



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

To be a joyful church family that is crucial to our community



Please read John 12: 1-8 (The story of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus.)

I am a Big Bang Theory fan. In one episode Penny let Sheldon know she had a Christmas gift for him. But Sheldon didn't believe in gift exchanges, because he fears dealing with value reciprocity. So, in preparation, he bought several goody bags of different value; he'd be ready for whatever she gave him. Penny, knowing how Sheldon loved Spock, played by Leonard Nimoy in the Original Star Trek series, took a napkin that Nimoy used at the Cheesecake Factory and boxed it as her gift.

On the day of exchange Penny presented her gift. Well, old Humbug Sheldon went crazy. He realized that he had the DNA of his hero and with some scientific manipulation he could create his own Spock. He was overcome with joy and frenetic gratitude. He ran to his room and brought Penny all of the baskets he had bought and still felt it wasn't near enough.

Sometimes gratitude and love require giving special gifts. This is how Mary felt when she used an expensive gift of nard to anoint the feet of Jesus. Her heart was overwhelmed with love for her master who had raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead. How would you repay such a debt of love.

So, because of what Mary did for Jesus, there will never be any doubt how she loved him.

We should all be very aware of what Jesus has done for us. How can we respond to such an extravagant act of love?

Pastor Rob

November Events As of 10/31/2023

Abbreviations: FLC - Family Life Center; ZVC - Zoom Video Conference, O-Office, S-Sanctuary

(Entries marked with * repeat every week and are only listed on the first occurrence)

Date Day

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 1 | Wednesday | All Saints Day; United Women in Faith (UWF) [formerly UMW] Circle meeting , 10:00 am, FLC; Choir Practice* , 6:30 pm, Sanctuary, Hope House* , 6:30pm-9pm, FLC |
| 2 | Thursday | Food Pantry* , 9:30 am - 11:30 pm, FLC; |
| 3 | Friday | |
| 4 | Saturday | Hope House Mobile* , 9am-1pm, FLC; |
| 5 | Sunday | <u>Sunday School classes*</u> , 9:15 - 10:15 am in Family Life Center (FLC) ; Worship Service* and Communion , 10:30 am; Publix bakery goods* in FLC for needy; Movimiento Misionero Mundial Pentecostal Church* , 10:30 am, FLC upstairs; New Testament Christian Church* , 1:30 pm, Sanctuary |
| 6 | Monday | Board of Trustees meeting , 2:00 pm, Church Office |
| 7 | Tuesday | Staff Meeting , 11am, Church Office; Youth Group , 6:30-8pm; FLC Upstairs |
| 8 | Wednesday | A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel* , 9:00 am, Sanctuary; Choir practiser 6:30 |
| 9 | Thursday | A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Board meeting , 1:00 pm, FLC; |
| 10 | Friday | |
| 11 | Saturday | Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) meeting , 10:00am, FLC 1&2; |
| 12 | Sunday | Stewardship Sunday Catered luncheon following service (Reservations Required); Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry) |
| 13 | Monday | Finance Meeting , 1pm, FLC; |
| 14 | Tuesday | |
| 15 | Wednesday | Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms |
| 16 | Thursday | Glenridge HOA Meeting , 7-9pm, FLC 1&2 |
| 17 | Friday | |
| 18 | Saturday | NTCC Luncheon, 1pm |
| 19 | Sunday | |
| 20 | Monday | Admin Council Meeting , 1pm, FLC |
| 21 | Tuesday | |
| 22 | Wednesday | Office Closed |
| 23 | Thursday | Thanksgiving (office closed) |
| 24 | Friday | Hope House Mobile , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC ; |
| 25 | Saturday | Praise Team Practice , 1:00pm, S; |
| 26 | Sunday | Sunday School classes* , 9:15 - 10:15 am in Family Life Center (FLC) ; Worship Service* and Communion , 10:30 am; Publix bakery goods* in FLC for needy; Movimiento Misionero Mundial Pentecostal Church* , 10:30 am, FLC upstairs; New Testament Christian Church* , 1:30 pm, Sanctuary |
| 27 | Monday | |
| 28 | Tuesday | |
| 29 | Wednesday | Choir Practice 6:30 pm, Merry Matters 10 -12 FLC |
| 30 | Thursday | |

PRAYER MINISTRY NOVEMBER 2023

‘I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify him with Thanksgiving.’ Psalm 69:30
NKJV 1982

Dear Heavenly Father, may we keep the spirit of Thanksgiving in our hearts all year through; to be grateful for your love and blessings each day. We give thanks for the magnificent universe you have created and that you care for every one of us within. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to serve you by serving others and in return we receive the best relationship of all; the one with you. It is by your gracious power we reach out to others in prayer.

For the Holy Community of faith, we thank you, Father. Our hope is in you, Lord. Amen.

May God bless you during this Thanksgiving season. Fran Mudge

Senior Orphans Christmas Program (2023)

The Senior Orphans Program is an ongoing program designed to give aid to the neediest of the needy ,seniors. It is a program totally donation funded and run by all volunteers. Case managers from several health care agencies in Polk County supply lists of people’s names to this program. This list has continued to grow each year and now includes the names of over 900 people. An awesome idea was formed along the way to help celebrate Christmas. Each year an orphan is asked to name their first, second and third choice for a Christmas gift. (Would paper towels make YOUR gift list? It made the second or third choice for a couple of names.) This list is then passed along to the Senior Orphan program.

Upon request, a list may be available to groups that would be interested in adopting a senior orphan for Christmas. Several local business and churches have contributed to this project in the past. For the third year, Lake Gibson’s Women are excited to add our group name to the list of “Santa’s Helpers” for the senior orphans Christmas gift list for 2023. We have received a wish list for 25 senior orphans.

What an awesome way to bring a little Christmas Joy into people’s lives, when we have been Blessed with so much and are able to share.

Contact Lynn Meske (863-858-3589) with any questions

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

My grandmother always told me, "If you watch your pennies, the dollars will take care of themselves."

Here is proof that grandmothers always know.



March	315.55	High School Homeless Seniors.
April	196.07	Methodist Children's home.
May	92.14	Our Food Pantry
June	131.64	Hope House
July	166.44	Methodist Children's Home
Aug.	88.82	Hope House
Sept.	164.64	Guardian Ad Litem

This is just our SPARE CHANGE collected in the cans each Sunday.

Just imagine what we could do if we got serious about our pennies.

October is Heifer International month.

November is Senior Orphans of Polk County month (just in time for Christmas)

December is Red Kettle (Salvation Army) month.

The people online watching our service each Sunday can actually hear the change going into the cans.

Let's continue making them cans sing.

Thank you all so much for your generosity.

Lynn Meske

WOMEN IN FAITH

November is the month where there are many reasons for giving thanks. Come join our circle on November 1, 2023, at 10:00 AM in the FLC and see what a wonderful gift that was given to us and why we should be so thankful. We will be studying Chapter 9, "Oily Footprints" in the book Help Is Here. Come join the discussion and join the group for lunch af-

Food For Thought

Sometime in the past, many of us took a membership vow within the United Methodist Church. By taking the baptismal and local church membership vows, the individual agrees to covenant with God and the members of the local church to keep the vows that are part of living the baptismal covenant and reception into membership in the local church. These vows have four parts: (1) to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; (2) to believe in the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments; (3) to support The United Methodist Church; and (4) to uphold the local congregation with one's prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. The first two parts are included among the baptismal vows. Those and the latter two parts are included in the vows when becoming a professing member in a local United Methodist congregation.

How are we doing?

Our intercession on behalf of others often results in our prayers being answered. In either case, God's will is being done.

With 200+ members, it appears that we are missing many for weekly community worship. Possibly we are not working hard enough to bring them back into the fold. What can we do to encourage them to return?

Our gifts, which are used to help us make disciples of Jesus Christ, are often given with stipulations. This limits the ability of the congregation to apply those gifts for what is most important at the moment. While Jesus may have suggested that giving up all worldly goods and following him is beneficial, most of us are unwilling to rely upon our preaching skills and benevolence of others for sustenance. But, while most of us have heard of the concept of tithing, few actually do so. My suggestion is that we should consider tithing while giving to our general budget (keeping the doors open, and only giving amounts above the tithe to reserved accounts (often referred to as designated accounts – those items not included within the general budget). Doing both helps the church in its general mission and permits us to support those additional programs we want to see implemented.

Are you involved in committees and groups within the congregation? Have you taken training in our Youth and Child Protection Policy which enables you to assist in their programs? Do you serve with the Food Pantry, Hope House, choir, praise team, audio/visual team, committees, etc.? Our obligation goes beyond merely attending church services. We are to be servants as well.

For some of us, witness is the hardest part. Do you witness to those outside our congregation? Does your behavior always exhibit what we believe a Christian should convey? We're not necessarily talking of taking booklets from door-to-door, but do you always provide an appropriate example to those around you? Do you invite those without a church family to visit with us?

The above are all "food for thought".

Dwight Kitchens

Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) Christmas Gift Card Drive

Ever see the smiles on children's faces when the Christmas season rolls around? It's a joy to behold. When we first came to Lake Gibson UMC, we were asked around Christmas-time to consider purchasing gifts for either boys or girls within certain age groups. Unfortunately, there was no match to a particular child. We never knew if the gift was appropriate (right size, color, style, etc.).

Over the past four years FUMCH has asked that we provide gift cards. The intent is to provide approximately \$150 in value for each child. House parents use a portion to purchase appropriate gifts to be wrapped and placed under their cottage's Christmas tree. The remainder is available to the children for shopping sprees where they select their own gifts. Additionally, some gift cards are used to take the cottage's children to celebration meals off campus. If excess cards are provided, they are used to purchase needed items for the children throughout the year.

It is most helpful for gift cards to be in increments of \$10 to \$100 to major chain stores and restaurants. Especially useful and flexible gift cards for children include Amazon, Visa, Kohl's, Wal-Mart, Epic Theater, and GameStop gift cards. Popular restaurants our staff like to treat the children to over Christmas break include Darden Brands (Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse & Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen), Papa John's Pizza, Applebee's, and Chili's restaurants.

Once again, we ask that donated cards be placed within an envelope or bundled together with your name included. These gifts will be considered as "designated contributions" for accounting purposes. Either deliver them to the office or place them in the offering plates on Sunday. **Please include a gift card receipt and write the denomination on each gift card.** Should you desire to give either cash or check, we ask that you annotate "FUMCH Gift Card Drive" with your donation. We will convert these to the appropriate gift cards. In order to distribute cards and make purchases, we have been asked to have all cards delivered to FUMCH before 1 December. We envision delivering them on Monday, 4 December to the Enterprise campus. This will provide time for distribution to cottage house parents for purchase and wrapping of appropriate gifts. Should you have questions, please, contact either Phyllis or Dwight Kitchens at 863-984-4564.

Dwight Kitchens

ATTENTION WOMEN OF FAITH

At the regular meeting of Women in Faith on October 4, 2023, those present voted to disaffiliate with the district organization. There were no dissenting votes. Discussion showed a disconnect between our group and the district concerning the district's emphasis on social concerns and their unaccountable use of funds. Our group would prefer to use the money we work hard to raise in the area. We research who to donate to and know the funds are used well.

Our next concerns are what to call our group and writing a meaningful purpose. Members are asked to consider ideas and bring them to the next meeting.

Linda J Alvarez, Secretary

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

Another fall rummage sale is behind us. We take this opportunity to thank everyone that contributed to the success of this sale. A huge thank you to the Mike and members of the youth group who gave of their free time to help set up on Tuesday evening. We would also like to give a special **THANK YOU** to Tom Burns for his never ending energy for what ever needs to be done, Mike Stafford for his handling of the "honey-do" list for four days and our in-house geek squad, Dwight Kitchens for maintenance and selling of his working electronics. The ladies would also like to thank all the guys who showed up early on Wednesday morning to unload the sheds and then returned on Saturday afternoon to load up the Salvation Army trailer. We cannot do this sale without your help so to each and everyone "**THANK YOU**". Our profit from this sale was \$5003.00. This amount will allow us to do some great things this holiday season for our less fortunate neighbors.

Please be aware **NO DONATIONS** will be accepted until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lynn Meske

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The following items are needed for the food pantry (open every Thursday):

Pasta, Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce

Thank you for your giving natures to help others. Ann Johnson

Financial Update

You should have received a letter informing you of the **upcoming Consecration Sunday, 12 November 2023**, a day in which we answer “What is God calling me to do?” from a spiritual perspective. This is a great time to consider how we honor our membership vows of prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness as we live our Christian lives

Immediately afterwards, we will hold a catered dinner for the congregation in which we celebrate our renewal to the work of Jesus Christ. **Reservations are mandatory and were accepted starting Sunday, 22 October.** Reservation cards are available in each worship service, from the church office, or by calling Dwight Kitchens (863) 984-4564.

Three-year Congregational Giving Profile (CGP) Template: Monthly Version

Data Entry

Current Year **2023**

Current Budget **\$313,092**

Month	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2023
January	\$19,250	\$41,469	\$45,644	\$106,363	\$35,454	\$35,454	\$45,864
February	\$26,344	\$26,633	\$26,373	\$79,350	\$26,450	\$61,904	\$11,416
March	\$31,430	\$23,181	\$43,835	\$98,446	\$32,815	\$94,720	\$22,184
April	\$48,131	\$24,073	\$23,275	\$95,479	\$31,826	\$126,546	\$22,778
May	\$25,816	\$26,093	\$18,433	\$70,342	\$23,447	\$149,993	\$20,719
June	\$25,894	\$15,866	\$18,293	\$60,053	\$20,018	\$170,011	\$10,979
July	\$20,865	\$23,104	\$22,512	\$66,481	\$22,160	\$192,171	\$20,367
August	\$22,494	\$20,877	\$19,894	\$63,265	\$21,088	\$213,260	\$20,050
September	\$25,185	\$21,208	\$16,749	\$63,142	\$21,047	\$234,307	\$15,415
October	\$20,998	\$20,238	\$19,161	\$60,397	\$20,132	\$254,439	
November	\$25,284	\$18,325	\$15,192	\$58,801	\$19,600	\$274,040	
December	\$26,088	\$25,183	\$22,293	\$73,564	\$24,521	\$298,561	
Total	\$317,779	\$286,250	\$291,654	\$895,683	\$298,561	\$298,561	\$189,772

Current Year 2023

Current Budget \$313,092

Month	% Needed	\$ Needed	Received	% Needed	\$ Needed	Received	Status Ahead	% Ahead
	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative	or (Behind)	or (Behind)
January	11.88%	\$37,180	\$45,864	11.88%	\$37,180	\$45,864	\$8,684	23.36%
February	8.86%	\$27,737	\$11,416	20.73%	\$64,917	\$57,280	(\$7,637)	-11.76%
March	10.99%	\$34,412	\$22,184	31.73%	\$99,330	\$79,464	(\$19,866)	-20.00%
April	10.66%	\$33,375	\$22,778	42.39%	\$132,705	\$102,242	(\$30,463)	-22.96%
May	7.85%	\$24,589	\$20,719	50.24%	\$157,294	\$122,961	(\$34,333)	-21.83%
June	6.70%	\$20,992	\$10,979	56.94%	\$178,285	\$133,940	(\$44,345)	-24.87%
July	7.42%	\$23,239	\$20,367	64.37%	\$201,524	\$154,307	(\$47,217)	-23.43%
August	7.06%	\$22,115	\$20,050	71.43%	\$223,639	\$174,357	(\$49,282)	-22.04%
September	7.05%	\$22,072	\$15,415	78.48%	\$245,711	\$189,772	(\$55,939)	-22.77%
October	6.74%	\$21,112	\$0	85.22%	\$266,823	\$189,772	(\$77,051)	
November	6.56%	\$20,554	\$0	91.79%	\$287,377	\$189,772	(\$97,605)	
December	8.21%	\$25,715	\$0	100.00%	\$313,092	\$189,772	(\$123,320)	

Totals \$313,092

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Joe Wallin

Church Council Chairperson,



November Anniversaries

Hughes, Danny & Sharon	November 14
Moon, Joe & Pat	November 18
Kneeland, Richaerd & Ann	November 27

November Birthdays

Jason Gitt	November 3
Jean Wesley	November 10
Mary Futch	November 11
Hadley Gullledge	November 11
Bob Addems	November 14
John Travis	November 19
Robert Schmidt	November 21
Ellen Haltiwanger	November 26
Michael Moake	November 26
Brad Fox	November 27
Sharon Hughes	November 28

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! GOD BLESS.

Wealth versus Income

We often consider these to be one-in-the-same. Actually, they are not. Our wealth comes from savings, investments (401-k, IRAs), homes, belongings, etc. Alternatively, our income arises from those items which bring in repetitive funds, such as salaries, social security payments, and retirement stipends.

In most cases, our wealth is used for major, one-time acquisitions or actions. It may be spent during our lifetime and bequeathed to others through trusts and wills upon death. Our excess income may be added to wealth over time.

Our recurring income is generally spent on our daily purchases (food, shelter, etc.) and stops upon our passing.

You've heard the saying "you can't take it with you". But, you can certainly plan for what happens to your wealth in the future. Wills and trusts ensure that your desires are carried out. If you don't have either instrument, consider making the time to specify your wishes. You can't do it after-the-fact.

Consider including your family, relatives, and church in your plans. You might find that you have significant wealth which should be allocated. Best to figure it out while you have a say in what will happen!.

Editorial Policy

The articles contained in *The Good News* express the opinions of their authors, and do not necessarily reflect policies of the United Methodist Church or of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

The purpose of the newsletter is to foster better communication of ideas and opportunities for worship and service among LGUMC members and friends as we seek to share God's love and make disciples of Jesus Christ. All members and constituents are encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts and photos with the congregation.

Barb Allen-Coil, Editor

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