



# THE GOOD NEWS

## Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

*What is Church?*

*Pews or Chairs?  
Hymns or Praise Songs?  
Or Something else?*

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

*From the Pastor*

We have been dealing with this pandemic of COVID-19 for ONE year this month. For one year we have either suspended in-person worship or been limited by social distancing and other requirements. Yet even in the midst of this pandemic, or any other catastrophe, the church has the mission to make Disciples for Jesus Christ and thus transform the world. The mission is not put on hold because of the pandemic or anything else. The mission is what is important – not what I may like or want. The mission is found in the last words Jesus gave to his Disciples in Matthew 28:19-20:

***19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*** (NRSV)

On one wall in my office I have 9 handmade cards from children given to me on Pastor Appreciation Sunday a couple of years ago. I have not had any real interaction with those children since COVID struck. They are not here for various reasons and I miss seeing them around. Even before COVID we lamented the lack of young families and younger adults within our congregation.

I have had honest conversations with people in these age groups and asked them would they consider coming to our church, and after hemming and hawing around, they say probably not. I ask why? They are uncomfortable in the church setting. Why, I ask? Here are some of the answers:

**I feel judged when I walk in the door.**

**People don't accept me for me – they want me to be like them.**

**I am not comfortable with the setting, the pews, the dress, the music, the strict atmosphere, the time of worship or the style of it.**

**I don't agree with your politics (which should not be part of the church) and on and on.**

I look at my own family with all of the cousins we have. Most do not go to church, even though our grandparents actually donated land for the church and served on committees and as Sunday School teachers. Their children, (my parents' generation) were about half-and-half dedicated to the church. My generation was less involved, my children's generation even less, and my grandkids not much at all.

I have had conversations with nephews, nieces, grandkids and others of their generations and gotten the answers you read above. Yet my mission as a follower of Jesus is still to reach them, to find a way to communicate the love of Jesus to them. How can I do that if they don't like to set foot in my house (the church)?

Would I be willing to change the décor, the music, the looks of the venue to reach my kids and grandkids with Christ's love? Yes, I would; for them to be in love with Jesus and involved with a church would be great. Maybe we need to be asking ourselves this question: **"What would I be willing to give up to reach my grandchildren for Christ?"** If we would implement those changes would we make a difference in our world? Food for thought.

*Pastor Steve*

**Date****March Events (as of 2/24/2021)**

1 - 31

**Women's History Month**

- 1 **Webinar, Bishop Ken Carter, Surviving the Wilderness of a Lenten Pandemic: 11 Lessons for Spiritual Leaders, noon.** Email sredden@flumc.org to register.
- 1 **Board of Trustees meeting, 2:00 pm, Sanctuary**
- 2 **Weekly Tuesday, 10:30 am, Bible study** led by Glenda Hess, 400 Vineyard Drive.  
Book: *The Logic of God* by Ravi Zacharias
- 3 **Merry Matters, Weekly, Wednesdays, 10:00 - noon, Family Life Center (FLC).** Preparing plarn (plastic yarn) to make ground mats for the homeless from plastic grocery bags.
- 3 **Wonder Walk Silent Auction Opens** (closes at noon, March 6th) (see article)
- 4 **Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Steve, 1:00 pm, repeating weekly on Thursdays**
- 4 **Zoom Webinar, 1:00 pm, StillInMission.** Missionaries from Brazil, Zimbabwe, East Angola and Mexico.
- 5 - 14 **One Earth Film Festival** (see article)
- 6 **Wonder Walk** virtual fundraiser for scholarships to Rosa Valdez Center (see article)
- 7 Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary. **Communion and Harvest Sunday** (bring food donations to church for our food pantry or drop off in office Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm)
- 8 **UMW Leadership Team meeting, 11:00 am, FLC**
- 8 **Just Energy for All 101** (2nd of 3 Zoom classes), 3:00 pm (see article)
- 8 **Whosoever, Monthly Bible study (The Chosen), Monday, 6:00 pm,** led by Debbie Moore, 400 Vineyard Dr.
- 9 **Voices from the Field, 6:00 pm,** quarterly webinar about UMW National Mission Institutions (article)
- 11 **A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center Board meeting, 2:00 pm, FLC**
- 11 **Faith Talks UMW Podcast** (Zoom), *Creating a Sustainable Lifestyle*; held monthly on 2nd Thursdays, 2:00 pm, various topics
- 13 **United Methodist Men Breakfast meeting, 9:00 am, FLC**
- 13 **FitChurch Challenge, 9:00 am at Family YMCA,** Cleveland Heights (see article)
- 14 **Daylight Savings Time starts**
- 14 **UMCOR Sunday** (Special Sunday with Offering)
- 17 **Training for UMW Climate Justice Legislative Day, 3:00 pm, Zoom** (see article)
- 18 **ALBOH Spring Pictures, 7:30 am**
- 22 **Just Energy for All 101 class** (3rd of 3 classes) on Zoom, 3:00 pm (see article)
- 23 **Eat, Pray, Grow monthly Zoom meeting** of EarthKeepers and those interested in Creation Care, noon to 1:00 pm, 4th Thursdays
- 23 **Last day to order Easter lilies, \$10.00** (see article)
- 27 **Virtual Day on Campus,** Florida United Methodist Children's Home
- 28 **Palm Sunday**
- 31 **Children's Facemasks due** to office for Cornerstone Family Ministry

## United Methodist Women (UMW) Sidewalk Sale, February 26 - 27

Due to publication deadlines, we will report on the results of the sale in the April edition and announce the results during the worship service on February 28th.

### UMW Leadership Team 2021 - 2022

At the Unit meeting on February 15th one new officer was inducted. We're glad that five other officers agreed to continue to serve.

The team consists of the following:

President	Phyllis Kitchens
Vice President	<b>Open</b>
Treasurer	Sarah Schiemann
Secretary	Linda Alvarez
Heart to Heart Circle Leader	Ruth Zona
Ruth Circle of Love Leader	Pat Moon
Chair, Rummage Sales	Lynn Meske
Chair, Pecan Sales	Pat Moon

Outgoing President, Carol Davis, was thanked for her service and wise leadership over the years. She was presented with an angel statuette, since she is the UMW's angel.

As a note, the UMW Leadership Team meetings are open to everyone to attend. We are meeting in-person once a month in the FLC with distancing and masks required. Our next meeting will be on **March 8th at 11:00 am**, to discuss the Sidewalk Sale and future programs.

**If you are interested in serving as Vice President**, please call Phyllis at 863-984-4564.

## United Methodist Men (UMM) Meeting, Saturday, March 13th, 9:00 am in the FLC

All men who attend LGUMC are invited to come to our **March breakfast meeting** and learn about our plans to improve the appearance and safety of the church property.

If you have ideas for future undertakings for the UMM, please share them.

Put **Saturday, May 15th** on your calendar. The UMM will be hosting our first **Classic Car and Motorcycle Show**. Exhibitors will set up at 9:00 am, and the doors will open to the public at 10:00 am.

If you have motorhead friends, neighbors or relatives (or are one yourself), please let them know about the show. Posters will be put up around campus and in the April newsletter.

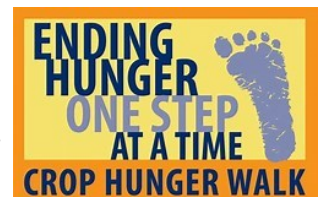
Thanks to all who help support the UMM.

Michael Moake is the UMM President and can be reached at 863-816-3194.

### CROP Hunger Walk February 28th

As of February 22nd we have collected \$245.00. You can still donate to support Church World Service and two local charities that are fighting hunger in our area until March 14th.

Please mark your donation for CROP Walk. If writing a check, make it payable to LGUMC with an annotation for CROP Walk.



You can also donate online using the church's website or by phone, or by text to 833-758-0308. A link to video instructions on how to donate by text is at

<https://lakegibsonumc.com/one-time-contributions>.

Phyllis Kitchens  
863-984-4564

## Financial Report

**Thanks** to all those who have been supporting Lake Gibson UMC financially throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. While many are attending church remotely, our ability to pay our bills and enhance our church's capabilities has continued.

Of course, taking advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program during 2020 certainly helped with an infusion of \$25,235. This salary offset helped us make a significant investment in audio and video equipment to put our service on streaming media. We've added computers capable of streaming our service, enhanced our sound mixer, as well as added new microphones, cameras, wiring, etc.

This year we are working on replacing most of our aged lighting with LED fixtures. We have been working on this for a several months now and have a few more locations to go. You should soon notice new speakers in the sanctuary to improve what you hear.

We've recently installed a point-tilt-zoom camera in classrooms 1 and 2 of the Family Life Center. Currently, we are broadcasting Sue Heishman's Sunday School class across Zoom to members who are staying at home. You can join in through free Zoom software installed on your device on Sundays from 9:15 – 10:15 am using Meeting ID: 834 9800 2155.

Our Property and Liability Insurance was paid in full during February. This permitted us to receive a 2% discount on the insurance portion of the bill. As mentioned last month, the Conference used investments to absorb a two million dollar increase in premiums, rather than prorating it among the churches within the conference.

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Committee Chair

## What Can We Do to Reduce Our Impact on Earth?

1. Consume less.
2. Invest in renewable energy through your electrical service provider
3. Minimize purchasing plastic packaging and plastic products. Plastic is made from fossil fuels.

## LGUMC Name Tags

Name badges are still available from the church (with either a pinned or magnetic backing) for only \$10 each.

You can see an example of a badge, and find a fillable order form, at: [Name Tags – Lake Gibson United Methodist Church \(lakegibsonumc.com\)](http://Name Tags – Lake Gibson United Methodist Church (lakegibsonumc.com)).

If you are like me, and have lost your own, why not order another copy? Or have a second one to put in your other car? That way, regardless of which one you drive to church, you always have your nametag available when you get there.

## Place Your Order for Easter Lilies By March 23rd

Purchase Easter lilies to help us celebrate our Lord's Resurrection. You can dedicate your lilies In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_, In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ and/or To the Glory of our Lord. The names of the donors and those being honored will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

The last day to order lilies is March 23rd. Lilies cost **\$10.00 each**, and we are ordering 30.

Checks should be made out to **Lake Gibson UMC with an annotation "Lily"**. Envelopes will be available in church or at the office with the following information on them"

Name of person giving lilies \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Or, \_\_\_ To the glory of Our Lord (check mark)

Total amount given \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Or cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can give online, too. See website for details (lakegibsonumc.com)



## Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, Gulf Central District Superintendent, Elected President-Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary



Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Gammon Theological Seminary and Resident Bishop of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church announces the **election of Dr. Candace M. Lewis as the President-Dean of Gammon**. Dr. Lewis will be Gammon's first female President-Dean and the first female denominational Dean in the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) consortium, ushering in a new chapter at Gammon and for the ITC community. **She will begin her tenure April 1, 2021.**

Dr. Lewis is an ordained elder in the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. From 1997- 2009, Dr. Lewis was appointed as the founding pastor and served the New Life Community UMC, Jacksonville, FL. She was then appointed as the Associate General Secretary in the New Church Starts Division and later as the Executive

Director of Path1 New Church Starts at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tenn. She comes to Gammon after serving as a District Superintendent for 4 years in the Florida Conference.

She is a graduate of the University of Florida and Gammon Theological Seminary – ITC where she received her Master of Divinity degree in May 1996. In June 2000, she graduated from the Harvard Divinity School's Summer Leadership Institute on Faith-Based Community Economic Development. She earned a Doctorate in Ministry in Church Leadership Excellence from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. May 2014.

### Gulf Central District Leadership

Dr. Lewis' **district responsibilities** will be divided between **Director of Missional Engagement, Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans**, and **Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries, Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin, through December 31, 2021.**

"Dr. Sharon Austin and Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans are respected leaders in the Florida Conference", Bishop Ken Carter commented. "Both have experience as superintendents, Clarke in the former Miami District and Sharon in the former South Central District. The church is in a moment of transition in many ways—living through COVID, impending decisions about denominational structure - and in consultation with a number of leaders, it seemed best to care for our near-term missional needs in this way. I am deeply grateful to Sharon and Clarke for their willingness to serve in this way alongside their duties in Missional Engagement and Connectional Ministries, respectively. I give thanks for their flexibility and I know their leadership will be a blessing to the churches of the Gulf Central District."

Dr. Lewis noted, "I will miss serving, innovating and growing with our amazing Gulf Central District staff, Maggie and Beth, and our pastors and laity. I am grateful for the blessings and full support of Bishop Carter, the Florida Conference Cabinet, and staff as I answer this call of servant leadership in theological education. Informed by my season of ministry here, inspired by the changing landscape of ministry, and walking faithfully with God, I believe Gammon Seminary, its students, staff and trustees will be led into a prosperous future."

[Sources: Press release from Gammon Theological Seminary, 22 Feb 2021 by M. McKenzie and announcement by Bishop Ken Carter, Florida Conference, in email 23 Feb 2021]

## Prayer Ministry News

During the Lenten season we seek to share, with Jesus, his forty-day journey on the way to the cross, toward the reason for our hope - Resurrection Sunday. 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)

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

Prayer Ministry - Fran

## Sunday School is Online

Well, we’ve finally made it possible to have one of our two Sunday School classes online. Thanks to the Zoom application, all are able to use technology to participate in the **“Seekers”** class, led by Sue Heishman, from 9:15 am – 10:15 am each Sunday. We’ve not yet found the best way to do the same with the **“Friendship”** class.

On Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> we had three people participating remotely. The Sunday before there were four. **There’s room for many more!**

Should you desire to participate, you can use the Zoom application or you can go to [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) in a browser and type in the **ID code 834 9800 2155** which will take you into the session. Of course, copying the code number to your clipboard and then clicking the hyperlink above allows you to merely paste the code into the JOIN screen and start the session. Keep the ID code for use on future Sundays.

## Learn More about UMC Missionaries in Monthly StillInMission Webinars

You are invited to join us for **#StillInMission Episode 28, March 4, 2021 at 1:00 pm EST**. During the event you will have the chance to hear a presentation from one of the missionaries listed below and learn more about how God is at work through United Methodist missionaries all over the world. If you want to learn more about these missionaries before the call, click on their names to be taken to their missionary bio or visit [www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org).

[Anaclet Ndayikunda](#) is serving as a Social Educator with the Methodist Foundation for Social and Cultural Action in Brazil.

[Tendai Manyeza](#) is serving as a Medical Doctor at United Methodist Church General Hospital in Zimbabwe.

[Kenneth Nkando](#) is serving as the Mission Financial Officer and VIM Coordinator with the East Angola Annual Conference.

[Nan McCurdy](#) is serving as the Director of Training, Promotion, and Interpretation with Give Ye Them to Eat in Mexico.

**[To register, click here.](#) Registration is required.**

United Methodist Missionaries are #stillinmission and we hope that you'll join us to learn more!

As always, if you have any questions at all or if you want promotional materials for your church or small group, please let us know! Sincerely,

*Eric Angel,*

*Senior Manager of Itineration and Missionary Support*

Is your church supporting a missionary? The Itineration Team is ready to walk with your church or small group as you discern developing a relationship with a missionary sent by the United Methodist Church through Global Ministries.

## Wonder Walk 2021, March 6th, Supports Cornerstone Family Minis- tries and Rosa Valdez Early Childhood Learning Center

Cornerstone Family Ministries (CFM) is a United Methodist Women **Mission Giving**-supported Christian preschool providing developmentally appropriate child care and early school readiness in conjunction with family support services.

The primary CFM fund-raising event is **Wonder Walk**, which raises funds to provide early learning childcare scholarships for infant-to-5-year-old, economically disadvantaged students who attend the Rosa Valdez Early Childhood Learning Center and Lab School.

This year Wonder Walk will be in-person at Constitution Park on Reddington Beach in St. Petersburg on **March 6th, 8:00 am to noon**. The rest of the churches in the Gulf Central District are invited to hold "**virtual**" walks on **March 6th** wherever they choose (observing COVID-19 preventive measures such as wearing masks, observing social distancing and small groups of walkers).

Walkers are asked to solicit donations, or to make their own donations. (Members of Lakeland congregations and friends who wish to walk together are invited to **walk around Lake Morton on March 6th, 8:00 am to noon**.) If you don't want to solicit sponsors to make donations, **take the easy way out and just send your money!** Please make donations to Lake Gibson UMC for Wonder Walk.

There will also be **gift baskets** for the silent auction (value of items and/or services in each to be at least \$75.00). The **virtual silent auction will open on Wednesday, March 3rd and close at noon on March 6th**. To see the gift baskets, go to <https://handbid.app.link/cfmwwauction>. This auction will go live along with the live-stream of the St. Petersburg walk on Saturday, March 6th at 8:00 am.

Phyllis Kitchens  
410-790-2662/863-984-4564

## One Earth Film Festival March 5 – 14, 2021

If you love movies and you care about your health, your community and our magnificent planet we call home, join us for the 10th anniversary season of the [One Earth Film Festival](https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org), March 5 - 14, 2021.

**Learn solutions and actions addressing climate, environmental justice, conservation, waste and more.** Watch online from the comfort of your own home, and participate in filmmaker and expert Q&As. Be moved. Be amazed. Be ready to create change.

Most film watch parties are free (suggested \$8 donation). Advance registration is highly recommended. Go to this website to register for individual films:

<https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/films-by-date>

There are 20 titles listed on this website. If you are interested in the subjects of **Creation Care, Climate Justice and Ending Racism**, these are valuable tools for understanding the problems and equipping us to take action to preserve God's earth.

Please see the descriptions of selected films on the next page.

## Merry Matters Making Many Mats!

There is a place for anyone and everyone who is interested in getting together weekly for a little socializing and fellowship, as we make mats for the homeless. These crocheted mats are placed under bedding to keep people who sleep outside off the damp or cold ground.

We will meet this month in the FLC on **Wednesdays from 10:00 am to noon**. Masks and/or social distancing are required.

## Learn More about the UM Creation Justice Movement

<https://umcreationjustice.org>

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/covid-19-coronavirus-greenhouse-gas-emissions-climate-change>

## Examples of One Earth Film Festival Films March 5th - 15th

Some films are marked as appropriate for children, youth and/or young adult. The following descriptions (all suitable for adults) are just a few of the 20 movies and discussion sessions offered:

### ***Flint: Who Can You Trust?***

*Anthony Baxter, (2020), 119 min (Social Justice, Water, People & Cultures, Health)*

**Saturday, March 6, 6:30 pm CST/7:30 pm EST**

FILM DESCRIPTION: Filmed over 5 years and long after the story was front-page news, "[Flint: Who Can You Trust?](#)" is full of new twists and turns.

Journalist/filmmaker Anthony Baxter goes beyond the headlines in Flint, Michigan, where a government poisoned its own citizens' water supply, to show the complete breakdown of authority, public trust and faith in the truth itself. "Flint" is a powerful investigation of the breathtaking scope of toxic pseudo-science, celebrity activism, and official negligence. The film reveals the devastating impact on poor people and people of color, which make up the majority of the residents in Flint, as they continue to seek justice and clean water. Featuring Marc Ruffalo and narrated by Alec Baldwin. Produced by Richard Phinney and Sabrina Schmidt Gordon.

### ***Dammed to Extinction***

*Michael Peterson and Steven Hawley, (2019), 51 mins (Water, Wildlife)*

**Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 pm CST/7:30 EST**

FILM DESCRIPTION: For eons, a one-of-a-kind population of killer whales has hunted chinook salmon along the Pacific Coast of the United States. For the last 40 years, renowned whale scientist Ken Balcomb has closely observed them. He's familiar with a deadly pattern: as salmon numbers plummet, the whales starve.

These important mammals need roughly a million salmon a year. Where can we find them? The solution, says Balcomb, is getting rid of four fish-killing dams 500 miles away on the largest tributary to what once was the largest chinook producing river on earth. *This film will follow "[Mermaids Against Plastic.](#)"*

### ***Mermaids against Plastic: Tamara***

*Sylvia Johnson (2020) 10 min (Waste, Water, Health, Wildlife)*

**Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 pm CST/7:30 pm EST**

FILM DESCRIPTION: This is a short film revealing the extent of the **marine plastic pollution problem in the Mexican Caribbean**. The film follows a diver as she searches for solutions to protect the ocean she loves. Tamara is from the ocean and water runs in her veins. Born in a fishing village on the Mexican coast, she returned to her roots to become a full-time scuba instructor. When she discovers plastic in her beloved ocean, she sets out to get the diving industry to stop using single use plastic. *This film will precede "[Dammed to Extinction.](#)"*

[Source: One Earth Film Festival Website, <https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org>]



## March 14th is UMCOR Sunday

### HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT UMCOR?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**, we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change.

This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business" (i.e., administrative costs), allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that **100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project.**

### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?

United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>.

## UMCOR Is Responding to Winter Storm Disaster

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has worked with conference disaster relief coordinators **to provide immediate funding and long-term support since the winter storm led to power outages and burst pipes across Texas and other southern states.**

People can support recovery efforts by giving to UMCOR's **U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery Advance #901670**. This request is for this specific mission and all donations will go to it.

As usual, please give to Lake Gibson UMC with an annotation that the gift is for UMCOR Advance #901670.

## Learn about UMW National Mission Institutions in Quarterly Webinar "Voices from the Field," March 9th, 6:00 pm (EST)



### Hope Amidst the Pandemic

The quarterly *Voices from the Field* events feature leaders sharing their work and life stories, daily challenges, hopes and dreams.

This conversation series highlights **United Methodist Women initiatives supported by Mission Giving**, initiatives that significantly improve the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

On **Thursday, March 9, at 6:00 pm (EST)** meet **Wesley Community and Health Centers**, Phoenix, Arizona and **The Bethlehem Center** in Chattanooga, Tennessee to hear about the ways these two **National Mission Institutions** have responded to their communities' needs and addressed the COVID-19 crisis this past year. A Q&A session will follow the presentations.

Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Voices from the Field* virtual event on March 9 to find out more about the national work of United Methodist Women. Learn from people who are transforming their communities and how you, through Mission Giving, make a difference.

To register for this Zoom meeting, click on the link below. If it doesn't work, please copy and paste this text into your browser window:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-CqgispEtyuybWXB4PMmFEKP8KI3zbd>

Please save the email confirmation you will receive after registration; the message will contain your personal link to the event and information about joining by phone, tablet or computer. We look forward to seeing you on March 9!

Jessica Tulloch. UMW Mission Giving Promotion Team

[Photo and article provided in email, unitedmethodistwomen.org, 23 Feb 21, 12:06 pm]

## The Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

### "Day on Campus" Goes Virtual!

Mark your calendars for Saturday,  
March 27th

Each year, one of the most special days in the life of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home is **Day on Campus**. This eagerly anticipated event provides us with the opportunity to thank our faithful churches and ministry partners, and to highlight all of the wonderful things God is doing through the ministry here.

Normally, we open our gates and welcome guests to celebrate the ministry they have helped to make possible. However, we know that this is not a normal year, and churches and ministries have adapted their work in a way that continues to prioritize health and safety.

We have also had to adapt, and we are very excited that we will be holding Day on Campus as a **virtual event** this year! This will allow us to continue the annual tradition of lifting up the Children's Home ministry, while also ensuring people can engage from the safety and comfort of their own homes.

**Day on Campus** will be held virtually on **Saturday, March 27**. It will be broadcast on our Facebook page, and will also be accessible on our YouTube channel following the event. Similar to the standard program, the virtual event will feature updates from our President & CEO, Board chair, and key staff. It will also highlight testimonials from individuals, 2020 award winners, music from our children and staff, and a virtual tour.

Our mission has continued to guide the ministry, even in the midst of a pandemic, and we are excited for you to celebrate the ways in which God continues to do great things through the many ministries of the Children's Home.

For more information on how to view the event, as well as ideas on how to engage, please visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fumch>) and stay tuned to our email communications.

## FUMCH, Continued

While the children were out of school for President's Day, our Spiritual Life team organized another **Day of Service**. Youth worked at various locations in our community including:

- Painting stripes in the parking lot at Community United Methodist Church, DeBary
- Sorting and folding linens at Harvest Time International, Sanford
- Trimming crepe myrtle trees at All Saints Episcopal Church, Enterprise
- Mowing, weeding and painting at Orange City United Methodist Church

We're very proud of our youth and how they enjoy serving others!

[Source: February 16<sup>th</sup> FUMCH Facebook post]

In case you forgot, **January 31st was a 5th Sunday, when LGUMC collects a special donation for the Florida Methodist Children's Home**. It's never too late to give. Send your donation to the office or give online. Identify your donation as for FUMCH. Instructions for making donations by mail, website or by text are on our website: [lakegibsonumc.com](http://lakegibsonumc.com).

Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens  
FUMCH Representatives

[Source: FUMCH Facebook page]

## Additional Food Donations

On February 20th Geri Mayo, a Hope House (HH) volunteer, informed us that Hope House received a large food donation of pork products from a local Jewish congregation. They do not eat pork, so they don't use it for their food bank. This food is usually donated late on Wednesdays.

Currently Hope House's freezers are full. If they have overflow of these products, they will call someone at LGUMC to pick up on Wednesday.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Additional Food Donations, Continued

Ann Johnson reported that we had received ground pork, ham and bacon from Hope House. All were USDA meat and most were in 1-lb. packages. We gave most of it away at Food Pantry the next day.

We may need to request volunteers to pick up these products on Wednesday afternoons, if we get a call from Hope House.

## First UMC Lakeland Looking into Virtual Mission Trips

[Forrest White, author of the article below, said **First UMC welcomes us to participate in their virtual mission trips**. Look for more information on our website and in this newsletter as planning is completed.]

The pandemic forced us to cancel short-term mission trips in 2020 to serve in South Florida, Costa Rica and Haiti and, of course, we remain in a holding pattern. With that in mind, our Mission Trips Committee has been meeting to explore **virtual mission trips to help our congregation learn more about our ministry partners** and consider joining teams to serve with them once we can travel without COVID-19 concerns.

I met via Zoom on February 10 with **Wil Bailey**, the missionary we support in Costa Rica. We're in the process of scheduling a virtual mission trip with his **Costa Rica Mission Projects (CRMP) ministry**, likely to fall toward the **end of April**.

Wil has put together such virtual trips for the Southeastern Jurisdiction and for individual churches. I've served with CRMP twice and it's a life-changing ministry. Lord willing, we will be able to take a team to serve there early in 2022.

Keep an eye on First United Methodist communications for dates and details about this virtual mission trip opportunity. We're also exploring ways to offer **virtual mission trips to Cuba and Haiti** later in 2021.

By Forrest White, Director of Mission Ministries

## A Request for Children's COVID-19 Facemasks

Last summer Cornerstone Family Ministries (CFM) received over **800 COVID-19 children's facemasks** in response to their request to Tampa-area churches. By the time Lake Gibson UMC learned of the request, the required number of masks already had been received.

Those facemasks have mostly been used up, and new masks are requested (some are used by children at the Rosa Valdez Center and some by children enrolled in other childcare centers, including some in Polk County).

The following information was provided by CFM:

"We prefer the ones with the [elastic] ear loops, NOT the ones that tie. This pattern has a few sizes. **The one we need is the smallest one, for toddlers, 2- to 5-years-old.**

"This is a good pattern:

<https://seekatesew.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern-for-children-and-adults/> "

Please leave your masks in the church office. Phyllis or Dwight Kitchens (863-984-4564) will pick them up and deliver them to CFM. It is suggested that masks be delivered to the office **by March 31st**.

"Print off this fitted face mask sewing pattern and make your own masks that fit your face comfortably! This homemade fitted mask is contoured around the nose and is less bulky than a pleated mask. Pattern Includes 5 sizes for children and adults."

(Photo and paragraph below are from seekatesew.com.)



## FitChurch Challenge Kickoff, March 13th, 9:00 am

Outdoor walks, nutrition and wellness education Zoom sessions, YMCA-led fitness classes: Are you ready to get fit?

**Kickoff for the FitChurch Challenge is at the Lakeland Family YMCA, 9:00 am, March 13, 2020. Let's discover a healthier you, together!**

Take charge of your health with Lakeland Regional Health's **FitChurch Challenge!** The FitChurch Challenge is a comprehensive wellness challenge designed to empower individuals, families, and congregations to improve their health.

Work your way through a series of education and exercise classes provided by Lakeland Regional Health and our wellness partner, YMCA, and learn about different national awareness campaigns over the course of **12 weeks**. Challenge yourself to reach your health goals and strengthen your understanding of what it means to lead a healthy lifestyle.

**2021 Challenge Team Registration** Completed 13 Feb. **Team name: Lake Gibson UMC**

**2021 Challenge Participant Registration:** <http://fitchurch.challengerunner.com/GroupPage.aspx>

[Copy and paste this link into your browser if it doesn't work]

This link will take you to the Lakeland Regional Health account login page. If you don't already have an account with Lakeland Regional Health, you'll be asked to create a new account first (email address and a password you select). Once that's completed, you can enroll in the FitChurch Challenge. Find our team name, Lake Gibson UMC, and check it.

### Challenge Kick-off Information

The 2021 FitChurch Challenge Kick-off and Official Weigh-In will *tentatively* be on **Saturday, March 13, at 9:00 am at the Lakeland Family YMCA**, 3620 Cleveland Heights Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33803.

For more information, please contact Lauren Springfield, [lauren.springfield@myLRH.org](mailto:lauren.springfield@myLRH.org).

## Subscribe to the United Methodist News Digest



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## Should Christians be Political?

By Amanda Holmes, February 8, 2021

*Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Intern, Amanda Holmes reminds us of our Christian call to engage in the political world through our Wesleyan traditions and the UMC Social Principles.*

As I find myself in my second semester of my internship where I witnessed an election, a new Congress, and an inauguration, I find myself in the midst of discussions that frequently come up in the church -- the question of should the church and/or Christians be political. To engage in this question, I always find it helpful to begin with a mutual understanding of what we are talking about. **Political is defined as: “relating to the government or the public affairs of a country; or interested in or active in politics.”** To dive more deeply into this question, I employ the use of the Wesleyan quadrilateral and consider its four aspects: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Reflecting on myself as a United Methodist, I want to consider what our UMC tradition says about this, particularly looking at our baptismal vows and Social Principles.

From the time we are welcomed into the church, our baptismal vows ask if you “. . . **accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves . . . and serve as Christ’s representatives in the world?**” As an advocate for justice, I take this vow very seriously and recognize that evil, injustice and oppression are very real in our world in a blatantly visible and tangible way. In accepting the vow to serve as Christ’s representatives in the world, it is my belief that I must engage in advocacy reflecting my faith and that faith calls me toward social justice for all people. Interning with [the United Methodist Church’s General Board of] Church and Society, I also rely on our Social Principles to guide me in the ways that I move not only as a Christian, but as a United Methodist. Our Social Principles are inherently political when you consider the definition of “relating to the government or public affairs of a country.” Our Social Principles guide us in the ways we should respond to and engage with the world around us.

One of the things that most attracted me to the United Methodist Church is found in the beginning of the Social Principles, that the church has a “long history of concern for social justice” and this has been historically demonstrated through the church’s work in the world. In an effort to “speak to the human issues in the contemporary world,” the Social Principles guide us as United Methodists in working toward “societies in which each person’s value is recognized, maintained and strengthened.”

I cannot imagine a way to do this that does not involve getting political, or “interested or active in politics,” as the government guides and affects so much of our daily lives. The Social Principles directly note that we are part of a political community and not only that, but that we are “responsible to God for social and political life.” I think throughout all the Social Principles the idea that most directly stands out to me and guides my work as a social justice advocate is under [Political Responsibility](#): **“The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are deemed to be unjust.”**

Throughout my time thus far at seminary and my time interning with Church and Society, I feel that in order to “serve as Christ’s representatives in the world,” we must be willing to directly engage with the world and cannot afford to not make a statement when we see or experience evil, injustice, and oppression. Engagement looks different for us all -- some are called to *grassroots community organizing*, some to *advocacy with legislators*, and some to *work behind the scenes*, but we are all called to engage. So, I invite you to be political while also remembering that above all else we are called to the two greatest commandments: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Come join me in doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.

[Source: The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, Faith in Action, Published 8 February 2021. Used with permission.]

## 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, Bob Siegel 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  
410-790-2662/863-984-4564  
phyllis\_kitchens@hotmail.com

## No More Donations for Rummage Sale Until October, Please

This may be the first time in the history of Lake Gibson UMC, but we **cannot accept ANY more donations** for future Sidewalk or Rummage Sales. All of our storage facilities are packed to the rafters - and some beyond.

We are hoping that the COVID1-19 positivity rate will be low enough in the fall to allow us to use the FLC for a rummage sale in October. If not, we will do another Sidewalk Sale, but due to the limited outdoor display space, they don't reduce our inventory of donated goods as much as the indoors Rummage Sale does.

The UMW is very grateful for the way our congregation and neighbors have supported these fund-raising sales. Money raised is used to fund local charitable organizations; as such, your donations make a positive impact in our community.

We hope that everyone will understand that the church has reached the limit of its storage space and we're not just being "picky" about what items we accept.

## Save the Dates



### Mission u 2021

June 19 & 26: via Zoom

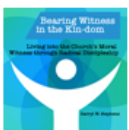
July 15-17: Onsite at the

Life Enrichment Center (LEC) in Fruitland Park

*Theme: "There's Far More Here than Meets the Eye!"*

*Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

#### Adult Studies:



Adult Studies also provided in Creole, Korean & Spanish

Children's Study:  
Response to Violence

Youth Study:  
Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence

Join us: You can participate in one or two studies: via Zoom and/or in person! Invite your pastor, family and friends!

Registration Fee: \$20

(scholarships are available - contact your District President)

We're celebrating 75 years of Mission Education in the Florida Conference!



## Is a Stimulus Check in Your Future? Consider Donating to LGUMC

What's with this economic relief plan? What if you don't actually need a stimulus to survive? Well, the intent is certainly to get the economy rolling by helping those in financial need. It will assist numerous unemployed persons with relief on mortgages, rental payments, putting food on the table, etc. And, it is not taxable income, so you get to spend all of it.

Unfortunately, it does not help if we merely put it into a savings account. That does not maintain employment, keep restaurants open, keep stores open. We need to get that money into the economy where the multiplier effect insures that it reaches many more people.

As you may know, your church is looking to purchase a number of items in the near term. **These are items for which we have not previously set funds aside.**

1. The FLC needs a **new double-door refrigerator** to replace ours which died during February - not a cheap date.
2. We're still looking to acquire **two additional cameras for the sanctuary** (\$4,800). These are all items we could acquire quickly and put to immediate use.
3. A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) could certainly use **additional reserve funds** as they continued to pay salaries for employees sent home with COVID-19 while closing four of six classrooms during February.
4. Since ALBOH is using our old Sunday School building which lacks water in many classrooms, they require a **replacement working handwashing station in one of the classrooms (\$1,300).**
5. **A replacement automated entrance door (approximately \$6,000)** is also on ALBOH's longer term needs.

So, if you don't really need a stimulus check, we know of a number of worthwhile purposes to which it could be directed. Write a check to LGUMC and annotate to what purpose you want it to support. We'll insure that your request is honored. It may take us a little time to gather enough contributions to acquire your chosen item, but we'll do it as quickly as possible.

## UMC Condemns Recent Attacks on Asian American Elderly

By Rev. John Oda, United Methodist Church Asian American Language Ministry Plan

On the January 28, 2021 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee was shoved to the ground while taking his morning walk in San Francisco, California. Just two days after the assault, he died. A 64-year-old Vietnamese grandmother was assaulted and robbed in San Jose, California. A 91-year-old man was caught on camera being thrown to the ground in Oakland's Chinatown. There has been upwards of 20 other violent attacks and robberies reported since January 2021. A 61-year-old Filipino man's face was slashed with a box cutter while he rode a New York City subway. The NYPD reported that hate crimes motivated by anti-Asian sentiment **jumped 1,900% in New York City in 2020.**

Violence against Asian Americans sharply increased in March [2020] as COVID-19 began spreading across the country, and some politicians blamed China for the pandemic. It was back in March 2020 that Professor Russell Jeung, chair of the Asian American studies department at San Francisco State University, created a tool that tracks hate incidents against Asian American Pacific Islander communities - [Stop AAPI Hate](#) tracker. Stop AAPI Hate has received more than 2,800 firsthand reports of anti-Asian hate across 47 states and Washington, DC, since March 19, 2020 [when data collection began]. For more information on these hate crimes, please view the piece from CNN - [CLICK HERE](#).



## Food Pantry Needs

We thank everyone who faithfully brings food into the church office for the Food Pantry.

We can 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

## Merry Matters - Boy, Have We Got Bags!



Ready for lots of happy volunteers (February 17th). Merry Matters workspace set up for social distancing.



Preparing for the sidewalk sale -- women's tops carefully sorted by size, neatly folded and stacked to make it easier for shoppers to browse our wares.

## Hope House Continuing Needs

### FOOD:

Canned food with a pop-top, i.e., ravioli, spaghetti, beef stew, beanie weenies  
Vienna sausages, or potted meat  
Tuna or chicken salad kits  
Cup of noodles  
Packets of instant grits  
Pop Tarts, granola bars, individually packaged (single serving) cookies or snacks  
Fruit cups  
Kids' cereal, especially anything chocolate

### HYGIENE AND MISCELLANEOUS:

Deodorant  
Disposable razors  
Individually wrapped toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste or toothbrush kits  
Antibiotic cream (generic Neosporin)  
Individual packs of pocket-sized tissues  
AA or AAA batteries  
Small flashlights  
Hand warmer packets

### CLOTHES:

#### Gently used:

Men's clothing, especially men's jeans or pants, sizes 32 to 34  
Sweatpants  
Sweatshirts  
T-shirts  
Socks  
Jackets  
Blankets  
Shoes, especially men's sizes 10 1/2 to 13

#### Prefer new:

Men's medium underwear  
Women's small or medium underwear

You can deliver your donations to the church office or directly to Hope House. Contact Debbie or Rick McLellan to set up delivery to Hope House (863-327-2893).



## Just Energy 101: Learn about Just Energy and How You Can Help Others

3-Part Educational Seminar Continues March 8th and 22nd, 3:00 pm

### Why Just Energy for All?



Did you know that 80% of people being displaced by climate change are women? Climate change exacerbates the existing injustices of economic inequity and racism, meaning that low-income communities and communities of color carry a disproportionate burden of negative impacts. Industrial power plants, the nation's largest source of greenhouse gas pollution, are responsible for 31% of total greenhouse emissions in the U.S., making our energy economy the leading culprit in climate displacement and change.

Is the energy you use *just*? Do you know where your energy is coming from and who it's harming? Are all types of renewable energy just? What does it mean to advance just energy for all centered on justice and equity? United Methodist Women invites you to join the **free** Just Energy for All 101 3-part class on **February 22nd, March 8th, and March 22nd at 3:00 pm** Eastern Time (ET) to learn more about the Just Energy for All campaign, why just energy for all is fundamental to our faith, and how you can get involved.

Register here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/just-energy-for-all>.

As United Methodist Women and people of faith, we believe that it is our biblical call to care for all of God's creation, particularly the most vulnerable. Just energy for all is about ensuring that the energy we use every day for transportation, powering our homes, and cooking our meals is not harmful to our neighbors and our planet. While this is not guaranteed within our current energy system, just energy for all is possible! And **people of faith can be part of the solution**.

Learn more about the *why* and *what* of United Methodist Women's Just Energy for All campaign, as well as *how* your UMW unit, district or conference can be involved. These 90-minute webinars will include presentations, breakout sessions, and opportunities to connect with other UMW members and people of faith. **You don't need to be a UMW member [or a woman] to participate — all are welcome!**

**Part 1 (2/22/21): Why Just Energy for All?** Why should United Methodist Women and people of faith care about just energy for all? Class identified the scriptural basis for developing nonpolluting energy sources. (Recorded on UMW website)

**Part 2 (3/8/21): What is Just Energy for All?** Fossil fuels? Solar? Wind? All renewable energy? Nuclear?

**Part 3 (3/22/21): How do we advance Just Energy for All?** How can United Methodist Women and people of faith be part of the solution?

Phyllis Kitchens

### UMW Prayer Calendar

Did you know the beloved United Methodist Women Prayer Calendar has its own Facebook page? [Follow the page today](#) for daily mission focuses, birthdays of mission personnel and holidays to include in your prayers. The Prayer Calendar lets you know what is happening in mission and moves you to put your faith, hope and love into action.

## **Hope House Happenings (Excerpts from HH Volunteer Reports)**

### **Tuesday, January 26, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan**

Today was busy with 27 guest sign-ins. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from I John 5, BELIEVING ABOUT OR BELIEVING IN. Then Debbie and Rick served Turkey Parmesan Casserole with green peas on the side. Our brown to-go bag included a turkey sandwich, a pack of Lance peanut butter crackers, a Rice Krispies Treat and a strawberry applesauce cup. To drink was iced cold bottled water with optional flavor packet. Each guest also received a pop-top can (choice of Chef Boy-R-Dee Ravioli or similar item), which they took to their tents for their supper meal. We also sent out a good number of to-go boxes, and fed the Hope House Kitty.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, camping toilet paper, masks and Band-Aids. Clothing items, shoes, socks, lanterns, flashlights, batteries, water bottles, blankets, gloves and jackets were provided for our guests. Barbara Allen-Coil, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church gave free haircuts to 3 of our guests.

We had a number of wonderful people drop in to see us and bring us items that were just what we hoped for to meet our guests' needs. A special thanks to Hampton and Sharon Conway from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church for gathering donations (clothes, canned goods and snacks) from their fellow residents at Bay Lake Motorcoach Resort in Polk City. Thanks also to our friends Tammy and Kevin for many items we gave out today.

Our guests had an attitude of gratitude today and we feel that Jesus is using the Hope Center to touch hearts and make a difference in lives of those less fortunate!

### **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle, Geri Mayo**

Lake Gibson Church of the Nazarene held an outdoor service on Sunday, January 24th. The guests who attended said they had a wonderful time. The church also donated individual boxes of cereal and many hygiene products.

It was a light day with 17 guests signing in. Six guests use the shower facilities and two the laundry. Lori was quite busy making sure our guests signed in, helping them with the shower schedule and locating clothing. As it was forecast to rain today, and the temperature will drop overnight, the jackets were brought out to the living room. Our guests were encouraged to pick out a jacket, and/or blanket.

Marie and Bill donated pantry food and bottles of water on Monday. We are so blessed by their generosity. When Laura and Geri arrived today, there was a wonderful surprise. Several bags of clothing had been donated! Ms. Jean sent friendship bread and lentil soup for Friday's lunch. Our guests enjoy the wonderful food she provides.

**WE HAD SEVERAL GUESTS TODAY:** Laura's friend, Ken, brought in a large bag of shoes and socks. Our guests greatly appreciated them. Jim from Christ the King of Episcopal Church donated two bicycles. Laura will distribute them to people who earn them. Laura's friend, Victoria, from All Around Septic, provided a cash donation for supplies. Also, her friend, Anne Reyes, will donate 20 industrial size cans of mac and cheese on Thursday.

Luke from Lighthouse Ministries donated four boxes of food. They were a combination of food for the pantry and for lunches. A group associated with Luke from Tri-County Coalition for the Homeless and P.A.T.H. visited. They are dedicated to assisting folks in transitioning from homeless to homed. They also assist people in gaining employment, medical services, insurance, social security, and financial assistance  
Continued on the next page . . .

## Hope House Happenings, Continued

such as food stamps. It is so exciting to network with these wonderful people to help our folks gain independence.

Laura gave the devotional written by Nathan O'Neal from Fuel Baptist Church. It spoke of how we should seek salvation. This part had great impact: **"One of the most evil and distorted teachings today in the church is the idea that Jesus came to make us healthy and wealthy. Jesus came to do one thing: seek and save the lost from sin."**

*Riches do not profit in the day of wrath but righteousness delivers from death.* Proverbs 11:4

Lunch consisted of hot dogs, baked beans and homemade pickles made by Ms. Jean. Every guest was given the opportunity to take seconds home with them. A dinner bag was provided filled with a pudding cup, graham cracker bears, peanut butter crackers, a Rice Krispies treat, and a choice of a peanut butter and jelly, turkey and cheese or ham and cheese sandwich. As Hope House will be closed Thursday, our guests also selected a pantry item to take home with them.

### **Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan**

As it warmed up, we wound up the day with 23 guest sign-ins, and sent out about 5 to-go plates to guests who didn't make it here. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from Matthew 7, ASKING AND SEEKING IN PRAYER. Then our guests were served Chicken/Sausage Jambalaya with individually wrapped corn bread, and wonderful soft giant chocolate chip cookies, all prepared by Sharon Conway from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. The guests LOVED everything Sharon brought. Our brown to-go bag of sides included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, cookies, candy and a sliced peaches fruit cup.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, camping toilet paper, masks and Band-Aids, clothing items, shoes, socks, flashlights, batteries, blankets, gloves, knit hats and jackets were provided for our guests. Barbara Allen-Coil, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church brought some items and offered free haircuts to our guests.

We had a number of wonderful people drop in to see us and bring us items that were just what we hoped for to meet our guests' needs. A special thanks to Hampton and Sharon Conway from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church for gathering donations, clothes, canned goods and snacks from their fellow residents at Bay Lake Motorcoach Resort in Polk City. Jim Aldrich brought some items from Christ the King Episcopal Church. Rob and Sue Atchley, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, brought food items that we give out and also use to fill our brown to-go sides bags. Thanks also to our friends Tammy and Kevin for many items we gave out today.

We also had a visit from Harry Card, a military Veteran who also served as a Hope Center volunteer. Harry brought lots of coffee, laundry detergent, and Walmart bags. Paulette Rolle-Alesnik dropped in for a few minutes. We also had an official visit from a Sheriff's Deputy with a warrant for a man named Patrick, who was not at Hope Center today.

God is touching hearts and meeting needs at the Hope Center. Your prayers and generosity in donating are a Blessing and make a great difference in lives of those less fortunate!

### **Wednesday, February 3, 2021 - Lori Riddle, Geri Mayo and Laura Webb (in spirit)**

While still under covid-19 restrictions, the patio was opened and tables and chairs were set outside. This insured comfort for our guests, while maintaining social distance. Since it was a very cold morning, a hot beverage table was set out early. Coffee and cocoa were available for our guests while  
Continued on the next page . . .

## Hope House Happenings, Continued

### Wednesday, February 3, 2021 - Lori Riddle, Geri Mayo and Laura Webb (in spirit)

they waited for Hope House to open. Once H.H. opened at 9:30, breakfast consisted of scrambled eggs and bacon made by Lori, and a variety of cereals. An alfresco breakfast will set out for the kitties.

Although only a few guests arrived early, a total of 19 guests signed in, with 3 using the laundry facilities and 9 taking advantage of the shower. Lori was busy checking folks in, providing socks and gloves, and assisting folks in the clothing boutique.

Geri provided the devotion, The Consequences of Anger, a 7-day devotional plan. Day 1: Anger And Your Health. Verse: Proverbs 19:11

Lunch was a Latino feast. It consisted of mojo pork, chicken legs (made by Geri), white rice, re-fried beans, fresh cilantro (made by Lori), with tortillas, tortilla chips, salsa, sour cream, and shredded cheese. The beverage choices were coffee, cocoa, bottled water, and soda. For take-out, every guest received a PB&J sandwich, a cookie, and the choice of one canned good item and one snack item

Hope House is truly blessed by our wonderful donators. When the doors opened this morning, donations of coffee, laundry detergent, clothing, and food were already there. Hope House received a large donation of pork products for future lunches. Marie and Bill stopped by as HH was closing. They brought coffee, a large jar of peanut butter for sandwiches, and 40 (much needed) rain ponchos.

Note: Hope House will be closed on Thursday, February 4th. Ms. Paulette will open on Friday, February 5th. It will be Super Bowl day at HH.

### Tuesday, February 9, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

Today was a slow day with 16 guests signing in. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from Matthew 5, APOLOGY HOTLINE. Then our guests were thrilled to see Chef Dick McPherson from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, who cooked and served his wonderful pulled port with baked beans and mac and cheese. Our brown to-go bags included a Cuban sandwich, chips, a Little Debbie cake, an orange fruit cup and a Valentine candy bag with the message: LET'S GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER, GOD LOVES YOU! (John 3:16)

We were blessed this week by Bob and Fay Herrick, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, who brought us the most beautiful colored knapsacks for our guests. They were lovingly assembled by the **ladies of American Legion Auxiliary**, and included a small blanket, a flashlight, a bottle of water, a Chapstick and men's socks or women's socks. Our guests gladly and gratefully received these.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, camping toilet paper, masks and Band-Aids. Clothing, batteries, and jackets were provided for our guests. Barbara Allen-Coil, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, came to offer our guests haircuts.

A special thanks to Hampton and Sharon Conway from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church for bringing clothes. Julio Santana, our neighbor, friend and pastor of Bread of Life Christian Mission, brought us items we use in our brown bags. Brent was here also and brought in plates and bowls. Thanks to the folks who brought in other items.

Continued on the next page . . .



## Hope House Happenings, Continued

### Wednesday, February 10, 2021 - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle and Geri Mayo

On Wednesday, chairs and tables were set outside and the patio was opened. This ensured our guests' comfort while maintaining social distancing. All guests had a temperature check and were required to wear masks while inside H.H.

Twenty guests were signed in, with nine using the shower and four using the laundry. Lori was busy assisting with clothing, hygiene products and monitoring the shower schedule. All of the guests received a rain poncho donated by Marie and Bill. Our guests are very appreciative as it is scheduled to rain this week.

Ms. Cynthia volunteered for the first time today. She had visited a couple of weeks ago. She is interested continuing to volunteer at Hope House. Welcome!

Thom Sousa, USMC, a peer mentor from St. Vincent de Paul CARES, visited today. He assists homeless veterans in finding housing. The Veterans Administration (VA) is committed to providing transient housing until a permanent home may be found for our veterans. He encouraged any of our homeless veteran guests to contact him. Note to other volunteers: business cards may be found on the kitchen counter to the left of the can opener. At this time, only the cell phone number and email address are viable. His cards have not been updated with the newest address.

We received a donation of pork products from our Jewish friends. Note to the other volunteers: the food is in the chest freezer and welcome for all to use.

### Thursday, February 11, 2021 - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle and Geri Mayo

On Thursday, I (Geri) celebrated my 55th birthday by opening Hope House for food service. Twenty-two guests signed in. Laura Webb and Lori Riddle volunteered an extra day to make this possible. Thank you so much, ladies!

I made scrambled eggs, bacon and biscuits for breakfast. Also, there were packets of instant grits and a variety of cereals. Coffee, cocoa and water were the beverage choices. (Much of the breakfast and take-out food were provided by a donation from Marie and Bill.)

Two huge bags of bread and desserts were donated by Lake Gibson Church of the Nazarene. Our guests were welcome to take home breads, rolls and pies. The remaining goodies were left for the Friday crew to distribute.

A delicious lunch was provided by Kathleen Baptist Church: turkey with gravy and stuffing, shepherd's pie, a wonderful salad, rolls, and a marble sheet cake. There also was chili soup made by Ms. Jean and a broccoli melody. (Ms. Jean sent friendship bread, which will be served by the Friday crew.) There was so much food, our guests were able to take a to-go plate.

Laura gave a wonderful surprise gift to all of the guests: a ticket for a free, full spaghetti dinner at Fuel Church on Saturday!

### Tuesday, February 16, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

Today we had 22 guest sign-ins. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from John 12, KINGDOM LIVING. This week our wonderful meal was provided by Hampton and Sharon Conway from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. Our guests enjoyed a delicious chili, giant cornbread muffin, and terrific large chocolate chip cookies. Continued on the next page . . .

## Hope House Happenings, Continued

### Tuesday, February 16, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan, Continued

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, camping toilet paper, radio and lantern batteries, masks and Band-Aids. Clothing items, socks, blankets, and jackets were provided for our guests. We brought clean, sanitized towels and washcloths with us for showers, and had 9 guests request showers. We also had 9 guests who used the laundry.

We had a number of wonderful people drop in to see us and bring us items to meet our guests' needs. A special thanks to Hampton and Sharon Conway for bringing clothing and a number of other items that were a blessing to our guests. Thanks also to Jim Aldrich from Christ the King Episcopal Church, who brought lots of clothing and some other needed items.

We had a Blessed day and as we shared God's Love, it was a joy to see our guests show courtesy and kindness to one another, ask spiritual questions and request prayer. Even in these stressful times, we can see that JESUS IS ALIVE and God's Word still has power!

### Tuesday, February 23, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

**Today we had 31 guest sign-ins.** Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from John 4, OUR ABSOLUTE NEEDS. Debbie and Rick served our guests Debbie's homemade 3 Bean Soup. Our brown to-go bag of sides each included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a pack of Sky Flakes crackers, a bag of Planters peanuts, a pack of Lance crackers, a Mandarin orange fruit cup, and a bag of cookies. To drink was iced cold bottled water with optional flavor packet. Each guest also received a pop-top can (choice of spaghetti and meatballs, ravioli or similar), which they took to their tents for their supper meal. We also fed the Hope House Kitty.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, camping toilet paper, radio and lantern batteries, flashlights, masks and Band-Aids. Clothing items, socks, blankets, and jackets were provided for our guests. We were also thrilled to fill guests' requests for a new Bible and a New Testament.

We had a number of wonderful people drop in to see us and bring us items to meet our guests' needs. A special thanks to Hampton and Sharon Conway, our friends from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, for bringing clothing and other items that we gave out and were a blessing to our guests. Thanks also to Charlie and Linda Alvarez, Debbie Moore, Lilia Harbaugh and Dwight Kitchens, all from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, who provided us needed items.

### What to Expect after Second COVID-19 Vaccination

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Moderna</u>	<u>Pfizer</u>
Headache	68.8%	51.7%
Fatigue	67.6%	59.4%
Nausea/Vomiting	21.3%	1.9%
Chills	48.3%	35.1%
Fever	17.4%	15.8%
Myalgia	6.1%	37.3%

[Data from Florida Conference webinar, 9 February 2021, with Dr. Kevin Sneed included a discussion of side effects experienced after 2nd COVID-19 vaccine]

## Lent Readings for March

- Monday, March 1, 2021:** Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12
- Tuesday, March 2, 2021:** Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19
- Wednesday, March 3, 2021:** Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43
- Thursday, March 4, 2021:** Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10
- Friday, March 5, 2021:** Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40
- Saturday, March 6, 2021:** Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8
- Sunday, March 7, 2021: Third Sunday in Lent**
- Monday, March 8, 2021:** Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
- Tuesday, March 9, 2021:** Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28
- Wednesday, March 10, 2021:** Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19
- Thursday, March 11, 2021:** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6
- Friday, March 12, 2021:** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14
- Saturday, March 13, 2021:** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13
- Sunday, March 14, 2021: Fourth Sunday in Lent**
- Monday, March 15, 2021:** Psalm 107:1-16; Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6
- Tuesday, March 16, 2021:** Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
- Wednesday, March 17, 2021:** Psalm 107:1-16; Isaiah 60:15-22; John 8:12-20
- Thursday, March 18, 2021:** Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13
- Friday, March 19, 2021:** Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-5:4
- Saturday, March 20, 2021:** Psalm 51:1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13; John 12:1-11
- Sunday, March 21, 2021: Fifth Sunday in Lent**
- Monday, March 22, 2021:** Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
- Tuesday, March 23, 2021:** Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24
- Wednesday, March 24, 2021:** Psalm 119:9-16; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23; John 12:34-50
- Thursday, March 25, 2021: Annunciation of the Lord**
- Thursday, March 25, 2021:** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11
- Friday, March 26, 2021:** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18
- Saturday, March 27, 2021:** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:10-16; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
- Sunday March 28, 2021:** Isa. 50:4-9; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Mk. 14:1-15:47
- Monday, March 29, 2021:** Isa. 42:1-9; Ps. 36:5-11; Heb. 9:11-15; Jn. 12:1-11
- Tuesday, March 30, 2021:** Isa. 49:1-7; Ps. 71:1-14; I Cor. 1:18-31; Jn. 12:20-36
- Wednesday, March 31, 2021:** Isa. 50:4-9; Ps. 70; Heb. 12:1-3; Jn. 13:21-32



## Birthdays in March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
3/1	Bob Willome
3/2	Roy Lorent
3/2	Leon Rumohr
3/3	Jim Huven
3/4	Anne Barnat
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
3/21	Ann Phinney
3/31	Sue Bodemer



## Anniversaries in March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
3/1	Mollie and Justin Oliva
3/11	Beverly and Eric Hines
3/14	Lila and Anthony Wilde
3/23	Ann and Brad Fox

