



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



From the Pastor

Can you believe it? The holiday season is upon us. The COVID pandemic is still present, our communities are still hurting, violence and hate are increasing in our society and the world is still in a big mess. Yet this is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving and yes – we do have a lot to be thankful for.

God has not left us nor forsaken us and never will. God is working to expand his kingdom and changing lives every day. God is still on the throne. In this time of COVID God's word is spread over the internet many times, and people that would never step into a church are encountering God in their lives. How can we live faithful lives in these perilous times? This morning in my devotion I was led to put this acrostic together. I hope it helps you.

Trust in God alone.

He is everything you will ever need.

Anchor your life on God's word and you will

Never go astray.

Keep a close watch on your heart allowing God to fill it so you can

Share God's love with everyone you come into contact with.

Give God the glory in everything and remain humble

In all your accomplishments knowing they are because God is at work in you.

Visit the sick, those in need and those the Holy Spirit puts on your mind

Infusing them with the hope that we have in God and the power of the Resurrection.

Nourish yourself daily and deeply on

God's manna – His Word – both the Bible and Jesus Christ your Lord.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Steve and Penny

Date Day

**November Events as of 10/27/2021
November is Native American Heritage Month**

(Entries marked with * repeat every week and are only listed for the first occurrence)

1	Monday	Board of Trustees meeting, 2:00 pm, church office (Cancelled)
2	Tuesday	
3	Wednesday	United Methodist Women (UMW) joint circle meeting and short unit meeting, 10:30 am, Family Life Center (FLC) (no lunch served), all women invited! (Read chapter 3 of <i>Never Alone</i> by Max Lucado); Choir practice* , 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
4	Thursday	Food Pantry open, 9:30 - 11:30 am, office; Bible Study* with Pastor Steve , 1:00 pm on Zoom; Praise team practice* , 6:30 pm, Sanctuary; First UMC's Zoom Workshop #1 on Dementia , 7:00 pm (See article)
5	Friday	
6	Saturday	Last day of Daylight Savings Time, Reset clocks before bed -- Fall back one hour!
7	Sunday	ALL SAINTS DAY; Sunday School classes* , 9:15 - 10:15 am in (FLC); Worship Service* , 10:30 am; Publix bakery goods in FLC for needy*; Hispanic Church* , 1:00 pm, FLC; Charge Conference in Sanctuary, 2:00 pm
8	Monday	UMW Unit Meeting (Cancelled); Staff Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (Cancelled)
9	Tuesday	
10	Wednesday	Merry Matters Workshop , 10:00 am to noon, FLC [See article]
11	Thursday	VETERANS DAY federal holiday; StillInMission videoconference , noon [See article]
12	Friday	
13	Saturday	United Methodist Men (UMM) meeting , 9:00 am, FLC, election of 2022 president
14	Sunday	HARVEST SUNDAY (bring canned or dry goods donations and paper grocery bags for food pantry) [See article]; Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday
15	Monday	Deadline to deliver Christmas gifts for Guardian ad Litem (GAL) [See article]
16	Tuesday	Eat, Pray, Grow webinar (FL Conference Creation Care topics), noon; First UMC's Zoom Workshop #2 on Dementia , 7:00 pm [See article]
17	Wednesday	Just Energy for All (UMW) monthly webinar, 3:00 pm
18	Thursday	A Little Bit of Heaven Board meeting , 2:00 pm, FLC (rescheduled to avoid holiday on 11th)
19	Friday	
20	Saturday	
21	Sunday	Deadline - Deliver Christmas Gift Cards for Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) to church [See article]
22	Monday	UMW Leadership Team meeting , 11:00 am, FLC
23	Tuesday	
24	Wednesday	Merry Matters Workshop , 10:00 am to noon, FLC; Articles for December newsletter due to editor
25	Thursday	THANKSGIVING federal holiday ; office closed
26	Friday	NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY ; office closed
27	Saturday	
28	Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT; United Methodist Student Day (Special Sunday with Offering) [See article]
29	Monday	
30	Tuesday	

Help Wanted

Pick Up Bakery Items from Publix

We need more people to pick up Publix bread donations from the store at Lake Gibson Shopping Center on US 98 North. The donations are ready for pickup at or just before 10:00 pm. Once the boxes are loaded into your vehicle, they are delivered to the church office conference room where the price and bar codes are blacked out.

We have two opportunities to pick up baked goods. On Saturday night, this is done by Sandy Stanfield and Dave McPherson. On Wednesday night two teams alternate pickup, with Lynn Meske and Tom Burns handling the first and third Wednesdays, and Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens doing the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Our goal is to recruit enough teams of 2 people so each team serves one night a month.

This is a vital church mission. The bakery items delivered on Wednesday night are given out at the Thursday morning food pantry. Any items left after food pantry are taken to other charities. The Saturday night pickup is put out in the FLC for anyone who wants to pick up items and deliver them to needy people. Please call Lynn Meske at 863-858-3589 or 906-360-8231, or Phyllis or Dwight Kitchens, 863-984-4564 or 410-790-4422 to learn more.

Audio/Visual Help Still 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!

Hope House Needs Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer at Hope House or cook and deliver a meal, please contact the current teams who serve there:

Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 2:00 pm

Debbie and Rick McLellan, 863-327-2893

Wednesdays, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Geri Mayo, 863-589-3329 and Laura Webb

Fridays and Saturdays, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Luz Selenia Figueroa

If you would like to donate supplies, please drop them off on one of the days and times listed above. A list of Hope House needs is elsewhere in this issue. Extracts from Hope House volunteer reports are at the end of this newsletter. They give you an idea of the volunteer activities, types of meals served, to-go food provided for the evening meal and supplies needed by people who live in tents.

All Saints Day Remembrance November 7th

Stella Eismann

Rita Fredrikson

Dale Gower

Mary Beth Kuhlman

Glen Ogden

Garnett Retter

Clara Sawyer

Penny Christine Thompson

Bill Webb

Rummage Sale Moved to January, 2022

We are hoping that COVID-19 positivity rates drop, and vaccination and booster rates increase sufficiently to allow us to return to indoor sales. This may also depend on whether we have found homes for the pews stored in the FLC. If nothing else, we will fall back to an outdoors sidewalk sale.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, January 28th** (9:00 am to 3:00 pm), and **Saturday, January 29th** (9:00 am to 1:00 pm). Setup will be on Thursday, the 27th. For church members and constituents, serving at these sales builds relationships. The sales provide needed clothing, shoes, kitchenware, electronics and other items at low prices for our customers. Income from the sales is used by the United Methodist Women to fund charities largely in our local area that receive low or no funding from other sources.

As we did last year, we are **NOT ACCEPTING FURNITURE OF ANY KIND** due to limited demand for it, lack of space to store large items, and unwillingness of other charities to accept unsold items.

We are accepting donations now. Deliver them to the office if they're small; otherwise, call Lynn Meske (863-858-3589) or Tom Burns to arrange for delivery.

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

Guardian Ad Litem Christmas Gifts Due by November 15th

Last month we requested your assistance in providing Christmas gifts for tweens and teens in Guardian Ad Litem (GAL). The basic list is provided in last month's newsletter and extra lists are in the pouch on the box in the narthex. We are receiving wish lists from the teens, and all are requesting a gift and clothes, and most are requesting shoes. Most are requesting gift cards to make sure the clothes and shoes will fit. Some are even requesting the toiletry bags that we always provide.

We are given the neediest of the needy youth; clothes and shoes are the most desperately needed. At this time GAL has at least 44 names. Through your donations we are providing at least 48 toiletry bags, and we will try to meet the requests for as many of the teens as possible. Usually it's the year of the girls, but this year it's the year of the boys!

Every year GAL is overwhelmed and so grateful for everything we do for their teens. This is a forgotten group. We appreciate all that you do to help us provide Christmas for those who otherwise would have nothing. The deadline is **November 15** so we have time to sort the gifts and see what else we might need. If you require more time, please let me know.

Please contact Cindy Webb at 863-221-5253 with any questions.

LGUMC 3rd Quarter Contribution Statements

Ninety-eight families were e-mailed contribution statements for the 3rd quarter of 2021. An additional few families who don't use email were mailed printed copies.

Should you not have received your contribution statement in either of these two formats, please notify the church office (863-858-5431). We'll get another copy sent to you.

Stop the presses! You might want to check your **JUNK folder** first to see if the computer filtered these emails out.

Introducing LGUMC's 2022 Leadership Team

This is the information that will be presented to the November 7th Charge Conference:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Church Council Chair	Carol Davis
Church Treasurer	Yvonne Bower
Financial Secretary	Cindy Heishman
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Michael Stafford
Lay Leader	Michael Stafford
Recording Secretary	Kristie Otte
Administrative and Membership Secretary	Kristie Otte
Campus Ministry Rep	Youth Director
Camps and Retreats	Youth Director
United Methodist Men (UMM) President	
United Methodist Women (UMW) President	Phyllis Kitchens
Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Committee	Sandy Stanfield

Class of 2022: David McPherson, Phyllis Kitchens

Class of 2023: Lou Tindall

Class of 2021: Sandy Stanfield, Jim Gunther

Finance Committee	Dwight Kitchens
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Members: Pastor Steve Polk, Sue Heishman, Dwight Kitchens

Continued on the next page . . .

2022 Leadership Team, Continued

Finance Committee, Continued:

Sandy Stanfield, Tom Burns, Yvonne Bower, Cindy Heishman, Sarah Schiemann, Mike Stafford, Carol Davis

Class of 2022: Justin Oliva

Class of 2023: Dick McPherson

Class of 2024: Rick McLellan

Board of Trustees

Chair to be elected 1/22

Class of 2022: Don Smitz, Bob Siegel

Class of 2023: Joe Wallin, John Bernat

Class of 2024: Tom Burns, Ellen Haltiwanger

Nominations and Leadership Development

Steve Polk

Chairperson: Pastor Steve Polk, Vice Chair: Mike Stafford

Class of 2022: Kathy Rumohr

Class of 2023: Carol Davis

Class of 2024: Fay Herrick

Interpreter of Connectional Giving

Dwight Kitchens

Florida United Methodist Children's Home Reps

Dwight and Phyllis
Kitchens

Beyond 50 Ministry

Historian Ministry

Phyllis Kitchens

A Little Bit of Heaven Board

Sarah Schiemann,
Chairperson

Members: Pastor Steve Polk, Carol Davis (Church Council), Tom Burns (Board of Trustees), Mike Stafford (Lay Leader), Sandy Stanfield (Staff-Pastor/Parish), Dwight Kitchens (Finance) and Olivia Morgan (Parent Rep)

2022 Leadership Team, Continued

A Little Bit of Heaven Board, continued:

Class of 2022: Sue Atchley
Class of 2023: Mary Wallin
Class of 2024: Cindy Webb

Chairs of Other Ministries:

Missions	Linda Alvarez
Children's Ministry	Children Director
Youth Ministry	Youth Director

Please Bring Your World Thank Offering To the November 3rd UMW Joint Circle Meeting

If you are a member of the Heart to Heart Circle, you are already familiar with the little can that is passed around before circle meetings to collect loose change for the World Thank Offering. At the next joint circle meeting, members of Ruth Circle of Love and any unaffiliated ladies who attend will have an opportunity to contribute. The meeting will begin at 10:30 am on Wednesday, November 3, in the FLC. [We will be discussing chapter 3, He Will Replenish What Life Has Taken, of *You Are Never Alone* by Max Lucado.]

The traditional donation is pocket change, but due to not having circle meetings regularly, the donations this year have been greatly reduced. In addition to pocket change, you can donate paper money or checks made out to Lake Gibson UMW. This collection is provided to the Gulf Central District every November.

If you're not familiar with the World Thank Offering, this is what the UMW website <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/worldthank> says: "The World Thank Offering is one of United Methodist Women's five channels of undesignated Mission Giving. Traditionally this offering is collected during a special service or program during the fall season.

"This channel of Mission Giving is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission and advocacy in the United States and around the world.

"The World Thank Offering, given freely and abundantly in response to God's goodness, has been the way of life for United Methodist Women for almost 150 years."

Please remember to rob your piggy bank, look under the sofa cushions and in your jacket pockets for change. Or, if you usually pay by credit card and receiving change is rare, bring folding money or a check made out to Lake Gibson UMW for the World Thank Offering.

Thank you!

Christmas Gift Card Drive for Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

Remember the smiles on children's faces when the Christmas season rolls around? It's a joy to behold. When we first came to Lake Gibson UMC, we were asked around Christmas-time to consider purchasing gifts for FUMCH for either boys or girls within certain age groups. Unfortunately, there was no match to a specific child. We never knew if the gift was appropriate (right size, color, style, etc.) or acceptable.

Over the past three years FUMCH has asked that we provide gift cards instead of toys. The goal is to provide approximately \$150 in value to each child. House parents use a portion of the cards donated to purchase appropriate gifts to be wrapped and placed under their cottage's Christmas tree. The remainder is available to the children for shopping trips where they select their own gifts. Additionally, some gift cards are used to take the cottage's children to celebration meals off campus. If excess cards are provided, they are used to purchase needed items for the children throughout the year.

It is most helpful for gift cards to be in increments ranging from **\$10 to \$100** to major chain stores and restaurants. Especially useful and flexible gift cards for our children include Amazon, Visa, Kohl's, Wal-Mart, Epic Theater, and GameStop gift cards. Popular restaurants our staff like to treat the children to over Christmas break include Darden Brands (Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse and Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen), Papa John's Pizza, Applebee's, and Chili's restaurants.

New this year: We ask that donated cards be placed in an envelope or bundled together with your name included. Please include a gift card receipt and write the denomination on each gift card. These gifts will be considered as "designated contributions" for accounting purposes. Either deliver them to the office or place them in the offering plates in the sanctuary. Should you desire to give either cash or check, we ask that you annotate "FUMCH Christmas Gift Card Drive" with your donation. We will convert these to the appropriate gift cards. Please make checks out to Lake Gibson UMC.

In order to distribute cards and make purchases, we have been asked to have all cards delivered to FUMCH before 3 December. We envision **delivering them on Monday, 1 December to the Enterprise campus**. This will provide time for distribution to cottage house parents for purchase and wrapping of appropriate gifts. Should you have questions, please contact either Phyllis or Dwight Kitchens at 863-984-4564.

Where Are the Armchairs?

Previously we had announced the new armchairs for the sanctuary would be shipped on November 8th. The manufacturer called a few days ago to inform us shipping would be delayed until the end of November due to supply chain issues: the upholstery required for our order has not arrived. This is probably not a surprise if you've been following the evening news. We hope our shipment will be ready by the end of November, but there are no promises.

Meet First UMC's Costa Rica Missionary on November 14th

On Sunday, **November 14th**, Wil Bailey will be at First UMC Lakeland for a brief introduction **at each worship service and for an informal gathering from 9:40 - 10:30 am** in the sanctuary. Wil is the founder and Executive Director of Costa Rica Mission Projects which builds churches, church-related facilities and, most importantly, kingdom relationships in Costa Rica.

First UMC supports the ministry through its Outreach Funding and they **hope to send a short-term mission team to serve there next summer** for around one week. Please join them to find out more about Wil's ministry and how we can help with kingdom building in Costa Rica.

Lake Gibson UMC has been invited to join FUMC on their mission trip.



Prayer Ministry

"Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth! Enter His gates with Thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless his name.

For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation". Psalm 100:1, 4 - 5) NLT (1996)

Dear God, as we come to Thanksgiving, we give thanks to you for your faithfulness to our church and all our Prayer Warriors for their continued service to LGUMC.

We ask for your blessings of strength in our faith and prayers so we may intercede for one another in prayer, and look to you for hope, comfort and peace. May we open our hearts and acknowledge your presence in our life, and may we be honored by your calling. Amen

We have been blessed to add new prayer warriors throughout the year. If you wish to be part of our email Prayer Warrior Team by receiving prayer needs via email during the week, please call the church office Monday -Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Also, please contact the church office with any prayer requests you have. Prayer requests are prayed over by Pastor Steve during Sunday Service and passed on to the Prayer Team for continued prayers.

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

Praising God for His many blessings,
Prayer Ministry - Fran

Food Pantry Supplies Are Low

Shortages are showing up everywhere -- afraid we will run out of food! You can help whether you give a cash donation or bring food in. It all helps.

We always need **spaghetti sauce (plastic bottles preferred), pasta (spaghetti and Tuna or Hamburger Helper boxes -- non-brand name OK), rice and beans, all kinds of canned veggies, canned fruits, peanut butter and jelly, canned meats (tuna, chicken, Spam or similar), cans of soup.** Continued . . .

Food Pantry, Continued

To show you how much our pantry means to people, a former client came into the office to thank us for the food we had given him in the past. He said "I am doing better now and want to give you a donation to show my appreciation." He gave us a nice cash donation.

Please keep your donations of cash and staples coming.

Thank you,
Ann Johnson

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

United Methodist Men (UMM)

We hope the Lake Gibson men will attend our next meeting, **Saturday, November 13th at 9:00 am in the Family Life Center.** We will be holding elections for the next president of the UMM and discussing projects for 2022.

If you're interested in serving as our president next year, please let me (863-816-3194) or Pastor Steve know. We will also invite nominations from the floor for this important leadership position in an organization which does so much to support our church.

Michael Moake, President

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, get the Zoom meeting code from the church's website, lakegibsonumc.com, to log in. We are discussing Paul's letter to the **Galatians**. We will discuss Galatians 4:21 on November 4th.

Financial Update (End of Month Sept 2021)

We've been muddling through this year like everyone else. Thankfully, our congregation has had few members sick with COVID-19, and those who have contracted the virus have recovered and remain with us. "Thank You, God" for helping us remain strong in spirit during this trying time.

We are starting to see increasing numbers of people return to worship in the sanctuary. Of course, we're still maintaining social distancing and wearing masks in large group settings.

As you see from the below financial statistics, we are behind where we would like to be this year. To meet our budget, **we will need to raise approximately one third of our budget within the next three months**. Unfortunately, we envision some additional expenses which were not originally planned in our FY 2021 budget.

The additional expenses include finally upgrading our sanctuary's air conditioning system, supplementing our current ninety padded chairs with one hundred and ten padded armchairs, replacing a sub-woofer within the sound system, lighting improvements, and repairing our hydraulic lift.

At the end of September, we had \$21,721 set aside within our air conditioning designated fund. When we converted our endowment, the trustees were given a portion of those funds. As of 30 Sept 2021, they had \$11,879 available to use as they saw fit. The Trustees have voted to spend all of this on the air conditioning upgrade. After receiving three bids, they have chosen to accept the bid from Springer Brothers in the amount of \$35,162 (submitted in April 2021). Due to supply chain problems, the price of the four air conditioning units has risen by approximately \$4,000. The labor proposal has remained the same. We have requested that they quote cleaning all the ducts prior to installing the new equipment. They will not know if this is required until the units are dismantled. If they require cleaning it may increase the cost by another \$5,000. Therefore, we are short at least \$5,562 before incurring duct cleaning costs. We envision spending General Fund monies to make up the shortage. This will hopefully get the project completed this year.

We have already placed a deposit on our new armchairs. The remaining balance is \$4,302.41 with an estimated shipping date in late November 2021. Our lighting improvements were put on hold until our hydraulic lift is repaired. The lift was leaking hydraulic oil. Not a good idea to use that in the sanctuary unless we desired to replace all the carpeting this year as well. This came to approximately \$2,000 and has been returned and is ready to be placed back in use.

We anticipate that the total sanctuary lighting project will cost approximately \$3,500 or less. With the lift returned, it will be possible to restart this project. If we add all of our unbudgeted projects, you can see that we are looking to find approximately **\$15,000 to \$20,000** to replenish our daily General Account. These sums are in addition to our budget's anticipated contributions, which are \$14,965 behind where we would like to have been at the end of September. If you can help in any way, it would be most appreciated.

Continued on the next page . . .

Financial Update, Continued

Three-year Congregational Giving Profile (CGP) Template: Monthly Version

Data Entry

Current Year 2021

Current Budget \$321,975

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	\$20,887
September	\$24,401	\$22,385	\$25,185	\$71,971	\$23,990	\$231,607	\$21,208
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
Total	\$285,268	\$338,876	\$317,779	\$941,923	\$313,974	\$313,974	\$222,544

Monthly Budget Monitoring Based on CGP Goals

Current Year 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	\$21,208	73.77%	\$237,509	\$222,544	(\$14,965)	-6.30%
October	7.24%	\$23,315	\$0	81.01%	\$260,824	\$222,544	(\$38,280)	
November	8.01%	\$25,788	\$0	89.02%	\$286,612	\$222,544	(\$64,068)	
December	10.98%	\$35,363	\$0	100.00%	\$321,975	\$222,544	(\$99,431)	
Totals		\$321,975						

November 28th Is the First Sunday of Advent!

From the Lay Leader

AH, NOVEMBER, one of my favorite months of the year: cool nights, warm days, and low humidity!

As well as one of our great holidays—THANKSGIVING! Started back in the 1600s at the beginning of our great nation by its earliest settlers, the Pilgrims and the Puritans based no doubt on their knowledge of the Bible and the Feasts of the LORD, specifically the fall harvest Feast of Tabernacles. And, of course, being thankful for the Providence of Father GOD in helping them to survive the rigors of establishing new settlements with and through the help of Squanto and the Wampanoag tribe of native Americans.

The tradition of Thanksgiving was declared by President George Washington on November 26, 1789, “as a day of public prayer and thanksgiving, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty GOD”.

Enjoy all that we have in freedom and liberty of these United States!

SHALLOM!

John Bernat, Lay Leader

Merry Matters Workshops Resume on November 10th, 10:00 am - Noon

Our Merriest Matter, Lynn Meske, has migrated south from the frozen north of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and is ready to get the gang back together to make ground mats for the homeless. Everyone is invited to join us for this craft/labor of love which is doable by anyone.

The steps in making plastic yarn (plarn) from grocery bags range from smoothing out the wrinkles, folding them for cutting into strips, and rotary cutting (if you have them, bring your cutter, cutting mat and a ruler. A few may be available for borrowing). Then, if you don't know how, learn to crochet these strips into a wonderful, generously sized mat to be presented to our homeless friends at Hope House. (Crochet hooks size P/Q are used.)

Continued . . .

Merry Matters, Continued

This month's workshops will be held on **Wednesday, November 10th and 24th, from 10:00 am until noon in the Family Life Center.** The group will discuss the dates and times for future workshops.

We hope to have a great turnout. Please wear a mask if you can; we will also observe social distancing. We have a good supply of plastic grocery bags to work with for now, so we are not asking for donations.

Remember When We Had Committee Meetings?

Never thought I'd be nostalgic about the church's weekly committee meetings, but sure enough, it's happened. Because of COVID-19, in-person meetings have rarely been held since March 2020. Instead, committee meetings have been called on an as-needed basis. Business, advice, opinions and votes have been accomplished through telephone calls and emails. We miss the synergy of being face-to-face, but safety first.

With the announcement of the 2022 leadership team at the Charge Conference on November 7th, I thought it would be useful to identify the "usual" committee schedules in case COVID positivity rates drop and vaccination/booster rates increase.

1st Mondays, 2:00 pm Board of Trustees

2nd Mondays, 7:00 pm Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC)

3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm Finance Committee

4th Mondays, 7:00 pm Worship Committee

5th Mondays, 7:00 pm Church Council

2nd Thursdays, 2:00 pm A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center Board

Once in-person committee meetings resume, meeting times may be revised depending on the wishes of the members.

Phyllis Kitchens

Photos from October 2021

When Pastor Steve and Ms. Penny were on vacation, we were blessed by Rev. Amy Harper, Mike Stafford and John Bernat, and Rev. Rob Atchley in the pulpit.



Top, Left to Right: Rev. Amy Harper delivers the message on October 10th; Mike Stafford spoke on October 17th (photo from Oct 24th); No photo of Rev. Rob Atchley on the 24th.

Bottom, Left: Pay-what-you-can vegetable stand at Neighborhood House of Ministry in Kathleen

Bottom, Right: Top - Ms. Paulette's bacon, egg and cheese burritos at Hope House, Oct 20th;

Bottom - Generous donations at Hope House on October 20th



First UMC Memory Care Ministry Invites You to A Series of Workshops

If you or any of your family are dealing with dementia, check out these **free Zoom workshops** during the holidays. They are facilitated by Vicky Pitner, CDP, Coordinator of the First United Methodist Church Connections Ministry and Certified Dementia Practitioner. They are all live training sessions so questions will be addressed. Contact Vicky (vpitner@fumc.org) for Zoom information.

Thursday, November 4, 7:00 pm ***Normal Aging vs Dementia: A Workshop for Understanding Dementia***

Is forgetfulness a sign of dementia? Learn the difference between normal aging and signs that cognitive functioning should be assessed. Also learn strategies for maintaining good brain health and hear about the services First United Methodist Church provides in their Memory Ministry, including the new "Memory Café."

Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 pm ***Celebrating the Season: Memory Loss and Family Gatherings***

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and creating enjoyable family gatherings can make for a wonderful holiday season. Many families have not gathered in a while due to the pandemic guidelines, and may not be aware of the changes in your family member living with dementia. We will discuss strategies to make your, your family and friends, and especially your loved ones, holiday celebrations less stressful and create shared, joyful moments.

Friday, December 10, 10:00 am ***Positive Connections: Conversations without Conflict***

When caregiving for an individual with dementia, conversation can turn into an argument very quickly. The brain's ability to process and respond to information declines with a diagnosis such as dementia or Alzheimer's. Learn how to 'tweak' your speech and enjoy more pleasant and meaningful interactions when communicating with an individual living with cognitive decline.

United Methodist Student Day is Sunday, November 28, 2021

It's time to celebrate United Methodist Student Day on **Sunday, November 28th**. UM Student Day is one of six **Special Sundays with Offering** in the UMC. Your gifts support the Gift of Hope Scholarships which are awarded to deserving United Methodist students annually.

One of the major challenges that students face is the lack of financial support to attain a college education. But for United Methodist students, The United Methodist Church is always there to help them accomplish their career goals. For more than 100 years, United Methodists have been supporting their students' educational needs through the Children's Fund, which later became the United Methodist Student Day celebration

United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for a life of Christian service. When you give generously on United Methodist Student Day, you support future missionaries, engineers, teachers, pastors, film producers and so many other careers. Our students are depending on your support. Will you help them?

You can read about the impact UM Student Day donations have had on a scholarship recipient who is a student missionary nurse at

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/umsd-offering-supports-future-missionary-nurse-umsd>.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The next UMW joint circle meeting (combined Ruth Circle of Love and Heart to Heart Circle) will be held on **Wednesday, November 3rd at 10:30 am in the FLC**. All women are invited to attend. We are taking the opportunity to have a short business meeting at the start that will serve as our third unit meeting. (The November 8th unit meeting has been canceled.) We will also be collecting the **World Thank Offering** at this meeting. Please see the article in this issue.

We will continue to hold joint circle meetings through January 2022, after which we will determine whether there are too many of us to allow for good interactions as a single group. The two circles will continue to exist even though we are meeting together. To avoid confusion about meeting days, our joint meetings will be held on the **first Wednesday of each month** instead of alternating between first Monday and first Wednesday. Pat Moon and Ruth Zona will co-facilitate the meetings.

Because of COVID UMW hasn't raised as much money for missions as we usually do, so we are looking at ways to serve the needy more personally. One idea is to add more volunteers to share responsibility for picking up donated Publix bakery products from the US 98 North store on Wednesday and Saturday nights. This requires a roomy vehicle to carry the banana boxes of bread and pastries. The items are delivered to church where the volunteers black out the price and barcode on each item. The goal is to have enough teams of two people each so a team serves only one day a month. Another idea is to help out at Senior Orphans (see the article in this issue), perhaps sorting donated items. This would be a team effort with 2 or 3 or more ladies working together. A third mission could be preparing meals for Hope House (HH), and/or being a HH volunteer for one day a week.

We are planning to hold an activity day to make Christmas cards for our shut-ins and some of the people served by Senior Orphans [See article]. We will plan this day at the December 1st joint circle meeting.

We still need a Vice President. Gulf Central District will provide training on **January 29th**, so if anyone is interested in joining our leadership team, please let Phyllis Kitchens know (phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com or 863-984-4564/410-790-2662).

UMW Monthly Just Energy for All Strategy and Capacity Building Sessions



These monthly **Just Energy for All** Strategy and Capacity Building Sessions are intended to provide an opportunity to network, share best practices, and support you in your work of advancing just energy for all at the local, state, and national levels. The format will vary from month to month and may include various speakers, capacity-building, peer-coaching, breakout groups by themes/region, and updates from the National Office.

Upcoming Sessions: All are scheduled for **the 3rd Wednesday** of each month at **3:00 pm**. The next three are **November 17, 2021**, January 19, 2022 and February 16, 2022. To register for a Just Energy for All Webinar, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcuutpzljGtIsZee-DLtfPHwBwD1d0OS5>

To view recordings of previous sessions, please go to

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

If you've already registered and need us to resend your Zoom link, email climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Final 2021 StillInMission Video November 11th, Noon

You are invited to join us for the final 2021 #StillInMission, episode #37, November 11, 2021 at noon. 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 not want to miss this!

Speakers: [*Select one missionary to view in a breakout room when you register*]

Priscilla Legay Jaiah serves as the Superintendent at the Ganta Mission Station in **Liberia**.

Gaston Ntambo serves as the Pilot and Mechanic with the Wings of the Morning Aviation Ministry in the North Kantanga Conference in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.

Jeanne Ntambo serves as the Radio Operator for the Wings of the Morning Aviation Ministry in the North Katanga Conference in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.

Grace Choi serves as a Missionary in Residence at Global Ministries in the **United States**.

Magdeline Russo serves as the Community and Church Engagement Intern with McCabe Memorial United Methodist Church in the **United States**.

To register, [click here](#). Registration is required. [If the link doesn't work, type into your browser: <https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcuce-vqD4tG9BcjNfpaVWc7t60VbcpzVLZ>.]

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

General Board of Global Ministries / The United Methodist Church / umcmmission.org

Podcast on Practicing Anti-Racism

Looking for more information or encouragement in the fight against racism? Want to learn when it's convenient for you? Expanding the Table, an initiative of The United Methodist Church's General Commission on Religion and Race, has recorded a series of podcasts, two of which are described below. To check the podcasts out, go to <https://www.r2hub.org/library/podcast>.

Episode 5: Moving Your Church from Book Studies to Anti-Racist Actions

In this episode, we ask three clergypersons leading mostly white or racially diverse congregations how they are moving from first awareness and book studies about racism to putting Christian anti-racism into action in their communities.

Episode 4: Robin DiAngelo, PhD, Discusses "Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm"

We talk with sociologist, educator and best-selling author, Robin DiAngelo, about her new book, *Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm*. Dr. DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, discusses how well-intended white allies for racial justice can and should step up the work of confronting and correcting their own complicity in systemic racism.

Introducing Senior Orphans of Polk County

[Source: <http://seniororphansofpolkcounty.org/>]

Senior Orphans of Polk County was founded over 25 years ago to assist those less fortunate. The idea came from attending an organizational meeting of service programs in Polk County. The goal of Senior Orphans is to help local, indigent, elderly people living with no family support and monthly incomes of \$600 or less. Senior Orphans is 100% volunteer-driven with no administrative costs.

Many of us complain about trying to live off a few thousand dollars a month, let alone \$600 a month. Right here in Polk County many seniors are forced to live off this meager income. They are faced with the choice of eating or buying much needed medications on a daily basis. Sadly, many have discovered that Social Security isn't enough to live on. Senior Orphans was founded to help those in need and your donations can make such a difference in the lives of many.

With your donation of personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, etc., thousands of needy seniors get help with their day-to-day living expenses. Seniors are screened through qualified agencies such as the Department of Children and Families, Polk Elderly Services or Peace River Association. Senior Orphans and the agency case managers are careful to ensure that the neediest of the needy receive assistance -- and to avoid duplication of services. All a case manager has to do is call Senior Orphans, and they can pick up what they need right away -- there is no waiting -- to ensure the need is met immediately. For more information, please call Bev Cornelius at 863-859-6547. Your donations of money, supplies or labor will benefit so many!

Be Vigilant - Cyber Security Issues are Everywhere

[Source: Gulf Central District October 2021 Newsletter]

These are trying times for all of us, dealing with changes in how we work and live. However, one thing that hasn't changed is the constant threat of cybercrime. Please **be extra diligent** during these times with respect to **opening attachments and clicking on links in emails**. ONLY do so if the email is from a trusted source, which means that you need to pay attention to who the email is from, not just the name (which can be spoofed), but **the actual sending URL**. If you don't know the source, **DELETE the email**.

Questions to aid you in determining if your email is safe:

Do you know the person or organization sending you the email?

Was the email addressed to you or a group of which you are a member?

Do the link destinations make sense? **(Did you examine every link in the email by resting your pointer over the link (without clicking) to see where the link is really taking you?)**

Does it make sense that you would be receiving this information from this person or organization?

Are the spelling and grammar in the email correct? [Many dangerous emails contain non-standard American English.]

Is the content of the email non-threatening?

The Relationship between Hearing Loss and Dementia

By Vicky Pitner, First UMC Lakeland, Memory Ministry

Studies show that people who have difficulty with hearing are at a higher risk to develop dementia. After following over 600 adults who had initially tested dementia-free, and were tracked for nearly 12 years, a Johns Hopkins expert found that **even mild hearing loss doubled a risk for dementia**. This risk for dementia tripled with moderate hearing loss, and people with a **severe hearing impairment** were actually **five times** more likely to develop dementia. The research also found that **hearing loss is linked with walking problems and an increased fall risk**.

So, what is the connection? Hearing loss can contribute to social isolation, as people who don't hear well may avoid social settings. This can result in a decrease of daily stimulation and engagement in life. Also, the brain scans done in the study showed that hearing loss may contribute to an increased rate of brain atrophy. The hearing loss makes the brain work harder, and the subtle cues needed for walking are muted and may interfere with mental processing needed to walk safely.

When there is less auditory input, the auditory centers in the brain begin to degenerate and the brain struggles to compensate for the loss. This results in the brain using more resources to process auditory information, and the brain is less available for other important cognitive functions such as memory or learning.

Are hearing aids the answer to slowing down cognitive decline and reducing these risks? A new study, due to be concluded in 2022, may give us that answer. But currently, it has not been established that correcting hearing loss can significantly reverse or slow ongoing cognitive decline. However, addressing the hearing loss can greatly influence overall quality of life. There is no downside to using hearing aids, and they can allow people to reengage with friends and family and stay involved in life.

It is recommended that if you have hearing loss, don't let the stigma or myths keep you from getting help. There are nearly 27 million Americans age 50 and older with hearing loss and, sadly, only one in seven uses hearing aids. On average, people wait 10 years before getting help with hearing loss. But during this time, communication with friends and loved ones become more difficult and isolation increases.

It is normal to feel worried that hearing loss means you are aging, and you are embarrassed at the thought of wearing a hearing aid. But the good news is that the aids today are not like those your grandparent wore. They are much smaller and less noticeable. Keeping socially active as you age helps the brain stay young and can keep you involved with life. Loneliness affects overall health and can cause a sense of lack of belonging and purpose.

So, don't let life pass you by because of a fear of "looking old." Connect with friends often, and most importantly, make sure you hear what they saying!

For information regarding our [First UMC Lakeland's] Memory Ministry, contact Vicky Pitner, vpitner@firstumc.org, (863) 686-3163 x275. [Article used by permission of author.]

Fish Fry Fridays at Neighborhood House of Ministry

Please support the monthly third-Friday *Fish Fry fundraiser* on **November 19, 2021, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm. \$10 per meal**. Each meal includes fried fish, two sides (typical choices are coleslaw, grits, baked beans, pasta salad or similar side), and a fresh-baked dessert.

All the proceeds go to support the outreaches of the **Neighborhood House of Ministry**. Thank you in advance for your support. Pre-orders **must be placed not later than 10:00 am on November 18**. Call or text (863) 210-5198. Pick up your orders at 8621 Oakwood Drive, Lakeland 33810. Fish are fried as you arrive to ensure the freshest fillets. Cash or checks made out to Leland Family Ministries accepted.

What Might the 2020 Census Mean for Churches?

Commentary by Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr. in *Leading Ideas*, the weekly e-newsletter of The Lewis Center for Church Leadership, October 12, 2021

Lovett H. Weems Jr. highlights key findings in the 2020 U.S. Census Report of significance for churches including an aging overall population, the first-ever decline in the white population, and greater diversity. He writes that the census results upend many of the working assumptions churches hold about their future.

The oft-quoted “demography is destiny” comes to mind as we explore the meaning of the 2020 U.S. Census Report. The church cares about demographics because it deals with “human populations,” the same people the church exists to serve. Anything we can learn about the people God has given us will shape our ministries for the better. We need not make plans for people who no longer exist, at least not in the numbers as before. Churches are fruitful when they understand who the people are around them and develop ministries and plans to reach them, especially those in their communities but not in their churches.

Churches are fruitful when they understand who the people are around them and develop ministries and plans to reach them, especially those in their communities but not in their churches.

Here are some highlights of the latest census that noted demographer William H. Frey names and what they may mean for church leaders.

Population stagnation

Population growth in the last 10 years was the second lowest in the nation’s history. While COVID-19 added to deaths, the primary reason is the aging of the population. As Frey puts it, “fewer births, more deaths, and uneven immigration.” Many congregations are actually in areas in which aging has led to more deaths than births, with the consequent impact on every community institution.

In the 1940s to 1960s, the U.S. population was highly mobile with about one in five persons changing their residence in a year. Today fewer than 10% change residences during a year, the lowest since records have been kept.

Greater racial diversity

The nation is diversifying “from the bottom up.” While the Builder Generation was almost 80% white and the baby boomers were just over 70% white, all younger generations are far more racially diverse. In 2011, for the first time in the history of the country, more people-of-color babies than white babies were born in a year. Soon, most children will be people of color. Another feature of the growing racial diversity is the dispersal of people of color within the country.

Population aging

In the past 10 years, those between ages 65 and 74 increased in number by 50%. Between 2010 and 2020 the number of people over 55 grew at a rate 20 times greater than the rate of growth for the population under 55. Virtually every part of the country is seeing an increase in the proportion of their population over 55. Where areas vary is in the presence of young people under 18. Thirty-one states showed losses in their youth populations over the past decade.

First-time decline in white population

For the first time since the original census in 1790, the white population declined. Although the numerical decline is minuscule, such a dramatic marker brings the changing demographics of the country to Continued on the next page . . .

What Might the 2020 Census Mean for Churches?, Continued

First-time decline in white population, continued

the forefront. White people are older on average than other groups in the U.S. The long-term scenario for whites, according to Frey, is one of “lower fertility and increased aging.” All population growth in the last decade came from people of color.

Implications for churches

In some ways, **these census results upend the working assumptions of most congregations about the future of their churches.** Here are examples of such assumptions.

New members will come from new residents.

New members will come from young couples returning to church when they have children.

New members will be younger than current members.

New members will look like us and share our values.

Looking for people who are not there

The combination of population stagnation and lower population mobility means those “new people” that churches often counted on joining them will be few. There are growing numbers of people surrounding virtually all churches who do not attend church. They include those our churches never seriously engaged plus the growing ranks of inactive former church members, signified by the worship attendance declines that began in 2002 and continue today. But engaging with these “new people” will require major adjustments in how churches relate to their communities and neighbors, in contrast to merely waiting for those who show up at our doors.

Coming to grips with an aging population

A Presbyterian church with a new pastor spent several hundred thousand dollars to reach young people. Despite a gifted pastor and creative planning, the church had little to show for its efforts after a few years. Since then, the pastor has led them in a different direction. They came to terms with who they were — an older church — and what they had to offer — an amazing church for the growing numbers of people 55 and older in their region. They also discovered ways within this orientation to expand their reach to younger people without trying to be what they are not.

Many churches are undermining their ministries with their own older members and potential younger members by taking the older constituency for granted, and missing the potential they bring to connect with aging communities. Developing ministries for younger people as an adjunct to a less-than-vibrant ministry for others will not work. Infusing vibrancy for every age group generates energy for all.

A special challenge for predominantly white congregations

There are some areas where the white population is growing, but not many. Even there, it is a zero-sum game, with some areas losing the people others are gaining. Over half the counties in the U.S. showed declines in their white population in the last decade. There is no future for predominantly white congregations that cannot reach the growing people-of-color population. This is especially true for reaching younger people where the very youngest in the population are majority people of color.

Continued on the next page . . .

What Might the 2020 Census Mean for Churches?, Continued

A special challenge for predominantly white congregations, continued

Predominantly white congregations also have a special challenge on behalf of the entire country in the coming years. I fear that the first decline in the white population since 1790, minimal as it is, will fan the flames of prejudice against people of color. Such feelings may have been present and better hidden for years, but the public expression of such un-Christian and un-American sentiments shows we are at a troubling juncture. It reminds me of the time when I was growing up and church people who were spiritually serious and personally virtuous supported some of the most evil practices of racism in our history. I see today similar accommodation to the worst expressions of racist language, behavior, and policies from many regular churchgoers. This blatant disregard for Christlike values will make a mockery of our witness unless it is countered by churches that exemplify love of God and love of neighbor without reservation.

The Neighborhood House of Ministry -- A SEASON OF CHANGE

(Source: Extracted from an email from libbie@lelandfamilyministries.com, Oct 12, 2021, 3:39 pm)

As many of our neighbors know, The Neighborhood House of Ministry (home page <https://houseofministry.org/>) has not been open for almost a month because of some recent challenges: I contracted COVID, am still trying to regain all my strength, and my son Jason's very critical health crisis over 11 days ago when he was rushed to the hospital and placed in ICU on a ventilator and is still fighting for his life.

The Neighborhood House of Ministry will need to raise \$4,400.00 per month to remain open after January of next year [2022] and meet our monthly operating budget. We have to change some of the ministry hours and services. We will be focusing on some major fundraising efforts and **recruiting more volunteers.** So, we desperately need your help to reopen and continue to stay open in the future.

First, we need your prayers. We know that it is prayers that process the plan of God.

Second, we need servants who can give of their time and talents. Whether you have one hour or several hours a week to volunteer, it all helps. This will help us get caught up on sorting through all of the donations that have come in, and getting them out and available to individuals and families in need. We also need volunteers who can help with weekly fundraising dinners or work in our neighborhood concession stand. We also need volunteers that can help with the Holiday Marketplace and Christmas Extraganza. This will include making Christmas baskets, Christmas items, and baked goods to sell. We want to bless you for your time and for using your talents with us by giving you ten dollars in Marketplace Bucks for every hour that you volunteer. The Marketplace Bucks can be used in our produce and concession stands.

Thirdly, we ask each of you to consider becoming a 360 Ministry Impact Partner and give a one-time donation of \$360 or donate \$30 a month for 12 months to help us raise the much-needed funds for next year's monthly operating budget. We are looking for 360 people, churches, or businesses to give \$360 a year to help meet our physical operating budget for the year. For just under \$1 a day, you can help support the Neighborhood House of Ministry and help us to continue to serve our community! Donations can be made in-person at the ministry or sent to 8621 Oakwood Drive, Lakeland, FL 33810. Checks can be made out to Leland Family Ministries.

We will restart Wednesday Food Box distributions to our 100 neighbors that live around us. We will call each of you Wednesday morning with your pick-up time. The Neighborhood Marketplace and the "Pay What You Can" **Produce Stand hours will be Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

Please follow our Neighborhood House of Ministry on Facebook, Instagram, and the Nextdoor app to see the most up-to-date information about available ministries, dates, hours, fundraisers, and events. Phone (863) 210-5198. I am praying many blessings over each of you, Libbie

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. ♥

Hope House Happenings (Excerpts from HH Volunteer Reports)

Friday, September 29, 2021 - Laura Webb, Chris H. and Geri Mayo

Laura was busy overseeing the shower list and making sure everyone had toiletries, clean, new clothes and shoes. Chris set up the tables, chairs and the breakfast table. He helped to make sandwiches. At the end of the day, he made sure the tables and chairs were back inside, took out all trash and cleaned the patio area.

Joy Miller with North Lakeland Homeless Outreach donated 2 pairs of size 13 tennis shoes and will be bringing a size 15 on Friday. She also brought from one of the schools several pints of strawberry milk and cups of frozen fruit. We are so blessed by this group.

Geri made Thanksgiving dinner in September (turkey, ham, stuffing, mac and cheese and green beans). Every guest received a bagged lunch and was able to choose one canned good and one snack from our pantry.

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

Our guests were served a meal by Rick and Debbie McLellan. Debbie cooked a terrific spaghetti with tomato meat sauce, garlic bread, and a fresh garden salad with sliced tomatoes. Our brown to-go bag included a meat and cheese sandwich, a bag of chips, a pack of cookies, a pudding cup, a bag of M&Ms, and a box of raisins.

Continued on the next page . . .

Hope House Happenings, Continued

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, Continued

Debbie was busy and gave out blankets, toiletry kits, razors, lantern and radio batteries, deodorant, masks, socks, and clothing items. We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and had 7 guests request showers. We had one guest who used a washer and dryer.

We had a visit from Jim Aldrich, who brought us canned goods, blankets, and other 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 able to fill a request for a large print Bible and a request for a pocket New Testament, both provided by members of our church, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

By the end of the day, we had served 18 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Matthew 18, THE MATH of the GOSPEL.

Our guests were served a meal by Rick and Debbie McLellan. Debbie cooked chicken noodle casserole. Our brown to-go bag included an egg salad sandwich, a bag of chips, a pack of Oreo cookies, a pudding cup, a bag of M&Ms, and an applesauce cup. To quench thirst was ice cold bottled water and flavoring packets and Tropicana juice beverages. 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.

We had a visit from Jim Aldrich, who brought several items from our friends at Christ the King Episcopal Church. Jim also brought a bicycle for one of our guests, Brian, whose bike had recently been stolen. We also are grateful to Harry Card, a military veteran and former volunteer at the Hope Center, who brought us Walmart-type bags and candy for our guests. We are also grateful for items provided by our friend Tammy, and useful items dropped off by Polk City Baptist Church. We gladly filled a request for a Pocket New Testament, provided by our church, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

We had a great day, and we had many expressions of gratitude from our guests. Your prayers and giving are truly making a difference in lives!

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 - Laura Webb, Chris H. and Geri Mayo

A total of 16 guests signed in, with 8 using the shower and 4 using the laundry. Note to the other volunteers: the outside washer is broken. There are only 2 functioning washers at this time. Breakfast consisted of cinnamon and cinnamon raisin French toast, cereal and oatmeal cookies. Coffee, juice, and bottled water were the beverage choices. The kitties enjoyed their alfresco breakfast.

Laura oversaw the shower list. She made sure our guests were given toiletries, clean (some new) clothes and shoes. Chris put out the tables and chairs. He set up the breakfast table and cleaned it off to reset for lunch. The poor man also washed a ton of pots and pans. He made the peanut butter sandwiches. We also had a nice young man named Mike help out.

The Dream Center, Lakeland donated cases of Bob Evans omelet rolls and microwavable mashed potatoes. Thank you, Paulette for bringing them to HH.

Our pantry was empty. With the generous donations from many of our friends, HH now has food for our guests to take home. Plus, we have food for our lunch bags. Thank you, Marianna for bringing the food today. You were answer to prayer. Thank you, Marie and Bill. Even being so far away, you have blessed HH.

Continued on the next page . . .

Hope House Happenings, Continued

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, Continued

Many thanks to Luz, Marco, their church and evangelistic team for the wonderful food donations. It will come in very handy for the takeout bags. A group from Luz' evangelistic team stopped by: Rich, Rudolph and Irma. The gentlemen played the shofar (ram's horn) and provided the devotion. Absolutely fantastic!

A wonderful lady, Tasha, donated clothes. The men's clothing belonged to her husband who recently passed away. HH is so blessed by her generosity. We also had some visitors from Dedicated Senior Medical Center and Tri-County Human Services. Please pray that they are able to help our folks with healthcare and housing.

For lunch, our guests were served Italian sausages with onions and peppers, macaroni and cheese, and a mixed bean dish. Loaded potato salad, a tray of condiments, a relish and cheese tray, tortillas and hot dog buns were set on the table for self-serve. (The sausages were a donation from The Seventh-Day Adventist food bank.)

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 – Debbie and Rick McLellan

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

By the end of the day, we had served 14 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Zephaniah 3 , GOD SINGS OVER YOU. After our devotions, our early guests who participated in devotions were rewarded with a surprise bag of candy which included a tract and a Wendy's coupon for a FREE Junior Frosty, no purchase required. The sale of these coupons also helps promote needed adoptions in the United States.

Our guests were served a meal by Rick and Debbie McLellan. Debbie cooked Cheesy sloppy joes, corn, and cookies for dessert. Our brown to-go bag included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a pack of Lance crackers, a Rice Krispies treat, a bag of M&Ms candy, a pudding cup and a fresh red apple.

Debbie was busy and gave out blankets, toiletry kits, razors, lantern and radio batteries, deodorant, masks, shoes, socks, and clothing items. She also gave out 4 new sleeping bags to guests who sleep on the ground. We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and had 6 guests request showers. We had one guest who used a washer and dryer.

We had a visit from Dwight Kitchens, who brought a wonderful variety of men's clothes donated by Carol Campbell from Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. We also were given a number of canned goods dropped off by Polk City Baptist Church.

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Hope House Happenings, Continued

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 – Laura Webb, Chris H. and Geri Mayo

Laura did an amazing job processing the clothing donations. She also signed everyone in; oversaw the shower/laundry list and gave out clothing and toiletries. Chris set up and brought in all the chairs and tables. He and another volunteer, Mike, helped to take care of the breakfast table and cleaned. Geri made bacon, egg and cheese burritos and grits for breakfast.

Brent came by and repaired the washer. We now have two working washers. Also, he cleaned the window AC, so it is not leaking inside the house.

Laura provided a wonderful devotion from the bible.com plan, Anxiety Not! Day 3: Search for the Hidden Treasure. "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad." Proverbs 12:25

Lunch consisted of spaghetti with meatballs, chicken alfredo and broccoli. Several guests celebrated birthdays today, so Laura and Chris brought a red velvet cake for dessert. Every guest received a lunch bag and had a choice of a cold cut combo on a bun or a PB&J. They had a choice of one canned good and one snack from our newly filled pantry.

SPECIAL THANKS: Paulette Rolle-Alesnik, of the Paulette Rolle Foundation, for the huge perishable food donation. The HH refrigerators are overflowing with your generosity! Luz, Marco, her friends, church and evangelistic team. Marianna, Marie and Bill. Mark and Sandra for the shelf-stable food donations. (And the cleaning supplies and clothing.) Thanks to them, HH's pantry is full once more. We have lunch bags to provide for our folks. Joy Miller and the North Lakeland Homeless Outreach -- The lunch bags provided on Sundays are such a blessing!

HH VISITORS: Erica from Southeastern University. Her students choose a charity/organization for community service hours. She's going to list HH!! Hopefully in January 2022, we will have student volunteers! A lovely lady, Cindy, has been driving by HH. She stopped in today to ask about volunteering. She'll be shadowing Laura, Chris and me on Wednesday! Irma and Rich came by at lunch time to visit with our guests. (Rich was one of the gentlemen who played the shofar/ram's horn last Wednesday).

PRAISE REPORT: Ms. Jean and her husband, Eric, have completely recovered from their bout of COVID. Their nephew, Steven, had been on a ventilator in ICU. He is healed and at home. God is good. One of our guests, Brian, has a job!!! It is an evening stocking position, so he will visit HH for breakfast, lunch and devotion. We are looking to provide work clothes, and perhaps, a lunch cooler for him. PTL!

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

By the end of the day, we had served 20 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and a devotion from Ephesians 6, SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

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 along with Rick and Debbie McLellan. Chef Dick served his fabulous pulled pork, with macaroni and cheese and baked beans.

Our brown to-go bags included a tuna salad sandwich, a bag of chips, a bag of Planters nuts, a pack of Lance crackers, a giant candy bar, a bag of M&Ms, and a diced peaches fruit 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 supper. We also fed the Hope House kitties.

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Hope House Happenings, Continued

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, Continued

Debbie was busy and gave out toiletry kits, razors, jackets and sweatshirts, blankets, lantern and radio batteries, deodorant, masks, underwear, socks, and clothing items. We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and had 5 guests request showers. We had 3 guests who used the washers and dryers.

We also gave a bag of work clothes and shoes, socks and other items that Geri had obtained for Brian Bilello, who recently got a new job at Walmart. He was very grateful for the help, and we all pray he will have great success.

Three Eagle Scout Projects Completed for the Church

You've probably already admired the repaired bridge leading into the Spadafora Memorial Garden, and the beautiful wood and glass Blessing Box in the FLC. The third project is less noticeable, but very important. The wooden posts that the UMM had installed around the replacement sign were removed and replaced with 4 steel pipes on each side, sunk 4 to 5 feet into the ground and filled with concrete. We hope they will save the church's current electronic sign from another car strike. Landscaping timbers and mulch were installed to complete the project. We hope to have the names of the young men who led these projects for the next issue.





Birthdays in November

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
11/6	Emma Faircloth
11/10	Gary Jones
11/10	Jean Wesley
11/11	Mary Futch
11/13	Donald Damaschke
11/19	John Travis
11/21	Robert Schmidt
11/22	Barbara Towns
11/26	Ellen Haltiwanger
11/26	Michael Moake
11/27	Brad Fox
11/27	Donna McKnight
11/28	Sharon Hughes
11/30	Jeri Spooner



Anniversaries in November

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