



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



Pentecost Sunday
May 24, 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* | *O Spirit Of The Living God* – UMH 539

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* | *Breathe On Me, Breath Of God* – UMH 420

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | Acts 2: 1-21; *Philippians 4: 4-7* CEB

Choral Response | *Surely The Presence Of The Lord* – UMH 328

Message | *Alive By The Spirit* - Rev. Erick 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* | *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* – UMH 500
vs. 1,3,4,5

This Little Light of Mine

Benediction*

Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Open Hands, Open Life - CONNECT → GROW → SERVE

Sunday, May 24

- Each morning:
 - Sit with hands open
 - Pray: “Holy Spirit, fill me, lead me, send me.”
- Each evening:
 - Reflect: Where did I notice the Spirit today?
- Why: Cultivates daily dependence on the Spirit

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Thank You, Pastor Ellie – Pastor Ellie will be visiting each of our churches in the coming weeks to preach one final time and share in a time of celebration and farewell. Join us as we give thanks for her faithful ministry, leadership, and love for the churches of the South Pinellas Connection.

- St. Luke's United Methodist Church – May 24
- Clearview United Methodist Church – May 31
- Lakewood United Methodist Church – June 7
- First United Methodist Church of Gulfport – June 14

Love Offering for Pastor Ellie – As Pastor Ellie prepares for her new appointment, we invite you to share in a love offering to thank her for her faithful ministry at First Gulfport. Donations may be given to Ken Blackman or placed in the Fellowship Hall collection box. Thank you for helping us bless Pastor Ellie!

Summer Pastoral Internship – The churches of the South Pinellas Connection are excited to welcome pastoral ministry intern Izz Prange this summer through the Florida Conference Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program. Izz already serves at St. Luke's as Streaming Tech and as Lay Delegate for Annual Conference for both St. Luke's and Lakewood. Be sure to welcome and encourage Izz as she learns, serves, and grows with us this summer!

Memorial Day Office Closure & Community Commemoration – The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day. We also invite you to Gulfport's Memorial Day Commemoration from 2:30–3:30 pm at Veterans Park. Pastor Tracie is honored to offer the opening invocation as we gather in gratitude and remembrance for those who served and sacrificed.

Memorial Day Wednesday Night Dinner – Join us Wednesday, May 27, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for our final Wednesday Night Dinner of the season! Enjoy a Memorial Day cookout prepared by the Leadership Board, along with great food, fellowship, and fun. Donations welcome.

5th Sunday Offering for Residing Hope – On Sunday, May 31, we invite you to support Residing Hope, formerly the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, serving children and youth since 1908. If possible, please consider giving above your regular tithe. Mark your gift "Residing Hope" or use the special envelopes available.

Gulfport Beach Cleanup – Saturday, June 13 – Join us from 8–10 am at Pavilion 4 (5730 Shore Blvd. S.) as we help care for Gulfport's shoreline and CONNECT with our community. Register ahead or sign in when you arrive: <https://tinyurl.com/3kt7wwhw>

Sophie's Attic Thrift Store – We are accepting donations of kitchen items, household goods, and home décor. Thank you for supporting this ministry and helping provide affordable items for our community!

CONNECT at Gulfport Pride Fest 2026 – Our Leadership Board has voted for the church to participate in Gulfport Pride Fest 2026 as a way to CONNECT with our community and share God's love for all people. The festival takes place Saturday, June 6, from 12–7 pm along Beach Boulevard. Want to help welcome people and represent our church? Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 24 – Pentecost Sunday

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

MONDAY, MAY 25

- Church Office **Closed – Memorial Day**

TUESDAY, MAY 26

- Sophie's Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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

THURSDAY, MAY 28

- Narcotics Anonymous, 8 pm – Room 7

FRIDAY, MAY 29

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

SATURDAY, MAY 30

- Sophie's Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 31 – Trinity Sunday – 5th Sunday

- 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 24 | FREE Community Dinner | 5-6:30 pm | CV |
| Jun 4-6 | Annual Conference - Florida Southern College | - | - |
| Jun 14 | Pastor Ellie's Last Day | - | ALL |
| Jun 10-17 | The Ashleys on Vacation | - | ALL |
| Jun 21 | New Summer Series: Bible Beach Reads | - | ALL |
| Jun 29 | Pastor Sue arrives in St. Petersburg | - | ALL |

KEY

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

STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of May 17

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Worship | 28 |
| Online Worship | 8 |
| Giving Received | \$390.00 |
| Giving Needed | \$1,230.77 |
| Surplus/Loss | -\$840.77 |

2026 Year To Date

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Worship (avg) | 44 |
| Online (avg) | 15 |
| Giving Received | \$18,853.61 |
| Giving Needed | \$23,384.63 |
| Surplus/Loss | -\$4,531.02 |

PRAYER LIST

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

May 17: No requests received

May 10: My Grandfather with his eye surgery complication (Sam Blackman); Bella Stewart fighting peripheral artery disease, Marilyn for agoraphobia, anxiety, & depression, Lee Mackay for job security (Coco Best)

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

Ongoing: Alice Johnson



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

—Philippians 4:6

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, we are amazed by all that you do for us! Let us praise you in all things, both great and small! Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing in each story?***

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday | Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7 | The Holy Spirit |
| Monday | Philippians 4:8-9 | Focus on What Is Good |
| Tuesday | Acts 3:1-10 | Stand Up and Walk |
| Wednesday | Acts 4:32-37 | Believers Share What They Have |
| Thursday | Acts 5:12-16 | Many Are Healed |
| Friday | Revelation 21:1-6 | God Makes All Things New |
| Saturday | Revelation 22:1-7 | God's Kingdom Come |

*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.

Contact someone whom you do not talk to very often. Ask how they are doing and if they have anything that you can pray for them about.

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, you are the One who makes all things new! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Amen!

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ✎ **Highs & Lows:** What are three things that made you happy today? What is one thing that made you feel bad?
- ✎ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul writes near the end of his letter to the Philippians to pray in confidence to God and not worry. What is one thing that has worried you today? What is something that has made you rejoice?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Ask each person to say or write down at least one thing that is worrying them. Lift the worries up and pray: God of peace, we bring these worries to you. Thank you for the many blessings you have given us. Help us to rejoice in you. Amen.

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, "May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus."

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/>.