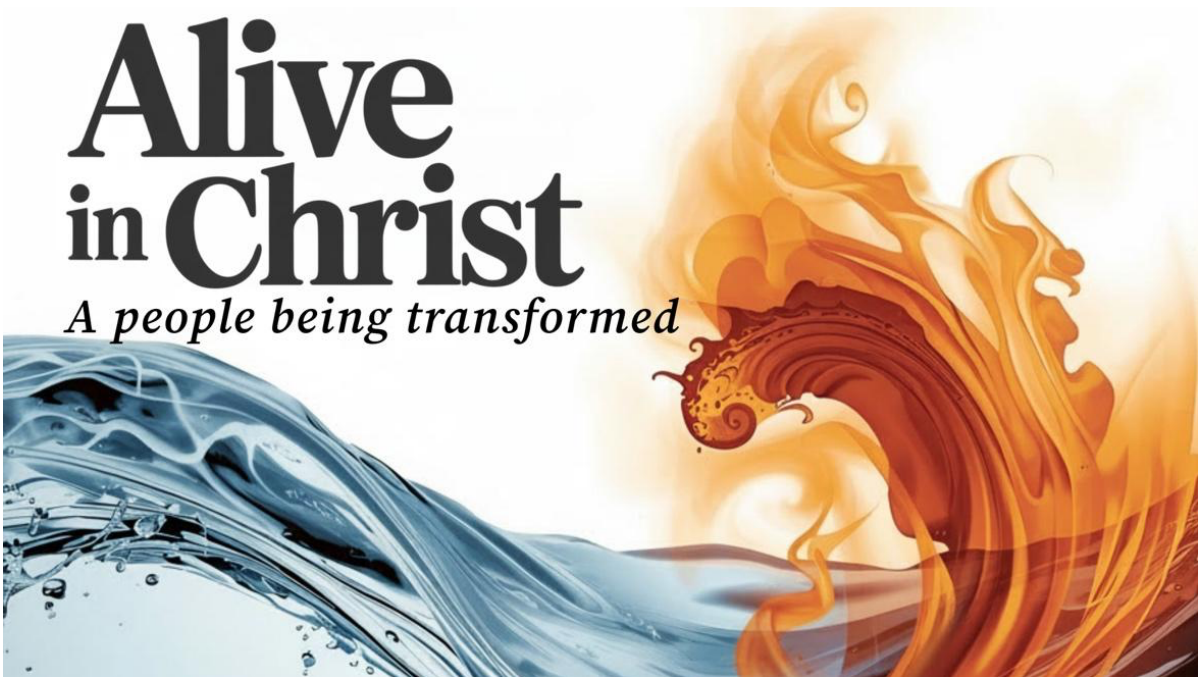


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GULFPORT

- the church with the teal doors -

Alive in Christ

A people being transformed



7th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

11 am • Sanctuary & Online

CHURCH OFFICE

2728 53rd St S • Gulfport, FL 33707

(727) 321-3620 • 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

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 – Celinda Bailey – 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.
 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* | *Thine Be the Glory* – UMH 308

WE PROCLAIM

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *Take My Life, and Let It Be* – UMH 399

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Philippians 2: 1-13* CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *The Shape of a Transformed Life* - Rev. Erick Ashley

WE RESPOND

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

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

Offertory Prayer*

WE GO OUT

Worship Music* | *I Surrender All* – UMH 354

Benediction*



**CONNECT
ONE.
DROP ONE.**

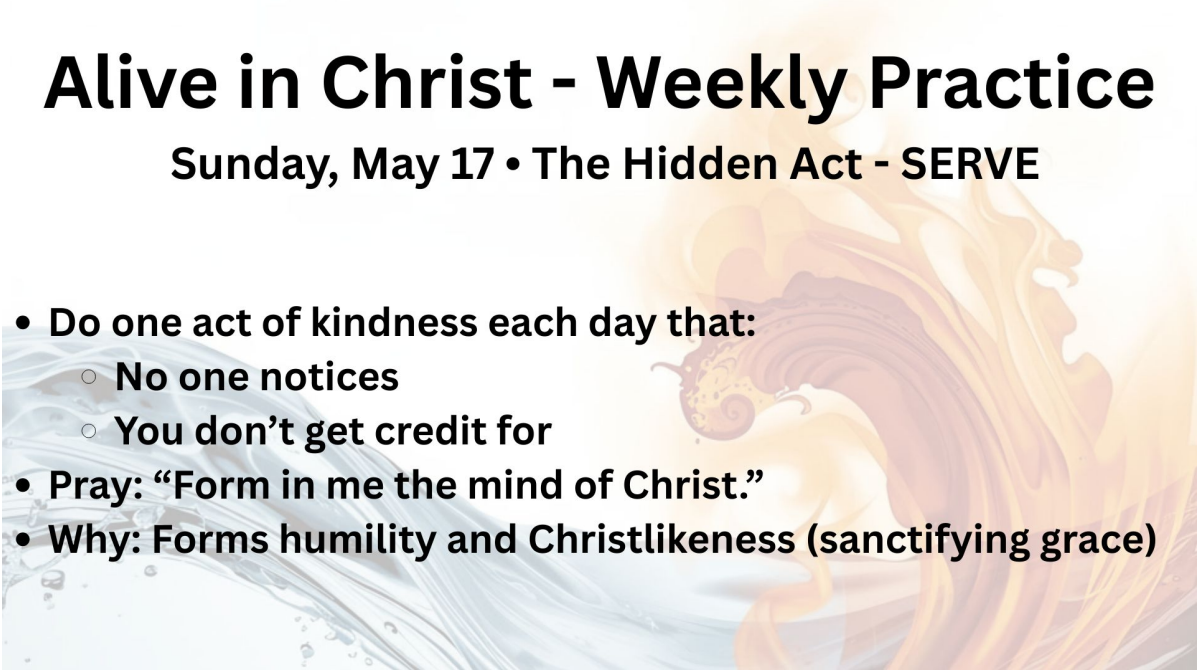
Invite someone to church and
drop one **blue** stone in the bowl.

#PracticeConnection

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Sunday, May 17 • The Hidden Act - SERVE

- 
- Do one act of kindness each day that:
 - No one notices
 - You don't get credit for
 - Pray: "Form in me the mind of Christ."
 - Why: Forms humility and Christlikeness (sanctifying grace)

Thank You, Pastor Ellie - Pastor Ellie will be visiting each of our churches over the coming weeks to preach one final time and share in goodbye and celebration. We invite you to join us as we give thanks for her faithful ministry, leadership, and love for the churches of the South Pinellas Connection. Let's celebrate all God has done through her ministry among us.

- St. Luke's United Methodist Church – May 24
- Clearview United Methodist Church – May 31
- Lakewood United Methodist Church – June 7
- First United Methodist Church of Gulfport – June 14

Love Offering For Pastor Ellie - As Pastor Ellie prepares for a new appointment, we invite you to share in a love offering to thank her for her faithful ministry at First Gulfport. Donations may be given to Ken Blackman or placed in the collection box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping us bless Pastor Ellie as we celebrate her ministry among us!

Summer Pastoral Internship - This summer, the churches of the South Pinellas Connection are excited to welcome our pastoral ministry intern, Izz Prange! Izz will serve across our SPC churches as part of the 10-week Florida Conference Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program. Izz is already active at St. Luke's. Be sure to welcome her as she learns, serves, and grows with us this summer!

United Women in Faith - Join us on **Wednesday, May 20 at 12 pm** in the Fellowship Hall for a time of lunch, Bible study, and an engaging program. All are welcome—come as you are and bring a friend!

Memorial Day Wednesday Night Dinner - Join us for the final Wednesday Night Dinner of the season on **May 27, at 6 pm** in the Fellowship Hall! We'll celebrate Memorial Day weekend with a fun cookout meal prepared by our Leadership Board. Come enjoy great food, fellowship, and fun as we wrap up another wonderful season of Wednesday gatherings. Donations are welcome.

Sophie's Attic Thrift Store - We are currently accepting donations! Items especially needed at this time include kitchen items, household goods, and home décor. Your donations help support this ministry and provide affordable items for our community. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Pentecost Sunday is next week! As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church, everyone is invited to wear red on **May 24**, as a symbol of the Spirit's fire & presence. We look forward to celebrating together!

Connect One. Drop One - Who is someone you could invite? Every invitation is an act of love and connection. Through our "Connect One. Drop One." initiative, we invite you to prayerfully invite one person to worship, Wednesday Night Dinner, Bible study, or another church event. Then, each time you extend an invitation, drop one blue stone into the jar in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.

We're not counting people—we're practicing connection. One conversation, one invitation at a time. Join us as we connect with our community and share Christ's love together.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 17 – 7th Sunday of Easter

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

MONDAY, MAY 18

- Church Office open, 9am – 1pm

TUESDAY, MAY 19

- Sophie's Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- United Women in Faith, 12 pm
- Church Office Open, 1-5 pm
- Wednesday Night Dinner, 6 pm – Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, MAY 21

- Narcotics Anonymous, 8 pm – Room 7

FRIDAY, MAY 22

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

SATURDAY, MAY 23

- Sophie's Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 24 – Pentecost Sunday

- 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 20	UWIF Luncheon Meeting	12 pm	GP
May 23	Lay Servant Ministry – Basic Course Oakhurst UMC	9am - 4 pm	CV
May 24	Pentecost Sunday – wear red	-	ALL
May 24	FREE Community Dinner	5-6:30 pm	CV
Jun 4-6	Annual Conference Florida Southern College	-	-
Jun 14	Pastor Ellie's Last Day	-	ALL
Jun 10-17	The Ashleys on Vacation	-	ALL
Jun 21	New Summer Series: Bible Beach Reads	-	ALL
Jun 29	Pastor Sue arrives in St. Petersburg	-	ALL

KEY

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

Week of May 10		2026 Year To Date	
Worship	41	Worship (avg weekly)	45
Online Worship	10	Online (avg weekly)	15
Giving Received	\$561.10	Giving Received	\$18,463.61
Giving Needed	\$1,230.77	Giving Needed	\$23,384.63
Surplus/Loss	-\$669.67	Surplus/Loss	-\$4,921.02

PRAYER LIST

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

May 10 My Grandfather with his eye surgery complication (Sam Blackman); Bella Stewart fighting peripheral artery disease, Marilyn for agoraphobia, anxiety, & depression, Lee Mackay for job security (Coco Best)

May 3: Bill & Norma Strickler (Kris' mother and father-in-law)

Ongoing: Alice Johnson



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

—Philippians 2:8

MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord of All, thank you for the food before us, and thank you for all of the people who helped this food get from the field to our table. Strengthen us to humbly serve others. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read this week, ask yourself: **What is Paul talking about in this letter? What connection can you make to your life?***

Sunday	Philippians 2:1-13	Living Like Jesus
Monday	Philippians 2:14-18	Paul Rejoices in the Philippians
Tuesday	Philippians 2:19–3:1a	Paul Sends Timothy
Wednesday	Philippians 3:1b-6	Paul Tells His Story Again
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-16	Paul Counts Everything Else as Loss
Friday	Philippians 3:17–4:1	Paul Exhorts the Philippians
Saturday	Philippians 4:10-20	Paul's Farewell
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7	The Holy Spirit

*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.

As you go through your week, find small ways to serve each other. If the one you are serving sees you, give a quick bow and say, "Your humble servant."

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**

Jesus, you are the king of all creation, but you humbled yourself to serve the world you love. Grant us humble hearts to serve those around us. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- 💡 **Highs & Lows:** Where have you found joy today? What has brought you sadness?
- 💡 **Thinking about This Week's Story:** This week, Paul is writing about being humble and loving like Jesus. When did you see love in action today? When was love missing?
- 💡 **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** When the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, everyone is amazed to hear the good news in their own language. What is something that you heard today that was amazing? What was something that you heard that was troubling?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Pray for leaders today, including parents, teachers, supervisors, influential people, and government officials. Pray that they serve with humble hearts and are blessed.

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, "Love others as Jesus loves you. Amen."

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/>.