



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



From the Pastor

Penny and I love the mountains. Our favorites are the Great Smoky Mountains, but we have also been to and appreciate the Rockies, the Grand Tetons, the Clark and the Lewis ranges in Glacier National Park and the Alaska Range with Mt. Denali. They are all special in their own way. Flying over and around these mountains is breath taking and awe inspiring, but driving through them and observing them from overlooks and scenic vistas bring them closer to you.

When you get out of the car and begin to explore them for yourself, when you hike the trails and feel the muscle burn from the climb, when you bend over and touch the cool mountain stream, when you can smell the fir scent in the air, feel the cool breeze on you face and just stand and stare at the vast array of color spread across the vista in the autumn . . . they grab you and won't let go.

When you are in the mountains and have to stop to allow the bighorn sheep herd to cross the trail, you feel like you are touching nature itself, or when you sit on the side of the mountain watching a mother bear and her cubs on the ridge below you, then you reflect on the beauty around you, but also you are aware of the danger that may be present. The experiences you share make these mountains a reality in your life. It is then that often they become a part of you and constantly call your name and beckon you to return; at least they did us.

This is a lot like our relationship to God and our faith. It is one thing to know about God from writings we may have read, like the Bible. It is another thing to know about him from the stories others have told you about what they may have seen or felt. To attend a church service or event or watch one on Facebook or YouTube is one thing, but God and Christianity are still just head knowledge for a person in those instances. God may be an awe-inspiring Deity, but you don't really know him.

It is only when we can walk with Him, talk with Him, when we feel Him in our lives, that He becomes real – like our mountain experiences. It is that moment when we truly experience God for ourselves that we become real, live Christians – knowing beyond a shadow of doubt God not only exists, but also is there for you.

It is that moment that changes you forever, and from that day forward God is constantly calling your name, inviting you into His presence and urging you to speak with and worship Him. You ask how can I experience God in this way? Get out of the car; step into life with God. Ask Him to be present in your life, and expect Him to show up. In John 10:27 Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me." This Scripture makes Jesus present with us, the sheep and the shepherd have experiences together and call to each other.

Can you hear Jesus or is the noise of this world too loud? Stop the car, get out and listen. Stop everything and sit in His presence. God has promised to never leave nor forsake his children. He said this in Proverbs 8:17: I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

He is here and ready to speak to you. He is calling your name even now. May your spiritual eyes and ears be open to the Lord's call.

Pastor Steve

May Events (as of 4/28/2021)
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	
1	Saturday	
2	Sunday	Communion Sunday
3	Monday	Board of Trustees meeting, 2:00 pm, office
4	Tuesday	
5	Wednesday	Merry Matters, 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Family Life Center (FLC)
6	Thursday	Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Steve, 1:00 pm (repeats every Thursday)
		National Day of Prayer
7	Friday	
8	Saturday	United Methodist Men (UMM) breakfast meeting, 9:00 am, FLC
9	Sunday	Mother's Day
10	Monday	Voices from the Field (missionaries) Webinar, 10:00 am, Zoom; United Methodist Women (UMW) Unit Meeting, 10:30 am, FLC
11	Tuesday	FUMC Virtual Mission Trip to Costa Rica, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
12	Wednesday	FUMC Virtual Mission Trip to Costa Rica, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
13	Thursday	FUMC Virtual Mission Trip to Costa Rica, 6:00 - 7:30 pm; A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Board meeting, 2:00 pm, Sanctuary
14	Friday	
15	Saturday	UMM Classic Car and Motorcycle Show , 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Registration deadline for Mission u
16	Sunday	
17	Monday	
18	Tuesday	
19	Wednesday	Merry Matters, 10:00 to 11:30 am, FLC
20	Thursday	UMW Virtual Bible Study, 6:00 pm, Part 1 of 4
21	Friday	
22	Saturday	
23	Sunday	Pentecost Sunday and Heritage Sunday
24	Monday	Aldersgate Day ; UMW Leadership Team meeting, 11:00 am, FLC
25	Tuesday	
26	Wednesday	
27	Thursday	UMW Virtual Bible Study , 6:00 pm, Part 2 of 4
28	Friday	
29	Saturday	
30	Sunday	Peace with Justice Sunday (Special Sunday with Offering)
31	Monday	Memorial Day (federal holiday)

IMAGINE OUR CHURCH OF TOMORROW

Imagine if you will...

A church that provides for the homeless and welcomes them.

Imagine if you will...

A church that is there for the homeless students

Imagine if you will...

A church that helps other organizations care for the less fortunate across the land and across the oceans.

Imagine if you will...

A church that gives food to those that may be less fortunate.

Imagine if you will...

A church that supports Christian ministries across the land and across the oceans.

Imagine if you will...

A church where God's Word is taught and preached helping God's people travel through this life's journey toward their promised land.

Imagine if you can...

A church ceases to exist, along with the many good works that were a blessing and beneficial to so many.

W H A T ! ! ! ???

Imagine if you can...

A church that looks very similar to this.

Imagine if you will...

Our Church – Lake Gibson Methodist, a church building its future, making disciples to make disciples, nurturing and growing the leaders, keeping the ministries of today and tomorrow for many, many years to come.

In the near future you will see flags and banners along the road in front to the Sanctuary with the ability to announce events such as the rummage sale, to name just one.

We will look to use the back area of our property for activities such as volleyball and soccer to attract youth in the area in an effort to build relationships that can enhance our efforts.

We have installed the video screen that was in the Sanctuary in the Family Life Center, making a way to have family nights with movies, games and activities for young families. Of course, this can be used for our seniors to have similar activities during daylight hours.

And last but not least, we budgeted for a Youth Director this year and are starting the search process for the right person to help us build and maintain a youth program,

Please join with church leaders in prayer asking God to send people our way who will be vital to the success of this mission.

Dick McPherson
Chair, Administrative Council





Florida Conference 2021 Mission u Schedule Deadline to Register is May 15th

FIRST OPTION

Virtual via Zoom: *Pushout* (Issue Study) or *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom* (Spiritual Growth Study). The same two books will be used in all three Mission u classes:
Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in School by Monique W. Morris or *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom - Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship* by Darryl W. Stephens

Friday, June 18 at 7 pm Worship and Zoom Protocol

Saturday, June 19 at 8:30 am Opening and Plenary

9:00 am- 5:00 pm Classes (Includes Special Guest Speakers, Missionaries, and optional Focus Groups)

7:00 pm Worship

AND

Friday, June 25 at 7 pm Worship and Zoom Protocol

Saturday, June 26 at 8:30 am Opening and Plenary

9:00 am-5:00 pm Classes (Includes Special Guest Speakers, Missionaries, and optional Focus Groups)

7:00 pm Worship

SECOND OPTION

Onsite at Warren Willis UM Camp and Conference Center

Classes for Children and Youth; Adult classes in English, Creole, Spanish and Korean

Thursday, July 15th at noon – Concludes on Saturday, July 17 at noon

July 15: 12:00 - 6:00 pm "Check-In"

1:00 pm Mission Action Project: Knitted Together for God's Good Work

1:30 pm Welcome, Opening Plenary, 75th Anniversary Celebration: Voices of Mission!

3:00 - 5:00 pm Class

July 16 at 9:30 - 11:30 am Class

3:00 - 5:00 pm Class

July 17 at 9:30 - 11:20 am Class

THIRD OPTION

Virtual via Zoom: *Pushout* or *Bearing Witness* Adult Classes

Thursday, July 15th begins at 1:00 pm and concludes on Saturday, July 17 at noon.
We will follow the Onsite Schedule shown above.

Registration fee: \$20 for all 3 options (plus additional costs for onsite lodging and meals).

Deadline to register is May 15.

To register and pay \$20 fee, go to this website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/148295725507>. Fee for meals and lodging at Warren Willis Camp for one adult is \$150.

For more information, go to the Florida Conference United Methodist Women, <https://flconfumw.org> and read the Mission u 2-page flyer.

Additional Mission u Actions

This year the mission focus is **Wesley House Family Ministries** in Key West, a UMW National Mission Institution. Come and learn more about the impact they make on women, children and families in South Florida.

We will have a **Mission u Focus Group** showing how they daily make a difference! An offering will be taken to support them.

Mission u also invites people who **knit or crochet to make baby caps**. The Florida Conference is the host of the UMW 2022 National Assembly next May in Orlando. We will be welcoming guests from around the world. They are asking us to make baby caps for them.

We invite everyone to make caps and bring them to the onsite Mission u. Bring your yarn, needles and hooks. We will help you learn if you don't know how. Experienced fiber fanatics will show us how we are **"Knitted Together for God's Good Work!"**, the title of this year's UMW Program Book.

Virtual participants can begin your projects at home. We will give you information on how to donate your caps. You can start a group at church working on this project.



Reminder - UMW Pledges

UMW members: Because the circles didn't meet most of this year, your annual pledges to mission have not been collected. We don't track the amount you contribute; it's entirely up to you. We hope to make up the \$1,202.00 already sent to Gulf Central District as our 2021 Pledge to Mission. That money came from our sales revenues; thus, it reduces the amount of money we have to donate to local missions. Cash or checks are welcome; make checks out to Lake Gibson UMW, annotated For Mission. Give your pledge to your circle leader (Pat Moon or Ruth Zona) or to Sarah Schiemann, Treasurer.

Food Pantry Feedback

Most of us have been faithfully bringing canned and dry goods to our Food Pantry for many years, trusting that we are making a difference. Unless you volunteer to work at the pantry on Thursdays, you haven't seen the impact of your donations.

To show how important the pantry is to a lot of people, one of our clients sent a card with a note and flowers thanking us for helping their family during their darkest time. They are doing OK and leaving much-needed food for people who need it more than them.

Thank you all for your donations. They are truly needed.

Ann Johnson

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Mark your calendars for the second 2021 **Unit meeting**. All women are invited to attend on **May 10th at 10:30 am** in the FLC. We will start with our guest speaker, Latisha Cook, Director of A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center. Ms. Cook will tell us about ALBOH, the exciting plans for its future, summer camp and physical improvements already made and planned.

After the guest speaker, we will have a brief business meeting to bring you up to date on UMW events and plans. We will discuss planning for the distribution of mission funds earned from the two Sidewalk Sales. Most of the money is reserved for local charities, with only a small percentage allocated to national or international organizations.

Please bring your ideas for recipients to the meeting. We will provide a list of recent beneficiaries of our funding at the meeting to give you an idea of what we have done in the past. We will continue to solidify the list at circle meetings in the fall before voting on our annual donations at the November Unit meeting..

Bring your own lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting. Water and coffee will be available. Dessert will be provided.

Continued on the next page . . .

UMW, Continued

Our next Sidewalk Sale will be November 5th and 6th. If COVID conditions allow, we may have a traditional Rummage Sale in the FLC. Because our storage sheds are already full, **no donations for the sale will be accepted until October.**

For June, July and August our circles will meet for lunch and fellowship once a month. Circle leaders will choose the restaurants. Look for announcements in each month's newsletter.

On September 6th at 10:30 am we will hold a combined circle meeting in the FLC. We will also start our discussion of *You Are Never Alone* by Max Lucado.

Maria Thomas and Kathy Rumohr have agreed to continue to be Lake Gibson's leaders for **funeral and memorial services**. Family members should be directed to contact them to coordinate arrangements for food and drinks.

Please consider participating in **Mission u** this summer (details are in this newsletter). The programs are informative and inspirational. The onsite Mission u creates opportunities for making friends from other churches and learning about their programs.

UMW buys ***The Upper Room*** devotionals as a mission to the church. Recently more large-print copies have been requested, so we have increased that number and decreased the number of small-print copies. Copies that are not taken by the end of the 2-month period are put in bags for Food Pantry guests.

There are receptacles in the Narthex and in the office for donations, if you would like to support this mission. We don't suggest a specific amount; it's entirely up to you to donate whatever you want to, or not, as you prefer.

Office volunteers: Please keep track of the number of *The Upper Room* copies of each size that remain at the end of the second month so we can adjust the order numbers if required. Pass this information to the Administrative Secretary.

Prayer Ministry

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your Heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord . . . Jeremiah 29:12-14 (NJKV)

During these uncertain times God is asking us to pray and search for Him. We can support each other in Christian love and faith by our prayers for our church family and for those around the world. May 6th is National Day of Prayer. We give thanks for the freedom to be able to pray. Let us join in Christian faith and harmony in prayer during May 6th.

Those who are prayer warriors receive an updated prayer journal each month, via email, with a list of close to 100 prayer needs just within our church family. Please call the church office if you would like to join our prayer warriors to receive a copy of this list of special needs for prayer.

Stay well and God's blessings and healing in this world,

Prayer Ministry-Fran

Prayer Request

Pastor Ken Cocker had an accident getting onto a plane and has torn muscles and arthritic fractures causing a lot of pain. He may need a hip replacement. Please keep him and his wife Rosie in your prayers while he is awaiting medical results and throughout his recovery.

Pastor Cocker, who served Lake Gibson UMC from 1978 to 1986, was here when the Sanctuary and Family Life Center were built. After pastoring churches in Florida for almost 28 years, he left in 2003 to become chaplain at Wuesthoff Hospice and Palliative Care in Melbourne, Florida.

Pastor's Bible Study

You are invited to join us on Thursdays at 1:00 pm for Pastor Steve's Bible Study. We started 2 Corinthians 1 on April 25th.

Please call the office to get the log-in information for this Zoom meeting.

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center (ALBOH) Summer Camp

ALBOH is offering Summer Camp for ages 5 - 12 years from June 1st to August 5th.

Let the parents of your grandkids and great-grandkids, nieces and nephews know! Maybe even the parents of the noisy kids next door! To sign up, call ALBOH at 863-585-8400.

Fee structure:

Registration fee	\$75.00 (free if signed up before May 10th).
Supply fee	\$50.00
Weekly rate	\$120.00
Daily rate	\$24.00

Sibling discounts are available

Activities include arts and crafts, science, fitness, games, cooking classes, water days, and field trips.

ALBOH will offer a discount if the church newsletter is mentioned when enrolling!

You can see a flyer and calendar of activities for Summer Camp at <https://lakegibsonumc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ALBOH-Summer-Camp-2021-04142021110249.pdf>.

Voices from the Field: Standing with Women Leaders from Africa and Latin America.

Monday, May 10, 2021 at 10:00 am via Zoom

Take part in an hour of insightful and exciting talk about women leaders from Africa and Latin America. During times of increasing food insecurity and health crises to rising domestic and gender-based violence, displacement and a global pandemic, women continue to be bold and courageous leaders, fighting poverty, hunger and disease and claiming their voice in church and society. Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Voices from the Field* virtual event to find out more about the work of United Methodist Women Regional Missionaries: unitedmethodistwomen.org/training-for-transformation.

Continued . . .

Voices from the Field, Continued

Meet Regional Missionaries **Catherine Akale, Elmira Sellu, Finda Quiwa** and **Andrea Reily Rocha Soares**, who will share real-life stories of courage and ingenuity, and how United Methodist Women's international work impacts lives of women and their families. Learn from the Regional Missionaries how you, through **Mission Giving**, make a difference.

Voices from the Field are quarterly webinars highlighting United Methodist missionaries.

To register click on [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

Merry Matters Making Many Mats 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

For the summer the Merry Matters will meet twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. The first meetings on this schedule will be May 5th and May 19th.

We are creating plarn (plastic yarn) out of grocery bags which will be crocheted into ground mats for the homeless. If you don't know how to crochet, we can teach you. We also need people to fold the bags and cut them into strips.

For anyone interested in helping out, **or just hanging out**, we meet from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Family Life Center (FLC). No experience necessary.

Lynda Gibbs volunteered to be the head plarn-maker while Lynn Meske is away. If you have any questions, please email Lynda at lyndagibbs353@gmail.com.

Audio/Visual Improvements

Didn't the choir sound great on Sunday, April 25th? Though small in number they sang wonderfully. The three old hymns from the Cokesbury song book brought back fond memories.

The sound quality was the best it's been since COVID-19 struck, and the visuals were beautiful. Thank you to everyone who has made it possible to worship remotely and enhance the in-person worship experience.

United Methodist Men

The April 21, 2021 UMM meeting was opened with a prayer and blessing over the meal. The upcoming classic car and motorcycle show was the major area of discussion. At the last meeting we decided to go ahead with the car show after some church members expressed a desire to have the show although at the time no one had registered to exhibit. We removed the \$5.00 pre-registration fee for exhibitors.

The menu for the show will be grilled hot dogs, chips, soda and fruit drink for children as well as bottled water. There will not be a charge for the food, but donations will be accepted. We are planning on having 4 drawings. We will have grand prize for each of the 1st place winners in their category. We will have a 50/50 drawing from ticket sales. We need some members of the church to assist in general cleanup and kitchen help in the food serving line inside the Family Life Center (FLC). We also will need someone to help stage the cars.

We have finished the refurbishment of the landscaped area between the FLC and A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH). Thanks to all who helped remove underbrush and old stumps. We have three remaining projects to complete this year, one being the refurbishment of the old church sign for use by ALBOH. The others are updating the walkway between the FLC and the Trustees' shed, and making repairs to the UMM shed which was damaged during the recent tornado.

This year has seen a lot of changes due to the plague that separated us from church, family and social events. We pray that all men who attend church can help in some way. Do not let this time of fellowship within the church pass us by, as this could be a means of drawing some of the younger generation into our church.

My personal hope and prayer is for the increased growth of the church members. Thanks to all who have helped in the past projects giving up their time to support LGUMC and the UMM. Anyone who wishes to help, please contact the church office (863-858-5431) or one of the UMM members to see what you can do.

Michael Moake, President



Virtual Mission Trip to Costa Rica May 11 - 13, 6:00 pm

Time to Register is Running Short!

Planning has been completed for First UMC Lakeland's virtual mission trip to Costa Rica. We have been invited to join them over 3 nights, **May 11th through 13th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.**

To sign up you can call or email Forrest White, Director of Mission Ministries, at 863-686-3163, fwhite@firstumc.org. **Please contact Forrest quickly to sign up!**

Forrest will provide participants an interesting read-ahead about cultural sensitivity and ministering cross-culturally, which outlines the information that our missionary leader, Wil Bailey, will use to introduce us to Costa Rica.

The virtual mission trip will be conducted **via Zoom** over three nights starting that Tuesday (May 11) as we join a local prayer service. Wil Bailey, founder and leader of Costa Rica Mission Projects (CRMP), asks that we commit to being present each night of the virtual mission trip, as if we are actually in Costa Rica.

Wil has led several virtual trips during the pandemic and has lots to share. First UMC Lakeland sent a team to serve with CRMP during the summer of 2019. FUMC had two mission trips scheduled with CRMP during 2020, both of which were cancelled because of COVID-19. To register for the virtual mission trip, email **Forrest**. You'll receive the read-ahead and your Zoom credentials in early May.

Please consider joining FUMC **May 11 - 13** for a virtual mission trip with CRMP, and prayerfully consider joining them for their return trip to serve alongside CRMP, **January 8 - 15, 2022.**



Let Our Children Learn: A Free, 4 - Part UMW Virtual Bible Study on Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Thursdays, May 20, May 27, June 3, June 10 at 6:00 - 7:30 pm ET

To register go to

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOispzwtGdfoRKaSO_pwfAUJtgpDZuIP .

You are invited to join United Methodist Women members and friends for a **four-part Bible study on the sacred place of children and youth in God's eyes**, antiracism and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. *You do not need to be a UMW member (or even a woman) to participate.* This study includes four 90-minute sessions:

1. Embracing New Life (Colossians 3:1-17, Romans 12:1-2);
2. Embracing the Gifts and Leadership of Children (Acts 16:16-19, Matthew 19:13-15, Luke 2:39-52, Jeremiah 31:15-17, Matthew 2:16-18);
3. Reimagining the Role of Women in Society (Numbers 27:1-8, Matthew 15:21-28, Luke 18:1-8);
4. Unfamiliar Identities: Embodying New Possibilities for Interaction with All Women (Luke 15, Ephesians 6:10-17)

May 30th is Peace with Justice Sunday

One of our denomination's six *Special Sundays with offering*, Peace with Justice Sunday (PWJS) is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of the General Board of Church and Society globally. Together we strengthen God's family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and empower people and communities through systemic change. Please note **PWJS** on your donation.

Some examples of programs funded by PWJS in the United States:

A grant to Seabold United Methodist Church in Bainbridge Island, WA, helped support the needs of members with intellectual disabilities who were part of the Island Time Activities program.

The Summer Arts Camp of United Methodist Church of the Redeemer, in Temple Hills, MD, used a PWJ Sunday grant which, in partnership with Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center, supported a program to help children unleash their creative abilities through a variety of artistic expressions including drama, music, dance, visual arts and photography.

To help address a long litany of violence in the community, Hughes UMC joined with Howard University School of Law to begin an after-school program to help at-risk children and youth who live in the community surrounding the church. The District of Columbia Public School system "has historically been defined by sometimes stark racial and class divides. Poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity and rampant violence are just some of the factors that negatively impact the academic performance of the children who live near Hughes Memorial UMC," the Rev. Paul Johnson said. "It is unfair and unrealistic to expect impoverished children who are hungry, cold and scared to excel in school."

We hope you will support PWJS with a donation. Any amount will help.

Subtle Signs of Early Symptoms of Dementia

By Vicky Pitner

[Vicky Pitner, First UMC Lakeland, leads a Memory Ministry and has offered to include LGUMC members and friends who are caring for a loved one with dementia in their Connections Zoom program. Vicky also does coaching for families and caregivers. If there is interest in having Vicky do a presentation on the services available, please let Phyllis Kitchens know and she will make arrangements with Vicky.]

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines dementia as a “general term for the impaired ability to remember, think, or make decisions that interferes with doing everyday activities.” Alzheimer’s disease is the most common type of dementia.

One of the myths about memory loss is that it is a part of normal aging. This is not true and often people experiencing early signs of dementia miss out on early interventions that can begin with a proper diagnosis. Often, the family member is aware of the memory issues and will compensate with humor or “catchphrases” and the diagnosis is missed or delayed.

Below are some early signs that could warrant a dementia screening:

- Difficulty with short-term memory. Your family member cannot recall what he/she ate for breakfast for example.
- Difficulty with attention and focus.
- Challenges with communication.
- Changes in reasoning, judgment, and problem-solving.
- Changes in visual perception beyond age-related changes in vision.
- Getting lost in a familiar neighborhood, either walking or driving.
- Difficulty finding words or using unusual words to refer to something.
- Requiring more assistance with daily activities.
- Not dressing in clean clothes because a stain is overlooked.
- Forgetting the name of a close family member.
- Uses “catchphrases” for most questions such as “Everything is great” or “I am just fine.”
- Changes in mood such as depression.
- Lack of motivation or losing interest in activities or hobbies.
- Confusion or a change in social skills when interacting with people.
- Difficulty in following a conversation or television program.
- Being repetitive with stories or asking the same question over and over.
- Difficulty with operating the microwave or television remote.

If you begin to notice subtle changes in a friend or loved one, a visit to the doctor would be a good option for a proper assessment.

[Vicky can be reached by email at vpitner@firstumc.org. Article used with permission]

Paraphrase of Psalm 23 Lisa Buffam

We may need a Good Shepherd today as much as any other time in history. Here, I offer my own simple paraphrase of Psalm 23 for today:

Jesus is my Shepherd; I need nothing else.

Jesus will take me to green pastures of rest when I am weary.

Jesus will lead me to still waters of peace and calm.

Jesus, alone, restores my soul.

Jesus leads me on the path of righteousness by His name alone.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death, Jesus will be with me, and I have nothing to fear.

I trust Jesus' rod and staff to discipline and guide me.

Jesus has a table where I am welcome, and He anoints me for the work He has for me to do.

Jesus is more than I need; my cup overflows with blessings.

Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell with Jesus forever.

Lisa Buffam is Director of Online Education at BeADisciple.com [From the May newsletter of BeADisciple.com, provider of Christian online educational courses. Used with permission.]

Contact Information

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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

UMC and Marianna Business Owners Team Up to Provide Housing

An UMCOR Success Story



[Article by Kari Barlow for the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Conference (AWFUMC), April 19, 2021. Edited to fit the space available]

Business owners in the Marianna area have joined forces to make home ownership a reality for several families displaced by Hurricane Michael. “In Marianna, we are up to 11 brand-new houses,” said the Rev. Chris Ackerman, director of Hurricane Michael Recovery for the AWFUMC. “It’s been a really awesome opportunity.”

The building effort - which targeted uninsured and under-insured residents - is one small piece of the long-term recovery program made possible by the **United Methodist Committee on Relief’s \$4.6 million grant awarded to the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Conference in 2019**. The recovery fund was launched in direct response to Hurricane Michael, a category 5 storm that caused an estimated

\$25 billion in damages across Northwest Florida.

Ackerman said the program’s success in Marianna is largely due to the determination and ingenuity of Al Gilbertson, the team’s construction coordinator who’s “got a huge heart. What he did was he went around the Marianna area and he started reaching out to all the contractors - the plumbing contractors, electrical contractors, framers, all of that - and he basically talked all of them into providing their services at cost,” Ackerman said. “And he was able to talk them into it because they wanted to help their community. That’s the beautiful story!”

Ackerman . . . said the quality of the work provided by the businesses has surpassed all of his expectations. Ultimately, each of the houses was built for \$50,000 to \$60,000. “It’s a testament to small-town communities where people know their neighbors and living in their community means something to them,” he said. “And the houses we’re building will be able to be handed down to the next generation or sold to the next family.”

The final six of the 11 Marianna houses - which were built on the residents’ original properties - are on track to be finished by the end of May. They are among a total of 40 new houses built by the recovery program across the affected area including Gulf, Jackson and Bay counties. “Scripture talks about us all being part of the body and it takes all of those pieces coming together to function,” Ackerman said. “Seeing God bring all those pieces together is really powerful. It’s God working through everyday people. It’s God using everybody.”

As for Gilbertson, he doesn’t want to stop. “I wish I had a couple million dollars more because I’d like to build about seven more homes. There are still thousands of people in need.”

Photos courtesy of Rev. Chris Ackerman. The colorful wall image depicts wood used from the original damaged property.

[Article used with permission]

Hope House Happenings (Excerpts from HH Volunteer Reports)

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

Today we served 30 lunches to our guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from John chapter 15, THE BEST FRIEND. Debbie and Rick served our guests Easter sliced ham, boiled potatoes, green beans, and a fresh baked cookie or piece of cake. Our brown to-go bag included an egg salad sandwich on a French hamburger bun, a bag of chips, a pudding cup, a pack of Lance peanut butter crackers, an applesauce cup and candy.

Clothing items and socks were available for our guests. We filled guests' requests for 2 new Bibles and 2 New Testaments, thanks to Debbie Moore keeping us in supply. We brought clean, sanitized towels and washcloths with us for showers; 8 guests requested showers. We had 4 guests who did laundry.

Rob and Sue Atchley, Dwight Kitchens, and Hampton and Sharon Conway from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church stopped by. Rob and Sue brought us needed items that we use to fill our brown bags. Dwight brought cereal, cake, and a Canon printer for Lori and the Wednesday crew to use. Hampton and Sharon are snowbirds who are packing up their RV for their return north. They brought clothing items and said goodbye to everyone for this year. We will miss them! Harry Card, a veteran and former Hope Center volunteer, came by with coffee, Walmart bags and laundry detergent. Thanks, Harry for all you do.

Jennifer Wiggins was back, but was surprised that we put conditions on her return. She said, and several guests affirmed, that the Friday crew had given her full rights and access to everything inside the Hope House. But, after the devotion, Rick read her Brent's complete text, and she was cooperative and took a to-go plate and water and left.

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle, Leslie Kristine and Geri Mayo

Nineteen (19) guests signed in, with 6 using the shower and three the laundry facilities. Breakfast consisted of a breakfast casserole made by Lori and a variety of cereals. Lori was busy checking in guests, managing the shower list, and assisting guests with bus passes and ID applications. Lesley did a fantastic job in the clothing boutique. She helped guests find clothing and processed several bags of donations.



Thank you to: Marie and Bill who donated needed first-aid supplies and clothing. We appreciate their ongoing support. Harry Card who donated coffee, laundry detergent, and plastic grocery bags on Tuesday. Sharon and Mark who visited Hope House their first time. This wonderful couple brought cereal, large cans of beans, a case of water, and snacks for to-go bags.

Prayer requests: Amanda - Her stepdaughter had been shot in the shoulder. At this time, she has a serious infection in her neck. Michael - He is praying for resolution with anger issues. Red - He is praying for healing in his arm. Marie (donor) - She has had several medical tests.

For lunch, Laura (photo below left) made Italian sausages, mac and cheese, baked beans, and green beans. We had two guests with birthdays; Lori made strawberry shortcakes and chocolate chip birthday cookies.



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Hope House Happenings, Continued

Friday, April 9, 2021 - Geri, Laura, Lori and Debbie

Fourteen (14) guests signed in, with six (6) using the shower and one (1) using the laundry. Ms. Debbie was very busy providing the guests with clean clothes, and making sure everyone who signed up received the shower.

Breakfast consisted of scrambled eggs, bacon, grits, cereal, hot coffee, and cold bottled water. Lunch was baked chicken, stewed chicken with potatoes and carrots, white rice, peas and strawberry cupcakes with whipped cream. The majority of lunch was made by Ms. Bianca. Every guest received take-out lunch: Italian or turkey and cheese sub with chips and a goodie bag. They also had a choice of one canned good and one snack item from the pantry.

Laura came by with a donation of white bath and hand towels. She also processed today's clothing donations (men's shirts, shorts and jeans. Yay!). Lori came by to make sure everyone had their ID information. She also counseled some of our guests and assisted with the cleanup.



Stewed chicken



Strawberry cupcakes

Monday, April 12, 2021 - Kelly, Tony and Marty

I served chicken and yellow rice, green beans and cornbread. It was provided from Kathleen Baptist Church. All the guests loved it. Thanks to them! I also served cupcakes. Sean, one of our guests, brought cinnamon rolls and pies which I used for breakfast and lunch, respectively. We also fed the kitties.

Darrel and Mike worked today moving furniture for a customer of mine who is affiliated with a church in the area. They were very happy with the job the guys performed, and mentioned in the future they will use them again.

Also thank you, Brent, for paper products, and Laura for the shoe donation. I gave away 3-4 pairs. Special thanks to those who helped me today. God gets all the Glory; He always shows up.

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

Today we served 23 lunches to our guests, 21 sign-ins and 2 to-go. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from Luke chapter 23, A PRAYER TO POINT US HOME. Debbie and Rick served our guests chili with crackers and a cupcake or Danish dessert. Our brown to-go bag included a hot dog on a bun, a bag of chips, a pudding cup, a pack of Lance peanut butter crackers, a granola bar, an applesauce cup and candy.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, radio and lantern batteries, masks, Band-Aids and mosquito repellent. As we approach summer, **mosquito repellent is a much-needed item** for our guests who live and sleep in tents. Clothing items and socks were also available for our guests. Laura brought in a bunch of brand-new women's shoes which seven of our female guests loved. We also made two guests happy because we were able to provide 2 beautiful and practical **crocheted ground mats made by the Merry Matters** group from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

Charlie and Linda Alvarez from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church stopped by to encourage us and brought us a number of needed items, including things we use to fill our brown bags. 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 the lives of those less fortunate.

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Hope House Happenings, Continued

Wednesday, April 14, 2021- Laura Webb, Lori Riddle and Lesley Kristine

Breakfast consisted of a Mexican breakfast casserole made by Lori, fresh pineapple and a variety of cereals. The beverage choices were coffee and bottled water. The Hope House kitties were fed.

Laura provided the devotional written by Mike Harrell, pastor of Fuel Baptist Church. It was the story of Levi, the tax collector, being called by Jesus (Luke 5:26-32). Two major points were: Jesus calls us all, no matter our past; and if He calls you to follow Him, He expects for you to bring others to Him.

For lunch, Laura made pork loin, homemade cheesy scalloped potatoes, carrots and applesauce. Chocolate cake was the dessert. Ms. Marie and Mr. Bill stopped by today and donated two cases of water. They will be bringing an additional 10 cases on Friday, a much-needed blessing with our warm weather.

Tuesday, April 29, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

We are still under COVID-19 restrictions. We had a table set up for lunch and jointly maintained social distancing. It was a wet day with some guests in the front yard and most in the patio area. We were fortunate that our guests came in little bunches and left to avoid the rain, so we only had a small number at a time in the patio. We require everyone who goes inside the house to wear a mask. By the end of the day, we had served 28 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from MARK 9, HEAR THE EXPERT.

Our guests were thrilled to see Chef Dick McPherson, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, who cooked and served his wonderful pulled pork, mac and cheese and baked beans. For dessert we had fresh baked cookies. Our brown to-go bag included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a pack of Lance crackers, a Rice Krispie treat, and a fruit cup. To drink was iced cold bottled water with optional flavor packet, and apple juice. Each guest also received a pop-top can (choice of Chef Boy-R-Dee spaghetti or similar item), which they took to their tents for their supper meal. We also fed the Hope House kitties.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, camping toilet paper, lantern and radio batteries, mosquito coils, masks, socks, underwear and other clothing items and first aid for some of our guests. We brought clean towels and washcloths with us for showers and had 8 guests request showers. We had 4 guests who used the laundry.

Although the weather was soggy, we had a wonderful day with a congenial atmosphere, and we believe that hearts were touched and lives were Blessed. Thank you, Jesus.

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – Laura Webb and Geri Mayo

Twenty (20) guests signed in, with twelve (12) using the shower and two (2) the laundry facilities. Breakfast was boiled eggs, instant grits and oatmeal, Halo oranges, pastries and a variety of cereals. Hot coffee, hot tea, and cold bottled water were the beverage choices. Laura was busy signing our guests in. She provided clothing, underwear, and hygiene products and oversaw the shower list.

Laura provided the devotion written by Pastor Greg from Fuel Baptist Church: Overcoming Fear: "God's Word says 365 times "Fear Not" or "Do Not Fear". Our fears are very real, and just telling you to fear not might not feel like much of a help, but honestly, broken down into its simplest form, it is a redirection of our minds and our heart to place faith in a God who can conquer all fear" (Isaiah 41:10, 2 Timothy 1:7, Psalms 34:4). "One of the coolest stories in the Bible about fear is found in 2 Kings 6:8-23. I would encourage you to read it today."

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Hope House Happenings, Continued

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – Laura Webb and Geri Mayo

Two of our guests were given New testaments (courtesy of the Gideons). Lunch consisted of beanie weenies (with cocktail sausages), fresh-made coleslaw, pizza rolls, and Cuban bread. Every guest received a take-out bag with a cold cut sandwich on Cuban bread, a pudding cup, peanut butter crackers, and a bag of chips. Also, each guest was able to take home one canned item and one snack.

Lori came by after jury duty to counsel our guests and make sure they had the necessary paperwork for ID appointments. Bags of clothing were donated and we are very grateful. After closing Hope House, Geri and Laura went to Lighthouse Ministries. Luke donated eight boxes of food for the pantry and future lunches. Praise God! The rain held off and it was a beautiful day. The spirit of the Lord was definitely felt.

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

By the end of the day, we served 26 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and brought a devotion from MARK 10, REAL WINNERS.

Our guests were served Debbie's home-made Chicken Pot Pie, with fresh baked cookies for dessert. Our brown to-go bag of sides included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a pudding cup, a pack of Lance crackers, and an applesauce cup. To drink was ice-cold bottled water with an optional flavor packet and apple juice. Each guest also received a pop-top can (choice of Chef Boy-R-Dee spaghetti or similar item), which they took to their tents for supper.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, camping toilet paper, lantern and radio batteries, masks, socks, shoes, underwear and other clothing items and first aid for some of our guests. Some of our items, and some of the pop-top cans were donated by our friends Tammy and Kevin, who we appreciate.

We issued mosquito repellent spray which our guests were so thankful for. We also gave out knapsack kits which included new flashlights, throw blankets, ChapStick, socks and a bottle of water. We had a donation from the employees of Lakeland Electric, who have helped us and encouraged us for many years.

The weather was great; it was a busy day. We did have to ask two guests to leave just for the day, Jennifer Wiggins and Katie Shaughnessy, who did leave.

With the help of our church members at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, and the prayers and generosity of our Christian friends, we were able to touch the lives of those needing help today. Thank you, Jesus.

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.

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Birthdays in May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
5/1	Fay Herrick
5/2	Dale Gower
5/4	Debbie McLellan
5/5	Lauren Rodriguez
5/5	Bob Holmes
5/7	Etmonia Davis
5/7	Steve Schertzer
5/9	Steven Schertzer
5/12	Dena Brinkman
5/12	Barbara Gitt
5/12	Jean Welch
5/13	Sandra Armentrout
5/14	Dorothy Burns
5/14	Bob Herrick
5/15	Michelle McCaslin
5/18	Kim Watson
5/19	Sharon Vojtko
5/23	Brian Stafford
5/28	Merry Greenwood
5/30	Jay Ellis
5/30	Steve Polk



Anniversaries in May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
5/2	Sharon and Dick Shepherd
5/4	Ann and Dan Johnson
5/5	Nancy and Howard Coggin
5/5	Wanda and Dick Lammey
5/6	Yvonne and Todd Bower
5/14	Sandy and Gerry Stanfield