



3rd Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026
11:15 am • Sanctuary & Online

CHURCH OFFICE

4444 5th Avenue North • St. Petersburg, FL 33713
(727) 321-1335 • st-lukesumc.com

Tuesday & Thursday 9 am – 12:30 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 – Bruce Mook
Streaming Tech – Izz Prange

Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference – Rev. Tom Berlin
Gulf Central District Superintendent – Rev. Emily Hotho

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*

Grace meets us right where we are—
God is already at work in us.

In every interruption—
Christ is calling us into new life.

We come to connect, grow, and serve—
Shaped by grace and sent in love.

Grace meets us...Transforms us...and sends us...
We are a people being made Alive in Christ! Amen!

Worship Music* | *Easter People, Raise Your Voices* – UMH 304

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *Adapted Version of the Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth—
the One who created us for joy,
and whose love is deeper than our fears.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
who entered even the darkest places of our world—
and did not stay there.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead—
and in that rising,
turned sorrow into joy,
and death into life.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come again
to set all things right.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who breathes life into weary hearts
and surprises us with grace;

the holy catholic church,
called to be a community of hope and joy;

the communion of saints,
who remind us we do not walk alone;

the forgiveness of sins,
which frees us to live lightly and love boldly;

the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting—
where joy is complete and laughter never ends.**

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

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* – UMH 57 vs 1-5

Prayer For Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with anticipation and joy what you have for us today. Amen.**

Scripture Reading | *Acts 9: 1-19a* - CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *When Grace Interrupts* - Rev. Ellie Fox

WE RESPOND

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music | *Sunrise* – Composed by Bruce Mook

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

Offertory Prayer*

WE GO OUT

Worship Music* | *Grace Greater than Our Sin* – UMH 365

Benediction*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

New Worship Series Begins - Alive in Christ: A People Being Transformed is a worship series that explores how God's grace moves in and through our lives—meeting us where we are, transforming who we are, and sending us into the world as people of love. Rooted in the movement of scripture and shaped by a Wesleyan understanding of grace, this series invites us to not only learn about grace, but to live inside of it together. As we journey from encounter to transformation, from community to witness, we will grow as a people who are more aware of God's presence (Connect), more intentionally shaped in Christ (Grow), and more outwardly focused in love (Serve). Together, we proclaim: We are a people being made alive in Christ—connecting, growing, and serving in grace.

Each week, the bulletin will include a Weekly Practice to help us Connect with God, Grow in grace, and Serve in love in our daily lives.

Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Sunday, April 19: The Pause Prayer - CONNECT

- **Set a timer 3 times a day**
- **When it goes off, stop and pray: "Jesus, open my eyes to where you are already at work."**
- **Notice interruptions—not as annoyances, but invitations**
- **Why: Trains awareness of prevenient grace**

A Joy-Filled Weekend of Laughter and Resurrection Hope - What a gift this past weekend was for our church family! From Friday night's Night of Comedy to our combined Holy Humor Sunday worship, we experienced the deep joy of being together in Christ.

On Friday, we gathered for an evening full of laughter and connection, and it was clear that joy is one of God's good gifts meant to be shared. Thank you to everyone who helped host, welcome, serve refreshments, and create such a warm and inviting space—it truly made the night special.

Then on Sunday, we came together as the South Pinellas Connection for Holy Humor Sunday, celebrating the resurrection not just with our words, but with our joy. Through laughter, music, and shared moments of

lightheartedness, we were reminded that Easter is not just something we believe—it's something we live. The risen Christ brings life, freedom, and yes... even laughter.

Thank you to all who made this weekend possible—those who planned, served, invited, and showed up ready to celebrate. Your presence and participation made it a truly joy-filled experience.

We give thanks to God for a church that can laugh together, worship together, and live as people made alive in Christ.

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.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast - All men of the church are invited to gather for food, fellowship, and faith at the United Methodist Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, May 2, at 8 am**. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast, good conversation, and time to connect with one another as we grow together in faith and service. Feel free to bring a friend!

Leadership Team Meeting – Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Monday, **Apr 27 at 6:30 pm** in the JOY Room.

ST. LUKE'S - WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APR 19 – 2nd Sunday after Easter

- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library
- **First Unity Worship**, 11 am – Wesley Hall
- **St. Luke's Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

MONDAY, APR 20

- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 8 pm – Wesley Hall

TUESDAY, APR 21

- **Office Open**, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- **ACA**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room
- **Grace Group**, Awakened to Grace Small Group, 6:30 – Joy Room

WEDNESDAY, APR 22

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon**, 10:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **First Unity Meditation & Music Rehearsal**, 5 pm – Wesley Hall
- **ACA Study Group**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

THURSDAY, APR 23

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon Begin**, 12 pm - Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, APR 24

- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Food Pantry**, 5 pm – Parking Lot
- **Children/Youth**, 5:30 pm – Rec Room
- **ACA Study Group**, 5:30 – Nursery Room
- **ACA**, 6:45 pm - Nursery Room

SATURDAY, APR 25

- **ACA**, 9 am - Nursery Room
- **ACA**, 11 am – Nursery Room
- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall

SUNDAY, APR 26 – 3rd Sunday after Easter

- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library
- **First Unity Worship**, 11 am – Wesley Hall
- **St. Luke’s Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Apr 25	CPR Training	10 am – 2 pm	LW
Apr 26	FREE Community Dinner	5-6:30 pm	CV
Apr 27	Leadership Team Meeting	6:30	SL
May 2	United Methodist Men’s Breakfast	8 am	SL
May 4-6	The Pastoral Team at The Pulpit Project	-	-
May 23	Lay Servant Ministry – Basic Course Oakhurst UMC	9am - 4 pm	CV
Jun 4-6	Annual Conference Florida Southern College	-	-

KEY

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

STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of Apr 12

Worship	22
Online Worship	20
Giving Received	\$651.13
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78
Surplus/Loss	-\$2,404.65

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg)	36
Online (avg)	15
Giving Received	\$56,691.72
Giving Needed	\$45,836.70
Surplus/Loss	\$10,855.02

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Ongoing: Madison Brown, Jennifer, JJ, Buck & Sunny Roberts, Fred Bunnell, Jr., Bev Becker, Trudy James.



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

[Saul] asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

—Acts 9:5

MEALTIME PRAYER

Be present at the tables of those who need you, Lord. Be present at the tables of those who are persecuted, Lord. Be present at our table now and evermore. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

A couple of questions to ask as you read: What happens to Saul (Paul) in each of these stories? Where do you see yourself in these stories?

Sunday	Acts 9:1-19a	Saul's Conversion
Monday	Acts 9:19b-25	Saul Begins to Preach
Tuesday	Acts 9:26-31	Saul Comes to Jerusalem
Wednesday	Acts 13:1-12	Barnabas and Saul Commissioned
Thursday	Acts 15:1-21	The Council of Jerusalem
Friday	Acts 15:36–16:5	Timothy Joins Paul
Saturday	Acts 16:11-15	Conversion of Lydia
Sunday	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in Prison

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.

Call your local services for people with visual impairments, and ask what kind of donations they need. Donate one item (clothing, reading glasses, food) or some money.

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

You changed the heart of one who persecuted your followers, God. Be in our hearts; change and guide our hearts to help us follow your way. We need your love in our lives. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that surprised you today. Name one thing that bothered you.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Saul persecuted those who followed Jesus. But Jesus appeared to him and asked him to stop. Jesus changed Saul's heart from hate to love. When did you glimpse hate today? When did you see love?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Paul and Silas are imprisoned for sharing about Jesus. But even in prison, they sing praises to God and tell the jailer about Jesus. What was a difficult or unpleasant time today? How did you handle it?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Stand or sit in a circle and pray for the person on your left. Pray silently for the person by name, lifting up their unique gifts, and give praise to God for them.

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, place your hands over a set of eyes and say, "Bless these eyes so that they may see 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/>.

