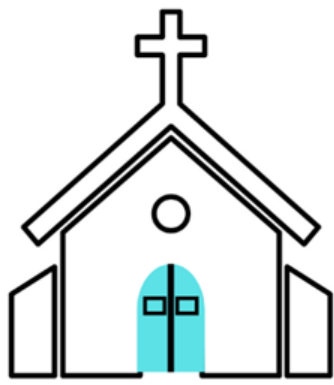




FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GULFPORT
- the church with the teal doors -



Thankful
**FOR THE
CUP**

October 25th, 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 Redmond-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* | *Blessed Assurance* – UMH 369

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *The Apostles' Creed* – UMH 881

Gloria Patri* | *Glory Be to the Father* – UMH 70

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Hymn* | *Trust And Obey* – UMH 467

Children's Moment

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Romans 5:1-5*

Choral Response | *Freely, Freely* – UMH 389 (Chorus only)

Message | *Placing Our Cup into God's Hands* – 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

Hymn* | *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* – UMH 140

Benediction*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Thankful for the Cup: Our Commitment to God – As part of our *Thankful for the Cup* stewardship series, everyone received a stewardship packet during worship. Inside, you'll find a welcome letter, service guide, church budget, and commitment card. We encourage you to prayerfully review these materials and consider how God is calling you to share your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in the coming year.

On Nov 8, Celebration & Commitment Sunday, we will bring our completed commitment cards forward during worship as a joyful expression of gratitude and faith. Together, we'll celebrate God's abundant blessings and the joy of offering our whole lives to God. "My cup overflows." — Psalm 23:5 *God, here is my cup. Use all that I am and all that I have for your purposes!*

All Saints' Sunday – On Nov 1, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a sacred time to remember with love and gratitude those who have gone before us. We will give thanks for the people who have poured into our cups, shaped our lives, nurtured our faith, and pointed us toward Christ. We will also pause to remember and honor those who have died during the past year.

We invite you to bring a photograph of someone who has passed away and whose life has been a blessing to yours. We will place these photographs on a special remembrance table during worship, creating a beautiful, visible reminder of the lives, love, and faith that continue to shape us.

Together, we will remember, give thanks, and celebrate how God's love continues to overflow through the lives of those who have touched ours.

South Pinellas Connection Church Conference – Join us for our South Pinellas Connection Church Conference on Sunday, Nov 1, at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at First UMC Gulfport. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Emily Hotho, will preside as Clearview, First Gulfport, St. Luke's, and Lakewood come together for this important gathering in the life of our churches.

Please bring finger food to share! Our friends at First Gulfport will provide drinks and paper goods as they graciously host us. We look forward to a meaningful afternoon of fellowship, connection, and shared ministry. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Come Together in Gratitude! Community Thanksgiving Worship - There's something beautiful about coming together as a community to give thanks! Join us for a special Community Thanksgiving Worship Service as we welcome our Gulfport neighbors and all four churches of the South Pinellas Connection for an evening of food, fellowship, and heartfelt gratitude.

We'll begin at 6 pm with a simple meal, followed by worship at 7 pm on Tuesday, Nov 24. This won't be just another worship service! Come with expectant hearts for an interactive, creative, and meaningful experience as we celebrate God's goodness, share our gratitude, and discover the blessings that connect us.

Bring a friend, invite a neighbor, and come ready to give thanks! There's room at the table for everyone!

Fall Back! Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov 1 - Don't forget to turn your clocks BACK one hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31! Enjoy that extra hour of sleep, and we'll see you in worship—right on time!

Share Your Love for First Gulfport! We're placing another order for our First Gulfport church T-shirts! Available in sizes Small through 3XL, shirts are just \$10 each when they arrive. We'll occasionally wear them together on Sundays, but they're also a great way to share our love for First Gulfport and spread joy throughout the community. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to place your order! Let's share our church spirit wherever we go!

Help Make Worship Happen! There's more to Sunday worship than meets the eye, and YOU can be part of it! Our AV-Tech SERVE Team needs volunteers to help with sound, slides, and livestreaming. No experience? No problem! We'll provide the training. Help make worship meaningful for everyone; sign up today or talk with one of the pastors!

Connect One. Drop One — Who Will YOU Invite? Sometimes a simple invitation can make a big difference! Think of someone who could use friendship, encouragement, or a place to belong. Invite them to worship, Sunday School, a GROW Group, Community Dinner, or another church activity. Then drop a blue stone in the jar to celebrate your invitation! One invitation could be the beginning of something wonderful!

There's Always Room for YOU at the Table! Looking for a good meal, friendly faces, and a place where you truly belong? Join us Wednesdays at 6 pm for Community Dinner! Enjoy delicious food, meaningful conversation, laughter, and a little time with Jesus. Come as you are, bring a friend, and discover a community where everyone is welcome and everyone matters. Don't just hear about it—come be part of it

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Through Oct 31	Pumpkin Patch M-F 3-8 pm, Sat 9 am-8 pm, Sun 12-8 pm	-	CV
Oct 31	Trunk or Treat at Lakewood	5-7 pm	LW
Nov 1	All SPC Connection Church Conferences	1:30 pm	FG
Nov 7	Lakewood Estate Sale	8 am-1 pm	LW
Nov 8	Celebration & Commitment Sunday	-	ALL
Nov 24	Community Thanksgiving Meal & Worship	6 & 7 pm	

KEY

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

STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of Oct 18		2026 Year To Date	
Worship	35	Worship (avg)	38
Online Worship	21	Online (avg)	16
Giving Received	\$675.00	Giving Received	\$30,550.68
Giving Needed	\$1,230.77	Giving Needed	\$51,692.34
Surplus/Loss	-\$555.77	Surplus/Loss	-\$21,141.66

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

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

Gulfport: Community Dinner: I recently became unhoused and looking for employment (Johnny Mitchell)

Gulfport Ongoing: Jean Blackman, Juanita MaGill Cantillano, Wendy Christy’s son, Wendy deLong, Alice Johnson, Laura Magill, Valerie Schmidt, Allison (Cindy & Per Lee’s granddaughter), Anita (Funky Flamingo), Debbie S, Francine Savatana, Abigail Springhorn, George (Jack Wamhoff’s son), Family of Dean Wilde, Mary & Bill; Pam & Jeff, Willie

Clearview: No requests received

Clearview Ongoing: Pamela Arnold, Cassie Berg, Sara Blonshine, Kara Butler, Eileen Clark, Carol Comerford, the Family of Dale, Kathy Davis, Stephen Davis, Trevor Davis, Tim Deacon, Genevieve DeHoog, John Goude, Theresa Goude, Amy Gordon, Mary Grauv, Carl Gunn, Robert “Skip” Hanshe, Ruth Hockersmith, Rycky Holliman, DeeDee Hornby, Letha & Marc Jones, Ruth Katzen, Nelson Kimber, Charlotte Klotzbach, Ian Kolaczyk, Carolyn McGovern, Sabrina Mull, Kirstin Owens, Jim Patterson, Scott Pierce, Tiffany R, Tammi Radcliff, Donna Robertson, George Roth, Sr., Linda Stanley, Anver Suleman, Logan Sullivan, Edna Trumble, Anthony & Brittany, Crystal, Eldridge Jr, Hilary, Kelly, Lydi, Max, Blayne, Amber, George, Rollie, Steve & Alba, Diana, Theresa & Scott, Mamaw, Aunt Teresa, Family of Dale, Susie, Violet

Lakewood: Fran (Gloria’s “up north” friend) newly diagnosed with chronic heart failure (Gloria Wilcox); Caregivers of people on prayer list (Miriam Circle)

Lakewood Ongoing: Pierro Charles, Joan and family, Myra Hoffman, Otha Hudson (Josephine’s husband), JoAnn & Richard Knight's family, Arlene Norenberg, Pastor Sue’s Aunt Sharon, Rose and Richard Scantlebury, Bruce Stafford, Pat Z, Lynn C

St. Luke’s: Larry Frye, continuing abdominal issues, pray for relief; Lisa Becker, fell at work and has a blood clot (Bev Becker)

St. Luke's Ongoing: Luke Anderson, Gary Antonellis, Bev Becker, Christine Brockway, Fred Bunnell, Jr., Melissa Celurale, Jeannine Colbert, Judith Fain, Cheryl Fennell, Larry Frye, Mark Hartley’s family, Nina Hartley, Eric Harvey, Geraldine Parsons, Buck & Sunny Roberts, Rick Rogers, Michelle & John Veenstra, Joelle Wells, Justin Wells, Pastor Sue’s sister, Lea

South Pinellas Active-Duty Military: Matthew Burdewick, Seth Crist, Will Dudley, Casey Linde-Powers

THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

Pouring Out Our Cup to Fill Others: 1 Corinthians 10:16–17

GATHERING

Light a candle and place an empty cup beside a full one to remember that God’s blessing invites us to share rather than hoard.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Generous God, you have filled our lives with grace. Teach us to share the love, peace, and hope we have received. Keep us from hoarding your blessings or overlooking our neighbors’ needs. Give us wisdom to make faithful commitments and generosity that flows from gratitude. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Highs & Lows

- 1. What is one thing that brought you joy this week?
- 2. Who shared kindness, peace, or encouragement with you this week?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

The cup of blessing and the shared bread join us to Christ and to one another. We do not receive grace only for ourselves. As one body, we are called to pour out love through service, generosity, and practical care for our neighbors.

- 3. What has God poured into your life during this series?
- 4. How does Communion connect receiving grace with sharing grace?
- 5. What is the difference between generosity and giving beyond healthy limits?
- 6. What commitment would help your gratitude become lasting service?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: How can the grace we receive become blessing poured out for others?

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	Romans 5:1–5	<i>God’s Love Poured into Us</i>
Monday	Psalms 23:1–6	<i>My Cup Overflows</i>
Tuesday	1 Kings 17:8–16	<i>A Widow Shares Her Meal</i>
Wednesday	John 13:1–17	<i>Jesus Takes the Servant’s Place</i>
Thursday	2 Corinthians 9:6–12	<i>Generosity Produces Thanksgiving</i>
Friday	Galatians 6:2–10	<i>Carry Burdens and Do Good</i>
Saturday	Philippians 2:1–11	<i>The Self-Giving Love of Christ</i>
Sunday	1 Corinthians 10:16–17	<i>The Cup of Blessing</i>

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

DEVOTIONAL

An overflowing cup is not an invitation to hold more tightly. It is an invitation to share. Throughout this series, we have noticed what God gives to individuals, what we hold together, and what God can do through faithful offerings. Now we ask where that blessing will flow.

Paul describes Communion as a sharing in Christ. The cup and bread connect us to Jesus and make clear that we belong to one another. What happens at the table shapes how we live beyond it: we receive grace so that grace can become visible through our lives.

The widow of Zarephath shares a meal in a season of scarcity, and God sustains her household. Jesus kneels to wash his disciples' feet, showing that love takes the servant's place. These stories invite trust and generosity, not a promise that giving will always produce financial abundance.

Pouring out our cup can mean sharing money, but it also means offering patience, attention, skills, hospitality, forgiveness, and advocacy. One kindness can open the way for another. A person who receives encouragement may find strength to encourage someone else. We cannot control that chain of blessing, but we can help it begin.

A full life is one that keeps pouring out. This does not require exhaustion or ignoring our own needs. Jesus also rested and prayed. Sustainable generosity receives God's grace, honors limits, and joins others in sharing the work. We pour from relationship with Christ, not from a need to prove our worth.

On Commitment Sunday, consider a thoughtful promise of prayer, presence, service, and giving. What can you offer faithfully in the coming season? Let your commitment reflect gratitude rather than pressure. The cup God fills becomes a blessing when we share its gifts with the world.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to name one blessing they have received and one commitment they want to make in response. Then pray together:

God of the overflowing cup, thank you for the grace we receive in Christ. Make us one with him and with each other. Guide our commitments so that they are generous, wise, and faithful. Use our gifts to meet needs, strengthen community, and bring hope. May our lives keep sharing the love you pour into us. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of the shared table, thank you for this meal and your generous love. Help us nourish others through kindness, service, and gifts freely offered. Amen.

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

Write one specific commitment of time, service, prayer, or giving for the coming season. Discuss it with your household or a trusted friend, then take the first step. Choose a commitment that is both generous and sustainable.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that the grace you receive is meant to shine through your generosity and service.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another's hands or foreheads and say: **"Receive God's grace and share it freely. Let your cup become a blessing. Go in peace to love and serve."**