



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



Easter Sunday
April 5, 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

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* | *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today* – UMH 302

WE PROCLAIM

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

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

Invitation, Confession & Pardon

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *Up From The Grave He Arose* – UMH 322

Children's Moment

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *John 20: 1-18* CEB

Choral Response | *Alleluia* – UMH 186

Message | *Named and Sent* - Rev. Tracie Ashley

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* | *He Lives* – UMH 310

Benediction*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Considering Membership? Are you feeling called to take the next step in your faith journey? We'd love to walk with you as you consider becoming a member of our church family.

Join Pastor Tracie, on **Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 pm**, to learn what church membership means in the United Methodist Church. All are welcome!

Join Us For A FUN Night Of Comedy - Kick off a joyful Holy Humor weekend with the South Pinellas Connection! Join us at First UMC Gulfport on Friday, April 10 for a night of clean, high-energy comedy with Juanita Lolita—one of Florida's funniest rising stars, known for her relatable stories, quick wit, and "Best of the Bay" recognition.

Doors open at 6:15 pm. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door. Refreshments will be available for a donation.

Come enjoy big laughs, great company, and a meaningful cause—bring your friends, family, and your sense of humor!

Combined Worship: South Pinellas Connection & Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday is a joyful celebration on the second Sunday of Easter, rooted in the early church's tradition of "Bright Sunday," when believers continued celebrating the resurrection with laughter and joy. Inspired by Psalm 126:2–3, this day reminds us that Easter is not only meaningful—it's full of delight! Expect playful worship, upbeat music, and plenty of laughter as we celebrate God's victory over sin and death. Join all the South Pinellas Connection churches at First UMC Gulfport at 10:15 am for this joyful day... and that's no joke!

First UMC Gulfport Yard Sale Market – Get ready for a fun day of bargains, treasures, and community! Join us on Saturday, April 18, 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. Whether you're buying or selling, it's going to be a great day—don't miss it!

FUMC GULFPORT WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APR 5 – Easter Sunday

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

MONDAY, APR 6

- **Church Office Closed for Easter Monday**

TUESDAY, APR 7

- **Sophie's Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm
- **Membership Class**, 6:30 pm – Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, APR 8

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

THURSDAY, APR 9

- **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 pm – Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, APR 10

- **Sophie's Attic**, 9 am - 12 pm
- **Alcoholics Anonymous (The Sisterhood)**, 6 pm – Room 7
- **Comedy Night with Juanita Lolita**, 7 pm – Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, APR 11

- **Sophie's Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm

SUNDAY, APR 12

- **Adult Sunday School**, 9:45 am – Room 7
- **Combined Worship**, 10:15 am – Sanctuary
- **Fellowship & Coffee**, 12 pm – Fellowship Hall

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Apr 10	Comedy Night with Juanita Lolita	7 pm	FG
Apr 12	SPC Combined Worship Service Holy Humor Sunday	10:15 am	FG
Apr 18	Yard Sale Market	9 am	FG

KEY

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

STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of Mar 29		2026 Year To Date	
Worship	48	Worship (avg weekly)	41
Online Worship	20	Online (avg weekly)	14
Giving Received	\$292.80	Giving Received	\$13,398.60
Giving Needed	\$1,230.77	Giving Needed	\$16,000.01
Surplus/Loss	-\$937.97	Surplus/Loss	-\$2,601.41

PRAYER LIST

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

Ongoing: Stan Zent and his family; Alice Johnson

APRIL 5, 2026

John 20:1-18



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

- John 20:18b

MEALTIME PRAYER

Glory, hallelujah! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Let us celebrate the risen Son of God with food and drink. Come, Lord Jesus, around our table and be alive in our hearts today. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Ask yourself as you read: How do each of these stories show praise to God?

Sunday	John 20:1-18	Jesus Is Risen!
Monday	Psalms 22:19-22	Lament Turned to Praise, Part 1
Tuesday	Psalms 22:23-26	Lament Turned to Praise, Part 2
Wednesday	Psalms 22:27-31	Lament Turned to Praise, Part 3
Thursday	Isaiah 44:6-8	God Calls the People to Be Witnesses
Friday	Isaiah 53:1-6	The Song of the Suffering Servant
Saturday	Isaiah 53:7-12	Like a Lamb Led to Slaughter
Sunday	John 20:19-31	The Disciples Believe the Good News

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.

Plant a couple of seeds of your favorite fruit or vegetable in some cups. Make sure you water your seeds and place the cups in a sunny spot. Once the plants are six inches, transplant either into the ground or into pots. Watch new life grow!

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

In the midst of chaos, God, you raised your Son from the dead. The women marveled, and the disciples believed. Help us to see your empty tomb and to live out your resurrection story in our lives. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ✧ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that happened today that was glorious. Name one thing that happened that was not so glorious.
- ✧ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Jesus is no longer dead in the tomb, but he has been raised. Mary rushes to the tomb and finds it empty. Finally, Jesus speaks with Mary in the garden. How amazing would it be to meet Jesus in the garden like Mary! What does it mean to see Jesus in your life? Where do you see Jesus today?
- ✧ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Jesus appears first to Mary, and then to the disciples. Many of them were surprised to see Jesus, but Thomas doubted. What was a time today that you felt doubt or uncertainty?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✧ Invite each person say a simple prayer of thanks, aloud or silently. At the end of each person's prayer, say: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

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, hold hands with one another, and say, "Let's go out and share God's love. 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/>.