



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



Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026
9:30 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

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

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* | *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* – UMH 280

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *The Apostle's Creed* – UMH 881

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

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* – UMH 277

Children's Moment

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *John 19: 16b-22* CEB

Message | *Expectations Untied* - Rev. Ellie Fox

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* | *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* – UMH 298

Benediction*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Holy Week Worship Opportunities - Join us as we walk through the sacred story of Holy Week together across the South Pinellas Connection churches.

- **Maundy Thursday, Apr 2 at First UMC Gulfport, 12 pm and 7 pm.** Remember the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love and serve one another.
- **Good Friday, Apr 3 at Clearview UMC, 12 pm and 7 pm.** A solemn service reflecting on the cross and the depth of Christ's sacrifice.
- **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4, from 9–10 am.** Kids will enjoy an exciting egg hunt, fun games, and a chance to hear the Easter story in a way they can understand and remember. It's a great morning for families to celebrate together!
- **Silent Saturday Experience, Apr 4 at St. Luke's UMC, 1 pm.** A quiet, reflective prayer experience as we wait in hope between the cross and the resurrection. All are welcome to join us for these meaningful moments of worship and reflection during Holy Week.

Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday - Deadline is TODAY. Help us fill the sanctuary with the beauty of Easter lilies this Easter Sunday! You are invited to purchase a lily, \$15 each, in honor or in memory of a loved one as a meaningful way to celebrate the resurrection and remember those dear to your heart. Order forms are available in this Sunday's bulletin.

Yard Sale Market – Join us for our Yard Sale Market on April 18, starting at 9 am! Come enjoy a great time of fellowship and community.

Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success, and your support is appreciated! Interested in being a vendor? You can do that too! Contact the church office for details or to sign up.

Combined Worship - Holy Humor Sunday - Holy Humor Sunday is a joyful and lighthearted celebration observed on the second Sunday of Easter, rooted in the early church tradition of "Bright Sunday," when believers continued to celebrate the resurrection with laughter and joy.

Inspired by Psalm 126:2–3, "Our mouths were filled with laughter... The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy," this day reminds us that Easter is not only meaningful, but also full of delight. Churches today carry on this spirit with playful worship, upbeat music, and a sense of celebration that proclaims God's victory over sin and death.

All churches from the South Pinellas Connection will join us at First UMC Gulfport, at 10:15 am, on April 12th for this joyful day filled with laughter, faith, and celebration... and that's no joke!

Comedy Night with Juanita Lolita - Friday, April 10 • 7 pm • FUMC Gulfport

Get ready to laugh for a great cause as we kick off a joyful Holy Humor weekend with the South Pinellas Connection!

Join us for an unforgettable night of clean, high-energy comedy with Juanita Lolita—one of Florida's funniest talents, performing across the country and known for her relatable stories and quick wit. Recently recognized as "Best of the Bay" and a finalist in national comedy competitions, Juanita delivers big laughs without the cringe, making this a perfect night out for everyone.

- ✨ Clean, hilarious fun for all ages
- ✨ A nationally recognized comedian right in your backyard
- ✨ A night of laughter that supports a meaningful cause

Tickets are just \$5 and can be purchased online or through the Church Office.

Bring your friends, your family, and your sense of humor—because this isn't just a comedy show... it's a chance to laugh loud, feel good, and celebrate joy together.

FUMC GULFPORT WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAR 29 – Palm Sunday

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

MONDAY, MAR 30

- **Church Office Open**, 9 am – 1 pm

TUESDAY, MAR 31

- **Sophie's Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm

WEDNESDAY, APR 1

- **Church Office Open**, 1-5 pm
- **Wednesday Night Dinner**, 6 pm – Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, APR 2

- **Maundy Thursday Worship**, 12 pm & 7 pm – Sanctuary
- **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 pm – Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, APR 3

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

SATURDAY, APR 4

- **Sophie's Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm

SUNDAY, APR 5 – Easter Sunday

- **Easter Sunrise**, 7 am – Gulfport Beach
- **Easter Breakfast**, 8:15 am – Fellowship Hall
- **Adult Sunday School**, 9:45 am – Room 7
- **Traditional Worship**, 11 am – Sanctuary
- **Fellowship & Coffee**, 12 pm – Fellowship Hall

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION

UPCOMING DATES

| | | | |
|--------|---|-----------|-----|
| Mar 29 | Palm Sunday | - | ALL |
| Apr 2 | Maundy Thursday Worship | 12 & 7 pm | GP |
| Apr 3 | Good Friday Worship | 12 & 7 pm | CV |
| Apr 4 | United Methodist Men's Breakfast | 8 am | SL |
| Apr 4 | Easter Egg Hunt | 9-10 am | CV |
| Apr 4 | Silent Saturday Prayer Space | 1 pm | SL |
| Apr 5 | Easter Sunrise – Gulfport Beach | 7 am | ALL |
| Apr 5 | Easter | - | ALL |
| Apr 10 | Comedy Night with Juanita Lolita | 7 pm | ALL |
| Apr 12 | SPC Combined Worship Service Holy Humor Sunday | 10:15 am | FG |

KEY

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

STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

| Week of Mar 22 | | 2026 Year To Date | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Worship | 54 | Worship (avg weekly) | 40 |
| Online Worship | 14 | Online (avg weekly) | 13 |
| Giving Received | \$297.00 | Giving Received | \$13,105.80 |
| Giving Needed | \$1,230.77 | Giving Needed | \$14,769.24 |
| Surplus/Loss | -\$933.77 | Surplus/Loss | -\$1,663.44 |

PRAYER LIST

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

Ongoing: Stan Zent and his family; Alice Johnson



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"
—John 19:5

MEALTIME PRAYER

Spirit of God, fall fresh on us as we eat and drink with one another. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What do you understand? What questions do you have?***

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | John 19:1-16a | Jesus Is Sentenced |
| Monday | John 16:8-12 | The Spirit Will Teach |
| Tuesday | John 16:13-16 | The Spirit Will Guide You to Truth |
| Wednesday | John 16:17-22 | The Disciples Will See Jesus Again |
| Thursday | John 16:23-28 | Ask and You Shall Receive |
| Friday | John 16:29-33 | The Disciples Will Be Scattered |
| Saturday | John 17:6-9 | Jesus Prays for His Disciples |
| Sunday | John 19:16b-22 [12:12-27] | A Different Kind of King |

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.

Make a plan to do some outside spring cleaning in your neighborhood.

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 of all, many things happen in our lives that we do not understand. In these times, may our faith rise up and remind us that you are God! Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ✠ **Highs & Lows:** What was one thing that happened today that made you angry or sad? What was one thing that made you happy?
- ✠ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** The religious leaders were angry at Jesus and wanted him killed. What happened today where someone acted out of anger?
- ✠ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Next week, we will hear about Jesus coming into Jerusalem with celebration, and also about Jesus being nailed onto the cross. What happened today that made you want to celebrate? What happened that made you sad?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Have each person give thanks to God for something that makes them happy. Pray for God's help with something that makes them sad.

CLOSING

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

✠ **Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share**

Hold hands while someone recites 2 Corinthians 13:14: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 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/>.

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