



# THE GOOD NEWS

## Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



### *Wesley on the Vaccine: A Guest's Views*

The pandemic is far from over. The stories of places like India and Brazil are horrific. New variants of the virus are emerging. And in America, the pace of vaccinations is slowing. To shut down the virus, or at least reduce it to the annual flu level, there has to be enough persons vaccinated so that it doesn't continue to spread widely and mutate more. We are not there yet, and the verdict is out as to whether we will get there.

This is an exceptionally deadly virus. In America alone over 580,000 [642,072 as of August 25th] have died from it. There are also a huge number of COVID-19 "long haulers" who recovered only to find that there were debilitating effects of the disease that may last their lifetimes. Yet vaccine hesitancy and vaccine rejection are widespread. The reasons are varied. Some do not trust a government-sponsored program due to past governmental deception in order to use minority citizens for dangerous medical experiments. Some worry that the vaccines were developed too quickly. Some do not believe medical authorities, distrust experts or believe it is all a conspiracy.

I do not believe John Wesley would be among the vaccine hesitant. He was convinced that God cared deeply for bodies as well as souls. He wrote in his Journal (May 18, 1772) that "God has more than one method of healing either the soul or the body" - one was through prayer, the other medical science.

Wesley was an avid reader of the medical journals of his day to compile that advice in a book, the *Primitive Physick*. While many remedies seem strange to us today (tar water, Spanish snuff, low-dose electricity), others are still effective, and some were cutting edge. His explaining the technique of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation saved many lives. All of it reflected the medicine of his day.

His goal was to provide remedies that were inexpensive, easily attainable and not dangerous for people without medical training to use. His advice on how to remain healthy - moderate diet, plenty of exercise, avoiding strong drink - is virtually the same as we hear today.

He was impatient with doctors who stuck to their pet theories instead of paying attention to the actual results of their treatments. And this is why I think Wesley would be eager to get a COVID-19 vaccine. He would be thrilled at how building upon a century of work in anti-viral drugs, modern science could rapidly produce vaccines in the face of a pandemic. But what would impress him most is the effectiveness of these vaccines. They are proven to protect persons from COVID-19, and especially from hospitalizations and death, as good or even better than seasonal flu vaccines.



Dr. Hal Knight  
Professor of Wesleyan Studies, Saint Paul School of Theology

[This story by Rev. Dr. Hal Knight first appeared in the May 2021 issue of *The Missouri Methodists*. Used with permission.]

**Date   Day                      September Events (as of 8/25/2021)**

1	Wednesday	Planning for Children's Sabbath, videoconference (VC), 1:00 - 2:30 pm; Choir practice, 6:30 pm (every Wed); <b>Zooming the Peace, 7:00 - 8:00 pm</b> (every Wed)
2	Thursday	Food Pantry, 9:30 - 11:30 am (every Thursday); Praise Team rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary (every Thursday)
3	Friday	
4	Saturday	<b>United Methodist Men (UMM) meeting</b> , Family Life Center (FLC), 9:00 am (with breakfast) -- All men invited!
5	Sunday	Sunday School classes, 9:15 - 10:15 am in FLC; Worship Service, 10:30 am in Sanctuary, Holy Communion first Sunday of month; Publix bakery goods in FLC for needy
6	Monday	<b>Labor Day</b> federal holiday; <b>United Methodist Women (UMW) meeting</b> , 10:00 am, FLC (short business meeting, no lunch), all women invited! Read chapter 1 of <i>Never Alone</i> by Max Lucado
7	Tuesday	
8	Wednesday	
9	Thursday	<b>Bible Study with Pastor Steve, 1:00 pm</b> , VC (every Thursday); all welcome!
10	Friday	UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat VC (online only), \$20.00 registration
11	Saturday	<b>Patriot Day</b> ; Day 2 of Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
12	Sunday	HARVEST SUNDAY (bring canned or dry goods donations for food pantry)
13	Monday	
14	Tuesday	
15	Wednesday	First day of Hispanic Heritage Month; Just Energy 4 All, UMW monthly VC, 3:00 pm
16	Thursday	Yom Kippur begins at sunset.
17	Friday	
18	Saturday	
19	Sunday	
20	Monday	
21	Tuesday	
22	Wednesday	Monthly Just Energy for All VC 3:00 pm (Climate Justice)
23	Thursday	
24	Friday	
25	Saturday	UMW Gulf Central District <b>Mission Study</b> , 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, VC
26	Sunday	<b>United Methodist Men Sunday, 10:30 am service; with fellowship luncheon</b>
27	Monday	UMW Leadership Team meeting, 11:00 am, FLC
28	Tuesday	Eat, Pray, Grow VC, United Methodist Church Creation Care, noon - 1:00 pm
29	Wednesday	
30	Thursday	

## How to Support the Haitian People

On August 14th Florida Conference Bishop Ken Carter asked for urgent help for Haiti: "We learned today of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti. Our prayers arise to God for the people of this beloved nation, and for the Haitian diaspora. We acknowledge the love and Christian fellowship we share with Haitian people across the Florida Conference. . . . We claim these promises. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46). And Jesus is with us in the midst of the storm (Mark 4). May we draw near to God and to one another in a spirit of generosity toward our neighbors in a moment of crisis and with faith that God will provide."

**Please pray for the people of Haiti and support them financially in this exceptional crisis.** We ask that you make a special donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through Lake Gibson UMC with an annotation that it is for **UMCOR 982450** or **Haiti Relief**. The office will send 100% of your donations to UMCOR. If you can donate as soon as possible it would be appreciated.

To learn more about the United Methodist Church's support of Haiti, go to [Standing with Haiti amid quake and storm | United Methodist News Service \(umnews.org\)](#), article by Heather Hahn, August 17, 2021.

## Why It's a Sin Not to Wear a Mask A Word About Anti-Masking

**Article written by and used by permission from Rev. Jim Harnish and his [Faith Matter: Reflections on Life and Faith](#) blog.**

You could say a lot of things about the anti-vaccination, anti-masking, anti-mandate movement that is feeding the surge in the infection, hospitalization and death rates in Florida right now.

***It's anti-science.*** It's the flashpoint for the continued attack on the authority of reason, knowledge and science that rejects facts in favor of crazy conspiracy theories and self-aggrandizing political hyperbole.

***It's anti-history.*** It is repeating the worst lessons we should have learned from the 1918 flu epidemic.

***It's anti-democracy.*** The Governor of Florida is arguing that for the sake of "parental freedom" he has the authority to overrule the freedom of local school boards to make critical decisions about the health and welfare of their students.

***It's stupid.*** It's as stupid as claiming that I have the freedom to ignore public health and safety laws that require me to buckle my seatbelt, stop for a red light, and not to smoke in public places or drive when drinking.

But anyone who is not blinded by political near-sightedness can say any of that. **What can I say as a follower of Christ?**

### **The Freedom to be Sinful:**

A basic biblical truth is that we have the freedom to be both stupid and sinful. In fact, the Bible says that which is sinful is also stupid because it always ends up badly for both the sinner and those who are affected by my sinful choices.

**The deepest truth about sin is that it is always selfish.** St. Augustine called sin the "soul turned in on itself." It's the radical egotism that leads me to act as if I have no responsibility beyond my own self-absorption. If I claim to be a Christian, it is an outright rejection of Jesus' command to love my neighbor. Continued on the next page . . .

## **.Why It's a Sin Not to Wear a Mask, Continued**

Paul summarized the truth when he wrote to the Galatians:

*“You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!” (Galatians 5:13-15)*

### **The Power to Be Free:**

We affirm the good news in our Baptism liturgy when we *“accept the freedom and power God give you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.”*

Paul promised that power when he wrote:

*“People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace ...*

*“So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:5-13)*

OK. I don't like wearing a mask any more than you do. I miss communicating with a smile. But in the midst of a raging, deadly, highly-contagious pandemic, not wearing a mask is both sinful and stupid. Wearing a mask, getting vaccinated (unless there is a medical exception), and supporting reasonable public health mandates is smart. It's an act of Christ-like love. It's also a step toward Spirit-empowered life and peace.

Grace and peace,

Jim

[Source: Link to blog post by Rev. Jim Harnish, subject as above, contained in the *United Methodist News Friday Digest*, August 13, 2021]

## **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

## Lay Leader's Letter

Welcome to "September Song" and "Autumn Leaves" by my favorite pianist, Roger Williams. Of course, all you displaced Floridians had to be up north of the Mason-Dixon line to really appreciate the fall season which begins now up north while we continue in the hot, humid south.

It's also the time of the year for the Fall Feasts of The LORD which begin in the Hebrew month of Tishri, on the first day, and corresponds to September 8th, followed by the **Day of Atonement** on the 10th day, followed by the **Feast of Tabernacles** on the 15th day of Tishri. All of these feasts are found in the Book of Leviticus, chapter 23 beginning at verse 23.

So why should we be concerned with these feasts found in the Book of The Law called the Torah in the Hebrew Bible and also in our Old Testament? These were *forever feasts* for the Hebrews because they represent Father God's plan for all mankind.

The Spring feasts were fulfilled by Messiah Jesus on Passover and resurrected on First Fruits. The Summer feast was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit was given to all believers which became the Church, and the Fall feasts will be fulfilled when Father God establishes His Kingdom after the tribulation. So, the fall feasts concern the end times!

Shouldn't we be concerned about the end times and all the prophecies made throughout the Old and New testaments about the end times?

Enjoy the music of Roger Williams and remember. SHALOM. John Bernat, Lay Leader

## Housing Needed ASAP!

A dear, elderly man who comes to our food pantry, and his wife, are being evicted from their manufactured home (MH) in mid-September. The home lacks heat, the floor has holes and there are rats. The owner refuses to fix it, so helping pay its rent won't solve the problem. If you know of a MH, house or apartment in Lakeland that rents in the area of \$700 to \$750 per month, please call the office (863-858-5431). Even if you don't know of such a house, **please pray that they obtain a livable home quickly!**

## 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

**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



## Prayer Ministry

*"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making requests for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:2-5 (NKJV) as written by Paul)*

Oh God, we are your family. Please be with those we love this day and keep us together in your heart. We have had many prayer requests lately for ill loved ones, friends and church congregants. It seems the list is never ending, especially when we count those in the community and around the world. Keep us strong, O God, and ever faithful to you, the one who is our healer for every situation. We give thanks to all the prayer warriors in our midst and give thanks to our Father for the opportunity to serve Him in our prayers for others. Amen

Please contact the church office (863-858-5431) if you would care to join our prayer email team or receive a copy of the prayer journal each month if you are not already receiving one.

Giving thanks that God hears our prayers and responds with His mercy and grace,

Prayer Ministry-Fran



## United Methodist Men (UMM)

The UMM did not hold a monthly meeting in August, to allow for family plans and to catch up on our own summer projects. We are still in the planning stages of concrete repair of the transformer between the Family Life Center (FLC) and A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center. We have the material with the exception of the concrete.

We have finished the repairs to the church's old sign which will be used by ALBOH to post hours and special notices. The increased lighting inside the sign makes it much more readable at night.

We will be holding our September meeting **on Saturday, September 4th, at 9:00 am in the FLC.** (Our normal meeting date is the second Saturday of the month, but this was changed due to a scheduling conflict.)

I hope all will be able to attend this meeting. It will include a full-service breakfast with all the fixings, so come hungry. We will be discussing the upcoming **UMM Sunday service on September 26th**, and any other further maintenance or repair projects that may arise in support of LGUMC and the community.

In the month of **September we will be voting on a new president for the UMM.** Anyone who would like to be considered, please contact Pastor Steve or Michael Moake.

***If anyone is interested in learning more about UMM, please come to meetings.*** They are open to all men, whether members of the church or not. We would embrace your ideas and suggestions for future projects, worship or studies. We are willing to help anyone with home projects if they are within our ability.

Thanks to all who have supported the UMM and LGUMC. Your help is greatly valued.

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 863-816-3194.

Michael Moake, President

## Mission Moments

It has been a rather inactive summer, but things are ramping up. The school supplies gathered a few months ago were finally delivered to Padgett Elementary School. The interim principal, Joette Burse, was very happy to receive them along with items donated by the Friendship Sunday School class. The assistant principal, Mr. Livingston, was there to help unload the car and haul everything into the school. I was delighted to hear that his three children had attended our Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center! More items will be purchased and delivered soon. [Photo provided by Linda Alvarez. Pictured left to right: Mr. Livingston, Ms. Burse and Ms. Alvarez.]



Some of you may be interested in donating funds to help the Haitian people affected by the recent earthquake. Two suggestions would be to give **through our church to UMCOR or give to Doctors Without Borders.** Both are highly rated, with the money received going to help the people.

If you wish to donate to other relief organizations, be careful to check the backgrounds of the charities carefully. So many spend the money they collect on fundraising and administration. Please keep the Haitian people and those in Afghanistan in your prayers.

Linda Alvarez, Mission Coordinator

*Note from the Editor:* We received very few donations this summer for the combined Padgett Elementary School (PES) and Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) back-to-school drive. The Church Council, at the August 17th meeting, decided not to divide these donations, but to give all of them to the local school (except for one gift card for FUMCH). We'll take care of FUMCH through 5th Sunday and Christmas donations.

The remaining 2021 5th Sundays are **August 29th and October 31st. January 30th, 2022** is also a 5th Sunday. To donate to FUMCH on 5th Sundays you can use the special Church Offering Envelopes that are mailed to your home, or annotate cash or checks as "FUMCH" and drop them in the offering plate or take/mail to the office.

## Financial Report (thru July 31, 2021)

If you are merely comparing monthly income this year, as opposed to the previous three years, we are slightly behind what we would like to see. Thankfully, our check book balance has remained higher than what was carried in previous years, so our expenses have been reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three-year Congregational Giving Profile (CGP) Template: Monthly Version							
Data Entry							
Current Year	<b>2021</b>						
Current Budget	<b>\$321,975</b>						
Month	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2021
January	\$23,610	\$32,120	\$19,250	\$74,980	\$24,993	\$24,993	\$41,469
February	\$29,950	\$23,134	\$26,344	\$79,428	\$26,476	\$51,469	\$26,663
March	\$29,201	\$34,381	\$31,430	\$95,012	\$31,671	\$83,140	\$23,181
April	\$26,066	\$29,060	\$48,131	\$103,257	\$34,419	\$117,559	\$24,073
May	\$19,712	\$22,029	\$25,816	\$67,557	\$22,519	\$140,078	\$26,093
June	\$20,390	\$27,031	\$25,894	\$73,315	\$24,438	\$164,516	\$15,866
July	\$23,856	\$23,569	\$20,865	\$68,290	\$22,763	\$187,280	\$23,104
August	\$16,727	\$21,790	\$22,494	\$61,011	\$20,337	\$207,617	\$0
September	\$24,401	\$22,385	\$25,185	\$71,971	\$23,990	\$231,607	\$0
October	\$24,825	\$22,385	\$20,998	\$68,208	\$22,736	\$254,343	\$0
November	\$22,133	\$28,024	\$25,284	\$75,441	\$25,147	\$279,490	\$0
December	\$24,397	\$52,968	\$26,088	\$103,453	\$34,484	\$313,974	\$0
<b>Total</b>	\$285,268	\$338,876	\$317,779	\$941,923	\$313,974	\$313,974	\$180,449

On August 17th the Church Council met to discuss four primary items:

1. LGUMC has spent approximately \$1,000 on a program to help us advertise on social media. Our first foray with Facebook asked "How might we pray for you today?" This campaign has provided a number of responses to which the pastor has offered prayer with the individuals. Whether these individuals have visited online or in-person is not known at this time.

2. The Church Council **approved** results of the church survey on Sanctuary lighting, pews and chairs.

a. The Church Council approved an expenditure of up to \$3,500 to purchase recessed lighting for the main area of the sanctuary (12 fixtures) and the choir area (11 fixtures). This amount covers the cost of the materials. A certified electrician has volunteered his time in conjunction with church members to run some wiring and install the fixtures.

b. We will retain a number of pews and add additional chairs within the sanctuary. The meeting approved ordering up to 110 armchairs for the sanctuary. After rearranging our current 90 chairs on one side of the sanctuary, we determined that we would only need 71 additional armchairs for the sanctuary floor and an additional 20 for the choir area. We envision alternating armchairs with armless chairs across the floor. This permits people to use the arms for stability when standing, regardless of the type of chair they are using. We have placed an order for 91 total armchairs at a cost of approximately \$8,000. They should arrive in approximately 10 weeks (the beginning of November).

Continued on the next page . . .

## Financial Report (thru July 31, 2021), Continued

3. Over the past few years we have been collecting monies for replacing the air handling system in the sanctuary. At the end of July, we had received \$20,908 in designated funds for this purpose. We believe that we either have funds available to the Trustees from our previous endowment or from funds within the stock market which might get us close to executing this project. The Trustees have been asked to get at least three estimates for upgrading our air conditioning units, bringing in 25% fresh air, expelling stale air, adding better filters, updated thermostats, etc. We have one quote, have had a contractor visit for a second quote, and will seek a third quote. Once we make a contractor decision, we anticipate asking for work to start in the October-November time-frame. This will keep any work outside of the hottest summer months so the Sanctuary will be useable in case the work cannot be completed in one week.

The first three expenses will come out of our General Funds account, still leaving us above our historic balance carried in the checkbook. Once we get quotes on the Sanctuary air conditioning we will decide how we will raise any additional funds required.

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Committee Chair

## Florida United Methodist Church Celebrates the Season of Creation September 1 - October 4, 2021

The **Season of Creation** is an ecumenical celebration of God's wonderful creation. The Florida Conference established a **Creation Care Task Team (CCTT)** consisting of representatives from each of its districts. Cara Fleischer is the task team leader (cares4creation@gmail.com).

The task team's missions include educating churches about all the facets of Creation Care, developing local actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution, and advocating for legislation that protects and improves the environment, particularly actions that reduce global warming.

Task team members and anyone interested in learning more about, or supporting, Creation Care meet virtually for **Eat, Pray, Grow** lunchtime meetings (noon - 1:00 pm). The remaining 2021 Eat, Pray, Grow meetings are September 28th, October 19th, November 16th and December 14th.

The Creation Care Task Team is organizing three online events to bring us together to pray for the earth while fortifying us for the work ahead. Here is the Eat, Pray, Grow [Facebook event](#) for you to RSVP and share.

**World Day of Prayer for Creation**, Wednesday, September 1st, noon - 1:00 pm

**"When Jesus Laughs" -- Growing Racial Unity Through Creation Care** with author Rev. Laticia Scriven, Tuesday, September 28th, noon - 1:00 pm

**Virtual Blessing of the Animals**, Sunday, October 3rd, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Get a head start by reading the prayer on page 12 often throughout the Season of Creation.

## Pastor's Bible Study Resumes

Join us for Pastor Steve's Zoom Bible Study which resumes on **Thursday, September 9th at 1:00 pm**. If you haven't been participating in these, get the Zoom meeting code from the church's website, lakejibsonumc.com, to log in. We are starting the Letter of Paul to the **Galatians**; please read chapter 1 to prepare.



## Visioning a Future Lake Gibson UMC

[The Church Council is working on ideas how LGUMC can reach the next generations. Dick McPherson, Council Chair, recently sent the members information to help them to understand Millennials better. The Millennial generation is defined as **anyone born between 1981 and 1996, which means anyone between the ages of 25 and 40 in 2021.**

Since we are all ambassadors for our church, it would be a good idea for each of us to learn as much as we can about the younger generation. OK, Boomers – Let's get to work! Ed.]

Below are links that may help us understand Millennials. Bad news is, mainstream denominations are losing with this generation. Good news is, there are successes with this generation. I have lost count of the many videos, such as those listed here, articles, podcasts and so on that have come across my computer screen in recent months. It's not hard and you can do the same if you wish by going to YouTube and searching **Millennials and Church**.

Grab a cup of coffee or your favorite beverage, kick back and take it all in. Point is, Paul tells us he became all things to all people so that he may save a few. The first four videos listed below are Millennials sharing about Millennials. The fifth video is the minister of one of the largest churches in the country, located in Sarasota, Florida, along with a church historian who gives some good historical perspectives.

Millennials: How Churches Can Attract Them  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNbAn9sepGQ&t=148s>

8% of Millennials Say THIS Is Why They Don't Attend Church  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxWGNCFew9c>

MILLENNIALS answer, "Why are millennials leaving the church?"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhsQrQ2y4NM>

Millennials Answer Questions on Millennials and the Church  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJOOITPr22A>

Are We Losing the Cultural Currency Battle?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2A6wrKQrHps&t=95s>

If you have spent the time to watch and consider this information, what would you like to see in the next year, 2 years, 5 years for Lake Gibson? What do you think God expects from us? If you will, please share with the group. We're all in this together. Not one more important than the other.

Dick McPherson, Church Council Chair  
[ddmcplg@gmail.com](mailto:ddmcplg@gmail.com)

### Could This Be Us Some Day?

St. Mark's UMC in Ocala is adding a new **Wednesday night community dinner** that organizers are calling **The Family Table**. "In times of crisis, families can be left behind," Rev. Jill Beck said. We want to give families an opportunity to not have to think about preparing a meal one night a week, and coming together with other families for mutual support."



St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
*Changing Lives Through Love*

The Family Table community dinner began August 4 at 6:30 pm. The gatherings will feature a meal, live music, story sharing, and activities for kids and youth. All are welcome to attend.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Could This Be Us Some Day? Continued

“We know that sacred things can happen around the supper table. We envision this as creating one large community dinner table, where we all gather together as a big, blended family,” Pastor Michael Beck said. **The hope is that community dinner can lead to connection, conversations, and deepening relationships.** Local musicians are excited to offer their musical talents and will stay after the dinner for coffee house-style jam sessions.

“We love this city. We want to spend the rest of our lives here. But we want to see this community thrive and become whole. We will give ourselves to that work as long as it takes. They can bury us right here in the backyard,” Michael Beck said.

The church also offers **shelter called Open Arms Village for men experiencing homelessness, a food pantry, and daily recovery meetings.** The church has dedicated two buildings entirely to the anonymous recovery fellowships that gather in those spaces around the clock.

The Wednesday night community dinners are open to all. For more information, contact the church office 352-622-4475 or email [stmark1839@aol.com](mailto:stmark1839@aol.com).

[Source: Florida Conference website]

## Hoarding, Hiding, or Helping? When Objects Go Missing

by Vicky Pitner, First UMC Lakeland

Dementia or Alzheimer’s disease not only affect memory, but because of the changes in the brain, someone living with memory loss also has difficulty with processing information, organizing thoughts, and logical thinking. This can lead to repetitive and concerning behaviors.

Often, one troubling behavior is when objects go missing. This causes frustration for family members who often confuse hiding objects in the house with hoarding. However, hoarding is a true disorder and may be a symptom of obsessive-compulsive disorder, or compulsive shopping disorder and is unrelated to dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. Having the inability to throw away possessions and having overwhelming feelings of embarrassment of all the “possessions” is symptomatic of hoarding disorder.

Hiding objects by a person living with memory loss is rather a coping mechanism to make some sense in their confusing world, or an attempt to try to gain some control over their situation. A morning muffin may be found days later under a bed pillow only because the person may have wanted a late-night snack, then, of course, forgets the muffin.

There is logical reason in the person's mind when hiding the object, but because of the dementia, it makes little sense to us. Be mindful that hiding objects has some purpose for the individual. Avoiding scolding and instead showing patience, understanding, and empathy is best.

Someone who worked in an office may find and hide familiar objects such as pens, papers, mail, stamps, check book and other office supplies in an attempt to fulfill a need to be useful. The person may even see this as an effort to put all the supplies in a safe place and “help” organize the house.

Make certain knives, scissors, and other dangerous items such as chemicals are locked away.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Hoarding, Hiding, or Helping? When Objects Go Missing Continued

Keep valuables and other important items such as jewelry, medications, keys, cell phones, and money out of sight and reach of the person. Seeing keys and money may trigger the person to “go to the store” and leave the house.

Delusional thinking can be a characteristic of dementia and may cause a person to think that others are stealing from them; thus, they have the need to hide certain belongings.

Locking unused rooms or spaces will limit areas for the person to search.

Check trash containers before taking them out or hide all trash containers, as this is a common place to put objects that the person deems unnecessary.

If the person begins to look for a specific item, help them look and then suggest a coffee break and assure them you will help look later. They will forget the item and this will minimize their anxiety as well as yours.

[Thank you to Vicky Pitner who leads **Connections: A Memory Ministry** (part of the Congregational Care Ministry) at First UMC Lakeland and generously shares her articles with us.]

### First UMC Lakeland Memory Ministry Introduces the **Memory Café!**



Vicky Pitner has invited Lake Gibson care partners to visit the Memory Café and determine if it might be helpful to them and their partner.

**What is a Memory Café?** Memory Cafes were introduced in 1997 in the Netherlands as a way to break through the stigma of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. A Memory Café is a facilitated social gathering for people living with dementia and their care partner. It is a safe and comfortable space where participants enjoy structured activities, group discussions and opportunities for reminiscing. The gathering is scheduled weekly and light refreshments are served.

This is a **free, drop-in program and no registration is required**. Please call Vicky at 863-686-3163 Ext 275 or email [vpitner@firstumc.org](mailto:vpitner@firstumc.org) if you have questions.

- When?** Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30 am
- Where?** Giving Tree Bookstore/Gift Shop, 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland
- Who?** Those living with memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer’s disease and their care partner.

COVID: Persons age 5 and over a asked to wear a mask.

## A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your  
tender love.

Praise be to you!  
Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.

Praise be to you!  
Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.

Praise be to you!  
Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good,  
advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you!  
Amen.

*Pope Francis published this prayer in his Laudato Si' encyclical, and is meant for us Christians to ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus.*

## Gulf Central District (GCD) United Methodist Women on Facebook

Want to know what's going on with the United Methodist Women (UMW) across our district? The GCD has a vibrant, up-to-date Facebook page filled with information from UMW units around west-central Florida.

There is also information about the Rosa Valdez Center in Tampa, a UMW National Mission Institution, which GCD churches support by donations, prayers and volunteering at the annual UMW Day of Action. Upcoming special events such as the UMW Spiritual Retreat, which will be virtual this year, September 10 – 12, are described.

Check it out for interesting ideas and missions already in progress around the district that affect women, children and youth. Better yet, let's submit some of our own projects or events to the page.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/Gcdfumw/> to see what's happening and get inspired to join the action. You don't have to be a UMW member to view the Facebook page, or to attend our meetings.

## Florida Conference UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

*Created with Love*

**September 10, 11 and 12, 2021**

Although it was planned to hold this event at the Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center in Fruitland Park, increasing COVID-19 infections across Florida have made it necessary to hold this event online only.

To register and pay the \$20.00 fee, go to the Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../created-with-love...>. You can also find information about the retreat on the Florida Conference UMW website <http://www.flconfumw.org>.



## Organizing Your 2021 Children's Sabbath Celebration Webinar, Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 3:00 pm (EDT)

[Although we don't currently have an active children's ministry due to the pandemic, we will have one in the future. This workshop would be an introduction to a program idea for the future. Ed.]

Join **United Methodist Women** members and friends for an interactive workshop where we will learn how to engage our congregations in the Children's Sabbath celebration, a nationwide multi-faith effort including worship, education, and action to generate year-round efforts to improve children's lives.

United Methodists celebrate **Children's Sabbath on the second Sunday in October** (October 10, 2021). This workshop will offer practical planning strategies and creative ideas for worship, education, outreach and advocacy that you can take back to your congregation and community to engage them in the 2021 Children's Sabbath, "**Where Does It Hurt? Listening to Heal Our Children.**"

Registration is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. This workshop will be about 1.5 hours in length. It will **not** be recorded. There will be opportunities for live/interactive participation.

Want more information about Children's Sabbath? See [these resources](#) from Children's Defense Fund.

[Register here.](#)

## UMW Lake Gibson Unit

We hope you will join us in our first face-to-face (mask-to-mask?) meeting on Monday, September 6 at 10:00 am in the FLC. This will be a combined circle meeting that includes starting our new book, *Never Alone* by Max Lucado. Please read chapter 1 and its study questions.

For Heart to Heart Circle: Try to remember we need to be sending our pledge donations to Sarah Schiemann so we don't get behind. Just send it in an envelope marked with your name and what's it for. Also, remember to be saving your pocket change for the **thank offering** in November. Any questions, call Ruth Zona (863-859-5967).

## Merry Matters In-person Workshops Resume in October

Regularly scheduled gatherings of the Merry Matters will resume in October (date TBD). Lynn Meske will again be our leader. In the meantime, you can continue to make plastic yarn (plarn) from grocery bags and crochet the strips to make sleeping mats for the homeless.

Also, continue to place your clean plastic grocery bags in the barrel inside the main door to the FLC.

Call the office if you have completed mats for delivery to Hope House (HH). Our HH volunteers, Debbie and Rick McLellan, can set up a date for you to deliver your mats in person to HH if you want to.

## Thanks to Dorothy Morgan and Kathy Rumohr for Beautiful Hats!

As part of the virtual **UMW Mission u**, we were requested to knit or crochet hats for newborns and children. Dorothy knitted tiny hats for tiny babies and larger ones for older children.



Kathy Rumohr crocheted warm children's hats.



## Answering Your Burning Questions About Lake Gibson United Methodist Women (UMW) (Part 1)

The UMW's terminology can be confusing. Here's a cheat-sheet to help demystify some of the UMW organizations and terms:

**Unit** All of a United Methodist Church's UMW groups, called circles, compose one unit. The term "Unit Meeting" is used to describe the (normally) three annual meetings (February, May and November) when all of the church's circles, ladies who are not members of a circle, and anyone interested in the UMW come together for a business meeting, guest speaker and fellowship meal. At the fall unit meeting we discuss organizations to support and approve the charities that will receive financial support from our unit. (The initial identification of charities is made during circle and leadership team meetings.)

**Circle** A subgroup of the Unit, which allows for more interaction among a smaller group of members than the larger unit does. Circle meetings usually open and close with prayer, may have a reading from a devotional, learn of unit information the facilitator has obtained from monthly UMW Leadership Team meetings, collect pledges (annual or monthly collections of whatever amount a member wants to submit), and other collections, discuss plans for or status of action projects that support women, children or youth, have a Bible study or other Bible-related book or video series, and generally share what's on each person's heart. Circles generate sisterhood, support and uplift those who are down and celebrate their victories. Prayer is at the heart of UMW and its circles.

Lake Gibson UMC currently has two circles. The only substantive difference between them is the day and time they meet and the facilitator. Each circle selects its own study materials and any projects they want to work on, and runs its meetings as the members choose. Rather than hold meetings in June, July and August, we select local restaurants and enjoy fellowship meals with members of both circles.

**Ruth Circle of Love** – In "normal" times, Ruth Circle meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am in the Family Life Center (FLC). Pat Moon (863-858-2577) is the facilitator.

**Heart to Heart** – Normally meets on the first Monday of the month at 10:30 am in the FLC. Ruth Zona (863-859-5967) is the facilitator.

**UMW Orgs** Being United Methodist, the UMW is organized to a fare-thee-well. The headquarters is in New York. Their website is [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org). You can find almost anything about the UMW and its many programs on this site.

Florida Conference UMW <https://flconfumw.org>. UMW parallel to the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Gulf Central District UMW information is on its Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Gcdflumw/>. This is a very active group that leads a number of missions throughout the year, such as Mission Studies; Wonder Walk, Action Day and Baby Shower for the Rosa Valdez Center; webinars and other meetings (virtual for now).

## It's Time to Order Your Delicious Pecans!

Last year's pecan sale netted just over \$772.00 for Lake Gibson United Methodist Women's mission to support worthy organizations that work with women, children and youth. The pandemic has drastically cut the mission income from rummage/sidewalk sales, which makes the pecan sales even more important this year.

We will be ordering from the same company, Mascot. Prices have remained the same as last year. Chocolate coated pecans won't be made until temperatures lower, which the company expects to be in October. The plan is to collect mostly pre-paid orders and obtain a few more bags to sell at church.

### Price Structure:

- 16 oz. halves and pieces                      \$14.00
- 12 oz. milk chocolate covered              \$10.00
- 10 oz. cinnamon glazed                      \$10.00

Fill in the following order form and return to church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Pecan Halves 16 oz. \$14.00 per bag	Cinnamon Glazed 10oz. \$10.00 per bag	Chocolate covered 12oz \$10.00 per bag	Total / Paid

Please send in money with order form. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. You may mail it to the church or put it in the drop mailbox. Please put that it is for UMW on envelope.

Fill in the following order form and return to church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Pecan Halves 16 oz. \$14.00 per bag	Cinnamon Glazed 10oz. \$10.00 per bag	Chocolate covered 12oz \$10.00 per bag	Total / Paid

Please send in money with order form. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. You may mail it to the church or put it in the drop mailbox. Please put that it is for UMW on envelope.

**These make great gifts (if you can avoid eating them all yourself)!**

## ITEMS NEEDED AT HOPE HOUSE

### PANTRY AND/OR TO-GO BAG FOOD

Single-serving canned pasta, ready-to-eat soup, Vienna sausage, beanie weenies, tuna or chicken salad kits, fruit cups, peanut butter or cheese crackers, Saltine crackers, chips, and individually wrapped snacks.

### NON – FOOD ITEMS

Disposable razors, baby wipes, triple antibiotic cream, deodorant, hydrocortisone cream; over-the-counter (OTC) medicine, such as ibuprofen and antacids. (These can be found at the Dollar Tree or the dollar aisle at most stores.) Suntan lotion (sun screen) and bug repellent are also needed.

### CLOTHES

**\*\*HH desperately needs men's shorts, sizes 30 to 34.\*\*** Men's underwear, boxer or briefs are especially welcome. Socks, especially dark, low-cut ones. Men's and women's t-shirts, mainly men's size large. Tennis shoes, especially men's sizes 9 1/2 to 11 1/2.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Backpacks, small duffel bags, batteries, small flashlights.

Thank you for anything you can donate. ♥

## Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry currently needs donations of peanut butter, jelly and spaghetti sauce. Please buy these in **plastic containers** if possible -- it's too easy for our volunteers to drop the glass jars when filling the grocery bags, and difficult to clean up the mess. The recipients, some of whom depend on their bikes to get to and from the pantry, also appreciate the no-break containers.

We also need more paper grocery bags. Please bring your used bags to the church office when you can. Thank you.

Ann Johnson

## What Is Critical Race Theory and What Christians Should Know

**CRITICAL RACE THEORY** examines how laws in the United States have built and supported racial inequities. It is an ideological framework that names race as a social construct and asserts racialized inequities in society are fostered by historic and current systemic, institutional, and legal policies and practices.

The **United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race** offered an online panel about the theory, featuring law and seminary professors. To view the panel discussion, go to <https://www.r2hub.org/library/what-is-critical-race-theory?> The agency also has an infographic that aims to separate myths from truth. To see the graphic, go to [https://www.r2hub.org/s/GCORR\\_CriticalRaceTheory\\_Infographic.pdf](https://www.r2hub.org/s/GCORR_CriticalRaceTheory_Infographic.pdf). [Note that there are underlines after GCORR and Theory.]



## How the Lord is at Work in the Lives of the Homeless

*On August 17th Debbie and Rick McLellan reported the following:*

A few times a year we have a visit from someone who we used to minister to and who stop by to let us know of their status and success, and to thank us for our help, prayers and encouragement.

Today a man named Ryan came by who we remember struggling with issues. He has a good job with a trucking company, a nice car, is involved in a local church, and the Lord is working in his life. We were really encouraged by his appreciation and testimony. It makes this ministry rewarding.

*On Wednesday, August 18th, Laura Webb, Lori Riddle, Luz Figueroa and Lesley Kristine reported on another inspiring story:*

A special guest, Lori's friend Cliff, gave his testimony. He had been homeless and addicted to drugs. He gave his life to the Lord, then entered a program with Lighthouse Ministries. Cliff has been clean for 4 years and is evangelizing on the streets.

The Bible message he read was from Romans 6:15 - 23. Verse 23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## How the Opioid Epidemic Impacts Child Welfare

On August 6, 2021 the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) posted the subject 3-page article on its Blog. The article addresses the impacts this epidemic is having on the children FUMCH serves.

The article can be found on the FUMCH Facebook page.

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

August 13th was the final day of the American Red Cross Lifeguard course, and all four of our youth passed the final test and became certified! They will be able to work part-time as lifeguards. We're very proud of them!



[Source: FUMCH Facebook page]

As mentioned earlier in this issue, we did not provide FUMCH with back-to-school supplies this year as the donations were rather small. The one gift card received has been sent to FUMCH.

In addition to 5th Sunday collections for FUMCH, we will be asking for Christmas donations for the children and for the cottages. Last year the home requested we give gift cards to businesses and restaurants they identified. That will probably be the procedure for 2021.

The campus is still essentially closed to outside visitors, so we have not performed bicycle maintenance since February 2020. We are looking forward to getting back up there for a week when we are permitted, and when temperatures are more conducive to working outdoors.

Please continue to donate to the FUMCH Bicycle Repair fund so we can purchase the needed repair parts. If you or a neighbor would like to donate a used bike, please call Dwight Kitchens, 410-790-4422. We do not need bikes for small children, so only 24" and 26" (wheel diameters) are needed.

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

### **Tuesday, July 27 – Debbie and Rick McLellan**

We are still following COVID-19 restrictions, had a table set up for lunch and jointly maintained social distancing. It was a hot day with our guests in the front yard and the patio area. We require everyone who goes inside the House to wear a mask, with only 2 at a time allowed inside.

By the end of the day, **we served 32 guests**. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Matthew 14, FOCUS ON JESUS.

Our guests were served a meal by Chef Dick McPherson from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, who served the food and ministered to our guests with Rick and Debbie McLellan. Chef Dick served a fabulous pulled pork dinner, with mac and cheese and a corn salad that our guests raved about. For dessert was watermelon and chocolate chip cookies.

Debbie was busy and gave out OFF mosquito repellent, toiletry kits, razors, lantern and radio batteries, ball caps, masks, underwear, socks, and clothing items. We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and had 13 guests request showers. We had 10 guests who used the washers and dryers.

We had a visit from Jim Aldrich, who brought us a cake and other items from our friends at Christ the King Episcopal Church. We were grateful for donations and items dropped off by the following people: Debbie Moore and Ethel Somers, both from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church; the generous employees of Lakeland Electric; and our friend Tammy. [The July 28th report is at the end of this section.]

### **Tuesday, August 3, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan**

Due mostly to the fickleness of the weather, we only served 14 guests today. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from John 10 and Jeremiah 29, GOD HAS A GOOD PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

Our guests were served Southern red beans and rice, corn bread, a fresh mixed salad with tomatoes and cucumbers, and a choice of Ranch or Italian dressings. For dessert was almond peach cake with ice cream on top. We also gave out a Giant Print Bible and filled one request for a pocket New Testament, provided by Debbie Moore of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. We love it when our guests want to have their own Bible to study the Word of God.

We had a visit from Jim Aldrich, who brought us food, cookies, clothing, and other items from our friends at Christ the King Episcopal Church. Harry Card, a military veteran and former Hope Center volunteer, brought several cases of pop-top cans and other useful items. Rob and Sue Atchley, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, stopped by with many items that we use to fill our brown bags.

When checking the doors and windows at closing time, we discovered that someone (probably during shower time) had unbolted the deadbolt to the back door and then relocked the screen door, possibly planning for a late night back door entry.

### **Wednesday, August 4, 2021 - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle and Luz Figueroa**

Due to the weather, only 15 guests signed in, with 8 using the shower and 4 using the laundry. Laura was quite busy distributing blankets, pillows, toiletries, batteries, insect spray, underwear and shirts. Ms. Luz made sandwiches, helped set up, cleaned and closed down.

Lori provided the devotional from 2 Kings 7. This story shows how God used lepers to tell the good news. It shows that anyone can be a useful part of the kingdom. The moral is God can make anything happen. We must just trust Him to do it. Continued on the next page . . .

## Hope House Happenings, Continued

### August 4th, Continued

For lunch, the guests had a feast. Laura made 5 pork roasts, mac & cheese, green beans, and corn. Jim brought red ziti pasta and garlic bread. Ms. Jean made Cool Whip fruit salad and chocolate/peanut butter bonbons. The guests were given a PB&J sandwich and chose items from the pantry for their to-go bags.

### Friday, August 6 – Ms. Debbie, Luz Figueroa and Geri Mayo

A total of 23 guests signed in, with 10 using the shower and 5 using the laundry.

Prayer requests:

\*Daniel - he has been speaking with his father and is looking for transport to Alabama.

\*The health of all of our guests during this upsurge in COVID cases.

\*Geri - she is healing from a respiratory infection.

**\*\*\*We've received notification that one of our guests, Gary, was struck by a car last Saturday. He died instantly. Please pray for his family and friends. \*\*\***

### Tuesday, August 10 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

By the end of the day, we had served 22 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from 1John 5, BELIEVING AND KNOWING.

Our guests were served chicken and yellow rice with peas on the side and garlic bread. We also passed out giant chocolate bars provided by our friend Tammy. Our brown to-go bags included a chicken salad sandwich, a bag of chips, a pudding cup, a pack of Grandma cookies, a pack of Club crackers with a JIF peanut butter to-go cup and an applesauce cup.

**God provided a great day and our guests were happy to find that the sale of the Hope Center did not go through. Your prayers and help make a real difference in lives!**

### Tuesday, August 17 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

Our guests were served baked ham and sweet potatoes, green beans and tangerines. Our brown to-go bag included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a pudding cup, a pack of Oreo cookies, a pack of Lance crackers, and a diced peaches fruit cup. To quench thirst was ice-cold bottled water with a flavor packet. 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. We also fed the Hope House kitties.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, lantern and radio batteries, masks, socks and clothing items. We also gave out 2 larger print Bibles.

We had a visit from Charlie and Linda Alvarez and Cyndi Kuhlman, from our church, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, who stopped by with items that we need. We appreciate Pastor Steve Polk and all of the members who have prayed for us and supported our ministry.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Hope House Happenings, Continued

### Wednesday, August 18 - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle, Luz Figueroa and Lesley Kristine

A cold breakfast of several cereals and pastries was set out. Lori made a keto biscuit and gravy casserole. She used almond flour for the biscuits.

Lesley worked diligently and made the clothing boutique beautiful. She has been missed immensely. Welcome back! Ms. Luz did her usual hard work, and she cleaned the shower and bathroom. Ms. Luz's husband, Marco, cleaned the yard. His hard work keeping Hope House presentable is appreciated. Lori counseled our guests. She has been working to provide our guests appointments with social workers and for needed things such as IDs. Laura oversaw the shower list and passed out several new shirts and shoes. The ladies were quite busy providing deodorant, razors, and wipes.

### Friday, August 20 - Luz Figueroa, Lesley Kristine and Geri Mayo

Breakfast consisted of assorted cereals, yogurts and cinnamon French toast made by Geri. Coffee, OJ, almond milk and bottled water were the beverage choices. (Many thanks to Lori and The Dream Center for many of the food donations used today).

Lunch was a chicken dish served over yellow rice (donated by Ms. Lucy), a sausage and stuffing casserole, and a cold pasta salad (donated by Ms. Jean) with corn. Several cakes and cupcakes were donated for our desserts.

Geri provided the devotion: Finding Strength in Christ Amid Crisis, Day 4: Embrace Christ.

Do not fear, for I am with you;  
Do not be afraid, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you, I will also help you,  
I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Please continue to pray for God to touch the lives of all of our guests. May God bless you and keep you safe. [Photos from Geri's report]



### Tuesday, August 24 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

Today we served 25 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Luke 21, READ THE BIBLE TO BE BLESSED.

Our guests were served Turkey Noodle Casserole, fresh baked biscuits, and optional hard-boiled eggs. For dessert we served cupcakes. Our brown to-go bag included a chicken salad sandwich, a bag of chips, a pudding cup, a chewy chocolate chunk bar, a Rice Krispies Treat, a fresh Mandarin orange and an applesauce cup.

Continued on the next page . . .



## Hope House Happenings, Continued

### Tuesday, August 24 – Debbie and Rick McLellan, Continued

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, lantern and radio batteries, masks, socks, insect repellent spray and clothing items. We also gave out 3 pocket New Testaments. We love it when our guests want their own Bible to study the Word of God.

We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and gave each guest a towel, washcloth and hygiene kit. Nine guests requested showers and 4 used the washers and dryers.

We had a visit from Jim Aldrich, who brought us food, socks, clothing, and other items from our friends at Christ the King Episcopal Church.

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

### Wednesday, July 28 - Laura Webb, Lori Riddle, Luz Figueroa and Geri Mayo

A total of 21 guests signed in, with 12 using the shower and five the laundry. To provide comfort fans were set out, and after their shower, every guest was allowed to sit inside for 15 minutes.

Breakfast consisted of a wonderful egg dish made by Lori, toast, boiled eggs, and cereal. Coffee, juice, and bottled water were the beverage choices. The Hope House kitties enjoyed their alfresco breakfast.

Laura provided the devotion "A Fresh Start" by Pastor Norm from Fuel Baptist Church, from Genesis 8:14-20 (ESV).

Four take-aways from this wonderful story of how God delivered and brought Noah and his family out of the ark:

1. Remember that we need to always Wait Patiently Upon the Lord
2. Realize that we need the Help of Others as well
3. Recognize that we need to Establish Worshipping God as our #1 Priority
4. Renew our own Personal "Covenant" with God.

For lunch, Geri made goulash with meatballs. For those who could not have red sauce, there was breaded chicken on a bed of chicken-flavored egg noodles. It was served with green beans and bread. Ms. Jean brought a corn salsa and tortilla chips. She also made two guava cheesecakes. Sweet tea and fruit punch were added to the beverage choices.

Hope House has been quite blessed by our wonderful donors. We received several boxes and bags of toiletries and feminine products from Cypress Lake Estates women's auxiliary. Marie and Bill donated several cases of canned goods and pantry items. We had several folks stop in with clothing donations. And thanks to Ms. Paulette and donators from the Dream Center, we were able to give out Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs) last Friday and will give them out this Friday and Saturday.



## Birthdays in September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
9/1	Gloria Laube
9/2	Mike Booker
9/6	Charlie Alvarez
9/6	Fred Fredrikson
9/6	Ken Fuqua
9/7	Pastor Joe Brady
9/9	Travis Watson
9/10	Joyce Scott
9/11	Nancy Fitzgerald
9/13	Diane Eshelman
9/13	George Gribble
9/13	Lois Teske
9/14	Sue Heishman
9/16	James Armentrout
9/16	Gregg Hall
9/16	Helen Vandervort
9/17	Patsy Lennon
9/17	Grace Foster
9/18	Rick McLellan
9/18	Shirley Patterson
9/24	Carol Davis
9/24	Ethel Somers
9/27	C.B. Fredrikson
9/28	Helen Weissman



## Anniversaries in September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
9/7	Debbie and Rick McLellan
9/16	Dorothy and Tom Burns
9/16	Penny and Pastor Steve Polk
9/28	Olga and William Anderson

### A Special Request

Jo Anne Wileman, a former church and UMW member, will be 90 years old on September 4th. Her family has requested that we celebrate by sending her a card.

The address is:

Mrs. Jo Anne Wileman  
178 Shell Falls Drive  
Apollo Beach, FL 33572

Thank you!