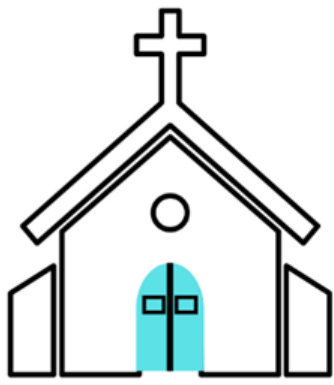




FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GULFPORT
- the church with the teal doors -



July 5th, 2026
11:15 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

Your Pastoral Team

Rev. Erick Ashley – erick@spconnection.org
Rev. Tracie Ashley – tracie@spconnection.org
Rev. Sue Garcia – sue@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

Prelude

Call to Worship*

Hymn* | *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* – UMH 110 vs 1, 3, 4

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *Affirmation from Romans* – UMH 887

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

Invitation, Confession, & Pardon – UMH 12

Passing of the Peace*

Hymn* | *For The Healing Of The Nations* – UMH 428

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Genesis 38: 24-26 CEB*

Choral Response | *O How He Loves You And Me*

Message | *Messy Justice* – Rev. Tracie Ashley

WE RESPOND

Sacrament of Holy Communion – UMH 13-15

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

Doxology* | *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* – UMH 95

Offertory Prayer*

WE GO OUT

Hymn* | *Hymn of Promise* – UMH 707

Benediction*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Join Us for a 5th of July Cookout! - Stay after worship for a delicious cookout with all the fixings! Enjoy great food, warm fellowship, and a chance to connect with old friends and meet new ones, including Pastor Sue. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time together as a church family. Bring a friend—we'd love to welcome them, too!

Welcome, Pastor Sue Garcia - This Sunday we are delighted to welcome Pastor Sue Garcia to the South Pinellas Connection clergy team. Pastor Sue is a retired United Methodist pastor who has faithfully served congregations in Florida and, most recently, in Georgia. She brings a wealth of ministry experience, a deep love for Christ and the church, and a heart for helping people grow in faith.

Pastor Sue is excited to return to Florida to be closer to her family and looks forward to getting to know each of our congregations. Please join us in extending a warm South Pinellas Connection welcome and introducing yourself when you have the opportunity. We are grateful to have her with us!

Special Choir for Bishop Berlin's Visit - Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 16, when the South Pinellas Connection gathers for a special combined worship service at St. Luke's featuring Bishop Tom Berlin as our guest preacher. This is a significant occasion in the life of our churches and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our shared ministry together.

To help make the day even more meaningful, we're forming a special choir to sing during worship. We'll gather for a few rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the service. Whether you're a current choir member or simply enjoy singing, we'd love for you to be part of this special event. Sign up today if you're interested and watch for rehearsal dates and times coming soon!

Shuffleboard Sticks Needed – Do you have old shuffleboard sticks collecting dust? Several of our South Pinellas Connection churches are looking for gently used shuffleboard sticks to repurpose as banner poles in our worship spaces. If you have any, you're no longer using and would be willing to donate, we'd be grateful! Please bring them to the church office or speak with one of the pastors. Thank you for helping us creatively care for our shared ministry.

Church T-Shirts Available - Show your church pride and help spread the word about our church wherever you go! Church T-shirts are available for just \$10 each. Wearing your shirt around town is a simple way to let our community know that we are here, active, and welcoming to all. Pick one up today and help us share God's love beyond our church walls!

United Women in Faith Summer Picnic – Women from all four South Pinellas Connection churches are invited to a Summer Picnic hosted by St. Luke's United Women in Faith on Saturday, July 25, from 12–2 pm in Wesley Hall.

Come enjoy a delicious lunch, meaningful fellowship, and the opportunity to build new friendships with women from across our Connection. Whether you're new or have been involved for years, we'd love to have you join us for this joyful afternoon together. Please sign up in the East Wing so we can plan for lunch. We hope to see you there!

GULFPORT WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 5

- **Adult Sunday School**, 10 am – Room 7
- **Traditional Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **5th of July Cookout**, 12:15 pm – Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, JULY 6

- **Church Office Open** 9 am – 1 pm

TUESDAY, JULY 7

- **Sophie’s Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

- **Church Office Open**, 1-5 pm

THURSDAY, JULY 9

- **Narcotics Anonymous**, 8 pm – Room 7

FRIDAY, JULY 10

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

SATURDAY, JULY 11

- **Sophie’s Attic**, 9 am – 12 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 12

- **Adult Sunday School**, 10 am – Room 7
- **Traditional Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary
- **Fellowship & Coffee**, 12:15 pm – Fellowship Hall

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

July 25	United Women in Faith Summer Picnic	12 pm	SL
Aug 16	Combined Worship at St. Luke's Bishop Tom Berlin Preaching	Time TBD	SL
Week of Aug 16	New <i>Jesus is Lord</i> Study Groups Begin (All Church Campuses & Online)	Time TBD	ALL

KEY

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

Week of Jun 28

Worship	31
Online Worship	15
Giving Received	\$498.00
Giving Needed	\$1,230.77
Surplus/Loss	-\$732.77

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg)	41
Online (avg)	15
Giving Received	\$21,529.26
Giving Needed	\$32,000.02
Surplus/Loss	-\$10,470.76

PRAYER LIST

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

Jun 21: No requests received

Ongoing: Alice Johnson

CONNECT
ONE.
DROP *ONE.*



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



#PracticeConnection

THIS WEEK’S “AT HOME” DEVOTIONAL

Unexpected Courage: Judges 4

GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that God often works through ordinary people in extraordinary ways.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

God of courage, when we feel small, uncertain, or unqualified, remind us that you delight in working through ordinary people. Give us eyes to recognize the opportunities before us, hearts willing to trust you, and courage to follow wherever you lead. Help us believe that your strength is made perfect in our weakness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION - *Take a few moments to check in with one another.*

Highs & Lows

- What is one thing that brought you joy this week?
- What is one challenge or disappointment you experienced this week?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

“Most blessed of women be Jael... she reached out her hand for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman’s mallet.” — Judges 5:24, 26 (NRSV)

Jael was not a soldier, a judge, or a military leader. She was an ordinary woman who found herself in an extraordinary moment. When the opportunity came, she acted with remarkable courage, and God used her to change the course of history.

- When have you been called to do something unexpected?
- What keeps us from acting courageously?
- Who has shown quiet courage that has inspired you?
- How might God be calling you to make a difference this week?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: *How does God remain faithful even when people drift away from God’s purposes?*

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	Genesis 38	<i>Messy Justice</i>
Monday	Joshua 2:1–24	<i>Rahab’s Courage</i>
Tuesday	Exodus 2:1–10	<i>The Courage of Moses’ Mother</i>
Wednesday	Esther 4:9–17	<i>Courage for Such a Time as This</i>
Thursday	Luke 1:26–38	<i>Mary’s Courageous Yes</i>
Friday	2 Timothy 1:6–8	<i>A Spirit of Courage</i>
Saturday	Hebrews 11:32–40	<i>Ordinary People, Extraordinary Faith</i>
Sunday	Judges 4:1–24	<i>Unexpected Courage</i>

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

DEVOTIONAL

Courage rarely looks the way we expect.

We often imagine heroes as fearless, powerful, and larger than life. But throughout Scripture, God chooses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things.

Jael was one of those people. She wasn't the commander of Israel's army or one of the nation's leaders. Yet when history placed her in an unexpected moment, she acted with courage. Her willingness to step forward changed the outcome of an entire battle.

Most of us will never face a moment like Jael's. But every day brings opportunities to choose courage: speaking up for someone who is overlooked, offering kindness when others remain silent, telling the truth when it would be easier not to, or taking the first step to repair a broken relationship.

We often wonder whether God can use someone like us. The story of Jael reminds us that God is not looking for the most impressive people. God is looking for willing hearts.

You may never realize how one faithful act of courage can change another person's life. But God does. The same God who worked through Jael still works through ordinary people today.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to share one situation where they need courage this week. Then pray together:

Loving God, thank you for using ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Fill us with your Spirit when we are afraid. Help us trust that you can use our gifts, our kindness, and our willingness to make a difference. Give us courage to say yes when you call. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of courage, thank you for this meal and for the people gathered around this table. Strengthen us to follow you with faithful hearts and willing hands each day. Amen.

SERVICE CHALLENGE - *This is one way we share God's courage with the world.*

Look for one opportunity this week to practice quiet courage. Encourage someone who is struggling, stand beside someone who is experiencing injustice or just feels alone. Maybe your take one faithful step you've been hesitant to take in the past?

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that God's light shines through ordinary people who trust in extraordinary grace. With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another's hand or forehead and say:

"Be strong in God's love. Be courageous in God's grace. And trust that God can work through you."