



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



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

Thoughts from the Pastor

Have you bought your turkey yet? Do you feel thankful today? With all that is going on in our world thankfulness is very elusive. Well, you don't understand Preacher, my team lost the game, my candidate lost the election and I am so worried about the next 4 years, yada, yada, yada. What if I told you none of that matters? It doesn't matter if you like what is going on in your life, the church, the state, nation or world. As a believer in Christ you are to be thankful at all times. **Psalm 118:1 (NRSV) ¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!**

We can be thankful no matter what. Here are some things we can thank God for:

Even if our candidate lost thank you Lord for the privilege and right to vote my conscious.

Thank you God that you are in control and I am not. Help me to trust in you and place my faith in God not man.

Thank you Lord for the many freedoms and rights we have as Americans.

Thank you for our military, law enforcement, and emergency personnel.

Thank you Lord for the doctors, nurses, specialists and other medical personnel you bless us with, especially those care givers as they minister in this Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you I can read, add, subtract, multiply, divide and think for myself.

Thank you to all those who work so hard to educate people, not only educators but support staff, custodians, aides, administrative staff, bus drivers, resource officers and others.

Thank you God that you are supplying my every need. Help me to like Paul, be satisfied with what I have. (Philippians 4:12)

Thank you God that I live in a country where I can worship you as I see fit.

Thank you Lord that I have electricity, running water, flushable rest rooms, a chair to sit in, a bed to sleep in and all the other creature comforts we have.

Even if my team lost thank you God I have a team and thank you I can enjoy the game.

Then as the Psalm says: Thank you God that you are good; you are a good, good father and your love is everlasting. Thank you that you will never leave nor forsake us.

Thank you God that you love me, even me. Thank you for Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Just - THANK YOU GOD – for everything.

Happy Thanksgiving Pastor Steve and Mrs. Penny

Date**November Events (as of 10/26/20)**

- 1 **Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back!)**
All Saints Day and Communion Sunday; Donations for Wreaths Across America start
- 3 Election Day (Polls open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm)
- 5 Videoconference, Detecting Disinformation (3 of 4);
Just Energy 4 All 101 videoconference, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- 8 Angel Tree - Gift Card donations for Florida UM Children's Home begin;
Harvest Sunday (donations for our Food Pantry);
Child/Youth Protection Policy Training (Zoom), 2:30 - 4:30 pm
- 9 *Whosoever*, 6:30 pm - Bible study (off campus)
- 11 **Veterans Day** (Federal Holiday)
- 12 A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Board Meeting, 2:00 pm, Sanctuary;
Videoconference, Detecting Disinformation (4 of 4)
- 13 UMW **Sidewalk Sale**, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 14 UMW **Sidewalk Sale**, 8:00 am - noon; Florida Conference UMW Annual Meeting (Zoom), 10:00 am to noon
- 18 Videoconference, Dismantling Racism - Colonialism, 1:00 pm;
Videoconference, Just Energy, 3:00 pm
- 19 Videoconference, Just Energy 4 All 101, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- 21 United Methodist Men (UMM) meeting, 9:00 am in FLC Rooms 1 & 2
- 23 United Methodist Women (UMW) Leadership Team meeting, 11:00 am, Sanctuary
- 26 Thanksgiving (Office closed 26 and 27)
- 27 Native American Heritage Day
- 29 **5th Sunday, United Methodist Student Day** (Special Sunday with Offering) and Collection for Florida UM Children's Home
- 30 Towards Educational Equity 11:00am - 12:30 pm & 3pm - 4:30 pm

Repeating Events

- Sundays at 10:30 am Worship service (in Sanctuary, on Facebook and LGUMC website)
- 2nd Mondays at 6:30 pm *Whosoever* Bible Study (off campus)
- Wednesdays at 6:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom with Bishop Carter (last day is November 25th)
- Thursdays at 1:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom with Pastor Polk, 1st Corinthians. New members welcome; Call office for meeting ID

Prayer Ministry

"Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth! "Enter His gates with Thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation". Psalm 100:1, 4 & 5 (NLT 1996)

Dear God, as we come to Thanksgiving, we give thanks to you for your faithfulness to our church and all our Prayer Warriors for their continued service to LGUMC. We ask of your blessings of strength in our faith and prayers so we may intercede for one another in prayer and look to you for hope, comfort and peace. May we open our hearts and acknowledge your presence in our life and may we be honored by your calling. Amen

We have been blessed to add new prayer warriors throughout the year. If you wish to be part of our Email Prayer Warrior Team by receiving prayer needs via email during the week, please call the church office Monday -Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Also, please contact the church office with any prayer requests. Prayer requests are prayed over by Pastor Steve during Sunday Service and passed on to the Prayer Warrior Team for continued prayers.

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

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

Praising God for His many blessings,

Fran

Training for Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) Members

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, December 10th at 6:30 pm** if you are a member of this important committee.

Training will be via Zoom videoconference. Details on how to register for this class will be provided later.

Virtual Christmas Angel Tree

You may only see it in your imagination. The **Florida United Methodist Children's Home** is again working to provide gift cards to the children with some going for dining out by the entire cottage family. We learned years ago that the frilly pink dress Phyllis and I thought was so cute wasn't appreciated that much. Wrong color, wrong size, wrong shape . . . how many more ways can I express how inappropriate it might have been?

Well, the solution was to attempt to provide \$150 in **gift cards** for each child's use. The house parent might actually control the funds and work with the child to ensure that they got what they actually desired.

Cards either from such companies as Walmart, Target, etc., or VISA/Mastercard may be delivered to the church office. Of course, a check would work, too, and LGUMC can purchase cards for delivery to FUMCH. We're thinking that they will need to be delivered to FUMCH just before Thanksgiving. You may annotate any gift as "FUMCH Angel Tree" with your name. Like all gifts to the church, they can be recorded as your designated gifts by the church.

We hope that you will find it in your heart to help those less fortunate than ourselves at this time of year.

Phyllis and Dwight Kitchens
FUMCH Representatives



Sidewalk Sale

OUR SHEDS ARE FULL. OUR COFFERS ARE EMPTY.

The United Methodist women have decided to try a positive approach to fixing this dilemma by hosting a "Sidewalk Sale".

Friday, Nov 13th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 14th from 8 a.m. to noon

The sale will be held in front of the FLC and under the canopy of the walkway. This is contingent on the weather and the area status of COVID-19. Masks, social distancing, hand sanitizer and gloves will be encouraged for all.

Volunteers are needed, but please do not feel obligated to assist if you have any **fears** or health concerns.

This effort will be considerably smaller than our annual rummage sales and therefore, will not require as much help as we needed in the past. We will NOT require two days to setup up, sort and price.

If you are available for either of these days and would feel comfortable helping out, please, contact Christie at the church office (863-858-5431) or contact Lynn Meske (863-858-3589). We are in the process of working up the details for this event, so your prompt response will be greatly appreciated.

United Methodist Men (UMM)

On the 10th of October the UMM held its first meeting since March 2020. We opened the meeting with prayer and had a light continental breakfast with coffee and juice. We wish to thank Debbie Moore for making the coffee and setting up for our breakfast.

We discussed many topics of concern about how we can help others during this period of semi-isolation due to the COVID-19 virus. We talked about various projects we could do, such as repairing the broken concrete slab by the FLC transformer box. We voted to donate \$100 to the Boy

Scouts to help with funding the repair of the foot-
Bridge into the Spadafora Garden in front of the sanctuary.

Thanks to all who patiently waited and assisted on the repairs to A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center's handwashing station. It was a tedious task, but we were able to overcome. It now has a new faucet, pump motor and hose.

*The next meeting will be on the **21st of November** (third, not second Saturday) at 9 a.m. It will be a full breakfast meeting. We'd like to have more LGUMC men attend this meeting (observing coronavirus procedures) and see what this organization does.*

One day, I pray that by the power and grace of God, this virus will be gone and we can continue with our normal Church activities. It has caused many heartaches within our congregation and friends. My prayers go out to all who have had any sort of tribulation with the virus.

*In closing, as always, please contact any member with your concerns or needs, and maybe we can help in some small way.
Michael Moake - 386-965-0170 or 863-816-3194.*

Florida Conference

United Methodist Women

47th Meeting (Zoom Videoconference)

Saturday, November 14th, 10 a.m. until Noon

If you are a UMW member, or want to learn more about what the Florida Conference and National UMW are doing now and planning for the future, please join this Zoom videoconference.

The special speaker will be Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary/CEO of United Methodist Women. Tickets are \$10.00, payable when you register.

<https://tinyurl.com/FCUMW-Annual-Meeting>

Note that the online registration form is actually two pages long and the first time you see "place order" it will not work. Scroll down and keep entering information. The **Place Order** block will turn red when it is ready to be selected.

Wreaths Across America



With your help, the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL, on **December 19th, 2020**, will once again be decked out with Christmas wreaths honoring those who maintained our freedom while serving in our armed forces.

Leading into the Christmas celebration, Wreaths Across America, Bushnell, Inc. is once again placing wreaths on each cemetery grave. If you would like to help, donate through Lake Gibson United Methodist Church to this worthy endeavor. Individual wreaths cost \$15. With lead-time for acquisition and delivery, donations should be made **by the end of November**.

LGUMC Podcast now available.

Want to multitask? Want to hear our messages as a podcast (audio only .mp3 file). Wait no longer! We now have our weekly worship services and mid-week "Left Overs" available for download to your portable device. Subscribe now on Google Podcast either at <https://podcasts.google.com> and search for Lake Gibson United Methodist Church or at :

<https://tinyurl.com/LGUMC-podcasts>

United Methodist Men

Due to the "UMW Sidewalk Sale" on the 13th-14th of November 2020, the United Methodist Men are moving their monthly meeting to Saturday, 21 November 2020. at 9 a.m. within classrooms 1 & 2 in the Family Life Center.

Detecting Disinformation

Is there "Fake News"? How do you recognize it? The Florida Conference is offering a four week series to help you distinguish truth from fiction.

While two sessions will have been recorded by the time you read this newsletter, two more sessions occur during November.

Sessions are held on Thursdays from 3pm until 4:15 pm.

Register for the Zoom call by typing the below link in your browser.

<https://tinyurl.com/detecting-disinformation>

Sessions should also be available on the FLUMC Facebook page.

New Book Study- The Color of Compromise

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 1,

The Justice League will begin a 6-week study on the book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby. This book provides an in-depth diagnosis for a racially divided American church and suggests ways to foster a more equitable and inclusive environment among God's people. Buy your book online or contact Betsy elizgriz@ix.netcom.com to buy it from the church bookstore. (Sunday evenings at 6 pm on Zoom)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/compromise-study>

Meeting ID: 966 0855 8039

Child / Youth Protection Policy Training goes VIRTUAL

Join

Rev. Ryan Frack

Director of Church Relations

Florida United Methodist Children's Home

Sunday, November 8 at 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Rev. Ryan Frack has agreed to lead a remote training for the Gulf Central District while everyone is safe at home! The training will be via Zoom on Sunday, November 8 at 2:30pm. Everyone in your church who needs to be trained is welcome to join us. Due to the nature of this subject, **everyone who participates will need to have a camera on their device and actively participate.** I will send a list to the senior pastor of everyone who participated.

Please be prepared for the meeting by having read the LGUMC Child and Youth Protection Policy found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/LGUMC-CYPP>

Register below for the Zoom meeting - after you register you will be sent the link to the meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/CYPP-training>

Food Pantry Needs

We thank everyone who brings food into the church office for the food pantry.

We could always use the following:

Canned carrots
Vegetable soup
Vienna sausages
Spaghetti sauce (best buy is at Aldi for 85 cents, packaged in plastic jars).

We can always use peanut butter (Dollar Tree or Aldi) and jelly (Dollar Tree).

Thanks for all your help,

Ann Johnson

Watch for SPAM emails

Spam emails are sometimes hard to identify and can appear to originate from someone you know. In order to prevent accidentally downloading a computer virus or compromising your personal data, please don't open emails from unknown senders.

Spam emails may **appear** to be from a familiar contact, but the email address is not legitimate. Check the email address, rather than just looking at the sender's name. Sender names can be easily changed or faked. Individual emails from the Florida Conference staff will always use the **flumc.org** domain. **(Newsletters and email blasts will originate from the brtapp.com domain.)** If you notice an unfamiliar, non-FLUMC email address, then the email could be spam. Additionally, spam emails sometimes include images to make them look more convincing. Again, double check the email address!

Abolishment of LGUMC's Endowment Fund

During the October 18, 2020 church meeting, it was unanimously approved that we seek to abolish our Endowment Fund with the Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. (FLUMF). This was the last step LGUMC needed to take in meeting the requirements to abolish the fund. In May both the Endowment Committee and the Church Council approved seeking this move.

We have submitted paperwork with the FLUMF to move our \$111,643.06 into a designated account we currently hold with them. There is no change in the rate of interest earned between the designated account and the previous endowment. The primary change is that we will no longer be restricted to only being able to remove ninety percent of earned interest, while leaving the principal plus some accrued interest behind.

We envision maintaining the four current categories of funds (undesignated, scholarship/training, youth/children, and senior). This change, once fully implemented, will give LGUMC the flexibility to use both the original principal and the earned interest for projects within the categories.

Contact Information

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

Kristie Otte, 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, Custodian

Glenda Grant Hess, Music Director

Latisha Cook, Director of A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center, 863-858-8400.

Kristie Otte, Lexie Otte, Dave McPherson and Justin Oliva, Audio/Visual Team

Editorial Policy

The articles contained in *The Good News* express the opinions of their authors, and do not necessarily reflect policies of the United Methodist Church or of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

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
phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com
863-984-4564 or 410-790-2662

UMW Just Energy for All 101 (Zoom)

Nov 5th, Nov 19th & Dec 3rd
7 pm - 8:30 pm
Free Registration

<https://tinyurl.com/LGUMC-JustEnergy>

Donations for the Upper Room

The United Methodist Women of Lake Gibson hope you have been getting your Upper Room and enjoying using these daily devotionals. They are available in the church office Monday thru Thursday and in the Narthex on Sundays.

By buying in bulk, we save you with each copy at least \$1.60. We pay \$1.15 each for the small copies and \$1.45 for the large print copies. In 2021, we will have more large print copies available.

We welcome donations to help us continue to provide these devotionals. If you could donate more than the cost, say round up to \$2.00 if you can, it would be appreciated. Remember we are limited in raising money this year. Leave your donation with Kristie in the office or place in the white box on the wall in the Narthex.

Sarah Schiemann, UMW Treasurer

Operation Green Light

One Day Only in 2020

During Operation Green Light, Polk County customers with suspended driver licenses have an opportunity to pay overdue court fines, including traffic tickets, while **saving up to 40 percent in additional fees to get their license back.**

Saturday, Nov 7 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

930 E Parker Street, Rm 240, Lakeland, FL

UMW Pecan Sale

Our pecans should be arriving at the end of October or in early November. If you did not pre-order, we will have some available for you to buy. These sales generate funds that the United Methodist Women donate to national and international missions.

Plain pecan halves and pieces (16 oz. bag) -
\$14.00 per bag

Cinnamon glazed pecans (10 oz. bag) -
\$10.00 per bag

Chocolate covered pecans (12 oz. bag) -
\$10.00 per bag

Please make your checks out to **LG United Methodist Women** with a note **for pecans**.

Mission Moments

It's Almost Sox Box Time Again!

After the middle of November the Sox Box will return. There will be one in the narthex and one in the office. Please bring in new children's sox, white men's sox, and all kinds of ladies' sox. The children's sox will be hung on the bushes -- it is such fun to see them pick out a favorite pair! The ladies' and men's sox will be passed out on Thursdays during Food Pantry along with the food, and also taken to Hope House.

If you know of anyone else who is in need, let me know. Your support in the past has been great, and I hope it will continue this year, strange as it has been. In fact, receiving new sox for Christmas will be one feeling of normalcy to those in need.

Thank you!
Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator

"Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, . . ." | Timothy 6:17-18 (NASB)

Lay Leader's Letter

[John thought it would be appropriate to repeat this article which was in the October issue.]

ARE YOU READY!! It's almost here "election day". Have you prayed to Father God asking for HIS WISDOM to guide in making the best choice for our nation? Each of us has the privilege and duty as citizens to thoughtfully VOTE.

Father God's Word, our Bible, will guide and lead us to choose wisely and responsibly. I enjoy reading the Psalms and have found these to be particularly enlightening for the times in which we live, Ps 14, 15, and 16. You may have your own favorites as well. I also read recently the first epistle of John, chapters 1-4.

Whichever Scripture is your favorite, **READ IT, MEDITATE ON IT, MEMORIZE IT, TALK ABOUT IT AND LIVE IT!**

And after we get through the election, let us prepare our hearts to give thanks and enjoy our traditional great Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends.

SHALOM!
John Bernat, Lay Leader

Zooming the Peace

We have people who are out of town, people who are concerned about returning too soon, and people who will worship through live-stream perhaps forever. We understand.

But, as a community of believers, we want to bring you into our church family gathering. Please join us each **Sunday at 11:30 am** to about 12:30 pm.

Think of this as the time between early and late services, before Sunday School, when we catch up with our friends over coffee and treats.

Join our Zoom Meeting by clicking the below hyperlink:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83857033998>
Meeting ID: 838 5703 3998

We hope to see you soon.

Commentary: Embracing whole truth about Methodism and race

By the Rev. Ian Straker

In his recent UM News commentary, titled [“Slavery and the Founders of Methodism,”](#) the Rev. William B. Lawrence shares important truths about the history of Methodism and slavery, and, by implication, Methodism and race.

He rightly points out that some early American Methodists joined Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, in consistently denouncing slavery. He also reminds us through the recent legislative initiatives of our Methodist brother, U.S. Sen. Thomas Cotton of Arkansas, that how we remember and how we teach our shared history of slavery and racism are essential in how we shape our future.

When we discuss these issues in the context of our church, it is critical that we not simply invoke the truth — we must invoke the *whole* truth.

Just about from the start, the American Methodist record on slavery has been a contested one. Some early circuit riders embraced anti-slavery and actively promoted the rules barring slave owners from membership, oftentimes suffering for their prophetic witness. But at the same time, many other Methodists were less than diligent in providing an unwavering advocacy on behalf of freedom for the enslaved.

Bishop Francis Asbury was never a friend of slavery. From time to time in his journal, he expressed his abhorrence at the practice and his despair that some Methodists seemed permanently wedded to this nation’s peculiar institution. But not being a friend of slavery did not prevent him from being a close friend of slave owners. He was a frequent guest, fellow vacationer and beneficiary of Harry Gough, who was converted under Asbury’s preaching and was one of the largest slave owners in Maryland. Similarly, while Asbury hid out for an extended time at the home of Judge White during the Revolutionary War, White’s slaves waited on him, in addition to providing income for the White family. Contemporaries of Asbury, such as the Quaker John Woolman, maintained a much more consistent anti-slavery posture.

Within six months of the founding Christmas Conference in 1784, the Baltimore Conference (over which Asbury presided after fellow Bishop Thomas Coke returned to England) suspended the rule on slavery. A strict adherence to the rule banning slave owners from membership hindered the expansion of the church in the South and prevented Methodist preachers from having access to slaves. In order to properly nurture the seeds planted at its founding, Asbury and others deemed it prudent to be selective about what would be said and where. By 1804, even separate northern and southern editions of the Book of Discipline were being prepared.

The strategic retreat from a staunch anti-slavery stance yielded benefits for the growing church. By relaxing the rule on slavery and eventually allowing different regions of the church to chart their own courses on interpreting and enforcing the rule, Asbury was able to proclaim, “Our tabernacle is crowded again: the minds of the people are strangely changed; and the indignation excited against us is overpast: the people see and confess that the slaves are made better by religion; and wonder to hear the poor Africans pray and exhort.” Pragmatism and church growth won out over spiritual purity.

It was not the last time such a choice was made.

Early Methodist compromises made over slavery do not diminish the fact that Methodist anti-slavery preaching did indeed lead to the emancipation of hundreds of slaves in the late colonial and early national periods. But in places where slavery was entrenched and resistance to abolition was strong, the idea that slavery, racism and Methodism could peacefully coexist took deep roots that continue to bear fruit into the 21st century.

And we must not overlook the truth that being anti-slavery was not at all synonymous with being pro-equality. Lawrence mentions the establishment of independent African-American Methodist denominations. Today's Union American Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion and Christian Methodist Episcopal churches would not have come about had African-American Methodists been consistently treated with respect and dignity by their white siblings.

Yes, there is much in the early history of American Methodism to celebrate concerning race relations and slavery. Some courageous circuit riders and society members endured beatings and even death for adhering to the standards set by John Wesley. And later Methodists, such as Bishop Gilbert Haven and courageous Methodist women like Georgia Harkness and Thelma Stevens, worked in their times to perfect a more just, racially inclusive church and society.

Unfortunately, despite their passion and commitment, their vision was never shared by the majority of their Methodist peers. In the reunification of the church in 1939, pragmatism won out once more with the formation of the shameful Central Jurisdiction.

A full accounting of the Methodist track record on race reveals that in every era of the church's life, race has been a source of contention and strife. Senator Cotton's misleading argument that the nation's founders understood slavery to be a "necessary evil" would not have swayed Wesley, but it does highlight the importance of accurately and fully knowing, embracing and sharing our history — warts and all. We are living that contested history now, many of us armed with the hope that this time we will get it right: Justice will achieve a lasting victory, racism and its cohort "isms" will be defeated, and united Methodists will lead the world into a vision of Christian peace and love.

If we are to reach that promised land, we must journey together with our eyes open to the whole truth.

*Straker is an elder in the New York Annual Conference, a religious historian and editorial board member of the journal *Methodist History*, and a trustee of the African American Methodist Heritage Center in Madison, N.J. This commentary was prepared with input from the center's executive board. The center focuses on procuring, preserving and promoting the history of Methodism among persons of African descent. For more information, visit the center's [website](http://aamhc-umc.org/) (<http://aamhc-umc.org/>) or its [Facebook page](#).*

Emergency Bicycle Call

On Tuesday, 6 October, we received an "emergency call" from the volunteer coordinator at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. It seems that they had run out of bicycles for their emergency placement cottage. We were asked if we might have any replacements. Fortunately, eight bicycles had just gone through refurbishment. Thank goodness the church has a trailer. On Thursday, 8 October, we made the trip up to deliver refurbished bikes and to pick up damaged ones.

Since FUMCH is still under lockdown, they would only permit me to come up and make a drop-off and pick-up. It seems that they had six BMX/Freestyle bikes which were damaged. Thankfully, one was quickly fixed and left behind. The remaining five made the trip back down to Lakeland for repairs.

You might not have asked, but the eight bicycles left at FUMCH were sized primarily for older teens, while those brought home were for elementary and middle school aged children. So . . . not sure we actually made much progress bringing replacements for that cottage.

I replaced eight tubes, installed four chains, and made lots of adjustments to brakes and other parts . . . resulting in one mechanic with a sore back. The fifth bike needed additional repairs as the derailleur was torn off. This required a new derailleur, new cabling, replacement chain, etc. All five were delivered to FUMCH on Tuesday, 13 October. Best turn-around time ever.

If you know of families who have outgrown their bicycles, we're always interested in accepting them for refurbishment. Kids are hard on bicycles, especially since they don't actually belong to them. Kids don't often think of the consequences of "jumping" their bikes across curbs, dropping them on the ground rather than putting them in a rack, etc. So, lots of constant repairing. Your support of the designated FUMCH Bike Repair Fund #2395 at LGUMC is greatly appreciated.

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



Christmas Gifts for Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Children

This list of requested items was in the October issue of *The Good News* on page 11. If you're not familiar with GAL or why we're asking for Christmas gifts, you can read another article on page 6 of that issue. Cindy Webb and Bev Henrich have spearheaded this drive for several years. Lake Gibson UMC has donated generously to GAL, both as individuals and from the United Methodist Women.

If you would like to donate to make this Christmas memorable, the list below shows needed (but not limited to) items. Please provide these gifts to Cindy **not later than November 10th**. Feel free to call Cindy if you have any questions.

Monetary

Visa gift cards for shoes (AAA usually has them for no fee around this time of year)
Walmart gift cards
McDonald's gift cards
Cash

Men's and women's:

Razors
Bar soap
Deodorant
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste, full size
Shave cream, full size
Dental picks and/or floss
Bath puffs

Men:

Axe gift sets
No-show socks any color
Suave 2 in 1 shampoo and conditioner

Women:

Mascara
No-show socks any color
Bright nail polish
Nail polish remover pads
Tampons
Panty liners

We really appreciate anything you can do.
Thank you, Cindy Webb, 863-221-5253

Introducing LGUMC's 2021 Leadership Team

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Church Council Chair	Dick McPherson
Church Treasurer	Yvonne Bower
Financial Secretary	Cindy Heishman
Lay Member	Michael Stafford
Lay Leader	John Bernat
Recording Secretary	Kristie Otte
Membership Secretary	Kristie Otte
Campus Ministry Rep	Youth Director
United Methodist Men (UMM) President	Michael Moake
United Methodist Women (UMW) President	Phyllis Kitchens
Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Committee	Sandy Stansfield
Finance Committee	Dwight Kitchens
Board of Trustees	Tom Burns
Nominations and Leadership Development	Steve Polk
Interpreter of Connectional Giving	Dwight Kitchens
Florida United Methodist Children's Home Reps	Dwight & Phyllis Kitchens
Beyond 50 Ministry	Carol Hanna
Historian Ministry	Phyllis Kitchens

Hope House Highlights

Wednesday, September 30th - Geri Mayo, Laura Webb and Lori Riddle

As we are still under COVID-19 restrictions, tables and chairs were set outside for our guests' comfort and to promote social distancing. It was a very pleasant day. However, as the morning was a bit cool, Laura and Lori were busy providing our guests with long-sleeve shirts, pants, and light jackets. Twenty guests signed in, with nine using the showers and for the laundry facilities. After hours, eight people were given to-go bags of food.

We received a visit from Pastor Ryan and Mandy, the leader of Family Ministries, from Lake Gibson Church of the Nazarene. Several people in their congregation feel called to minister to the homeless. **Laura and Geri advised there is a great need for volunteers for Thursdays.** The Lord willing, they would have a group of volunteers to open Hope House on Thursdays! Also, they would love to have a homeless church service once a month.

Several clothes and food donations were brought in last Friday, yesterday and today. We are so very grateful for everyone's generosity! Today Marie and Bill donated a great deal of food. They also brought cleaning supplies and hygiene items. Ms. Jean brought loaded mashed potatoes. Geri will serve them on Thursday (food service).

Tuesday, October 6th - Debbie and Rick McLellan

It was a record-breaking hot day with our guests spread out in the front yard, but we did also use the patio area, in case of rain. The ice machine was down, so we brought ice. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Acts chapter 27, ROCKY VOYAGE ON A SHIP.

Today Debbie and Rick served homemade chicken pot pie. Our brown to-go bag of sides included an egg salad sandwich, an applesauce cup, a pack of Nekot peanut butter crackers and a bag of Famous Amos cookies. To quench thirst was ice cold bottled water with optional flavoring packet. Each guest also received 2 pop-top cans (choice of spaghetti, ravioli or Beefaroni) which they took to their tents for their supper meal. We served 24 guests and the Hope House Kitty by the end of the day.

In the midst of hot, stressful, and difficult times, we believe that today was a bright and encouraging day for our guests. We appreciate your prayers for all of our volunteers and guests here.

Tuesday, October 13th - Debbie and Rick McLellan

The ice machine is down, but Brent brought a GIANT ice cooler, which should last the rest of the week. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Luke chapter 22 and Matthew chapter 26, WE'RE JUST LIKE PETER.

Today Debbie and Rick served homemade chicken pot pie. Our brown to-go bag of sides included a tuna salad sandwich, a Rice Krispies Treat, a bag of mixed nuts, and a cup of mixed fruit. To quench thirst was ice cold bottled water with optional flavoring packet.

Debbie was busy and gave out masks, toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, socks, lantern and radio batteries, camping toilet paper, flashlights and Band-Aids. Everyone at the devotional message in the front yard got a new watch, thank you Tammy and Kevin for donating those and so many other things. We also gave out a number of clothing items.

We received a donation of Walmart-type bags which our guests use (placed in the bag cabinet) and 18 cans of coffee (we put on the shelf with other coffee) from Harry Card, a military Veteran who has also served as a volunteer at Hope Center. Harry said he will bring laundry detergent next month. Thank you, Harry, for all you have done.

Continued . . .

Hope House Highlights, Continued

Wednesday, October 14th - Lori Riddle and Geri Mayo

Twenty guests signed in, with eight using the shower and three using the laundry facilities. Breakfast consisted of cereal and mini muffins (donated by Christ the King Episcopal Church). Delicious open-faced bacon, egg and cheese bagels made by Lori were greatly enjoyed by our folks. Coffee and bottled water were the breakfast choices.

Our Hope House cat, Mama Kitty and her baby enjoyed their alfresco breakfast. Geri suggested the kitten's name should be Neko San (pronounced knee ko saun, Japanese for honorable cat.) One of our guest suggested the name Hope. Name suggestions are greatly encouraged.

Lori was kept busy providing our guests with deodorant, underwear, socks, and bug repellent. **Hope House is low on men's clothes, especially men's shorts, sizes 30 to 34.**

Geri provided the devotion, "From Condemned to Redeemed". The guests appeared to be very responsive.

Jim from Christ the King Episcopal Church dropped off some pantry items as well as the mini muffins used at breakfast. Thanks also for a prior donation of hygiene bags.

Prayers are requested for the (out of state) family of one of our guests, Gena. Her son, his fiancée, her sister, brother-in-law, and her sister's father-in-law, have contracted COVID-19. Gena stated the father-in-law is in ICU at an Ohio hospital.

Tuesday, October 20th - Debbie and Rick McLellan

Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Psalm 105, LOOKING FOR GOD. We actually got this from usher Tom Burns, at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, who handed a copy of it to us as we left church service on Sunday. It inspired us personally, and seemed to touch our guests today.

Today was **surprisingly busy with 30 sign-ins**. Debbie and Rick served homemade Chicken Orzo Soup with carrots, celery and onions, and a chicken salad sandwich. Our brown to-go bag of sides included 2 boiled eggs, a bag of dried fruit and mixed nuts, a bag of Famous Amos cookies, and a fresh apple. To drink was ice cold bottled water with an optional flavor packet. Each guest also received a pop-top can (choice of spaghetti and meatballs, Spaghetti-Os, or ravioli), which they took to their tents for their supper meal. We also fed the Hope House Kitty.

We brought clean towels and washcloths with us for showers, and had 16 guests request showers. We had 7 guests who used the laundry.

Wednesday, October 21st - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle and Geri Mayo

We heated and set out a vegetable soup made by Ms. Jean. It was wonderful on such a damp day. Our Hope House Kitty and Kitten enjoyed their alfresco breakfast. The ice maker is down. However, Brent brought a large cooler full of ice.

It was a great day with 19 guests signing in. Ten guests used the shower and five used the laundry. Lori was quite busy providing our guests with clothes, shoes and hygiene products.

Lori brought in delicious shepherd's pie for lunch. Two of our guests, Red and Bill, celebrated birthdays this week. Lori made cheesecake with cherry topping and German chocolate cake to celebrate. A to-go lunch was provided to every guest. It included a chocolate pudding, peanut butter crackers, a bag of chips, and a choice of a PB&J or ham and cheese sandwich.

Laura gave the devotional, "Joy over Stress" (John 1:1-11). She asked our guests if anyone had not given their life to God. One of our guests was very responsive and prayed for God to enter his life. Continued . . .

Hope House Highlights, Continued

Wednesday, October 21st - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle and Geri Mayo, Continued

She also provided a Bible per the request of another of our guests. **It is recommended that any Bible or book given out be placed in a gallon-size storage bag to protect it from the elements.**

Volunteer note: a guest has asked for a **large-print Bible**.

Many thanks to all the folks who donated to HH:

Ms. Jean for all the food that she provided.

Bill and Marie for the snack crackers, large packs of regular crackers, and the cleaning supplies which they brought on Friday.

Lake Gibson Church of the Nazarene who brought several gallons of milk, large blocks of cheese, and fresh produce.

Fawn who brought clothes, sleeping bags and a twin-size air mattress.

Patricia who brought milk and taquitos. The taquitos will be served tomorrow along with a Latino lunch.

And lastly, to the Northside Lions. They made a cash (check) donation to Kathleen Baptist Church for Hope House. Also, they advised they have an upright freezer to donate and arrangements are being made to have it delivered.

Hope House is so blessed by the generosity of so many folks!

Tuesday, October 22nd - Geri Mayo

Today was a **food service day**, which means no showers or clothing were offered. Limited laundry service was available. Sixteen people signed in for food and three plates were sent for those who could not come. [Photo by Geri Mayo]



Breakfast choices were cereal, bananas, strawberry breakfast bars and a delicious Amish breakfast bread made by Ms. Jean. Coffee, milk and bottled water were offered for beverages. The Hope House Kitty and kitten enjoyed their alfresco breakfast.

Yesterday, boxes of taquitos were donated. Today, Hope House had a Mexican lunch. Along with the taquitos, our guests enjoyed chicken and yellow rice, white rice, red chili beans, black beans, and tortillas. Ms. Jean also had sent stuffed potatoes and a delicious banana pudding.

It was a pleasant day and the rain held off until after the guests left. Several of our guests assisted Geri in cleaning up and bringing in the chairs and table.

“Towards Educational Equity: Investing in the Beloved Community”

Church and Society will host its fifth annual Called Seminar, “Towards Educational Equity: Investing in the Beloved Community” from **November 30- December 3, 2020**.

Going [back to school in the COVID-19 pandemic](https://tinyurl.com/BackToSchoolPledge) (<https://tinyurl.com/BackToSchoolPledge>)

has created challenges for students, teachers, and parents. These challenges have been compounded by the disproportionate availability and access to resources, highlighting the inequities of our education system. Unfortunately, these inequities are not unique to COVID-19, and like other societal inequities magnified by COVID-19, existed prior to the pandemic.

This four-day series of seminars will feature discussions with experts on what an equitable education system for all can truly look like. The seminar will equip participants with tools and resources to continue the work of advocacy towards educational equity.

All sessions will be held on Zoom. **Registration is free and open to all.**

[Register for each session here](https://tinyurl.com/TowardsEducationalEquity). (<https://tinyurl.com/TowardsEducationalEquity>) **Advance registration is required for all events.**

Closed captions and ASL interpretation will be available for Nov 30 and Dec 1 webinars. For December 2 and 3 events, it will be available upon request.

Participants will also have an option to hold virtual meetings with their Congressional offices on December 3. To participate in this and the team building session on December 2, **please [register](#)**

(<https://tinyurl.com/CalledSeminalRegistration>) **by November 11.**

Webinars on November 30 & December 1 will be recorded. [Register](#) by the date of the webinar to receive the links and additional resources.



Birthdays in November

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



Anniversaries in November

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