



The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



*Our Vision: To be a joyful church family
that is crucial to our community*

October 2018

Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

From the Pastor's Desk

I sit in front of my computer in the office asking God, "What should I write about for this edition of the newsletter?" I have been asking for several days now and I hear nothing... but then... I hear the sound of the office door opening, I hear the rustle of bags as food is distributed, I hear voices saying things like, "Thank you. I did not know if my kids and I would eat tonight." "Thank you, you have given me hope." "Thank you for being here."

The relief you can hear in the voices and the smiles on their faces say more than the words. I think, this is the church being the church; this is the people of God feeding others as Jesus did with the crowds. This is giving to those in need. This is what disciples of Christ are to be about, sharing God's love with others.

There are restrictions on who can receive food (you need to live in our area), but no requirement that you attend one of our services. Some have argued there should be, yet Jesus did not limit himself when he came to earth. He fed those who were there at the time, whether they supported him or not. This is not the only need in our society or community today, but it is one that God is using Lake Gibson UMC to meet. Thank you for all your donations of food and money; thank you for supporting this mission of LGUMC. Thank you to those volunteers that work so tirelessly to prepare the food bags, who make sure we have the variety of foods needed, and to those who pick up the day-old bread from Publix and deliver it to our church. **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** This mission is not just about one person, but there are many involved. This mission shows us that the church can and does make a difference in the world.

The giving of food to someone in need prayerfully plants a seed in that person – a seed that says God loves you and so do we here at Lake Gibson UMC; a seed that says don't give up, God has a plan for you; a seed that says someone cares about you. We are called to plant the seed. This is the message Jesus brings the world from God. We are not alone, God is here with us, among us and God wants to be in relationship with us.

Mission is basically the church and followers of Christ showing others the love of God in their actions. Mission is going into the world and sharing God's love with others. The food pantry is loving your neighbor as yourself, and perhaps even loving your enemy in some cases. Do you contribute to the spreading of the Gospel in some way, through some mission?

What other things could we accomplish if we would band together? How many people could and would feel the love of God if we quit arguing about what to do or how to do something, and actually **did** something? The food pantry is not perfect; there are those who use and abuse the system; there are those who refuse to support it with donations or work, yet it helps people. There is no perfect mission, perfect church, or perfect pastor, but the Apostle Peter says:

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)

Maybe we should focus on sharing the love of God and allow that love to cover up our imperfections.

Pastor Steve

Farewell to JoAnn Mickle



On September 16th we bid farewell to a lady who has served Lake Gibson UMC in almost every role possible. JoAnn Mickle is moving to Minnesota soon to be closer to her family.

JoAnn has served in the office, obtained greeters for our services, carried the Sunday offerings from the Sanctuary to the office, proof-read the bulletins, been active in the United Methodist Women and done many jobs behind the scenes. Her efforts have made this a better church and her absence will leave a large hole in our hearts and lots of volunteer jobs that need filling.

Photo provided by Diane Cramer.

Help Wanted

Volunteers Needed for Audio/Visual Ministry!

We need volunteers in the audio/visual ministry. If you are interested in performing this essential service, please see anyone in the sound booth. Training can be provided. We need a number of people who can serve before and during worship services, during choir and praise team rehearsals and during special events. Many hands make light work!

35TH ANNUAL LAKELAND
CROP HUNGER WALK
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019



Walk with us...

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

Coordinator will recruit walkers/fund raisers for LGUMC. The **organizing rally to pick up materials is Saturday, January 19, 2019, 10:00 - 11:00 am at First Presbyterian Church**, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland. Please call Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564, phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com if you will serve.

Walkers Needed for Wonder Walk East, Saturday, March 30th, 2019

Last year we had 5 walkers who had a ton of fun keeping each other going around Lake Hollingsworth. Our United Methodist Women's Circles provided 3 wonderful gift baskets for the silent auction to help raise funds. This walk and its western (Tampa) counterpart raise money for Cornerstone Family Ministries and the Rosa Valdez Center in Tampa, a mission of the UMW. College Heights UMC will again host Wonder Walk East. Participants can walk any distance around Lake Hollingsworth, or can work on projects at the church such as packing goodie bags for day care centers in Polk County that are supported by Cornerstone.

Phyllis Kitchens will be the LGUMC coordinator. Look for more information in the new year. If you want to walk or help in some way, call Phyllis at 863-984-4564.

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Special Monthly Events Calendar for October*

*Events that do not repeat on a weekly basis, or the first occurrence of a *new* weekly event.

2018		OCTOBER		SUNDAY		2 Services begin! 8 am traditional; 10:30 contemp.	
CALENDAR YEAR		CALENDAR MONTH		FIRST DAY OF WEEK			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
30	01	02	03	04	05	06	
	UMW Heart to Heart Circle mtg, 10:30 am, FLC; Board of Trustees mtg, 2 pm, Office		UMW Ruth Circle of Love, 11 am, FLC				
07	08	09	10	11	12	13	
World Communion Sunday (special offering)	Columbus Day; Staff, Pastor, Parish mtg, 1 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle, 6:30 pm, Off Campus			ALBOH Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC	Lay Servant Ministries Class, 6-9 pm, Temple UMC	Lay Servant Mins class, 8:30 am - 6 pm, Temple UMC; United Methodist Men (UMM) mtg, 9 am, FLC	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Blood Drive, 8:30 am, Sanctuary Parking Lot; HARVEST SUNDAY (food pantry donations)	Finance Com mtg, 7 pm, FLC		Empty sheds & set up FLC, 9 am	Set up Rummage Sale in FLC, 9 am	Rummage Sale, 8 am to 3 pm, FLC	Rummage Sale, 8 am to noon; GCD UMW Annual Mtg, St. Andrews UMC, Brandon; <i>Way Forward Listening Session, 11 am to 2:30 pm, First UMC, LKind</i>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Laity Sunday	Worship Com mtg, Sanctuary, 7 pm		Deadline for input for Nov newsletter	Craft Day, 1 pm, FLC		Bible Fest, 3 - 5 pm, FLC	
28	29	30	31	01	02	03	
Charge Conference. College Heights UMC, 4 pm	UMW Leadership Team mtg, 11 am, FLC; Administrative Council mtg, 7 pm, FLC		Halloween				

October Weekly Recurring Events

(Changes are announced in the Sunday Bulletin, available on-line or at Sunday services)

Sunday

Traditional Worship Service	8:00 am	Sanctuary
Adult Sunday School classes	9:15 - 10:15 am	FLC
Kidtricity Children's Ministry	9:15 - 10:15 am	FLC
Contemporary Worship Service (Nursery service available)	10:30 am	Sanctuary
Children's Ministry continues	10:30 - 11:45 am	Sanctuary & FLC

Wednesday

Mid-week Devotions	8:00 am	FLC (on hold)
ALBOH Chapel	9:00 am	ALBOH
Olive Tree Gathering	10:00 am	400 Vineyard Dr.
<i>The Story</i> Small Group 1	10:00 am	Foxwood Village
Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Bible Study with Pastor	7:00 pm	FLC

Thursday

Food Pantry	9:30 - 11:30 am	Office
Bible Study with Pastor	10:00 am	FLC
<i>The Story</i> Small Group 2	7:00 pm	Sir George's Trail

Monday

Intercessory Prayer	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Boy Scout Troop 711	7:00 pm	FLC

Tuesday

Deadline for Sunday Bulletin	noon	Office
Revelation Bible Study	2:00 pm	Lakeside Hills
Praise Team Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Cub Scout Pack 711	7:00 pm	FLC

Commission on a Way Forward Report

Over the past few years, there has been discussion on how United Methodists across the globe might deal with human sexuality. The Bishops of the United Methodist Church appointed a Commission to see how varying approaches would impact the denomination.

The Commission has now prepared a report which will be provided to the Special Session of the General Conference scheduled for February 23 - 26, 2019. While there is a recommendation (The One Church Plan) and at least two alternative proposals which were studied by the Commission (The Connectional Conference Plan and The Traditionalist Plan) which were developed outside of the Commission, more will likely follow as delegates offer counterproposals.

So that you understand the difficulties in coming up with a Book of Discipline which supports everyone's desires, it would be helpful to actually read the current report. I encourage all to read the document so that we might have an informed discussion. You can access it at the web site below:

<https://tinyurl.com/y95jpf28>

A brief summary of each of the three plans mentioned above is provided below from the UMC web site (umc.org):

The One Church Plan, endorsed by the Council of Bishops, would allow, but not require, United Methodist clergy to perform same-gender weddings where legal, and allow, but not require, annual conferences to ordain LGBTQ pastors. "The One Church Plan is built on the belief that it is possible to live with more space while we focus on our common mission," the report states.

The Connectional Conference Plan would create "three values-based connectional conferences" in the U.S., and provide for central conferences to align with one of those connectional conferences or become one of their own. According to the report, the "Connectional Conference Plan addresses the reality of the UMC as it is now."

The Traditionalist Plan is mentioned in the report, but details written by "a few members of the Council of Bishops" appear in appendix 3. "The Traditional Model maintains our global United Methodist teaching on human sexuality," the plan states.

September News

UMW and UMM Sundays Celebrated

On **September 9th** we celebrated United Methodist Women's Sunday by recognizing Music Director **Glenda Grant Hess as the Lake Gibson Woman of the Year**. The guest speaker was Ms. Lenee Schroeder, a talented musician, who gave a very moving testimony about how God rebuilt her life after the death of her husband, Bob.

United Methodist Men's Sunday was celebrated on **September 30th** with guest speaker, Lonnie Clark, a semi-retired pastor from Northern Pennsylvania, now living in Lake Wales. He is active in the Heart of Florida Emmaus community and is pastor for the Nalcrest Vespers Fellowship. This was a 5th Sunday with a special collection for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home and a coin collection by the members of our Children's Ministry. A ham dinner prepared and hosted by the UMM followed the service.

October Events

Two Services Return on October 7th!

It's been a long time since we held early and late Sunday services; at least it seems that way to those of us who prefer a more traditional form of worship. If I remember correctly, the last two-service Sunday was April 22nd. (April 29th was a fifth Sunday, where we hold only a 10:30 service followed by a fellowship meal.)

Traditionalists, get ready to be at church by 8:00 am on October 7th! Sunday School will follow from 9:15 to 10:15 am in the FLC. The contemporary service will begin at 10:30 am. (Nursery care is available during the contemporary service.)

The Worship Committee is exploring some changes to the traditional service's format to make it more traditional: Adding the doxology and Gloria Patri, perhaps wearing choir robes (assuming it's not too hot in the Sanctuary) and other changes. I don't have a date for these changes -- anyone who is curious should attend the Worship Committee monthly meetings (usually the 4th Monday at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, but refer to the bulletin for the latest schedule). If you have suggestions for either service, please let Glenda Hess, committee chair, know.

Phyllis Kitchens

UMW Pecan Sale Ends October 7th

Sunday, October 7th, will be the last day to order delicious pecans from the United Methodist Women. The money raised is used to fund missions. We are selling 1-lb bags of pecan halves (\$14.00) which are perfect for snacking, baking and gifts. We are also selling 10-oz bags of cinnamon pecans (\$10.00) and 8-oz bags of chocolate covered pecans (\$10.00). Nuts will be delivered in November. Make checks payable to Lake Gibson UMW. Pat Moon, Shirley Lux, Maria Thomas, Debbie Moore, Ruth Zona and Phyllis Kitchens can take your order. If paying by check, please make it payable to Lake Gibson UMW.

The UMW Leadership Team will meet on Monday, October 8th, to finalize the order which Pat Moon will place.

Small Groups Kick Into Gear

Please see the Lay Leader's Letter for a summary of the exciting small groups which Lake Gibson people are offering. If there's nothing in this list that catches your imagination, please let Sue Shelton, our Lay Leader, know what you are looking for. Sue's phone is 863-853-9212 and email is gatormom2@verizon.net.

World Communion Sunday, October 7th (A Special Sunday with Offering)

World Communion Sunday is one of six church-wide Special Sundays with offering in The United Methodist Church. The offering raises funds for World Communion Sunday Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

October Events continued on the next page . . .

October Events, Continued

Lay Servant Ministries Training, October 12th and 13th

The Gulf Central District is presenting basic and advanced courses for Lay Servants from 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Friday, October 12th and from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 13th at the United Methodist Temple, 2700 South Florida Avenue in Lakeland. **October 4th** is the deadline to submit your application, which requires the Pastor's signature and a registration fee of \$25.00. Pick up copies of the application form in the narthex. Point of contact for this course is Ronda Smith, 727-530-3194.

Lay Servant Ministries training prepares people for leading, caring and communicating. The training is applicable for all facets of your life, not just church membership. To be a Certified Lay Servant, you must have your pastor's approval, take the basic course and an advanced course, then take an additional advanced course every 3 years.

Rummage Sale, October 19th and 20th

Start cleaning out your CLOSETS and storage areas! WE want YOUR stuff . . . Any items you wish to donate to the UMW Rummage Sale may be brought to the church office Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Large furniture or appliances need to be delivered the week before or the week of the sale as storage space is limited. Please call Marina Hernandez (863-858-5431 or 863-393-2718) to make arrangements for pickup.

We need VOLUNTEERS to empty the sheds on Wednesday, October 17th, 9:00 am to exhaustion and Thursday, October 18th, 9:00 am to whenever to set up, hang up, organize and price the items. The actual sale is **Friday, October 19th, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and Saturday, October 20th, 8:00 am to noon.** We also need people to work the checkout tables, help customers carry out their purchases and generally be friendly and helpful representatives of our church to everyone who visits.

After the sale we will need people to load the Salvation Army trailer, return sales fixtures to the sheds, and clean up the FLC so it is ready for Sunday. Any help you can give is truly appreciated. Even if you can work only a few hours, it will be a blessing.

Walk to Emmaus Offered in October

“Empowering Leaders to Be the Hands and Feet of Christ”

Men's Walk, October 18 - 21
Women's Walk, October 25 - 28

“The Walk to Emmaus is an invitation for a journey with Christ, an experience of Christian spiritual renewal that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. The Walk to Emmaus is a once-in-a-lifetime experience designed to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action and discipleship in their homes, churches, communities and places of work.” [Quoted from www.hofemmaus.org]

October Events continued on the next page . . .

October Events, Continued

Walk to Emmaus Offered in October, Continued

On August 26th, the members of LGUMC who have taken the Walk to Emmaus shared their life-changing experiences with the congregation. If anyone is interested in finding out more, please contact any of the following about being sponsored: Mike or Rosita Stafford; Ken or Bonnie Fuqua; John or Anne Bernat; Tom or Betty Fischer; Leon or Kathy Rumohr; Mike or Jan Booker or Carol Troup, or go to www.hofemmaus.org.

Mike Booker

An Opportunity to Speak on A Way Forward Report:

Conference Table and Listening Session, Saturday, October 20th, First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, FL

The Conference Table and General Conference Delegation will host a **Conference Table and Listening Session on Saturday, October 20th from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm at First UMC in Lakeland**. The focus will be on preparing for the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.

All Florida United Methodists lay and clergy are invited to attend. There will be an opportunity for facilitated table conversation and for persons to sign up to speak in five-minute increments. Participants must register and plan to bring a donation of \$10.00 for the lunch that will be provided. (The Conference Table will convene at 10 am, prior to the listening session.)

Register online at <https://florida-reg.brapp.com/GeneralConferenceListeningSession>. For questions, call Shannon Redden, 813-688-5563 (sredden@flumc.org). The church's address is 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801.

Laity Sunday, October 21st

Laity Sunday is a special Sunday (without offering) that is observed on the third Sunday in October. It focuses on the celebration of the ministry of all lay Christians. On Laity Sunday we celebrate that we are called, laity as well as clergy, to go and make disciples in a world so desperately in need of hope through our humble service. Jesus modeled the process for us in Mark 10:45 . . . Therefore, GO!

Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church states that the core process of every local congregation is to **offer H.O.P.E. to the community it serves**. The *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, paragraph 122, provides a model for a discipleship system that includes proclaiming, seeking, welcoming, leading persons to commit their lives to God; nurturing people in Christian living; and sending people into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ.

What is H.O.P.E.?

H = Hospitality: Reaching out and receiving new people

O = Offering Christ: Offering opportunities to make a commitment to Christ

P = Purpose: Growing in faith through participation in the means of grace

E = Engagement: Helping transform the surrounding community.

As United Methodists, we are called to change the world by offering H.O.P.E. with the love of God experienced in and through Jesus Christ. May God bless you and your efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. [Article extracted from www.umcdiscipleship.org]

October Events continued on the next page . . .

October Events, Continued

Craft Days Planned for October 25th and November 8th

Two days have been planned to help the UMW prepare Christmas gifts for our shut-ins. The dates tentatively are Thursday, October 25th and Thursday, November 8th, both at 1:00 pm in the FLC. An instructor will be present to demonstrate how to make small Christmas-themed items. At this time, the dates are subject to change due to the instructor's availability. Look for updated information in the Sunday bulletins. You don't have to be a member of UMW to attend; all crafters are welcome.

Charge Conference, October 28th, 4:00 pm at College Heights UMC

Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, Gulf Central District Superintendent, has called for regional charge conferences this year. Quoting from her September GCD newsletter:

"As we prepare for our fall 2018 Charge Conference season our Theme is **Equipping the Church for Resilience, Innovation and Growth**. This year we will have Regional Charge Conferences - gathering 12 – 14 churches together for a time of worship, fellowship and a discussion of important church business matters. As we focus on the importance of equipping the church, I'm experiencing equipping as evaluating what's growing and pruning away what's not. I believe our churches can flourish and be in vital mission and ministry in communities throughout the Gulf Central District."

In this first of several regional GCD charge conferences, Lake Gibson will be reviewed along with 13 other churches. The Lakeland churches are College Heights, Crystal Lake, First, Highlands, Kathleen, Shepherd's Community, St. Mark, Trinity, and Temple. The other four churches are Mulberry and Bartow's Alturas, Asbury and First. As you can see, this is a very disparate group.

It would be good if members of Lake Gibson's congregation attended this review to support Pastor Steve and our church.

Phyllis Kitchens

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. All members of LGUMC are encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts with the congregation. The purpose of this 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 to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Phyllis Kitchens, Editor

Marina's Corner

Trust in dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.
Khalil Gibran

Volunteer Office Help Wanted: The office is looking for volunteers to perform general office duties such as courteously greeting guests, answering telephone calls, taking and delivering messages, making Phone Tree announcements to the congregation, proof-reading documents, etc. Protection of confidential personal information is a requirement. Work would be performed under the guidance of the pastor and the administrative secretary. Work hours are from 9:00 to 11:00 am, and you may stay longer if you like. Ideally, we want to have a volunteer worker on each of the days the office is open, from Monday through Friday.

Altar flowers: If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar for any occasion, please note it on the Connection Card, or call the office so we may make arrangements to get the flowers. Altar flowers are \$30.00; please make checks payable to LGUMC with "altar flowers" on the memo line.

Calendar/Reservations for the Sanctuary and/or Family Life Center: I am booking and blocking dates for the 2019 calendar year. The calendar is starting to fill up. If you need to reserve the Sanctuary or the FLC, please contact the church office. You will be given the proper forms to fill out and submit for approval.

Please be advised that all dates must be approved by the Pastor and the Board of Trustees. In order to block your date, you must pay a deposit for non-church related activities and have the form filled out and approved. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office.

Marina G. Hernandez
Administrative Secretary
Phone 863-858-5431
Office hours: 9 am - 2 pm, Mon-Fri.

Food Pantry

We are in great need of the following:

- Spaghetti sauce
- Jelly
- Canned meat (Vienna sausages, canned ham and chicken, etc.)
- Breakfast cereal
- Soup
- Side items (mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes, rice, Knorr rice side dishes)
- Canned beans

All items are greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do. The next Harvest Sunday is October 14th, but you may bring items into the office whenever we are open.

Marina

Marina's Corner continued on the next page . . .

Marina's Corner, Continued

Food Pantry Report

During the summer months of June, July and August we provided 241 bags of groceries and 263 bags of Publix baked goods to hungry families, with a weekly average of 18 bags of groceries and 20 bags of baked goods. So far this year we have given out 509 bags of groceries and 574 bags of baked goods.

Thank you to everyone who makes our food pantry possible, starting with the Lake Gibson members and constituents who contribute canned and dry goods; the people who put away the items in the office and in the small freezer; those who fill the paper grocery bags [usually Marina] and especially to Yvonne and Todd Bower who buy the hamburger (and other items if we run short).

Thanks to the friendly volunteers who greet the people, give out the bags and help carry them to the cars every Thursday. Thanks to the individuals who donate money, as well as to the UMW and the Sunday School classes for their contributions, and thanks to some of the winners of the Love in Action drawings who have given their envelopes (plus a little more) to the food pantry.

A BIG thank you to the Publix bakery at Lake Gibson Shopping Center, 6767 US Highway 98 North.

Finally, thanks to the people who pick up the Publix bakery items Sunday and Wednesday evenings, mark out the prices and deliver them to the office and FLC: Michael and Sharon Moake, Debbie Moore, Sandy Stanfield, Fred Fredrickson and family (Holly and Deborah).

Ours is a small food pantry, but it means so much to people who have very little -- we are touching lives of the needy in our community with this mission.

Phyllis Kitchens (with information from Marina Hernandez)

Finance and Related Topics

Financial Update

It was most interesting to receive an annotated apportionment bill from the District Office informing us that we were 11% behind where we were last year at this time. As you can see from the figures below, **we have paid out more in five of the eight months than we received.** We still intend to pay all apportionments by the end of the year. But, we do have some other pressing needs.

	Sundays	Revenue	Expenditures	Budgeted	Rev-Exp
January	4	\$23,610	\$18,082	\$25,256	\$5,528
February	4	\$29,950	\$36,746	\$25,256	(\$6,796)
March	4	\$29,201	\$25,465	\$25,256	\$3,736
April	5	\$26,066	\$21,129	\$31,571	\$4,937
May	4	\$19,712	\$23,095	\$25,256	(\$3,383)
June	4	\$20,390	\$21,104	\$25,256	(\$ 714)
July	5	\$23,856	\$26,221	\$31,571	(\$2,365)
August	4	\$16,727	\$18,369	\$25,256	(\$1,642)
September	5			\$31,571	
October	4			\$25,256	
November	4			\$25,256	
December	5			\$31,571	

Financial Report continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Financial Report, Continued

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we are about \$9,500 short in paying for the roof repair. As apportionments need not be fully paid until the end of the year, we anticipate using every spare dollar to cover normal operating expenses and to fully pay for the roof repair.

Dwight Kitchens, Co-chair
Finance Committee

Electronic Sign

As you are aware, one of the four Campus Revitalization projects we started in 2015 - 2016 was to place an electronic sign somewhere on campus. Our current sign board is in front of the sanctuary, between our access road and the sanctuary. We considered placing the sign board closer to W. Daughtery Road and moving our access road closer to the sanctuary. Unfortunately, it was determined that the curvature of West Daughtery Road at this point hinders the reading of our current sign board. Therefore, an alternative location was sought for the electronic sign.

The campus picture below from Google Maps has been modified to show a red rectangle in the middle of our northwest parking lot. This location of the electronic sign would appear to permit a longer viewing time by drivers. Our intent is to place the sign as close to the right-of-way as possible. We believe that this will be the best location.

With a two-sided electronic sign, we can inform drivers from both directions of activities at church, and we will be able to frequently change our messages. The software controlling the sign will be web-based, so the sign can be changed remotely as new activities are planned. Our current sign could be abandoned, left with infrequently changing messages, given to ALBOH, or dismantled. No decision has been made at this point. [Note: Erroneous labels are on the Google file and cannot be corrected.]

Dwight Kitchens



Finance and Related Topics continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Status of Funding for Roof Repairs

Since January 2018, we have been raising funds for three major projects which were anticipated to be performed over a number of years. Recently the Board of Trustees have pressed for immediate repair of the Sanctuary roof rather than in two years as originally planned. The accumulated dollars for each project (held in separate reserve funds) is listed below as of 17 Sept 2018:

Sanctuary Roof Reserve	=	\$18,572.09
Air Conditioner Reserve	=	\$19,946.00
Insurance Deductible Reserve	=	\$ 6,470.15

The Board of Trustees have accepted a contract for sanctuary roof repairs in the amount of slightly under \$28,000. With the amount currently in the Sanctuary Roof Reserve account, we are approximately **\$9,500 short**. The roof work should be completed by the end of November. Therefore, we have two months remaining before this bill becomes due. **We ask that you consider how you might further support paying off this obligation.** Thank you.

Dwight Kitchens

Our Departments

The Administrative Council

The next Administrative Council meeting will be Monday, October 29th, at 7:00 pm in the FLC.

The Board of Trustees

No report

Music Department

We are busy rehearsing for this year's Christmas cantata, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith. There will be only one presentation of the cantata this year, on **Sunday, December 16th, at 10:30 am.**

We are inviting everyone to **join us in singing Christmas carols** at local nursing homes the **afternoon of December 9th**, places and times to be determined. Let Glenda Hess know if you'd like to join the musical fun, 863-307-1261.

Our Departments continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

Lay Leader's Letter

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to let everyone know about the many **opportunities available for study and fellowship** this fall within Lake Gibson UMC. I hope you will take advantage of these groups to deepen your understanding of the Bible and your relationships within our church family.

Small groups and Sunday school for *The Story* are now back in full swing! These small groups read and discuss the chapter from *The Story* that correlates with Pastor Steve's sermon each week. One of these groups meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am at Foxwood Village Club House. The facilitator is Linda Gibbs until Pastor Joe Brady returns. The other group meets Thursdays at 7:00 pm at my house (Sue Shelton (863-853-9212), 1712 Sir Georges Trail) and is facilitated by Ken Fuqua. On October 7th these groups will be on Chapter 21, Rebuilding the Walls (Ezra).

There is a third small group studying *The Story* which meets on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm at Lakeside Hills Club House (520 Forrest Lake Drive, Lakeland 33809). This group met during the summer, so they are finishing up *The Story* during the next couple of weeks, and then will be starting a new study on the Book of Revelation (I think on October 2nd). If you would like to learn more about this group, call Debbie McLellan, 863-327-2893.

The Olive Tree Gathering is a small group that meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am at Debbie Moore's home (400 Vineyard Drive) and is also studying the Book of Revelation, using Rabbi K.A. Schneider's text *The Book of Revelation Decoded: Your Guide to Understanding the End Times through the Eyes of the Hebrew Prophets*. Maria Thomas (302-750-1491) is the group leader; you are welcome to join at any time. They should complete this book by the end of November. This group shares lunch after the study.

Newcomers are welcome to join all of these groups! If you are interested in a small group but these topics, dates or times do not work for you, please let me know, as I would be glad to organize more groups.

Pastor Steve's Bible studies will resume on Wednesday, October 3rd, at 7:00 pm and Thursday, October 4th at 10:00 am. Both are in the FLC, classrooms 1 and 2. Again, all are welcome!

In addition to these study groups, the church has committee meetings that are open to anyone interested, with the exception of the Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations (SPPR) Committee, which deals with personnel management. The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct 1st, at 2:00 pm in the church office, with no set agenda at this time. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet Monday, October 15th, 7:00 pm in the FLC with the agenda to be published ahead of the meeting. The Worship Committee is scheduled for October 22nd, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. The Administrative Council meets approximately quarterly, or as needed. The Charge Conference is held annually; this year it is on October 28th at College Heights United Methodist Church at 4:00 pm. You are welcome to attend this meeting which will review operations of a number of churches in our area.

Your input and/or attendance is welcomed/encouraged for committees, boards or church activities. You are welcome to call me, leave a note in Lay Leader mail box in office, or contact members of committees to express your suggestions or concerns.

God bless!

Sue Shelton, Lay Leader

Our Departments continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

Children's Ministry

The children are eager learners. We are following suit with *The Story* in Sunday School and the highlight of the chapter on Ezra was pulling out his beard, tearing his clothes and those strange wives. The children were rather shocked by that behavior from an adult. During Kidtricity children's church time we have re-enacted the Bible up to Cain and Able, so we will be building the tower of Babel with Styrofoam blocks, and have ordered a Noah's ark scaled to size to put together.

Thanks to Brad Fox, we now have running water in the sink in our Sunday School room which will be a tremendous help when we use paints and markers.

We truly need one volunteer each Sunday during the 10:30 am service. Thankfully, Phyllis Kitchens signed up for the first Sunday of each month and Maria Thomas for the fourth Sunday. Please let Jan Booker know if you are available to take a Sunday, whether on a regular basis or just once in a while. Jan's number is 863-858-6129, email jlbooker413@tampabay.rr.com.

Thank you to Sue Shelton who volunteered to teach **Sunday School for children who are a little older**, but below the age of Youth. Sue would appreciate having **one or two volunteers** to take over this mission which has two children at this time, so she can return to her adult class. Let her know if you're interested, and sit in on a class to meet the kids and learn what they're doing. Sue's number is 863-853-9212, email gatormom2@verizon.net.

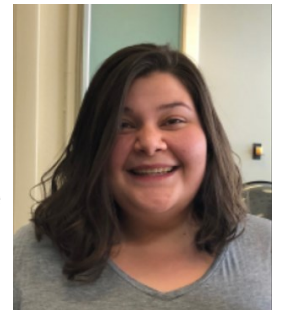
Bible Fest will be Saturday, October 27th, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the FLC. Please come dressed as someone from the Bible and give out candy. **We are asking for donations of candy starting now.** You were so generous last year that we had enough candy left over to treat our children through Christmas! We will have a few games, so we will need volunteers to watch and give out prizes. We are still using the lion donated from last year's fest by Phyllis and Dwight Kitchens. Thank you to Rob and Sue Atchley for donations for toddler-age children.

Debbie Moore, Children's Director
863-221-1096

A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center

I just wanted to let you know that Miranda Carreno is our Employee of the Month for September. She has done an outstanding job thus far at A Little Bit of Heaven.

A Little Bit of Heaven is looking to offer **piano lessons** as an extracurricular activity for our students. Did you know that learning music improves the ability to concentrate on complex tasks? It also requires the mind to make quick computations and translate them to hand movements. While most people automatically think of music as a creative art, and it is, playing an instrument is also a critical thinking skill.



Young people who do not take music tend to gravitate toward listening only to popular or cultural genres of the times. Music students have a much wider exposure thanks to teachers opening their minds to a wide variety of musical styles. They learn to appreciate all types of music from classical and jazz to folk and rock.

ALBOH continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center, Continued

Piano lessons are being offered for **4-year old's and up**. Private lessons are \$25.00 for a 1/2-hour session, and \$15.00 (1/2 hour) for a group session. Mrs. Mandy Carr will be the teacher, and lessons will be taught in the FLC using her keyboard. Days and times for lessons will be developed in coordination with parents and the teacher. A signup sheet will be in the front office.

A church member has offered to provide a two-month scholarship for up to two students with financial need who display strong interest in learning to play and who practice diligently. Recipients will be selected based on the Director's and Mrs. Carr's recommendations.

Latisha Cook, Director
863-858-8500

Worship Committee

No report.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Adult Sunday School classes meet in the FLC from 9:15 to 10:15 am. **Each class welcomes new members. Please join us!** All classes are using *The Story*.

The **Friendship** Sunday School Class is led by Mike Stafford and meets downstairs in the multipurpose room.

The **Seekers** Sunday School class meets in FLC Classrooms 1 and 2. Sue Heishman is the leader.

The **"Upstairs"** class meets next door to Kidtricity with Michael Moake as the leader. Since Michael is working in the Sanctuary's A/V booth during class, the members are sharing leadership duties.

If you need a book, let the Sunday School class leader know.

Our Ministries

Mission Moments

I know that most of us are concerned about the flooding and other problems brought on by Hurricane Florence. If you want to help, the best way is to donate through LGUMC with a notation that it is for UMCOR. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is usually the first team to arrive and the last to leave after a disaster.

As Pastor Steve has mentioned several times, 100% of your donation goes to helping those in need. Administrative expenses are covered by other sources [such as UMCOR Sunday, formerly One Great Hour of Sharing, which was March 11th this year].

Mission Moments continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

Mission Moments, Continued

Our prayers are with the people of North and South Carolina and others in harm's way. Charlie and I know what they are going through. Both of us were in the area south of Miami that was hit by Hurricane Andrew. It will take months, maybe years, before things are back to normal. Some may never recover. With our help, financially and through prayer, we can make a difference. [FYI: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4 of Lakeland donated \$1,000 to UMCOR for this mission. Ed.]

I want to share with you a **Back-to-School Litany** from the United Methodist Church's Discipleship Ministries:

Learning is a gift from God. As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both. Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day.

We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates and friends.

We ask that you bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

Amen

Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator



United Methodist Men (UMM)

The UMM held their monthly meeting on the 15th of September with 8 members present. We voted on the decision to fund a charity outside the normal. The vote was not to use our funds for this group, but to use them to assist the Lake Gibson UMC where needed. We also voted to lower the dues to \$10.00 a month which will allow us sufficient money to fulfill our obligations and have a little extra to support the cost of food for the 5th Sunday dinner Sep 30th. The men volunteered to help with the dinner setup and serve where needed.

It was decided that the next meeting on October 13th at 9:00 am would be a **working event to finish FLC fence repair**. We are forming up next year's work list; maybe we can get the cracks in the sidewalk repaired and paint the FLC sidewalk to match the church. We have the approval already and the funds to do so. We just need to do it when there is time to allow it to dry.

The UMM have been challenged this year. I hope and pray that a few more men will join us and become active members.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who attended United Methodist Men's Sunday on September 30th and who brought side dishes and/or helped us prepare the meal, set up the FLC and clean up.

Michael Moake, President

863-816-3194 Our Ministries continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued



United Methodist Women (UMW)

The current Leadership Team has completed its 2-year term and is stepping down at the end of this year. If anyone is interested in serving in one of the following positions, please let Pat Moon know: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and VP of Program Resources (which involves managing the UMW Reading Program). The 2019 - 2020 Leadership Team will be announced at the Unit meeting. (All three circle leaders have agreed to continue serving in those positions and will be available to advise the new unit officers if desired.)

The next meeting of the **UMW Leadership Team** is scheduled to be Monday, October 29th, 11:00 am in the FLC.

Upcoming UMW Events:

Unit Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 12th. The guest speaker will be from the Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM). Look for more information in the November newsletter.

Gulf Central District UMW Annual Celebration will be on Saturday, October 20th, at St. Andrews UMC, 3315 S. Bryan Rd, Brandon, FL 33511.

Florida Conference UMW Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3rd at First UMC, Lakeland, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The theme is Sacred Spaces. Registration will start at 9:00 am. Preregistration is required by October 15th. The registration form is at flconfumw.org; registration fee is \$12.00 (meeting only) or \$25.00 (meeting and lunch).

Circle News

Heart to Heart will meet on **Monday, October 1st, at 10:30 am** in the FLC. Bonnie Strait will present the program from the UMW Program Book. Please bring your lunch and a drink; dessert will be provided. All ladies are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Ruth Zona at 863-859-5967.



Ruth Circle of Love will meet on **Wednesday, October 3rd, at 11:00 am** in the FLC. We will be studying chapter 7, Leah, from *Women of the Bible* by Frances Vander Velde. Please bring your lunch and a drink; dessert will be provided. All ladies are invited to attend. Contact Pat Moon, 863-858-6883 if you have any questions.

Evening Circle will meet on **Monday, October 8th, at 6:30 pm** at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Drive, Lakeland. We start with dinner and dessert, so come hungry and enjoy the fellowship. We will study Chapter 10, Lydia, from *Women of the Bible* by Frances Vander Velde. Our ladies' evening circle continues to be joyful and we have learned a few things from the women of the Bible. We should finish this book in December. Our next study is going to be based on the book *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewish Words of Jesus Can Change Your Life* by Lois Tverberg. We have lively discussions and perform tasks like filling welcome bags for first-time visitors. If you can, please bring some small, useful and/or religious items to put into the bags. All ladies are welcome to attend, especially anyone who works or who can't get away during the day, and wants to relax and learn. Call Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193 for information.



Our Ministries continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

Prayer Ministry



Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. — Romans 12:15
(NKJV)

As fall comes into sight and leaves summer memories of times shared with family and friends, sometimes in different locations other than here in Lakeland, Lake Gibson UMC Prayer Ministry gives appreciation for all prayer warriors who continued prayers for LG church family even while you were away. The spiritual intercession of prayer that continued was made possible many times via our email prayer grams. We give thanks for this tool that can send prayer requests to so many from wherever they are and for those willing to intercede in prayer. God loves hearing our prayers for others from any location and keeping in communication with him.

Thank you, Prayer Warriors, for your continued service to Lake Gibson and our Christian family. As you move into another change of season, may you be blessed by your continued prayers on behalf of others, either in a group setting or by our email prayer grams.

Please check the Connection Card “Becoming a Prayer Warrior” during church service if you wish to join our Prayer Ministry team. We currently have 30 Prayer Warriors at Lake Gibson; praise be to God.

God Bless you all,

Lake Gibson Prayer Ministry

Scouting Report

The Cub Scouts held a recruiting drive recently, with a good turnout of interested kids. There could be as many as 50 new Cub Scouts. They are holding “Scouting for Food”, a food drive that takes place over several weekend campouts. They will give the food to our food pantry. They will be selling popcorn as a fund-raiser October 6th and 13th.

This year girls can join the Cub Scouts. They have to be taught by ladies and any time they are in mixed groups, there must be an adult male and female present.

Tom Burns,
Scouting Representative

Florida United Methodist Children’s Home (FUMCH)

No report this month.

Karen and Jeff Acor, FUMCH Representatives

Neighborhood Missions Ministry

We are looking for people to prepare one mid-day meal for a blind church member, cut up the food if necessary and visit for a while from October 1st to 13th. If you can help, please call Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564 or 410-790-2662.

Celebrations

[Please let the editor know if there are errors in these lists so we can correct the data base. We print both members' and constituents' celebrations.]



Birthdays in October

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
10/1	Sharon Coddington
10/1	Alan Grier
10/3	Nicholas Stafford
10/5	Garnet Retter
10/6	Timothy Welch
10/7	Franki Jean Bailey
10/8	Tre Darius Davidson
10/8	Kenneth Hawthorne
10/9	Lee Mueller
10/10	Phyllis Michael
10/10	Debbie Mitchell
10/10	Stephen Osborn
10/10	Tammie Schertzer
10/11	Betty Fischer
10/11	Karel Knox
10/12	Karen Acor
10/12	Penny Polk
10/14	John Escobar
10/14	Fran Mudge
10/15	Florence Hogan
10/15	Mary Beth Kuhlman
10/15	JoAnn Mickle
10/18	Shirley Cook
10/18	Karen Holmes
10/18	Marge Payne
10/19	Laurie Hillsgrove
10/19	Laura Lizotte
10/20	Sylvia Barrett
10/20	Gail Travis
10/23	Ward Parker
10/23	Clara Sawyer
10/25	Helen Swahn
10/26	Sue Hawthorne
10/26	Amy Schertzer
10/26	Paul Schiemann
10/27	Ann Fox

Birthdays in October, Continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
10/29	Ryan Freeman
10/30	Shirley Hawksby
10/31	Mary Friend



Anniversaries in October

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
10/2	Barbara and Larry Gitt
10/4	Linda and Charlie Alvarez
10/6	Glenda and David Hess
10/8	Naseem and Junaid Saqib
10/30	Ginger and C.B. Fredrikson

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

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church
424 West Daughtery Road
Lakeland, FL 33809

Web Page: www.lakegibsonumc.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday

Contact Information

Steve Polk, Pastor	Phone:	863-858-5431
	FAX:	863-853-1625
	E-mail:	pastor@lakegibsonumc.com

Support Staff

Marina Hernandez	Administrative Secretary 863-858-5431 office@lakegibsonumc.com
Sue Heishman	Bookkeeper
Debbie Moore	Children's Director
Glenda Grant Hess	Director of Music/Organist
Don Heishman, Michael Moake	Audio/Visual Support
Debbie Moore	Custodian

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Latisha Cook	Director
Office	863-858-8400
E-mail	alboh@lakegibsonumc.com

The Good News is a monthly church newsletter that supports Lake Gibson UMC's vision *to be a joyful church family that is crucial to our community*. We welcome your suggestions, comments and articles. Please contact the editor at 863-984-4564 (home) or 410-790-2662 (cell), or by e-mail her at phylis_kitchens@hotmail.com.