

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, June 12, 2022



Florida UMC Annual Conference 2022

Pastor Beth will be in Lakeland Wednesday through Saturday of this week (06/08-06/11) attending the Annual Conference. The work of the United Methodist Church happens in “conferences.” The basic unit in our connectional system is the charge conference, which is typically a single congregation, and builds from there into annual conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and General Conference (*Discipline*, ¶¶8-12).

Our charge conference meeting happens in the fall. At that meeting, we vote on: our lay leader, our lay delegate, our slate of committee leaders, pastoral compensation, and other big-picture business issues. The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church needs to meet to do its work, too; that meeting is called Annual Conference.

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First Sunday After Pentecost Heritage Sunday



Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 8
John 17:1-2, 13-26

“Rooted in God’s Grace”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 12

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 or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at 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

Pat Smith, Norma's sister-in-law, recovering from rotator cuff surgery
Family of David Page who passed away, Norma & Sam's relative
Sam and Norma Adams
Frances Provost & family – her husband Buddy passed away
Herb Yohner
Marci Russell
Family of Gary Floyd, who passed away
Patsy and Betty
Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman
Joyce and Bob

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At the Annual Conference, we will consider resolutions, approve the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, celebrate retirees, and hear about initiatives on issues such as clergy care and congregational vitality. All of the work we do at Annual Conference is rooted in worship and prayer and each session begins with a time of worship.

On Sunday, June 12, Pastor Beth will give a brief report about Annual Conference during worship. Please pray daily for the Annual Conference participants.

If you would like to watch the livestream of Annual Conference, please visit: <https://www.flumc.org/webcast-annual-conference-2022>

*For information on the FLUMC Annual Conference 2022 go to:
<https://www.flumc.org/annual-conference-2022>

7 Practices for Rebuilding the Church & Remembering the Body

From Bishop Ken Carter

To the Clergy and Laity Members who will gather for Annual Conference on June 9-11: The grace and peace of our Risen Lord Jesus be with you! We are a large and diverse connection of churches and ministries planted on the large and diverse mission field that is Florida. We affirm the ancient scriptures, doctrines and creeds of our faith, while seeking to faithfully listen to the diverse ways God is calling us to follow Jesus with our different histories, gifts and contexts.

To do this in a very polarized time, as some seek to divide us politically and religiously, is a challenge. This spring we have experienced an armed presence preventing persons from entering one of our churches, and threats of litigation against the conference from non-Methodist entities.

We are also reassembling after the pandemic, where over 30,000 Floridians have lost their lives. And many of our spiritual leaders, clergy and laity, bear the exhaustion of all of this. Still, we are encouraged by the faithfulness and goodness of God and our connection as the people of the United Methodist Church. As we anticipate coming together, I appeal to you, by the mercies of God, to consider these seven practices:

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES: Read Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. John Wesley took a significant number of his “Standard Sermons” from these teachings of Jesus. Memorize verses that can help you to be spiritually grounded.

HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL? Reach out to someone in the annual conference with whom you have lost touch with during the pandemic. We have not met in this way over the last two years. Take the initiative to “re-member the body.”

THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE: We will have a small number of churches that will disaffiliate this year, and we lament the loss of this connection. This may be the last annual conference for some to gather in quite this way. Find the time and space to have conversations toward encouragement, gratitude and reconciliation.

DO NOT NEGLECT TO MEET TOGETHER: We have a number of persons in these disaffiliating churches who are sharing with us that they wish to remain United Methodists. Watch for the development of the “United Methodist Connecting” initiative. This will be an intentional connection for Bible study, prayer and friendship in small groups, house churches and by zoom meetings. For more information contact umsconnected@flumc.org.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING: Pray for the Annual Conference meeting. Claim the promise of Ephesians 3:20-21. **OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS:** Go to #BeUMC at resourceumc.org, read and watch the testimonies and share your own!

IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE: Bring a gift that will support two missional causes: Encounter with Christ, and digital/tech support for small, rural churches. See you in Lakeland!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 8 - Saturday, June 11		Florida UMC Annual Conference 2022* Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL Pastor Beth will be attending.
Wednesday, June 8	7 pm	Bible Study with Todd Clark
Thursday, June 10	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study Choir Practice
Sunday, June 12	11 am	Worship Service – Heritage Sunday
Tuesday, June 14	2 pm	United Women in Faith (UMW)
Wednesday, June 15	7 pm	Bible Study with Todd Clark
Thursday, June 16	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study Choir Practice
Sunday, June 19 Father's Day	11 am	Worship Service