

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

Holy Humor Sunday



Holy Humor Sunday
April 12, 2026
10:15 am • Sanctuary & Online

A combined worship service of the South Pinellas Connection

OFFICE HOURS

First Gulfport: Monday 9 am-1 pm & Wednesday 1-5 pm

Clearview: Tuesday & Thursday 1-5 pm

Lakewood: Wednesday 9 am-12:30 pm

St. Luke's: Tuesday & Thursday 9 am-12:30 pm

~The pastors are available by appt~

THE SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION STAFF

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

First Gulfport Director of Music – Celinda Bailey

First Gulfport Sophie's Attic Manager – Patti Borland

First Gulfport Streaming Tech – Max Turner

Clearview Custodian – Tony Stowers

Lakewood Custodian – Amy Barker

St. Luke's Director of Music – Bruce Mook

St. Luke's Streaming Tech – Izz Prange

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* | *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* – UMH 89

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *An Adapted version of The Apostles' Creed*

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *Hark The Herald/Go Tell It On The Mountain*

Children's Moment

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *John 20:19-31* CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *The Set Up and The Punchline* – The Pastoral Team

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* | *Joy To The World*

Benediction*

Today following worship, we will celebrate April birthdays and anniversaries with singing, cake and other treats in the Fellowship Hall.

Please make plans to join us.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

South Pinellas Connection

CPR & Defibrillator (AED) Training – We are offering infant, child, and adult CPR & Defibrillator (AED) Training on Saturday, **Apr 18, 9 am to 2 pm** at **Clearview UMC**. Additionally, an infant, child, and adult CPR only class is being offered at **Lakewood UMC** on Saturday, **Apr 25, 10 am to 2 pm**.

Both sign-ups are available today in the Fellowship Hall. These are hands-on classes and include CPR training for both children and adults. These classes are a wonderful opportunity to learn life-saving skills that can make a real difference in an emergency. Each class is limited to 10 people. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Considering Membership? – Are you feeling called to 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. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Patti in the church office—we'd be glad to connect with you! Take the next step in your faith journey?

First Gulfport

United Women in Faith Gathering - Join the United Women in Faith on Wednesday, **Apr 15 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!

First Gulfport Yard Sale Market – Get ready for a fun day of bargains, treasures, and community! Join us on Saturday, **Apr 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!

St. Luke's

United Women in Faith Friendship Circle - We will hold our next meeting on **Apr 14, at 10 am** in the Joy Room. All women are invited to join us for a time of friendship, conversation, and encouragement. Come connect and grow together in faith and fellowship. This will be followed by our **Women's Bible Study at 11 am**.

Clearview

An Egg-stra Thank you! Praise God for all the wonderful children and their families who came to our Easter Egg Hunt! There were more kids this year than last and they all had fun making crafts, playing games, getting their picture taken with the Easter bunny, hearing an incredible Easter story told by our very own Pastor Erick, and don't forget hunting for over 2,000 candy & scripture-filled eggs! I'd like to say THANK YOU to every volunteer who helped. Praise God from whom all blessings flow and all the many hands that make this possible. Thank you. Judy Tenison

Lakewood

Church Conference Announcement - There will be a Church Conference on **Sunday, Apr 19**, immediately following worship. During this important meeting, we will discuss and vote on the sale of our Lakewood UMC property. Rev. Emily Hotho, our District Superintendent, will serve as the presiding elder.

While all are welcome, only church members are eligible to vote and are encouraged to attend and participate in this significant time in the life of our church.

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Apr 14	UWIF Friendship Circle	10 am	SL
Apr 14	Women's Bible Study	11 am	SL
Apr 15	UWIF Lunch & Bible Study	12 pm	FG
Apr 18	Yard Sale Market	9 am	FG
Apr 18	CPR & Defibrillator (AED) Training	9 am-2 pm	CV
Apr 25	CPR Training	10 am-2 pm	LW
Apr 26	FREE Community Dinner	5-6:30 pm	CV
May 2	United Methodist Men's Breakfast	8 am	SL
May 4-6	The Pastoral Team at The Pulpit Project	-	-
May 23	Lay Servant Ministry – Basic Course Oakhurst UMC	9 am-4 pm	-
Jun 4-6	Annual Conference Florida Southern College	-	-

KEY

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

Across the South Pinellas Connection

Week of April 5

Worship	257
Online Worship	69
Giving Received	\$12,298.91
Giving Needed	\$7,459.63
Surplus/Loss	\$4,839.28

2026 Year To Date

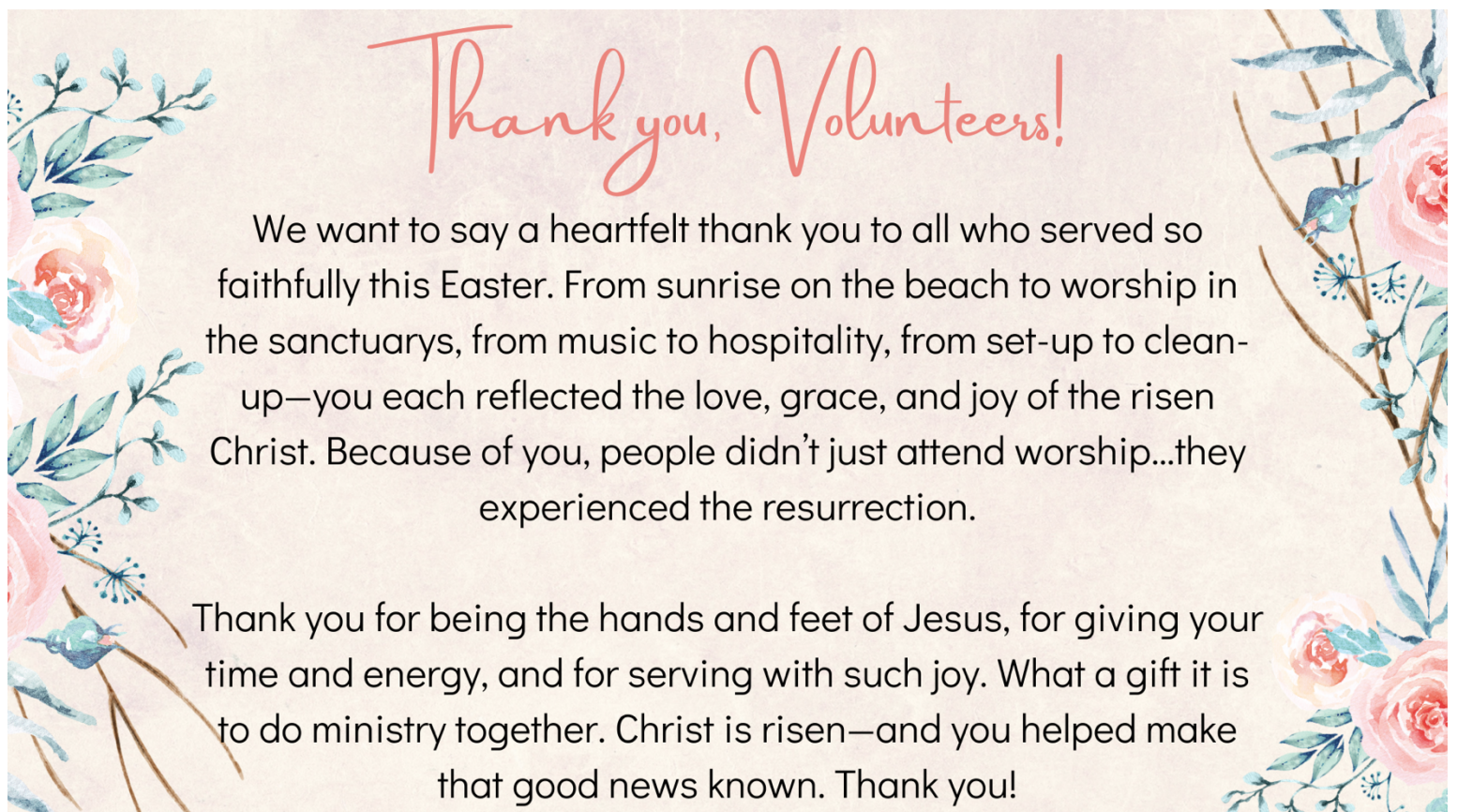
Worship (avg)	159
Online (avg)	59
Giving Received	\$125,260.91
Giving Needed	\$104,434.82
Surplus/Loss	\$20,826.09

PRAYER LIST

Please complete a Prayer Card from the pew and place it in the Offering Plate.

First Gulfport: Hagood-Spoto family – My dear father-in-law, Tom Spoto, is having shoulder surgery. Prayers for a successful procedure and a full recovery for this very active fellow. (Amand H.)

Clearview: Don and Barbara Hilton – having heart problems and need a device put in his heart to help his blood pump in his heart – pray that he will get approved for this device. (Lynda W.)





Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

—John 20:29

MEALTIME PRAYER

Be with those who believe, dear Jesus. Be with those who do not yet know you, dear Jesus. You provide food for those who hunger and water for those who thirst. Thank you for this gift of food and drink today. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*A question to ask as you read: **What happens in these first days after the resurrection?***

Sunday	John 20:19-31	The Disciples Believe the Good News
Monday	John 21:1-14	Jesus on the Seashore
Tuesday	John 21:15-19	Care for My Sheep
Wednesday	Acts 1:6-11	Jesus' Ascension
Thursday	Acts 2:22-36	Peter's Sermon about Jesus
Friday	Acts 2:37-47	Life in the First Church
Saturday	Acts 8:1b-3	Saul Persecutes the Church
Sunday	Acts 9:1-19a	Saul's Conversion

*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.

Think of someone who struggles and doubts about faith. Find a way to share the love of Jesus with them by baking them cookies, writing them a note, or by going for a walk with them. Actions often speak louder than words.

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

Promising God, you are with us when things are going great. You are with us when things are not. You are with us when we believe. And you are with us when we doubt. Thank you for your promise to love us in the midst of everything. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is something that made you happy today? What is something that made you sad?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Jesus appears to the disciples after being raised from the dead. They touched his scars on his hands and on his side. Jesus told them not to doubt but believe. When did you doubt someone or something today? When did you trust?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In the days of the early church, a man named Saul persecuted those who believed in Jesus. Did you do anything mean today or had anything mean done to you? What is something helpful that happened today?

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 to write on an index card the things that would hurt them, physically or emotionally. Gather up cards and keep in safe place. With palms up, pray for each other's wounds.

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 the sign of the cross on the palms of each other's hands, and say, "God heals all wounds. 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/>.