



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



The Greek word for the church is *ekklesia*. It is the assembly of people called out by God. One Saturday last month Penny and I returned to Hardee County for a funeral. Most of you are aware that I am from Hardee County and before coming to Lake Gibson served First UMC Bowling Green for 6 years. That church had been founded in 1880.

The lady we were honoring had been a life-long member of that church. She had taught Sunday School for over 50 years and was a pillar of the church and the community. That church had been a vital part of Hardee County and Bowling Green for years. In 1948 they sent 100 children to the Leesburg Camp for kids – 100 from that one church. The cemetery is directly behind the church – it was once owned by the church but the city owns and operates it now.

When Hurricane Irma came through that part of Florida all three of the church buildings suffered roof damage. The church could not afford to meet the required insurance deductible for repair, so it ended up closing. It was later sold by the Conference to a private individual who is using it for business.

As I stood in the cemetery and looked back at the building I was shocked. Windows had been broken and were boarded up by a disarray of lumber. Doors were barricaded and things piled around the back of the sanctuary, wires were hanging out of air conditioners. I literally had tears running down my face thinking of how sad it is for this church to be in this condition.

I was too caught up in the emotion at that moment to hear God, but since then He has been gently nudging me. Many, if not all, the folks that had been members of the church when this lady was active were at that graveside service. Memories were shared, people rejoiced with one another and offered prayers and well wishes for the family. Ministry occurred there in that cemetery.

Since that day God has spoken to me to say “See Steve, the church is still there; not in that building, but in the hearts of the people. The church thrives in the community among people, not in a building made of cement and mortar. It cannot be closed by anything or anyone.”

Yes, God – message received.

Pastor Steve

March Special Events

2020

MARCH

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Communion Sunday; UMW Mission u Registration Opens	02 UMW Heart to Heart , 10:30 am, FLC; Trustees mtg, 2 pm, office	03	04 UMW Ruth Circle of Love , 11 am, FLC	05	06	07 Move Clocks Forward 1 Hour Before Bed!
08 HARVEST SUNDAY (donations for our food pantry); Daylight Savings Time Starts	09 Staff-Pastor/Parish Com mtg , 1 pm, FLC; Trustees mtg , 2 pm, office; UMW Evening Circle , 6:30 pm, off campus	10	11	12 A Little Bit of Heaven Board mtg , 4:30 pm, FLC; Scouts Committee mtg , 7 pm, FLC	13	14 United Methodist Men mtg , 9 am, FLC (no breakfast); install new fence panels (helpers welcome); M&Ms Game Day, 1 - 4 pm, FLC
15 Bethlehem Christian Families Visit with Olive Wood Carvings for Sale	16 Finance Com mtg , 7 pm, FLC	17 Florida Primary Elections , 7 am - 7 pm; Emmaus Group mtg and dinner, 6 - 8 pm (members only)	18	19	20	21 Wonder Walk around Lake Hollingsworth, 8 am to noon, College Heights UMC (supports Cornerstone Family Ministries, a UMW National Mission Institution)
22 UMCOR Sunday (Special Offering)	23 Finance Com mtg , 7 pm, FLC; Worship Com mtg , 7 pm, Sanctuary	24 Deadline for April Newsletter Articles	25	26	27	28 FUMCH Day on Campus , 9 am - 2 pm, Enterprise, FL
29 5th Sunday; Single Service, 10:30 am (offering for FL UM Children's Home and Lunch in FLC)	30 UMW Leadership Team mtg , 11 am, FLC; Rummage Sale Worker Coord mtg , 1 pm, FLC; Church Council mtg , 7 pm, FLC	31	01	02	03	04

March Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

Traditional Worship Service 8:00 am
Adult Sunday School 9:15 - 10:15 am
Children's Sunday School 9:15 - 10:15 am
Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am
Kidtricity Children's Ministry 10:30 - 11:45 am
(Nursery Available)
Hispanic Church 1:30 pm

Monday

Bible Study 2:00 pm
Boy Scout Troop 711 7:00 pm

Tuesday

Olive Tree Gathering 10:00 am
Deadline for Sunday Bulletin noon
Cub Scout Pack 711 7:00 pm

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday (Office Closed)

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 Clubhouse, 520 Forest Lake Drive, Lakeland 33809

**Cleaning Closets? Downsizing?
De-Cluttering?
Yard Sale Leftovers?**

DON'T DISCARD -- DONATE!

It's time to start thinking about the **UMW spring 2020 Rummage Sale**. We are continually collecting donations for our sales. We have plenty of storage space in our shed; however, we are **encouraging you to not wait** until the last minute to make arrangements to donate your gently used items.

We would prefer not to use the church office for storage of donations. Please call Ethel Somers at **863-370-1900** or Lynn Meske at **863-858-3589** for a pickup date or a convenient time for dropping off your donation at the shed.

All donations should be received by Thursday April 16th to allow us the opportunity to sort and price your items prior to the start of the sale on Friday. Thank you for your cooperation.

SALE DATES

Friday **April 17th** 8 am to 4 pm

Saturday **April 18th** 8 am to 1 pm

The Lake Gibson **United Methodist Women** are proud to help support local missions with proceeds from this sale.

Thank You for Helping Us Help Others

2019 Rummage Sale Donations

(as of February 24, 2020)

Local Charities

Cornerstone Family Ministry	\$300
UM Children's Home (FUMCH)	\$600
Salvation Army	\$500
Kid's Pack Lakeland	\$600
One More Child	\$600
Homeless High School Seniors	\$500
Guardian ad Litem	\$200
Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM)	\$500
Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)	\$200
Senior Orphans of Polk County	\$200
Total	\$4,200

Lake Gibson UMC

Benevolent Program (long-term needs)	\$500
A Little Bit of Heaven (scholarships)	\$500
Food Pantry	\$500
Air Conditioner Replacement Fund	\$1,000
Insurance Deductible Fund	\$600
Kitchen Fund	\$200
United Methodist Men	\$50
Total	\$3,350
Grand Total	\$7,550

Funds raised from the sale of pecans will be donated to international charities that benefit women and children.

Daily Bible Readings

The front page our church's website, www.LakeGibsonUMC.com, contains a daily Bible verse and a hyperlink to www.dailyverses.net. Should you desire a more in-depth reading, consider going to the bottom of any page on our website, find the left-hand column entitled WORSHIP WITH US, and click the last hyperlink, Daily Bible Reading. Here you will find multiple readings which change daily. You can read them or **click the triangle to hear the text read aloud**.

Do You Drive?

Think of all the places you like to go. It's great therapy to get out and join others in activities, but not everyone can still drive. Some people are limited from driving at night, while others have given up their licenses forever.

Lake Gibson UMC supports numerous activities which are held off-campus. The Mix and Mingle (M&Ms) Senior Activities Group schedules interesting excursions, some recreational and some religious in nature. The Gulf Central District, of which we are a part, offers training sessions periodically outside of Central Florida. Other activities such as the recently completed CROP Hunger Walk and March 21st's Wonder Walk occur in Lakeland.

The upcoming Day on Campus at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) requires a drive of about 75 minutes on a good day.

The point is, a lot of Lake Gibson people would participate in off-campus activities if transportation were provided. If you still drive, you can help. Please consider registering to drive the church van. If we had a roster of qualified drivers they could "share the load" so one person isn't on the hook for every trip.

Driving a 12-passenger van is not difficult. A short spin around the neighborhood and you'll get the feel of it.

Call the church office today (863-85805431) to get checked out to drive our van and help those who can't drive.

Good News for Junaid!

Junaid Saqib's request for asylum has been approved! This is the first step toward bringing his wife, who is a nurse, and their two daughters, ages 4 and 8, to America.

Junaid has asked Lake Gibson UMC to help him secure short-term housing for himself in late March, and a suitable house or apartment and furnishings for his family when they arrive. Pastor Steve and church leaders will examine what support we can provide and ask for approval by the Church Council.

Needs include furniture, clothing, etc., and assistance (or mentoring) for his wife to obtain approval to work in the US as a foreign-trained nurse. We will probably need many shepherds to help the family adapt to life in the US.

In the meantime, please pray for the continued safety of Junaid's family in Pakistan, and for help obtaining lodging and other necessities the family will need.

Lay Leader's Letter

On Tuesday, March 10th, at sundown our Hebrew friends will be celebrating the beginning of the Feast of Lots, better known as *Purim* which commemorates the preservation of the Jewish people in Persia in 478 BC. You can read all about it in the **Book of Esther**.

Hadassah is her Hebrew name; it means "myrtle", and she is the heroine of the story. It is a story which celebrates God's faithful protection of His people.

It reminds us as Christians that **God is always faithful to His word to keep us, as well as His people, in His Grace and Mercy** even when we are not aware of His presence. We can always celebrate that!

John Bernat, Lay Leader

Thank You, CROP Hunger Walkers

Nancy and Howard Coggin, Debbie Moore and Dwight Kitchens represented LGUMC at this year's walk on February 23rd. As of the 24th we had raised \$455.00. ***There is still time to donate on Sunday, March 1st.***

Tickets or Offerings?

Have you taken a trip recently? Made plans for the summer? If so, you've likely been gone from your home church or will be.

Do you remember that the life of your home church continues in your absence? If not, you might have treated your worship like visiting an entertainment venue, making your offering like a ticket to an event, and then not making another payment until you attend your next big happening.

This often occurs with those people who come only on Easter and Christmas Eve. They don't quite get it that Christians are directed to worship together on a recurring basis.

As part of our United Methodist Church's membership pledge, we accepted a number of obligations. One is to support our home church financially through tithes and offerings.

If you only support your home church when you are present, you are not fulfilling your obligation. Consider having your offering sent automatically (either weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually) to your home church.

As we travel we visit other Methodist churches and make offerings there. But, we rest assured that LGUMC (our home church) is being supported by what is automatically sent from the bank, whether we are present or not.

If you are a member of another United Methodist Church, we hope you are fully supporting their mission and helping Lake Gibson UMC while temporarily visiting with us.

Dwight Kitchens

FUMCH Open House Is Nearly Here!

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) is holding its annual open house on **Saturday, March 28th**. This is a wonderful opportunity to see all the changes, such as the renovated Roland Memorial Chapel, the updated Gymnatorium, the new Lamar Louise Curry

Continued

FUMCH Open House, Continued (Day on Campus)

Early Childhood Education Development Center and the Legacy Scholars Academy.

The day will be filled with numerous activities, from a tram tour around campus, a visit with residents in one of the cottages, a presentation by the children of FUMCH, to a delicious box meal under the tent.

Schedule:

9:00 am – Gates Open, Tour Campus

9:30 am – Breakout Sessions (RSVP Required)

11:00 am – Program in Gymnatorium

12:00 noon – Picnic Lunch under the Big Tent; Campus Tours Resume

Topics for the three breakout sessions, which run concurrently starting at 9:30 am, are Foster Care Service at the Children's Home, What Makes a Trauma Informed Ministry, and Planned Giving 101.

If you're interested in attending this year, please go to [Registration Form for Day on Campus](https://www.fumch.org/contact-us/join-us-for-a-day-on-campus/) (<https://www.fumch.org/contact-us/join-us-for-a-day-on-campus/>) and fill out the form to help FUMCH with event planning. Please submit it to FUMCH by March 20th.

Call the office to see if the church van will be available. If you aren't yet qualified to drive the van, this is a great time to be included in this group. Get engaged and help others learn about this ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Dwight and I will already be at FUMCH that week performing bicycle maintenance, tidying up the bike sheds and surrounding area, and serving as volunteers during Day on Campus.

Phyllis and Dwight Kitchens, FUMCH Representatives

Are We Coordinated?

Are we about to discuss our clothing choices? No, another subject entirely. We're constantly attempting to insure that you have ready access to what is happening in the church. There are five primary means through which we do this:

The Monthly Activities leaflet found in the church Narthex

The monthly printed copy of *The Good News* in the Narthex

The monthly electronic copy of *The Good News* currently found at <https://lakegibsonumc.com/our-newsletters/newsletters-2020>

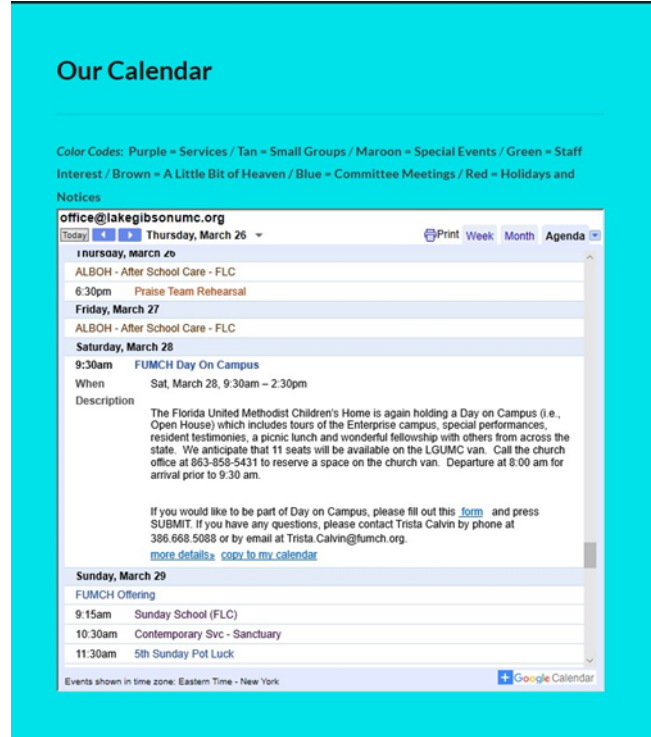
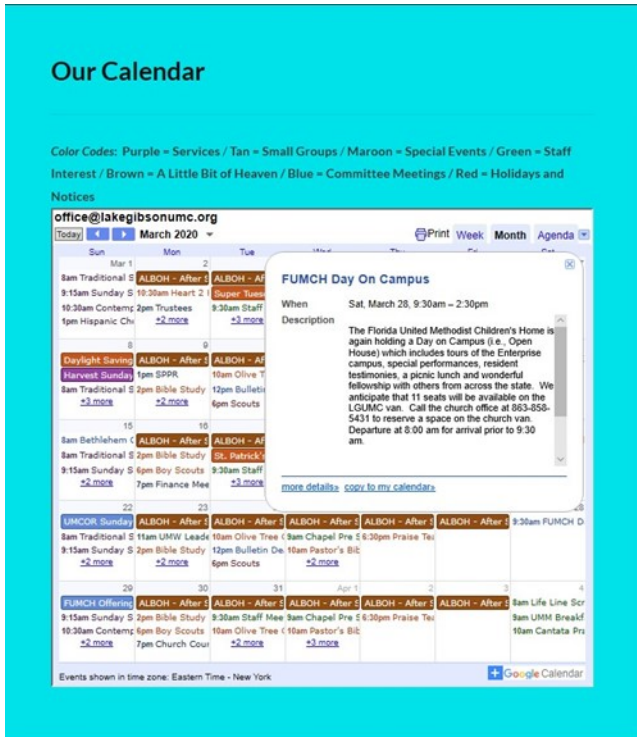
The "Church Blog" found at www.LakeGibsonUMC.com

The electronic calendar found at <https://lakegibsonumc.com/our-calendar/>

Which is most up-to-date? Well, as most printed materials are old once they leave the printer, **the most up-to-date version should be found on the church's electronic calendar.** This copy is visible on computers, tablets, and smartphones.

By default, we show the calendar in a monthly format, although you can change it to either Week or Agenda view. The Week view permits you to see the event and the block of time it occupies. **Additionally, if you click an event, additional details will drop down** (if the event sponsor has provided the webmaster, Dwight Kitchens, that information).

The example on the left is in the Month view. It reflects details on the March 28th FUMCH "Open House" (Day on Campus) in Enterprise, FL. The right example presents a chronological list (Agenda view) of events on the calendar. On the right-hand side of the Agenda view you can scroll down through the entire year. Again, merely by clicking on the event, you may see additional details.



Our Administrative Secretary keeps the calendar, and provides those details to the webmaster, newsletter editor, and Facebook manager for dissemination. **This electronic calendar should always have the most detailed, up-to-date information** about events in the church and selected outside events.

Dwight Kitchens

Amazon and FUMCH

Amazon offers a rebate on purchases to select charities. The **Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)** is a recipient of a small portion of the \$156 million returned to charities thru November 2019.

As of May 2019 FUMCH had received **\$2,726.45**. Why so little? Possibly those of us who purchase on Amazon.com have yet to designate FUMCH as the recipient of this largesse.

The easiest way to designate FUMCH as your personal charity is to save the following URL in your browser and use it each time you place an order: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0638479>.

Easier yet is to tell your browser to open a tab with the same URL each time your browser opens. Since I sometimes use different browsers, I have this saved as a tab in each of them: Microsoft's Edge, Mozilla's Firefox and Google's Chrome. Now, I just have to click the appropriate tab when I want to place an order with Amazon.com, knowing that a small portion (one-half of one percent) will be returned to FUMCH.

Dwight Kitchens

Looking for Information?



Pictured at left is one of two plastic holders in the narthex (one on each side of the entry doors).

The newsletter and informative flyers (formerly known as bulletin inserts) can be found in these holders, along with other information.

Be sure to pick up flyers to post on your refrigerator or bulletin board at home so you don't forget important dates.

Music Ministry



On Sunday, February 16th, we were blessed to have **Eduard Klassen**, his Paraguayan harp and moving testimony for our worship service. (Photo by Lynn Meske)

Our next musical worship program will be on **Mother's Day, May 10th, by the talented Lenee Schroeder** of BLS Ministries (<http://leneeschroeder.com/>). Please come and be inspired.

Prayer Ministry News

During the Lenten season we seek to share, with Jesus, his journey on the way to the cross. One way we can participate is to **be steadfast in prayer** as Jesus showed us his dedication to prayer, especially during this time of his life.

Let us see the example Jesus set for us to be our guide in prayer, during Lenten season and the rest of the year. The best connection to Jesus is through our prayers and a gracious combination to follow Jesus and love another.

"Keep on praying no matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus". 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NLT)

Please take the Prayer Journal home with you and use it as your guide to prayer during the week for those in need.

Why not join us by becoming a Prayer Warrior? Just check the appropriate box on the "Connection Card" in the Sunday bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Prayer Ministry

Offering Prayers for Those in Need

You may have noticed that we recently implemented an **online prayer request** on our church website. You will find it on the left-hand side of our front page (www.lakegibsonumc.com).

Under the “Welcome to Our Home” menu, you see both “Submit Your Prayer Request” and “View Prayers Requested”.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Submit Your Prayer Request" on a light blue background. At the top, it says "Your prayer request will be visible to others so that they might also raise your prayer to God." Below this, there are several input fields: "Name*", "Email*", "Request Type*" (with radio buttons for "Prayer Request" and "Praise Report"), "Category" (a dropdown menu set to "Sunday Prayer Requests"), "Country" (a dropdown menu set to "United States"), "Title*", and "Message*" (a larger text area). A "Submit" button is at the bottom right. To the left of the form, a sidebar menu under "WELCOME TO OUR HOME" includes "Submit Your Prayer Request" (highlighted in orange), "View Prayers Requested", and "Our Church Blog".

To make a submission, you must provide your Name, Email address, and Request Type (Prayer). The drop-down for **Category** includes choices of Sunday Prayer Requests, Deliverance, Generational Healing, Inner Healing, Physical Healing, Protection, Relationships, Salvation, and Spiritual Healing.

Type in a title and message (prayer content). Once this is complete, and you are satisfied, click “SUBMIT” and the prayer will be recorded.

Your submitted prayer will be found, along with others, under the “**View Prayers Requested**” option on the same page. Here you will see your own prayer, and possibly those of other individuals. You may pray for them and click PRAY on the right-hand side. This adds your prayer to a counter applicable to this particular request.

You may also make a supportive comment in regard to this particular prayer. This will show your name, when posted, and your comment. Should you desire to “Hide replies”, you will not see the posted comments. You may change it back to see replies by clicking “Show replies”.

Our intent is to open up our prayers to a wider audience. In doing so, *the poster should insure that they only provide information which they feel comfortable in sharing* with a wider audience. While this is an extension of our Prayer Ministry, **we don’t want details which are so personal in nature that the recipient of the prayer would object to it being made public.**

If, upon second thought, you desire that a prayer request be removed from a wider audience, send an email to Dwight@DwightKitchens.com requesting that it be deleted. The webmaster has the ability to delete older prayer requests as well as inappropriate submissions.

The screenshot shows a web page titled "View Prayers Requested" on a light blue background. At the top, it says "Listed below are requested prayers. You may click 'Pray' when you pray for an individual as well as make supportive comments on the site." Below this, there is a section titled "Our prayers" which contains a list of prayer requests. The first entry is "Proposals of the May 2020 General Conference" with a "Pray" button. Below the list, there are "Reply" and "Hide replies" buttons. To the left of the main content, a sidebar menu under "WELCOME TO OUR HOME" includes "Submit Your Prayer Request", "View Prayers Requested" (highlighted in orange), and "Our Church Blog".

M&Ms Senior Activity Group

March brings a busy schedule for the church as we enter into the Lenten season. We only have one event scheduled, **March 14th at 1:00 pm** and that will be **our favorite social activity, games and cards**. Everyone over 55 years of age is invited. Please bring a snack to share and your own drink. We have lots of cookies left from our recent activities, so we don't need any more. Hope you plan on joining us as it's always a fun and relaxing afternoon.

There will be no M&Ms Team meeting in March.

February was a busy month for the M&Ms. We presented two programs:

On February 15th we invited a couple who had spent the last 27 years as missionaries in New Guinea translating the Bible into native languages under the auspices of Wycliffe Bible Translators. **Steve and Carol Jean Gallagher** presented an interesting program, filled with videos, pictures and stories. Forty-four people attended this informative and inspirational program and viewed the artifacts on display.

On February 22nd the Lakeland Police Department visited to explain **LEAP (the Lakeland Elder Assistance Program)**. Twenty seniors attended and learned about LEAP, as well as the current scams specifically targeting this age group. It was very informational and the officer answered many questions and concerns of the attendees.

Your Chairperson, Carol Hanna

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The UMM have finally completed the projects previously mentioned such as insulating the HVAC cooling lines, installing the electrical extensions for the stage and painting the HVAC enclosures.

Continued

UMM, Continued

On **March 14th** after our regular meeting (no breakfast!) at 9:00 am in the FLC, we will be installing new wooden fence panels around some of the church's air conditioning units on the north side. *We hope some strong, healthy people will join us in digging holes and putting up the panels.*

The UMM will be holding our annual **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11th from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at the Family Life Center (FLC).**

1. We will **collect candy** (non-melting, no chocolate), **starting on March 2nd and ending on April 4th**, for those wishing to donate.

2. The UMM will hold a short monthly meeting on **April 4th at 9:00 am** in the FLC (no breakfast). Everyone is invited to attend and **stay to help fill the Easter eggs starting at 10:00 am**. Volunteers needed!

3. The Easter egg hunt menu will consist of hot dogs, chips and a drink, free of charge. There will be games and activities after the hunt. This year the **egg hunt will start at 10:30 am** to allow for late comers. There will be two prizes for each age group. Anyone wishing to help in any way, please contact Michael Moake at 863-816-3194.

We will be holding the first **Lake Gibson UMC Classic Car and Motorcycle Show on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Winners will be announced at 1:30 pm. We will have three different prizes for each group of contestants, and a 50/50 drawing for the donated cash pot.

There will be **hot dogs, chips and drinks** available for donation only. The UMM will host a **bake sale** with proceeds going to the church. Anyone wishing to assist in the car show in any way, please contact Dwight Kitchens (863-984-4564/410-790-4422) or Leon Rumohr (863-602-9530).

Michael Moake, President (863-816-3194)

New Prayer Request Cards

You may have noticed that slightly **revised prayer request cards** have shown up in the holders on the backs of the pews. Why?

We've found a nice program for our church website, www.lakegibsonumc.com, which permits anyone to quickly share a prayer need. The program records prayers, permits comments and counts the number of people who report that they have prayed for that concern.

Ah, but there is a "but". Unless you MARK the box on the prayer card next to the word ONLINE, we won't type your prayer request on our website. So, if you want to expose your prayer concern to a wider audience, mark the box so you inform the church that you want it included on the website.

Of course, people who did not make it to church will still be able to request prayer support when they type their own request online.

This website posting is in addition to the Prayer Journal and email notifications of prayer needs to our Prayer Warriors.

Special Collections

We are entering the season for Special Collections. The United Methodist Church recognizes six "Special Sundays with Collection". The next one is **March 22nd, UMCOR Sunday** which pays the administrative costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Because the overhead is paid, every dollar donated to support a specific relief effort goes to that effort.

Then we have a special (but not one of the six Special) collection for **FUMCH** on every 5th Sunday, which will occur next on **March 29th**. The children will be rattling the cans for your pocket change, and we hope you will be stuffing paper money or checks made out to LGUMC, annotated For FUMCH, into an envelope.

On **April 5th** we'll collect donations for **Quesada, our sister church in Cuba**. Also, **April 26th is Native American Ministries Sunday**, another Special Collection day.

Continued

Special Collections, Continued

The next Special Collection is on **April 26th, Native American Ministries Sunday**. After that we get a break until **June 7th, Peace with Justice Sunday**. (The first Special Collection Sunday is Human Relations day which was celebrated on January 19th this year.)

Mission Moments

Lake Gibson UMC has truly been a church in mission this year. The United Methodist Women are distributing the proceeds from the 2019 rummage sales. A complete list of agencies receiving funds is posted on the Mission bulletin board in the Family Life Center [and contained in this newsletter].

The UMW had a speaker from Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE) at the unit (general) meeting in February. She told the ladies what great work they do on behalf of senior citizens of Polk County. Take a few minutes and look at the brochure on the Mission bulletin board to see the scope of their work.

Church members, constituents and guests were able to hear missionaries speak on two occasions: The Paraguayan harpist played and shared his inspiring story, and two representatives of Wycliffe Bible Translators told of their work in New Guinea translating the Bible into many local languages. Both were inspiring.

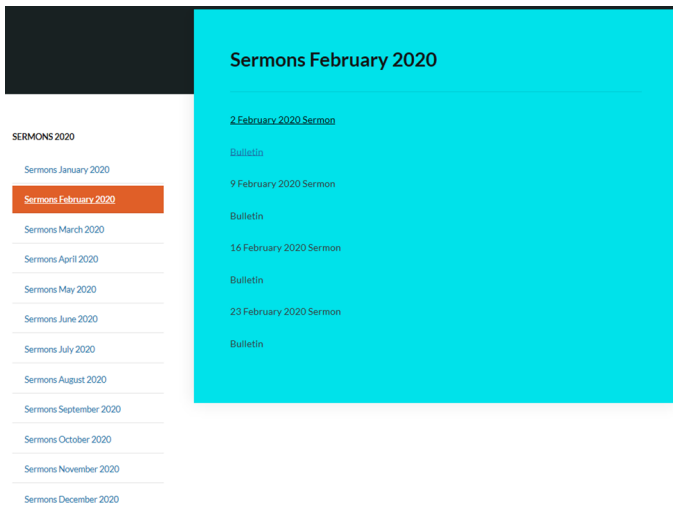
These special programs were all in addition to our usual devotion to helping others at Hope House, Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM) and in many other areas of our community.

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Col. 3:12 (NAS)

Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator

Did You Miss One of This Month's Sermons?

Sometimes you're traveling (or have visitors, or just feel puny) and can't make it to Lake Gibson UMC on Sunday. While the sermon wherever you are attending may have been interesting, it's not the same as one from your HOME. So, if you've missed hearing Pastor Steve's message, consider listening to the recorded sermon online.



We'll usually have Sunday's sermon posted a few hours after the service. Look at the bottom of our website under the heading of **SERMONS, NEWSLETTERS & BLOGS**.

Click "Our Sermons", select this year, click the appropriate month, and click the sermon date. The sermon should start playing automatically. Don't forget to adjust the volume on your device, whether headphones or speakers. You can also read the Sunday bulletin for that service online.

[Please be patient as we troubleshoot the problems that are causing static from the speakers.

Property and Liability Bill

We've been expecting this for some time. We had earlier been told to expect increases in our Property and Liability bill for 2020. Increases were partially due to hurricane damage and partially due to lawsuits against the United Methodist Church.

Continued

Property and Liability Bill Continued

For comparison, in 2018 we paid, after a 2% discount for early payment, \$16,348, while in 2019 our bill came to \$17,717. Our increase in the bill was approximately 8.5%.

For 2020, our bill is **\$22,672** before discount, or \$22,220 after a 2% discount. This is an increase of nearly **26%** for FY 2020, or **\$4,503** over our last bill.

How can we minimize this cost increase in the future? Well, it is unlikely that we can affect the weather. But, as a congregation, we can be extra careful how we operate within the church.

1. Insuring that our Child Protection Policies are trained and adhered to by employees and volunteers who interact with children and youth.

2. Insuring that we eliminate hazards within our buildings helps, both in structures and during events in which we invite others to participate (examples: rummage sales, concerts, M&Ms activities, etc.).

It is up to us, as a congregation, to do our best to insure that everyone is safe on Lake Gibson's premises.

Dwight Kitchens

Online Training and Testing -- Child/Youth Protection Policy (CPP)

At Pastor Steve's request we've been working to put together an online training program under the heading of **Safe Sanctuary**.

On the church website you can read the policy, watch a training video and take the test online. A score of 80% correct is required to pass; otherwise, you get to take the test again.

This version is a sort-of-beta test. Please provide feedback to the webmaster on what you think of its strengths and weaknesses.

Children's Ministry *Kidtricity*

We have been studying Matthew and enjoyed coded scripture. Our song for March is "He is God".

5th Sunday (March 29th) menu is meat loaf and sloppy joes provided by the church. Please bring side dishes, salads or whatever you want to share.

Debbie Moore, Children's 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 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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UMW Unit Meeting Photo by Lynn Meske



(More to follow)

Visit by Bethlehem Christian Family March 15th

On **Sunday, March 15, 2020**, we will have a special opportunity to view and purchase jewelry, statuettes and vessels made of **olive wood**



created by the hands of Christian artisans in and around the Holy Land region.

The Rishmawi Family has been designated as the representative for these wonderful Christian artisans and has been authorized to show their olive wood carvings.

(The photo above is from the Internet and is representative of olive wood carvings in general.)

We invite you to visit their display tables and view some of the finest handcrafts available from the Holy Land. This Family will bring many of these fine carvings to our church. **You can view these beautiful items online at <http://www.bethlehem-art.com/>.**

The tradition of making olive wood carvings in the Holy Land has been handed down from father to son since the 12th century. Due to the difficulties the last few years in the Middle East, tourism has been dramatically reduced and these folks have suffered greatly.

This is causing the Christian community to immigrate to different countries leaving the Christian population at 2% today, down from 25% ten years ago.

"We call on our churches worldwide to recognize that the very presence of the Christian communities in the Holy Land is threatened by the severity of the present conflict and by the economic devastation the conflict has caused. When the Mother Church is endangered, the entire Churches must be involved."

The Christian Bishops of Jerusalem

Hope Center Happenings

[There paragraphs are extracted from Debbie and Rick McLellan's Tuesday reports about their day serving at Hope Center. They are repeated here so LGUMC people can learn about the needs and help to fill them. Editor]

February 4th, 2020

At Lunchtime, Rick McLellan led our guests in prayer and a devotion from Luke chapter 23, A PRAYER TO POINT US HOME.

We had a visit from a wonderful couple that attend Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, Hampton and Sharon Conway, who provided our food today. Sharon, who was our chef, with Rick and Debbie McLellan served our guests the best chicken vegetable soup with lots of chicken, potatoes and veggies, made from scratch. We also had saltines and cheesy rolls.

For dessert was cherry pie, a great chocolate cake and cupcakes... We had served 15 guests and provided 10 take-out plates by the end of the day. ... We also gave out 3 tarps ...

February 11, 2020

...We had served 20 guests and provided 10 take-out plates by the end of the day, and gave out 16 bagged meat and cheese sandwiches [that Debbie and Rick had made at home] to take with them.

Debbie was busy and gave out clothing items, razors, lantern batteries, numerous other toiletry items and mosquito repellent. We also gave out some shoes and socks that were specially requested, due to sizes needed. Our guests received over three dozen easy-open canned goods and other small supper items.

We were blessed today by visits from people who really help and encourage us in helping those less fortunate. Hampton and Sharon Conway from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church (LGUMC) brought us some clothing donations and mosquito repellent. Dick McPherson (LGUMC) brought us pop-top spaghetti and meatballs to give out; Jim Aldrich and our friends

Continued

Hope Center Happenings February 11th, Continued

from Christ the King Episcopal Church brought us cupcakes and cookies for dessert.

February 18th

Rick Nelson and Marshall opened for Breakfast today, offering our guests scrambled egg and sausage bowl, 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 Matthew 5, INSTEAD OF REVENGE. Then Debbie and Rick served our guests sliced ham, mac n cheese and corn. For dessert was cupcakes. To quench thirst we had iced tea and hot coffee. We had served 26 guests and 8 take-out plates by the end of the day, and gave out 14 bagged meat and cheese sandwiches to take with them.

We were blessed today by visits from people who brought us some clothing donations and frozen food.

Praise the Lord for another Blessed day at the Hope Center!

God's Richest Blessings to You All,

Debbie and Rick McLellan

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Leadership Team Meeting February 24th

The Leadership Team met on Monday, February 24th at 11:00 am in the FLC. Disposition of the 2019 Rummage Sale money was revisited. Linda Alvarez presented research on the percentage of funds a couple of charities we were interested in spend on mission versus overhead, including in fundraising. After discussion it was agreed that the list of charities approved at the February 10th unit meeting will stand, and non-local or international charities will be funded from proceeds of our pecan sale. Continued

UMW, Continued Leadership Team Mtg

It was agreed that Doctors Without Borders and Heifer International would each receive \$200 from the pecan sales, and we would retain the rest as seed money to purchase nuts this fall.

We briefly reviewed the UMW Reading Program for 2020 and noted several books that might be interesting. All circle leaders will ask their members if they are interested in any of the books and provide Phyllis a list of titles to be investigated. She will check if they are available through the Polk County Library Cooperative.

We discussed the UMM's Classic Car and Motorcycle Show on **April 25th** and their request that UMW conduct a **bake sale**. It was agreed to do so and ask members to provide sweets for sale. No cream-based items (e.g., Key lime pie) will be allowed as we will be outside and have no way to keep them cold.

Lynn Meske volunteered to be our leader in coordinating the bake sale with Michael Moake to make sure we know what is expected.

Lynn Meske, Rummage Sale Committee chair, gave a detailed presentation on innovations and improvements she has instituted for this sale. "Nothing is written in stone; if something doesn't work, we won't do it next time." This will probably be the most organized rummage sale Lake Gibson has ever had. The intent is to do a lot of prep work when items come in, so the setup and pricing on Wednesday and Thursday are much easier on our aging "workforce".

The team authorized Lynn to invest in fixtures that will make the physical effort of setup and teardown less demanding.

There will be a **Rummage Sale Workers Meeting on Monday, March 30th, at 1:00 pm in the FLC** to familiarize our volunteers with how the tasks in each area will be allotted and other changes. On the sale days people will be offered the chance to work a specific shift and then they can leave (if they wish).

The next Leadership Team meeting will be at 11:00 am on March 30th in the FLC.
Continued

UMW, Continued UMW Day of Giving March 23rd

In 2014 as part of the run-up to the UMW's 150th anniversary celebration, the **Legacy Fund** was established with the goal of raising \$60 million. As of January 2020 they have raised just over \$31million. The fund would be used to pay operating costs of the UMW so that all other money collected could be used for mission work with women, children and youth (similar to the way UMCOR Sunday functions).

We are asked to **give** any amount by **March 23rd, 2020**. You can donate online by going to the following website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150, or by calling 1-800-278-7771 Monday - Friday, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. You can also send a check payable to United Methodist Women (with a notation "Day of Giving") to UMW, ATTN: Development, Legacy Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115.

Unit Meeting, February 10th

We had a very good turnout for our first Unit (general) meeting of 2020. Shirley Schmidt provided the beautiful Valentine themed table decorations.

Our guest speaker, Julie McDonald, explained what a wide range of services VISTE provides in the Lakeland, Mulberry, Bartow and Ft. Meade areas of Polk County. The website is very informative and has forms for volunteers to apply: <https://viste.org/>.

The second Unit meeting will be **May 11th, 10:30 am** in the FLC. You don't have to be a member of the UMW, or even be a woman, to attend, hear stimulating presentations and enjoy lunch with friends.

Circle News

Heart to Heart will meet on **Monday, March 2nd**, at 10:30 am in the FLC. Ruth Zona will present the program from the UMW Program Book. Phyllis Kitchens will bring the dessert. Please bring your sandwich and drink.
Continued

UMW, Continued Circle News

Ruth Circle of Love will meet on Wednesday, March 4th at 11:00 am in the FLC. We plan to finish the last two women in our book *Women of the Bible*. After the program we'll go to a local restaurant for lunch.

Evening Circle will meet at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Dr. in Lakeland at 6:30 pm. We start with dinner; Sylvana offered to make chili; everyone else, please bring a side dish, bread or dessert if you can. Lynda Gibbs will lead the group's study of Session 3, A Challenge to Faithfulness (page 49) from Tony Evans' study guide, *The Jesus Challenge*.

Mission u Is Coming July 9 - 11, 2020

The United Methodist Women of the Southeast Jurisdiction and the Florida Conference will present **Mission u** at Florida Southern College from July 9th through 12th.

Quoting from the UMW's website: "For participants, Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on current mission study topics with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context; conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women."

"Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Mission studies are offered each year - a **geographical, topical, and spiritual growth** study. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry."

The 2020 Mission Studies:

Spiritual Growth Study: *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*

Issue Study: *Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*

Special Publication: *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission*

Mission u, Continued

There are also mission studies for children and youth:

Spiritual Growth **Youth** Study: *Managing Anxiety*

Spiritual Growth **Children's** Study: *Managing Our Emotions*

If you are interested in any of these studies go online to register on or after March 1st. Reduced rates are offered for early registration. Once registration opens, go to the website below to sign up and select your study.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-u>

More Unit Meeting Pictures by Lynn Meske



Snippets from Lynn Meske's Rummage Sale Planning Report

(to UMW Unit Meeting, February 10th)

"Since our fall sale I've spent several hours in the shed. I've been sorting, cleaning and sometimes pricing items we receive. My hope is that this will help reduce the hundreds of miles we guys and gals walk on Wed and Thurs sorting items from boxes, bins and bags. My aim is to work smarter, **NOT** harder. My mantra has always been organize, organize, organize because I believe preliminary planning is important to the success of any project.

"With that being said, I'd like to share with you an idea I have that I hope will save bunches of energy for everyone involved in this and future sales.

"It is a **list of work areas**, including a **job description for each**. *Don't panic!* I am open to any and all comments and suggestions pertaining to this form. Sometimes change is hard, but PLEASE remember none of these changes is carved in stone. If it doesn't work this way, we will try another way, and keep trying until we get it right for all. Because, **IF** you always **DO** what you've always **Done**, **You** will always **Get** what you've always **Got**.

"I Hope you are open to trying some changes with me. I will continue to work on the form, fine-tuning it until the first part of April. I noticed in the last few sales that some people have their **favorite jobs on sale days**. I will be encouraging you to **sign up for that position**, along with your preferred **hours**, before the sale. Yes, **HOURS!** If we get enough volunteers to sign up, no one except people of steel will have to work the whole day.

"The UMW Leadership Team have voted to **extend the sale by 1 hour each day**: Friday, April 17th, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm and Saturday, April 18th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. By pre-sorting and pre-pricing as much as possible in the sheds, I hope Wednesday and Thursday will only consist of 2 short days. Last year's four LONG days in a row were a killer and nearly did most of us in."

Is there any wonder why Lynn was voted Woman of the Year in 2019 after her first Lake Gibson rummage sales?

Contact Information

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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

Wonder Walk is Almost Here!

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



Birthdays in March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
3/1	Bob Willome
3/2	Roy Lorent
3/2	Leon Rumohr
3/3	Jim Huven
3/4	Anne Bernat
3/7	Dick Shepherd
3/8	Lilia Harbaugh
3/8	Lila Wilde
3/10	Ann Johnson
3/12	Betty Seabo
3/12	Sharon Shepherd
3/13	Frankie Hooks
3/13	Dwight Kitchens
3/17	Lainee Grimes
3/19	Audrey Jenks
3/19	Wanda Lammey
3/20	Janey Heinkel
3/20	Debbie McPherson

Birthdays in March, Continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
3/21	Ann Phinney
3/24	Faye Hatchett
3/26	Dani Cavas
3/31	Sue Bodemer



Anniversaries in March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
3/1	Mollie and Justin Oliva
3/5	Marina and Lucio Hernandez
3/11	Beverly and Eric Hines
3/14	Lila and Anthony Wilde
3/23	Ann and Brad Fox
3/31	Jackie and Bill Webb