



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



No doubt you have heard the news reports about the United Methodist Church splitting into two or more different organizations. This can only occur if the 2020 General Conference, which will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from May 5-15, approves the proposal. The General Conference may adopt it as it stands or amend it, or even reject it.

Regardless of that it has become apparent there are several divergent theologies within the UMC and different interpretations of scripture. I asked Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (S/PPRC) to just think about some of the “Big Questions” that may be coming that we will have to answer; this was before the separation proposal was presented and I remind you as I did them: this is not my church or your church – it is God’s church.

At the last S/PPRC meeting it was suggested that the congregation be made aware of these questions also. I am listing them here and asking that you be in prayer about them. No decision has been made on any of them, and I and the leadership of LGUMC desire your prayerful, honest feedback concerning these questions. Regardless of where you may stand in these issues, I respect your decision, love you as a brother or sister in Christ and offer God’s ministry and grace to you. If you would like to respond to these questions you can email me at pastor@lakegibsonumc.com or call me at the office (863-858-5431) to make an appointment to talk in person. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

The Big Questions:

1. If the UMC formally splits, where will we land? How many ways may it split? How long will a formal separation take to implement?
2. If the UMC officially takes a conservative traditional position, will we stay with it?
3. If the UMC officially takes a progressive position, will we stay?
4. Can our congregation, LGUMC, survive a congregational vote on human sexuality? We know there are many opinions concerning this issue within our own membership.
5. Should a vote be avoided because of the animosity it will cause?
6. What would need to be done to get this congregation ready for such a vote or action?
7. If there is a clear exit procedure, do we want to leave the UMC? Can we afford the terms? If there is an exit, where do we go – progressive or traditional or something else?
8. If there is no resolution to the conflict at GC 2020 – do we stay United Methodist?

Please let me and/or a member of the LGUMC Leadership team know your thoughts.

God bless,
Pastor Steve

2020

FEBRUARY

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Please remember to support Church World Service's CROP Hunger Walk with your designated donations this month. Walk with us on Feb 23rd!	27	28	29	30	31	01 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby, 8 am - 5 pm, FLC; GCD UMW Ldrshp Dev & Wonder Walk Tng, 9:30 am to 1 pm, 1st UMC Tarpon Springs; FL Conf Info Mtg, Gen Conf 2020 Proposals, 10 am to noon, FUMC Lakeland, noon.
02	03 UMW Heart to Heart, 10:30 am, FLC (Pledge Meeting); Trustees mtg, 2 pm, office	04	05 UMW Ruth Circle of Love, 11 am, FLC	06	07	08 United Methodist Men breakfast mtg, 9 am, FLC
09 HARVEST SUNDAY (donations for our food pantry); Pedaling Parsons arrive 4 pm (overnight in FLC)	10 Pedaling Parsons depart after breakfast; UMW Unit mtg with VISTE speaker, 10:30 am, FLC; Staff/Pastor-Parish Com mtg, 1 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle with dinner, 6:30 pm, off campus.	11	12	13 A Little Bit of Heaven Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC; Scouts Committee mtg, 7 pm, FLC	14 Valentine's Day	15 M&Ms Senior Ministry, presentation by missionary couple who spent more than 27 yrs in New Guinea doing Bible translation, 1 pm, FLC with dessert afterward
16 SINGLE SERVICE, 10:30 am Paraguayan Harpist Eduard Klassen (free will donation)	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY Finance Com mtg, 7 pm, FLC	18	19	20	21 M&Ms Team mtg (events planning), 10 am - noon, FLC (everyone invited)	22 GCD Innovations 2020 Conference, 9 am - 3 pm, Anona UMC, Largo; M&Ms guest speaker from Lakeland Elderly Assistance Program (LEAP), 1 pm, FLC with dessert afterward
23 CROP Hunger Walk, 1st Presbyterian Church, 1 pm (food donations requested)	24 UMW Leadership Team mtg, 11 am, FLC; Worship Com mtg, 7 pm, Sanctuary; ALBOH Book Fair, 1/24 - 3/6	25	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship Service, 7 pm, Sanctuary	27	28 Cub Scouts set up FLC for Pinning Ceremony, 6 pm	29 Cub Scouts Pinning Ceremony, 9 am, Sanctuary and FLC

February 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 Upstairs
Contemporary Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary
Kidtricity Children's Ministry (Nursery Available)	10:30 - 11:45 am	Sanctuary & FLC
Hispanic Church	1:00 pm	FLC Upstairs

Monday

Bible Study	2:00 pm	Lakeside Hills*
Boy Scout Troop 711	7:00 pm	FLC
Matter of Balance	1:30 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
Constitution Alive Class	Cancelled	

Friday (Office Closed)

Matter of Balance Class (Ends Feb 14th)	1:30 pm	FLC
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After-school care by ALBOH is offered Mon - Fri, 2 to 6 pm, in the FLC

*Lakeside Hills Bible Study (the Book of Acts) is at the Club House, 520 Forest Lake Drive, Lakeland 33809.

Paraguayan Harpist Featured at February 16th Worship Service

Lake Gibson UMC is blessed once again to welcome talented harpist and inspirational speaker, Eduard Klassen, and his wife Christine to our **single worship service on Sunday, February 16th, at 10:30 am.**



A **free-will offering** is requested to support the Klassen's music ministry. They will have copies of their music for sale after the service. We hope you will come and bring your friends and neighbors to this truly inspirational music program.

The following information is taken from Mr. Klassen's web site:

"Eduard Klassen is a Paraguayan folk harpist and speaker, now living in Canada, who has presented over 4500 music concerts in 40 countries since making a personal commitment to Christ. A typical concert presentation by The Klassens includes a variety of Christian harp music from South America, North America and Europe, interspersed with personal testimony and stories of God's work in his life, from boyhood in the wilderness of Paraguay to the present. Eduard's natural sense of humor helps him to develop an excellent rapport with audiences wherever he goes."

"Christine Klassen was born and raised in Ontario, Canada, and has played the piano since 1976. She studied nursing in Stratford and graduated as a Registered Nurse. Christine has recently started to perform once again in concerts with her husband Eduard."

Tithes and Charity

The word charity originated in late Old English to mean a "Christian love of one's fellows." You've often heard the phrase "Charity begins at home." What you generally don't hear is "Charity does not end there."

Many denominations hold that Jesus taught that "tithing must be done in conjunction with a deep concern for justice, mercy and faithfulness." Being a Jew, Jesus understood
Continued . . .

Tithes and Charity, Continued

the tithe to be the common practice of *ma'aser kesafim* (tithing 10% of their income to charity).

Some Christian Churches, such as those in the Methodist tradition, teach the concept of Storehouse Tithing, which emphasizes that **tithes must be prioritized and given to the local church**, before offerings can be made to apostolates (an association of persons dedicated to the propagation of a religion or a doctrine) or charities.

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states that it is the responsibility of ecclesiastics (ministers) to "educate the local church that tithing is the minimum goal of giving in The United Methodist Church."

Why is this important? We recognize that there are many pulls on our financial resources. But, we often reverse-prioritize our contributions, preferring to fund "Designated Contributions" prior to "General Contributions." This means that we donate to "charity" first and "tithe" second.

In the Methodist tradition, Storehouse Tithing permits our church to operate and offer services to the community. This should be our **first priority**. Our "charity", often reflected in designated contributions, should be a secondary priority. This is not necessarily a "zero-sum game". To do one does not require that the other suffer. Rather than slight one when funding another, **we collectively should look at how our discretionary purchases affect our ability to honor God.**

If you noticed the financial news this past holiday, Americans spent record sums. We chose to make purchases. Were they all long-lasting, or something which quickly faded? Possibly we should revisit our priorities and put our funds where they will do the most good, within our tithing and charities.

Dwight Kitchens

Office Changes

We are looking for a **new Administrative Secretary** and until one is hired, will be having volunteers performing that function. **Please be patient** with us as everyone is learning new skills.

The office will be closed on Fridays. Office hours remain the same, **Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

Food Pantry Report

We have been helping **20 to 25 people a week** with our Food Pantry on Thursdays.

We are considering **consolidating the Food Pantry** into the back area of the office (former lanai?), eventually taking the copier out and bringing the freezer in. People would enter the Food Pantry by the door that opens directly into that area, rather than through the main office door. These changes are intended to increase efficiency in operating the Food Pantry and to decrease interference with office functions.

February 9th is our next **Harvest Sunday**, but you don't have to wait until then to bring your donations of nonperishable food to the office. All of your donations help to keep the pantry stocked so we can help these people.

At present we have enough people working in the pantry on Thursdays, but if you would like to be an **on-call substitute**, please let Ann Johnson know.

Ann Johnson, 863-450-2765

Cub Scout Pack 711

Are you ready to have some fun? It's **Pinewood Derby** time in the FLC on **Saturday, February 1st starting at 8:00 am.**

On Saturday, **February 29th, the Cub Scouts will hold their Pinning Ceremony.** They have reserved the FLC from 9:00 am until 8:00 pm.

Tom Burns, Scouting Representative

Update of Key Holders

If you are a **key holder and didn't bring them to the office** to be physically logged in during January, please do so as soon as possible. This is an annual requirement to ensure accountability for the security of the church buildings and other structures. If you no longer require access to the buildings for your committee or other work, please turn in your keys.

Progress YES/Completion NO

For a number of years, we have been collecting **designated funds to replace air conditioning units** on our campus. Last year, we replaced one major unit within the FLC and two smaller units in FLC classrooms 1 and 2.

This past month we replaced two air conditioners which have been sorely missed from within our **FLC's kitchen**. Thankfully, A Little Bit of Heaven replaced air conditioning units within their building using their own earnings.

Why outright replacement rather than repair? Well, the law has banned the former refrigerant. New units use a different refrigerant which is less toxic to the environment (and to us). Also, new units are more energy efficient, which should reduce our electric bill.

While we are making progress on replacing our old units, we have a long way to go. We still have **another eighteen units** which will eventually require replacement. They may not all fail this year, but they will ultimately need to be replaced.

Your contributions through offering envelopes **designating funds specifically for "Air Conditioner Replacement"** permits us to make these upgrades to our physical plant. Thank you for your contribution. We all enjoy the comfort of conditioned air!

Tom Burns
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dwight Kitchens
Chair of the Church Council

The M&Ms Senior Ministry

February has lots to offer our seniors and their friends. On **Saturday, February 15th**, we will have a presentation from a missionary couple who have spent more than **27 years working on the Island of New Guinea to translate the Bible** into native languages. There are over 800 languages spoken on the island. Don't miss this interesting presentation and invite all your friends to join you! The program will start at **1:00 pm** in the Family Life Center (FLC). Dessert and drinks will be provided.



The following **Saturday, February 22nd**, the Lakeland Police Department will introduce the **Lakeland Elderly Assistance Program (LEAP)** which is available for all city residents. People living alone and those who are disabled can register for this program which assists first responders should help be needed. The program will be in the FLC classrooms 1 and 2 starting at **1:00 pm**. Cookies and drinks will be provided.

Seniors are encouraged to bring their friends, neighbors or relatives who would benefit from this program. (For those who live in **Polk County**, we have a volunteer looking into how the church could provide a similar program to our members and constituents.)

The next **M&M team meeting will be February 21st at 10:00 am** in FLC classrooms 1 and 2. **All seniors** are invited to attend and help us plan future Mix and Mingle activities. This ministry is for all of us over 55 years of age.

Carol Hanna, Chair

Classic Car and Motorcycle Show

Tell all your classic car and motorcycle friends about our **show on Saturday, April 25th**. **Display area opens at 9:00 am; cost is \$5.00 per vehicle**. Open to the public 10 am to 2 pm. Food will be available for purchase.

Contact Leon Rumohr for information:
lkrumohr@sbcglobal.net.

Gulf Central District Innovations 2020



February 22nd

The Gulf Central District (GCD) is holding its annual training event on Saturday, **February 22nd, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Anona UMC**, 13233 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo, FL 33774.

Registration is online at <https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/GCDInnovations2020>.

There are 4 sessions of about 50 minutes each with between 8 and 10 subjects from which to choose. Here are a few of the topics:

Millennials - What you need to know to engage and shepherd them to rebuild the church.

Re-engage/revitalize older congregations

Reaching your community: Asset Mapping

The future of the UMC: A time with Candace and Alex.

Moving your church to action through building teams and strategy.

Youth Ministry (1 morning and 1 afternoon session)

Boomerang: The power of effective guest follow-up

Fresh Expressions - Dinner Church

Innovation - Translating big church innovation to mid and small-size churches.

Church Finances

Be a justice advocate

Applying a proven tool to create more effective teams and committees.

Where Do You Find Out What's Happening -- Bulletin, Newsletter or Website?

You may have seen that fewer notices are printed in Sunday's weekly worship bulletin. This has been a conscious **decision to focus the Sunday bulletin on worship**. A secondary consideration is that numerous bulletins and inserts are left in pews and on the floors after services.

Announcements and other information may be found in the **newly installed, clear plastic holder in the narthex**. As you enter the narthex, the holder is on the left-hand wall. Take home whatever interests you. Printed copies of the newsletter will also be located in this holder.

Our newsletter, *The Good News (TGN)*, is a great way to find many details about what is happening in our church, conference, district and community. Being printed monthly, based on a submission deadline about one week before the first Sunday of the upcoming month, the *TGN's* calendar may not be up-to-date with the latest changes or added events.

Of course, if event sponsors or participants don't provide articles to the editor about their events (or ideas, concerns, etc.), the newsletter won't contain that information. **Everyone is invited to write articles for TGN.**

Alternatively, our **website** has the ability to keep us abreast through a **quickly updated calendar** (found at www.LakeGibsonUMC.com under the "[Our Calendar](#)" selection in the red banner heading).

Our calendar is kept up-to-date by the Administrative Secretary and should always reflect the current scheduling. When you click on the event title within the calendar, if additional details have been provided, they will show up on your electronic screen. There also may be further hyperlinks to other helpful information.

Your first source for current information should be our church's website calendar. Become familiar with it if you want to keep up to date. Remember, you can access the website on your smart phone or tablet, too.

Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

Karen and Jeff Acor completed their work as Lake Gibson's representatives to FUMCH by delivering the following items in early December:

Gift Cards: \$2,020.00
Check to be used for Christmas:
\$365.00
Bag of young men's clothing
Box of toothbrushes
School and craft supplies
Health and beauty items
Hand Soap
Dish Detergent

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this Christmas special for the children at FUMCH.

On January 23rd Lake Gibson's new FUMCH reps, Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens, delivered 7 bicycles and one tricycle to campus. All had been repaired, some extensively.

Thank you to the people who donate to the Bike Repair Fund, as this money permits us to buy the parts needed. Before the trip home we loaded up the church's trailer with unrepairable bike carcasses, some of which had been lying outside the bike sheds for a year or more.

Lake Gibson UMC is cordially invited to attend **FUMCH's Day on Campus, Saturday, March 28th**. This tour of the campus and interaction with children and staff will make you aware of the essential work being done at FUMCH.

Dwight and I will be on campus all week, **March 23rd to 28th**, cleaning up the area around the two bike storage sheds, servicing and repairing bicycles and, if needed, fitting new bike helmets to the children. On the 28th we will be assisting other volunteers in various jobs involving the Day on Campus. (Our neighbors, Hank and Inez Rogerson, are likely to help out all week, too.)

Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens
FUMCH Representatives

BOLO Bicycles!

We always are on the **lookout for good bikes that may need simple repairs for use at FUMCH.** (We have also donated a few rugged bikes to the homeless at Hope Center to serve as their transportation).

We **don't need** very small children's bikes/tricycles, as the age of children at FUMCH ranges from **1st to 12th grade**, and **up to 26 years old** for adults who have aged out of the care system. These older young men and women use the bikes to get to their jobs and build their work experience as they journey to become self-supporting.

If you or a neighbor have a bicycle that is no longer being used, call Dwight Kitchens, 863-984-4564.

Lakeland CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, February 23rd, 1:00 pm

Please support the **36th** annual event that raises funds for needy people, both in the Lakeland area, nation- and world-wide.

If walking around Lake Hollingsworth, or even part of the trail, is beyond your physical ability, you can support this cause by **making a designated donation to LGUMC** (if using a check, annotate it with "CROP Walk"). You can **make this donation at any time between now and February 29th.**

To give cash, use one of the donation envelopes in the pew backs or your regular donation envelope, with "CROP Walk" on the line with the amount. (Deadline for **submission of all funds** raised to the organizers is March 17th.)

For the physically fit or the more adventurous, **meet at First Presbyterian Church, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Drive in Lakeland at 1:00 pm on February 23rd** to sign in.

Also, please **bring one or more nonperishable food items** to donate to the Seventh Day Adventist Food Pantry. The walk will start at 1:30 pm and you can do all 3 miles around the lake or any part of the trail you like.

Continued . . .

CROP Hunger Walk, Continued

To sign up to walk, please call Phyllis or Dwight Kitchens at 863-984-4564 or catch them at church.

You can also register to walk and donate online at www.crophungerwalk.org/lakelandfl. Our team is Lake Gibson UMC. You can even invite others to walk by putting in their email addresses.

Last year online donations from the Lakeland walk raised \$3,000. The 2019 donations totaled \$6,750, and \$703,865 has been raised in the last 35 walks.

CROP Hunger Walk is a project of *Church World Service*, which keeps three-fourths of the money raised to fund regional and overseas projects including providing food, water, housing, education and training, disaster and refugee assistance. One-fourth of the money raised here stays in Lakeland to support Talbot House and Light House Ministries.

Church World Service was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice at the national and international level through collaboration with partners abroad and in the US. (Source: CWS web site)



Photo from 2019 by Phyllis Kitchens.

Representing LGUMC: Sue Shelton, Sylvia Barrett, Dwight Kitchens and Debbie Moore. All four walked the entire 3-mile trail!

Children's Ministry *Kidtricity*

I ordered a series entitled *Bible Detectives*. We began with Matthew and I have been very proud of the boys. It is fun to watch them unscramble words and codes.

Our next song scheduled for February 2nd is ***Jesus I'm In***.

Debbie Moore, Children's Director

United Methodist Men

As we enter into this new year, let us reflect upon the blessings of the past year and thank God for allowing us to be able to complete our previous tasks.

We will hold our **breakfast meeting** on **Saturday, February 8th, at 9:00 am** in the FLC. Every man who attends LGUMC is invited to attend.

We have a few projects that are being carried over from last year, due to weather or other minor setbacks. We will complete those as well as the new ones we've been asked to complete.

The projects are: Insulate the HVAC condenser lines; Complete the sound system's electrical and audio work; Ground work for the church sign and new directional signs.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 11th, the Saturday before Easter Sunday. We need to start collecting candy donations to fill the plastic eggs (individually wrapped, non-melting candy).

We will ask the United Methodist Women to help us again this year. We need people to **set up and monitor the inside games, prepare and serve the food and help hide the eggs.**

Continued . . .

United Methodist Men, Continued

We also need an Easter Bunny!

This year we will dust for ants, too.

The menu for the Easter Egg Hunt:

Hot dogs with fix'ins

Juice and sodas

Chips

Michael Moake, President
863-816-3194

Let's Start a Youth Sewing Class!

We tried to get a fiber arts group going this past fall, but there was little interest at that time in starting a mixed group (knitting, crocheting, quilting and sewing). As you know, the church has several older girls in Kidtricity; some of them (or their parents) have expressed interest in having the girls learn how to sew.

Here's a chance for **inter-generational mentoring**: ladies of a certain age (i.e., most of us) **teaching boys and girls the basics of sewing starting at ages 10 or 11**. We propose to use borrowed sewing machines and probably limit the students to no more than 4 for the first group while we figure out the best way to do this.

Ann Kneeland has volunteered to lend up to four sewing machines and supplies for our students. She proposed that classes initially be conducted on Wednesday nights during choir practice (6:30 to about 8:00 pm), perhaps in the office conference room since the FLC classrooms are in use.

Different days, times and locations could be arranged to suit the needs of mentors and students. Phyllis Kitchens has also volunteered to help out. Ideally, we would like to have one adult to each student.

Continued . . .

Let's Start a Youth Sewing Class! Continued

Debbie Moore will be talking to the children and parents to see if there is interest in such a class.

One suggestion is to make pillowcases to donate to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. We'll check to see if they are accepting fancy pillowcases.

There is another charity, **Ryan's Case for Smiles**, which uses MANY such pillowcases and would take all we can make using their specifications. Locally, Heartfelt Quilting and Sewing in Winter Haven is the drop-off point for donations to three Orlando children's hospitals.

If sewing has been an important part of your life, won't you share this skill and pass on a life-long love to another generation?

Please phone or email **Ann Kneeland**, 863-370-4975 or aniegrany@aol.com if you are interested in participating in this mission.

Wonder Walk is Coming!

Mark your calendars for **Wonder Walk on Saturday, March 21st, 8:00 am** at College Heights UMC. This is a fund-raiser for **Cornerstone Family Ministries (CFM) and the Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center**, a National Mission Institution of the United Methodist Women (UMW).

Gulf Central District Superintendent, **Dr. Candace Lewis**, has challenged every church in the district to have a **Wonder Walk team to help raise donations for CFM.**

Why let those muscles atrophy after getting in shape for CROP Hunger Walk? Let's take another stroll around beautiful Lake Hollingsworth.

If you don't want to walk, you can perform volunteer services like packing weekend meals for impoverished children who attend a local child care facility.

Phyllis Kitchens

Contact Information

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

Administrative Secretary, 863-858-5431, office@lakegibsonumc.com

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

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, 863-858-8400.

Debbie Moore, Kristie Summers, Lexie Otte and James Beck, Audio/Visual Team

Current Session of A Matter of Balance (MoB) Class Ends This Month

Friday, February 14th will be the 8th and final meeting of this session of MoB. If you put your name on a waiting list for a future class, Lynn Meske will contact you when the class has been arranged.

If you haven't signed up for a future class, or need to change your request, please call Lynn Meske, 863-858-3599 (home) or 906-360-8231 (cell). Her email is lynn.meske@gmail.com.

Phyllis Kitchens

Altar Flowers

Envelopes are in the narthex to order altar flowers. **Flowers are \$25.00** and orders must be placed in the **offering plate 2 weeks before** the requested Sunday. Please fill out the dedication information and whether you will take them home after the service, or want them given to a shut-in or someone else. Make checks payable to **Lake Gibson UMC.**

Letter Writing Request

Junaid Saqib, a Christian refugee from Pakistan and member of LGUMC since 2017, has asked if we will write to two representatives to ask for their help in getting his wife and two daughters to the United States. He has been working through the legal system for 3 years without any progress.

The Honorable Ross Spano
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The salutations for them are:

Dear Mr. Spano,
Dear Mr. Bilirakis,

Please send a copy of your letter to Junaid c/o LGUMC, 424 W. Daughtery Rd, Lakeland, FL 33809 to help him build his documentation.

The Ledger has published four articles about Junaid which can be read on-line at their website, theledger.com if you want more information for your letters.

The goal is to send 30 to 40 letters to the congressmen.

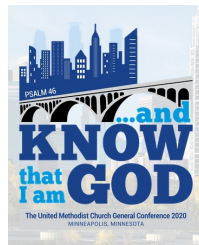
Phyllis Kitchens

General Conference 2020

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held in Minneapolis, MN from May 5th to 15th.

To read about the conference go to <http://gc2020.umc.org/>. You will find a description of the current proposals and other information.

There are copies of the proposal comparison chart by *UM News* in the narthex.



Suggested Charity for LGUMC Pillowcases

SOURCE: <https://caseforsmiles.org/orlando/>

"A hospital stay can be a terrifying experience for a child – especially those with cancer and other life-changing illnesses. Recent research indicates 20% of children who are hospitalized with cancer and 30% of their mothers suffer full symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These rates are comparable to that experienced by U.S. war veterans serving since the Vietnam War. The good news is trauma can be minimized and outcomes improved through experiences that reduce stress.

"Ryan's Case for Smiles (formerly ConKerr Cancer) was founded in 2007 to bring comfort and support to young patients and their families in hospitals around the globe. We started with a simple goal: to create and distribute whimsical pillowcases that give children an emotional boost and remind them that they are not defined by their illness.

"Today, our programs have expanded to include the children's entire families so they can better navigate and cope with a very difficult experience and avoid long-term emotional trauma. To ensure the highest quality care, we have partnered with PTSD experts at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children to create valuable web-based information and tools designed for each member of the family's unique experience.

"Visit us on Facebook for our events scheduled each month and throughout the year! Facebook page for [Case for Smiles Orlando](https://www.facebook.com/caseforsmilesorlando). We have regular sew days on the *last Saturday of each month* at Heartfelt Quilting, 365 5th Street SW, Winter Haven from 9AM – 4PM. Bring a dish to pass if you would like to share in our amaazing lunch potluck!"

The Orlando group's pillowcases are sent to the Disney Pavilion of Florida Children's Hospital, Nemours and Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children. Heartfelt Sewing and Quilting in Winter Haven is our local drop-off site.

[Used with permission]

United Methodist Women

Leadership Team Meeting January 30th

The Leadership Team consists of President, Carol Davis, Vice-president Phyllis Kitchens, Secretary Linda Alvarez, Treasurer Sarah Schiemann; Circle leaders Pat Moon, Debbie Moore and Ruth Zona; and Rummage Sale committee chair, Lynn Meske.

At a previous meeting we had reviewed the proposed list of organizations that would receive donations from the 2019 rummage sales. The list was reviewed and modified at Circle meetings in December or January.

The list was reviewed again at this meeting and a couple of organizations were removed (or at least placed on hold for future consideration) due to declining charity ratings or questions raised about their operations.

The proposed list of recipients will be presented at the February 10th unit meeting, discussed and voted on.

Circle News

Heart to Heart will meet on **Monday, February 3rd at 10:30 am** in the FLC. *This is our annual pledge meeting. Please pray about your pledge and bring your checkbook or cash if you can.* Also bring your lunch and drink; Phyllis Michael is bringing the dessert. If you are planning to come, please call Ruth Zona at 863-859-5967.

Ruth Circle of Love will meet on **Wednesday, February 5th at 11:00 am** in the FLC. *This is also our pledge meeting, so bring your checkbook or cash to start on your pledge.* We are continuing to study *Women of the Bible*, and after the meeting we will adjourn to a local restaurant for lunch. Please call Pat Moon, 863-858-6883, if you plan to attend.

Continued . . .

United Methodist Women

Evening Circle will meet on **Monday, February 10th, at 6:30 pm** at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Dr, Lakeland. We start with a meal (Phyllis Kitchens will bring the main dish).

We will be discussing our comments on the questions for Session 1: A Challenge to Overcome (days 1 - 5) from *The Jesus Challenge* Study Guide by Tony Evans. Lynda Gibbs is leading this study. Call Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193, if you have questions.

Unit Meeting, February 10th, 10:30 am in the FLC

Even if you're not currently a member of a circle, **please join us** for the first of three Unit meetings in 2020. All ladies (and gentlemen) are invited to attend and stay for lunch.

We will be having a guest speaker from **Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM)**.

Lunch will be casseroles (leadership team), with salads and desserts provided by members of the daytime circles.

We hope you can come to this informative and inspirational meeting.

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

ALBOH will be presenting Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (**CPR**) and **First Aid training** on **Monday, February 10th**. Cost is \$40.00. Please call our office if you would like to sign up (863-858-8400).

A Little Bit of Heaven will be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair**. It is open to church members, constituents and ALBOH families during Center operating hours (6:30 am to 6:00 pm). The book fair will run between **February 24th and March 6th**. If you don't have a child to buy for, you can purchase books to donate to our library.

Latisha Cook, Director

A Summary of Tuesdays at Hope Center

The paragraphs below are excerpts from **Debbie and Rick McLellan's reports** on their service at Hope Center in January. They illustrate the types of food and other items needed, and inspire our continuing support with **prayers, donations and presence**.

January 7th

At Lunchtime, Rick McLellan led our guests in prayer and a devotion from John chapter 10, ABUNDANT LIFE. By day's end, Debbie and Rick served **22 guests Easy Turkey Pot Pie**, fresh **garden salad** with sliced tomatoes and crisp cucumbers and bread, with cupcakes and pastries for dessert. We also had egg salad sandwiches for take-out. To quench thirst was coffee, milk, bottled water and iced tea.

Today we brought some clothes and shoes, most were needed sizes and went to guests immediately; we also brought **more towels**; we brought **36 Chef Boyardee pop-top pasta meals**, and **12 pop-top cans of chicken noodle soup**. Many of our guests have caught colds and bugs in this changing weather, so we brought **15 small bottles of ibuprofen** to relieve headaches and symptoms.

We had some **clothing donations and various items dropped off by nice folks including one man from Reformation Lutheran Church**. We also had a **visit from Dick McPherson, with some encouraging words and some good sandwich bags**, which we use quite a few of each week to send egg salad sandwiches with our guests.

January 14th

At Lunchtime, Rick McLellan led our guests in prayer and a devotion from I Thessalonians 4, A PLACE WITH JESUS. By day's end, Debbie and Rick served **24 guests Salsa Chicken and Bean Cazuela con Tostitos, and a fresh garden salad . . .**

Today we brought some **clothes and two pairs of men's shoes** which were special requests. We gave out **batteries** for camping lanterns and lights, mostly **AA** and **AAA**. Each guest received 2 easy-open pop-top cans and other items for supper. We also gave out many **health and toiletry items**.

We had some clothing donations and various items dropped off by nice folks and **Alan and Lynn Grier came by and brought those wonderful knit hats**, which Lynn makes herself. Please keep our friend Alan in prayer as he continues to undergo chemo for cancer.

January 21st

Grover Fowler and Marshall opened for Breakfast today, offering our guests lasagna stew, a variety of cereal with milk, and donuts and pastries. The drink options were fresh hot coffee, orange juice and cold milk.

At Lunchtime, Rick McLellan led our guests in prayer and a devotion from Luke chapter 8, STORM CHASERS. By day's end, Debbie and Rick served **25 guests three-meat and cheese sandwiches on Italian bread, petite dill pickles, a bag of chips, and cupcakes for dessert**.

The ice machine worked well. Everyone had the opportunity to shower and shave; the shower was busy all day, as were the washers and dryers. Today we brought **men's Hanes jockey shorts** which were a special request. . .

Continued

Tuesdays at Hope Center, Continued

January 21st, Continued

We had a visit from **Jeff Spears, from FEED MY SHEEP ministry to the homeless**. They minister to homeless people in parks around Lakeland. **Jeff brought us 30 sleeping bags made by nurses at Bartow Regional Medical Center** (you may have seen a segment about this on local TV news.) The bags were a blessing to our guests.

January 28th

Rick Nelson and Marshall opened for Breakfast today, offering our guests **scrambled eggs, smoked link sausage, a variety of cereals with milk, pastries, turnovers and donuts**. The drink options were fresh hot coffee, orange juice, and cold milk.

At Lunchtime, Rick McLellan led our guests in prayer and a devotion from Luke chapter 15, **JESUS EATS WITH SINNERS!** Then **Dick McPherson, our Chief Chef for today, with Rick and Debbie McLellan, served our guests melt-in-your-mouth ribs, pork tenderloin, coleslaw, potato salad and macaroni salad**. For dessert was **lemon meringue pie** and cupcakes. To quench thirst was iced tea, hot coffee and milk. We had served **23** guests and a **dozen take-out plates** by the end of the day.

The ice machine worked well. The shower and the washers and dryers were very busy. Debbie was busy giving out **clothing items, women's socks, razors, lantern batteries and numerous other toiletry items**. **Our guests also received nearly 50 canned goods and other small supper items**.

We want to say a **special thanks to Dick McPherson and members of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church for a wonderful meal**. Our guests were so grateful. **Sharon** from Lake Gibson was a tremendous help and real blessing, and we are so grateful to **Geraldine** who assists in cleaning up.

We had a blessed day and we were able to comfort and encourage our guests at the Hope Center today!

God's Richest Blessings to You All,
Debbie and 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 the 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 are encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts and photos with the congregation.

Phyllis Kitchens, Editor
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Birthdays in February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
2/2	Lonnie Brady
2/3	Carol Troup
2/3	Tim Watson
2/4	Sandra Harwell
2/4	Lou Tindall
2/5	Emma Davidson
2/6	Yvonne Bower
2/6	Edward Chambers
2/9	Edison Arnett
2/10	Betty Jennings
2/11	Jimmie Gunther
2/11	Geri Mayo
2/12	Gloria Kaufman
2/12	Todd Palmer
2/14	Mary Piraino
2/15	Logan Oliva
2/15	Maria Thomas
2/16	Douglass Harwell
2/16	Trevor Watson
2/16	Wayne Wesley
2/17	Bill Anderson
2/17	Mary Lou Barrell
2/17	Junaid Saqib
2/18	Thomas Herzog
2/19	Marjorie Mann
2/20	Julie Green
2/20	Bonnie Waugaman
2/21	Courtney Wilkinson

Continued

Birthdays in February, Continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
2/22	Bill Webb
2/23	Margaret Coppola
2/23	Rita Fredrikson
2/26	Larry Gitt
2/26	Linda Imel



Anniversaries in February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
2/11	Ruth and Henry Zona
2/12	Laurel and Jack Vanderheyden