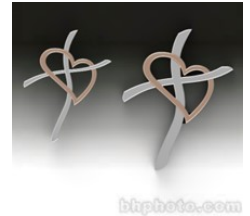




THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



From the Pastor

Here it is September already; summer is drawing to a close unless you live in Florida. Many people have been on vacation and enjoyed a break in the routine of church. The staff has enjoyed the little bit of a slowdown the summer brings. While acknowledging we all need a vacation, rest and breathing room, the question begs to be asked: “Can the church ever really take a break or slow down?” Our mission of making disciples has eternal consequences and is of the utmost urgency – especially for those who do not yet know Jesus – so we must continually be alert to the witnessing opportunities the Holy Spirit brings our way – on vacation or not.

If you took a break and are just getting back into the swing of Lake Gibson UMC, may I remind you of the “**Philip Pendant.**” This is a unique piece of jewelry hand-crafted just for LGUMC. It is a sterling silver cross with a 10K rose gold heart wrapped around the cross symbolizing the work of Christ on the cross and the agape love that held Him there, as well as the love we have for Him. It can be worn on a chain as a necklace or as a lapel pin or tie tack. We named it after the Apostle Philip who brought others to Jesus (John 1:46).

Come and see, Phillip challenged Nathanael. **I challenge you to invite your friends and neighbors to come and see Jesus at work in the services here at Lake Gibson.** Invite them to come, see and feel the love of God flowing in and through our church congregation. Come and join us in making disciples and changing the world to be a better place.

This is our responsibility – to tell others about Jesus and to invite them to experience the love of God for themselves. **On the back of the Connection Cards each week is a place to note how many people you brought to church with you. I ask that you would introduce me to your guests after the service.** The ten people who bring the most visitors will receive a Philip Pendant. You must bring 3 guests to qualify, but that is not hard. Bring a family of 4 and you have it!

God tells us He rewards us for being faithful to Him. This is a small way we hope to encourage and reward you for being excited about Jesus and inviting others to come and see for themselves.

May the Holy Spirit move mightily in this congregation to make disciples for Jesus Christ,

Pastor Steve

Help Wanted

Prayer Ministry Leader/Prayer Advocate

Fran Mudge, who has been with the Lake Gibson UMC Prayer Ministry for about 10 years, and its leader for the last six, is stepping down. If you are interested in assuming responsibility for this essential mission, please call Pastor Steve at 863-858-5431.

Help in A/V Booth

We need 4 people each for audio support and video projection (a total of 8 volunteers) so the people can rotate throughout the month and no one has to work each Sunday service. The video support people will also prepare slides (MS Power Point or other formats), as requested. Support is also needed during rehearsals, which are *Thursday nights for the Praise Team* and *Wednesday nights for the Choir*, and on some Saturdays in preparation for Christmas and Easter Cantatas.

If you are interested in helping, please call Bob Siegel at 863-858-9722. Training will be provided. **No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help out and a desire to serve the Lord.**

We offer heart-felt thanks to Kristie Summers for creating slides and operating the projections (and to Justin Oliva for filling in while Kristie was away). Big thanks also to James Beck for continuing to fill in for Laine Grimes while she is away caring for her daughter, who is on our prayer list.

Pop-tops and Blankets for Hope House



Harvest Sunday, the second Sunday of each month, collects your donations for our weekly food pantry. In addition, we are taking donations to support Hope House. Specifically, we would like to collect **individual serving size, pop-top cans** of food so the people served by HH have something to eat for dinner when HH is closed. Vienna sausages, Chef Boyardee ravioli or other meals, Campbell's beanie weenies, etc. are loved. If you want to add these to your food pantry donations, the office will separate out the pop-top cans and get them to HH.

You can also bring items for HH to church and give them to Rick and Debbie McLellan, our members who serve at HH on Tuesdays. Or you can take them to HH yourself. They are open between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, as long as volunteers are available. The house is at 6508 US 98 North.

At this time they are asking for donations of blankets (approximately twin-sized, but we can cut larger ones down, bind them and make smaller ones). The UMW quilters will be glad to take care of the sewing tasks. When the cold weather comes, washable throws can also be used to keep people who are sleeping in tents warm.

Rummage Sale Oct 18th and 19th

Start cleaning out your storage rooms and closets! Ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to donate their excess items, too. Set-up for the sale is Wednesday, October 16th. Large items (furniture or appliances) may be delivered on the 16th, since storage space is limited. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer pickup or delivery of large items this year.

Special Events for September

2019

CALENDAR YEAR

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Single Service at 10:30 am all month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 10:30 Communion Service	02 Labor Day (Office Closed)	03 Olive Tree Gathering 10 am (last til 10/8); Trustees mtg, 2 pm, Office	04 UMW Ruth Circle of Love, 11 am, FLC	05 Praise Team Rehearsal, 6:30 pm (new day)	06	07 The M&Ms Senior Activities Group mtg to review party preparations, 1 pm, FLC (only team members who had action items)
08 Harvest Sunday (food pantry and Hope House pop-top donations)	09 UMW Heart to Heart, 10:30 am, FLC; Staf, Pastor Parish Com mtg, 1 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle, 6:30 pm, off campus; Boy Scouts Court of Honor, FLC	10 Last day to make reservations for M&Ms Pizza & Pop Party.	11 Patriot Day; Pastor's Bible Study starts, 10 am and 7 pm, FLC	12	13	14 UMM Breakfast mtg, 9 am, FLC; The M&Ms Pizza and Pop Party, 4 pm, FLC
15 UMW Sunday	16 Finance Com mtg, 7 pm, FLC	17	18 <i>October Newsletter Input Due</i>	19	20 She Grows Conference, 6:30 pm, First UMC, Lakeland	21 Gulf Central District UMW Mission Study, Oakhurst UMC, Seminole, FL; M&Ms meeting, 1 pm, FLC
22	23 Worship Com mtg, 7 pm, Sanctuary	24 Cub Scouts Popcorn Sale Starts	25	26	27	28
29 UMM Sunday; 5th Sun (FUMCH collection and pocket change); Pot Luck Lunch	30 UMW Leadership Team mtg, 11 am, FLC; Church Council mtg, 7 pm, FLC	01	02	03	04	05

September Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

Adult Sunday School 9:15 - 10:15 am FLC
 Children's Sunday School 9:15 - 10:15 am FLC
 Worship Service 10:30 am Sanctuary
 Kidtricity Children's Ministry 10:30 - 11:45 am Sanctuary
 (Nursery Available)

Monday

Bible Study (Acts) 2:00 pm Lakeside Hills*
 Boy Scout Troop 711 7:00 pm FLC

Tuesday

Olive Tree Gathering (9/3 only) 10:00 am Off-Campus
 Deadline for Sunday Bulletin noon Office
 Cub Scout Pack 711 7:00 pm FLC

Wednesday

ALBOH Chapel 9:20 am Sanctuary
 Bible Study with Pastor 10:00 am FLC
 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Sanctuary
 Bible Study with Pastor 7:00 pm FLC

Thursday

Food Pantry 9:30 - 11:30 am Office
 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm Sanctuary

After-school care by ALBOH is offered Mon - Fri, 2 to 6 pm, in the FLC

*Lakeside Hills Bible Study is at the Clubhouse, 520 Forest Lake Drive, Lakeland 33809

September Events

Pizza and Pop Party, Saturday, September 14th, 4:00 pm

The new Seniors group, the M&Ms, will hold a pizza and soda pop party on Saturday, September 14th in the FLC. (Workers will arrive at 3:00 pm to set it up.)

Anyone age 55 years and up is invited to attend this adults-only mixer as our guest. Please call the office (863-858-5431) or Maria Thomas (302-750-1676) by September 10th for reservations. You do not have to be a member of, or even attend, Lake Gibson UMC to come to the party or to join the M&Ms.

Please read the article about the M&Ms in this issue for details about this new social group.

UMW Sunday, September 15th

The United Methodist Women of Lake Gibson UMC will present their annual program and worship service on Sunday, September 15th, at 10:30 am. This year we are celebrating the *150th anniversary* of the UMW and its predecessor organizations. We hope everyone can attend.

We will announce the winner of Lake Gibson UMW's Woman of the Year award. If you've been thinking about joining the UMW, this is a good opportunity to learn more about this organization.

UMM Sunday, September 29th

Lake Gibson's United Methodist Men will present their annual program and worship service on Sunday, September 29th. Because this is a 5th Sunday, they will collect a special offering for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home and host a pot-luck luncheon after the service.

The UMM will prepare the meats.

September Events, Cont'd

Pastor's Bible Study Resumes

Pastor Steve will resume his weekly Bible study on Wednesday, September 11th, at 10:00 am and repeat it at 7:00 pm. Both classes are in the FLC.

Olive Tree Gathering Is Taking a Short Break

The study group, Olive Tree Gathering, is taking a break after meeting throughout the summer. The only meeting in September will be Tuesday, September 3rd; meetings will resume on October 8th.

OTG meets at the home of its leaders, Maria and Rich Thomas, in Foxwood Lake Estates. We are currently studying the Book of Genesis using a series of recorded videos by Dr. Chuck Missler.

Everyone is welcome in this group, which prays mightily and enjoys a fellowship lunch after the study. We have been on chapter 1 of Genesis for several weeks, so you can join in September or October and won't be too far behind. Come and learn the science behind why Dr. Missler believes in a literal 6 24-hour-days Creation week and a truly global flood. The discussion of evolution vs. creation has been thought provoking.

If anyone would like to view the lessons OTG has already covered, you can go to Koinonia House on YouTube and search for Dr. Missler's Genesis lectures. Chapter 1's lessons so far are about 1 1/2 hours long.



Aug 21, 2019
OTG.

Photo by
Rich Thomas

Transitions

So far 2019 has been a year of great rejoicing for the new members who have joined our congregation and great sadness for those who have departed, even though we have confidence they are now with Jesus in their heavenly home.

Deaths in our church family include the following:

Dorothy Gabor	January
Dorothy Spadafora	April
Marion Cope	April
Jack Patterson	May
Don Heishman	May
Jeff McKnight	June
Russell Aust	June
Marian Schroeder	June
Don Eshelman	June

New Members as of 21 August are:

Jimmy Gunther	February
Lynda Gibbs	March
Ethel Somers	March
Lynn Meske	March
Mary Wallin	March
Carol Hanna	April
Cathy D'Amato	June
Lou Tindall	July

The logo for SheGrows Conference features the word "SheGrows" in a large, black, cursive script font. Below it, the word "Conference" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a light green rectangular background.

First United Methodist is pleased to host the Lakeland **SheGrows Conference on Friday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m.** The conference is in the Fellowship Center. SheGrows helps women link lives to grow a deeper faith. The goal of SheGrows is to show women the power

of linking lives with older and younger women to grow their faith by breaking down some common misconceptions of what mentoring means.

Biblical examples and personal testimonies are used to ignite a passion to connect with other women in cross-generational relationships. SheGrows is not a system or program on how to mentor; rather, it's a three-hour event to spur women to begin mentoring relationships and to show them how to do it.

Advance tickets are \$39/person - group tickets and scholarships are available. Visit firstumc.org/shegrows today.

What We Did This Summer

Remember the dreaded English assignment to write about what you did on your summer vacation? A lot of Lake Gibson people have been away, either flown north to visit their other families, or have taken briefer trips to escape the extremely hot summer weather.

The Good News also took a vacation in June, July and August and was not produced. The photos and articles that follow are just a few intended to “catch you up” on church happenings. They are in no particular order. Thanks to Pat Moon, Linda Alvarez and Mike Booker for sharing their pictures.



Debbie Moore testing the children’s knowledge of the Bible by making a game of it.



Lakeland Electric linemen honored Jeff McKnight at his memorial service.

What We Did This Summer, Continued



Lenee Schroeder, singer and pianist, performed a tribute to Don Heishman at his memorial service.



Former LGUMC pastor, Lamar Albritton, spoke about his friend, Don.



Ready to comfort family and friends after a memorial service.



We said goodbye to our beloved Lay Leader, former UMW President and all-around great Christian lady, Sue Shelton. Our loss is Golden, Colorado's gain.



The UMW ladies threw Latisha Cook, Director of ALBOH, a baby shower. Little Ezra Josiah Cook was born healthy on August 10, weighing 7 lbs 7 oz and 19 1/4" long. His mother is pictured at right.



At Mrs. Cook's baby shower, waiting for the party to begin. Linda Gibbs, right front, led hilarious games. (The ladies from ALBOH joined us after the pictures were taken.)



Ezra's little sister and a friend helped Mom open presents.



Shirley Lux and Ellen Haltiwanger prepared creative snacks for our Vacation Bible School on June 29th.

Adult Vacation Bible School



Bob Siegel led an adult VBS on June 29th. (Although we took pictures of the children in VBS, we can't publish them because some children are identifiable.)

Our Sign Was Destroyed



Although we had hoped the new electronic sign would help us to reach our neighbors, we didn't expect one of them to mow it down! Our insurance will cover its replacement, but there is a long lead-time to have it manufactured and installed. (The gentleman was unhurt.)

We Said Goodbye to Marian Schroeder

Many Lake Gibsoners said farewell to 104-year-old Marian at Carpenters Estates. She was instrumental in creating the Prayer Ministry, and, with her husband, Earl, was very active in our church.



Christmas in July



Once again we collected back-to-school supplies for Padgett Elementary School and the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.



Linda Alvarez took the supplies to PES. She is pictured below with the Principle Antionette Kirby.

Jeff Acor and Dale Gower took the other supplies to FUMCH.



A Matter of Balance Class Oct 21st — Nov 14th

Lynn Meske is again facilitating this class. Instead of meeting once a week for 8 weeks, it will meet twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays) at 1:00 pm in the FLC. The first 3 classes will be in the classrooms; the rest will be in the open area to allow room to do the exercises. Class is free, but limited to 12 participants.

People who took the first class in the spring reported significant improvement in balance and fewer falls. You may be asked to obtain clearance from your physician before starting the exercises.

If you would like to sign up, please call or email Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564, phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com.

AARP Driver Safety Program

Still driving? Still paying for insurance? The AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons) Driver Safety Training Program may help improve knowledge and reduce your insurance rates. Many insurance companies offer a reduction in premiums for those who complete a safe-driving course.

Lake Gibson UMC plans to offer the AARP Driver Safety Program this coming winter as more of our "snowbirds" return. The cost will be a minimal \$20 per person, with a \$5 discount for AARP members for this one-day (6 hours) program.

We don't have the dates yet, but we recommend calling your insurance agent to see if this class might reduce your automobile insurance premiums. Then, once we establish a training date, we'll let you know how to register.

Dwight Kitchens

Children's Ministry

The children have been doing great all summer... some went camping... some on trips... but now, hopefully, we can have 100% attendance for a while. We have done crafts, science projects, played scripture memory games and enjoyed music. We are planning, with Miss Lauren's continued help, to sing a song the first Sunday of each month.

We are looking for two teachers for Children's Sunday School. We need one teacher for ages 6 and under, and the other for 7 until they go in with Miss Molly (youth). Unfortunately, all available class rooms are upstairs in the FLC. Please let me know if you could teach either of these classes.

Debbie Moore

Audio/Visual

Special thanks to Kristie Summers for creating and operating the slides (appreciation to Justin Olivia for filling in while Kristie was away). Big thanks to James Beck for continuing to fill in for Laine Grimes while she is caring for her daughter who is on our prayer list.

Board of Trustees

A new 10-ton air conditioner unit was installed and working properly in the main room of the FLC — better yet, it's paid for! Thank you, donors.

Work was underway on a 2 1/2-ton ac for FLC classrooms 1 and 2. It should be ready for use on September 1st. Unfortunately, the 2nd classroom ac is now broken.

Tom Burns

We received 30 new, upholstered chairs for the FLC. They can augment the other comfy chairs used by Mike Stafford's Sunday school class. Others have been placed in the classroom for use by Sue Heishman's class and during the many meetings held there each month.

Marina's Corner

Welcome to the Food Pantry team: **Ann and Dan Johnson and Ruth Zona** will assist Marina with purchasing groceries when needed. Yvonne and Todd Bower have stepped down, but will continue to order, pick up and deliver the ground beef.

Thank you all for the continued blessings to our food pantry. Currently we are in need of the following items:

Breakfast Cereal
Spaghetti sauce
Macaroni and cheese
Tuna fish
Peanut butter
Jelly
Hamburger Helper, Scalloped Potatoes
or Au Gratin Potatoes (some available for \$1.00 at Dollar Tree)
Canned meats (Vienna sausage, ham, Spam, tuna, etc.)
Pastas

Through the end of July, we have given out 402 bags of groceries and 433 bags of Publix bakery products.

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

Finance Committee

A Moment of Stewardship Reflection

Wow! Can you believe it? We are 2/3 of the way through 2019. It won't be long and we'll be preparing for the holidays and all the festivities that come with them. As I think about this, I'm realizing the time to consider and reflect on stewardship is upon us.

I know, I know what you're probably thinking: Here's where the finance guy is wanting to talk about money. Yes, there is some truth to that, but we may be better served if we take a look at just what is stewardship.

A good definition of biblical stewardship would read as follows: *Biblical stewardship*

A Moment of Stewardship Reflection, Continued

recognizes that God's resources are to be deployed through God's people to accomplish God's mission. The dictionary defines a steward as a person who manages another person's property or affairs.

Biblical stewardship is best referred to as "whole-life stewardship" because God calls us to be good stewards of every area of our lives. Let's spend some time reflecting over just a few of these areas. *Get your Bible and let's take a look.*

1. God calls us to be stewards of our talents. What does Romans 12:3-8 say about the important role each Christian plays within the body of Christ and the use of our gifts?
2. God calls us to be good stewards of our time. What does Ephesians 5:15-16 say about the days in which we live, and how we should use our time?
3. God calls us to be stewards of our treasures. How did David view his material possession in 1 Chronicles 29:14? What was his attitude when he presented his offering to the Lord?
4. God calls us to be stewards of our testimonies. What does 1 Peter 3:15 say about the stewardship of our testimonies?

As you take the time to reflect on these areas of stewardship, know that church leaders will be working on plans for next year. We've heard many times during our lives that if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Keeping in mind the mission of God's church, be in prayer for the committees, ministry leaders and our Pastor in their efforts to plan for what God has for his church at Lake Gibson and the part you'll play in the coming year.

I'm excited, knowing all things are possible through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dick McPherson
Finance Committee Chair

Attention All Seniors

The newly formed senior activity group, the M&Ms, would like to cordially invite you to a Pizza and Pop Party on Saturday, September 14th in the Family Life Center. We'll begin at 4:00 pm and end by 7:00 pm so no one has to drive in the dark.

The only thing we ask you to do is call to let us know you will be there so we make sure that no one goes away hungry. **Please call Maria Tomas at 302-750-1676 or the office no later than September 10th.**

This group is dedicated to everyone getting to know each other better through food, fun and activities. We have lot of things planned for future gatherings and we'll fill you in so you can mark your calendars. Hope to see you on the 14th.

Carol Hanna
608-335-3421
carolandjohn49@gmail.com

Are You Ready for a Shot of Christmas Spirit?

The Church Council approved our participation as **Salvation Army bell-ringers** this year. Lake Gibson UMC has requested that we work **all hours available to us on Wednesdays** at the Winn-Dixie at 6600 N. Socrum Loop Road. The Council thought it would be easier to schedule if we all worked the same day, and Wednesday is when that weekly sales start at W-D, which might attract more people. At this time the Salvation Army has not negotiated its annual contract with W-D, so the specific hours bell ringers will serve have not been determined.

Last year we filled in Monday through Saturday between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm during hours that no other organization had taken. We worked at the Publix at Plantation Square; unfortunately, that location has been razed in preparation for building a larger, more modern Publix.

Continued . . .

Bell-Ringers, Continued

Being a bell ringer is a fun way to serve the Salvation Army and the people whom they serve. It is also a great way to meet people in the church's neighborhood and introduce them to us.

We have a new metal sign which can be used for other volunteer missions, too. Comments from our bell-ringers were all positive about the experience – it really put people in the Christmas spirit. And you can say, "Merry Christmas!" instead of "Happy Holidays!"



Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564, will again schedule our volunteers.

Before and After UMM Sidewalk Repair



United Methodist Men (UMM)

The LGUMC United Methodist Men held their monthly meeting on August 10th. We opened with a prayer of thanks for all the projects that were completed and that we were able to provide a service to those in need.

We have one remaining projects to complete: Insulate the cooling lines on the outside of the air conditioner units.

PROJECTS WE HAVE COMPLETED AS OF AUG 10th, 2019

1. Pressure washed the ALBOH outside playground equipment.
2. Painted the FLC air conditioner enclosure
3. Finished the fence repair around both air conditioner enclosures
4. Held the annual Easter egg hunt for 2019
5. Filled in the deep cracks in the concrete circle between the Sanctuary and A Little Bit of Heaven.

We will be holding elections for the next UMM President on the 16th of November, 2019, as my time has ended.

Thanks once again for all your support, hard work and cooperation. It makes the job so much easier when everyone helps to complete the projects.

The next meeting will be Saturday, September 14th, at 9:00 am, in the FLC. We will finalize plans for UMM Sunday, which is a 5th Sunday service with FUMCH collection and a pot-luck luncheon. The UMM will prepare the meats.

If at any time you feel a need to call me, please do so.

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

UMM, Continued



Workers included Michael Moake, Mike Booker, Joe Moon, George Gribble, Leon Rumohr, Dwight Kitchens, John Bernat, Tom Burns and Charlie Alvarez.

(Photos by Mike Booker)

Mission Moments

Summertime and the livin' is easy, so the song says. This summer has seemed as busy as any time of the year. Our mission support has remained strong and active. We have supported the Food Pantry; given food, clothes, towels, etc. to Hope House; the Christmas in July resulted in boxes of school supplies for the United Methodist Children's Home and Padgett Elementary School. Principal Antionette Kirby was glad to accept them! UMW ladies also donated many boxes of power bars which were taken to Mission u for Cornerstone Family Ministries and others in need.

There is more. As a church we gave many volunteer hours throughout the community including the Cancer Center, LVIM, VISTE, Hope House, the preschool and others. We helped each other out through prayers, rides, food and emotional support.

We did not take the summer off! Now we can look forward to fall and new opportunities to serve and be served.

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus that He Himself said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive'". (Acts 20:35)

Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator

The Scouts

With school back in session, Troop 711 and Pack 711 are already busy. The Boy Scouts will hold their Court of Honor on September 9th. They will be on a camping trip on September 26th and 27th.

The Cub Scouts will be selling boxes of popcorn to raise funds starting September 24th.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

UMW Sunday will be September 15th. We are working on an informative program to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the UMW and its predecessor organizations. We will also announce the Lake Gibson Woman of the Year.

Please see the announcement of the **fall rummage sale, October 18th and 19th**. This is our largest source of mission funds, and it takes a huge number of men and women working from Wednesday through Saturday to set up, price and sell. It's also a lot of fun working with other LGUMC friends. We need lots of volunteers!

Circle News

Ruth Circle of Love will resume its monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 4th, 11:00 am in the FLC, classrooms 1 and 2. We will be studying Mary, the mother of Jesus. You are invited to come and join us for the meeting and then for our dining out at a local restaurant for lunch. We will be meeting the first Wednesday of every month and would love to have you participate! Contact Pat Moon, 863-858-6883.

Heart to Heart circle will meet on the second Monday, September 9th, to avoid Labor Day. We meet at 10:30 am in the FLC. Ruth Zona will present the lesson. Please come and bring a sandwich and beverage to enjoy after the meeting. If you haven't completed your annual pledge, please consider doing so.

Evening Circle will meet at 6:30 pm on September 9th at Debbie Moore's house, 400 Vineyard Drive in Lakeland. Everyone is welcome to come! Please **bring something to share for dinner**. The lesson will be chapter 9, Praying with Chutzpah, in the book *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus*.

Also remember to **bring some small items to put in the church's visitor bags**.



Prayer Ministry

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”. Romans 12:15 NKJV

Thank you, Prayer Warriors, for your continued service to LG Prayer Ministry during the busy time of summer, even while some of you were traveling to see friends and family throughout our country.

Since May 1st, 2019 approximately 230 prayers have been requested by our congregation, and those were sent on to our 34 prayer warriors via email. God loves us staying in spiritual intercession with him through our prayers, from any location.

God Bless you all. Lake Gibson Prayer Ministry

Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

Jeff and I want to thank everyone who donated school supplies this year. Jeff and Dale Gower took up several boxes of school supplies and as always they were very grateful.

The **on-campus school** had **five** young women graduate high school this year. **Each one** will be **going on to college** to pursue degrees in nursing, social work, culinary arts and business!

During the summer FUMCH was a busy place. Along with summer camp, they enjoyed their yearly talent show in which some of the kids performed their version of the Wizard of Oz. Some of the younger girls were treated to a day at a spa where they were “Princess for a Day”.

They had their annual July 4th pool party and a sidewalk art contest. They had an escape room with a “Clue” (the board

FUMCH, Continued

game) theme. The recreation department put it together and the cast was made up from the spiritual life team and recreation department.

When not busy during summer camp, the kids enjoyed cooling off in the pool, riding their bikes and some were showing off their cooking skills that they learned over the summer.

As the new school year starts, the kids will be able to enjoy a newly renovated gym. They have completely redone the gym with new air conditioning, new flooring, padding on the walls, new LED lighting and new bleachers.

Karen and Jeff Acor
FUMCH Representatives

Finding Your New Neighbors

Since May, we've been sending out postcard invitations to our church to the approximately 300 people per month who move into our neighborhoods. We're hoping that they might join us for services. We understand that getting unpacked, settled, and into a daily routine is probably of their utmost concern at first.

We, on the other hand, want to insure that they know there is a church family ready to embrace them. These new families are just now making connections, whether it be schools, grocery stores, doctors, or churches. They may not know that we are nearby and ready to welcome them. As Christians, helping them to make these transitions is part of our responsibility, and we are working on ways to reach out.

In the coming months, we'll be building a way to match these new residents with those of us who live nearby. Introducing ourselves, welcoming these new residents and providing local knowledge is something we can all do. Inviting them to our church is a means of connecting them with a family of faith.

Continued on the next page . . .

Finding Your New Neighbors, Continued

One of the steps we are working on is identifying the areas or housing developments in which members of our congregation and the new folks live. Knowing street addresses isn't enough if we want to connect Lake Gibson people to their new neighbors, so in the future we will be asking you to tell us what development (or a nearby one) where you live. We plan to work with a government office to determine what streets lie in what areas or developments to make matching possible. After we develop lists of new movers and the congregation members who live nearby, we will ask you to make contact with them and invite them to church with you.

Dwight Kitchens

Save Monies from Your IRA

We mentioned this during 2018, but it is worth repeating. If you make contributions to Lake Gibson during the year, you might consider making your tithe (or some portion thereof) directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Receiving your IRA distribution directly has tax consequences. Before you reach 59 ½ years of age, you are charged a 10% penalty for amounts withdrawn from an IRA. And, you can't hoard your savings, but must take a distribution no later than 70 ½ years of age in the form of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The RMD is a means the Internal Revenue Service uses to insure that you start paying taxes on the IRA savings based on your projected lifetime.

Who cares? Well, most of us must file Federal Income Taxes. We either take a standard deduction, or an itemized deduction. For many of us, we don't have sufficient deductions to make itemizing worthwhile. The standard deduction was doubled for 2019 - 2025. This makes it beneficial for many more people to file simplified returns, taking a standard deduction.

IRA distributions are included in gross income if you receive them directly. Your other choice is to have all or some portion of your IRA distribution sent by your IRA administrator directly to LGUMC. Consider having your IRA pay your church tithe. For every dollar sent to LGUMC, you would benefit as it is not added to your gross income for tax purposes. As gross income rises, you may climb from a low marginal tax bracket into a higher one, incurring more taxes. Since church tithes paid directly from IRAs never enter your income stream, your taxed income is lower and you receive a larger benefit from the new standard deductions.

Dwight Kitchens



Birthdays in September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
9/1	Gloria Laube
9/2	Mike Booker
9/3	Michelle McCaslin
9/4	Harold Burness
9/6	Charlie Alvarez
9/6	Fred Fredrikson
9/6	Ken Fuqua
9/7	Joe Brady
9/9	Travis Watson
9/10	Joyce Scott
9/11	Nancy Fitzgerald
9/13	Diane Eshelman
9/13	George Gribble
9/13	Lois Teske
9/14	Sue Heishman
9/15	Danielle Woodworth
9/16	Greg Hall
9/16	Helen Vandervort
9/17	Patsy Lennon
9/18	Grace Foster
9/18	Rick McLellan
9/18	Shirley Patterson
9/19	Jarica Arnett
9/21	Charlie Rich
9/24	Carol Davis
9/24	Ethel Somers
9/27	C.B. Fredrikson
9/28	Helen Weissman



Anniversaries in September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
9/7	Debbie and Rick McLellan
9/16	Dorothy and Tom Burns
9/16	Penny and Steve Polk
9/28	Olga and Bill Anderson

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

Sue Heishman, Bookkeeper

Debbie Moore, Children's Director and Custodian

Glenda Grant Hess, Music Director

Debbie Moore, Laine Grimes, Kristie Summers and James Beck, Audio/Visual Team

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 make disciples of Jesus Christ. Phyllis Kitchens, Editor (phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com).