



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**GULFPORT**

*- the church with the teal doors -*

**Alive  
in Christ**

*A people being transformed*



**5th Sunday of Easter**

**May 3, 2026**

**11 am • Sanctuary & Online**

**CHURCH OFFICE**

2728 53<sup>rd</sup> St S • Gulfport, FL 33707

(727) 321-3620 • [fumcgulfport.org](http://fumcgulfport.org)

Monday 9 am – 1 pm & Wednesday 1 pm – 5 pm

The pastors are available by appointment

Co-Pastor – Rev. Erick Ashley – [erick@spconnection.org](mailto:erick@spconnection.org)

Co-Pastor – Rev. Tracie Ashley – [tracie@spconnection.org](mailto:tracie@spconnection.org)

Associate Pastor – Rev. Ellie Fox – [ellie@spconnection.org](mailto:ellie@spconnection.org)

Administrative Assistant – Patti Marshall – [patti@spconnection.org](mailto:patti@spconnection.org)

Director of Music – Celinda Bailey – [baileyc1@mac.com](mailto:baileyc1@mac.com)

Sophie's Attic Manager – Patti Borland | Streaming Tech – Max Turner

Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference – Rev. Tom Berlin

Gulf Central District Superintendent – Rev. Emily Hotho

# WELCOME

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Gulfport. Each and every week we look forward to this time to gather as a community. We are glad YOU are here today with us!

You can use this bulletin to help lead through worship and throughout the week. We truly hope you enjoy your time here this morning and hope you return soon.

## **Some logistics you may find helpful:**

- Worship runs about an hour, sometimes a bit shorter & sometimes a bit longer.
- Grab a nametag from the tables at the entrances. If you are a guest, our Connect Team will happily make one for you.
- Restrooms are in the courtyard, near the Fellowship Hall entrance.
- Prayer Cards are available in the pew in front of you.
- Please place your prayer card in the offering plate. It is our joy and privilege to be praying with and for you.
- We have several ways you can give financially to support the mission of FUMC Gulfport.
  1. Place cash/check in the offering plate/boxes or mail to the church.
  2. Text any amount to (727) 604-7325.
  3. Visit [fumcgulfport.org/pages/give](http://fumcgulfport.org/pages/give).
  4. Use your bank's bill payer system.

# 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\*

Worship Music\* | *Christ Is Alive* – UMH 318

## **WE PROCLAIM**

Affirmation of Faith\* | *Adapted Version of the Apostle's Creed*

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

Invitation, Confession, & Pardon – UMH 12

Passing of the Peace\*

Worship Music\* | *Open My Eyes, That I May See* – UMH 454

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Acts 17: 16-32* CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Faith in a Searching World* - Rev. Emily Hotho

## **WE RESPOND**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

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

Offertory Prayer\*

## **WE GO OUT**

Worship Music\* | *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* – UMH 402

Benediction\*

~Restrooms are in the courtyard, near the Fellowship Hall entrance~

# Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Sunday, May 3 • Holy Curiosity - CONNECT → SERVE

- Each day, ask one person a genuine question:
- “What’s been giving you life lately?”
- “What’s been weighing on you?”
- Listen without fixing or correcting
- Why: Practices meeting people where they are, like Paul in Athens

## WHAT’S HAPPENING?

**Do You Have A Name Tag?** If not, we’d love to make one for you! As part of our commitment to Connect, we’re working on getting to know one another by name. If you need a name tag, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the entrances. It’s a simple way to help us grow closer as a church family!

**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](mailto:patti@spconnection.org).

**Women's Spring Luncheon** – SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, May 16 at 1:30 pm. More information is forthcoming soon!

**First Gulfport Yard Sale Market** – Get ready for a fun day of bargains, treasures, and community! Join us on Saturday, **May 16, beginning at 9 am**, in the church parking lot, for our Yard Sale Market—everyone is invited to come and shop! **WANT TO BE A VENDOR?** This is your chance! Have things you need to get rid of? Just cleaned out a room, closet, or garage? Turn your clutter into cash and join us as a seller. Visit the website events on the front page to register. Whether you’re buying or selling, it’s going to be a great day—don’t miss it!

**Join Us for Our Monthly Potluck Dinner** – Everyone is invited to the next Potluck Dinner on June 4 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall – held on the first Wednesday of each month. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy delicious food, warm conversation, and the joy of community. There’s a place at the table for you—come hungry and bring a friend!



Invite someone to church and drop one **blue** stone in the bowl.

**#PracticeConnection**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, MAY 3** – 5th Sunday of Easter – Rev. Emily Hotho

- Adult Sunday School, 9:45 am – Room 7
- Traditional Worship, 11 am – Sanctuary & Online
- Fellowship & Coffee, 12 pm – Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY, MAY 4**

- Pastors at The Pulpit Project, Orlando
- Church Office Open, 9 am – 1 pm

**TUESDAY, MAY 5**

- Pastors at The Pulpit Project, Orlando
- Sophie's Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**

- Pastors at The Pulpit Project, Orlando
- Church Office Open, 1-5 pm
- Wednesday Night Potluck Dinner, 6 pm – Fellowship Hall

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**

- Narcotics Anonymous, 8 pm – Fellowship Hall

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

- Sophie's Attic, 9 am - 12 pm
- Alcoholics Anonymous (The Sisterhood), 6 pm - FH

## SATURDAY, MAY 9

- Sophie's Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

## SUNDAY, MAY 10 – 6th Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day

- Adult Sunday School, 9:45 am – Room 7
- Traditional Worship, 11 am – Sanctuary
- Fellowship & Coffee, 12 pm – Fellowship Hall

## SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

May 4-6	The Pastoral Team at The Pulpit Project	-	-
May 5	CLT Meeting	6:30 pm	CV
May 12	UWIF Friendship Meeting	10 am	SL
May 12	Women's Bible Study	11 am	SL
May 16	Women's Spring Luncheon	1:30 pm	GP
May 20	UWIF Luncheon Meeting	12 pm	GP
May 23	Lay Servant Ministry – Basic Course Oakhurst UMC	9am - 4 pm	CV
Jun 4-6	Annual Conference Florida Southern College	-	-
Jun 29	Pastor Sue arrives in St. Petersburg	-	-

### KEY

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

### Week of Apr 26

Worship	36
Online Worship	18
Giving Received	\$245.80
Giving Needed	\$1,230.77
Surplus/Loss	<b>-\$984.97</b>

### 2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg weekly)	45
Online (avg weekly)	15
Giving Received	\$17,128.81
Giving Needed	\$20,923.09
Surplus/Loss	<b>-\$3,794.28</b>

## PRAYER LIST

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

**Ongoing:** Alice Johnson

MAY 3, 2026

Acts 17:16-31



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"The God who made the world and everything in it...does not live in shrines made by human hands."

—Acts 17:24

## MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord, you are the Creator. It is you who give us life and breath and all good things. Thank you for this food we are about to eat. Strengthen us to share your love in the world. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing in each story? What are the people doing?***

Sunday	Acts 17:16-31	Paul in Athens
Monday	Acts 17:32-34	The Conversion of Dionysius
Tuesday	Acts 18:1-17	The Church at Corinth
Wednesday	Acts 19:1-10	The Church at Ephesus
Thursday	Acts 19:21-22; 20:17-28	Paul Leaves Ephesus
Friday	Acts 22:1-11	Paul Tells His Story
Saturday	Acts 22:12-21	Paul Continues His Story
Sunday	Philippians 1:1-18a	The Church in Philippi

*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.*

Paul was a master communicator. Call someone you have not spoken to in a while and ask how they are doing.

# 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

Beloved Lord, Paul was excited about you and told everyone who would listen about your love. Let everyone who we meet with this week know that we follow Jesus by our love. Amen.

## CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ✚ **Highs & Lows:** Who did you talk to today who listened to you? Who did not listen to you?
- ✚ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul explained that God gives us all good things. Name three things about today that you are thankful for.
- ✚ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's Scripture, Paul is writing a letter while he is in prison, but he is joyful and sees the good in his circumstances. Name something you did not like about your day, and then work together to figure out something good in that circumstance.

## 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 in a circle and go around, each saying a prayer for people in different parts of the world.

## 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, mark one another with the sign of the cross on each other's hands or forehead, and say, "In God you live and move and have your being."*

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](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.