



The Good News

*Our Mission in making disciples for Jesus Christ is...
to instruct Heads to know God's Word
to nurture Hearts to grow in God's Love
to offer Hands to show God's Grace
in our community and church family.*

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



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CHRISTIANS ARE – PEOPLE OF THE PASSION

Christians are people of the Passion – not romantic passion, but passion in the special sense of the suffering of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Unpopular as suffering is, during “Holy Week” Christians immerse themselves in the story of our Lord’s Passion – the suffering and death that led to our redemption and hope for eternal life through Jesus’ resurrection. Unfortunately, some think that the suffering described in Holy Week makes Christianity a religion of blood – with a morbid preoccupation with guilt beside.

Surely the events of 33 A.D. were brutal. But Holy Week, like all of Lent, is our preparation for a victory celebration. Palm Sunday is a dress rehearsal for Easter so to speak. Maundy Thursday is our thanksgiving for receiving the gift of the Lord’s Supper and a lesson in sacrifice. And Good Friday encourages us through the sheer power of Jesus’ love for humankind and His unshakable trust in His Father in the face of apparent defeat.

Below is some information and some thoughts on The Days of Holy Week, so that we may have a renewed sense of appreciation for what took place; rather than treating the days as some rout ritual we do just to be doing.

Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday – the first day of Holy Week – joins celebration with sorrow, victory with defeat. Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, surrounded by well-wishers and cheering children, sounds impressive. But after this scene comes the Scripture reading of Jesus’ arrest and punishment at the hands of the authorities. Yet, as people of the Passion, we don’t mourn. We celebrate our Lord, who has chosen to endure suffering in order to win the ultimate battle. When churches reenact that glorious day it is not just an imitations of Jesus’ brief ride. They are our celebrations of His Lordship today and our faith in His eventual victory tomorrow over all

evil and death.

Our observance of the next events in Holy Week happens within a continuous 48-hour period, involving three days – Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Maundy Thursday evening offers Christians the opportunity to celebrate the Lord’s Supper on the eve of its institution. Some churches like ours first sponsor a seder-like meal, such as Jesus would have eaten. But the communion meal of bread and the cup that follows on this night is no imitation. It is really our Master’s gift of Himself to each of us as we remember Him – prepared to sacrifice Himself for our sake. On this night, many churches also follow Jesus’ humble example of washing each other’s feet. Behind these observances stand Jesus’ words of this evening – His new mandate: “As I have loved you, so you must also love one another” (John 13:34).

Good Friday is observed by Christians in two ways. First, a service beginning at noon for meditations on Jesus’ seven last words from the cross or emphasis regarding the crucifixion itself. Second, by a service in the shadows of evening (Tenebrae), focusing on the crucifixion and death of our Lord.

Holy Saturday and Easter may be a time for many of us to be with relatives. As people of the Passion, however, the excitement of these days also involves the final outcome of our Lord’s Passion during these three days.

Following ancient tradition, Easter services in some churches begin with an Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. Here Christians read the Scripture stories describing God’s long relationship with His chosen people from creation to the resurrection of His Son. Candles light the darkness and the first Easter hymns of the season are sung. Other churches wait until sunrise or later Sunday morning for their first festive Easter services, announcing the resurrection of our Lord in triumphant festival worship.

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Actually, Easter is not just a day. It is also a season of 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, just as Lent is a season of 40 days.

Day-to-day living calls us to continue as people of the Passion, people who struggle and even suffer because the way we have chosen to live is often in opposition to so much of our world – its greed and violence, its exclusion and oppression, its wastefulness and abuse of nature and fellow humans. We know that our Lord’s way is right and that His way leads to our goal of redemption and resurrection. Therefore, we dare to act as though God’s way is the new order of things, believing that the way of Jesus and the way of the people of the Passion is the way of victory. Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

“O VICTORY IN JESUS, MY SAVIOR FOREVER!” ... Pastor Lamar Albritton

2011 Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Schedule

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

March 27 – April 17, Lenten Services Continue:

“The Sign of Jonah.”

March 27 – 3rd Sunday in Lent/ *“Praying from the*

Belly of the Great Big Fish” (Jonah 2:1-10,

Matthew 7:1-11) - 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship

April 1 – Confirmation Class/Youth – *“Story of Jesus”* –

The Florida Passion Play, Wauchula, Florida. 6:00 pm

leave for Wauchula. Drama time 7:30 p.m.

April 3 – 4th Sunday in Lent/ *“The God of the Second*

Chance” (Jonah 3:1-4, Matthew 8:5-13) – 8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion.

April 10 – 5th Sunday in Lent/ *“About Face”* (Jonah 3:

5-10, Matthew 20:1-16)

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

April 17 – Passion and Palm Sunday/ *“The Answer!”*

(Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 23)

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

April 21 – Holy/Maundy Thursday

5:00 p.m. Seder Meal (Pre-Sign-Up required) in FLC

7:00 p.m. Living Lord’s Supper (Sanctuary)

April 22 – Good Friday (Ecumenical Service)

6:00 p.m., North Lakeland Presbyterian Church

6725 Socrum Loop Road North

April 24 – EASTER SUNDAY! (COMBINED WORSHIP)

7:00 a.m. Sun Rise Service, Student Rooted Ministries

(Sanctuary Area)

8:30-9:30 a.m. Annual Easter Breakfast (FLC)

Remember! Bring enough food for your family

and for four more ...

10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service with Cantata – *“The Day He Wore My Crown,”* Drama, Liturgical Dance, Celebration!

JOIN US FOR THE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT!

April Notes



“It really matters what you listen to...Select music that will strengthen your spirit.”

— Elder Russell M.. Nelson

“Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty and happiness.”

— Floyd W. Tomkins

THANK YOU!

TWO KEYBOARDS DONATED!

Last month we asked for donations of small used and usable keyboards for a couple of our Junior Choir members to practice at home.

Thanks to your generosity, God provided for this request.

“A painter paints pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence.”

— Leopold Slokowski

WORSHIP COMMITTEE is looking for volunteers for specialized ministries:

Drama Coach and Lighting Tech

Drama and Dance Wardrobe Supervisor and Video Recording Tech

Please contact Chairperson Bonnie Fuqua for more information.

“Music is the literature of the heart; it commences where speech ends.”

— Alphonse de Lamartine

MUSIC DATES IN APRIL



Some of our Choir members are participating in community performances:

April 1, 2, & 3 Bob Willome in Children of Eden at N. Lakeland Presbyterian Church

April 8 & 9 Rochelle McBride and Bob Willome in State Fair at Foxwood Lake Estates.

CHURCH MUSIC THIS MONTH

April 9 Cantata Rehearsal Day Retreat at church 9:00 a.m.

April 17 Palm Sunday featuring Preschool Cherub Choir and Junior musicians

April 22 Good Friday services — Combined Choirs sing at N. Lakeland Presbyterian Church 6:00 p.m.

April 23 Full Cantata Rehearsal 10:00 a.m.

April 24 Easter Cantata with Drama and Dance, **THE DAY HE WORE MY CROWN**

By David Clydesdale. Narrated by Jacob McKnight and Gage Mueller. Soloists: Bill Anderson, Dorothy Burns, David Hess, Beverly Hines, Eric Hines, and Claudia Moore.

“Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

— Berthold Auerbach

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Remember our Annual Spring Rummage Sale will be April 15 & 16, 2011.

Call 255-8391 if you have any questions

God Bless you,
Jo Ann Mickle, UMW President

A Great — *BIG THANK YOU !!!*

A Thank you to all who participated in the Calendar Dinner.

We profited \$640.00 that will go to Property and Liability Insurance.

Thank you for making this Dinner a success!

Rosita M. Stafford.



Rooted Student Ministries, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

424 W. Daughtery Rd, Lakeland, FL 33809

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Lee Mueller, Director

Youth@LakeGibsonUMC.org



We're all tied up! — Our shirts—that is.

One of our Spring Break activities was to make tie dye - T - shirts. We wanted matching shirts for our "Acquire The Fire" weekend on April 15 & 16, so we tied and dyed—and have some neat shirts! We have 27 people going to ATF and our church will be hosting a Venice youth group of 40 to 50 kids. We will stay overnight at church and plan on having a most memorable, Jesus filled, weekend. We ask that you pray for us during the ATF weekend.

Thanks to all who have supported us through our fund raising and odd jobs.

Speaking of odd jobs—Spring has sprung—if any of you need help with an odd job, just give us a call at the church office, 858-5431 or Lee's cell, 944-5010!

H.O.N.O.R.

HELPING OUR NEEDY ONES RESPECTFULLY, INC.

"Why spend your money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Isaiah 55:1-2
Helping Our Needy Ones Respectfully, Inc., a faith based ministry dedicated to providing free minor home maintenance and repairs for elders age 60 and above, is staffed by volunteers and funded by donations. Bookmarkers with 6 different designs may be found in the Narthex. Won't you please choose one or more of these markers and make a donation to HONOR? Your dollar will be spent on "bread" so that we can labor to assist an elder.

If you need assistance from HONOR or would like to sign up as a team member, go to our website www.honorinc.org or call 816-2779

Church Council Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2011

Meeting Opening-Chair, Ken Fuqua, opened our meeting and Linda Alvarez provided a prayer. Ken read the minutes from the workshop meeting while we ate a delicious lunch whipped up by Rosita and crew. The mission statement was corrected. Carol Davis moved to accept corrected minutes, Bonnie Fuqua 2nd, APPROVED.

Old Business

Pledges-we received 71 pledges, (compared to 73 for 2010) with a pledged amount of \$124,046.

Apportionments-a 'tray' of cards for apportionment support has been placed in the narthex for congregation to volunteer to pay.

Share Program recognition & Covenant Renewal-April 10 combined service at 10am, Sunday School at 9am, and potluck to celebrate and recognize the hard work of all involved with Share and church covenant renewal. Bert Fortin moved, Mike Stafford 2nd, APPROVED. Please get it in bulletin and send out a phone tree message.

1st UMC of Tarpon Springs-change Book of Discipline through the General Conference. A petition to returning to biblical standings, especially after the acknowledgement of the Health Care support and pro-abortion stance. Abortion is not consistent with biblical teachings (unless the mother's life is in danger), see attached letter. To become more knowledgeable on the subject, and read the current Book of Discipline wording. A motion to table the issue was made by Pastor Lamar, Eric Hines 2nd, APPROVED.

Ministry Team Report

Trustees-George Gribble-work day was great. 2 doors will be replaced on the sanctuary.

Finance-Wayne Wesley absent-it was pointed out that the bottom line income is less than the bottom line expense. Also, Finance is looking into some kind of reporting for out of pocket expenses that church members are incurring.

SPR-Joe Moon has resigned his SPR Chair, a motion was made by Carol Troup to accept Carol Davis as Chair, George Gribble 2nd, APPROVED.

Choir-Glenda Grant-working hard on Easter cantata. Palm Sunday will have the Cherub choir and Junior choir.

Preschool-Eric Hines-new director, Laura, parent open house this past Friday.

UMM-Mike Stafford-great group of guys & growing, had a BBQ yesterday. Service project (Sylvia's house) of painting-almost done. Looking into getting a speaker for congregation & other churches in area, Leela Lance, on human trafficking in our own back yard.

Sunday School-Rosita Stafford-still need to reach out to kids and adults as well. Easter egg hunt--Child Ministries, Linda Collins needs to be contacted.

Worship Committee-Bonnie Fuqua-meeting a couple weeks ago, go discussions. Changing meeting day to possibly Thursdays. God is Crazy about us, we need to be crazy about God. Doing things here at church that involve the community, like the movies we've watched. Discussion groups on teen issues.

Evangelism-John Bernat-thanks to all who have helped with the house painting project. Caring Sharing meeting next week. New visitors should be visited by their Caring Sharing group the week after they came to church. The committee will organize and contact groups who had new visitors from their area. Program for disaster preparedness teams for the church property.

Missions-Bob Bleam-nothing new.

UMW-Joann Mickle-thanks to all who help with whatever. Sheds are full for the Rummage sale on April 15 & 16 (set up 13 & 14).

Lay Member to Annual Conference-Carol Troup & Ruth Zona-Ruth will not be able to attend this year, we need to find an alternate for Annual Conference on June 1-4 in Tampa. Bonnie would be willing to take Ruth's place and get registered with the District. Linda Alvarez moved to replace Ruth with Bonnie for this year, Bert Fortin 2nd, APPROVED.

Youth-Lee Mueller- we had a busy Spring Break and made tie dye t shirts. We will screen print them tonight. Working on Sunrise service, Jacob McKnight is directing the Human Video. Acquire the Fire (ATF) will be April 15 & 16. We have 27 going, with the help of odd jobs \$, and Venice Youth Group of 40 or 50 will be joining us and staying here. We also had a church service day and cleaned the gutters and a Sunday School room. We have also run internet cable to the Youth room, thanks to the Preschool. (We use occasional internet for songs and videos on Wednesday nights and a few Sundays for lessons.)

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Trustees & Finance-will be in charge of setting up tables and kitchen clean up for next regular Church Council meeting on May 22.

Meeting moved to adjourn by Rosita Stafford, Beverly Hines 2nd, APPROVED at 2:00pm.
Next regular Church Council meeting will be May 22 after late service.

Respectfully,

Lee Mueller

***To be discussed at next Church Council meeting: Lake Gibson UMC Child/Youth Protection Policy was reviewed during the Protection Policy meeting on January 29, 2011. We will approve the policy at the May 22 Church Council meeting.

My Father's World

This morning as I was sitting on the porch eating my breakfast I noticed movement in the oak tree at the side of our house. It was covered by tiny sparrows. They were hidden to the eye until they moved. They flitted from one limb to the other oblivious to the fact that human eyes were watching them.

Watching those tiny birds reminded me of the song that says "His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me." Scripture also says that not one of these small creatures fall to the ground that God is not aware of it. (Luke 12:6-7) It got me to wondering if I allow myself the privilege every day to look at nature as a reminder of God and His love for all that He created. That includes each one of us. God is concerned about our needs, our wants, our hurts and every other emotion that He created in us. Our emotions come from God and they are a part of who we are. It is up to each of us as to how we will use our senses and emotions.

The past several weeks the trees are blooming in all their glory and splendor. I remarked to the preacher last week about the yellow Tabebuia outside the office window. No one but God could make a yellow with such depth of color. No artist can paint it and no paint mixer can reproduce such color. God has created such a beautiful and colorful world for us to enjoy. My neighbors fuchsia azaleas are blooming and what an array of color they provide for me to see outside my window.

I don't know about you but I have decided to wake up every morning and thank God for the world that I live in. The world is not a bad place. God created it for his creation to enjoy. I pray that God will open my spiritual eyes and allow me to see the beauty that he has provided for me to enjoy. I pray that he will open my spiritual ears to hear the music that he has provided in the songs of the birds. Have you ever noticed how the birds sing so loudly early in the morning? I don't usually wake up singing! I pray that God will open my sense of smell that I can smell his sweet aroma in the scent of blooming flowers and awaken my sense of feeling that I can touch another with compassion, sympathy and understanding. Last but not least, I pray that God will open my lips to sing praises to him and his glory. I pray that my lips will never be used to cause harm or grief to another.

God is so good! All the time God is so good!

Abba's Girl

4/2 Phil and Lou Webb
 4/2 Adam and Samantha Yagecic
 4/4 Larry and Linda Smucker
 4/6 Harrison and Marge Payne



4/22 Ken and Paula Drummond
 4/24 Bill and Lydia McKinney
 4/25 George and Nita Davis



Birthdays

4/1 Gail Bishop
 4/3 Billy Jones
 4/4 Chad Bledsoe
 4/7 Charles Bingham
 4/8 Stan Retter
 4/9 Tyler Jacoby
 4/10 Bonnie Fuqua
 4/10 Anna Mae Gribble

4/10 Warren Hamilton
 4/11 Nola Osborn
 4/11 Dorothy Spadafora
 4/14 Mary Mason
 4/14 Susan Chambers
 4/15 Kyle Fox
 4/15 Randy Moore
 4/16 Sarah Schiemann
 4/17 Anne Joyce
 4/17 Susannah Wesley
 4/17 Gwen Allen

4/18 Jacob McKnight
 4/20 Ed Hall
 4/20 John Joyce
 4/20 Homer Burr
 4/20 Ayashia Drummond
 4/21 Thomas Rogers
 4/26 Nita Davis
 4/26 Carolyn Swensen
 4/27 Bud Frederich
 4/29 Harrison Payne
 4/30 Gage Mueller

GET YOUR DEPARTMENT or MINISTRY INFORMATION OUT THROUGH THIS
 NEWS LETTER EACH MONTH TO THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION !

E-mail to: dheishman@verizon.net by the 20th each month.



*Lake Gibson United Methodist Church shares
 and supports the love of Jesus Christ.*

The Good News

The Good News is a monthly church newsletter bringing the "Good News" to members and friends of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. We welcome your suggestions and comments. Please send to :

Lake Gibson United Methodist
 Church
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 Lakeland, FL 33809

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 Phone: 863- 858-5431

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 FAX : 863-853-1625

Office Hours: 8:30 am. till 3:00 pm.

(Monday thru Friday)

Web Page - www.lakegibsonumc.org

Rosita M. Stafford, Administrative Secretary;

Lee Mueller—Youth Director

Sue Heishman, Bookkeeper,

Glenda Grant, Director of Music/Organist

Rowena Orso, Organist

Burt Fortin, Custodian

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Leslie Jimenez, Interim Director - Phone: 858-8400

email: alittlebitofheaven@lakegibsonumc.org