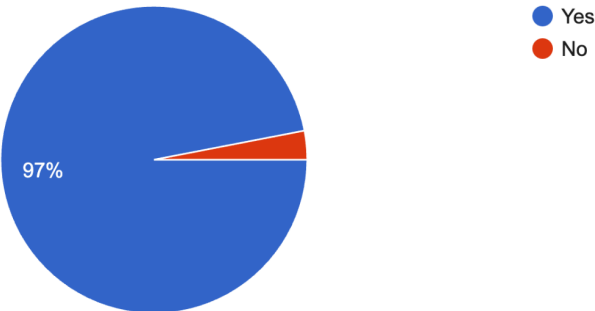
198 responses



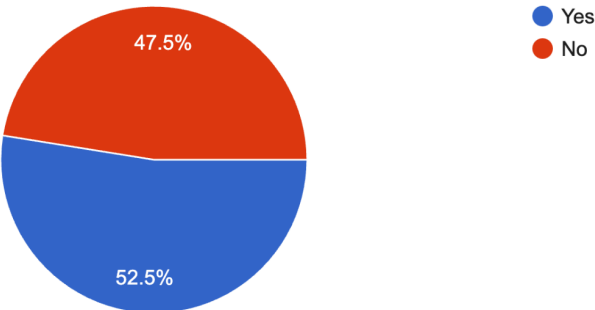
I set aside time to pray every day
198 responses



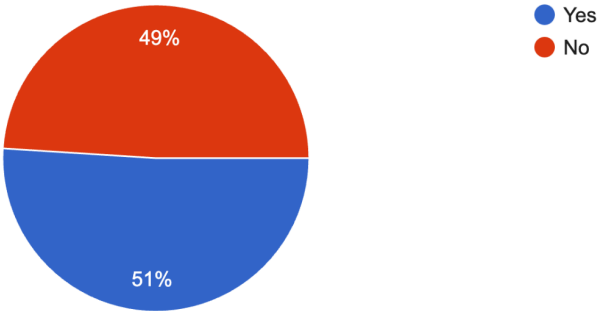
I know that God has answered my prayers
198 responses



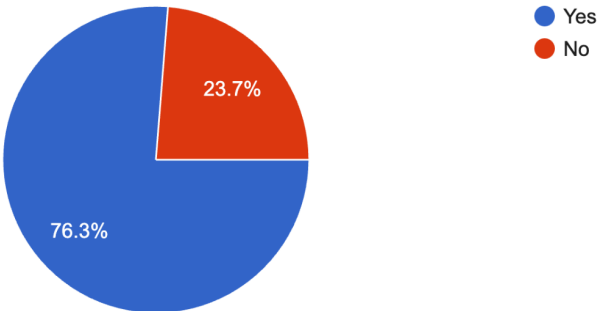
I pray with my spouse
198 responses



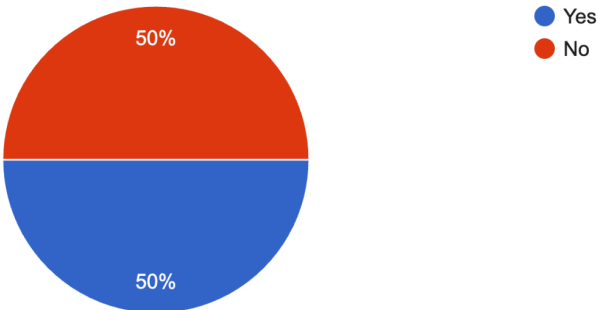
I pray with my children
198 responses



I pray for GSMC pastors, staff, and church ministries
198 responses

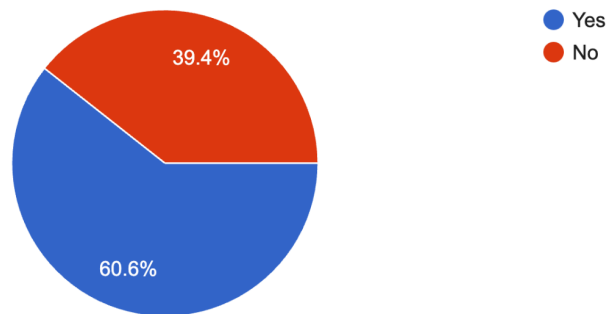


I read the Bible on a daily basis
198 responses



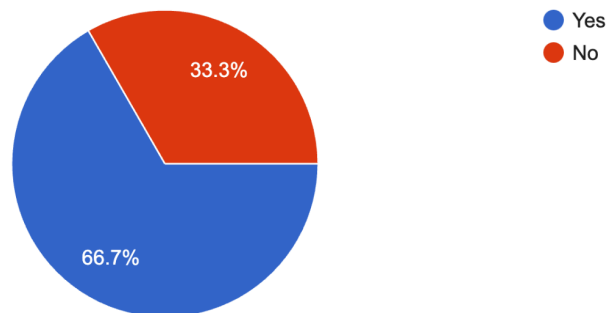
I feel confident in my ability to understand what the Bible says

198 responses



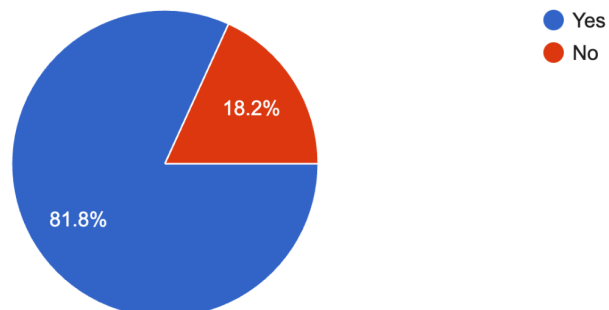
I am part of a small group. (Sunday School, Bible Study, Connect Group, etc.)

198 responses

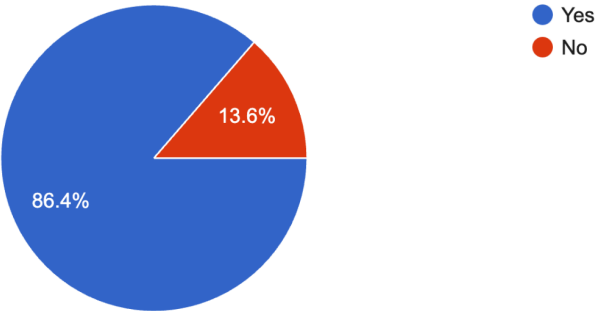


If no, I am willing to be in a small group

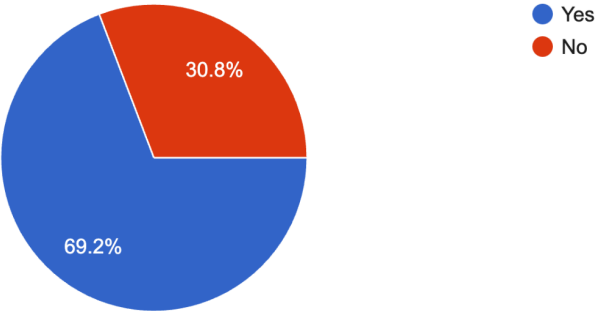
198 responses



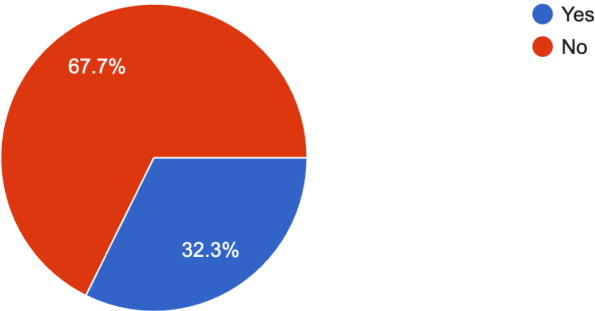
I discuss my faith with my friends
198 responses



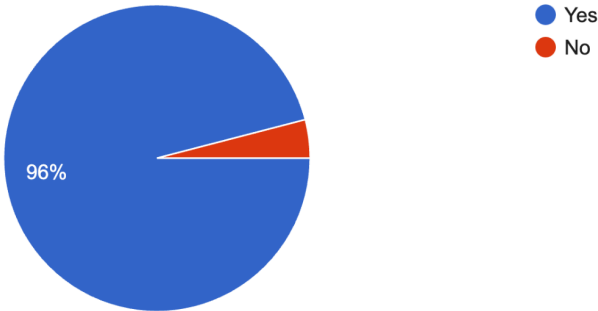
I use Bible apps or other technology for study and growth
198 responses



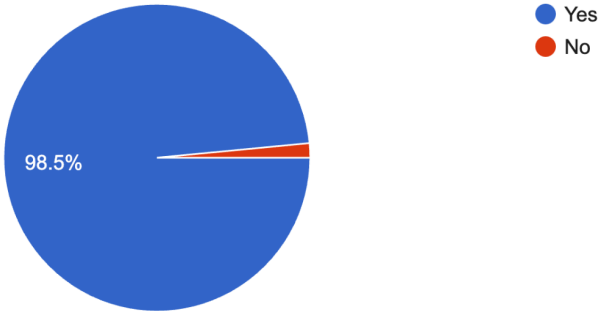
I often memorize scripture
198 responses



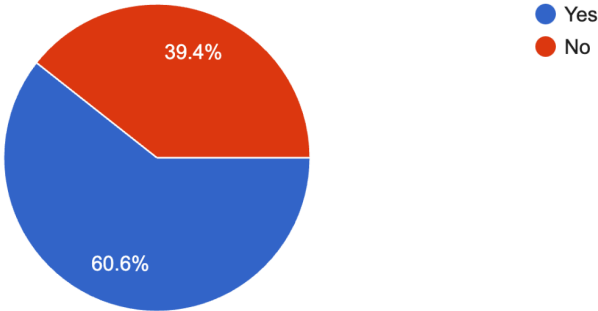
I attempt to model Christ in my workplace, my family, and my social groups
198 responses



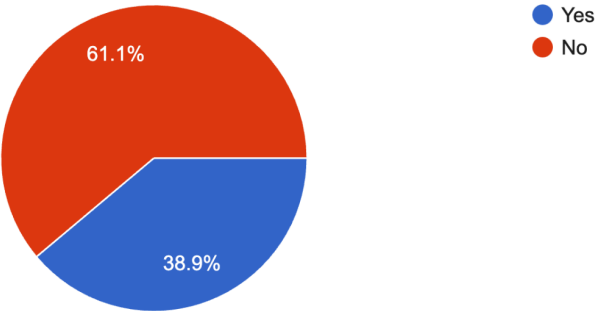
I draw upon my faith to make moral and ethical decisions
198 responses



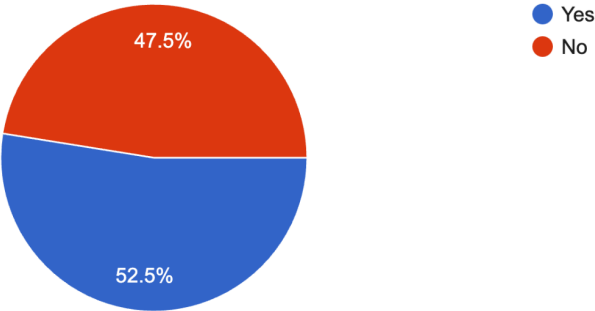
I actively serve in this church
198 responses



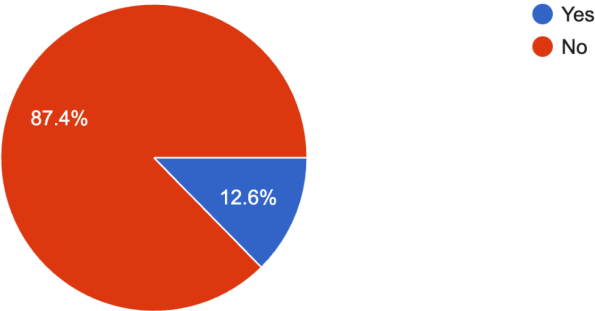
I often feel like I don't have enough time to serve
198 responses



I seek out opportunities to serve
198 responses

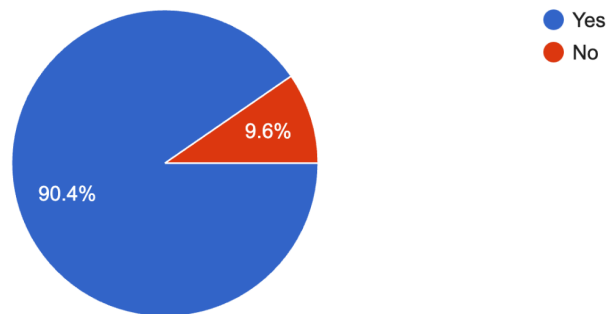


I sometimes shy away from visitors who may be looking for help
198 responses



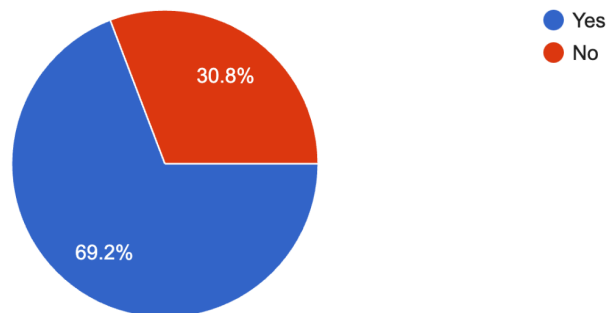
I feel qualified to serve Christ in some capacity

198 responses



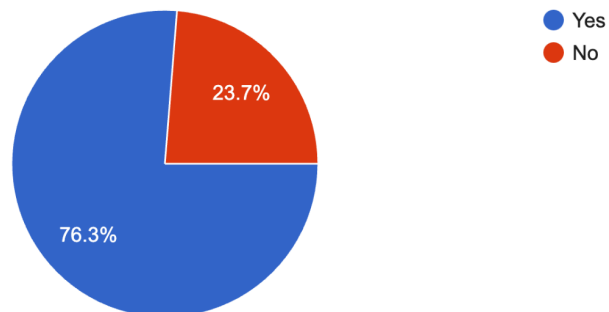
I know what my Spiritual Gifts are

198 responses

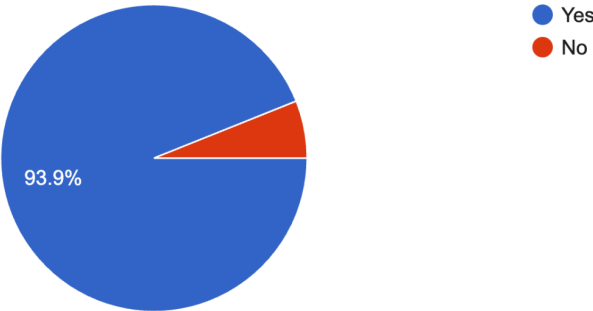


I am willing to serve in ways that may be outside my comfort zone

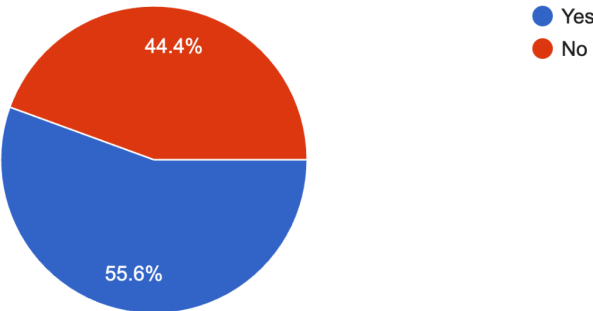
198 responses



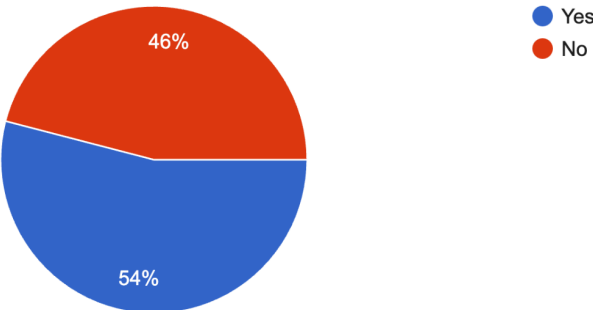
I give financially to support the Church
198 responses



I tithe (10% or more of income)
198 responses

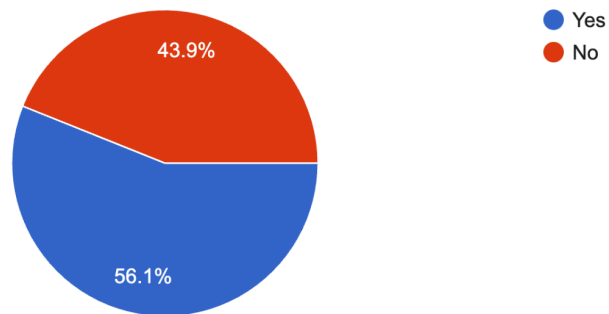


I need to grow in my understanding of honoring God with my finances
198 responses



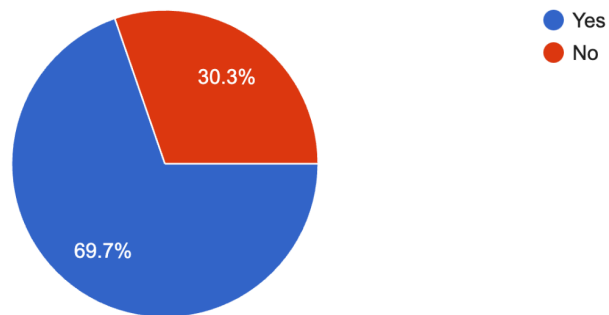
If not currently serving, I am willing to serve in leadership at this Church

198 responses



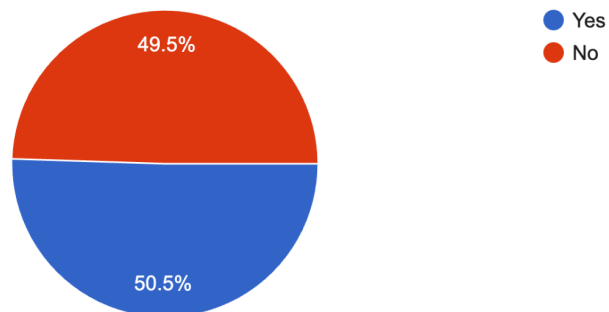
I try to get to know new members of my church

198 responses



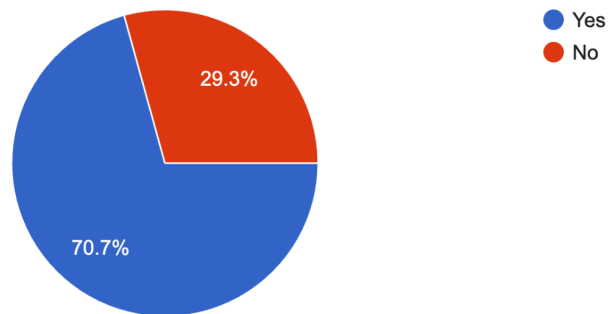
I go out of my way to meet and greet visitors or first time guests

198 responses



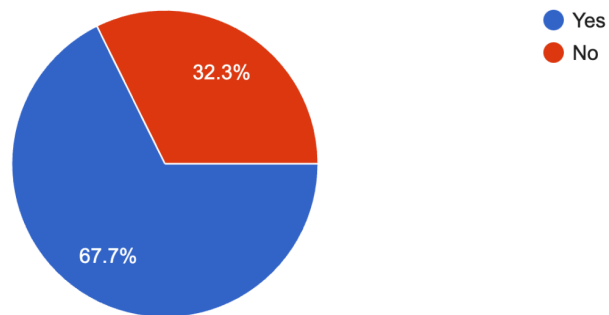
I participate in events other than Sunday Worship or small groups

198 responses



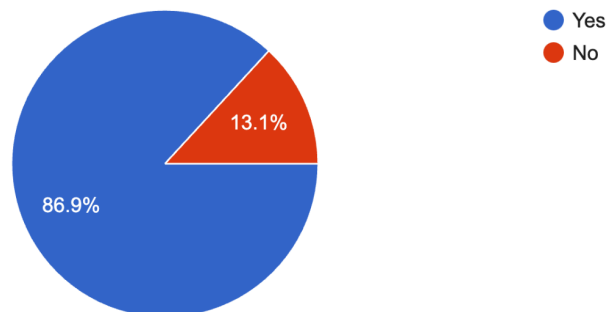
I seek to meet people in my community/neighborhood

198 responses

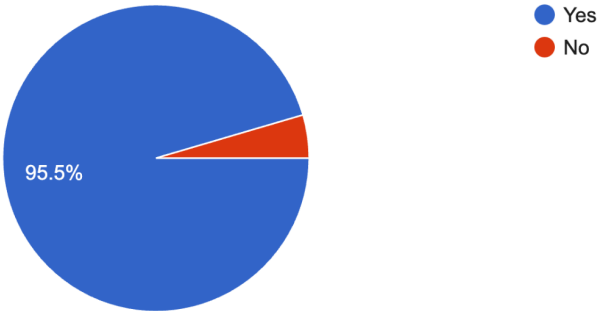


I am comfortable sharing my faith with others

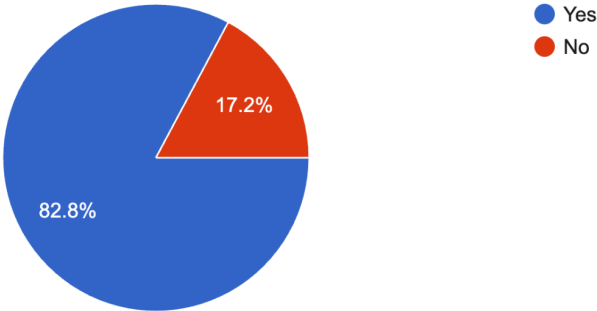
198 responses



I am interested into getting to know people in our church
198 responses



I believe we should reach people in another country
198 responses



Improving Our Spiritual Health

To address some of the areas of growth the Spiritual Health Team came up with four new initiatives:

1. We will offer a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class twice a year starting in January of 2025.

This class will cover the value of tithing and how to manage your finances from a Biblical perspective.

2. We will offer classes and group studies on how to read and understand the Bible.

3. We will host a Spiritual Life Conference with special music once a year starting in 2026.

We will have a high capacity speaker come and lead us through a study of scripture. Imagine a weekend of music and teachings.

4. We are in the process of creating a “Discipleship Pathway” to help people move from non or new believer to a mature follower of Christ.

Conclusion

The goal of the Spiritual Health Team was to assess the spiritual well-being of our church with a focus on four key areas: Worship, Grow, Serve, and Connect. 198 assessment responses were gathered, mostly from individuals aged 35 and older. The findings showed strong engagement in worship services and a high level of Christlike behavior among our members. The team also identified areas needing improvement, such as increasing daily worship practices, regular Bible reading, and inviting others to church. We also observed challenges in connecting with new visitors and integrating them into the life of the church. Moving forward we're committed to addressing these issues by offering additional classes and a discipleship pathway.

Guest Friendly Campus

In recent years, the concept of hospitality has evolved beyond traditional norms, prompting churches to rethink their approaches to welcoming guests. The Guest Friendly Campus Team researched what it would take to transform our church campus and guest experience into an environment characterized by radical hospitality. Our aim is to enhance every aspect of the visitor experience, ensuring that each guest feels genuinely embraced and valued.

Transitioning from Guest Friendly to Radical Hospitality

Most churches think they do a very good job in welcoming visitors. From a recent study, nearly 1 million high school seniors were asked “How well do you get along with others?” Zero in 829,000 said “below average.” Simply believing we do a good job does not make it so. Perception is not always reality, and we have to see our campus and worship experience through the eyes of the stranger.

Radical means “drastically different from ordinary practice, outside the normal.” Being radical means doing practices that exceed expectations, go the second mile, and take welcoming the stranger to surprising new levels.

Why is Radical Hospitality Important?

It can be difficult for first time guests to navigate our campus. We want guests to know about our church and have an excellent experience when they visit.

There are several challenges our church faces in adopting radical hospitality:

1. The Navigating Our Campus Challenge
2. The Guest Experience Challenge
3. The Promotion Challenge
4. The Building Challenge

The Navigating Our Campus Challenge

- We need to create a comprehensive plan for all of our directional signage and building identification
- Signs at the entrance to the parking lots
- New signage and maps outside the entrance ways
- Updated maps available at each information desk
- Clearly marked buildings and rooms

The Guest Experience Challenge

- We are creating an expanded Hospitality and Guest Services ministry
- We will have new volunteer training that focuses on “Radical Hospitality”
- Updated, clearly identifiable “Welcome/Information” desks in the lobby and narthex.
- Focus on activities that are pre-service, in-service, and after-service/follow up

Guest Experience - Pre-Service

- New visitor/handicapped designated parking close to buildings, with a Parking Lot Team for each service
- Golf carts to assist people who need help from their car to the church entrance
- “Radical Hospitality” volunteer training for greeters and reception desk workers
 - Focus on meeting visitor needs
 - Two greeters per door
 - Walking visitors to their destination
 - Never leaving them to feel alone or without guidance
- Gift Bag for every first time visitor
 - The bag will have a gift and resources to help a newcomer know how to plug in to our church
 - It will also be of a particular color so that members can identify guests and welcome them to the church
- “Join Us” videos prior to each service
- Incorporate vision and ministry essentials as a part of the scrolling information every Sunday morning before service times

Guest Experience - In-Service

- Every member will regularly be encouraged to wear name tags, to benefit both greeters and guests
- We will be updating and revising our information and attendance sheets
- We will be providing “group interest” information sheets that can be placed into the offering plate
- We will make sure all building aesthetics reflect a friendly church
 - Clean and uncluttered meeting spaces and any location congregants may see or gather

Guest Experience - After Service / Follow Up

- We will be developing a “Discover Gulf Shores Methodist Church” class to help people who are visiting know how to take their first step toward joining our church
- “Radical Hospitality” volunteer training for greeters and reception desk workers
 - Personal contact to all visitors within 36 hours

The Promotion Challenge

- Expand on group information in handouts and on website
 - Provide a means for group leaders to provide regular content updates
- Constantly promoting our church
 - A larger presence on social media
 - Local advertising media (radio, tv, print media)
 - Advertising banners at places like the Sportsplex in Gulf Shores, pickleball courts
 - Pamphlets at condos, restaurants, festival tents, city events
 - Church swag like car decals, shirts, pens, coffee mugs

The Building Challenge

When the shopping center was purchased, it was a great opportunity for growth in the church. We've been able to use much of the space for ministry as a result of the efforts of those involved in that process, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude. We are again at a crossroad where we will have the opportunity to greatly shape the facilities and environment for all our worship activities for the next 60 years. This is an opportunity we simply cannot miss.

As we transition out of Building C and take over Family Dollar, we will gain at least 3300 square feet of ministry space. We will use that space effectively. What about beyond that? What about a new and expanded Building A? This is what we are dreaming and planning for.

- Growth beyond our current footprint, unencumbered with demands of shopping center ownership
- New and renovated facilities to support
 - Gulf Kids and Youth
 - Added educational and meeting space
 - Improved nursery facilities
- Always focused on a radically hospitable welcoming environment. Growth beyond our current footprint, unencumbered with demands of shopping center ownership

The Goal of a Guest Friendly Campus

- We want to extend our reach into the community
- We want to have as many avenues as possible for people to find our church
- We want people to leave saying,

“Wow, what a great experience!”

“I want to know more about God, I can grow here!”

“I want my kids to be a part of that church!”

- All of this points toward the ultimate goals of people experiencing the love of God and

making more disciples of Jesus Christ

All of the brick and mortar, the informative signage, and the attractive spaces are important. But, the people volunteering to make the campus not only guest friendly, but “radically hospitable”, is by far the most important. It won’t happen without the efforts of the congregation. And, that is important, because it is a piece of our efforts in fulfilling our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Next Gen Ministry

The purpose of the NextGen Team of the Joel Committee was to examine how our church is currently making disciples of the next generation and their families, and how we might do it more effectively as our community changes and grows.

Definitions

For the purposes of this report, the term “NextGen” or “Next Generation” ministries at Gulf Shores Methodist Church refers to persons from birth up to 18-years old, or until the graduation of high school.

“Children” or “Kids” refers to persons from birth through fifth grade, or age 11

“Teenagers” or “Youth” refer to persons in middle or high school, typically ages 12-18

Guiding Questions:

1. Why make disciples of the next generation?
2. What is Gulf Shores Methodist Church currently doing to make disciples of the next generation?
3. What learning & discipleship goals have we set for children and youth in our ministries? How are we partnering with families to accomplish these?
4. What are the needs of kids, teenagers, and families in our community? How is Christ calling our church and NextGen ministries to faithfully respond to these needs?
5. How can our church more effectively make disciples of the next generation and their families?
6. Considering the demographics and growth of our community, what future should we vision and plan for in our Next Gen ministries?

Why the Next Generation?

1. God says it's our job to tell them

- Deut. 4:9-10 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.
- Deut. 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
- Psalm 71:18 Even when I am old and gray, O God, do not abandon me, until I tell the next generation about your strength, and those coming after me about your power
- Psalm 78:4-6 ...things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.
- Psalm 145:4 One generation will declare Your works to the next and will proclaim Your mighty acts.
- Proverbs 22:6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (the older generation didn't turn from it!)
- Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
- 2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.
- Judges 2:7,10 The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel...After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

2. It will enable us to make disciples of every other generation.

From Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to help young people discover and love your church:

“Young people infuse congregations with energy and intensity.”

- More service: Young people help congregations accomplish their mission
- More passion: Young people pour themselves wholeheartedly into what they do, which energizes those around them and increases what’s possible
- More innovation: The fresh spin young people bring to life and ministry is often appreciated by leaders whose entire congregations have been infiltrated by the creativity all too often bottled up in youth ministry.
- More money: Young people’s energy attracts older adults with more financial resources, who in turn generously support the ministries of their church. Eventually those young people gain more vocational stability and can become part of their church’s financial backbone.
- More overall health: “Healthy churches reach young people, and young people make churches healthier. If your church is reaching 20-year-olds, your church will reach 60-year-olds.” – Erwin McManus

What is Gulf Shores Methodist currently doing to make disciples of the next generation?

- MDO & Preschool
 - Discipleship-focused preschool programs for children ages 1-5 during the school year
 - 2-day summer program for June/July
 - Partnership with families to celebrate milestones
 - Intentional focus on Christian education
 - Outstanding reputation in the community
 - Longevity of leadership
- GulfKids
 - Programming for Prek-5th grade students on Sunday mornings & Wednesday nights using developmentally appropriate, Bible-based curriculum
 - 3 separate program times for GulfKids on Sunday mornings
 - Wednesday night discipleship program with supper
 - Occasional service projects, summer camp, and outreach events (VBS, Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast in Bethlehem, Trunk or Treat, etc.) to engage families in the community
 - Full-time Children’s director on staff
- GulfYouth

- Small group bible studies on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights
- Occasional service projects
- Once-a-month Sunday night events to encourage fellowship
- Youth leadership planning team service opportunity for students
- Confirmation class for middle school age and up
- Summer camp focused on discipleship/spiritual growth
- Full time youth director on staff

What learning & discipleship goals have we set for children and youth in our ministries? How are we partnering with families to accomplish these?

LEARNING GOALS

By age ____, children/youth attending GulfKids/GulfYouth should be able to:

GULFKIDS - LEARNING GOALS			
	GROW	CONNECT & WORSHIP	SERVE
Age 5	Articulate who is God, Jesus is God's son, and God's love for them Identify familiar Old Testament characters & bible stories, as well as Jesus' most famous miracles Begin to memorize the Lord's prayer Participate in family devotional/worship time	Pray for others, alone or with a group Worship God through singing	Bring a tithe/offering to GulfKids/learn to give Participate in caroling and visitation ministry
Age 9	Look up chapter/verse in the Bible Bring his/her own Bible to church Know the following verses and be able to say from memory: • John 3:16	Pray by giving thanks and asking God for things they need. Pray for others Worship God through singing, corporate worship Assist leading kids worship Invite friends to church	Bring a tithe/offering to GulfKids/learn to give Participate in kids visitation ministry Create cards for people who are sick, alone, or grieving Acolyte once a month

	• Proverbs 3:5-6 • The Lord's prayer Begin daily scripture reading, journaling & prayer discipline with parent guidance		
Age 11	Develop a working knowledge of what books are in the Old & New Testaments & become more efficient at looking up chapter/verse Bring his/her own Bible to church Know the following verses and be able to say from memory: • The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) • Psalm 23 Continue to develop daily scripture reading, journaling & prayer discipline with parent guidance	Worship God through singing, corporate worship Assist leading kids worship Invite friends to church	Bring a tithe/offering Participate in kids visitation/cards ministry Acolyte once a month Participate in annual preteen service projects
GULFYOUTH - LEARNING GOALS			
By age 14	Articulate the basics of Christian faith as outlined in Confirmation class and weekly curriculum Confirm faith in Jesus Christ Know the Apostles Creed Apply biblical concepts and wisdom to daily life Attend weekly discipleship small group Memorize scripture regularly with small	Participate in regular youth worship times Invite friends to quarterly outreach events at GulfYouth	Tithe Serve as a helper at VBS or other kids ministry program Participate in youth visitation ministry to the homebound Participate in local mission project Serve on youth worship team

	group Share basics of faith with a peer or younger person		
By age 18	Identify spiritual gifts and begin to serve others out of gifts & passions Participate in in-depth bible studies for spiritual formation Read books for spiritual formation & discipleship Discern calling into vocational ministry Participate regularly in a small group for spiritual growth & accountability Share faith in Christ with a person of any age	Connect with on-campus Christian groups in schools Pray aloud comfortably in groups of peers or younger students Plan & execute details of GulfYouth events and weekly programs	Tithe Teach a bible study lesson to younger students Serve regularly in a church ministry Participate in a mission trip Serve on worship team for youth worship/Sunday morning team

How are we partnering with families to accomplish these goals?

CELEBRATORY MILESTONES

- Undertow
- Graduation Sunday
- Confirmation

INVITE PARENTS TO SERVE

What are the needs of kids, teenagers, and families in our community?

Per the findings of the Community & Demographics Team of the Joel committee, with the rise in population, cost of living, in addition to the rising number of single-parent households, education & poverty are two of the biggest challenges the Gulf Shores community faces.

“Tutoring is absolutely the biggest need” – Dr. Matt Akin, Superintendent of Gulf Shores City Schools

- Tutoring & After school programs that offer reading & homework help
- Preschools and daycares for the increasing number of families with young children and working parents who are moving to the Foley/Gulf Shores/Orange Beach areas
- Resources and support for grandparents raising grandchildren
- Availability of mental health resources for kids, teenagers, and parents, including family counseling services
- Food insecurity (51% of Gulf Shores students qualify for free lunch)
- Affordable housing
- Help developing parenting skills
- Resources and support for single parents

How is Christ calling our church and NextGen ministries to faithfully respond to these needs in our community?

In the next 6 months –

- Resume after-school tutoring program on our campus two days per week
 - Identify appropriate space on our campus
 - Hire PT coordinator for 10 hrs per week
 - Coordinate transportation with city schools
- Raise awareness of & support the Grandparent connect ministry at GSM
- Identify space/feasibility for group/individual counseling and other mental health resources on our campus

Five-year goals –

- Expand the after school tutoring program based on evaluation of needs, capacity, and funds. Consider applying for grants (see Community & Demographics team timeline & recommendations)
- Expand MDO and preschool programs to accommodate families with both parents working and no extended family support for childcare
- Hire a licensed mental health professional to be on church staff & provide regular group counseling, workshops, and individual sessions for children, teenagers, and parents. Provide staffing and space for a counseling center at the church.

How can our church more effectively make disciples of the next generation and their families?

MINISTRY ENVIRONMENTS

Recommendations for the next 6 months

	Ministry environments	Staff/volunteers
GulfKids Preschool ministry	New table and chairs for building B nursery Obtain larger rooms for PreK classes (35 sq ft per child) Come up with plan to move main campus nursery to be adjacent to Sanctuary for safety of children & accessibility for families	Develop a list of backup nursery workers Develop & expand nursery volunteer team Recruit and staff all preK classes with 2-3 volunteers including the teacher
GulfKids Elementary	Create outside recreation space for older children on main campus (either using existing playground space or parking lot or courtyard space) Install lighting on playground areas Designate wall space for GulfKids in every classroom Resource wall for parents on GulfKids' hallway Decorate A130 more eye catching and fun colors Dedicate a larger area for staging worship/teaching Develop plan for renovation of current building space (possibly Family Dollar) to be dedicated GulfKids space, adjacent to the Auditorium	Challenge every parent to serve weekly or in a rotation Develop volunteer teams of no less than 4 per group Develop "buddy team" of volunteers to accompany identified kids during kids' programming
GulfKids Preteen (4th-5th grade)	Create age-appropriate outdoor space with equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, portable gaga ball, open grassy space for rec games)	Wednesday night program - Lead volunteer + team of 3 regular volunteers for breakout small groups Sunday morning group preteen class leader + rotation of helpers
GULF YOUTH (6th-12th grade)	Develop plan for renovation of current church space to be dedicated youth ministry space for weekly youth worship & programming, including outdoor & indoor rec space Expand partnership with local schools by sponsoring FCA, local sporting events &	Hire full-time director of youth ministry Develop team of volunteers to lead separate middle school & high school groups & events Develop youth worship team

	community activities, etc. Assimilate middle & high school students into serving in more ministries of the church	
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Considering the demographics and growth of our community, what future should we vision and plan for in our next gen ministries?

FIVE YEAR GOALS

Ministry environments & Staff volunteer needs

GULFKIDS:

- Relocate main campus nursery with its own restroom to be adjacent to Sanctuary
- Obtain larger permanent space dedicated to GulfKids for the following:
 - staging worship/teaching for large group time
 - more classrooms to better split into groups according to age/gender
 - Minimize doors into and out of kids space
- Expand paid nursery staff team to accommodate worship attendance growth
- Develop “buddy team” of volunteers to better accommodate children with special needs at every Gulfkids programming event

PRETEEN MINISTRY:

- Large gathering room for worship/group games for 20+ preteens with stage/furniture appropriate for 9-11 year olds
- Permanent outdoor playground area with equipment suitable for preteen children
- Staff person leading team of 4-5 volunteers for weekly worship, groups, annual events & mission projects

GULFYOUTH:

- Develop annual rhythms of events within Worship - Grow - Connect - Serve church mission
- Weekly youth worship & discipleship groups
- Increase number of youth volunteers within church ministries
- Dedicated space for youth worship, fellowship, recreation during programs
- FT staff, part-time support staff/seasonal interns
- Increase the number of youth small groups meeting off campus

Conclusion

In order to better carry out its mission of making disciples of young people and their families, the members of Gulf Shores Methodist Church should prayerfully consider this committee's recommendations on how to best utilize its facilities, resources, and staff to provide safer and more spacious ministry environments for the discipleship of children and youth.

Barna Research Group 2004:

“...the overwhelming evidence we have seen of the huge impact in the lives of kids and the relatively limited changes in the lives of adults has completely revolutionized my view of ministry. I have concluded that children are the single most important population group for the Church to focus upon. Many churches may not go that far, but I do hope that they will at least consider the research findings and place a greater emphasis upon children. Such a shift in priorities could well bring about the spiritual renaissance that many church leaders have long been praying for.”

(<https://www.barna.com/research/research-shows-that-spiritual-maturity-process-should-start-at-a-young-age/>)

Imagine 2030

Imagine 2030 is a new five year vision and strategic plan that was developed based on the research and findings of the Joel Team.

Timeline

Imagine 2030 Begins - Fall 2024

GSMC Adopts New Mission Statement and Ministry Essentials

Guest Services - Spring 2025

Create a New Guest Services Team to Improve Visitor Experience

Discover GSMC Class - Spring 2025

A New Class Covering GSMC's Mission and Ministry Essentials

Campus Signage - Summer 2025

Update Outdoor and Indoor Signage Across the Campus

Servant Min Taskforce - Summer 2025

Begin Meeting and Planning New Servant Ministry Initiatives

Identify Pre-Teen Space - Fall 2025

Create a Space for Pre-Teen Ministry to Meet

Second Campus - Fall 2025

Form Multi-Site Leadership and a Core Team for a Second Campus

After School Tutoring - Fall 2025

Begin to Offer After School Tutoring to Elementary Aged Children

Mental Health Counseling - Spring 2026

Begin to Offer Mental Health Counseling and Group Classes

Preteen Staff - Summer 2026

Hire a Full Time Preteen Staff Person

Kids and Youth Space - Fall 2026

Open a Dedicated Kids and Youth Ministry Space

Second Campus - Fall 2026

Launch a Second Campus North of the Bridge

Relocate A Building Nursery - Spring 2027

Move Nursery Closer to the Sanctuary

Expand Tutoring - Fall 2027

Add Additional Days and Grades to After School Tutoring

Counseling Center - Spring 2028

Expand Mental Health Counseling and Resources

Begin Next Visioning Process - Spring 2029

Conclusion

By addressing the needs of both the church and our surrounding community, the strategic initiatives outlined in this report provide a clear path forward for Gulf Shores Methodist Church. Over the next five years you're invited to partner with GSMC as we live out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship, grow, serve, and connect.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21