



July 12, 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

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 – 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*

Come, all who wonder if you have enough courage or faith.

We come trusting that God meets us where we are.

God calls ordinary people into extraordinary moments.

God still calls us today.

Come, let us worship the One who gives courage, offers grace,
and walks beside us.

Let us worship God together!

Hymn* | *Blessed Assurance* – UMH 369

WE PROCLAIM

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Hymn* | *Where He Leads Me* – UMH 338 (vv. 1, 2 & 4)

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 | *Judges 4 CEB*

Choral Response | *O How He Loves You and Me* TFWS 2108

O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me!

He gave his life. What more could he give?

O how he loves you; O how he loves me;

O how he loves you and me!

Message | *Unexpected Courage* – 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* | *Open My Eyes, That I May See* – UMH 454

Benediction*

Flowers have been placed on the altar to welcome our new pastor, Rev. Sue Garcia, to St. Luke's and the South Pinellas Connection family.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Welcome Pastor Sue - There will be a small reception after the service today in the Library and Narthex to welcome Pastor Sue to the St. Luke's and South Pinellas Connection family.

United Women in Faith – Join us this Tuesday for a morning of fellowship and faith. The meeting begins at 10 am, followed by Bible Study at 11 am. All women are welcome—we'd love to have you join us!

United Women in Faith Summer Picnic – Women from all four South Pinellas Connection churches are invited to a Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 25, from 12–2 pm in Wesley Hall at St. Luke's. Enjoy lunch and fellowship with women from across our Connection. Please sign up so we can plan for lunch. We hope you'll join us!

Beach Day at Church – Help us celebrate the finale of our *Beach Read Bible Stories* series with Beach Day at Church on Sunday, August 2! Wear your favorite beach attire—Hawaiian shirts, bright and colorful clothing, sun hats, sunglasses, flip-flops, and other beach-inspired outfits (appropriate for worship, of course!).

We'll enjoy a fun, festive morning with a few special surprises as we wrap up our summer series. Invite a friend, come dressed for the beach, and join us for a joyful day of worship and celebration!

Special Choir for Bishop Berlin's Visit - Join the special choir for our combined worship service with Bishop Tom Berlin on Sunday, August 16, at St. Luke's. Whether you're a regular choir member or simply love to sing,

we'd love to have you! A few rehearsals will be held beforehand. Sign up today, and watch for rehearsal details 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.

ST. LUKE'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 12

- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library
- **First Unity Celebration Service**, 11 am – Wesley Hall
- **St. Luke's Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **Welcome Pastor Sue**, 12:30ish – Library & Narthex
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

MONDAY, JULY 13

- **Chair Volleyball**, 3 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 8 pm – Wesley Hall

TUESDAY, JULY 14

- **Office Open**, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- **ACA**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon**, 10:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **First Unity Meditation**, 6 pm – Wesley Hall
- **First Unity Music Rehearsal**, 7 pm – Wesley Hall
- **ACA Study Group**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

THURSDAY, JULY 16

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon Begin**, 12 pm - Wesley Hall
- **Al-Anon**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, JULY 17

- **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, JULY 18

- **ACA**, 9 am - Nursery Room
- **Thrift Store Open**, 10 am – 2 pm - Thrift store
- **ACA**, 11 am – Nursery Room
- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall

SUNDAY, JULY 19

- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library
- **First Unity Celebration Service**, 11 am – Wesley Hall
- **St. Luke's Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

July 14	UWIF Friendship Circle & Bible Study Joy Room	10 am	SL
July 25	United Women in Faith Summer Picnic Sign up in the East Wing	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 Jul 5		2026 Year To Date	
Worship	31	Worship (avg)	35
Online Worship	18	Online (avg)	16
Giving Received	\$3,336.26	Giving Received	\$84,035.53
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78	Giving Needed	\$82,506.06
Surplus/Loss	\$280.48	Surplus/Loss	\$1,529.47

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

July 5: No requests received

June 28 & 21: No Requests received

Ongoing: Madison Brown, Jennifer, JJ, Buck & Sunny Roberts, Fred Bunnell, Jr., Bev Becker, Trudy James, Cheryl Fennell, Charlie BeVille, Eric Harvey, Larry Frye, Justin Wells, Geraldine Parsons, The Lieber family, The Leonard Family

THIS WEEK’S “AT HOME” DEVOTIONAL

Left-Handed Deliverance: Judges 3:12-30

GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that God often works through the people and gifts the world least expects.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

God of surprises, thank you for creating each of us with unique gifts and abilities. When we feel overlooked, underestimated, or different, remind us that nothing about us is beyond your use. Give us the courage to trust you, the wisdom to use the gifts you have given us, and the faith to believe that you can accomplish extraordinary things through ordinary people. 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?
- When have you felt overlooked or underestimated?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

“The Israelites cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man.” — Judges 3:15 (NRSV)

In Ehud’s day, being left-handed would have made him unusual. Yet what seemed different became exactly what God used to accomplish an unexpected victory. God often works through the gifts, experiences, and people others overlook.

- What is something unique about you?
- Have you ever felt overlooked or underestimated?
- How has God used an unexpected person to make a difference in your life?
- What gifts has God given you that could bless someone else?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - *As you read this week, ask: **How does God work through ordinary and unexpected people?***

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	Judges 4	<i>Jael's Courage</i>
Monday	Exodus 4:10-17	<i>Moses' Weakness, God's Strength</i>
Tuesday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	<i>David is Chosen</i>
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	<i>God Chooses the Unexpected</i>
Thursday	2 Corinthians 12:7-10	<i>Strength in Weakness</i>
Friday	Ephesians 2:10	<i>Created for Good Works</i>
Saturday	Psalms 139:13-18	<i>Wonderfully Made</i>
Sunday	Judges 3:12-30	<i>Left-Handed Deliverance</i>

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

DEVOTIONAL

The world often measures people by appearance, popularity, talent, or success. God doesn't.

Ehud probably wasn't the person anyone expected to become Israel's deliverer. Scripture simply tells us he was left-handed—a detail that may seem insignificant to us but made him unusual in his own culture. Yet that very difference became part of God's plan to rescue God's people.

Throughout the Bible, God chooses people others overlook. A shepherd boy becomes a king. A widow provides for a prophet. Fishermen become apostles. Time and again, God reminds us that faithfulness matters more than impressiveness. Many of us have wondered whether we have anything special to offer. We compare ourselves to others or focus on what we lack. But God sees something different.

God sees gifts waiting to be used, compassion waiting to be shared, and opportunities waiting for someone willing to say yes.

The qualities you wish you could hide may become the very ways God works through you. God isn't looking for perfect people. God is looking for willing hearts.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to share one gift or strength they see in another person gathered with them. Then pray together:

Loving God, thank you for creating each of us with unique gifts. Help us stop comparing ourselves to others and instead celebrate the ways you have made us. Give us confidence to use our abilities in service to you and to our neighbors. Show us how you can work through our ordinary lives to accomplish extraordinary things. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of creation, thank you for this meal and for the unique gifts you have given each of us. Nourish our bodies, strengthen our spirits, and help us serve others with joy. Amen.

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

This week, use one gift, talent, or ability that you sometimes take for granted to serve someone else. Offer encouragement, lend a helping hand, teach a skill, create something beautiful, or simply be present for someone who needs a friend.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that God's light shines through every willing heart.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another's hands or foreheads and say: **“Trust the gifts God has given you. Walk in faith. And remember that God can use you in unexpected ways.”**