



5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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
Pianist – Jennifer Gray – JenniferGrayMusic@yahoo.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* | *Christ Is Alive* – UMH 318

WE PROCLAIM

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

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

Invitation, Confession, & Pardon

Passing of the Peace*

Worship Music* | *We've a Story to Tell The Nations* – UMH 569

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *Acts 17: 16-31* CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Faith in a Searching World* - Rev. Ellie Fox

WE RESPOND

Holy Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

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

Offertory Prayer*

WE GO OUT

Worship Music* | *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* – UMH 402

Benediction*

Alive in Christ - Weekly Practice

Sunday, May 3 • Holy Curiosity - CONNECT → SERVE

- Each day, ask one person a genuine question:
- “What’s been giving you life lately?”
- “What’s been weighing on you?”
- Listen without fixing or correcting
- Why: Practices meeting people where they are, like Paul in Athens

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Church Sale – As of bulletin printing on Thursday, there has not been any response from the Bill Edward's Foundation regarding the sale of the church.

FUMC Gulfport's Women's Spring Luncheon – SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, May 16 at 1:30 pm. More information is forthcoming soon!

Meet our new pianist, Jennifer Gray – We are overjoyed that Jennifer has joined our Lakewood team. Jennifer is an amazing musician. Outside of church, she provides versatile, customized music for all occasions. She brings over 15 years of professional experience as a pianist, vocalist, and music director. Genres include the Great American Songbook, pop, Broadway, Disney, contemporary/new age, classical, gospel, and holiday. Additionally, she maintains a private studio offering piano and vocal lessons from beginner to advanced levels.

Basic Lay Servant Ministry Training – Oakhurst UMC is hosting a Basic Lay Servant Ministry Training for those who feel called to serve more deeply in the life of the church through leadership, caregiving, prayer, worship, and communication. This course offers practical tools and spiritual grounding to help you grow as a disciple and serve others.

The cost is \$15 plus the book. To become a Certified Lay Servant, participants must complete this Basic Course and one Advanced Course. Visit <https://bit.ly/4mZzo1i> to register.

LAKESWOOD - WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 3 – 5th Sunday of Easter

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

MONDAY, MAY 4

- **Pastors at The Pulpit Project**, Orlando
- **NuBody Fitness**, 10 am – Fellowship Hall
- **NuBody Fitness**, 6 pm – Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, MAY 5

- **Pastors at The Pulpit Project**, Orlando
- **Grace Group**, 10 am – Sanctuary Narthex

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

- **Pastors at The Pulpit Project**, Orlando
- **Office Open**, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- **NuBody Fitness**, 10 am – Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, MAY 7

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

FRIDAY, MAY 8

- *Nothing Scheduled*

SATURDAY, MAY 9

- **Leadership Team Meeting**, 10 am - Narthex
- Fellowship Hall booked for a Baby Shower

SUNDAY, MAY 10 – 6th Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day

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

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

May 4-6	The Pastoral Team at The Pulpit Project	-	-
May 5	CLT Meeting	6:30 pm	CV
May 12	UWIF Friendship Meeting	10 am	SL
May 12	Women's Bible Study	11 am	SL
May 16	Women's Spring Luncheon	1:30 pm	GP
May 20	UWIF Luncheon Meeting	12 pm	GP
May 23	Lay Servant Ministry – Basic Course Oakhurst UMC	9am - 4 pm	CV
Jun 4-6	Annual Conference Florida Southern College	-	-
Jun 29	Pastor Sue arrives in St. Petersburg	-	-

KEY

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

Week of Apr 26

Worship	14
Online Worship	3
Giving Received	\$579.00
Giving Needed	\$1,634.62
Surplus/Loss	-\$1,055.62

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg weekly)	15
Online (avg weekly)	9
Giving Received	\$32,291.00
Giving Needed	\$27,788.54
Surplus/Loss	\$4,502.46

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Please keep Jennifer Gray, our pianist, in prayer. She has been hospitalized following a health episode, including an angina attack and complications related to medication changes. She is currently receiving care while doctors work to stabilize symptoms, while also facing ongoing challenges with insurance to approve a medication that has been effective for her in the past.

We pray for healing, relief from pain, wisdom for the medical team, and a swift resolution so she can receive the treatment she needs.



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"The God who made the world and everything in it...does not live in shrines made by human hands."

—Acts 17:24

MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord, you are the Creator. It is you who give us life and breath and all good things. Thank you for this food we are about to eat. Strengthen us to share your love in the world. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing in each story?***

What are the people doing?

Sunday	Acts 17:16-31	Paul in Athens
Monday	Acts 17:32-34	The Conversion of Dionysius
Tuesday	Acts 18:1-17	The Church at Corinth
Wednesday	Acts 19:1-10	The Church at Ephesus
Thursday	Acts 19:21-22; 20:17-28	Paul Leaves Ephesus
Friday	Acts 22:1-11	Paul Tells His Story
Saturday	Acts 22:12-21	Paul Continues His Story
Sunday	Philippians 1:1-18a	The Church in Philippi

*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.

Paul was a master communicator. Call someone you have not spoken to in a while and ask how they are doing.

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

Beloved Lord, Paul was excited about you and told everyone who would listen about your love. Let everyone who we meet with this week know that we follow Jesus by our love. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Who did you talk to today who listened to you? Who did not listen to you?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul explained that God gives us all good things. Name three things about today that you are thankful for.
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's Scripture, Paul is writing a letter while he is in prison, but he is joyful and sees the good in his circumstances. Name something you did not like about your day, and then work together to figure out something good in that circumstance.

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 in a circle and go around, each saying a prayer for people in different parts of the world.

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, mark one another with the sign of the cross on each other's hands or forehead, and say, "In God you live and move and have your being."

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/>.