

# Gray Weekly News



**Week Leading to Sunday, August 21, 2022**

## World Service Fund

### General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

The [General Commission on the Status and Role of Women](#) is marking its 50th year of advocating for the full and equal participation of women in the life of The United Methodist Church. For years, the Women's Division (the forerunner to United Methodist Women in 1968 and United Women in Faith in 2022) was the only place in the denomination where women could express vocational callings.

While the Women's Division created legitimate spaces for women to serve, its work focused on the missional aspects while holding the church accountable for equal participation of women that remained unrealized and unchecked by any other organization. In 1971, the Committee on the Study of the Role of Women presented "Data on the Participation of Women in the Organizational Units of The United Methodist Church."

The analysis drilled down through all structural levels of The United Methodist Church, identifying the meager numbers of women serving in general church, jurisdictional, annual conference and local church leadership. By the 1976 General Conference, more than 60 annual conferences had organized local CSRW chapters.

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## Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:1-12

Psalm 29

John 15:26, 16-4-14

**“I Believe in the Holy Spirit”**

## News and Notes

### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, August 21**

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch our livestream at [graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com](http://graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com) or [graymemorialumc.org/youtube](http://graymemorialumc.org/youtube), at 11 am or any time after that at [graymemorialumc.org/](http://graymemorialumc.org/)



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

### Prayer Requests

Jeri Motes, friend of Norma

Sam and Norma Adams

Nancy Gibbons, Pastor Beth's mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer

Sylvia Morrow

Toni's friend Bekah

Patsy and Betty

Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman

Joyce and Bob

Juan's sister Norma

A family that needs healing

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Fifty years ago, most United Methodist pastors were men. Times have changed. Today, many of us grew up in churches where women were pastors. More than 25% of all clergy in our church are women. While this is good news, many think it would be even better if it were 50%. Almost 40 years ago, the Rev. Marjorie Swank Matthews was elected the first United Methodist woman bishop. Today, 17 women lead as bishops in our church. Thanks to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, *all* children have a chance to pursue and reach their dreams.

Yes, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is 50 years young! The agency's work now spans the world and connects United Methodists to valuable resources that enable all levels of the church to champion the full inclusion of women in the denomination. Thanks to generous congregational support through the World Service Fund, GCSRW employs a small but mighty team dedicated to women's full and equal participation in the life of The United Methodist Church. Over the past 50 years, the agency has accomplished much in terms of advocacy for women, but as data indicates, its work is far from complete.

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Celebrating successes, commemorating a difficult journey and organizing future work, GCSRW staff and supporters remain committed to greater advocacy for women. Recognizing the challenges, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women looks forward to the next 50 years, grounded with the enlivening hope that, together, we will fulfill our mission.

**You are invited to join Gray Memorial members of the United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) at their regular meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 2 pm. We look forward to seeing you.**

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### **Volunteer Opportunities Locally**

The local Elder Care Services' **Meals on Wheels** program is looking for volunteers to deliver hot meals for homebound seniors. As a Meals on Wheels volunteer, you might be the only person our clients see on any given day, so you could be making a huge difference by donating only two hours out of your week. Interested individuals can sign up by calling the Meals on Wheels office at 850/245-5938.

Other opportunities in the Tallahassee Area:

**Elder Day Stay Volunteer:** Volunteers make an impact through music therapy, arts and crafts activities, companionship and more at our Elder Day Stay adult day care center.

**Senior Volunteer Program:** For active seniors age 55 and older, you can become a Foster Grandparent and mentor school-aged children, offer socialization to a senior through our Senior Companion Program, or transport seniors to their doctor's appointments as a Retired and Senior Volunteer.

Have a different idea of how you'd like to serve? Contact our offices (850) 921-5554 or email us at [info@ecsbigbend.org](mailto:info@ecsbigbend.org) and we will explore agency needs and potential service opportunities for individuals and groups.

# #BeUMC

