

# Vision

United Women in Faith

Pensacola District Spring 2024

## *Alabama-West Florida United Women in Faith 2024 Annual Day*

March 8-9, 2024

Auburn United Methodist Church  
Auburn, Alabama

<https://www.awf-umw.org/>

## *United Women in Faith 2024 Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting*

April 19-21, 2024

The Chattanooga Convention Center  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Come GET TOGETHER!

The power of love in action can  
change the world!

<https://sejuwf.org/>

**Day of Giving—March 23, 2024**

**The Legacy Endowment Fund**

<https://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving/>

## *Looking Back, Looking Forward*

In November, Clara Ester, former Vice President of national United Women in Faith, was our guest speaker at First United Methodist Church Pensacola. Her topic was *Only Love Can Make a Difference*. This was a God-centered time to talk about how women can help bring the idea of Justice-Social holiness-to the heart of the community.

The new year started with our 2024 Annual Day on January 20, 2024. It was hosted by the UWFaith, 1st United Methodist Church Pensacola. See page 2. President's message is on page 3.

Be sure to check the Alabama-West Florida website for up-coming happenings. Visit the UWFaith website. See the Reading Program choices, listen to podcasts, watch webinars, attend online classes when offered.

## **2024 Scripture**

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you understand what is best...” Philippians 1:9-10

## **2024 District UWFaith Officers**

President — Peggy Groves

Treasurer — Pat Franklin

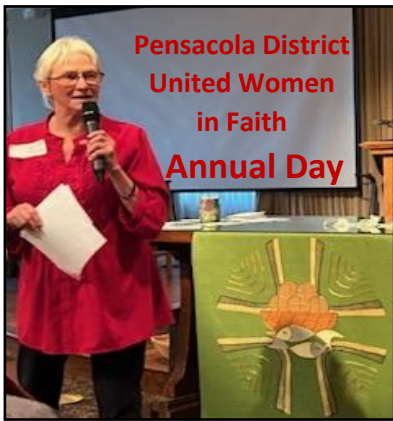
Secretary & Communications— Carol Ascherfeld

Membership Nurture & Outreach —Julie Vickery

Nominations Chair — Janice Anderson



Alice Hill, past President of Gulf Breeze UWFaith, installed the officers: Peggy Groves—President, Carol Ascherfeld—Secretary and Communications, Pat Franklin—Treasurer, Julie Vickery—Membership Nurture and Outreach, and Janice Anderson—Nominations.



**Annual Day**

Refreshments were served in the lovely, historic Governor Perry Home.

President Peggy Groves welcomed everyone, a devotion and prayer were given. Elections

were held and budget approved. Awards, a memorial service and a presentation on Family Promise followed.

**Awards**—Peggy Groves announced the awards.

St Luke—5-Star Unit, Racial Justice, and Reading Program.

1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Pensacola—5-Star Unit, Racial Justice, Reading Program.

Gulf Breeze—Mission Today Unit Silver, 5-Star Unit, Racial Justice, and Reading Program.

**Memorial Service**—A Memorial Service was



held to pause, remember and give thanks for the United Women in Faith who passed away in 2023. The names of these women were written on Trees

of Life, a symbol of eternal life that God wishes to lavish on humanity. Each woman’s name was read by a friend in faith, and then her Tree of Life card was placed on our Table of Remembrance. The Prayer for the Departed from the Book of Common Prayer ended the service as we remembered and honored these Friends in Faith that we love and miss.



*Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church*  
Carolyn Kirkpatrick     Audrey Kimmel

*First United Methodist Church of Pensacola*  
Berniece Gilmore     Anne Stanley  
Marian Guthrie     Anne Bullock  
JoAnn Butler     Christine Tarter  
Ricki Simmons     Irene Christian  
Carol Otts

*St. Luke United Methodist Church*  
No Deaths of UW Faith members.



Jennifer Lusher, Executive Director of Family Promise of Escambia County, was our speaker at Annual Day 2024. Family Promise, begun in Summit, New Jersey, has become a national movement whose mission is to help homeless families find their way home.

Family Promise of Escambia County is implementing their innovative program in the Pensacola area with area churches of various denominations participating as partners, including Gulf Breeze UMC, Pensacola First UMC and St Luke UMC who were present at Annual Day.

We can support Family Promise in several ways such as becoming a host church for families as they work through the program to become homed, providing night meals, supporting host churches and donations of needed items. The Family Promise Day Center will be located at the MCA Building located behind Pensacola First United Methodist Church. Families involved in the program will be able to receive services through the Day Center.

**Family Promise’s stated Vision**

"Our vision is of a community in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future."

<https://www.familypromiseofescambia.org>



**2024 UW Faith Theme**—God’s love overflows through us in service for others.



# President's Message

## OUR CONNECTIONS

For a while now, I have been contemplating the connectional system of the United Methodist Church. With so many churches becoming “dis-connected,” I’ve wanted to know more about the concept of being connected.

I recently borrowed a biography of John Wesley from one of the ministers of my church, *John Wesley, A Biography* by Stephen Tomkins. I had realized in my conversation with my minister that I really didn’t know very much about John Wesley even though I surely am connected to him and have been greatly influenced by his life and work. So, when I got home, I jumped right into reading that book.

The first two pages tell a story of arson. Someone set fire to the rectory where five-year-old John lived with his parents, a maid, and seven siblings. Everyone got out of the burning house safely except John who had been asleep in the attic where no one had woken him. Samuel, John’s father, finally realized that one child was missing and tried to get up the burning stairs to find his son, but it was impossible. Samuel gathered his family and they began to pray.

Onlookers heard a cry from the attic and saw young John leaning out the window. One man, standing on the shoulders of another, reached up to pull John out, just as the roof collapsed. “This early experience of salvation had a lasting impact on John Wesley’s life, quite apart from allowing it to continue.” P. 7. Just as that experience had an impact on John Wesley’s life, so he has had a great impact on our lives; we are connected through our fellowship in the church that began through his work.

But, it’s our connection to the two men who saved John Wesley’s life that fateful night that interests me here. “The book doesn’t mention their names, not does the author tell us anything more about them. Perhaps nothing more is known, but without them, and their actions that night of the burning rectory, history would have been greatly changed. So, here we are, United Women in Faith--United Methodists--connected to two men across time and distance and ocean and we don’t know anything about them except that they saved the life of John Wesley, a man whose life has changed our own.

So, I wonder, how many more unknown men and women and children we have connections with? How are we connected to the bagger at the grocery store, the teacher who sits down the pew from us, the teller who cashes our check, the panhandler who asks us for change, the child who lives in his family’s car, the man with crutches waiting at the bus stop, the well-dressed woman who smiles at us in passing, the teenager with tears in her eyes.

I’m convinced that we are all connected. I’m just not always sure how else besides the great love of Jesus Christ. That’s enough.

Peggy Groves  
President, Pensacola  
District United Women  
in Faith