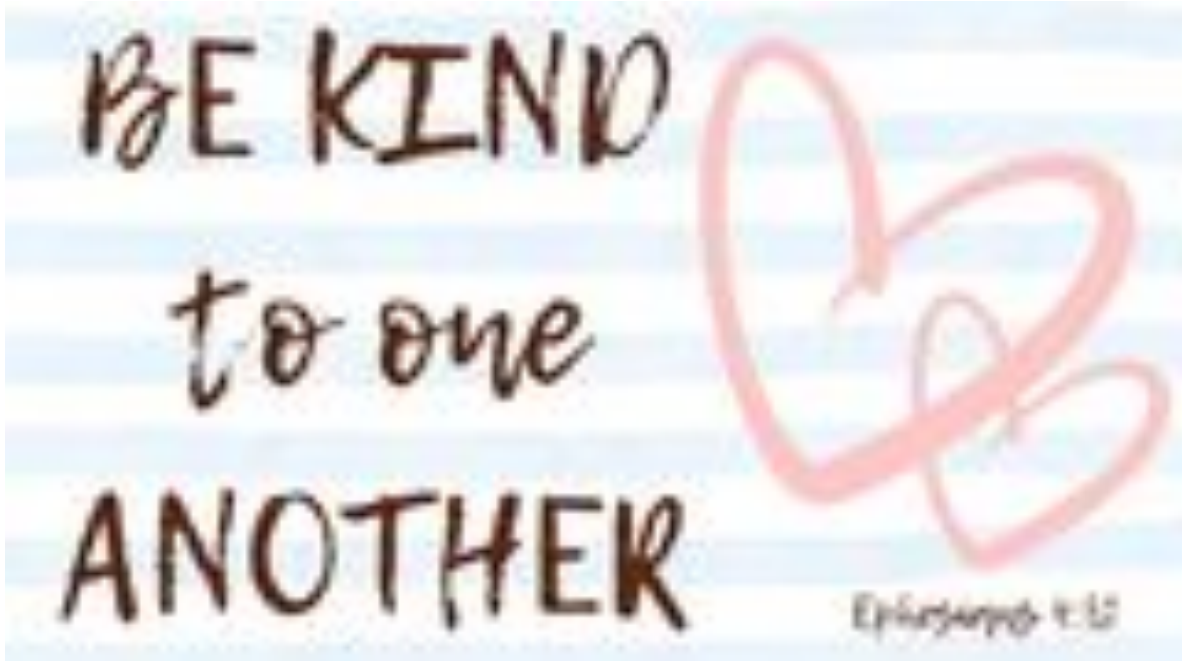


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GULFPORT

- the church with the teal doors -



Trinity Sunday
May 31, 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* | *Praise To The Lord, The Almighty* – UMH 139

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* | *O How I Love Jesus* – UMH 170

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Ephesians 4:25-5:2* CEB

Choral Response | *Bind Us Together, Lord* – Chorus only

Message | *Be Kind To One Another* - 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* | *Breathe On Me, Breath of God* – Adapted Lyrics

Benediction*



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

#PracticeConnection

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Thank You, Pastor Ellie - Pastor Ellie will be visiting each of our churches over the coming weeks to preach one final time and share in a time of goodbye and celebration. We invite you to join us as we give thanks for her faithful ministry, leadership, and love for the churches of the South Pinellas Connection. Let's come together to celebrate all God has done through her ministry among us.

- Lakewood - June 7 and First 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 serves at St. Luke's as Streaming Tech and as Lay Delegate for both St. Luke's and Lakewood. Be sure to welcome and encourage Izz as she learns, serves, and grows with us this summer!

Annual Conference 2026 – “Faith Rising” The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church will gather for Annual Conference June 2–6 at Florida Southern College. This year's theme is “Faith Rising” based on Romans 10:14–15. Clergy and laity from across Florida will gather for worship, learning, workshops, and prayerful discernment as we seek God's leading for the church. Throughout the week, leaders will be commissioned, important decisions made, and we will celebrate the work God is doing through new and emerging generations. Please keep us in prayer for this holy work together.

Sophie's Attic Thrift Store • First Gulfport - We are currently accepting donations! Items especially needed at this time include kitchen items, household goods, and home décor. Your donations help support this ministry and provide affordable items for our community. Thank you for your generosity.

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/3kt7wvhw>

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!

Thank You, Leadership Board! – A heartfelt thank you to our Leadership Board for providing such a delicious cookout dinner at our final Wednesday Night Dinner last week. It was a wonderful evening filled with great food, laughter, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who helped make the night so special! Wednesday Night Dinners will resume in September, and we look forward to gathering together again soon.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 31 – Trinity Sunday

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

MONDAY, JUNE 1

- Church Office Open 9 am – 1 pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

- Sophie’s Attic, 9 am – 12 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

- Pastors and Lay Delegates at Annual Conference
- Church Office Open, 1-5 pm
- Wednesday Night Dinner, 6 pm – Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

- Pastors and Lay Delegates at Annual Conference
- Narcotics Anonymous, 8 pm – Room 7

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

- Pastors and Lay Delegates at Annual Conference
- Sophie’s Attic, 9 am - 12 pm
- Alcoholics Anonymous (The Sisterhood), 6 pm – FH

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

- Pastors and Lay Delegates at Annual Conference
- Sophie’s Attic, 9 am – 12 pm
- PrideFest, 12-7 pm – Beach Blvd

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 – Holy Communion

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

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Jun 4-6	Annual Conference - Florida Southern College	-	-
Jun 6	UMM Breakfast/Fellowship	8 am	SL
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 28	Pastor Sue arrives in St. Petersburg	-	ALL
Jun 29	FREE Community Dinner	5-6:30 pm	CV

KEY

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

Week of May 24

Worship	24
Online Worship	20
Giving Received	\$2,336.60
Giving Needed	\$1,230.77
Surplus/Loss	\$1,105.83

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg)	43
Online (avg)	15
Giving Received	\$19,465.41
Giving Needed	\$24,615.39
Surplus/Loss	-\$5,149.98

PRAYER LIST

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

May 17: No requests received

May 24: No requests received

Ongoing: Alice Johnson

THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

Copying Christ: Ephesians 4:25–5:2

GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that Christ's love shines even in difficult places within us and around us.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Loving Christ, teach us to imitate your kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. Help us hand over every part of our lives to you—the joyful parts and the wounded parts alike. Transform us into people who speak love, offer grace, and reflect your light in the world. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Take a few moments to check in with one another.

Highs & Lows

- What is one act of kindness you experienced this week?
- What is one thing that has frustrated, hurt, or angered you recently?

THINKING ABOUT THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

"Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ. - Ephesians 4:32 (CEB)

"Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. Live your life with love..." - Ephesians 5:1–2 (CEB)

Paul reminds us that following Jesus is not simply believing the right things—it is learning to live like Christ. We are called to imitate Jesus through the ways we speak, forgive, show compassion, and care for others.

- Who has shown Christ-like kindness to you?
- What makes forgiveness difficult sometimes?
- When have you seen compassion lead to healing or transformation?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read this week, ask: *What does it mean to imitate Christ in everyday life?*

Day	Reading	Theme
Sunday	Ephesians 4:25–5:2	Live with Love
Monday	Luke 10:25–37	Compassionate Neighbor
Tuesday	Colossians 3:12–17	Clothed in Kindness
Wednesday	Matthew 18:21–35	Forgiveness Without Limits
Thursday	James 3:1–12	Words That Build Up
Friday	Romans 12:9–21	Overcome Evil with Good
Saturday	John 13:34–35	Love One Another

If your household includes children, feel free to use a children's Bible or summarize the readings in simple language.

DEVOTIONAL

Have you ever played the game “copycat”? One person copies everything the other does until someone finally shouts, “Stop copying me!”

In Ephesians, Paul says, “Copy Christ. Live with love. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving. That sounds beautiful—but difficult. We all carry hurts, anger, and fears beneath the surface, and sometimes those wounds surface as harsh words, bitterness, or shutting others out.

Yet Jesus never meets us with shame. Again and again, Christ meets us with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. Because we are loved this way, we are invited to love others this way, too.

Faith is allowing Jesus into every corner of our lives so healing can begin. To imitate Christ means more than simply “being nice.” It means scattering kindness, offering compassion, and practicing forgiveness. Small acts of Christ-like love can transform lives, communities, and even the world.

- Imagine our homes if love is the way.
- Imagine our churches if compassion is the way.
- Imagine our communities if forgiveness is the way.

This is the life Christ invites us to copy.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to share: 1) One person they are thankful for. 2) One place in their life where they need Christ’s kindness or forgiveness. Then pray together:

Jesus, thank you for loving us with patience, compassion, and grace. Teach us to speak words that heal instead of harm. Help us forgive as we have been forgiven and scatter kindness everywhere. Shape us into people who reflect your love. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of grace, thank you for this food and for one another. May our words and actions reflect the kindness of Christ each day. Amen.

SERVICE CHALLENGE

This week, intentionally practice one “random act of kindness.” Write an encouraging note, make a phone call, buy someone a meal, listen to someone who is hurting, or help a neighbor in need. As you do, remember: even small acts of compassion can reveal the love of Christ.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that Christ’s light continues to shine through you in the world. With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another’s hand or forehead and say:

“May the kindness of Christ guide you. May the compassion of Christ move you. May the forgiveness of Christ transform you.”