



# The Good News

## Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



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

**January 2019**

Steve Polk, Pastor

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Phone (863) 858-5431

### *From the Pastor's Desk*

It is hard to believe another year has passed. It seems just last week we were leaving 1999, going into the 21st century and worrying about Y2K and computers shutting down. Year 2018 has been one of ups and downs. The U.S. had a good economic year, but society is extremely divided over political, gender and racial issues. There are many good things in America, but injustices still abound. There is much hatred, bigotry, sexual and racial abuse. There has been disaster after disaster around the country and the world, with many people still needing help today. It is into this context that God has called me and Lake Gibson UMC to minister and share the Gospel message. Are we being diligent to our call and are we doing enough?

There is a general feeling of unrest within the UMC as the special called General Conference approaches in February (23 - 26) that is to deal with the LBGTQ issue. The decision this General Conference makes is very important and will affect every United Methodist Church, mission and outreach. There are many differences of opinion around this situation, and everyone thinks that they are right – even me.

Many churches and leaders within the UMC are waiting to see what will happen at this Conference, and have put plans on hold until they see the decision of the Conference. I admit to you that I do not know what the decision of the General Conference will be, or even if they can reach one.

Yet, what I think we all need to be reminded of is this: No matter what the decision is, Jesus still commands His Church and His Followers to share the Gospel, to love others and to be ambassadors for Him. So no matter the outcome at St. Louis, I, Lake Gibson UMC, and all Christ Followers are still to be preaching and teaching the Word as we understand it, and loving bringing others to Christ.

We may decide that we do not want to do that under the UMC denomination, but as a church, we are still commanded by Jesus to be making Disciples. Nothing a General Conference may decide can change the command of Jesus for us to go into all the world teaching and baptizing in His name. Regardless of politics within the church, we should be planning and preparing to reach others with the love of Christ. I do not need a General Conference or anyone else to authorize me to act this way. I do it because I love Jesus. How about you? Let's be the church and leave politics out of it.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!! *Pastor Steve*

## Audio/Visual Support Needed for 8:00 am Service

We need people to volunteer in the A/V booth for the early (8:00 am) service. Both a sound technician and someone to run the slides are needed. We've had one volunteer so far, Laine Gaines (THANK YOU!), but we've lost another as James Beck has had to withdraw due to work requirements. If you are interested, call Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193 to discuss the work and set up training.

## Thank You to the Volunteers Who Responded to the December 20th Emergency

Thank you for volunteering to help A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) on December 20th. Heavy rain and flooding prevented some afternoon staff from getting to work. The call went out and ladies arrived at the pre-school to assist the staff. They served as the "second set of eyes and hands". Thanks to Pat Moon, Debbie Moore, Carol Davis, Ruth Zona, Sue Shelton and Sarah Schiemann. God bless each of them. (Original article submitted by Sarah Schiemann, Chair of ALBOH Board)

## Brad Fox to the Rescue (Again)!

Thank you to Brad Fox for repairing the kitchen's ice maker.

## Chaplain Norris Burkes Speaks at Auburndale First UMC, January 14th

Everyone is invited to attend a dinner meeting at 6:00 pm on Monday, January 14th at Auburndale's First United Methodist Church, followed by guest speaker, Chaplain Norris Burkes, who will talk about "Lessons of Forgiveness from a War Zone". Chaplain Burkes writes a newspaper column that appears in *The Ledger* on Sundays and is the author of several books. He will be available to sign copies of his books after the talk.

Chaplain Burkes is the author of *Hero's Highway*, and is a freelance, syndicated columnist for 33 papers nationwide. He is a retired Air National Guard Chaplain and hospital chaplain. His columns are about spiritual matters, often told in a comical, self-deprecating manner.

The church is located at 316 Lake Ariana Blvd., Auburndale, FL 33823. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The meal is free, but donations will be accepted. Reservations are required so adequate food will be available. Please call the church office, 863-967-1262, to reserve a seat.

## Florida Conference Women's Retreats Scheduled

The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church has scheduled two weekend women's retreats. Weekend 1 is from February 8 - 10; Weekend 2 is March 8 - 10, 2019. Registration is open now, and more information is available at the web site [www.flumc.org/floridaconferencewomensretreats](http://www.flumc.org/floridaconferencewomensretreats). The retreats are held at the Life Enrichment Center, 4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Cost of the retreat is \$190.00 per person, based on double occupancy, and includes all meals and snacks.

Fifty percent of the fee is due at registration. Contact Jennifer McCullough at 352-360-9389, ext 4150, or email her at [jmccullough@flumc.org](mailto:jmccullough@flumc.org) for questions or assistance with registration.

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# Special Monthly Events Calendar for January

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

**2019 JANUARY**

CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY  
FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01 Office Closed	02 UMW Ruth Circle of Love, 11 am, FLC; No Pastor Bible Study	03	04	05 Lifeline Screening; 9 am to 3 pm, FLC
06	07 UMW Heart to Heart, 10:30 am, FLC; Trustees mtg, 2 pm, Office	08 Olive Tree Gathering resumes, 10 am, off campus	09	10 A Little Bit of Heaven Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC; Scout Leaders mtg, 7 pm, FLC	11	12 United Methodist Men mtg, 9 am, FLC; Emmaus Reunion, 3 pm, FLC
13	14 Staff, Pastor, Parish Com mtg, 1 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle; 6:30 pm, off campus	15	16	17	18	19 Child Protection Policy Class, 10 am, FLC
20 New Bible Study Starts (5 weeks), 9:15 am, FLC <b>Human Relations Sunday (Spec Sun wOffering)</b>	21 Finance Com mtg, 7 pm, FLC	22	23	24	25	26 UMW Leadership & Wonder Walk training, 9 am, Lake Magdalene UMC, Tampa
27	28 UMW Leadership Team mtg, 11 am, FLC; Admin Council mtg, 2 pm, FLC; Worship Com mtg, 7 pm, Sanctuary	29	30	31	01	02

## January Weekly Recurring Events

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

### Sunday

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

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

Olive Tree Gathering 10:00 am Off Campus  
 Deadline for Sunday Bulletin noon Office  
 Revelation/John Bible Study 2:00 pm Lakeside Hills  
 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm Sanctuary  
 Cub Scout Pack 711 7:00 pm FLC

### Wednesday

ALBOH Chapel 9:00 am Sanctuary  
 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

# December News

## Bell-Ringing Summary



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army this Christmas season! We started the day after Thanksgiving and rang until mid-afternoon on Christmas Eve. Lake Gibson UMC served the Salvation Army with a total of **72 hours of ringing** to fill the red kettles at the Publix at Plantation Square. We had **33** individuals participate as ringers, ranging in age from 5 to over 90 years. (Jan Henrikson's dog, Jazzy, attracted a lot of attention.) High-time individuals were Sue Atchley (10 hours), Nancy Coggin (8 hours) and Sue Shelton (6 hours).

Jan and Jazzy (left)

Sandy Stanfield (right)



Thanks to the following stalwart Lake Gibson members and constituents:

Charlie Alvarez

Linda Alvarez

Rob Atchley

Sue Atchley

Sharon Coddington

Howard Coggin

Nancy Coggin

Carol Davis

Ellen Haltiwanger

Jan Henrikson

Dwight Kitchens

Phyllis Kitchens

Cyndi Kuhlman

Shirley Lux

Debbie McPherson

Dick McPherson

Joe Moon

Pat Moon

Debbie Moore

Pastor Steve Polk

Lauren Rodriguez

Sharon Ruth

Shirley Schmidt

Sue Shelton

Sandy Stanfield

Maria Thomas

Rich Thomas

John Warren, Jr.

John Warren, Sr.

Elijah Wiley

Issac Wiley

Bob Willome

Ruth Zona

We're looking forward to being bell ringers for Salvation Army again next year. The experience is incredibly joyful and satisfying. The store's customers were the friendliest and most generous people; several asked about our church. The Publix employees were very helpful. What a wonderful way to meet our neighbors and help to serve needy people. (Three other organizations also rang the bell at our Publix: Chapel in the Grove, Noah's Landing and Sunrise Community.)

December News continued on the next page . . .

## December News, Continued

### Thank You, Mimi Meyer!

After many years of service, we retired our well-used Christmas card holder (left) and replaced it with the fresh, colorful one on the right made by Mimi Meyer.

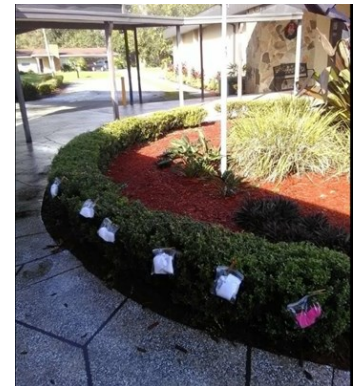


### Socks for the Needy

Linda and Charlie Alvarez again led our sock collection and giveaway for the needy, decorating the campus with **373 pairs** of bagged, labeled socks for men, women and children. Adult sizes were hung on the clothes line, while children's were placed closer to the ground for self-selection.

Thanks to everyone who donated new socks and to Linda and Charlie for their work.

Photos by Linda Alvarez



### More Bell Ringing Pictures:



Sorry, boys! Had to crop out the cute elves in this picture (per our Child Protection Policy). Lauren Rodriguez, Elijah and Issac were SO cute! (Right)

The last hours of bell-ringing! Donations came fast and furious on Christmas Eve! (Left)



December News continued on the next page . . .

## December News, Continued

### ***O Little Town of Bethlehem* 2018 Christmas Program**

The Lake Gibson Music Department, under the expert leadership of Music Director, Glenda Hess, presented a wonderful Christmas cantata titled *O Little Town of Bethlehem* on December 16th at the Sunday worship service. The cantata was repeated on December 24th during the Christmas Eve candlelight service. The program was created by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith, and arranged by Russell Mauldin.

Singers included Bill Anderson, Dorothy Burns, Lynda Gibbs, Rhonda Gifford, Bob Herrick, David Hess, Beverly Hines, Eric Hines, Dottie Huven, Dwight Kitchens, Cyndi Kuhlman, Rochelle McBride, Ethel Somers, Brenda Hess-Warner, Bob Willome and Fay Wright. Cathy Jones was perfect as the narrator.

During the final medley our Kidtricity Children's Ministry joined to play hand bells during the singing of "Joy to the World". The ringers included Logan and Brandon Oliva, Nathan and Evan Saunders, Elijah and Issac Wiley, Hannah and Michael Berry, Hadley and Braden Gullege, Reese and Jase McKee. The adults who made this treat possible include Danielle Cavas, Lauren Rodriguez, Justin and Mollie Oliva, Grace Foster, Sharon and Michael Moake, Deina McKee and Charlene Gullege.

Liturgical dancers were Bonnie Fuqua (Director), Dottie Huven and Reese McKee. At the end of the program Bonnie was recognized for her 37 years of service as Director of Liturgical Dance at Lake Gibson UMC.

Rounding out the Christmas program team were Debbie Moore, James Beck and Kristie Summers in the audio/visual booth.

Others who made this worship experience possible included the LGUMC staff, led by Pastor Steve Polk; Marina Hernandez, Administrative Secretary; Sue Heishman, Bookkeeper; and Debbie Moore, Children's Director.

The Sanctuary was decorated beautifully by Nancy Coggin, Hannah Berry, Michael Berry, Grace Foster, Dwight Kitchens, Debbie Moore, Sue Shelton and Sandy Stanfield. Lots of fresh poinsettias purchased by members brightened the Sanctuary. Thanks to Marina Hernandez for placing the order, to the United Methodist Men who picked up the flowers and to the Worship Committee who arranged them around the Sanctuary.

**Thank you to photographer Mike Booker who provided the pictures of dress rehearsal!**



Bill Anderson sang the opening solo before the choir entered (left).



Cathy Jones, narrator (right)

December News, Continued  
2018 Christmas Program, Continued



The Choir (left)



Liturgical Dancer, Dottie Huven (right)



Soprano Ethel Somers (left)

Bonnie Fuqua dancing (right)



Soloist David Hess



Choir Director  
Glenda Hess



## January Events

### **Lifeline Screening, Saturday, January 5th 9 am to 3 pm**

Lifeline Screening will be held in the Family Life Center on Saturday, January 5th, starting at 9:00 am. Pre-reservation is required; call 1-800-364-0457. Five screening tests are provided for \$149.00

### **Child/Youth Protection Policy Training January 19, 10:00 am**

If you volunteer regularly in the Sunday nursery, help out with Kidtricity or other activities involving our Children's Ministry, or are involved in other church activities where you interact with children or youth, you need this training. The Florida Conference has extensively revised and updated the policy and added specificity in a number of areas.

Please attend this class to make sure you are aware of the steps necessary to protect our children and youth. If you have not been screened previously, or if your latest screening was over 3 years ago, you will have the opportunity to fill out a background investigation form. It would be a good idea to have contact information handy for your character references.

To sign up for this training, please call the office, 863-858-5431, to make sure there are enough handouts.

### **Scripture in the Wesleyan Spirit New Sunday School Class**

Starting on Sunday, January 20th, we will begin a unique, combined Sunday School class led by Pastor Rob Atchley. At 9:15 am all three adult Sunday School classes will join together in the Family Life Center to participate in this five-week study. Pastor Atchley provided the following description of this class:

"We will examine theological traditions and approaches to the Bible as Holy Scripture. We will look at Scripture in the Wesleyan tradition, viewing some of John Wesley's thoughts on the subject. In addition, we will examine some of the statements about Scripture which have been contained in the various United Methodist Church Books of Discipline over the years. We will begin our mutual study with a collection of questions from those participating, in the hope that we might find answers as we study together."

#### **Introducing Pastor Rob Atchley**

[I asked Pastor Atchley to provide some biographical information since he and Sue are relatively new to LGUMC. He graciously provided the information below. Editor]

"Although born in Indiana, I grew up in Lakeland from a very early age. Went to Kathleen area schools and graduated from Florida Southern College. I graduated from The Methodist Theological School in Ohio with an M. Div. specializing in Christian Education and Bible.

I served as a pastor in West-Ohio, North Carolina and Florida Conferences. I taught Old and New Testament at Florida Southern College and served as Chaplain in the 1980's. I returned as Director of Admissions at my seminary in 1987 - 1988. While serving First UMC in Lake City, I also taught Old and New Testament at Lake City Community College.

Continued on the next page . . .

## January Events, Continued

### Introducing Pastor Rob Atchley, Continued

I retired from the itinerancy, after 40 years, in 2000. I have been a Chaplain with the Civil Air Patrol/ United States Air Force Auxiliary since 1999. Married to Susan for nearly 48 years. We have two sons and four grandchildren.”

### Human Relations Day is January 20th (1st Church-wide Special Sunday with Offering of 2019)

Source: <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/special-sundays> [edited for TGN]

“The United Methodist Church designates a number of Sundays throughout the year as opportunities for recognizing and supporting particular ministries.”

“Church-wide Special Sundays with offerings enable United Methodists like you to offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, provide scholarships and student loans, reach out to the community, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency and share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people everywhere.”

[By now you should have received a mailing containing January and February 2019 offering envelopes. If you haven't, please contact the church office. You will notice that there are two envelopes in the pack dated January 20th, one for My Tithes and Offerings, which is for your regular Sunday offering. The one titled “Missions Supported by LGUMC” is for your offering intended to fund Lake Gibson's outreach missions such as LVIM, VISTE, Hope House or others. *This is the ONLY Missions envelope in the 2019 pack.* In addition, the Sunday bulletin should contain a separate envelope for each Special Sunday with Offering. If it doesn't, just add a note that your offering includes a specific amount intended for Human Relations Day or whatever Special Sunday is being observed. Editor]

[Human Relations Day](#) (Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday) **[January 20th]** strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

[UMCOR Sunday](#) (fourth Sunday in Lent). Previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing, this Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

[Native American Ministries Sunday](#) (third Sunday of Easter) nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

[Peace with Justice Sunday](#) (first Sunday after Pentecost) enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs.

[World Communion Sunday](#) (first Sunday of October) provides scholarships for U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels.

[United Methodist Student Day](#) (last Sunday of November) furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.

## Marina's Corner

*The coming of Jesus at Bethlehem brought joy to the world and to every human heart. May His coming this Christmas bring to each one of us that peace and joy that He desires to give.*

Mother Teresa

### **2018 rolling into 2019:**

Wow! 2018 is over and we welcome 2019 with open arms. It was an awesome ride in 2018 and it will be an even greater adventure in 2019. People have come in and out of our lives and we have met many more.

Our food pantry had its good times and its bad times, but the Lord blessed us through each and every one of you: The Scouts, the congregation, Ms. Shirley Lux's Bingo Group and the anonymous donors who brought in canned and dry goods.

The Lord blessed us as well with the never-failing volunteers: Mr. and Mrs. Bower who order and pick up the meat, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Zona, Mr. and Mrs. Kitchens, and Mrs. Shelton who come in to help with the food pantry.

I personally would like to thank each and every one of you. Let's make 2019 another year to remember filled with love, cheer, peace and many blessings.

Marina Hernandez  
Administrative Secretary  
863-858-5431  
office@lakegibsonumc.com

## Renew Your Assigned Keys Now

If you have one or more keys to church structures, please bring them into the office to have them checked and reissued for 2019. Bring all the church keys you have to Marina between 9:00 am and 1:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

## 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

# Finance and Related Topics

## Financial Update

As we enter the New Year, we find Dick McPherson offering his services to head the LGUMC Finance Committee. Welcome aboard!

For those with offering envelope numbers within the church, you should have received a set of envelopes for the first two months of 2019. These are being inexpensively bulk mailed to your home every two months. These are much more convenient for our church counters with your name, address, and envelope number pre-printed and easily readable. There are spaces to identify both General Fund as well as designated funds donations of your choosing.

Should you desire pre-printed offering envelopes to be mailed to you, please contact the church office. We have a few unaddressed sets on hand for each bi-monthly period. We'll give you an unaddressed set and add your information to our printing list. You will get your personalized set during the next mailing.

By now, you should have noticed that our older, oversized pew envelopes are missing. We have actually purchased pew envelopes which fit in both the holders on the back of our pews and within our collection plates. If you don't yet have numbered envelopes of your own, please, feel free to use a pew envelope.

Our General Fund collections have been running a few dollars above our 3-year average (as seen by the below chart).

Current Year **2018**  
 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	\$29,201
April	\$22,325	\$24,069	\$28,612	\$75,006	\$25,002	\$105,625	\$26,066
May	\$26,498	\$28,167	\$21,816	\$76,481	\$25,494	\$131,119	\$19,712
June	\$18,538	\$17,395	\$17,272	\$53,205	\$17,735	\$148,854	\$20,390
July	\$17,763	\$23,318	\$23,381	\$64,462	\$21,487	\$170,341	\$23,856
August	\$18,641	\$15,985	\$16,366	\$50,992	\$16,997	\$187,339	\$16,727
September	\$16,310	\$23,646	\$21,139	\$61,095	\$20,365	\$207,704	\$24,401
October	\$18,372	\$24,737	\$20,835	\$63,944	\$21,315	\$229,018	\$24,825
November	\$32,022	\$22,606	\$21,926	\$76,554	\$25,518	\$254,536	\$22,133
December	\$28,664	\$23,214	\$27,446	\$79,324	\$26,441	\$280,978	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$279,037</b>	<b>\$283,040</b>	<b>\$280,856</b>	<b>\$842,933</b>	<b>\$280,978</b>	<b>\$280,978</b>	<b>\$260,871</b>

You should have noticed that our sign was installed on 28 November. We'll now be able to more easily let the community know what is happening within the church walls.

Additionally, the roofers have visited to see what underlayment needs replacement. Hopefully, by the end of February the roof will have been replaced on our sanctuary.

Financial Update continued on the next page . . .

## Finance and Related Topics, Continued

At the end of November, we had the following contributions set aside in three designated funds:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Revised Anticipated Need</u>
Sanctuary Roof Reserve	\$23,912	\$ 27,000
Air Conditioner Reserve	\$21,320	\$105,000
Insurance Deductible Reserve	\$ 7,530	\$181,170

Our roofing contract will be paid from both the General Fund and the Sanctuary Roof Reserve.

Dwight Kitchens

### Our Departments

#### Lay Leader's Letter

None this month.

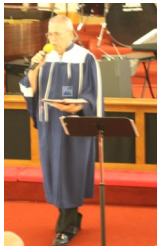
#### Administrative Council

Admin Council met on Monday, December 31st, and scheduled its next meeting for **Monday, January 28th, 2019 at 2:00 pm**. We'll have a report in the February issue of *The Good News*.

#### Board of Trustees

The first 2019 meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, January 7th, at 2:00 pm in the church office. They will elect the board chair at that meeting.

#### Music Department



Thank you to Glenda Hess and everyone who participated in this busy Christmas music season, starting with singing Christmas carols at nursing homes, to participating in lots of rehearsals, and presenting two wonderful cantatas. Take a well-deserved break!

Choir member Bob Willome is also our song leader during the early service. Photo by Mike Booker

#### Children's Ministry

Our young drummers and bell ringers have been a very bright and joyful addition to our December events. We appreciate all the help from Danielle Cavas and Glenda Hess, as well as parents and grandparents. Worship services, caroling and the cantata were all enhanced by our "Kidtricity" participants.

We have been asked to plan a Valentine's Day program, so we are going to name it "Heart-ship" and it will be about friendships. All are invited to attend. Look for more information in the February newsletter and church bulletins as details are planned out.

On a personal note, thank you to everyone who has prayed for me, given cards and gifts and forgiven me when necessary. I want to let you know my appreciation is deep and wide. The most precious gift is the all-time loving friendship which touches my heart with God's love. Saying thank you is not enough, so I will continue to pray God's abundant, amazing blessings for you.

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

Our Departments continued on the next page . . .

## Our Departments, Continued

### A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center



Janelys Ortiz is ALBOH's Employee of the Month. Congratulations, Janelys!

Thanks to the Lake Gibson ladies who responded to our emergency request for help due to December 20th's severe rain storm. **The ALBOH Board will meet on Thursday, January 10th, at 4:30 pm.**

Latisha Cook, Director, 863-858-8400 (Photo provided by Ms. Cook)

### Worship Committee

Our first meeting of 2019 will be held on **Monday, January 28th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.** Everyone is welcome to participate in this committee. Please join us in planning exciting worship services, sanctuary and altar decorations and identifying new ways to attract new disciples to the Lord and enhance our time in worship.

### Adult Sunday School Classes

Please read the article under January Events about the new, 5-week combined Sunday School class that will begin on January 20th. Until then, the following describes our three current classes:

Adult Sunday School classes meet in the FLC from 9:15 to 10:15 am. Each class welcomes new members. Please join us! The **Friendship** Sunday School Class is led by Mike Stafford and meets downstairs in the multipurpose room. The **Seekers** Sunday School class meets in Classrooms 1 and 2. Sue Heishman is the leader. The **Upstairs** class meets next door to Kidtricity with Michael Moake as the leader. They are currently using the 2014 - 2015 Standard Lesson Commentary (KJV). Copies are available from the leader.

### Weekday Bible Studies

The Lakeside Hills study will resume on Tuesday, January 8th at 2:00 pm, when they will finish the Book of Revelation. This group will continue to meet to study the Book of John. New members or returning members are warmly welcomed. The leader is Deb McLellan; you can call her at 863-327-2893 for more information. This group meets in the Clubhouse at Lakeside Hills Estates, 520 Forest Lake Dr., Lakeland 33809, in the card room on the right (behind the kitchen).

The two small groups that met in 2018 to study *The Story* are deciding whether to continue on, and if so, what they will study. Small Group 1 met at Foxwood Village at 10:00 am on Wednesday under the leadership of Pastor Joe Brady. Look for information in the Sunday bulletin on when they will resume.

The second small group on *The Story* met at Sue Shelton's house on Sir George's Trail on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm. They are still deciding whether to continue with a new study. Members of this group may call Sue at 863-853-9212, or email her at gatormom2@verizon.net, to discuss their ideas.

Pastor Steve's Bible studies (Wednesday night at 7:00 pm and repeated on Thursday morning at 10:00 am, both in the FLC) are covering the Book of Mark. They will resume on January 9th.

### Mid-week Devotions

The Wednesday morning devotions which were held at 8:00 am in the FLC are still on hold. Look for information on their return in a future newsletter or in the Sunday bulletin.

## Our Ministries

### Mission Moments

Thank you all for donating socks for our Sox Box drive for needy and homeless neighbors. Please read the article about this drive under December News.

Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator



### United Methodist Men (UMM)

The first 2019 meeting of the Lake Gibson UMM will be **Saturday, January 12th, at 9:00 am**. There will be a light breakfast before the meeting. Please come and help us plan our year's work and worship. The next special event is our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We will also continue to help upgrade the appearance of our campus and perform maintenance/repair jobs for members of the congregation or neighbors in need (subject to our capabilities!).

Thank you to the United Methodist Men (and one lady) who joined me in picking up the poinsettias in the driving rain storm on December 14th! Mike and Jan Booker, John Bernat and Leon Rumohr.

Michael Moake, President  
863-816-3194 home or 386-965-0170 cell



### United Methodist Women (UMW)

**The vision of the United Methodist Women is turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.** The UMW provides opportunities and resources to **grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.** Other special interests include social justice and protection of the environment.

**If these words touch your heart, please consider joining the Lake Gibson UMW in 2019.** We meet every month in three circles, two during the day and one at night, to offer the maximum opportunities for fellowship, worship and action.

Officers for 2019 - 2020 are Carol Davis, President; Phyllis Kitchens, Vice President; Sarah Schie-mann, Treasurer and Linda Alvarez, Secretary. **Gulf Central District UMW leadership training** is scheduled for **Saturday, January 26th, 9:00 am at Lake Magdalene UMC, 2902 W. Fletcher Ave., Tampa, FL 33618.**

UMW continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

### United Methodist Women (UMW), Continued

#### United Methodist Women's Mission Funding

For 2018 the Lake Gibson Unit of the United Methodist Women (UMW) decided to make only one disbursement of its mission funds, at Christmas time, instead of the two usually made, one following the spring rummage sale and the other after the fall sale. Last year we gave \$6,400 to 13 organizations. This year, thanks to successful rummage sales, we were able to give \$8,000 to 16 organizations, which included the same 13 as in 2017. New recipients for 2018 were the LGUMC kitchen fund, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for Hurricane Michael, and A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) for a scholarship to be used, if necessary, to pay tuition for a needy child in case of a family emergency.

Here are the 16 organizations which received UMW mission funding in 2018:

kidsPACK  
One More Child (formerly Porch Light)  
Salvation Army  
Noah's Landing  
Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM)  
Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)  
Cornerstone Family Ministries (a UMW mission)  
Pakistan Minority Rights Commission (for Junaid Saqib and Ambereen Amber)  
Homeless High School Seniors  
Guardian ad Litem  
LGUMC Food Pantry  
LGUMC Roof Fund (or Air Conditioning Replacement Fund, as needed)  
LGUMC Kitchen Fund  
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)/Hurricane Michael  
A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Scholarship Fund

#### Circle News



**Ruth Circle of Love** will meet on **Wednesday, January 2nd, at 11:00 am** in the FLC. Bring your lunch and a drink; dessert will be provided. For questions, please call Pat Moon (863-858-6883).



After working on gifts for shut-ins, our circle had its Christmas luncheon at Olive Garden on December 5th. (Photo at left; photographer unknown)

**Heart to Heart** will meet on **Monday, January 7th, at 10:30 am in the FLC**. Please bring your lunch and drink; dessert will be provided. Call Ruth Zona (863-859-5967) for questions.



On December 11th Heart to Heart held its *Fabulous Finger Food Fellowship* Christmas party at Jackie Webb's home. We thank Cindy Webb and her friends for their assistance. As usual, members were asked to contribute \$10 each to the Lake Gibson Food Pantry to buy meat. New this year, members were also asked to donate useful items to Hope House for the homeless. We collected 16 bars of bath soap in plastic cases; 5 additional soap cases, 14 bars of soap, 2 toothbrush holders, 31 pairs of men's socks and 6 pairs of women's socks.

Cyndi and Mary Beth Kuhlman and Jackie Webb watching the Yankee Gift Exchange.

UMW Continued on the next page . . .



## Our Ministries, Continued

### United Methodist Women (UMW), Continued

#### Circle News, Continued

**Evening Circle** will meet on **Monday, January 14th, at 6:30 pm** at Beverly Ellis's home, 7117 Kathleen Road, Lakeland 33809 (863-666-3998). Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome!



We will be starting our new book, Lois Tverberg's *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus*, and we have extra books available. Please call Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193, if you need a book. Why not start the new year off by joining this vibrant, humor-loving group?

Evening Circle held its Christmas get-together on December 10th at Debbie Moore's home. Nancy Coggin provided delicious baked ziti while everyone else brought side dishes or desserts.

#### Olive Tree Gathering

This is a group of women and men who met weekly in 2018 on Wednesday mornings, 10:00 am to noon, to learn about Jesus and the Bible from a Messianic Jewish perspective. After finishing Rabbi K.A. Schneider's *The Book of Revelation Decoded*, in December we viewed several videos. Each meeting concludes with sharing lunch together. Although we usually meet at Debbie Moore's house, in December we met at Yoli Haberl's home three weeks.



**For 2019 we are changing our regular day to Tuesday, still at 10:00 am.** Maria and Rich Thomas are the group leaders. Membership is open to anyone wanting to learn more about the religious and cultural context of early Christianity. On January 8th we will meet at Yoli Haberl's home, 7402 Gunstock Drive. Please call Rich or Maria for information (302-750-1491).

Part of the OTG at Yoli's in December (Sylvia Barrett arrived late and missed the photo). Back row, L to R: Yoli Haberl, Rich Thomas, Maria Thomas, Kristie Summers. Front row: Sue Shelton, Ettie Davis, Rowena Betz, Debbie Moore (and Phyllis Kitchens behind the camera).

#### Neighborhood Missions Ministry

We're hoping to build on the success in recruiting volunteers for our Salvation Army bell-ringing mission to renew this ministry in 2019. Due to the lack of volunteers, little work was done in 2018 except for bell-ringing. The purpose of this ministry is to assist our neighbors who are not eligible for support from other organizations (such as VISTE) to be able to stay in their homes. Typical tasks include inside jobs like vacuuming and general house cleaning, and meal preparation/delivery and outside jobs like mowing lawns, trimming shrubs and trees, mending stairs, etc. Look for more information in coming months.

Our Ministries continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

### Happy New Year from Prayer Ministry



Welcome, Prayer Warriors, to a New Year of praying for others as Christians in faith and service to our God.

*"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks." 1 Timothy 2:1 (NKV)*

We give thanks to our prayer warriors for being dedicated to God's calling to "Pray for one another." We have been blessed the past year with the addition of new prayer warriors. We currently have 30 email prayer warriors. Receiving prayer needs through email during the week is a blessing to those who need extra prayers.

*Please mark the box on the connection card in the bulletin "Becoming a Prayer Warrior" or call 863-698-4518 if you would like to become one of our prayer warriors.*

The Prayer Journal is included inside the bulletin twice a month. This is a great tool to enable everyone in the congregation to pray during the week for those in need. Please take the Bulletin and Prayer Journal home with you and pray daily over each section's needs.

We thank God for calling us to be people of prayer. God Bless our prayer mission and Happy New Year to everyone.

Prayer Ministry

### Scouting Report

One of the Boy Scouts is working on his Eagle rank. Part of that will be to repair the bridge in the Paul Spadafora, Sr. Memorial Garden. The step he is on is to make a list of what he needs to do the job and obtain prices for the items before submitting the proposal to his Scout Master. He may be able to perform the work during January. Regular weekly meetings resume on Monday (Boy Scouts) and Tuesday (Cub Scouts), January 7th and 8th.

Tom Burns, Scouting Representative

### Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

Jeff and Joe Moon made the trip up to the Children's Home a couple of weeks ago. They took up \$1,840.00 in gift cards. They also took a box of school supplies, kitchen items, two children's bikes, toys, health and beauty products, towels and sheets along with other items needed for the cottages for daily living.

Thank you all for making this year's Angel Tree a success! As always the Children's Home was very grateful for everything.

Jeff and I are very grateful for all your support for the Children's Home throughout the year. We hope that you will continue to support the kids next year as the need is always there. Without your support the Children's Home could not be the success that it is.

Thank you very much!

Karen and Jeff Acor, FUMCH Representatives

## 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 January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
1/1	Jamie Collins
1/1	Joyce Thompson
1/2	Joe Moon
1/4	Rochelle McBride
1/7	Kathy Rumohr
1/8	Stella Eismann
1/11	Lexie Otte
1/12	Todd Bower
1/16	Ramona Kendall
1/20	Bob Bleam
1/20	Donna Pardis
1/20	Abba Schmidt
1/21	Shirley Lux
1/24	Anthony Wilde
1/26	Barbara Allen-Coil
1/27	Linda Alvarez
1/27	Ruth Zona
1/30	Jackie Webb



### Anniversaries in January

None

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](http://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:	<a href="mailto:pastor@lakegibsonumc.com">pastor@lakegibsonumc.com</a>

### Support Staff

Marina Hernandez	Administrative Secretary 863-858-5431 <a href="mailto:office@lakegibsonumc.com">office@lakegibsonumc.com</a>
Sue Heishman	Bookkeeper
Debbie Moore	Children's Director
Glenda Grant Hess	Director of Music/Organist
Debbie Moore, Kristie Summers, Laine Gaines	Audio/Visual Support
Debbie Moore	Custodian

### A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Latisha Cook	Director
Office	863-858-8400
E-mail	<a href="mailto:alboh@lakegibsonumc.com">alboh@lakegibsonumc.com</a>

*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 at [phylis\\_kitchens@hotmail.com](mailto:phylis_kitchens@hotmail.com).