

# Gray Weekly News



**Week Leading to Sunday, June 5, 2022**



*Don't forget  
Wonderful Wednesday!!  
June 1 - 12 noon*

*Pastor Beth will share her experience from her trip to Ireland with the FLUMC Marcy Fellowship Reconciliation Project.*

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## **OVERCOMING BABEL**

[www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org)

It's Pentecost again, time to celebrate and give thanks. We sometimes say that Pentecost is the birthday of the church. An argument can be made for that, certainly. But we could also say that the church was born in a manger in Bethlehem or dripping wet in the Jordan River when a voice declared, "You are my beloved Son, with you, I am well pleased." Or perhaps it was born in gatherings of the crowds on the Galilean hillsides listening to teaching that

*Continued on page 3*

## **Pentecost Sunday**



Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:1-4, 24-35

John 14:18, 25-27

**“The Holy Spirit Is Up To Something”**

## News and Notes

### **THIS WEEK** **Sunday, June 5**

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**

Sam and Norma Adams

Patsy and Betty

Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman

Joyce and Bob

All those suffering from job loss, health issues and family concerns

## FSU/TCC Wesley Foundation Needs

The Wesley Foundation at FSU/TCC is in need of furniture and other household items for fulltime residential staff. Here is a list of what is needed:

Sofa and loveseat

3 dressers

2 wardrobes/racks/closet systems

4 chairs for breakfast bar

4 barstools

Kitchenware for 2 apartments

If you have any of these items that are clean and usable that you would like to donate, please let Pastor Beth know, so we can make arrangements for pick up.

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***NOTE – No Finance Meeting tonight, May 31 –  
Meeting will be next Tuesday, June 7 at 7 pm.***

*Continued from page 1*

seemed ancient and new at the same time. Or it was born when eyes were opened and legs were straightened and bleeding was stopped and even death gave way to a power and a presence. The church was born in a dark garden of betrayal and denial on a lonely cross on Golgotha. Or from an empty tomb early one morning when the sun rose.

Is Pentecost the birthday of the church? Maybe, or maybe that's when the church learned to walk on its own. Maybe that's when, empowered by fire and wind, the church spoke on its own, but used words learned from the one who gave it life. On Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Spirit to raise the church out of hiding and out of despair and to give the church wind at the back and fire in the bones and to encourage the church to proclaim; no—to live the good news of Jesus Christ outwardly and invitationally.

Pentecost is also the beginning of the long season we sometimes call *Ordinary Time*. The word *ordinary* comes from *ordinal*, meaning we count the Sundays—first Sunday after Pentecost, second Sunday after Pentecost, and so on. We don't mean *ordinary* as in run of the mill and boring, same old, same old. No, in Ordinary Time, we are called; we are invited; we are equipped and empowered to live the Spirit life—a life first lived by the one we call Lord, Jesus of Nazareth. We take the reins, and we live for him, even as he lives in us. It's Pentecost again, time to celebrate and give thanks. And to live the Spirit life.

It's Pentecost! Go all out. Use red everywhere, depictions of flame, varieties of wind catchers—kites and streamers and balloons. It's time for a celebration! Worship should be a source of joy every time, even on difficult days—a quieter joy perhaps, a profound joy that undergirds even grief and overcomes shame.

But this day is exuberant joy. Look at the Acts text: Why do you think the skeptical passersby were questioning the people's sobriety? Because the disciples were loud; and they were unrestrained; and they were inviting any and all to join in. Let the sound of worship leak out of the doors and windows of the church today. Startle some passersby with the singing and laughter and loud amens of worship.

Yet, this exuberant joy isn't the only, or perhaps even the first, element that marks worship on Pentecost Sunday. The remarkable event of the story in the second chapter of Acts, after the brief depiction of the coming of the Spirit, is the connecting of languages and peoples in an act of worship and praise. Multiculturalism isn't only for those ethnically diverse gatherings of worshipers on this day. It is a vital element of Pentecost worship for everyone. We need the reminder that the family that gathers week by week doesn't all look like us, doesn't all sound like us, doesn't all worship like us.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 1	10 am	Neighborly's Time with Afghan Mothers and Children
	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Wonderful Wednesday</b>
		<b>Brown Bag Lunch</b>
	7 pm	Acts Bible Study with Todd Clark
Thursday, June 2	10 am	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, June 5	11 am	Worship Service – Pentecost Sunday <i>Don't Forget To Wear Red!</i>
Tuesday, June 7	7 pm	Finance Committee Meets
Wednesday, June 8	7 pm	Bible Study with Todd Clark
Thursday, June 9- Saturday, June 11		Florida UMC Annual Conference 2022* Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL Pastor Beth will be attending.
Thursday, June 10	10 am	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, June 12	11 am	Worship Service – Trinity Sunday

**\*For information on the FLUMC Annual Conference 2022 go to:**

**<https://www.flumc.org/annual-conference-2022>**