



4th Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026
11:15 am • Sanctuary & Online

CHURCH OFFICE

4444 5th Avenue North • St. Petersburg, FL 33713
(727) 321-1335 • st-lukesumc.com

Tuesday & Thursday 9 am – 12:30 pm
The pastors are available by appointment

Co-Pastor – Rev. Erick Ashley – erick@spconnection.org
Co-Pastor – Rev. Tracie Ashley – tracie@spconnection.org
Associate Pastor – Rev. Ellie Fox – ellie@spconnection.org
Administrative Assistant – Patti Marshall – patti@spconnection.org
Director of Music – Bruce Mook
Streaming Tech – Izz Prange

Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference – Rev. Tom Berlin
Gulf Central District Superintendent – Rev. Emily Hotho

ORDER OF WORSHIP

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal • TFWS: The Faith We Sing

**Please stand as you are able*

WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship*

We come seeking freedom—not just from what binds us,
but for a new way of living.

**In Christ, we are set free—
free to love, free to serve, free to live differently.**

Even when life feels confining,
God's grace is still at work.

**Our hearts are free to worship,
and our lives become a witness.**

This is Alive in Christ—
Freedom That Changes Everything.

**We come to worship the One who frees us
and sends us to live in love. Amen**

Worship Music* | *Thine Be The Glory* – UMH 308

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *Adapted Version of The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth—
the One who created us for joy,
and whose love is deeper than our fears.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
who entered even the darkest places of our world—
and did not stay there.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead—
and in that rising,
turned sorrow into joy,
and death into life.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come again
to set all things right.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who breathes life into weary hearts
and surprises us with grace;**

**the holy catholic church,
called to be a community of hope and joy;**

**the communion of saints,
who remind us we do not walk alone;**

**the forgiveness of sins,
which frees us to live lightly and love boldly;**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting—
where joy is complete and laughter never ends.**

Gloria Patri* | *Glory Be To The Father* – UMH 70

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *And Can It Be* – UMH 363

Prayer For Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with anticipation and joy what you have for us today. Amen.**

Scripture Reading | *Acts 16: 16-34* - CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Freedom That Changes Everything* - Rev. Ellie Fox

WE RESPOND

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music | *More Love To Thee* – Bruce Mook & Patti Marshall

Doxology* | *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* - UMH 95

Offertory Prayer*

WE GO OUT

Worship Music* | *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought* – UMH 128

Benediction*

Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Sunday, April 26 • Praise in the Pressure - GROW

- When stress/frustration hits: Pause
- Name it honestly
- Then say (out loud if possible): “God is still at work here.”
- Add one small act of gratitude
- Why: Forms a non-reactive, holy response to hardship

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Welcome Girl Scouts - Today, we offer a special welcome to Girl Scout Troop 44 as they join us in worship. We are grateful for the ways you are learning, growing, and serving in our community, and we are honored to have you with us today.

Leadership Team Meeting – Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on **Monday, Apr 27 at 6:30 pm** in the JOY Room.

United Methodist Men’s Breakfast - All men of the church are invited to gather for food, fellowship, and faith at the United Methodist Men’s Breakfast on **Saturday, May 2, at 8 am**. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast, good conversation, and time to connect with one another as we grow together in faith and service. Feel free to bring a friend!

The Thrift Store – We are now open on Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm.

Considering Membership? - If you’ve been worshiping with us and feel ready to take the next step, we’d love to talk with you about becoming a member. Membership is a meaningful way to grow in faith and share in the mission of our church. Interested? Contact Patti at patti@spconnection.org.

ST. LUKE’S WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APR 26 – 4th Sunday of Easter

- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room

- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library
- **First Unity Celebration Service**, 11 am – Wesley Hall
- **St. Luke's Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

MONDAY, APR 27

- **Parkinson's Support Group**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Chair Volleyball**, 3 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 8 pm – Wesley Hall

TUESDAY, APR 28

- **Office Open**, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- **ACA**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room
- **Grace Group**, Awakened to Grace Small Group, 6:30 – Joy Room

WEDNESDAY, APR 29

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon**, 10:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **First Unity Meditation**, 6 pm – Wesley Hall
- **First Unity Music Rehearsal**, 7 pm – Wesley Hall
- **ACA Study Group**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

THURSDAY, APR 30

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon Begin**, 12 pm - Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 1

- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Food Pantry**, 5 pm – Parking Lot
- **Children/Youth**, 5:30 pm – Rec Room
- **ACA Study Group**, 5:30 – Nursery Room
- **ACA**, 6:45 pm - Nursery Room

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- **ACA**, 9 am - Nursery Room
- **Thrift Store Open**, 10 am – Thrift store
- **ACA**, 11 am – Nursery Room
- **Chair Volleyball**, 1pm – Wesley Hall

SUNDAY, MAY – 5th Sunday of Easter with Rev. Emily Hotho

- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library
- **First Unity Celebration Service**, 11 am – Wesley Hall
- **St. Luke’s Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Apr 26	FREE Community Dinner	5-6:30 pm	CV
Apr 27-May 3	Pastors Erick & Tracie away for graduations	-	-
May 2	United Methodist Men’s Breakfast	8 am	SL
May 4-6	The Pastoral Team at The Pulpit Project	-	-
May 23	Lay Servant Ministry – Basic Course Oakhurst UMC	9am - 4 pm	CV
Jun 4-6	Annual Conference Florida Southern College	-	-

KEY

Clearview (CV)	First Gulfport (FG)	Lakewood (LW)	St. Luke's (SL)
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STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of Apr 12

Worship	32
Online Worship	20
Giving Received	\$2,845.62
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78
Surplus/Loss	-\$210.16

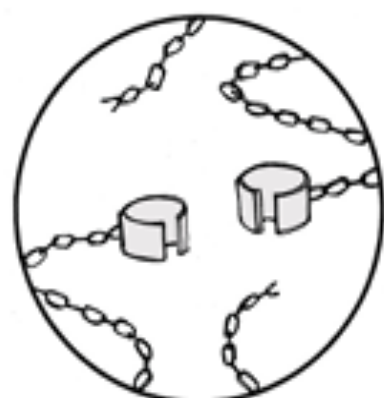
2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg)	36
Online (avg)	15
Giving Received	\$59,537.34
Giving Needed	\$48,892.48
Surplus/Loss	\$10,644.86

PRAYER REQUESTS

*COMPLETE A PRAYER CARD FROM THE PEW
AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE*

Ongoing: Madison Brown, Jennifer, JJ, Buck & Sunny Roberts, Fred Bunnell, Jr., Bev Becker, Trudy James, Cheryl Fennell.



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

— Acts 16:31

MEALTIME PRAYER

We call on your name, dear Jesus, to come and dine with us. We give you thanks for all you have given us. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*One question to ponder this week as you read: **How does God's word change who you are from the inside out?***

Sunday	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in Prison
Monday	Acts 16:35-40	Paul Released from Jail
Tuesday	Acts 10:1-23	Conversion of Cornelius, Part 1
Wednesday	Acts 10:24-33	Conversion of Cornelius, Part 2
Thursday	Acts 10:34-48	Conversion of Cornelius, Part 3
Friday	Acts 17:1-9	Paul Goes to Thessalonica
Saturday	Acts 17:10-15	Paul Goes to Beroea
Sunday	Acts 17:16-31	Paul in Athens

*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. **Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!***

SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

Using a hymnal or online search, find your favorite hymn or praise song. Sing a song of praise, together or solo. Once done, talk together or journal on how singing impacts your mood and energy.

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions as a continuation of our community's worship. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions. Adapt as necessary!

GATHERING

✚ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."

✚ Prayer of the Week

God, we sing to you songs of praise, knowing that we have been freed from the troubles of this world. Your Son, Jesus Christ has liberated our minds and removed the shackles from our hearts so that we are able to share your love with everyone. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Take a moment to check in with each other or to use the questions below.

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is one thing that made you sing praises today? What is one thing that made you sad?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul and Silas are imprisoned for spreading the good news. While there, they sing their way through an earthquake. The jailer, who fears for his life, learns about the love of Jesus from Paul. When was a time today that you were afraid? What did you do?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Paul travels to the city of Athens and speaks with the people there. Many disagree with him. When have you agreed with someone today? When have you disagreed?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Read aloud from the DAILY BIBLE READING from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

PRAY TOGETHER

✚ Sit or stand in a circle, and pray for those who are imprisoned that they might find liberty and freedom in Jesus Christ.

CLOSING

✚ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

✚ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, hold each other's hands, and say, "God frees you from all sins."

The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson of Milestones Ministry and used by permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN (www.vibrantfaith.org). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.