

THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



From the Pastor

October in North America is known as Harvest Month. Many crops are harvested around this time or have just been harvested. Farmers and livestock people are preparing for the coming winter and measuring the success of their crops for the year. In this time of a pandemic and all the other problems, this is no easy task, especially if your product was affected by the pandemic or one of the storms, fires or a drought. How do you measure success? Just surviving, breaking even, or making a profit? What if we looked at our church and our spiritual life this month as a harvest month and reflected on where we are?

Many of us have allowed this pandemic to cause us to just bide our time. Many are in a holding pattern, waiting and hoping for a return to normalcy. Yet God seems to be calling us deeper even in a pandemic. Instead of biding time we should be sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to him.

Some businesses have thrived in this time. Think of the grocery stores and those delivery services like Door-Dash and others. Think of the on-line businesses that have prospered in this time of staying home and ordering on-line. This pandemic has allowed us as a church to put our message out across the world on the Internet. We actually have more people hearing and viewing the message each week than when we were having only in-person services, and it is archived so it can be accessed 24/7 around the world with the Internet.

While I believe COVID-19 is an evil tool of Satan, I can see God's message of love coming through in spite of the virus. It is in perilous times that the message of the Gospel is heard and impacts lives; more so than in prosperous times. This pandemic is an opportunity for the church to **be** the church and offer hope. Sadly, many churches have missed this opportunity. It is not too late; we can reach out with hope and the good news of the resurrection in this time of peril. We can still reap a harvest of souls if we allow God to use us. I think of Luke's Gospel and this:

² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Luke 10:2 (NRSV)

The harvest is here. God has had others plant, water and tend the crop. **Will we be the laborers to help reap God's harvest?** It is tiresome work, but it is also so rewarding. After sitting at Jesus's feet, we must act on what he revealed to us. So, listen closely, then obey his directions to go forth and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Happy Harvest. Amen. *Pastor Steve*

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Day</u> | October Events as of 9/29/2021 |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| | (Entrie | s marked with * repeat every week) - Hispanic Heritage Month Continues thru October 15th |
| 1 | 1 Friday | A Little Bit of Heaven Krispie Kreme Fundraiser (ends October 15th) |
| 3 | Saturday Sunday | Sunday School classes*, 9:15 - 10:15 am in Family Life Center (FLC); Worship Service*, 10:30 am (Holy Communion); World Communion Sunday (Special Sunday with Offering); Publix bakery goods in FLC for needy*; Hispanic Church*, 1:00 pm, FLC |
| 4 | Monday | Board of Trustees meeting, 2:00 pm, church office |
| 5 6 | Tuesday Wednesday | United Methodist Women (UMW) combined circle meeting, 10:00 am, FLC (short business meeting, no lunch), all women invited! (Read chapter 2 of <i>Never Alone</i> by Max Lucado); Choir practice*, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary |
| 7 | Thursday | Bible Study* with Pastor Steve , 1:00 pm on Zoom; next Bible Study session is October 28th ; Faith Talks: Hispanic Heritage Month , 2:00 pm, Zoom; Praise team practice*, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary |
| 8 | Friday | p.m, canotiaary |
| 9 | Saturday | United Methodist Men (UMM) meeting, FLC, 9:00 am (with breakfast) All men invited! Last day to register for Gulf Central District UMW Annual Celebration |
| 10 | Sunday | HARVEST SUNDAY (bring canned or dry goods donations and paper bags for food pantry) |
| 11 12 13 | Monday Tuesday Wednesday | Columbus Day (also Indigenous Peoples' Day) |
| 14 | Thursday | A Little Bit of Heaven Board meeting, 2:00 pm, FLC |
| 15 | Friday | Last day of Hispanic Heritage Month |
| 16 17 | Saturday | UMW Gulf Central District Annual Celebration, 9:45 pm, Zoom (registration required) |
| 18 | Sunday Monday | National UMM "Give Day" |
| 19 | Tuesday | Eat, Pray, Grow, noon on Zoom (FL Conference Creation Care presentations) |
| 20 21 | Wednesday Thursday | |
| 22 23 | Friday Saturday | Awakening Hope: Church Beyond the Color Line, First UMC Orlando, 9:00 - noon; registration required, in-person and Zoom, more information to follow |
| 24 | Sunday | |
| 25 | Monday | UMW Leadership Team meeting, 11:00 am, FLC |
| 26 27 28 30 31 | Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Sunday | Halloween - Watch out for kiddies! |
| | November 7t | h: Daylight Savings Time ends; All Saints Day service; Charge Conference |
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United Methodist Men's (UMM) Sunday September 26, 2021

Thanks to Michael Moake, outgoing UMM president, Dwight Kitchens, "MC" and John Bernat, Lay Leader/Speaker for an inspiring UMM Sunday program. Michael thanked the men who have helped him



these last 3 years with plaques: Dwight Kitchens, Bob Siegel, John Bernat, Leon Rumohr and Tom Burns (shown in photo on left), plus Joe Moon and Ken Fuqua. He also honored three men who were foundational in UMM who have passed away: Don Heishman, Dale Gower and Roy Bodemer.

Thank you to Cindy Webb for taking these pictures!





Right: Michael Moake with Jackie Webb

Left: Bob Siegel in A/V booth

Right: Dave McPherson, sound tech











Left to right: Dwight Kitchens, John Bernat, Greeter Tom Burns and Pastor Steve and Mrs. Penny Polk

General Commission on United Methodist Men (UMM) Set "Give Day" for Oct 18th

[Source: Excerpts from the Florida Conference, October 2021, Newsletter, https://www.flumc.org/ newsdetail/general-commission-on-um-men-set-give-day-for-oct-18-15426764]

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders us and let us run with perseverance the race set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith — A paraphrase of Hebrews 12:1-2a.

Paul reminds us that we have been called for a purpose, and we must keep moving in the direction that will allow us to fulfill that purpose. The General Commission on United Methodist Men is committed to our mission to "Coach men and youth to THRIVE through Christ, so others may know Christ." We also know that we are not in this race alone.

. . . There is a continued financial need to dramatically expand the discipleship opportunities for men and young people. Former funding sources are continuing to struggle. Your generosity last year allowed us to continue to provide faith-building opportunities.

Consider this: hundreds of men and women, clergy and lay people across this country joined in a grass-roots prayer ministry. These men and women are hungry for more training and more resources. Also, within the last six months, hundreds of scouting volunteers have been trained by professionals, reflecting our work with youth in BSA, Girl Scouts, and Campfire. In 2020, we trained more leaders in these areas than any previous year.

While face-to-face events were canceled, our work continued and expanded through technological processes. We continued to provide training resources for men and youth around the world. A World Day of Prayer with leaders of The African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African American Episcopal Church Zion, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was held this past year.

We are called to reach and disciple more men and more youth, and the demand for more materials in men's and scouting ministries dramatically increased during this year. Despite the increased costs, we continue to write and produce much-needed original print and electronic resources.

. . . Paul reminds us to throw off everything that hinders us and run the race before us. The race we run is to provide opportunities to share the Good News of God's love with men around the world. As we continue to run into that new future, we hope you will join us by giving this October 18th.

You can donate to the *national UMM organization* by giving a check or cash to **Lake Gibson UMC** with a **notation UMM Give Day.** Alternatively, individual donations may be sent directly to United Methodist Men, PO Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515.

Audio/Visual Help Needed

The church needs back-up/substitute people to serve in the sound booth when one of the "regulars" is away. Even better, we would love to have a roster of people so each could work one Sunday per month.

If you would like to learn more about these vital services, call the office (863-858-5431) to set up a time to learn what is required.

Thank you!

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

A Sweet Fundraiser for ALBOH October 1 – 12, 2021

A Little Bit of Heaven is holding a **Krispy Kreme** Fundraiser from October 1st to October 12th. If anyone would like to order, please **see Kristie in the church office**, or call her at 863-858-5431.

Cost is \$11.00 per dozen for original glazed donuts. Pay Kristie (check to ALBOH or cash) for the boxes you want, and you will receive a voucher by email to take to the store for your purchases.

All proceeds will go to the school's playground.

Thank you Latisha Cook

World Communion Sunday A Special Sunday with Offering

A core value of United Methodism is for members to support their own. While United Methodists support public efforts to change the world, they are equally committed to supporting members of the church. Given annually on World Communion Sunday, this offering supports a mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ.

World Communion Sunday, one of six Special Sundays with offerings, calls the church to model diversity among God's children. Fifty percent of the offering supports the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The other fifty percent supports the World Communion Scholarship Leadership Development Program administered by the General Board of Global Ministries.

Thank You for your generosity in 2020! You gave \$400,254 towards the ministries funded by the World Communion Sunday offering. October 3rd is designated as World Communion Sunday 2021, but churches can celebrate this Sunday, and any Special Sunday, on a day of our choosing.

Special collection envelopes for World Communion Sunday will be in clear plastic holders in the narthex. If you're not ready to make a donation on October 3rd, take an envelope home to fill later and bring it back to the church office or place it in one of the collection plates at the back of the Sanctuary.

Guest Speakers for October Services

Pastor Steve and Penny are taking their fall vacation in October, and will be away three Sundays. Two guest pastors and a Lay Speaker will lead us in worship.

October 10th Amy Harper

October 17th Mike Stafford

October 24th Rob Atchley

Introducing Amy Harper

We all know Mike Stafford and Rob Atchley through their years of service to Lake Gibson UMC, but most of us are probably not familiar with Amy Harper. She was the pastor who followed Pastor Steve Polk at First UMC Bowling Green (2011 – 2017). She then served two years as Executive Director of Hardee Help Center, an arm of the Hardee County Ministerial Association, an organization that oversees all of the outreaches to the poor and needy in that county. Amy is the wife of Dave Harper, Pastor of First UMC Zolfo Springs. [Photo from https:// www.facebook.com/HardeeHelpCenter/ posts/1760470467360809.1

Lay Servant Ministries Update

With the swell of COVID infections, several districts have modified or postponed their scheduled September/October Lay Servant Ministries classes. Due to this situation, the continuing education requirement for Certified Lay Servants/Speakers has been (once again) **extended through Annual Conference 2022**. To stay current on what your District has planned, visit our website https://www.flumc.org/layservantministries or contact your District Director, Gregory Uchimura (gregory.s.uchimura@gbr-enterprises.com)..

Still – we know how truly motivated our Lay Servants are – electing to take advantage of a few Zoom classes offered this summer by our instructors. We want to encourage all Lay Servants/Lay Speakers/Lay Ministers to make use of the myriad approved LSM on-line courses at www.BeADisciple.com.

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

Leon Rumohr, Custodian

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

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

God asks us to love one another and pray for one another. Prayer brings us closer together as a church family and praying for others brings us closer to God by doing His will. Prayer shows God our gratitude as we glorify His will laid out for us.

We welcome new prayer warriors at any time. We currently have 50 prayer warriors who receive prayer requests through church email usually once a week and receive a Prayer Journal emailed to them once a month with over 100 long-term needs from our congregation for themselves, family or friends.

Please contact the church office if you would like to join this very needed ministry of praying for others.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you during the Fall Season.

Prayer Ministry-Fran

Christmas Gifts Requested for Tweens and Teens In Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program

What is Guardian ad Litem?

When a child is abused, abandoned or neglected and can't remain in their home in a safe, healthy environment, he or she is removed and a court case begins. The Tenth Judicial Court (consisting of Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties) is appointed to the case. Most cases are in Polk County. At this time there are over 1700 cases in the program. This total is ever changing.

Who is a Guardian ad Litem?

A person like you and me who attends training to learn the skills to help a child. The GAL visits their home and school for progress checks, notes signs of abuse and earns a trusting relationship with the child. The GAL reports any concerns to their Child Advocate Manager (CAM) and goes before the Judge with these concerns. The GAL may be the only constant in the child's life. **The GAL is the voice of the child**.

Christmas Gifts Requested: Please give Cindy Webb your donations by **Monday, November 15th**. There will also be a box in the church office where you can drop them off.

Christmas gifts are being collected for the *tweens and teens* in the program. This is a forgotten group. We are given the neediest of the needy. These tweens/teens come from horrible situations. More and more are from human trafficking.

Wish lists are provided by some of the teens with specific gift requests. All receive a toiletry bag in addition to their gift(s).

Below is a list of items requested (but not limited to):

Men and women's: No-show socks; full-sized toiletries such as deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, shave cream, combs, hair brushes, emery board/nail file, bar bath soap, bath puffs.

Guys: Axe gift sets, ChapStick, anything extra to put in toiletry bags.

Gals: Mascara, eye shadow, lip gloss, tampons, makeup remover pads, nail polish in bright colors

Adult/teenage coloring books and art supplies for therapy: Sketch pads for drawing, watercolor pads, charcoal pencils, watercolor paint, acrylic paint, paint brushes, canvas in different sizes, but not too large.

\$10.00 fast food gift cards, Visa cards for shoes, Target, Wal-Mart gift cards

Any donation will be greatly appreciated. All donations are given to the GAL program.

Cindy Webb cindywebb1953@gmail.com 863-221-5253

Financial Report (thru August 31, 2021)

Fortunately, LGUMC has managed to keep on track with expected revenues during the 2021 summer months. We still have a number of projects which we would like to complete this year. We anticipate spending from our General Account for sanctuary chairs and improved lighting. We are still looking to raise sufficient funds for replacing the air conditioning units within the sanctuary. The Trustees have had difficulty getting multiple quotes for this work. Additionally, we anticipate the necessity of replacing the roofs of both the church office and A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center.

Should you have questions, please, don't hesitate to contact anyone on our Finance Committee.

| | Three-year | Congregati | ional Giving | g Profile (CG | SP)Template | e. Monthly vers | sion |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | Data Entry | | | |
| Current Yea | ır | 2021 | | | | | |
| Current Bud | dget | \$321,975 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Month | Actual 2018 | Actual 2019 | Actual 2020 | 3-Yr Total | 3-Yr \$ Avg | 3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative | Actual 2021 |
| | | 100000000000000000000000000000000000000 | | 3-Yr Total \$74,980 | 3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly \$24,993 | | |
| lanuary | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | | Monthly | Cumulative | 2021 |
| January February | 2018 \$23,610 | 2019 \$32,120 | 2020 \$19,250 | \$74,980 | Monthly \$24,993 | Cumulative \$24,993 | 2021 \$41,469 |
| January February March | 2018 \$23,610 \$29,950 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 | 2020 \$19,250 \$26,344 | \$74,980 \$79,428 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 | \$24,993 \$51,469 | 2021 \$41,469 \$26,663 |
| January Eebruary March April | \$23,610 \$29,950 \$29,201 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 \$34,381 | \$19,250 \$26,344 \$31,430 | \$74,980 \$79,428 \$95,012 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 \$31,671 | Cumulative \$24,993 \$51,469 \$83,140 | \$41,469 \$26,663 \$23,181 |
| January February March April May | 2018 \$23,610 \$29,950 \$29,201 \$26,066 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 \$34,381 \$29,060 | \$19,250 \$26,344 \$31,430 \$48,131 | \$74,980 \$79,428 \$95,012 \$103,257 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 \$31,671 \$34,419 | \$24,993 \$51,469 \$83,140 \$117,559 | \$41,469 \$26,663 \$23,181 \$24,073 |
| January February March April May June | 2018 \$23,610 \$29,950 \$29,201 \$26,066 \$19,712 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 \$34,381 \$29,060 \$22,029 | 2020 \$19,250 \$26,344 \$31,430 \$48,131 \$25,816 | \$74,980 \$79,428 \$95,012 \$103,257 \$67,557 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 \$31,671 \$34,419 \$22,519 | \$24,993 \$51,469 \$83,140 \$117,559 \$140,078 | 2021 \$41,469 \$26,663 \$23,181 \$24,073 \$26,093 |
| January February March April May June July | 2018 \$23,610 \$29,950 \$29,201 \$26,066 \$19,712 \$20,390 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 \$34,381 \$29,060 \$22,029 \$27,031 | 2020 \$19,250 \$26,344 \$31,430 \$48,131 \$25,816 \$25,894 | \$74,980 \$79,428 \$95,012 \$103,257 \$67,557 \$73,315 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 \$31,671 \$34,419 \$22,519 \$24,438 | \$24,993 \$51,469 \$83,140 \$117,559 \$140,078 \$164,516 | 2021 \$41,469 \$26,663 \$23,181 \$24,073 \$26,093 \$15,866 |
| January February March April May June July August | 2018 \$23,610 \$29,950 \$29,201 \$26,066 \$19,712 \$20,390 \$23,856 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 \$34,381 \$29,060 \$22,029 \$27,031 \$23,569 | 2020 \$19,250 \$26,344 \$31,430 \$48,131 \$25,816 \$25,894 \$20,865 | \$74,980 \$79,428 \$95,012 \$103,257 \$67,557 \$73,315 \$68,290 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 \$31,671 \$34,419 \$22,519 \$24,438 \$22,763 | \$24,993 \$51,469 \$83,140 \$117,559 \$140,078 \$164,516 \$187,280 | 2021 \$41,469 \$26,663 \$23,181 \$24,073 \$26,093 \$15,866 \$23,104 |
| January February March April May June July August September | 2018 \$23,610 \$29,950 \$29,201 \$26,066 \$19,712 \$20,390 \$23,856 \$16,727 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 \$34,381 \$29,060 \$22,029 \$27,031 \$23,569 \$21,790 | 2020 \$19,250 \$26,344 \$31,430 \$48,131 \$25,816 \$25,894 \$20,865 \$22,494 | \$74,980 \$79,428 \$95,012 \$103,257 \$67,557 \$73,315 \$68,290 \$61,011 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 \$31,671 \$34,419 \$22,519 \$24,438 \$22,763 \$20,337 | \$24,993 \$51,469 \$83,140 \$117,559 \$140,078 \$164,516 \$187,280 \$207,617 | 2021 \$41,469 \$26,663 \$23,181 \$24,073 \$26,093 \$15,866 \$23,104 \$20,887 |
| Month January February March April May June July August September October November | 2018 \$23,610 \$29,950 \$29,201 \$26,066 \$19,712 \$20,390 \$23,856 \$16,727 \$24,401 | 2019 \$32,120 \$23,134 \$34,381 \$29,060 \$22,029 \$27,031 \$23,569 \$21,790 \$22,385 | 2020 \$19,250 \$26,344 \$31,430 \$48,131 \$25,816 \$25,894 \$20,865 \$22,494 \$25,185 | \$74,980 \$79,428 \$95,012 \$103,257 \$67,557 \$73,315 \$68,290 \$61,011 \$71,971 | Monthly \$24,993 \$26,476 \$31,671 \$34,419 \$22,519 \$24,438 \$22,763 \$20,337 \$23,990 | \$24,993 \$51,469 \$83,140 \$117,559 \$140,078 \$164,516 \$187,280 \$207,617 \$231,607 | 2021 \$41,469 \$26,663 \$23,181 \$24,073 \$26,093 \$15,866 \$23,104 \$20,887 \$0 |

| Monthly Budget Monitoring Based on CGP Goals | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Current Ye | ar | 2021 | | | | | | |
| Current Budget | | \$321,975 | | | | | | |
| Month | % Needed Monthly | \$ Needed Monthly | Received Monthly | % Needed Cumulative | \$ Needed Cumulative | Received Cumulative | Status Ahead or (Behind) | % Ahead or (Behind) |
| January | 7.96% | \$25,630 | \$41,469 | 7.96% | \$25,630 | \$41,469 | \$15,839 | 61.80% |
| February | 8.43% | \$27,151 | \$26,663 | 16.39% | \$52,781 | \$68,132 | \$15,351 | 29.08% |
| March | 10.09% | \$32,478 | \$23,181 | 26.48% | \$85,259 | \$91,313 | \$6,054 | 7.10% |
| April | 10.96% | \$35,296 | \$24,073 | 37.44% | \$120,555 | \$115,386 | (\$5,169) | -4.29% |
| May | 7.17% | \$23,093 | \$26,093 | 44.61% | \$143,647 | \$141,479 | (\$2,168) | -1.51% |
| June | 7.78% | \$25,061 | \$15,866 | 52.40% | \$168,709 | \$157,345 | (\$11,364) | -6.74% |
| July | 7.25% | \$23,343 | \$23,104 | 59.65% | \$192,052 | \$180,449 | (\$11,603) | -6.04% |
| August | 6.48% | \$20,855 | \$20,887 | 66.13% | \$212,907 | \$201,336 | (\$11,571) | -5.43% |
| September | 7.64% | \$24,602 | \$0 | 73.77% | \$237,509 | \$201,336 | (\$36,173) | |
| October | 7.24% | \$23,315 | \$0 | 81.01% | \$260,824 | \$201,336 | (\$59,488) | |
| November | 8.01% | \$25,788 | \$0 | 89.02% | \$286,612 | \$201,336 | (\$85,276) | |
| December | 10.98% | \$35,363 | \$0 | 100.00% | \$321,975 | \$201,336 | (\$120,639) | |

Creation Care Is Everyone's Business

The United Methodist Church and the Florida Conference have challenged local churches to reduce waste and energy consumption. Publix Super Markets support the Lake Gibson UMC food pantry by donating bakery products -- bread and pastries -- twice a week for distribution on their sell-by dates. These items might otherwise go into the landfill instead of feeding needy people.

Below is an article from the Publix Weekly Update of September 13th titled *Publix Cares for the Environment*. [Used with permission.]

Storefront: Saving Cardboard, Paper & Plastic

52.4% AND STILL GOING STRONG

Each year, our goal is to improve our recycling practices. We also make every effort to reduce our resource usage. In one case, by working with our supplier, we reduced 19,000 pounds of plastic by converting from a 2.5-gallon container of cleaning solution to a 1.5-gallon container of ultraconcentrated core cleaning and sanitation chemicals.

Here's more about what we've recycled:

2020 Recycled Materials:

- 298,801 tons of cardboard
- 12,594 tons of mixed plastic
- 2,693 tons of waxed cardboard
- 5,176 tons of mixed paper

This equates to saving:

- 5.2 million trees
- 2.1 billion gallons of water
- 1 million cubic yards of landfill space
- 3.3 million barrels of oil

Here are some other gains we've made by conserving resources:

We saved an impressive amount of paper by moving our reference materials to an electronic format for our stores. This switch enabled us to donate thousands of binders to local schools, churches, and other nonprofit organizations.



The Asian American Language Ministry, under the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), has been holding monthly webinars to raise awareness of racism and hatred directed against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and Latin Americans. If you missed any of these webinars, here is a list of the ones available to date:

What is Racism and Why Should Asians Get Involved? Webinar #1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcUli-lua-s

Racism from a Young Adult Perspective,

Webinar #2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03m6m FLWv0

Voices From the African American Community Webinar #3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDjsjl7DKHc

Self-Care and Racism

Webinar #4

https://youtu.be/-JHkiYDMHkQ

The Dangers of the Model Minority Myth

Webinar #5

https://youtu.be/rX-sqWqQqLY

The Challenges and Importance of Cross Cultural Conversations, Webinar #6

https://youtu.be/xrjHqWU SH8

Misogyny, Racism and Asian American Women, Webinar #7

https://youtu.be/-BIPXMJ3ljs

How to Respond to Racism, Webinar #8

https://youtu.be/SVwSp1WNnMs

Racism and the Latinx Community,

Webinar #9

https://youtu.be/F9bZEg3dTlc

Racism and the Criminal Justice System,

Webinar #10

https://youtu.be/BInwHazgDHY

Becoming an Anti-Racist Conference Comprehensive Plan

[Source: Florida Conference October 2021 Newsletter, https://www.flumc.org/bishops-task-force-on-anti-racism]

This document, *Dismantling Racism: Becoming an Anti- Racist Conference Comprehensive Plan*, is inspired by and rooted in the hope of Mary Magdalene, Cleopas and others who believed that "all things are possible through Christ Jesus who strengthens us!"

The work before us is daunting, sometimes overwhelming, but it is possible. It will take the prayers, service, witness, and presence of each of us to do this work of discipleship. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can participate in God's redemptive plan for all of creation, starting with this plan that will transform the Florida Annual Conference to an antiracist organization that represents the body of Christ in ways that honor and glorify his name. This is the hope we have! As you read this document, do so through the eyes of the Resurrection and with the hope of Easter people . . . people who know that the best is yet to come!

(A) The Florida Conference

DISMANTLING PACISM:

In January 2021, the Florida Conference Training and Accountability team of the Bishop's Anti-Racism Task Force partnered with UMC Discipleship Ministries to launch the first Conference-wide survey to evaluate attitudes towards racism. You can see the summary of the survey's results at the link above. You can also download the entire 32-page plan at this link and view a 21-minute video, Dismantling Racism: Becoming an Anti-Racist Conference. The website also includes a link to the entire survey report.

Two of the survey results charts are quoted below:

1. Understandings of Anti-racism: General Themes

Action: Speaking out, working, seeking policy change, confronting racism/racists, educating others

Reflexivity: Recognizing own biases, educating self

Personal/attitudinal change: Avoiding pre-judgement, being loving and kind, respecting all, including all, recognizing oneness before God.

2. Key Takeaways

Education is key, as evidenced by the negative response to terms like "white privilege," which often do not actually reflect standard understandings.

Those who are least convinced that this is a priority often are also less comfortable with discussion of challenging topics like race/racism.

Anti-racism is long-haul work.

Pastor's Bible Study, Thursdays, 1:00 pm on Zoom

Join us for Pastor Steve's Zoom Bible Study on **Thursdays at 1:00 pm**. If you haven't been participating in these, get the Zoom meeting code from the church's website, <u>lakegibsonumc.com</u>, to log in. We are discussing Paul's letter to the **Galatians**. We will not meet while the pastor is on vacation, so **October 7th and October 28th are the only Bible Study sessions this month**.



Gulf Central District (GCD) Anti-Racism

Your District Anti-Racism Team is coming to you. Yes, as we live into our purpose to "equip and empower individuals and local churches to challenge racial injustice," we need to hear from you what your church needs to continue the conversation and journey.

A member of the GCD Anti-Racism Team will be reaching out to every district senior pastor for a conversation during the next couple of months. What you share will be critical in helping us support you and the local church.

Coaching and Mentoring available. Your District Anti-Racism Team is ready to support you in developing a plan to bring the Anti-Racism Journey to your church. Contact beth.potter@flumc.org to get connected.

Need resources and ideas? Two great ways for you and your church to discover and learn more as we work to end racism:

- 1. Gulf Central District's Anti-Racism webpage at https://www.flumc.org/anti-racism-resources. A glossary of terms; recommended books, podcasts, documentaries; and information on programs for your whole church are readily available to you.
- 2. Gulf Central District's open Facebook page, Call to Discipleship-End Racism (https://www.facebook.com/Call-to-Discipleship-End-Racism-101585868750101) is a great place to plug in. Historical information, UMC resources referenced and so much more is constantly shared for the curious and for the advocate. [Source: GCD September 2021 Newsletter]

Weekly Facebook Conversations Starting Tuesday, October 5th at 11:00 am

The world has changed and is changing. The global coronavirus pandemic and disagreements within our denomination are just two of many events that continue to affect United Methodists around the world. As the church confronts these new realities, it is important for the people called **United Methodists** to explore and understand who we are, what we believe, and how we live as people of God today and into the future.

To help us think through these issues, the Connectional Table, in cooperation with our general agencies, is hosting a series of discussions with United Methodist theologians and leaders that will help us better understand our faith, our church, ourselves.

Beginning October 5, **join us every Tuesday at 11:00 am** Eastern Time on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/unitedmethodistchurch), for a 20 – 30-minute conversation about who we are as the people of The United Methodist Church. Our guests will be responding to your questions in that chat for approximately 30 minutes following the presentation.

Continued on next page . . .

Weekly Facebook Conversations, Continued

Don't have Facebook? Don't worry! Following the Facebook event, the videos will be posted at UMC.org (https://www.umc.org).

October 5, Session 1: Should I Stay? Or Should I Go?

Maybe you started going to a United Methodist church as a child. Or perhaps you came later in life because of the choir, the preaching or because the building was near your home. As our church experiences a tumultuous season, you may be wondering **what our disagreements and decisions will mean for you.**



As we begin Tuesdays at the Table, we talk with Dr. David N. Field about why he is a United Methodist and how he is thinking through these personal decisions. Dr. Field is a renowned author and scholar who serves as the Academic Coordinator for the Methodist e-Academy and as the Ecumenical Staff Officer for Faith and Order and Theological Dialogue for the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church. He is the author of several books, including *Our Purpose Is Love: The Wesleyan Way to Be the Church*

Host, the **Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai,** serves as Chief Connectional Ministries Officer of The Connectional Table (https://resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/the-connectional-table) of the United Methodist Church.



#StillInMission - Episode 36

Thursday, October 14, 2021, 12:00 pm (EDT)

Despite the pandemic, Methodist Missionaries are still in mission. Learn more about them in the #StillInMission video conferences.

There are only two #StillInMission episodes left this year, and we are trying something new! In addition to the meetings with missionaries, there will be a joint devotion/centering experience led by the missionary presenters in the episode. You will <u>not</u> want to miss this! See the details for Episode 36 below, and we hope to see you there!

You can click on the names below to read their biographies.

Featuring...

<u>Cristian Schilck</u> serves as the Global Migration Missionary for Central America and Mexico with Global Ministries and is based in Mexico.

<u>Julie Wilson</u> serves as the Program Coordinator for Open Arms Community Center in the United States.

<u>Katelyn Dino</u> serves as the Administrative Assistant with Florida Justice for Our Neighbors in the United States.

<u>David McCormick</u> serves as a Mission Advocate for the South Central Jurisdiction in the United States.

To register, click here. Registration is required.

United Methodist Missionaries are **#StillInMission** and we hope that you will join us to learn more!

Tackling Procrastination to Avoid Dangerous Consequences When Caregiving

[Thank you to Vicky Pitner from First UMC Lakeland's Memory Ministry who generously shares her articles with us. Used with permission.]

One of the worst enemies for caregivers is procrastination. It may be something as simple as delaying a trip to the grocery to get their loved one a favorite snack, causing frustration and disappointment for your loved one. However, busy schedules and overwhelming responsibilities of caregiving and putting off that call to the doctor, or delaying picking up medications on time can result in procrastinating around healthcare issues that may have dire consequences.

Stay in tune to any changes in behaviors of the person you are caring for. Is he/she falling more, seem more confused, weak or exhibiting urgency to urinate? You make a mental note to call the physician but time gets away and the call never happens. All of the symptoms above could indicate a very common urinary tract infection (UTI) and needs to be treated with medication. Without treatment, this infection can lead to sepsis, a potentially life-threatening illness.

Dry mouth, fatigue, headaches, weakness, irritability and confusion can be a sign of dehydration. A UCLA study found that 40% of seniors may be under-hydrated and adults 65 and up have the highest hospital rates for dehydration. Drinking enough water can help to reduce UTIs, reduce falls, decrease constipation and help with the prevention of kidney stones. Encouraging your loved one to drink more can be a challenge (seniors are less sensitive to feeling thirsty) and it is easy to give up and avoid a conflict; however, the consequences of dehydration can result in a hospitalization.

Losing interest in activities, avoiding socialization, confusion, loss of concentration, change in appetite and change in sleep patterns (too much or difficulty sleeping) can all be signs of depression. It is easy to overlook these symptoms because they can be similar to someone with dementia, however, adults with dementia can still experience depression. Older people are more likely to be living with more than one chronic illness. People living with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, a brain injury and individuals that have had a stroke can also be clinically depressed. Untreated depression can have serious and fatal consequences.

Many of us procrastinate and it can have detrimental effects on our own physical and mental health causing stress, anxiety, insomnia and even financial repercussions if we delay in paying the bill. However, when caring for someone procrastination pertaining to health issues can be life changing for everyone. Discovering why you procrastinate and developing strategies to stop "putting things off" will afford you the opportunity to accomplish more things, take risks, get yourself out of a rut, conquer fears and make an impact on other people's lives. For support in practical care-giving strategies or information on our Memory Ministry, contact Vicky Pitner at vpitner@firstumc.org.

Merry Matters Resumes in November

This may look like procrastination, but . . . Many of our Merry Matters have not yet returned to their Florida homes, so we are delaying resumption of our workshops until November.

Please let Phyllis Kitchens (phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com/863-984-4564) know **your preferences for meeting frequency, day and time**. Last winter the Merry Matters met on Wednesdays in the FLC from 10:00 to 11:30 am or noon. Some months we met every Wednesday, some one or two Wednesdays.

The Merry Matters are making plastic yarn from grocery bags to crochet into ground mats for the homeless. We currently have plenty of plastic grocery bags, just need people to cut them into strips and crochet them into oversized mats. Hope you can join us in November for this fun and worthwhile endeavor.

First UMC Lakeland's Memory Café Is Open

Lakeland First United Methodist Church's Memory Ministry's new Memory Café is off to a great start! Attendance and participation have shown an overwhelming feeling of gratitude. The Café, which opened in August, is a social gathering for people living with memory loss and their care partner.

Facilitated by Vicky Pitner, a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Coordinator of the Memory Ministry, and with the support of several wonderful and dedicated trained volunteers, the Café is a safe and comfortable space where care partners and their family member can socialize with other families. Families also receive mutual support, exchange resources, enjoy structured activities and group discussions, while learning strategies for maintaining quality of life and overall well-being as a family.

The Café meets weekly on Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 am next to the Giving Tree Bookstore. The Café will not meet the holidays when the church is closed. Coffee and tea are served and light refreshments can be purchased from the bookstore. No registration is required and there is no charge to participate.

Activities are varied, but mostly the Café is meant to make connections and enjoy the company of those with similar things in common, and provide a place where humor can be a central part of the enjoyment.

Our volunteers are the backbone to our program's success! If you are interested in volunteering with the Memory Café or other services in the Memory Ministry, please contact Vicky Pitner (vpitner@firstumc.org). No experience is needed. We are seeking individuals with a desire to learn and connect with individuals living with memory loss and their families. We provide free training and on-going support.

United Methodist Women (UMW) Assembly News – Turn It Up!

We are excited to announce the first keynote speaker for our TURN IT UP! Assembly. Rev. Dr. Janet Wolf, one of UMW's most popular Mission u study authors, will serve as the Bible Study Leader at **Assembly 2022, May 20 – 22, 2022 in Orlando**.

Janet has worked as a poverty rights organizer, United Methodist pastor with urban and rural congregations; college and seminary professor; learner, teacher, animator with think tanks inside prisons. She works with the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) focusing on public theology, transformative justice and nonviolent direct action organizing to disrupt and dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline through leadership by and partnership with those who are now or have been incarcerated.

She is the Dean of CDF Proctor Institute's Dale P. Andrews Freedom Seminary and a member of the Coordinating Committee with the National Council of Elders. She is the author of the Mission u study *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*. Get ready to TURN IT UP!

UMW members, watch your e-mail for Assembly updates and please visit <u>assembly2022.org</u> for more information.

Sincerely,

Assembly Planning Team

There is Still 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 | Stri | ıctui | œ. |
|-------|---------------|----------|----------|
| | \sim \sim | 40 L G I | \sim . |

| 16 oz. halves and | pieces \$14.00 | 0 | |
|--|--|---|--------------|
| 12 oz. milk choco | late covered \$10.00 | 0 | |
| 10 oz. cinnamon (| glazed \$10.00 | 0 | |
| | | | |
| Fill in the following ord | der form and return to chu | rch. | |
| Name: | Address: | Phone #_ | |
| Pecan Halves 16 oz. \$14.00 per bag | Cinnamon Glazed 10oz | Chocolate covered12oz \$10.00 per bag | Total / Paid |
| | | ecks payable to United Metl ailbox. Please put that it is fo | |
| | der form and return to chu Address: | irchPhone #_ | |
| | | | |
| Pecan Halves 16 oz. \$14.00 per bag | \$10.00 per bag | \$10.00 per bag | Total / Paid |
| | | | |
| | | | |

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

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.

UMW Gulf Central District Annual Celebration and Meeting by Zoom

Knitted Together for God's Good Work

Saturday, October 16th, 9:45 am

This year's GCD Celebration will be virtual only. Guest speakers are Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, President of the Florida Conference UMW and Deaconess Ester Kim, Florida Conference Committee on Nominations.

Deadline for registration is Saturday, **October 9th**, which will allow for receipt of the Program Book (either by mail or by email) before the meeting. To register, please email Kathy Robertson at kathyrobertson.umw@gmail.com or telephone her at 727-505-5492. Provide the following information:

Name:

Unit Name: Lake Gibson UMC

Email Address: Telephone:

Delivery of Program Book: Regular Mail or Email (select one)

Mailing address for hard-copy program book:

Joining meeting by: Zoom app or Telephone (select one)

Upcoming UMW Events

The Lake Gibson Unit's next **combined circle meeting will be Wednesday, October 6th, at 10:00 am** in the FLC. We will discuss chapter 2 of *Never Alone* by Max Lucado. Please observe social distancing and wear facemasks to protect everyone.

The next **Just Energy for All** Strategy and Capacity Building session will be **Wednesday**, **October 20th from 3:00 to 4:30 pm** by Zoom. October's session is titled **Ensuring Justice and Equity in Electric Vehicles** (Advancing Just Energy for All through Transportation - Part 2). To register, go to the link https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcuutpzljGtlsZee-DLtfPHwBwD1d0OS5.

Awakening Hope - Church Beyond the Color Line

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Clergy and laity are invited to join the East Central District for this Anti-Racism event.

Gathering/Continental Breakfast (8:15 am)

Speaker: Reverend Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Location: First UMC - Orlando 142 East Jackson Street Orlando, FL 32801

Format: In-person with a virtual option

Cost: TBD

Details and Registration will be available soon!

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 outerwear 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 always 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

Hope House Happenings (Excerpts from HH Volunteer Reports)

Wednesday, August 25 - Laura Webb, Lesley Kristine and Luz Figueroa

A total of 19 guests signed in, with 9 using the shower, and 5 using the laundry. Laura gave the devotional written by Pastor Norm at Fuel Baptist Church: The Call to Be a Follower of Jesus is the Call to Be a Fisher of Men. Matthew 28:19-20.

A good friend of Laura and Daniel, Chris, was visiting Hope House today. He spent much of the morning speaking with our guests. When Laura provided the devotional, Chris gave his first public testimony. He told how he had been in a biker gang, had been addicted to drugs, trafficked drugs, carried weapons and had been homeless. He spoke about when he accepted God into his life, how his life had changed. He now is clean, has a home, a church home, and his little girl. It was a powerful testimony and made an impact on our guests. Praise the Lord!

We are extremely grateful for the today's donations: "Buzz" Wells: a box stocked with different dry goods and a large bag of rice. Joy Miller with North Lakeland Homeless Outreach: A box of travel size shampoo, a case of individual packs of laundry detergent, and other toiletries. Marie and Bill: wonderful, sturdy rain ponchos, a large bottle of Clorox cleaner, Lysol disinfectant spray, and several pairs of shoes. Anne (a friend of Geri's): A metal rolling rack, a silverware rack, and toaster oven.

Tuesday, August 31, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

Today we served 16 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Matthew 17, JESUS KNOWS JUST WHAT YOU NEED.

Our guests were served Turkey Pot Pie. For dessert we had Key Lime Pie or Almond Pastry. We had a visit from Cyndi Kuhlman, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, and some other generous folks, who brought us some useful items. We always appreciate donations.

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 – Geri Mayo, Luz Figueroa, Laura Webb

A total of 15 guests signed in, with nine using the shower and three using the laundry. Ms. Luz was her normal whirlwind of cleaning and organizing. She made sandwiches and processed food and clothing donations. Laura was kept very busy providing clothes and toiletries to our guests. Thank you to Alan Fletcher for the donated blankets.

Ms. Judy dropped off paperwork for our guests to apply for free eye exams and glasses. They were most appreciative.

We are studying the Book Revelation on Wednesday devotions. Laura read chapter 1.

Prayer requests:

*One of our volunteers had surgery today for breast cancer. Please, pray for quick and total healing.

*Please keep the family of Ms. Jean in prayer. Her daughter and two granddaughters, 8 and 3 years old, have COVID. There is also a two-month-old grandson in the home. Her nephew is in the hospital with COVID. He is recovering and has gone from the ICU to a regular room.

Continued on the next page . . .

Hope House Happenings, Continued

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 - Geri Mayo, Luz Figueroa, Laura Webb, Continued

| | *One of our (sporadic) guests, | Jessica | Cunninghar | n, was s | truck by a | a truck a | and has | passed | away | ' . |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Pleas | e, pray for her friends and family | /. Also, | please pray | for peac | ce for the | driver, | Tyler. I | He was ii | n no v | иay |
| at faul | t. It was a tragic accident. | | | | | | | | | |

□□□□ Praise report: Two of our guests, Mary and Carrie, gave their lives to the Lord. They said the sinner's prayer. The angels in heaven are rejoicing today!!! □□♥♥

For lunch, Geri prepared corned beef, potatoes and carrots and cabbage -- a good dinner for a rainy day. Special thanks to Kerry from Winn-Dixie for the corned beef. Thanks Marie and Bill for the electric roaster. It helped to keep HH a bit cooler.

Today, we celebrated Dee's birthday, so the dessert was a delicious birthday cake. Laura gifted him with a new bicycle.

Tuesday, September 7, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

By the end of the day, we served 13 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Romans, GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.

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 Hawaiian style macaroni salad and a corn salad that our guests raved about. For dessert was cake and Royal Danish cookies. Pat Falcetta brought hard boiled eggs and helped us put some donations away.

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 – Lori Webb and Geri Mayo

Laura's friend, Chris, and first-time visitors, Michael and Tony, volunteered today. They processed clothing donations, helped to set up tables and chairs, and interacted with our guests. Laura was busy signing in the guests and overseeing the shower and laundry signup lists. She made sure that every guest was able to select clothing and offered toiletries.

Joy Miller from North Lakeland homeless outreach brought in new men's underwear and socks. Kerry from Winn-Dixie stop by with a box of Tootsie Roll Pops. Gordon from Fuel Baptist Church donated cans of saltine crackers. And at closing, a lady donated already prepared food from a food bank.

On Thursday, September 9th, Marie and Bill stopped by with assorted items and a monetary donation. Maria and Bill are moving out of state to be closer to family. They will be sorely missed by the volunteers and guests at Hope House. We wish them safe travels and many blessings.

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

By the end of the day, we had served 24 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Romans 5, BEYOND LABELS.

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 and Pat Falcetta. Chef Dick served his fabulous sliders, with cole slaw and Debbie's home-made potato salad for sides.

Continued on the next page . . .

Hope House Happenings, Continued

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

Our brown to-go bag of sides included a beef salami and cheese sandwich, a bag of chips, a fruit and nut bar, an Oreo cookie pack, a pudding cup, a bag of M&Ms, and an applesauce cup. To quench thirst was ice cold bottled water and flavoring packets. 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. We also fed the Hope House kitties.

We had a visit from Jim Aldrich, who brought us items from our friends at Christ the King Episcopal Church. Rob and Sue Atchley, from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, brought by items that we use to fill our brown to-go bags. We were also grateful for food and clothing items dropped off by Charlie and Linda Alverez, also from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

We had a Blessed day, and we appreciate your prayers for all of our volunteers as we minister to those less fortunate.

Friday, September 11, 2021 - Lori, Luz and Marco

Lori, Luz, and Marco opened Hope House today. With the help of some of our guests, tables and chairs were set outside. The patio was open and fans were set up. For breakfast Lori made homemade waffles and pancakes with a maple bacon topping. Luz made scrambled eggs and banana muffins.

Ms. Luz made lasagna for lunch. Every guest received a canned good and snack item from our pantry. Ms. Luz's husband, Marco, did all the dishes and took out the trash. One of our guests, Michael G. helped clean up. Ms. Luz and Lori cleaned and reset everything else.

Lori helped one of our guests, Sean, fill out job applications. Please pray for his success. Ms. Jean made taco potatoes and a cake. Geri purchased hygiene and food items for HH.

Lori said it was a great day overall with lots of good conversation.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

Today we served 20 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Mark 4, JESUS WILL BE THERE IN YOUR STORM.

Our guests were served Sloppy Joe's, macaroni and cheese, and fresh baked cookies for dessert. Our brown to-go bag included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a pudding cup, a tuna salad snack kit, a pack of Grandma's cookies, a mini-bag of M&Ms candy, and a fresh box of Sun-Maid raisins.

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, deodorant, lantern and radio batteries, masks, socks, and clothing items. We gave a tent to one of our female guests, provided by Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. We also gave out one pocket New Testament, and two Book of John pocket booklets. We love it when our guests want to study the Word of God.

God is touching hearts and meeting needs at the Hope Center. We are Blessed to minister to folks that we believe Jesus was talking about in Matthew 25:40, that He called "the LEAST of these".

Continued on the next page . . .

Hope House Happenings, Continued

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 - Geri Mayo, Laura Webb and Chris H.

While COVID-19 restrictions are still in place, tables and chairs were set outside, the patio was opened and fans were set up. Only two guests were allowed inside at a time and were asked to wear a mask. A total of 18 guests signed in, with 9 using the shower and 2 using the laundry. Breakfast consisted of several cereals, with juice, milk, bottled water, and coffee. The Hope House kitties enjoyed their alfresco breakfast.

Laura gave out new shoes, shirts, shorts, bug repellent and toiletries. She oversaw the shower list and made sure everyone received clothing. She also cleaned the shower and bathroom.

Chris volunteered today and was a great help. He set up the tables and chairs. He helped make sandwiches, made sure the water and coffee containers were full, and counseled our guests.

Geri prepared lunch: breaded chicken, homemade mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and broccoli melody. Freezy pops were the dessert.

Marianna (for Marie and Bill) made a large donation today. The donation included a toaster, several pans, individual hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies and food items. We are so very thankful!







Birthdays in October

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Names</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 10/1 | Sharon Coddington |
| 10/6 | Tim Welch |
| 10/7 | Franki Bailey |
| 10/8 | Tre' Darious Davidson |
| 10/8 | Kenneth Hawthorne |
| 10/10 | Phyllis Michael |
| 10/10 | Steve Osborn |
| 10/10 | Tammie Schertzer |
| 10/11 | Betty Fischer |
| 10/12 | Karen Acor |
| 10/12 | Penny Polk |
| 10/14 | Fran Mudge |
| 10/18 | Sue Holmes |
| 10/18 | Marge Payne |
| 10/19 | Laura Lizotte |
| 10/20 | Sylvia Barrett |
| 10/20 | Nancy Coggin |
| 10/20 | Gail Travis |
| 10/21 | Jan Henrikson |
| 10/23 | Ward Parker |
| 10/23 | Evan Saunders |
| 10/26 | Sue Hawthorne |
| 10/26 | Amy Schertzer |

Birthdays in October

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Names</u> |
|-------------|----------------|
| 10/26 | Paul Schiemann |
| 10/27 | Ann Fox |
| 10/31 | Cathy D'Amato |
| 10/31 | Mary Friend |
| | |



Anniversaries in October

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Names</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 10/2 | Barbara and Larry Gitt |
| 10/4 | Linda and Charlie Alvarez |
| 10/6 | Glenda and Dave Hess |
| 10/8 | Naseem and Junaid Saqib |