



4th Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026
9:30 am • Sanctuary & Online

CHURCH OFFICE

5995 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr St. S • St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 867-1744 • lakewoodunitedmethodist.org

Wednesdays • 9 am-12:30 pm
The pastors are available by appt

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 Asst – Patti Marshall – lakewoodumc@tampabay.rr.com
Custodian – Amy Barker – lakewoodumc@tampabay.rr.com

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

WELCOME

Welcome to Lakewood United Methodist Church. 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 table at the entrance. If you are a guest, our Connect Team will happily make one for you.
- Restrooms are in the narthex, on the right as you are walking toward the exit.
- 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 Lakewood UMC.
 - Place cash/check in the offering plate/boxes or mail to the church.
 - Text any amount to (833) 959-1469.
 - Visit <https://www.lakewoodunitedmethodist.org/pages/give>
 - 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* | *Thine Be The Glory* – UMH 308

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *An Adaption of The Apostle's Creed*

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

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *And Can It Be* – UMH 363

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Acts 16: 16-34* - CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Freedom That Changes Everything* - Rev. Ellie Fox

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* | *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought* – UMH 128

Benediction*

Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Sunday, April 26 • Praise in the Pressure - GROW

- **When stress/frustration hits: Pause**
- **Name it honestly**
- **Then say (out loud if possible): “God is still at work here.”**
- **Add one small act of gratitude**
- **Why: Forms a non-reactive, holy response to hardship**

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Lakewood UMC Property Update: Moving Forward in Faith

This past Sunday, following worship, we held a Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Rev. Emily Hotho, presiding. After a season of prayer and discernment, the congregation overwhelmingly voted to move forward with the sale of our property: **16 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstention.**

This decision reflects deep faith and a shared commitment to the future God is calling us into. The Leadership Team has now been empowered to finalize the contract.

We have a tentative agreement to sell the property to the Bill Edwards Foundation for the Arts for **\$2.7 million**. As part of the agreement:

- We will lease back the chapel for up to one year, allowing us to continue worshiping on campus during the transition.
- Alegria Montessori School will remain through July 2027.
- The process includes a 30-day due diligence period and a projected closing 30 days after.
- The property is debt-free, allowing proceeds to be used faithfully for future ministry according to the Discipline of the UMC. After all debts are paid, we should net about \$2 million.

This is not the end of Lakewood UMC—it is a transition. For nearly 70 years, this place has been sacred ground. We honor that legacy, even as we step into something new. Because the Church is not a building—it is a people, called and sustained by God’s grace.

This season creates space to clarify our mission and explore new ways to connect, grow, and serve.

We move forward with hope—trusting that God is not finished with Lakewood, and that new life often comes through change.

Thank you for your prayers and faithfulness. The story of Lakewood UMC is still being written—and the next chapter is just beginning.

LAKWOOD - WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APR 26 – 4th Sunday of Easter

- **Worship**, 9:30 am – Sanctuary & Online

MONDAY, APR 27

- **NuBody Fitness**, 10 am – Fellowship Hall
- **NuBody Fitness**, 6 pm – Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, APR 28

- **Grace Group**, 10 am – Sanctuary Narthex

WEDNESDAY, APR 29

- **Office Open**, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- **NuBody Fitness**, 10 am – Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, APR 30

- **NuBody Fitness**, 6 pm – Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 1

- *Nothing Scheduled*

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- Fellowship Hall booked for Anniversary Party

SUNDAY, MAY 3 – 5th Sunday of Easter

- **Worship**, 9:30 am – Sanctuary & Online

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Apr 26	FREE Community Dinner	5-6:30 pm	CV
Apr 27-May 3	Pastors Erick & Tracie away for graduations	-	-
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)
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STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of Apr 19

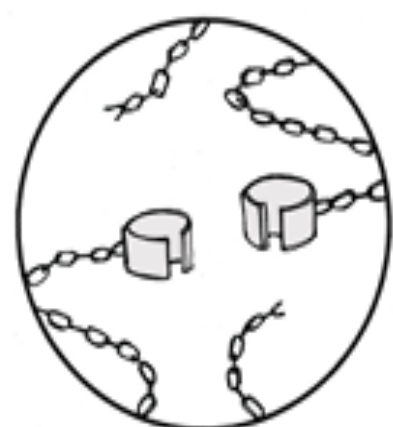
Worship	19
Online Worship	4
Giving Received	\$501.00
Giving Needed	\$1,634.62
Surplus/Loss	-\$1,133.62

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg weekly)	15
Online (avg weekly)	9
Giving Received	\$31,712.00
Giving Needed	\$26,153.92
Surplus/Loss	\$5,558.08

PRAYER REQUESTS

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



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

— Acts 16:31

MEALTIME PRAYER

We call on your name, dear Jesus, to come and dine with us. We give you thanks for all you have given us. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*One question to ponder this week as you read: **How does God's word change who you are from the inside out?***

Sunday	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in Prison
Monday	Acts 16:35-40	Paul Released from Jail
Tuesday	Acts 10:1-23	Conversion of Cornelius, Part 1
Wednesday	Acts 10:24-33	Conversion of Cornelius, Part 2
Thursday	Acts 10:34-48	Conversion of Cornelius, Part 3
Friday	Acts 17:1-9	Paul Goes to Thessalonica
Saturday	Acts 17:10-15	Paul Goes to Beroea
Sunday	Acts 17:16-31	Paul in Athens

*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.

Using a hymnal or online search, find your favorite hymn or praise song. Sing a song of praise, together or solo. Once done, talk together or journal on how singing impacts your mood and energy.

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

God, we sing to you songs of praise, knowing that we have been freed from the troubles of this world. Your Son, Jesus Christ has liberated our minds and removed the shackles from our hearts so that we are able to share your love with everyone. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is one thing that made you sing praises today? What is one thing that made you sad?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul and Silas are imprisoned for spreading the good news. While there, they sing their way through an earthquake. The jailer, who fears for his life, learns about the love of Jesus from Paul. When was a time today that you were afraid? What did you do?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Paul travels to the city of Athens and speaks with the people there. Many disagree with him. When have you agreed with someone today? When have you disagreed?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✚ Sit or stand in a circle, and pray for those who are imprisoned that they might find liberty and freedom in Jesus Christ.

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, hold each other's hands, and say, "God frees you from all sins."

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/>.