



5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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 from a world full of questions,
searching for meaning.

We come trusting God meets us here.

Even before we arrive, God is already at work—

In our lives and in the world around us.

In Christ, we are awakened to this grace—

A life that is Alive in Christ.

Let us worship with open hearts.

Ready to listen, learn, and grow.

Amen!

Worship Music* | *Christ Is Alive* – UMH 318 vs. 1,2,3,5

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

Invitation, Confession, & Pardon – UMH 12

Passing of the Peace*

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

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 17: 16-31* - CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Faith in a Searching World* – Rev. Ellie Fox

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*

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?

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.

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

UWIF Friendship Circle – Come and join us for faith and fellowship on **Tuesday, May 12, at 10 am**, Joy Room, followed by a Women’s bible study at **11 am**.

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

ST. LUKE’S WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 3 – 5th Sunday of Easter

- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **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, MAY 4

- **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, MAY 5

- **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, MAY 6

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - 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, MAY 7

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon Begin**, 12 pm - Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **Development Team**, 6:30 pm – Joy Room
- **AA**, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 8

- **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 9

- **ACA**, 9 am - Nursery Room
- **Thrift Store Open**, 10 am – 2 pm - Thrift store
- **ACA**, 11 am – Nursery Room
- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall

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

- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **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

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	33
Online Worship	16
Giving Received	\$1,312.44
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78
Surplus/Loss	-\$1,743.34

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg)	36
Online (avg)	15
Giving Received	\$60,849.78
Giving Needed	\$51,948.26
Surplus/Loss	\$8,901.52

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

April 26: Charlie BeVille, traveling mercies for Pastors Erick & Tracie

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

"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). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.