



The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

*Christ
is
Risen!*

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

April 2018

Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

From the Pastor's Desk

I am thankful for the timing of Easter this year. I am sure by now you realize that Easter occurs on April Fool's Day – April 1 this year. Sadly the resurrection of the Lord Jesus is disputed and/or denied by many across the world, and the events surrounding the crucifixion of God's Son are scoffed at. Many people will tell you that they do not believe in a God that could or would allow His own son to die such a cruel death. The Apostle Paul acknowledged this when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:23 (NIV):

"... but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,"

In light of the events surrounding Lent this year: the killings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School here in our own state which occurred on Ash Wednesday; the other shootings across our land and the atrocities occurring across the world; the collapse of the FIU pedestrian bridge and the destruction it caused; the deaths of loved ones in our community of faith; I am thankful for the message of the Resurrection. It is only because of Christ's empty grave that we have hope in the midst of despair and death, when all seems lost, when there seems to be no way, when every door is blocked and it is certain that we will perish, the resurrection says God loves you and it will be okay. Or as Paul put it in the 15th chapter of I Corinthians:

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?" 1 Cor 15:55 (NIV)

Have you ever noticed the progression of Christianity? In all other religions, birth is the beginning and the religion progresses toward death, but in Christianity life begins with death. (I hesitate to say Christianity is a religion – to me it is a way of living – religion is a list of rules man has devised so man can become God.) Christianity teaches that a person must die to self in order to live in the glory of God. It is only when the old man is crucified that we truly begin to live life. Christianity teaches that when true disciples of God die they move on to life eternal. Our faith begins at the grave and moves on to life. Christianity is always moving toward a hopeful future in the absolute, perfect love of God.

If we think about it, the natural world works this way. A mighty oak tree that can stand the forces of a hurricane began with the death of an acorn; a stalk of corn that can feed a family began with the death of a single kernel of corn. Our nation (the USA) teaches that the death of its patriots strengthens the resolve of independence for others. Thank God for the empty tomb and the message it sends to the world today. When all seems lost, there is still God. He is still on the throne and continues to love mankind – each and every one of us. There is hope in God – no matter what.

*Happy Easter,
Pastor Steve*

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Special Monthly Events Calendar for April

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

2018		APRIL		SUNDAY		
CALENDAR YEAR		CALENDAR MONTH		FIRST DAY OF WEEK		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Easter Sunday SonRise Service, 7:30 am, Potluck Brunch, Cantata Service 10:30 am	02 UMW Heart to Heart, 10:30 am, FLC; Board of Trustees mtg, 2 pm, office	03	04 UMW Ruth Circle of Love, 11 am, FLC	05	06 Private Function, 4 - 9 pm, FLC	07 Private Function, 7:30 am - 6 pm, FLC
08 Harvest Sunday - donations for Food Pantry	09 Staff, Pastor, Parish committee mtg, 1 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle mtg, 6:30 pm, off campus	10	11	12 A Little Bit of Heaven Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC; Cub Scouts Committee mtg, 7 pm, FLC	13	14 United Methodist Men breakfast mtg, 9 am, FLC; FENCE repairs start
15 Native American Ministries Sunday (Special Sunday with Offering)	16 Finance Committee mtg, 7 pm, FLC	17 Income Tax Day	18 Rummage Sale preparation: Empty sheds and set up in FLC, 9 am til ?	19 Rummage Sale preparation: Arrange and price items, 9 am to ?	20 Rummage Sale, 8 am - 3 pm, FLC	21 Rummage Sale, 8 am - noon, FLC
22	23 Worship Committee mtg, 7 pm, Sanctuary	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Lifeline Screening,</i> 8 am to 5 pm, FLC
29 5th Sunday: Coin Collection; Offering for Children's Home; one service, 10:30 am; ham lunch afterward (potluck side dishes) & ice cream sundaes	30 UMW Leadership Team mtg, 1 pm, FLC	01	02	03	04	05

April Weekly Recurring Events (Changes are announced in the Sunday Bulletin)

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	10:30 am	Sanctuary
Children's Ministry continues (nursery available)	10:30 - 11:45 am	Sanctuary & FLC
Asian Christian Service	3:00 pm	Sanctuary

Monday

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

Tuesday

Deadline for Sunday Bulletin	noon	Office
Praise Team Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Cub Scout Pack 711	7:00 pm	FLC

Wednesday

Mid-week Devotions	8:00 am	FLC (on hold)
ALBOH Chapel	9:15 am	Preschool
Book of Acts Messianic Study	10:00 am	Off-campus
<i>The Story</i> Small Group 1	10:00 am	Off-campus
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	Off-campus

March News

PACE Center for Girls

On March 12th we met at PACE Center for Girls and had craft day with approximately 50 girls. Two friends and I teach four craft classes a month. This month we made mini-Easter baskets from the toilet rolls that you provided. I've attached pictures so you can see how cute they were. I'm amazed by their creativity. Thank you for your support and we use all your donations. The girls have a great time and it gives them a little break from their problems.

Cindy Webb



Spring Work Party at the Spadafora Memorial Garden



On Wednesday, March 14th, we had a great response to the call for volunteers to mulch the Paul Spadafora, Sr., Memorial Garden. In addition to Paul, Jr., we had Betty and Tom Fischer, Bob Gilmore, Junaid Saqib, Gary Mudge, Dwight Kitchens and Pastor Steve Polk. Thank you to the Board of Trustees and other volunteers who made quick work of this annual project. This photo shows the results, a peaceful, attractive place to pray and reflect.

Packing Easter Eggs on March 17th



The United Methodist Men, led by Michael Moake, are sponsoring this year's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31st. On March 17, the UMM and lots of helpers met to fill hundreds of plastic eggs with candy. We had 17 volunteers and ran out of eggs before some people arrived! Thank you to everyone who supported this event for the local children.

This picture shows only a few of the volunteers. Thanks to Michael and Sharon Moake, Barbara Allen-Coil, Shirley Schmidt, Jan and Michael Booker, Bob Gilmore, Dwight Kitchens, Linda and Charlie Alvarez, Debbie Moore and John Bernat. [Sincere apologies to the people I have left out -- it was hectic and I lost track. Ed.]

March News continued on the next page . . .

March News, Continued

Cornerstone Family Ministries Fund-Raiser, Wonder Walk East, March 24th

This month the Lake Gibson Unit of United Methodist Women (UMW) donated \$300 to Cornerstone Family Ministries (a UMW National Mission Institution). In addition, each of the three circles provided a gift basket for the silent auction held during Wonder Walk East. Thank you to the ladies who donated items and prepared the baskets shown below:

Ruth Circle of Love: Garden Basket
(Raised \$60.00 for Cornerstone)



Not shown: 3 Hand-painted Easter Bunnies by Sharon Codlington (Raised \$15.00)

Special thanks to Pat Moon, Ruth Zona, Maria Thomas, Debbie Moore, Sharon Codlington, Phyllis Kitchens and the rest of the UMW ladies who made the silent auction gifts possible.

Not counting the auction, Wonder Walk East raised \$3,123 (\$1,000 more than last year). Lake Gibson donated a total of **\$680.00** (as of March 26th). Thank you to everyone who supported this ministry. March News/Wonder Walk East continued on the next page . . .

Evening Circle: Gift Card Basket (Raised \$70.00)



Heart to Heart Circle Gourmet Easter Basket
(Raised \$25.00)



March News/Wonder Walk East Continued



Lake Gibson's Wonder Walk East team on March 24th, 2018; photo courtesy of Carrie Brown, Cornerstone Family Ministries. Clockwise from top left are Mike Booker (Lay Delegate), Ruth Zona (UMW Heart to Heart Circle leader), Bonnie Cochran and Phyllis Kitchens (UMW members). Bonnie and Phyllis walked around Lake Hollingsworth while Mike and Ruth packed 175 "Care Packages for Kids", weekend food bags for low-income children attending 5 Polk County child care centers affiliated with Cornerstone (2 in Mulberry and 3 in Lakeland). (Cornerstone supports a total of 15 Polk County centers, 14 of which need Care Packages; at Wonder Walk East we only had enough food for kids in these 5 centers.)

Bonnie delivered Care Packages to Mulberry to Kids in Motion I (73% of the enrollees' families are at or below the poverty level) and Kids in Motion II (81% at or below poverty level); two of her Guardian ad Litem children are enrolled there. Ruth delivered Care Packages to Mary's Little Lambs Child Care Center (95% at or below poverty level) on E. Memorial Blvd, Lakeland.

These deliveries are a one-time mission; however, the Lake Gibson team are examining the feasibility of developing a long-term relationship with Mary's Little Lambs in hope that some of the families served might become involved with our church. Their food bags contained invitations to attend the Easter Cantata.

Other churches that support Cornerstone's nutrition program do so by preparing a Care Package for one weekend a month. The cost of each Care Package is \$5.50; currently there are 41 children in need of weekend food at Mary's Little Lambs, for a total of \$225.50 per month. That's a significant cost for our church, so careful study will be needed to figure out if or how to fund the effort. It looks like we wouldn't need to store these foods, but could buy them just before they are packed. One or two people would take the packages to the center before the weekend.

There are 10 foods plus a nutrition booklet for the parents in each pack. The contents are a Go Go Squeeze (a mixture of a fruit and a vegetable); fruit juice; raisins; veggies (packed in plastic); tuna or chicken salad and crackers; Beef-A-Roni; cereal; milk (Carnation Essentials); whole wheat crackers and cheese; and Z-Bar Kids. The packs provide nutritionally sound food for each child. According to Cornerstone, ninety percent of brain development occurs before elementary school. Also good nutrition habits related to food are formed before elementary school, making this mission one that should have lasting impact on the children.

March News, Continued

Preparing for Easter



April Events

Easter Celebration

There will be a 7:30 am SonRise service, with communion, in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 1st. This will be followed by a **potluck brunch** in the FLC before Sunday School. **Please bring breakfast casseroles, pastries, meats, biscuits and gravy, etc. -- whatever you would like to share with others!**

The Easter Cantata will be at 10:30 am along with a worship service and communion. Please bring your family and friends to enjoy this musical celebration of Christ's love for us. Also, remember to take home the Easter lilies you ordered after the service.

Rummage Sale

It's that time again: the UMW Rummage Sale on Friday, April 20th, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and Saturday, April 21st, from 8:00 am to noon. Please start bringing in your unwanted clothes, furniture, household furnishings, books, shoes, games, decorations, computers, monitors printers, appliances . . . Whatever is needlessly taking up space in your home. If you need help moving very large items, please call Michael Moake, 863-816-3194, to arrange for pickup.

As always, this is a labor-intensive undertaking. Lake Gibson men and women are needed over a 4-day period to put on this sale. Workers are needed Wednesday, April 18th, 9:00 am until you're tired to empty the sheds and Thursday, April 19th, 9:00 am until you're tired to set up the sales areas, price the items, and check out any electronics or small appliances to make sure they are working. Then on Friday and Saturday we need people to be cashiers and baggers at the two exit doors, as well as people to assist our customers in the various sales areas of the floor, and to help carry out the purchases when necessary. (We also need lots of plastic grocery bags.)

Unsold items will be loaded onto a Salvation Army vehicle starting at noon Saturday. Then we get to return the FLC to its normal condition for Sunday School the next day.

Thank you in advance for the success of this sale, the UMW's primary source of mission funding!

5th Sunday, April 29th

On April 29th we will hold our traditional 5th Sunday dinner following the single 10:30 am worship service. The Children's Ministry will be collecting coins for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH), so bring your jar of loose change or just empty out your pockets and purses. There will be a special collection for FUMCH, too, so bring your checkbook or put cash in the supplied envelope.

This service will be followed by a fellowship meal in the FLC with the church providing hams cooked by Michael Moake. Please bring whatever side dishes you would like. We are having **banana splits** for dessert!

The United Methodist Women adopted this meal and will do the set-up, help in the kitchen as needed and clean up afterward. (Of course, anyone who wants to lend a hand is welcome to do so, but that is not necessary this time.) Once Marina Hernandez gets back into the swing of things, we'll figure out what other meals still need to be adopted and publish an updated list in the newsletter.

Thank You's

Thank you to Michael Moake for the lights he is installing. The brightness is helping us all to appreciate "The light of the world".

Thank you to the UMW Ladies who have volunteered to set up and clean up for April 29th dinner.

Thank you to all who are bringing delicious food and to *my banana split helpers* on April 29th.

It is with great disappointment that I say we have lost one of the best people for Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Thank you, Bob Gilmore, for all you have done and continue to do for our Lord Jesus!

Thank you, Dwight Kitchens, for keeping us informed on the status of our projects and the needs of our facilities!

Thank you to David Hess for the work done in both attic areas of the Sanctuary.

Thank you, Ellen Haltiwanger, for Sunday morning kitchen clean-up, and Danny and Sharon Hughes for hospitality set-up and bread convenience.

Thank you to Larry Carpenter and Ray Elston for putting tables and chairs away.

We have so many people who make our worship joyful. Most of all, thank you to each one who prays for me. I am truly indebted to you!

Debbie Moore, Custodian

Marina's Corner

Due to Marina's surgery and recovery, there will be no Marina's Corner article this month. We are all looking forward to her return to work part-time on or about April 2nd.

Thank you to Ann Johnson, Ruth Zona and Joyce Webb for filling in to keep the office running!

Food Pantry Report

No report. Donations are requested on the second Sunday of the month (Harvest Sunday), which is April 8th. (You can also bring donations to the office; please call first to make sure someone will be there, 863-858-5431.)

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 for the transformation of the world.

Phyllis Kitchens, Editor (863-984-4564/410-790-2662/phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com)

Finance and Related Topics

Financial Update

The figures below represent data from the end of February 2018.

2018 - Month	Sundays	Straight-Line Budgeted Revenue	Actual Revenue	Expenditures	Budgeted	Rev-Exp
January	4	\$25,256	\$23,610	\$18,082	\$25,256	\$5,528
February	4	\$25,256	\$29,950	\$36,746	\$25,256	(\$6,796)
March	4	\$25,256			\$25,256	
April	5	\$31,570			\$31,571	
May	4	\$25,256			\$25,256	
June	4	\$25,256			\$25,256	
July	5	\$31,570			\$31,571	
August	4	\$25,256			\$25,256	
September	5	\$31,570			\$31,571	
October	4	\$25,256			\$25,256	
November	4	\$25,256			\$25,256	
December	5	\$31,570			\$31,571	

Current Budget

\$328,334

Month	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2018
January	\$22,306	\$29,299	\$28,306	\$79,911	\$26,637	\$26,637	\$23,610
February	\$26,282	\$29,218	\$27,256	\$82,756	\$27,585	\$54,222	\$29,950
March	\$31,316	\$21,386	\$26,501	\$79,203	\$26,401	\$80,623	
April	\$22,325	\$24,069	\$28,612	\$75,006	\$25,002	\$105,625	
May	\$26,498	\$28,167	\$21,816	\$76,481	\$25,494	\$131,119	
June	\$18,538	\$17,395	\$17,272	\$53,205	\$17,735	\$148,854	
July	\$17,763	\$23,318	\$23,381	\$64,462	\$21,487	\$170,341	
August	\$18,641	\$15,985	\$16,366	\$50,992	\$16,997	\$187,339	
September	\$16,310	\$23,646	\$21,139	\$61,095	\$20,365	\$207,704	
October	\$18,372	\$24,737	\$20,835	\$63,944	\$21,315	\$229,018	
November	\$32,022	\$22,606	\$21,926	\$76,554	\$25,518	\$254,536	
December	\$28,664	\$23,214	\$27,446	\$79,324	\$26,441	\$280,978	
Total	\$279,037	\$283,040	\$280,856	\$842,933	\$280,978	\$280,978	\$53,560

You will note that we spent much more in February than in January. Primarily, this was due to our intentionally paying our Property and Liability Insurance in whole to take advantage of an offered 2% discount from the conference.

As of the end of January, our total contributions to our three long-term designated funds are as follows:

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

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Fund	Re-Roofing	Air Conditioning	Insurance Deductible
Term	(2 years)	(3 years)	(5 years)
Total Required	\$60,000	\$105,000	\$181,170
New funds wanted by end of 2018	\$30,000	\$30,366	\$36,234
Raised before 2018		\$13,902	
Raised thru Feb 28, 2018	\$4,334	\$ 1,639	\$3,258
Percentage raised for this year's portion	14.44%	5.39%	8.99%

We are attempting to simultaneously raise funds to support each of the above three projects. Each of these projects could be accomplished with an **additional \$5 per week per adult per project**. The re-roofing will take two years of contributions, the air conditioners will take three years, and the insurance deductible reserve fund will take five years to be fully funded at that rate.

Projects Using Designated Funds

When we first started attending Lake Gibson UMC, we heard that some members were concerned that funds designated for a particular objective had been directed towards a different purpose. One example was \$15,000 taken from our Endowment Fund principle and spent on roof repairs for the FLC. These funds were part of \$50,000 originally set aside for development of a Youth/Children's program within LGUMC. Of course, as an endowment, our contract only permitted us to withdraw 90% of the *interest earned* on the principal, with the intent that the principal will never disappear. We violated that agreement.

Over the past seven years, we have emphasized the use of Designated Funds as opposed to raising new Endowments. Designated Funds may be spent in whole, as raised, for a particular purpose. While we would love to see our entire budget raised each year, it appears that our members are unwilling or unable to meet that objective. But, this does not mean that they will not support particular projects in which they are interested.

When a need arises which is not planned for within the general operating budget of the church, the Administrative Council discusses the identified issue and determines whether they will support that need or not. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. After discussion, committee chairs, Lay Leader, etc. vote on the issue.

Projects Using Designated Funds continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Projects Using Designated Funds, Continued

Earlier in this decade we identified the need to replace the carpeting within the Family Life Center (FLC). Over many months we raised \$10,000 to re-carpet, with some monies left over for a number of cleanings. Back in June 2014, we identified the need to upgrade our audio-visual equipment in the Sanctuary with new monitors, sound boards, and related equipment. We raised \$21,750 and upgraded our sanctuary's capabilities, improving our worship programs.

In May 2016, the Administrative Council discussed, and approved, a plan to address some of the suggestions made by our District Superintendent's staff. Many of these addressed how inviting our church is to visitors and their initial impressions. The Administrative Council chose to address four of the recommendations and ranked them in a priority sequence. It was understood at that time that we would probably need to replace the sanctuary's roof in three to five years.

Item one was renewing the look of our church by repainting the exterior of the sanctuary and FLC (\$22,700).

Item two was changing the landscaping around the campus (\$3,000). While we raised funds for this purpose, work was delayed primarily due to weather. Much of it has now been completed.

Item three was working on the entrance circle in front of the sanctuary (\$4,500). While it was cleaned and repainted, we did not get exactly what we had anticipated. The United Methodist Men are now looking at ways to appropriately fill the cracks which were not fixed earlier.

Item four was installation of an electronic sign which we could use to easily inform those driving down W. Daughtery Road of the many programs within the church (\$30,000). We have signed a contract for the sign and paid the first 50% of the cost. We are awaiting permitting, manufacturing, and installation.

In November 2017, the Administrative Council addressed three additional issues which were not fully identified by any of our prior year's budgets. In January 2018, the congregation was informed of the need to fund, over time, these items:

1. Roof replacement for the sanctuary, estimated to cost \$60,000 and requiring funding of \$5 per adult per week for two years (2018-2019).
2. Air conditioner replacement for units in the sanctuary and FLC, estimated to cost \$105,000, requiring \$5 per adult per week for three years (2018-2020).
3. Establishing an Insurance Deductible Reserve Account in the amount of \$181,170 (five percent of the value of our property and furnishings as of 2017), requiring \$5 per adult per week for five years (2018-2022).

All the items mentioned within this article use Designated Funds, separate from our general operating budget. We still require regular tithes and offerings to keep the doors open for worship, study, and other activities. When raised, these Designated Funds may not be spent for any other purpose.

One may ask: "Why not include these projects within the general operating budget?" Since contributions have not been sufficient to cover even the normal, desired day-to-day operations included in the general operating budget, we rely upon specific appeals to raise additional funds for very specific objectives. Each objective is discussed and voted upon by your church leadership through the Administrative Projects Using Designated Funds continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Projects Using Designated Funds

Council. Your voice, either supporting or rejecting these ideas, should be presented there. There may be disagreements from time-to-time on the direction we are taking, but once a decision is made, please understand that this is the direction which the majority of the church has chosen to take.

You always have an additional individual vote by choosing to not contribute to a Designated Fund, but once the funds are raised, we do not have an option of spending it on something else.

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Chair

Our Departments

The Administrative Council

The next Administrative Council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm, Monday, April 30th.

The Board of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is held on the first Monday of each month (April 2nd), at 2:00 pm in the church office.

Music Department

The Easter Cantata will be on April 1st at 10:30 am. Before that we will have a SonRise service in the Sanctuary at 7:30 am. Holy communion will be offered at both services.

Lay Leader's Letter

None this month.

Children's Ministry

Having the opportunity to plant the word of God in the lives of children and watch it change them into Christ-like people is a blessing I will be eternally grateful for. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who are allowing us to invest in the future generation of "Bible Believers".

For all the participation in the Easter Egg hunt, thank you. For the children in the Easter Cantata a huge, **I AM PROUD OF YOU!!!** We continue to appreciate all our volunteer helpers!

We are currently working on Mother's Day presents for all the ladies on Mother's Day, May 13th.

Debbie Moore
Director of Children's Ministry

Our Departments continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center

Currently, the preschool enrollment is at 48 students, and we employ a staff of 15.

The preschool is accepting applications for an **Infant teacher**. This is part-time position from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

The preschool was closed on March 30th in observance of Good Friday.

We are currently accepting registrations for our Summer Camp for school-age children. If you know of a family that will look for summer care, please feel free to pass along our contact information. Spaces are limited.

Lisa Bacon, Director
Office 863-858-8400/Cell 863-255-8619
alboh@lakegibsonumc.com

Worship Committee

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 23rd, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us as we give thanks for God's grace and plan for worshipers to be encouraged, enlarged and supported by the free and frequent exercise of this grace in God's house every Sunday! If you'd like to be part of this exciting work, please join us.

Glenda Hess

Adult Sunday School Classes

All three 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* through May 27th (Chapter 18) and will resume with *The Story* on September 16th (Chapter 19). During the summer each class will determine its own topics of study.

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.

The April syllabus of *The Story* is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Subject</u>
4/1	27	The Resurrection
4/8	11	From Shepherd to King [Young David]
4/15	12	The Trials of a King [King David]
4/22	13	The King Who Had It All [Solomon]
4/29	14	A Kingdom Torn in Two [Kings]

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

Our Ministries

Mission Moments

No report.

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The United Methodist Men would like to thank all those who supplied candy and eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 31st. We greatly appreciate your support of this project. **We took in over three thousand pieces of candy and filled about 750 eggs!** We would like to give special and warm thanks to all of those who turned out for the Easter Egg loading event that occurred on the 17th of March. The devotion of your time resulted in the successful completion of this final task prior to Easter Egg Hunt.



The United Methodist Men will be starting their next project, **rebuilding the fence enclosure around the air conditioning units**, at our regular meeting at 9:00 am on the 14th of April in the FLC. We will have a light continental breakfast and short meeting before the work starts. **Anyone who can support this project please join us at 9:00 am on the 14th.** You don't have to be a member of the UMM.

We will begin with removal of the broken fence panels, then install new supports and panels. *If you have any hand tools such as hammers, pry bars or other tools you think would be of use, please bring them.*

We realize that without the fellowship and support of the members of the church, we could not be successful in any projects we plan. It is the support of the church members that make any event a success. No one person can do it alone; it takes a joint effort in order to complete any project or event.

Michael Moake, President, 863-816-3194

United Methodist Women (UMW)



United
Methodist
Women

The next meeting of the **UMW Leadership Team** is scheduled to be **Monday, April 30th at 1:00 pm in the FLC.**

At the March 19th Leadership Team meeting we planned the distribution of \$5,100 from the treasury. The distribution of funds raised by the fall rummage sale and pecan sale was unusually late due to health issues that delayed the transition from treasurer

Lou Webb to Maria Thomas.

The UMW is the only organization in the United Methodist Church that is authorized to have its own separate financial accounts, rather than being included in the church's general budget. To ensure there is an overview of the entire church's generosity, we have the LGUMC bookkeeper, Sue Heishman, issue our checks. The sum of \$5,100 was distributed, with \$1,200 donated to the Sanctuary roof replacement fund and \$3,900 to missions which break down as follow:

KidsPACK	\$600
Porch Light	\$500 (renamed One More Child Anti-trafficking)
Salvation Army	\$350
Noah's Ark	\$350

UMW continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries

United Methodist Women (UMW), Continued

Mission Giving, Continued

LVIM	\$300 (Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine)
UM Children's Home	\$500
Cornerstone Fam Mins	\$300
PMRC	\$500 (Pakistan Minority Rights Commission)
LGUMC Food Pantry	\$500
Total	\$3,900

Upcoming UMW Events:

Ubuntu - Action Days: The Gulf Central District is holding two **Action Days**, from **9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with lunch provided, on April 21st and April 28th**. You are invited to participate in one or both (note: Filling Care Packages at Wonder Walk East on March 24th counted as an Action Day for the Lakeland area UMW's). **Contact Cathy Stone if you are interested in working either day; phone (813) 248-3379, cstone@cornerstonefm.org. Published suspense date for registration is April 2nd, but that may be flexible.**

- **April 21st - UMCM Suncoast**, 12945 Seminole Blvd, Building 2, Largo, FL 33778. **The United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast, Inc.** was incorporated in 1975 by the United Methodist Church to address the unmet needs of the local community in St. Petersburg. Now a charitable organization serving six counties in Western Florida, UMCM Suncoast works in collaboration with churches, non-profit organizations and service providers, faith-based organizations, governmental agencies and volunteers from the community. UMCM Suncoast serves over 15,000 people in its six county service area each year. Donations requested: \$10 donations for Merry Moving Kits or household-size cleaning supplies.
- **April 28th - Cornerstone's Wolff Center** (Ybor City), 2801 N 17th Street, Tampa, FL 33605. Lots of tasks involving the new Community Garden (harvesting first crops and planting summer crops). **If you love to garden, this is your opportunity!** Donations requested: Diapers and wipes; old church cookbooks, used or new children's books.

Unit Meeting: Monday, May 14th. Guest speaker from Porch Light (renamed One More Child Anti-trafficking). All UMW Circles come together three times a year for unit meetings. You don't have to be a member of UMW, or even be a woman, to attend a unit meeting! We had three gentlemen (a captive audience you might say) at our last unit meeting in February, which was held right after the UMM meeting.

Circle News



Heart to Heart will meet on **Monday, April 2nd at 10:30 am** in the FLC. Rather than using the April chapter of the UMW Program Book, we will be reviewing Chapters 26 and 27 of *The Story*. Ruth Zona will facilitate the discussion. Please bring your lunch and a drink; Maria Thomas will bring dessert. All ladies are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Ruth Zona at 863-859-5967.

UMW/Circle News continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries

United Methodist Women (UMW)/Circle News Continued

Ruth Circle of Love will meet on **Wednesday, April 4th at 11:00 am** in the FLC. We will be studying chapter 4, Hagar, 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, April 9th, at 6:30 pm** at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Drive, Lakeland. We start with dinner and dessert, so come hungry and enjoy our fellowship. We will study Chapter 23, The Syrophenician Woman, from *Women of the Bible* by Frances Vander Velde. We also have lively discussions and perform tasks like filling welcome bags for first-time visitors. Please bring some small, useful and/or religious items to put into the bags. Call Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193 for information.

Prayer Ministry

As we come to Jesus's crucifixion, we give thanks to God for sending his only son to die on the cross for us, and for the Resurrection that we are forgiven of our sins and have the promise of living with Him throughout eternity.



By praying for others we can fulfill God's will with Christian love for one another. Join us by becoming a Prayer warrior, whether by joining our prayer email team, intercessory prayer during the week or taking the Prayer Journal and bulletin home with you and pray over them as a prayer guide during the week. You will feel forever blessed by becoming a prayer warrior.

Jesus said, "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

May the grace of our Lord be with you during the Easter season.

Prayer Ministry

Scouting Report

Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 711 and Cub Scout Pack 711 for posting the flag during the 10:30 am service on **Scouting Sunday, March 11th**.

Our Cub Scouts qualified for this year's final Pine Wood Derby which was held at Shepherd Road Presbyterian Church in Lakeland on March 3rd. They let it be known that they were there! The Cubs came in 2nd in the speed category and the Webelos came in 3rd. In the design category the Cubs came in 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and the Webelos came in 1st.

Boy Scout Troop 711 participated in an event at the Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation on March 17th in Lake Wales. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd attended.

Tom Burns, Scouting Representative

Our Ministries continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

In light of the recent shootings in our state and around the country, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office came to a FUMCH monthly team meeting to perform a safety training program to help the staff keep the kids safe. They also came to the Legacy Scholars Academy, the school on campus, to speak to the children about recent school violence in the news, and about how any threat is being taken seriously. Recently Volusia County Sheriff's Office enacted a Zero Tolerance program for violence and violent threats in schools.

Construction: The Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center is moving along. It should be ready for the 2018 - 2019 school year. At the Madison Youth Ranch the new chapel is almost finished. The only thing that remains to be installed is the stained glass. Also the Counseling and Support Services Center is close to being finished.

Over Martin Luther King weekend a group of ten people from the Enterprise campus went on a mission trip to Tampa. The group worked three shifts at Metropolitan Ministries. They worked in the thrift store sorting donations, preparing clothing for display and tidying up the store. On Sunday and Monday they worked in the kitchen helping to prepare meals, serving the food and performing various kitchen duties. In addition, the group walked around the community doing random acts of kindness for people from passing out snacks to praying with people in the local park.

In February five of the youth teamed up with Stetson Wesley Foundation to provide free lunch to students on campus. Stetson Wesley is the United Methodist campus ministry located at Stetson University in Deland. Our youth had some fun and got a glimpse into life on a college campus.

On Valentine's Day there was a special service in the Chapel for Ash Wednesday. The kids received a lot of valentines from all over the state. They were displayed in the Chapel. Several ladies from Family Health Source came by to bring the children plenty of goodies for Valentine's Day.

April 29th is the next fifth Sunday. Please start saving your coins for our coin collection. We will also be collecting coins again for summer camp at the Children's Home during the month of May. [Every 5th Sunday we collect a special offering for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home -- cash and checks are appreciated in addition to loose change. Ed.]

Karen and Jeff Acor, FUMCH Representatives

Neighborhood Missions Ministry

No report.

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 April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
4/1	Gail Bishop
4/1	Cindy Heishman
4/8	Stanley Retter
4/9	Tyler Jacoby
4/9	Richard Kneeland
4/10	Bonnie Fuqua
4/11	Dorothy Spadafora
4/12	Bryan Mowell
4/14	Susan Chambers
4/14	Mary Mason
4/14	Marita Willey
4/15	Kyle Fox
4/15	Alison Oftedal
4/16	Sarah Schiemann
4/17	Marina Hernandez
4/17	Sharon Ruth
4/18	Jacob McKnight
4/19	David Hess
4/20	Will Cochran
4/21	Nora Kocsis
4/25	Judy Sadwick
4/26	Juanita Davis
4/27	Lynne Rushing
4/29	Ray Welch
4/30	Gage Mueller

Anniversaries in April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
4/2	Lou and Philip Webb
4/4	Linda and Larry Smucker
4/29	Kathy and Leon Rumohr

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
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Sue Heishman	Bookkeeper
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Debbie Moore	Children's Director
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Youth Director

Youth Intern

Glenda Grant Hess	Director of Music/Organist
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Don Heishman, Michael Moake, Fay Wright, and Kristie Summers	Audio/Visual Support
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Debbie Moore	Custodian
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A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Lisa Bacon	Director
Office	863-858-8400
Cell	863-255-8619
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 phylis_kitchens@hotmail.com.