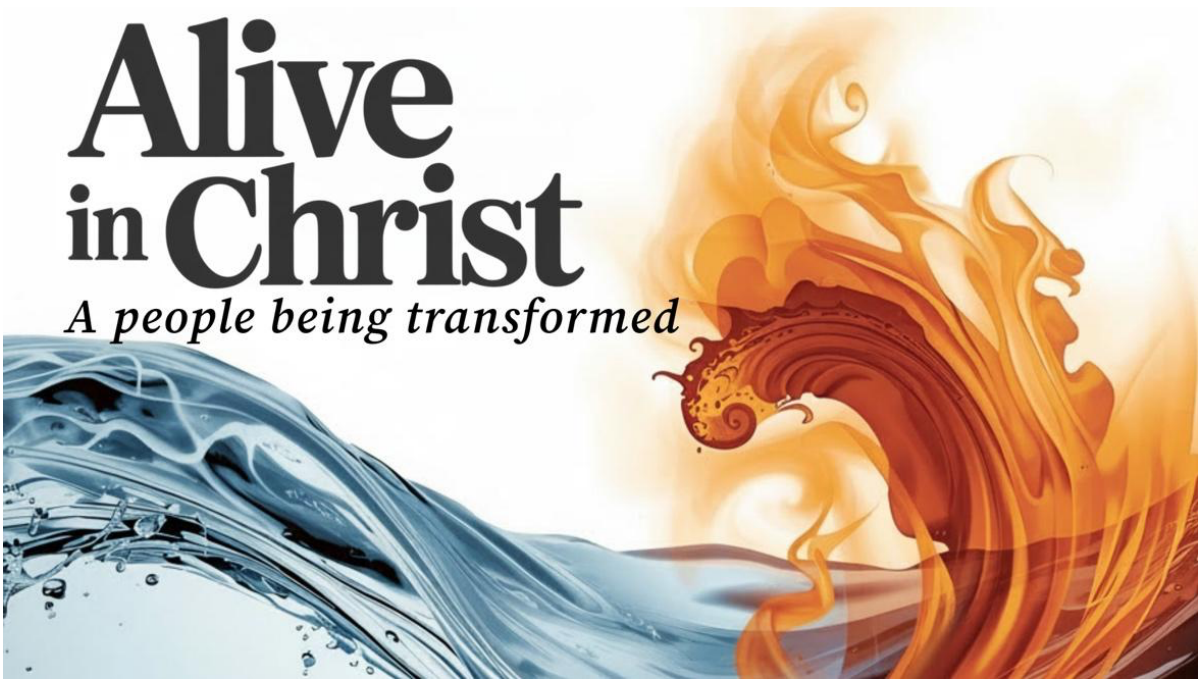


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GULFPORT

- the church with the teal doors -

**Alive
in Christ**

A people being transformed



6th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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* | *Crown Him With Many Crowns* – UMH 327

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* | *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* – UMH 715

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Philippians 1: 1-18* CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Joy That Can't Be Chained* - 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

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

Benediction*

~Restrooms are in the courtyard, near the Fellowship Hall entrance~

Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Sunday, May 10 • Reframing Joy - GROW

- **At the end of each day, write:**
 - One hard moment
 - One place you saw God at work
- **Pray: “God, help me trust what you are doing beyond what I can see.”**
- **Why: Builds Wesleyan assurance and trust in grace**

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Do You Have A Name Tag? If not, we’d love to make one for you! As part of our commitment to Connect, we’re working on getting to know one another by name. If you need a name tag, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the entrances. It’s a simple way to help us grow closer as a church family!

Considering Membership? - If you’ve been worshipping with us and feel ready to take the next step, we’d love to talk with you about becoming a member. Membership is a meaningful way to grow in faith and share in the mission of our church. Interested? Contact Patti at patti@spconnection.org.

Women's Spring Luncheon – SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, May 16 at 1:30 pm. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or at fumcgulfport.org.

First Gulfport Yard Sale Market – Get ready for a fun day of bargains, treasures, and community! Join us on Saturday, **May 16, beginning at 8 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. Visit the website events on the front page to register or text Susan Duval 352-263-9890. Whether you’re buying or selling, it’s going to be a great day—don’t miss it!

Leadership Board Meeting – The next Leadership Board meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend, except for any Staff Parish Relations discussions, which are open only to the elected leadership.



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

#PracticeConnection

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 10 – 6th Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day

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

MONDAY, MAY 11

- Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, MAY 12

- Sophie’s Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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

THURSDAY, MAY 14

- Leadership Board Meeting, 6:30 pm – Fellowship Hall
- Narcotics Anonymous, 8 pm – Room 7

FRIDAY, MAY 15

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

SATURDAY, MAY 16

- Yard Sale Market, 8 am – 12 pm – Parking Lot

- Sophie's Attic, 9 am – 12 pm
- Women's Spring Luncheon, 1:30 pm – Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 17 – 7th Sunday of Easter

- 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 12 | UWIF Friendship Meeting | 10 am | SL |
| May 12 | Women's Bible Study | 11 am | SL |
| May 16 | Yard Sale Market | 8 am - Noon | GP |
| May 16 | Women's Spring Luncheon | 1:30 pm | GP |
| May 20 | UWIF Luncheon Meeting | 12 pm | GP |
| May 23 | Lay Servant Ministry – Basic Course Oakhurst UMC | 9am - 4 pm | CV |
| Jun 4-6 | Annual Conference Florida Southern College | - | - |
| Jun 29 | Pastor Sue arrives in St. Petersburg | - | - |

KEY

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

STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of May 3

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Worship | 40 |
| Online Worship | 19 |
| Giving Received | \$773.00 |
| Giving Needed | \$1,230.77 |
| Surplus/Loss | -\$457.77 |

2026 Year To Date

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Worship (avg weekly) | 45 |
| Online (avg weekly) | 15 |
| Giving Received | \$17,901.81 |
| Giving Needed | \$22,153.86 |
| Surplus/Loss | -\$4,252.05 |

PRAYER LIST

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

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

Ongoing: Alice Johnson



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

I thank my God every time I remember you.

—Philippians 1:3

MEALTIME PRAYER

Gracious God, we praise you and thank you for bringing us around this table to break bread together. May we read, see, and hear new things as we break open your Word. 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 1:1-18a | The Church in Philippi |
| Monday | Philippians 1:18b-26 | Paul's Reason for Happiness |
| Tuesday | Philippians 1:27-30 | Fight for the Faith |
| Wednesday | Galatians 1:11-24 | Paul Explains the Gospel, Pt. 1 |
| Thursday | Galatians 2:1-10 | Paul at Jerusalem |
| Friday | Galatians 2:11-14 | Paul and Peter |
| Saturday | Galatians 2:15-21 | Paul Explains the Gospel, Pt. 2 |
| Sunday | Philippians 2:1-13 | Living Like Jesus |

*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.

Gather together and read stories out of the newspaper or from a news website, a different story for each reader. After each person reads an article, pray for those featured in that story.

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

Dear Jesus, help us be as steadfast in our convictions as Paul was. Let us be willing to live our lives according to your will and your way. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What brought you joy today? What made you mad or sad?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul is writing his letter from prison. But, even in these circumstances he is joyful. What is something difficult that happened today, and how can you see a little bit of hope in that situation?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's passage, Paul instructs his audience to be humble and serve others. Where did you see someone serving others today? What did you do to help someone?

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 everyone to close their eyes, and pray the Lord's Prayer together out loud.

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, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

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/>.