



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

In the Gospel of Luke an angel gave the message of a Savior being born to the shepherds and said that they would find him lying in a manger. Then the heavenly host appear and we hear: ¹⁴ **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

If we were able to go back in time to that day, we would find that peace on earth and good will toward men was something that was desperately needed. The Roman army was in control of the area. The Jewish people were treated as slaves to do the Roman bidding. Animosity between the two groups was often escalating into violence.

The Governor had ordered a census and you had to go to the town of your birth to register with all your family. Imagine the burden of traveling with a family in those times without automobiles or interstates, and by the way – when you registered you had to pay taxes; taxes you thought were unfair, too high and you had no say in how they were used. Added to this there was a division between those who led the church and the common folk, and a severe class division between the haves and have-nots. Many people were hungry, infant mortality was high, and most people knew it was only going to get worse. Peace on earth and good will toward men was a crucial need.

We begin the Advent season December first, the time when we prepare ourselves for Jesus coming anew into our lives and the world. Just like the first Christmas there is chaos and division in our world, our nation and our communities. As a nation we are divided into red and blue camps among others. We differ in how we respond to immigration reform and other social programs. The government does not seem to be our friend. The gap between the haves and have-nots is growing. Homelessness, depression and addiction are seen running rampant in every community.

Peace on earth and good will toward men is still a crucial need. Just as the angel offered this because of the birth of the Savior, the church today can offer this peace and good will through faith in Jesus. The gift of Jesus is for all who will believe. This Christmas season let us pray for the people of the world to have peace and goodwill toward each other. Let us consciously live in peace and offer that peace as well as civility to others. Let us be the people showing this chaotic world that Jesus is still the key to peace and tranquility.

*Merry Christmas,
Pastor Steve and Mrs. Penny*

Special Events for December

2019

DECEMBER

SUNDAY

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 1st Sunday of Advent	02 11 am, UMW Heart to Heart Xmas Luncheon at Zona's; Board of Trustees mtg, 2 pm, Office	03	04 UMW Ruth Circle of Love mtg, 11 am, FLC (lunch at Smokey Bones afterward)	05 M&Ms Senior Activity Group mtg, FLC, 1 pm	06	07 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, 10 am, Sanctuary; Friendship Sunday School Class Xmas Party, 6 pm, FLC
08 Harvest Sunday (food pantry donations); 2:45 pm, depart LGUMC for First UMC Xmas program	09 Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations Com mtg, 1 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle mtg, 6:30 pm, off campus	10	11	12 Emmaus Mtg, 10 am, FLC (mbrs only); ALBOH Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC ; Scouts Committee mtg, 7 pm, FLC	13	14 United Methodist Men breakfast mtg, 9 am, FLC; Christmas Cantata rehearsal, 10 am, Sanctuary
15 Christmas Cantata, 10:30 am, Sanctuary (one service)	16 UMW Leadership Team mtg, 1 pm, FLC; Finance Com mtg, 7 pm, FLC	17	18 January Newsletter Input due	19	20	21
22	23 Sunday Bulletin Deadline, noon; Worship Com mtg, 7 pm, Sanctuary	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 pm, Sanctuary	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29 One service, 10:30 am; 5th Sunday Offering Children's Home; Chili Pot Luck afterward	30 Church Council mtg, 7 pm, FLC	31	01	02	03	04

December 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

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

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

Cub Scouts' Thanksgiving Dinner and Food Drive

Cub Scout Pack 711 celebrated Thanksgiving with a dinner on November 19th. In addition, they presented the results of their **Scouting for Food** drive to the church.



Scouting for Food takes place on two consecutive weekends. On the first weekend, Scouts distribute bags and/or door hangers to let their neighbors know about the drive. On the second, Scouts revisit those houses to pick up bags full of canned food, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, juice and other nonperishable items.

A huge thank-you goes out to the Scouts for their continued support of our Food Pantry. This is truly a great blessing to our neighbors.

Enjoying the dinner were Lake Gibson guests Tom and Dorothy Burns, Sarah Schiemann, Ken Fuqua, Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens and Pastor Steve Polk.



Scouting Events

Upcoming Events

- Dec 3 Re-charter Money Due
- Dec 17 Christmas Party
- Jan 14 Campfire Meeting (s'mores!)
- Jan 24-26 Camping
- Feb 1 Pine Wood Derby
- Feb 29 Blue and Gold Banquet
- Mar 7 District Pine Wood Derby
- Apr 24-26 Splash-O-Ree (tentative)
- May 30 Splash Day

Bell-Ringers Are Still Needed



Dwight Kitchens in 2018

We are ringing at the **Lake Gibson Publix on US 98 North**.

The calendar below shows the status of our times

as of November 24th. If you can ring for an hour of two (or more!), please call Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564 or text 410-790-2662 or email her at phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com.

Look for the sign-up board around church every Sunday thru Dec 22nd. Please help us help the Salvation Army and the needy families that they serve!

MONTH: Bell Ringing Schedule Lake Gibson Publix, US98N

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOT
						Nov 29 10-11 P. KITCHENS 12-1 - M. KITCHENS 1-2 - G. KITCHENS + P. KITCHENS 2-3 - B. BONE 6-9 - D. KITCHENS	Salvation Army Ringing Schedule INSTRUCT 1. Choose a day to ring. 2. Write in your up to 2 people! You can have more. 3. Using a name tag, yourself a note days + times! 4. If you need to change your times, call 863-984-4564 / 410-790-2662 5. LEGAL HAS BEEN NOTIFIED
December	1 12-2 S. L. + G. KITCHENS 2-4 M. KITCHENS + G. KITCHENS 4-6 C. KITCHENS + B. BONE 6-9	2 12-2 L. M. KITCHENS 2-4 L. J. KITCHENS 4-6 6-9	3 12-2 L. M. KITCHENS 2-4 M. KITCHENS + G. KITCHENS 4-6 6-9	4 10-11 J. J. KITCHENS 11-12 J. J. KITCHENS 1-2 B. BONE 2-4 S. KITCHENS 4-6 J. B. KITCHENS 6-9 N. KITCHENS	5 12-2 S. KITCHENS 2-4 S. KITCHENS 4-6 6-9	6 12-2 S. KITCHENS 2-4 S. KITCHENS 4-6 6-9	7 12-2 S. KITCHENS 2-4 S. KITCHENS 4-6 6-9
8	9	10 12-2 C. K. KITCHENS 2-4 M. KITCHENS + G. KITCHENS 4-6 6-9	11 10-11 S. KITCHENS 11-12 J. J. KITCHENS 1-2 B. BONE 2-4 S. KITCHENS 4-6 J. B. KITCHENS 6-9 N. KITCHENS	12	13	14	
15	16	17 12-2 2-4 4-6 6-9	18 10-11 S. KITCHENS 11-12 J. J. KITCHENS 1-2 B. BONE 2-4 S. KITCHENS 4-6 J. B. KITCHENS 6-9 N. KITCHENS	19	20	21	
22 12-2 S. L. + G. KITCHENS 2-4 4-6 6-9	23 12-2 P. KITCHENS (only LEGAL STAFF)	24 Merry Christmas!	25 Merry Christmas!				

United Methodist Men

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 am in the FLC**. Men of Lake Gibson, **please come** and enjoy a fellowship breakfast with us. We'll discuss projects for next year to help the church and benefit members of our congregation.

Michael Moake, President

Thanksgiving Service and Meal on November 24th



The Let Go Praise Team made sure no one was sitting quietly during their rousing songs.



According to Cathy Jones, no animals were harmed in the making of this photo!



Whew! Meal is over and cleanup is well underway. Many hands made light work. Thanks to everyone who helped! Shown here are Larry Carpenter, Dale Gower, Pat Moon and our fearless leader, Michael Moake.

December 1st is Last Day for Angel Tree Donations!

Please bring in your gift cards and items for cottages on **Sunday, Dec 1st**, so Karen and Jeff Acor can deliver them to FUMCH this week.

Karen and Jeff are retiring as our representatives to FUMCH. Please thank them for their hard work over the years.



In 2020 Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens will become our FUMCH reps. **Day on Campus this year is Saturday, March 28th.** Although our district is not one of the two being specifically requested to visit (they rotate districts every year), we are cordially invited to come. (We will be there the whole week to again work on bikes and help with Day on Campus, along with neighbors Hank and Inez Rogerson.)

November 13th thru 18th Dwight and I visited FUMCH to perform bicycle maintenance and repairs, which were badly needed. **We serviced or repaired 49 bikes**, two of which we brought home to obtain additional parts. The last time we had serviced bikes was in January. One little girl told us that since she arrived in August none of the bikes at her cottage have been rideable. They all are now! (Or at least they were when we left.)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the FUMCH Bicycle Repair Fund (category 2395). Your donations provide much needed tires, tubes, saddles, shifters, brakes, etc.



United Methodist Women

Unit Meeting, November 11th



The Rev. Betty Batey was guest speaker at the third and final unit meeting of 2019. She gave an overview of women's involvement in the Methodist movement over the past 300 years. It wasn't until 1956 that the General Conference approved full clergy rights for women.

She challenged us with the question, "Where is God calling you to serve?" Her final words reassured us that the Methodist church will continue, despite the big issues it faces. She told us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

President Carol Davis reported on results of the fall rummage sale. Ruth Zona gave the devotion.



Cindy Webb told us about the needs of children in the Guardian ad Litem program and also of the homeless high school seniors. Her comments are provided in this issue. Some of the proceeds from the rummage sale help Cindy buy much-needed items for these children and youth.

After the guest speaker we enjoyed home-made soups and chili along with side dishes and desserts.



Kathy Rumohr, Linda Alvarez and Carol Davis (Kathy made the beautiful table decorations.)

UMW continued . . .

Leadership Team Meeting December 16th, 1:00 pm

Because of the holidays, the Leadership Team meeting will be held on December 16th, 1:00 pm, in the FLC. The major business will be developing a proposed list of recipients for our mission donations and the amounts each is recommended to receive.

In January each circle will be asked to review this distribution and to make any recommendations they might have. The goal is to distribute \$8,500 in January.

Circle leaders were asked to update their membership lists and contact information for the 2020 Year Book.

Circle News

Heart to Heart will hold its Fabulous Finger Food Fellowship at Ruth Zona's house on **Monday, December 2nd at 11:00 am**. Please bring your white elephant (a re-gifted item), \$10.00 cash or check for the Food Pantry to purchase meat, and finger food to share. If you are planning to come, please call Ruth at 863-859-5967.

Ruth Circle of Love will meet on **Wednesday, December 4th at 10:30 am** in the FLC rooms 1&2. We will be filing our gift bags for the shut-ins, after which we will celebrate by dining at **Smokey Bones**. Please come join us. Merry Christmas from Ruth Circle of Love!

Evening Circle will meet on **Monday, December 9th, 6:30 pm** at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Dr, Lakeland. We will share a meal and then finish up our book, *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus*.

We will start 2020 with *The Jesus Challenge* by Tony Evans. If you are interested in joining us, please let Debbie know to obtain a study guide. Lynda Gibbs will lead this study.

Servant Leaders for 2020

The Charge Conference approved the slate of people who will lead or serve on the committees that help Pastor Steve guide this church. Every year in October the pastor has to fill vacancies on these committees. *If you feel a calling to serve in any of these positions in 2021, please talk to the Pastor.*

Church Council: Chair, Dwight Kitchens; Pastor Steve Polk, Dick McPherson (Finance), Tom Burns (Board of Trustees), Yvonne Bower (Treasurer), Sandy Stanfield (Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations), Mike Stafford (Lay Member to Annual Conference); Michael Moake (United Methodist Men), Carol Davis (United Methodist Women), Glenda Grant Hess (Worship), Linda Alvarez (Missions), Cindy Heishman (Financial Secretary), and Debbie Moore (Children's Ministry) and Sarah Schiemann (ALBOH)

Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations Committee: Chair, Sandy Stanfield; Jean Wesley, Jeff Acor, Ken Fuqua, David McPherson, Mike Booker and Phyllis Kitchens

Finance Committee: Chair, Dick McPherson; Pastor Steve Polk, Sue Heishman, Dwight Kitchens, Sandy Stanfield, Tom Burns, Yvonne Bower, Cindy Heishman, John Bernat, Mike Stafford, Sarah Schiemann, Wayne Wesley, Karen Acor and Justin Oliva

Board of Trustees: Tom Burns, Todd Bower, Dale Gower, John Bernat, Don Smitz, and Bob Siegel (Chair to be elected at January meeting)

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development: Chair, Pastor Steve Polk; Vice Chair, John Bernat; Pat Moon, Betty Fischer, Sarah Schiemann, Kathy Rumohr and Jan Booker

Permanent Endowment Committee: Chair, Finance Committee Rep; Pastor Steve Polk (voice but no vote), Trustee Rep, Patsy Lennon, Sharon Ruth, Jean Wesley, Kathy Rumohr, Leon Rumohr

Lay Leader: John Bernat

Continued . . .

Servant Leaders, Continued

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Mike Stafford

United Methodist Men President: Michael Moake

United Methodist Women President: Carol Davis

Beyond - 55 Ministry: Carol Hanna

Youth Coordinator: Jeff Acor

Missions Coordinator: Linda Alvarez

Worship Committee: Chair, Glenda Grant Hess

Recording Secretary to Church Conference: Maria Hernandez

Membership Secretary: Maria Hernandez

Children's Home Representatives: Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens

The M&Ms Senior Activities Group

Our next committee meeting is **December 5th at 1:00 pm in the FLC**. The agenda will be making our plans for future events in December/January. If you are already on this committee and unable to attend, please notify Carol Hanna at 608-335-3421. This meeting is **open to anyone 55 and up** who is interested in having social activities with others their age.

We are organizing a **caravan** to attend **Sights and Sounds of Christmas** at First UMC, Lakeland, on December 8th. We will leave the LGUMC parking lot at 2:45 pm and return about 6:00 pm.

Those interested in carpooling, please call Carol Hanna at the above phone number. This should be a wonderful way to begin the holiday season as they have hand bell ringers, singers and a full orchestra.

Carol Hanna
Carolandjohn49@gmail.com

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

The Gulf Central District will hold training for new and continuing members of the SPRC.

We will be attending the session on **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 (or take the church van if there are enough people going)**.

We will leave early enough to drive over there in daylight and have dinner at a local restaurant before the meeting starts.

Please call the office if you would like a ride (863-858-5431).

Marina's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone at Lake Gibson UMC!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped in the office and with the Food Pantry. Your service is truly appreciated.

It's time to **check in your keys** for LGUMC buildings and locks. Please drop by the office with your keys in December or January to renew them for 2020.

Thank you,
Marina Hernandez, Administrative Secretary

Children's Ministry

The children will be focusing on the meaning of Advent and music for December. Thank you for all your generous support!!!

Debbie Moore

Lay Leader's Letter

Dear LGUMC Members and Attendees,

Let me reintroduce myself, John Bernat, as your Lay Leader for 2020. As I recall, I will be your lay representative to the Pastor and to all of the church committees whose meetings I will attend.

One of my responsibilities is to be a liaison for the congregation to the Pastor for the mission and vision of you all. So, please let me know of any ideas or concerns you may have and would like me to relay to Pastor Steve.

You may reach me at my home phone, 863-816-1671. Thank you for letting me be your lay leader. John Bernat

Mission Moments The Sox Box is Back!



Got cold feet? Many of our neighbors do, and we will do something about that! For several years, LGUMC has shown love in action to our neighbors by hanging sox around the church grounds. This "**Pick-a-Pair**" event has provided sox for men, women, and children, for anyone who needs them.

There is a SOX BOX in the narthex where you can put your donations. They will be put in baggies, labeled and hung on clotheslines, bushes and anywhere else where they can be seen.

Last year 157 pairs of men's sox, 77 pairs of ladies' and 139 children's pairs were taken for a total of 373 pairs. **That adds up to a lot of warm feet!** We will hang adult-sized sox on clotheslines and place children's on the shrubs around the church. Please join us in this project if Christ puts it on your heart. It is one way to follow Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors.

This year Pick-a-Pair will run from December 11th thru December 20th. If you notice the "pickings" getting slim during this period, feel free to buy more sox. We will restock the clotheslines and bushes until the 20th. (If there are any leftover sox, they will be donated to Hope Center.)

Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator

Ask The UMC: What Do the Candles in Our Advent Wreath Mean?

[Reprinted from UM News Daily Digest, Nov 26th, 2019, <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe>. Used with permission]



The Advent wreath was originally a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Although many symbols have been attributed to it since that time, it was originally intended as a way to mark the Advent season and the weeks until Christmas.

Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles (all colors are used in homes in Europe). What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

As Advent wreaths began to be used by congregations on Sundays in some places in Europe and America beginning in the late 19th century, adaptations were needed for the larger worship spaces. Candles needed to be larger and more specialized than the "daily candles" handmade or purchased for home use. They also needed to be more uniform in color to fit with other decor in the sanctuary. Purple (and more recently blue) has become the basic color of the candles to coordinate with color of the parameters [the linens and cloth hangings used on communion tables, altars, pulpits and lecterns] this season.

As Advent wreaths changed from practical, private use to the more symbolic context of public worship, it became important for the candles to have meaning rather than simply mark time and add light. Ceremonies were developed around the lighting of the candles each week.

In time there was an effort, largely spurred by church supply houses that sold the special candles and wreaths, to provide a particular meaning to each candle. The themes of

Continued. . .

Candles in Advent Wreath, Continued

Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace became popular, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. However, the historic theme of Advent is broader and deeper than any one-word theme can capture.

So what are we to say, then, about the meaning of the Advent wreath today? We can still draw meaning from its original home use: to mark time while increasing light. Advent, the first season of the Christian year, is all about time.

We await the day described in Revelation 21:23 when, *"The city doesn't need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb."*

At Christmas we celebrate that in Christ, *"The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world"* (John 1:9).

Contact Information

Pastor Steve Polk, 863-858-5431; fax 863-853-1625; pastor@lakegibsonumc.com

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

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

Latisha Cook, Director of A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

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

Silence in Church, Part 2

[Editor: In the November issue of *The Good News* I wrote an opinion piece titled "Food for Thought" on the subject of **being silent and reverent in the sanctuary** before the worship service starts, suggesting that people visit with friends in the FLC before or after the service. The response below provides insight on the good this socializing accomplishes. What do you think?]

Let's look at both sides. Yes, perhaps we should sit quietly and be in the presence of God prior to the beginning of Sunday service in our sanctuary. Here are some of my thoughts and maybe we can compromise:

First - What about those who never go to the FLC, but are there for most Sunday services? Some of these folks scoot out the door quickly after the service. Prior to the service is the time the congregation can reach out to them.

Second - There are some who have illnesses, hardships, family needs, attend alone or maybe Sunday service is one of the very few places they can go during the week. It seems by giving them what I call the "eye-to-eye/heart-to-heart fellowship" (by a tender handshake, smile and a few kind words) would mean the world to them.

Third - What about the impression of those who are attending Lake Gibson for the first time? How do we want them to assess our congregation? Do they want quiet or do they come to be welcomed as one of our family?

Fourth - What about those who may not get to attend our service ever again, either by moving, driving restrictions, illness and such? How do we want them to remember our church: quiet or joyous (as our banner states); cold or warm?

Last - How does God want His house of worship to be? This may be the only place in the week folks can find peace, joy, fellowship, caring, comfort, music, prayer and a strong hold on God's Word, all wrapped up into one

Continued . . .

Silence in Church, Continued

large package to take home with them for the week.

There may be some who just like to slip in and find a quiet spot to meditate on God's word in quiet, and their wishes should be respected.

The Good News would like to explore other people's ideas on this subject. Please send your comments by email or phone to the editor:
phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com
863-984-4564

Shop Amazon and Help the Children's Home

Want to help the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in an unconventional way? If you use Amazon for online purchasing, it is possible to have at least 0.5 percent of your purchase price go directly to FUMCH without any additional cost to you!

Half of a percent may not seem like much to you, but it adds up when you consider that many Methodists are already contributing to FUMCH in this fashion. This donation is effective year-round, not just during the holidays, and is a welcome added bonus to the Home.

The easiest way to do this is to use the following URL (or hyperlink) in your browser to establish FUMCH as your desired recipient of this donation. This way you automatically contribute each time you make a purchase from Amazon.com.

Use this address today. FUMCH thanks you in advance.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0638479>

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

Prayer Ministry



Prayer Warriors are a wonderful reflection of God's love. You keep the spirit of Christmas glowing brightly throughout the year. Every day you show what Christian love is about through your prayers, compassion, concern, warmth and kindness for others. The caring things you say and do bring Christ's peace, hope and joy to everyone around you. Lake Gibson's Prayer Warriors are blessed by God's calling to bring us together in prayer and service to Him.

May your heart be filled with the wonder of this blessed season. In Christ we give thanks.

This season of celebrating Christ Jesus you may receive a calling from God to join our circle of prayer warriors. Please mark the connection card if you so choose.

I Thessalonians 5:17-18 – *“Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”* (NLB)

God's blessings at Christmas and into 2020,
Prayer Ministry

A Matter of Balance Class

Lynn Meske has arranged for another MoB class at LGUMC. This will be held twice a week, on **Mondays and Fridays, starting January 20th, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the FLC.** The class is limited to 12 students (those who registered for the cancelled October class will be contacted).

We are trying to determine the level of interest in having additional classes. On December 1st the Sunday bulletin will contain a **yellow card for people to fill out if they want to be in a class in 2020.**

The first three sessions will be conducted in the FLC classrooms. You will be asked to obtain medical clearance from your physician if you have certain conditions before participating in the class.

People who have taken the class report it was very beneficial in reducing their trips and/or falls.

Homeless High School Graduates Recap and Guardian ad Litem Christmas Project

Bev Henrich and I would like to thank the United Methodist Women and others at Lake Gibson for your donations to help support our projects. In 2018 by supporting the Polk County food bag project you helped provide 182 food bags. The UMW and other Church members were also instrumental in the filling and delivery of these bags.

In 2019 144 bags were delivered -- plus 4. This year 4 exceptional students were helping stuff the duffel bags the seniors receive. Asia helped me put the last of the candy in the food bags. She kept repeating, "This is so much food!" (Food was packed in a 2-gallon baggie).

I was told these 4 students were also hungry. I asked if they could receive a bag if we had extra. God had been telling me to make extra bags. We never have extra food bags! We know the total number of bags needed and that is what we pack. God blessed us with the 4 extra bags we needed for these volunteers.

Guardian Ad Litem Christmas project for teens: We are given the neediest of the needy. Last year we provided gifts, clothes, shoes and toiletries to 23 teens plus extra gift baskets for teens coming into the system over the holidays. Yes, they even come in on Christmas day.

We go out on faith when we pick the number of teens, and God always provides the funds or needs for our teens. This year we have 16 teens. (They always call to see if we can take last-minute emergencies.) Three of the 16 are the sisters removed from human trafficking. Many of you are helping make their lives a little happier.

When you give you usually don't realize the scope of your donations. Just look at these numbers and know that you touched many more lives than you ever thought possible. When a teen says, "You mean someone that doesn't even know me did this for me?" you can be assured your donation was appreciated. God bless you for your donations and the many lives you have touched through the years.

Cindy Webb
Guardian ad Litem

Two Days at Hope Center

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Rick Nelson opened for Breakfast today, offering our guests beef and cheese tortillas, a variety of cereals with milk, pastries, turnovers and donuts. The drink options were fresh hot coffee, Sunny D, and cold milk.

At Lunchtime, Rick McLellan led our guests in prayer and a devotion from Revelation 21, ALL THINGS NEW! Then Rick and Debbie McLellan served 21 guests pulled chicken sandwiches with choice of brown sugar or honey barbecue sauce, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, and potato salad. For dessert we offered some delicious cake and cupcakes. To quench thirst, was iced tea, hot coffee, bottled water and milk. We also had a dozen take-out plates by the end of the day.

The ice machine worked great. The shower and the washers and dryers were very busy. We gave out clothing items, socks, razors, batteries, 4 camping lanterns, baggies of Q-tips and numerous other toiletry items. Our guests also received nearly 40 pop top canned goods and other small supper items. One guest received a nice pair of work boots.

We want to say a special thanks to Dick McPherson, and all of the Fall Festival crew from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church for the food they furnished for today. And a big thanks to amazing Debbie Moore, meeting us early at the church to help us load up the car with all of the food and iced tea.

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Rick Nelson, Marshall and Grover Fowler opened for Breakfast today, offering our guests Breakfast Pizza and a variety of cereals with milk and pastries. The drink options were fresh hot coffee, Sunny D, and cold milk.

At Lunchtime, Rick McLellan led our guests in prayer and a devotion from Colossians chapter 3, THE NEW MAN. Then Debbie and Rick served 32 guests Creamy

Continued. . .

Hope Center, Continued

Chicken Pasta, a fresh garden salad with cucumbers and fresh sliced tomatoes, and Del Monte pear halves.

The ice machine was working well, and the shower, washers and dryers were very busy. We did have two dryers that stopped working, but Brent has them running now. We gave out 3 backpacks, 2 pairs of men's shoes, 4 camping lanterns, 1 tarp, a number of batteries, clothing items, socks, razors, tooth brushes, and many toiletry items. All of our guests also received two canned goods and other small supper items.

We had two visits from the Polk County Sheriff's Office today, and the Sargent and Brent both confirmed that the Sheriff's Office is going to start enforcement again, and trespass people who are on the Hope Center property after our 2PM closing time.

We also had a visit from Jim Aldrich bringing clothing donations from Christ the King Episcopal Church. He brought lots of blue jeans and other clothes in sizes that we are asked for often.

We had a good day with a congenial atmosphere at Hope Center. We are blessed by your help and prayers!

God's Richest Blessings to You All,
Debbie & Rick McLellan

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).



Birthdays in December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
12/2	Bud Davis
12/3	Sue Shelton
12/9	Jan Booker
12/9	Elijah Wiley
12/11	Henry Zona
12/13	Lucio Hernandez
12/14	Linda Smucker
12/16	Debra Berry
12/17	Paul Havel
12/17	Bev Hines
12/20	Kristie Otte
12/21	Brandon Oliva
12/22	Ginger Fredrikson
12/26	Carol Hanna
12/26	Margaret Kneeland
12/26	Rick Mueller
12/26	Rich Thomas
12/27	Theodore Butterfield
12/27	Kayla Freeman
12/28	Glenda Hess
12/28	Phyllis Kitchens
12/29	Roy Bodemer
12/29	Virginia Collins
12/29	Judy Van Zile
12/30	Justin Oliva
12/30	Harriet Shapiro



Anniversaries December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
12/10	Phyllis and Dwight Kitchens
12/12	Sue and Bob Holmes
12/15	Jean and Wayne Wesley
12/19	Jean and Ray Welch
12/21	Maria and Rich Thomas
12/22	Tammy and Steve Schertzer