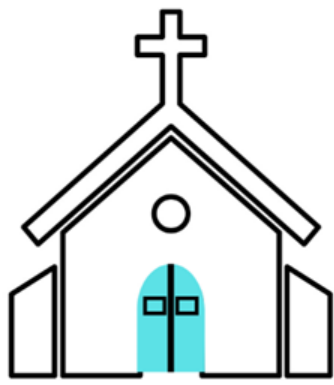




FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**GULFPORT**  
*- the church with the teal doors -*



**August 9th, 2026**  
**11:15 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

**Your Pastoral Team**

Rev. Erick Ashley – [erick@spconnection.org](mailto:erick@spconnection.org)  
Rev. Tracie Ashley – [tracie@spconnection.org](mailto:tracie@spconnection.org)  
Rev. Sue Garcia – [sue@spconnection.org](mailto:sue@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](https://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

Prelude

Call to Worship\*

Hymn\* | *Forth In Thy Name, O Lord* – UMH 438

## **WE PROCLAIM**

Affirmation of Faith\* | *The Apostles' Creed* – UMH 881

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

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace\*

Hymn\* | *Take My Life and Let It Be* – UMH 399

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *James 1:19–21 (NIV Reader's Version)*

Choral Response | *Spirit Of The Living God* – UMH 393

Message | *THINK Before You Speak* – Rev. Tracie 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**

Hymn\* | *Amazing Grace* – UMH 378 (alternate lyrics)

Benediction\*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**South Pinellas Connection Combined Worship Celebration** – Join us on Sunday, August 16, at 11:15 am at St. Luke's United Methodist Church for a special combined worship service with all the churches of the South Pinellas Connection.

We are honored to welcome Bishop Tom Berlin, who will launch our new worship series, *Jesus Is Lord*, and preach from his new book. Bring your copy if you'd like it signed after the service!

Following worship, stay for a Connection-wide Potluck Dinner. St. Luke's will provide the drinks and paper goods; just bring a favorite dish to share.

**Join a GROW Group** - Continue the journey by participating in one of our Jesus Is Lord GROW Groups. Together we'll explore Bishop Berlin's book through scripture, conversation, and fellowship. Choose the group that works best for you:

- Clearview: Sundays at 10:45 am or Mondays at 6:45 pm
- First Gulfport: Sundays at 10 am or Mondays at 6:30 pm
- St. Luke's: Sundays at 10 am or Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
- Lakewood: Tuesdays at 10:30 am

Come grow in faith, build relationships, and deepen your walk with Christ.

**Sing in the Connection Choir** - Everyone is welcome to be part of the special choir for Bishop Berlin's visit! Rehearsals will be held in the St. Luke's sanctuary. Please attend as many rehearsals as you are able as we prepare to make a joyful noise together.

- Tuesday, August 11 – 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, August 12 – 4:30 pm
- Sunday, August 16 – 10:30 am

**Bring a Dish for the Potluck Lunch** - Join us after worship for a Connection-wide Potluck Lunch! Bring your favorite dish to share as we enjoy great food and fellowship with friends from across our churches. St. Luke's will provide the drinks and paper goods. We hope you'll stay and be part of this special time together! Look for St Luke's Greeters for where to drop off your food.

**Childcare Available** – Childcare will be available during the Combined Worship Service. The nursery opens at 11 am for infants through age 4 and is available throughout the service. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend the beginning of worship before being dismissed to Children's Church during the service.

**The Bishop's Book** – *Jesus Is Lord* is available for \$18. Payment may be made by cash, check (payable to the church; please write "Book" in the memo line), or online (payment details coming soon). A Kindle edition is also available online at a lower cost.

Bishop Tom Berlin will be available to sign books following our Combined Worship Service on August 16, so be sure to bring your copy!

We don't want the cost of the book to keep anyone from participating in the study. If you need assistance purchasing a copy, please speak with one of the pastors. We look forward to GROWing together!

**Save the Date: Town Hall Meeting** – Our Leadership Board will host a Town Hall Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, August 23. Please plan to stay for some important financial updates about our church and opportunities for the future.

And don't worry—we'll bring the coffee to you, so there's no need to head to the Fellowship Hall first.

**Connect One. Drop One** - Who can you invite this week? A simple invitation to worship, Sunday School, or a church event could be the very thing someone needs. Each time you extend an invitation, drop a blue stone into the jar as a reminder that together we're sharing Christ's love—one conversation, one invitation, and one person at a time.

**SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES**

|                   |                                                                               |              |     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| Aug 9             | Back-To-School Sunday                                                         | 9:30 & 11:15 | ALL |
| Aug 11, 12        | Connection Choir Rehearsals<br>(see announcement above)                       | Varies       | SL  |
| Aug 16            | Combined Worship at St. Luke's<br>Bishop Tom Berlin Preaching                 | 11:15 am     | SL  |
| Week of<br>Aug 23 | New <i>Jesus is Lord</i> Study Groups Begin<br>(All Church Campuses & Online) | See Above    | ALL |

**KEY**

|                |                     |               |                 |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Clearview (CV) | First Gulfport (FG) | Lakewood (LW) | St. Luke's (SL) |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|

**STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS**

| Week of August 2 |            | 2026 Year To Date |              |
|------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Worship          | 24         | Worship (avg)     | 39           |
| Online Worship   | 31         | Online (avg)      | 15           |
| Giving Received  | \$949.80   | Giving Received   | \$23,470.88  |
| Giving Needed    | \$1,230.77 | Giving Needed     | \$38,153.87  |
| Surplus/Loss     | -\$280.97  | Surplus/Loss      | -\$14,682.99 |

**GULFPORT WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9**

- **Adult Sunday School**, 10 am – Room 7
- **Traditional Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **Fellowship & Coffee**, 12:15 pm – Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY, AUGUST 10**

- **Church Office Open** 9 am – 1 pm

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11**

- **Sophie’s Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm
- **SPC Choir Practice**, 6:30 pm – St. Luke's Sanctuary

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12**

- **Church Office Open**, 1-5 pm
- **SPC Choir Practice**, 4:30 pm – St. Luke's Sanctuary

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 13**

- **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 pm – Room 7

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 14**

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

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 15**

- **Sophie’s Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 – Bishop Berlin**

- **Combined Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary – St. Luke’s
- **Potluck Luncheon**, 12:15 pm – Wesley Hall – St. Luke’s

**THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST**

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

**Gulfport:** No requests this week

**Ongoing:** Alice Johnson, Allison (Cindy & Per Lee’s granddaughter), Willie

**Clearview:** Ruth Katzen is having severe pain in her back, hip, & knee on her left side. She had an MRI last Tuesday, and we will find out this Wednesday; please pray that they can do something to help her (Andy Cantara); Matt Burdewick is being deployed this week (Karen & Jim Burdewick); my friend Diana, her mom was diagnosed with kidney cancer (Shelly C.)

**Clearview Ongoing:** Pamela Arnold, Cassie Berg, Eileen Clark, Carol Comerford, Kathy Davis, Stephen Davis, Trevor Davis, Tim Deacon, Genevieve DeHoog, John Goude, Theresa Goude, Amy Gordon, Mary Grau, Robert “Skip” Hanshe, Ruth Hockersmith, DeeDee Hornby, Marc Jones, Nelson Kimber, Charlotte Klotzbach, Ian Kolaczyk, Carolyn McGovern, Sabrina Mull, Kristie Owens, Jim Patterson, Scott Pierce, Tammi Radcliff, George Roth, Sr., Logan Sullivan, Crystal, Hilary, Kelly, Lydi, Max, Blayne, Amber, George, Steve & Alba

**Lakewood:** No requests this week

**St. Luke’s:** Prayers for Larry Frye; he is undergoing an abdominal procedure on Wednesday morning.

**St. Luke's Ongoing:** Annalise, Bev Becker, Charlie BeVille, Madison Brown, Fred Bunnell, Jr., Lisa Duffy, Cheryl Fennell, Larry Frye, Eric Harvey, Trudy James, The Lieber family, The Leonard Family, Geraldine Parsons, Buck & Sunny Roberts, Harriett Swartzmiller, Justin Wells, Jennifer, JJ

**South Pinellas Active-Duty Military:** Seth Crist, Will Dudley, Casey Linde-Powers

# THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

*Jesus Is Lord: Colossians 2:6–7*

## GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that Jesus is present and that his loving lordship reaches every part of our lives.

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, you call us beyond words into a life shaped by your love. Bring our beliefs and our actions into harmony. Guide our relationships, habits, priorities, and values so that others may recognize your grace in us. Teach us to depend on you, submit to your way, and discover the joy and purpose of life under your lordship. Amen.

**CARING CONVERSATION** - Take a few moments to check in with one another.

Highs & Lows

- What is one thing that brought you joy this week?
- Where do you need a fresh start?

## THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

*So, live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him. — Colossians 2:6 (CEB)*

The earliest Christians confessed three life-changing words: Jesus is Lord. This was more than a statement of belief. It meant trusting Jesus enough to let his teaching reshape the way they lived.

- What do you think it means to call Jesus ‘Lord’?
- Where is it easiest for your beliefs and actions to agree?
- What part of your life is hardest to place under Christ’s direction?
- How might a church or community change when Jesus is truly Lord?

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS** - As you read this week, ask: **What changes when Jesus is truly Lord of our lives?**

| DAY       | READING            | THEME                                |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | James 1:19–21      | <i>Faith That Shapes Our Conduct</i> |
| Monday    | Exodus 3:13–15     | <i>The Name of the Lord</i>          |
| Tuesday   | Psalms 24          | <i>The Lord of All Creation</i>      |
| Wednesday | Luke 6:43–49       | <i>Lordship and Obedience</i>        |
| Thursday  | Mark 8:27–35       | <i>Who Do You Say Jesus Is?</i>      |
| Friday    | Romans 10:9–13     | <i>Confess Jesus as Lord</i>         |
| Saturday  | Philippians 2:5–11 | <i>Every Tongue Will Confess</i>     |
| Sunday    | Colossians 2:6–7   | <i>Live in Christ the Lord</i>       |

*If your household includes children, feel free to use a children’s Bible or summarize the readings in simple language.*

## DEVOTIONAL

When the first Christians named what they believed, they offered three words: Jesus is Lord. Those words were simple, but they changed everything.

The disciples had already walked beside Jesus. They heard his teaching and witnessed his miracles, yet they were often confused, reactive, and afraid. After the resurrection, they understood that Jesus was more than a teacher or companion. He was Lord. As they surrendered themselves to him, fearful disciples became courageous witnesses.

Calling Jesus ‘Lord’ means more than being grateful that he saves us. It means trusting him to lead us. A lord is not someone whose advice we consider only when it is convenient. To confess Jesus as Lord is to let his way shape our relationships, habits, priorities, values, words, and decisions.

Tom Berlin suggests that two revealing questions about a life are: 1) What did this person believe? 2) How did this person live? Christian discipleship becomes compelling when those answers belong together—when our lives flow from the faith we profess.

This does not mean we become perfect overnight. Transformation grows as we remain rooted in Christ, depend on his grace, practice his teaching, and allow the Holy Spirit to direct us. Jesus is a loving Lord who welcomes prodigals home, forgives sin, and leads us toward a life richer than the one we could build alone.

What would happen if, wherever we went, we asked what it means for Jesus to be Lord in that moment? Our choices might change. Our relationships might heal. Our churches might become agents of grace, justice, and community transformation. When Jesus is truly Lord, belief becomes practice—and life is transformed.

## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Invite each person to name one area of life they want to place more fully under Christ’s direction. Then pray together:

Lord, we confess that you are our Savior and our Lord. Forgive us when our actions do not reflect what we say we believe. Root us deeply in your love and shape us into people whose relationships, habits, priorities, and values look like yours. Transform our lives, our church, and our community through your grace. Amen.

## **MEALTIME PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank you for this food and for everyone gathered here. May our life together reflect your love and may all we do honor you as Lord. Amen.

## **SERVICE CHALLENGE - *This is one way we share God’s love with the world.***

At the beginning of each day this week, pray: ‘Jesus, be Lord of my life today.’

Choose one relationship, habit, priority, or decision and ask how it might look different if it were fully shaped by Christ. Then take one faithful step.

## **CLOSING & BLESSING**

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that Christ’s light continues to guide those who live under his loving lordship.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another’s hands or foreheads and say: **‘Jesus is Lord. Root your life in him, follow his way, and let his love transform you.’**