



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



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

From the Pastor's Desk

I write this as I am preparing to leave on vacation; one Penny and I are excited about taking. We are planning to just take in the grandeur of God's creation, bask in His glory and listen for His voice. The month of November is the month of Thanksgiving and we all have a lot to be thankful for, especially Christians. God's redeeming mercy and grace are ever present in our lives. For this month's newsletter I wrote an acrostic that goes like this.

Lord, we thank you for:

The Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Holding us close to your heart when we are afraid

Answering our prayers, even when the answer is no

Never leaving nor forsaking us

Keeping our spirits safe in your hands

Sending your only Son to show us your love

Giving us the grace for each day and our daily needs

Inspiring us to love you and others with all our hearts

*Valuing each and every person, even those we may think are
undesirable*

Incarnation - God himself taking on flesh and blood

Never-ending compassion, mercy and the amazing

Grace of God.

*Happy Thanksgiving,
Pastor Steve*

Fall Festival, Saturday, November 9th, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

**A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN
&
LAKE GIBSON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**JUMP HOUSES, FACE PAINTING, GAMES, BIKE
SAFETY, CAKE RAFFLE, GIFT BAG RAFFLE VENDORS, PETTING
ZOO AND SO MUCH MORE**

**COME AND ENJOY FREE POPCORN, COTTON
CANDY, ICEE, FACE PAINTING, BIKESAFETY AND GAMES
*HELMETS WILL BE PROVIDED AND ARE FIRSTCOME FIRST SERVE**

**PULLED CHICKEN DINNERS FOR SALE: INCLUDES A
SIDE, DESSERT AND SODA- \$10.00
HOT DOGS, SODA AND CHIPS- \$2.50
CAKE RAFFLE TICKETS- \$1.00
BIKE RAFFLE TICKETS- \$1.00
GIFT BASKET RAFFLE- \$1.00**

**Fun for Children and Adults!
Help Raise Money for Our Preschool and Children's Ministry**

Special Events for November

2019		NOVEMBER		SUNDAY		
CALENDAR YEAR		CALENDAR MONTH		FIRST DAY OF WEEK		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
						RESET Clocks before going to bed!
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Eastern Standard Time Begins; Communion; FUMCH Angel Tree in Narthex; All Saints Sunday	UMW Heart to Heart Circle mtg, 10:30, FLC; Board of Trustees mtg, 2 pm, Office	Election Day	Pastor's Bible Study Resumes, 10 am and 7 pm, FLC; UMW Ruth Circle of Love mtg, 11 am, FLC			Fall Festival, 9 am to 2 pm; United Methodist Men mtg, 9 am, FLC
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Harvest Sunday: Donations for Our Food Pantry; Charge Conference, FUMC, 3 pm; Lawn Fest, FUMC, 5:30 pm	VETERANS DAY; UMW Unit mtg, 10:30 am (lunch and guest speaker), FLC; Staff, Pastor, Parish Com mtg, 1 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle, 6:30 pm, off campus			A Little Bit of Heaven Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC; Scouts Committee mtg, 7 pm, FLC		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Finance Com mtg, 7 pm, FLC	Cub Scouts Thanksgiving Dinner, 7 pm, FLC	December Newsletter Articles Due			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
One Service, 10:30 am, Thanksgiving meal; United Methodist Student Day (Special Sunday with Offering)	UMW Leadership Team mtg, 1 pm, FLC; Worship Com mtg, 7 pm, Sanctuary			Thanksgiving	1st Day of Bell Ringing at Lk Gibson Publix, 10 am - 8 pm Office Closed	

November Weekly Recurring Events

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
Kidtricity Children's Ministry (Nursery Available)	10:30 - 11:45 am	Sanctuary & FLC

Monday

Bible Study	2:00 pm	Lakeside Hills
Boy Scout Troop 711	7:00 pm	FLC

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

Tuesday

Olive Tree Gathering	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

Help Wanted

Pop-tops and Blankets for Hope House

(This is a continuing need.)

Harvest Sunday, November 10th (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 take 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 and bind them to 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 warm people who sleep in tents. If you have a sleeping bag that isn't being used anymore, please donate it to Hope House.

Volunteers to Help with Fall Festival November 3rd, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

We need volunteers to help with every event during the festival to make sure the kiddies have a good time. We will be selling baked goods as part of the fund-raiser for our preschool and Children's Ministry. If you can make cookies, cakes, pies or candy, it would be appreciated. We will need sales people as well as kitchen helpers. Come in before the event starts if you want to be part of the crew.

Pecan Sales November 3rd

The UMW will be selling pecans (plain, cinnamon- and chocolate-covered) after both services on November 3rd. Plain are \$14.00 and cinnamon- or chocolate-covered are \$10.00. Checks may be made out to LGUMC UMW.

FUMCH Angel Tree Donations

Another year has flown by and again it is time to get ready for Christmas for the Children's Home. We will be putting up the Angel Tree again this year beginning the first weekend in November.

We will be giving gift cards again for various stores and restaurants in that area. We will also be collecting items for the cottages that are needed for everyday living such as health and beauty aids, kitchen and bath items, etc.

We will again have various paper Angels on the tree for different stores the kids like to shop as well as different restaurants where the house parents can take the kids out to eat. **We will be collecting the gift cards and cottage supplies through December 1, 2019.** We will be taking the donations to FUMCH the first week in December.

Please remember to take an Angel and help make Christmas a success for the kids at FUMCH. Thank you for your support

Karen and Jeff Acor
FUMCH Representatives

[FYI: Found within the offering envelopes you received in the mail is one dated 3 November 2019 devoted to the **Florida United Methodist Children's Home "Angel Tree"**. You can put your gift cards or cash (or a check made out to LGUMC, annotated for Angel Tree) in this envelope and drop it off in the collection plate if you wish.]

Donations for A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center (ALBOH)

Thanks to multiple residents of the Mount Olive Shores North community in Polk City, ALBOH now has three newly refurbished laptop computers to use for the preschool. With the Windows 10 operating system, these should remain useful for a number of years.

If your Christmas wish list includes a replacement for your current computer (desktop or laptop), please consider donating the old one to the church. Dwight Kitchens (863-984-4564) will refurbish it, if possible, and find it a new home.

Remembering Our Love Ones on All Saints Day, November 3rd

Robert Kendall
Cyndee Arnett
Phillip Webb
Dorothy Gabor
Donald Haney
Dorothy Spadafora
Marion Cope
Jack Patterson
Jeff McKnight
Donald Heishman
Marian Schroeder
Virginia Miley
Sharon Duke Thomas
Robert Addems
Rita Huven

Charge Conference and Lawn Fest Sunday, November 10th

All church leaders, members of the congregation and constituents are invited to First United Methodist Church, 72 Lake Morton Drive, on Sunday, November 10th, at 3:00 pm for our annual Charge Conference. In addition to our church, the conference will include a number of other local churches being reviewed by District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis. After the conference, attendees are invited to stay for a music-filled evening with dinner starting at 5:30 pm.

If you don't plan to attend the Charge Conference, just **come for the food, music and fellowship**. The announcement is below:

*Lawn Fest 2019 –
A Night of Bluegrass & BBQ
is on Sunday, November 10 at 5:30 pm on the Front Lawn of First UMC, Lakeland. Join us for an entertaining evening of **Bluegrass and BBQ** on our front lawn overlooking beautiful Lake Morton. This year's concert will feature **The South Porch Bluegrass Band** from St. Petersburg, FL.*

A \$5/person meal will include your choice of slow-cooked BBQ chicken or pork with a mix of southern sides. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, a favorite lawn game and a neighbor or friend. Be sure to come with an appetite for smoky southern flavors and songs. Lawn Fest is a family-friendly event hosted by the 11:20 am contemporary worship leadership team.

Wreaths Across America



The **American Legion Riders** will again place wreaths on veterans' graves at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. This recognition of those who served and sacrificed for our country is scheduled for December 15, 2019. Around 600 motorcyclists from the American Legion Riders will join others in laying the wreaths.

In September there was an insert in a Sunday bulletin asking for donations to purchase wreaths at \$15.00 each. If you missed that service, there is still time to support this patriotic remembrance.

Bob Herrick is our lead for this mission. He reports that the cutoff date for donations is **November 15th**. Please make checks out to Lake Gibson UMC with a notation for Wreaths Across America. If you would like to talk to Bob, call him at 863-838-8396.

Alternatively, you can use the special collection envelope that was included in your latest mailing (sample shown), or put your donation in a regular pew envelope and mark it for Wreaths Across America.

Florida National Cemetery is a United States National Cemetery located near the city of Bushnell in Sumter County, Florida. Administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, it encompasses 512.9 acres and began interments in 1988. It is now one of the busiest cemeteries in the United States. (FNC web site)

Continued . . .

Wreaths Across America, Continued

Wreaths Across America
Bushnell Inc.

Each December Wreaths Across America Bushnell Inc (FL0021) will be helping Florida National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please accept my special offering in the amount of:
\$ _____



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

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

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Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Training, Dec 11 or 12

The Gulf Central District will hold training for new and continuing members of the SPRC at two locations:

Wednesday, Dec 11, Palm Harbor UMC, 1551 Belcher Rd, Palm Harbor, FL from 7 to 8:30 pm

Thursday, Dec 12, St. Andrew's UMC, 3315 S Bryan Rd, Brandon, FL from 7 to 8:30 pm

Preregistration is required. Go to <https://www.flumc.org/gce-october-newsletter> to register.

Pastors, SPRC chairs and committee members, Lay Leaders and Lay Members to the Annual Conference are encouraged to attend.

We are planning to **carpool to the Dec 12th session** in Brandon. Please call the office if you would like a ride (863-858-5431).

Marina's Corner

We will be welcoming a volunteer in the office on Wednesdays and possibly on Fridays. There is also an on-call volunteer (Karen Hooper) to help out as needed.

We would like to put out a **huge thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Blaeur**. They donated a large amount of brand new clothes with tags to the rummage sale. Donations included evening gowns which were given to Guardian ad Litem and Lake Gibson Senior High School for needy young ladies.

Continued on the next page . . .

Marina's Corner, Cont'd

[The Blaeurs are not members of our church. Marina met them at the Dollar Store and invited them to church, while she was purchasing items for the food pantry. After that they began donating items for the rummage sale.

This is an example of a God-moment. You never know when He will put someone in front of you who can be a blessing, or who needs a blessing. Be on the alert for it.]

Food Pantry

Marina Hernandez is in charge of our food pantry. Yvonne Bower orders and picks up our meat, and Ann Johnson shops for the dry goods when we don't have sufficient donations on hand.

We currently need **Hamburger Helper (or generic brands), Peanut Butter, Jelly, canned beans of all types and rice.** Harvest Sunday is November 10th.

The Cub Scouts will be presenting their collected non-perishables to the church at their Thanksgiving dinner on November 19th.

We will be having new volunteers coming in on Thursday to help with the food pantry. Karen Hooper will also be a backup for the pantry.

After the October tornado that hit the Kathleen area we provided food bags to 12 people. (On August 29th we gave out 27 bags of groceries to people affected by Hurricane Dorian.)

As of October 24th, we have given out **641 bags of groceries and 671 bags of Publix bakery items.**

The M&Ms Senior Activity Group

As many of you are aware, we planned on hosting a Medicare seminar on Nov 20th. After partnering with an insurance agency to

Continued . . .

The M&M's, Continued

provide the advertising and the agents for the seminar, it became evident that we didn't start the process early enough, and they could not fulfill that commitment. We know many of you were looking forward to getting some clarity on the health care plans and we apologize that we could not bring you that information.

We learned that First UMC was hosting a senior expo on October 29th and put out the information to some of our members. The short notice prevented advertising this event widely.

We will keep you informed of when we expect to host our next gathering for seniors. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, December 5th, at 1:00 pm in the FLC.** This will focus on planning our 2020 activities and developing a calendar to make sure we start planning our events early enough.

Signs, Signs -- Where Are the Signs?

We hope you've noticed the new metal directional signs attached to all the LGUMC buildings. We also have two of the Volunteer signs (right), one of which will be used by our Bell Ringers this Christmas season. (The second one is in the church office.)



The third set of signs, directional road signs pointing drivers toward our church, have been obtained. There are three of these which are awaiting installation. This was planned months ago, but delayed because no one could get to our post hole digger. (It was behind tons of rummage sale donations in a shed.)

Months ago we had obtained permission to place these signs at intersections and got all of the proper utilities to mark their lines with flags. Unfortunately, the delay in digging the holes has resulted in the flags being removed by grass mowers! We will have to start this process all over again.

Music Department

LGUMC CHOIR

God created humans to sing. He formed us with vocal cords, lungs, tongues and lips. He designed our psyche for singing -- to judge pitch, lyrics, concepts, imagination and memory. He made our hearts to move with emotions by melody-truths about Himself and us.

Our choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 pm to lead Sunday Traditional Worship Service music with expertise, ability and faithfulness, balancing loving hearts with tunefulness.

Here is how our Choir members describe themselves:

*We are like a family that has fun and is a little goofy. Don't be afraid to join us unless you don't like to laugh. We sing easy to learn anthems from **30-Minute Rehearsal books**. Everyone supports each other with a lot of encouragement. There are no try-outs. We are energetic. We serve God with our music.*

God designed us all to sing -- whether in choir or congregation -- WELCOME!

LET GO PRAISE TEAM

Welcome to Contemporary Worship led by our LET GO PRAISE TEAM.

What is the meaning of LET GO?

To LET GO is to FORGIVE completely, without reservation.

To LET GO is to LET FALL AWAY our heavy load of ever-accumulating spiritual debt, which is sin.

To LET GO is to HIT THE DELETE BUTTON to end the ceaseless loop of emotional reactions for undeserved hurt.

Continued . . .

Music Department, Continued

To LET GO is to WASH AWAY the stickiness that glues us to soul-ties which prevent us from letting go of a painful past.

To LET GO is to ENJOY bright music blooms of guitars, drums, keyboards, and modern lyrics -- while not crushing the classical flower of traditional organ, piano and hymnal; but enhancing the fragrance of both in a reciprocal arrangement.

Come to Contemporary Worship and LET GO! Glenda Hess, Music Director

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. 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. All members and constituents of LGUMC are encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts with the congregation. Phyllis Kitchens (phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com).

Get Ready for Crop Walk 2020!

We are looking for a Lake Gibson recruiter to build a team of fund-raising walkers (or just contributors) for Crop Walk 2020 around beautiful Lake Hollingsworth on **Sunday, February 23, 2020**.

The rally and pick-up of registration materials will be on **Saturday, January 18th**, from 10:00 to 11:00 am at First Presbyterian Church, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland.

If you have a heart for walks for a good cause, please call Phyllis Kitchens at 863-984-4564 or 410-790-2662.

UMW Unit Meeting Monday, November 11th, 10:30 am

The final 2019 Unit meeting will be held on Veteran's Day at 10:30 am in the FLC. After a short business meeting we will hear from the Reverend Betty Batey. She began her ministry in 1977 and retired after 42 years of service. She will talk to us about how the United Methodist Church has evolved over the years in its attitude toward women, and particularly women clergy.

A Unit meeting is the opportunity for members of all three United Methodist Women circles to come together for learning and fellowship. **You don't have to be a member of UMW or of a circle to attend. In fact, you don't even have to be a woman. Men are welcome!**

Everyone is invited to attend. Please let your circle leader know if you will. The leadership team is providing the main course, a variety of home-made soups. There will also be salads, crackers and desserts. If you aren't in a circle, or a member of UMW, please call Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564/cell 410-790-2662.



Cub Scout Pack 711 Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday, November 19th

The Cub Scouts will conduct their annual food drive and pick up filled grocery bags from their neighborhoods on November 16th. The items collected will be presented to our church at their **Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday, November 19th, at 7:00 pm in the FLC.**

Last year the donations were so generous that our food pantry was filled to overflowing, and we gave out the foodstuffs for well over a month!

If you are interested in showing your appreciation for the Cub Scouts, their leaders and their families, please consider **attending** this dinner. Let Tom Burns, our Scouting Representative, know that you will attend.

The meal is a pot-luck, with meat being provided, and side dishes and dessert brought by the attendees.
Tom Burns, 863-670-5233

Church Thanksgiving Dinner, November 24th

Our church's Thanksgiving dinner will be held in the FLC after the single worship service at 10:30 am on November 24th. The meat will be provided, so please bring side dishes and desserts.

Invite your friends and neighbors to share this festive meal with us.

December Events

The M&Ms

The Mix and Mingle (M&Ms) Senior Group will not meet in November. The next meeting will be **Thursday, December 5th, at 1:00 pm** in the FLC. Anyone age 55 and up is invited to attend this social group. We will discuss ideas for our 2020 activities. There may be snacks!

The M&Ms are planning to get a dose of Christmas spirit by attending **Lakeland First UMC's Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8th, at 4:00 pm.** Mark your calendars for this event. We will probably carpool to it. Call Carol Hanna if you want to participate in this trip.

Carol Hanna, 608-335-3421.

Christmas Cantata December 15th, 10:30 am

The Lake Gibson Christmas Cantata will be presented at 10:30 am (single service), on **Sunday, December 15th.** It will be presented again on **Christmas Eve, December 24th, at 6:00 pm.**

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in these musical worship events.

December 29th is a 5th Sunday

Reverend Ryan Fracke, Florida United Methodist Children's Home, will be our guest speaker on **December 29th, 10:30 am.** Special offerings for FUMCH will be collected, and there will be a pot luck lunch afterwards.

United Methodist Men (UMM)

We will planning future projects to help maintain and keep up the church, grounds and buildings. If you have a concern or a project that we can perform, please feel free to contact us. We will then determine if your suggestions are within our capability.

We would like to thank all those who helped with **UMM Sunday, a 5th Sunday event**, on September 29th, as well as those who helped with the food preparation, setting up the FLC and with the clean-up after the dinner. It was a blessing to see so many assist as needed. We are all stewards of God, and we should share our gifts with others in fellowship and service where needed.

The UMM would like to offer a special thanks Dwight Kitchens, Michael Booker, Ken Fuqua and Bob Willome for their assistance with the 5th Sunday Church service. We would also like to thank Tom Burns, John Bernat, Dick McPherson and Leon Rumohr, for their support of the Men's 5th Sunday service. We would also like to thank the **young men** who served as waiters.

The UMM would like to give special thanks to the ladies who helped in the kitchen, set up the serving tables and clean up. Their help enabled the event to run smoothly and keep us men out of trouble.

We have had a productive year. We were able to finish all of our projects plus help as needed to support the UMW rummage sales.

The UMM are here for the church's needs and to help, when possible. We, although small in number, do desire to assist all members of the church.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 9th, at 9:00 am in the FLC. We'll be there to help with the Fall Festival after discussing a little business.

Feel free to contact me at home (863-816-3194) or by cell (386-965-0170).

Michael Moake, President

UMM Sunday Pictures



Mike Booker was our keynote speaker talking about miracles he has experienced.

Getting ready to take up the collection. Rick McLellan, Leon Rumohr, John Bernat and Dick McPherson.



Michael Moake

The Choir



Mission Moments

We will again be setting out the **Sox Box** in the narthex for people to donate all sizes of socks for anyone in need. Thank you to the people who have already donated several bags of socks. The **Pick-a-Pair** project (packaging and labeling socks and hanging them outside) will start in December.

Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator.

UMW Rummage Sale, October 18th and 19th



Thanks to **Lynn Meske** for these pictures of the Fall Rummage Sale. Since things look very neat, they must have been taken rather early.

This may have been the most successful Rummage Sale in our history. It cleared \$4,704.29, making the total from both 2019 sales \$8,115.34. The money raised will be used to support the UMW's local charitable organizations.

It would be impossible to list all the people, men and women, who worked so hard to make this sale happen. **Thank you, each and every one!**



Children's Ministry

We are growing, learning our scriptures and loving Jesus more each time we meet.

Evan and Nathan had some damage to their home during the recent tornado. Please join us in praying that all will soon be fixed.

Our song is entitled 'Treasure Quest' and we plan to sing it the first Sunday of November.

We are looking forward to helping the pre-school fundraiser "Fall Festival" on November 9th.

Many thanks to each of you who has donated to the Children's Ministry. We are so blessed by you!
Debbie Moore, Director

Prayer Ministry



"Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth!" "Enter His gates with Thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless his name. For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation".

(Psalm 100:1, 4 & 5) NLT (1996)

As we come to Thanksgiving season we give thanks to all our Prayer Warriors for their continued service to LGUMC and our Lord. We have been blessed to add new prayer warriors throughout the year. Please check the entire list of Prayer Warriors on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

If you wish to be a part of our *Email Prayer Warrior Team* by receiving prayer needs via email during the week, please sign the "Connection Card" in the Sunday bulletin for Becoming a Prayer Warrior, and the Prayer Ministry will contact you.

November is a special time to reflect on all that God has given us to be thankful for. God has gifted to me an awesome journey for the past 10 years in being a part of LG's Prayer Ministry, 6 of those as Prayer Advocate. Thank you for all your support and love through the years. Thanks also to my mentors Marian S and JoAnne W (prior Advocates), the intercessory prayer group (Betty F and Sue S), Pastor Steve and Marina. Even though I have stepped down from the Advocate position, being a prayer warrior is embedded in my heart and soul forever and I believe is a calling for all followers of Christ.

As we march on together, we remain Christians in prayer for one another. If unable to submit a prayer card during Sunday Service, please contact Marina at the church office (863-858-5431), and your request will be honored and submitted to the prayer team for prayers, or if you request it (for long-term prayer needs), will be added to the prayer journal.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18, ***"Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere."*** (NLT) Continued

Prayer Ministry, Continued

May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you during the Thanksgiving holiday and always.

Praising God for His many blessings,

Fran

Food for Thought

What if we were silent and reverent when we enter the Sanctuary for Sunday service?

Lake Gibson UMC is a friendly congregation and the time before a worship service begins is usually spent greeting friends and catching up on happenings.

But what if we used the Family Life Center (FLC) for our greetings and catching up?

One idea to enhance the prayerful atmosphere within the Sanctuary would be to keep the wooden entry doors closed and put a sign on them such as **"You are now entering the presence of the Lord. Please be prayerful and silent ."**

People who have attended Lake Gibson for many years say this is the way it used to be in church. No food or drink was permitted in the Sanctuary, and there was no loud talking or walking about. Social interaction was accomplished outside the Sanctuary or in the FLC.

The time before the service starts can be spent studying the scripture shown in the bulletin, filling out contact and prayer cards, praying at the altar rail or just silently talking with God in the pew.

What do you think? Send your comments to the Editor at phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com.

Board of Trustees

The insurance check for our electronic sign has been received!! Halleluiah! We will be placing the order for its replacement soon.

United Methodist Women

The UMW Leadership Team will meet on Monday, November 25th, at 11:00 am.

Please see the information on the UMW Unit meeting on Monday, November 11th, at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited to enjoy our guest speaker, Rev. Betty Batey, and home-made soups, salads and desserts.

Circle News

Heart to Heart will meet on Monday, **November 4th, at 10:30 am** in the FLC. Be sure to **bring money** for your final **Thank Offering** of the year. Please bring a lunch to enjoy after the meeting. If you have questions, please call Ruth Zona at 863-859-5967.

Ruth Circle of Love will meet on **Wednesday, November 6th**, at 11:00 am in the FLC. Please **bring money** for your final **Thank Offering** of the year. We are studying the women in the Bible. Anyone interested is invited to join us for lunch at a local restaurant. Call Pat Moon at 863-858-6883 for information.

Evening Circle will meet on Monday, November 11th, at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share with everyone before the meeting. We will be on chapter 11, The Treasure of the Text, in *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus*. Debbie Moore leads this circle and it meets at her house, 400 Vineyard Dr., Lakeland. For information, call her at 863-614-7193.

Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

Thanks to everyone who called or emailed to sign up for the 4 days we originally requested! **Those 40 hours are full**, although I may be calling people if there are emergencies that require a substitute ringer.

We will be ringing at the **Publix at the Lake Gibson Shopping Center**, 6767 US Highway 98 N, instead of the Winn-Dixie on Socrum Loop. With the closure of the Plantation Square Publix, the business at the 98 N store has almost doubled, making that location

Bell Ringing, Continued

possibly more rewarding for the Salvation Army.

I have obtained additional days for us to cover. Although the schedule can fill up quickly, as of this time, we have the following slots for December (in addition to our 3 Thursdays):

Monday, Dec 2:	12 to 8 pm
Tuesday, Dec 3:	12 to 8 pm
Wednesday, Dec 4:	12 to 8 pm
Friday, Dec 6:	2 to 8 pm
Wednesday, Dec 11:	12 to 8 pm
Wednesday, Dec 18:	12 to 8 pm
Monday, Dec 23	12 to 8 pm

You can sign up for a one or two-hour slot. Call me to sign up (863-984-4564 or 410-790-2662).

I will input your date(s) and time(s) into the Salvation Army's program and it will automatically generate an email to you to confirm the information. If I have your cell phone number, the SA will also text you a reminder.

Phyllis Kitchens

Contact Information

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Stewardship, Stewardship, Stewardship -- OH NO!

It doesn't need to this way. Let's look at building a solid foundation for stewardship.

Know what you are trying to accomplish

The first important step to good stewardship is knowing why you exist and what you are trying to accomplish. This is done by creating a mission, vision and values statement that articulates the purpose of the church and what it hopes to achieve as an organization. This important first step sets the direction and decision making model for the ministry.

Budget toward the vision

The next step is to create an annual church budget that funds the vision. This includes looking at those strategic objectives that require financial support and allocating dollars to support church goals.

For example, if the vision results in a strategy that includes outreach to the poor, dollars should be allocated for the development of an outreach program. This may include funding for administrative oversight, supplies and marketing materials.

Wise spending decisions

Spending decisions will be made as dollars are allocated to fund the different strategies of the church, and using wisdom in that spending is critical to good stewardship.

A decision model that helps with prioritizing spending is asking the question, is this something we **want**, **need** or **have-to-have**? For example, developing an outreach program may require purchasing equipment and a decision may be made to purchase a new or used piece of equipment.

Accountability for managing funds

A church budget guides spending decisions, but it is also important to make sure that those budgeted dollars are spent on those things that it was allocated for. This requires a budget review process that ensures that monthly spending does not exceed the monthly allocated dollars.

Conflict of interest (it happens sometimes)

Decision making for spending ministry resources should always be made with the best interest of the organization in mind and the accomplishment of the vision.

Every organization should be good stewards with the resources, but the church needs to be held to an even higher standard since the resources they are given are from the sacrificial tithes of their members. We should never lose sight of the fact that this is God's money!

Please be praying for the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us as we plan and enter 2020 to do the Lord's work in our community. Our success will only be as powerful as the prayers of our congregation.

Dick McPherson
Finance Chair

Online Access to Your Personal Servant Keeper Information

Ever wonder if the church received your last contribution? Are you up-to-date on your pledge? With password protection, you can now access your family's **Giving History** without waiting for a quarterly printed giving statement. Each recorded transaction may be seen, showing the date, amount, and account into which it was directed.

Our Servant Keeper online system will permit you to:

1. View your own family's up-to-date Giving History.
2. View the entire LGUMC Church Directory
3. Edit your own family's individual Church Directory entries

How do you gain access while protecting your privacy? Follow the links below and in a few minutes you can view your family's Giving History, see the Membership Directory and have the ability to modify your family's records.

1. Membership Directory Access

- a. Go to https://directory.servantpc.com/Lake_Gibson_UMC
- b. Type in this Key : " LGUMC-Web-Directory "
- c. You now have access to the entire Church Directory where you can click on family records to see more public data. It may take a few moments to load as photos and data are being transmitted.
- d. Save the URL in your browser's favorites for near-instant access

2. First Time Directory Update and Giving History access:

- a. Go to <https://directory.servantpc.com/login>
- b. First time, click "haven't registered yet"

Complete the screen to receive an e-mail permitting access

Respond to the automatically generated e-mail to create personal password and get full access

Go to https://family-edit.servantpc.com/Lake_Gibson_UMC/login, type in your e-mail address and password, and have instant access. Save this link in your browser favorites under LGUMC Giving History & Directory.

Update personal information and access family Giving History

c. Subsequent times:

Open your browser and choose the favorite "LGUMC Giving History & Directory". Type in your e-mail address and password to see your profile (family and individual) as well as your Giving History for the current year.

Dwight Kitchens, 863-984-4564/cell 410-790-4422



Birthdays in November

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
11/8	Emma Faircloth
11/10	Gary Jones
11/10	Jean Wesley
11/11	Barbara Bingham
11/11	Mary Futch
11/13	Donald Damaschke
11/19	John Travis
11/19	Nathan Van Zile
11/21	Robert Schmidt
11/22	Barbara Towns
11/26	Ellen Haltiwanger
11/26	Michael Moake
11/27	Brad Fox
11/27	Donna McKnight
11/28	Sharon Hughes
11/30	Jeri Spooner



Anniversaries November

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
11/14	Sharon and Danny Hughes
11/18	Pat and Joe Moon
11/20	Gail and Jerry Bishop
11/27	Ann and Richard Kneeland