



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



From the Pastor

Thursday, the fifth of this month, is National Day of Prayer. Many times, I have been in a meeting and we have been wrestling with a problem or situation and suddenly someone says, "Let's pray about it." That is good advice, but we should have been praying about it before we began the discussion, and we should have been silently praying about it during the discussion.

We are to pray at all times according to Paul. We often pray as a last resort instead of as a first resource. Prayer has a way of opening doors. True prayer is not only us pouring our heart out to God. It is also God speaking to us in our time of need, speaking through the Holy Spirit in ways we can only imagine.

James 5:16 says: "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." There have been many times in my ministry when I had no clue what to do in a situation. Calamities happen and people would ask, What are we going to do? I would respond, "I don't know. Let's pray about it and seek God's guidance." I can confidently tell you God has always answered with the proper guidance. Sometimes I thought God was slow or moving too fast, but looking back on my ministry, I see God was right on time and He never once made a mistake.

This month I encourage you to set aside time each day to pray for God to make himself known to you. As He does, you will grow to love Him more and will be fruitful for the kingdom. I urge you to pray for the church, especially the UMC as we approach a split and for Lake Gibson in particular, that God will lead you to the choice he wants you to make. I also encourage you to pray for Rev. Anthony Purcell and his wife Emile as they prepare to take over the ministry and leadership here.

This month also includes Mother's Day – the day we fondly recall our earthly mothers and honor them. In many cases it was our mothers that planted that seed of faith in us as they took us to Church and Sunday School. Mothers often sacrificed so that the family could have special things. Mothers like this model the sacrificial love of God.

Also included in May is Memorial Day – when we honor those who paid the ultimate cost – their life – to give us the freedoms we have here in America. The freedom of worshipping God as we see fit and the possibility of living life in peace. All three of these holidays point us to a God of love – a God who looks over and provides for his children. A God who is listening to the pleas of his people, listening and is ready to respond in a merciful and loving way. This month, pray without ceasing for God to make himself known to you, Lake Gibson UMC and the world.

Pastor Steve

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month.

Abbreviations: FLC - Family Life Center; ZVC - Zoom Video Conference

- 1 Sunday **Native American Ministries Sunday (Special Sunday with Offering); Sunday School classes***, 9:15 - 10:15 am in **Family Life Center (FLC); Worship Service* and Communion**, 10:30 am; **Publix bakery goods*** in FLC for needy; **Movimiento Misionero Mundial Pentecostal Church***, 10:30 am, FLC upstairs; **New Testament Christian Church***, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary
- 2 Monday **Board of Trustees meeting**, 2:00 pm, Church Office; **Boy Scouts***, 7:00 pm, FLC.
- 3 Tuesday **Book Study***, 10:30 am, off campus (see article); **Just Energy for All Working Group**, 7:00 pm (see article); **Cub Scouts***, 7:00 pm, FLC
- 4 Wednesday **A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel***, 9:00 am, Sanctuary; **United Women in Faith (UWF) [formerly UMW] Combined Circle meeting**, 10:00 am, FLC (read chapter 8 (The Voice that Empties Graves) of *Never Alone* by Max Lucado); Zoom Video Conference (ZVC) **Table Talk: The History of Race in Florida II**, noon; (see article); **Choir Practice**, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
- 5 Thursday **Food Pantry***, 9:30 am - 11:30 pm, office; Zoom **Bible Study*** with Pastor, 1:00 pm; **Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) meeting**, 3:00 pm, FLC; **Praise Team Rehearsal***, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary; ZVC **Still in Mission #42**, 7:00 pm (see article)
- 6 Friday
- 7 Saturday
- 8 Sunday **Mother's Day; Harvest Sunday** (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)
- 9 Monday
- 10 Tuesday
- 11 Wednesday **Merry Matters** craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
- 12 Thursday **A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Board meeting**, 2:00 pm, FLC; **Scouts Committee Meeting**, 7:00 pm, FLC Upstairs
- 13 Friday
- 14 Saturday **United Methodist Men (UMM) Breakfast Meeting**, 9:00 am, FLC (*last meeting until Aug 13th*)
- 15 Sunday
- 16 Monday
- 17 Tuesday
- 18 Wednesday
- 19 Thursday
- 20 Friday
- 21 Saturday
- 22 Sunday **Heritage Sunday/Aldersgate Day celebrated** (see article)
- 23 Monday
- 24 Tuesday Aldersgate; ZVC **Raise Up Your Voice against Racism - How to Be an Anti-racist Church**, 8:00 pm
- 25 Wednesday
- 26 Thursday
- 27 Friday
- 28 Saturday
- 29 Sunday **5th Sunday donations for Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)**
- 30 Monday **Memorial Day** federal holiday

Introducing Anthony Purcell - Biography

Ordained in the Baptist tradition and currently pursuing ordination in the United Methodist Church, I have an extensive background in both ministry and teaching. Most recently, I have served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Florida Southern College, where I worked to create a curriculum to better meet student needs and interests. I have aimed to provide pastoral care for students and ability to help them find their passion in life. Prior to that, I was an Adjunct Instructor at the Emory University and Candler School of Theology. I served as the Youth Minister for the Lithia Spring United Methodist Church in Georgia for four years while I was at Emory. Within the church, I worked hard to engage and build relationships with parishioners at every level and age.

I hold a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Emory University, an M.A. in Religion with an emphasis on Biblical Studies from Yale Divinity School, and a B.A. in Christian Studies from Brewton-Parker College. My teaching and published work has focused on the Old and New Testaments, Biblical Hebrew and Hellenistic [Greek](#), Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Art History, and the imagery and message of the biblical texts with a focus on biblical poetry. I am a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Bible Association, and the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.



As for my personal calling, I find joy in the practices of preaching and teaching the Word of God. I love to invite others to hear the voices of God's people through Scripture as a chorus that stretches across the canon. I find joy in helping to unveil the living voice and power of God's Word for the people of the world today. I care deeply for others, for building community and supporting the people who surround me. I am empathetic and lean into compassion before judgment, particularly in light of the ocean of God's compassion and mercy for me and all of creation. I do not balk in voicing what I believe is right, particularly when it comes to supporting and defending others with care and love. Finally, I am empathetic and hate to see people marginalized, excluded, or put down. I work to show compassion and grace to others through my words and actions, attempting to model Christ even in situations wherein I disagree with others. I strive to inculcate Christ-like community wherever I go. In all things, I am amazed by and grounded in God's overwhelming grace and love, which embraces and covers my failings and missteps.

I believe that the Church's ministers are called and equipped to be shepherds, loving and caring for the people that they serve, whether that be through visitations, counseling, loving service, or expounding the Scripture and Gospel of Christ. One of my primary passions is bringing modern Christian communities' voices into being alongside our biblical canon and our church history with the goal that the voices of God's people from millennia past might serve as the choir to which the Church today adds its voice. I have a passion for preaching and teaching the Christian Scriptures and guiding the people of God in our work to extend and realize the Kingdom of God within the communities that surround us. I am called to serving and advancing the Kingdom of God on earth, the remaking of creation and the people who make it up. I want to lead and teach communities to transform the people around them by calling them out of hatred and sin by ministering to them in radical love.

My wife and I love nature -- hiking, camping, kayaking, and, more recently, I've attempted to take up fly fishing! I was raised with a respect for the beauty and wonder of creation, from fishing and diving in the Atlantic with my father, to Boy Scout hiking and camping trips in my tweens and teens, to summer trips to the Appalachians with my mother and grandmother's side of the family. I've been so blessed in the experiences and opportunities that I have been able to enjoy, and I genuinely love helping others find rest and absorb the beauty of our world and our God in nature. Of course, I have other interests too! I am an avid

Continued on the next page . . .

Introducing Anthony Purcell - Biography, Continued

reader and writer, and I love dialoguing about the biblical text and debating theology with whoever will listen. My wife and I adore our dog; I enjoy trying to work on my piano skills (underline “working on,” ha!) in my free time by practicing the Romantics like Chopin and Beethoven, and I am most definitely quite the nerd and can talk about fantasy and sci-fi novels, board games, video games, and the ideal PC processor/graphics card combos for far longer than necessary.

My wife, Emile, works in healthcare with a remote medical records position that she really excels at and enjoys. She’s an amazing cook, is totally smitten by our pup, Mozzie, and has an irresistible (and, to me, unexplainable) need to decorate our house based on the season. Emile is unquestionably my better half! She has served as my foundation and support throughout the ins and outs of the last decade, and she has supported my passions and educational journey despite the fact that it came with many periods of last-minute moves and a lack of certainty concerning the future. She has an amazing way of directing my vision and focus to the things that really matter when I get caught up in the details.

Informational Meeting and Fellowship Dinner on April 24th

Three important events occurred on Sunday, April 24th. As you all know, **Pastor Steve is retiring in June and, regrettably, taking Mrs. Penny with him.** We will be holding a farewell party for them in early June, date to be determined.

Throughout the United Methodist Church, April 24th was **Announcement Sunday**, when congregations learn the identity of their next pastor, who has been sent by the conference. We will be welcoming **Anthony Purcell, and his wife Emile**, as our new pastor in July.

After the worship service we held a **church meeting** in the Family Life Center. You may have heard some discussions regarding the possible division of the United Methodist Church into one or more new denominations. I hope you’ve read the multitude of articles about the situation in the last two years of *The Good News*. Mike Stafford, Lay Leader, briefed the crowd on the current status of the United Methodist Church, described potential new churches that are emerging, and discussed some possible courses of action we might desire to take. **To see a recording of this meeting, go to the church website, <https://lakegibsonumc.com/> and click on Presentation of Possible Changes Affecting the UMC. The video has closed captions to assist everyone in hearing the briefing.** The Church Council, led by Carol Davis, will continue to examine the issues facing us over the near future.

Afterward, we finally got to have a fellowship meal, the first large-scale get-together since COVID-19 struck. The church provided ham, pork and chicken, while everyone else brought their specialty side dishes, salads or desserts to share with others. As you can see from the pictures, provided by Cindy Webb, we had a full house of church family and friends.



Continued on the next page . . .

Informational Meeting and Fellowship Dinner on April 24th Continued



A Message from your District Superintendent

[Excerpts to delete April events and shorten length. Ed.]



District Superintendent, Emily Hotho ds-gc@flumc.org

Each Sunday when I pull into the parking lot of a different United Methodist Church (or two, or three), I get the first-time guest experience. Until the pastor announces my presence later in the service, folks don't tend to recognize me or expect that I'm the District Superintendent (which is just fine!)

Finding parking, following signage, hurrying my kids along to find the appropriate Nursery and Sunday School rooms, getting a bulletin, finding a seat, interactions with other worshippers . . . all of this has given me a real appreciation for those who take the leap of faith to visit a church for the first time, and an appreciation for the importance of hospitality.

As Holy Week and Easter approach, I hope that hospitality is top of mind for you and your ministry team. How easily can folks find your worship times and locations online? How do we welcome guests onto our church campuses? How do we help them find where they're going? How do we meet them (and collect their contact info) without overwhelming them? How do we make kids and families feel welcome, too?

I love the advice toward the end of Hebrews, **"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."** This verse makes it clear that hospitality is more than a strategy; it is a spiritual practice. When we welcome others in the same ways that we'd welcome an angel (or Jesus himself), we welcome the presence of God.

I'm praying for each one of your churches to have an amazing Holy Week and Easter this month. How exciting to know that you will welcome people into your church who are seeking to connect with the story of Easter, and that your hospitality can make an immeasurable impact on their lives.

A few other key reminders for this month:

*** District Presentations on Continuing UMC were extraordinarily well-attended in all 3 locations.** If you need specific follow-up at your local church, don't hesitate to reach out. As I said in the presentations, I'd love nothing more than to come and talk face-to-face with your church leaders and help them process this information. A reminder that if your church is considering disaffiliation, Paragraph 2553 will be your guide, along with a disaffiliation checklist that I can provide for you. A Church Conference to consider this matter would need to be requested through my office (Paragraph 248).

*** District Clergy Meeting - May 4, 9:30 am at Bay Hope.** Join us for coffee, fellowship, worship, a food truck lunch, some fun surprises . . . and HOPE. Unless you are sick, out of town, or have an unavoidable obligation, I'd like all clergy of the District to plan to attend. (I know that extension ministers and part-time pastors may work other jobs that require their presence that day; in those cases, we'd love to see you if you're able but understand if you aren't.) Register here to let us know you plan to attend - <https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/DistrictClergyMeeting2022>

*** Annual Conference will be in-person this year, June 9-11 at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.** Some details: Florida Southern has indicated that mask wearing indoors will be **optional**. If you are **at high risk for severe illness**, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions. The General Schedule for AC 2022 is now available and can be found on the [AC 2022 website](#). Get the latest AC 2022 news with updates delivered straight to your phone. Text **"flumc22"** to 844-635-1026 to subscribe. Normal text messaging rates apply. Text **"STOP"** to opt out. Text **"HELP"** for help. Pastors and Church Administrators, please make sure that your **Lay Delegate(s) is signed up on the Church Dashboard**. Need help or have questions? Reach out to Katelyn at flumc-gc@flumc.org

I hope you have a wonderful experience of Holy Week, Easter, and beyond.

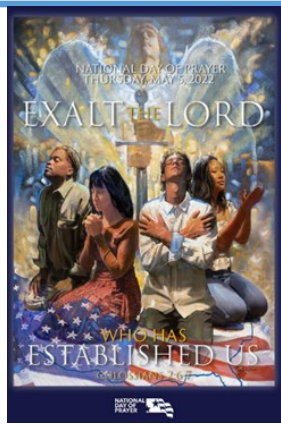
Peace, Emily

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Ten Things to Know About Asian Americans

1. **Asian Americans are not a monolithic group of people.** Most Asian Americans, when asked to describe our race or ethnicity, tend to say, "I am Korean American," or "I am Thai, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, etc." Very few of us would start out by saying, "I am an Asian American".
2. **The term "Asian American" was first coined in 1968.** The word "oriental" is considered to be pejorative.
3. **The history of Asian Americans goes back much longer than most people think.** It goes back to the 16th century, much earlier than the 19th century, with the more visible presence of Chinese and Filipino immigrants. The first Asian people to come to what is now the United States of America were "Luzonians," people from the Philippines who arrived in Morro Bay, California in 1587.
4. **Experience of Asian Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II:** About 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry—most of whom lived on the Pacific Coast—were forcibly relocated and incarcerated in concentration camps, losing their legally owned properties.
5. **Asians are often referred to as "the model minority".** This is a racist term coined by the white-dominant society to further discriminate against African-Americans and other non-Asian people of color. It intentionally incites different racially and ethnically marginalized people to compete with one another. The myth of the "model minority" creates a stereotype and false assumption that all Asian Americans are successful. Among Asian Americans there are poor, undereducated and suffering people.
6. **The most common racial stereotype Asian Americans experience is that of the "perpetual foreigner."** Most Asian Americans—including second, third and fourth generations—are asked, "Where are you really from?" Questions like this assume all Asian Americans are "foreigners" or recent immigrants who do not belong here and/or have not contributed meaningfully to the building of this nation. To Asian Americans, the question of where you are really from is often experienced as xenophobia (an aversion, hostility to, disdain for, or fear of "foreigners" or people from different cultures, or strangers).
7. **Women of Asian heritage commonly experience racism when they are treated as exotic, hypersexualized fantasies.**
8. **In 2020 hate crimes against Asian Americans increased 150%** over previous years, with 3,800 reported cases.
9. **Asian Americans are religiously diverse.** A 2012 survey found 42% of Asian Americans were Christians: 22% Protestant (1% were United Methodist), and 19% were Catholic.
10. **Asian Americans in the United Methodist Church:** In 1972, Rev. Wilbur Wong Yan Choy was elected as the first Asian American United Methodist bishop. In 1982, Rev. Mamie Ming Yan Ko of the California-Pacific Conference and Rev. Mochie Lam, California-Nevada Conference, became the first Chinese American women to be ordained United Methodist elders. In 1983, Rev. Colleen Kyung Seen Chun of the California-Pacific Conference became the first Korean American woman to be ordained a United Methodist elder.

[Source: This article was extracted from a more detailed one provided by the UMC's General Commission on Religion and Race. It was written by The Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee, professor of practical theology and co-dean of the joint doctoral program at the United Methodist-related Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver, Colorado.]



The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 5, 2022

The 71st Annual **National Day of Prayer** is **Thursday, May 5, 2022**. Millions of people will pray at thousands of events around the United States. The theme for this year is **Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us**.

The theme verses are **Colossians 2:6-7** which say "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live our lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

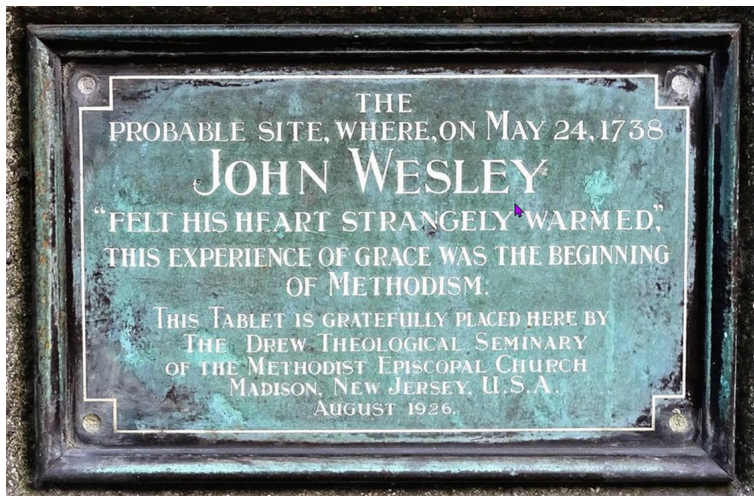
Announcing a Month of Prayer for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

The first Thursday of May (the 5th this year) was designated as National Day of Prayer by the United States Congress in 1952, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."

At the Children's Home, we would love for you to remember our children and staff regularly in your prayers. So, in recognition of National Day of Prayer, **we're making the month of May the official Children's Home Month of Prayer**. We have prepared a week of prayer requests along with brief Bible verses that will guide you throughout the month in your daily prayers.

Please use the **prayer guide on the next page** to remind yourself to pray for the children and staff at FUMCH. Perhaps tape it up where you'll see it and pray daily for the Children's Home.

What is Aldersgate Day?



[Source: United Methodist Communications (UMCOM)]

Aldersgate Day is celebrated on May 24 (or the Sunday closest) to commemorate the day in 1738 when **John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation**. Wesley reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening on Aldersgate Street in London. As he heard a reading from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his **"heart strangely warmed."** Wesley wrote in his journal that at about 8:45 p.m. "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away

my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Charles Wesley only a few days before had also had a conversion experience in a building that still stands on an adjacent block (John Bray's house on Little Britain). We do not know whether the building where John Wesley's experience took place still exists, nor exactly in which building on Aldersgate Street it may have been if it still stands. A monument at the London Museum on Aldersgate Street marks where some believe the building may have been.

Over time, Aldersgate Street has been shortened by common Methodist usage to simply Aldersgate. The word has come to represent both the place and John Wesley's experience.

A Month of Prayer for FUMCH

SUNDAY: Please be in prayer for our **children**, for their healing, and that they may experience the love and support of a family.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." – Isaiah 41:10

MONDAY: Pray for our **staff, including foster parents, house parents, and independent living teams**, that they would be filled with strength and peace as they show the unconditional love of Christ to our children every day.

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." - Ephesians 3:16-19

TUESDAY: Pray for our **leadership and administrative teams**, for wisdom, strength, and creativity as they lead our staff in ministry.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." – Colossians 3:12-14

WEDNESDAY: Pray for our **Board of Trustees**, as we express gratitude for their service and ask for wisdom as they guide us in our future planning.

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8

THURSDAY: Pray for our **therapists**, who walk the road of healing with our youth each day.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18

FRIDAY: Pray for our **education team**, who work to equip our youth with the tools they need to be successful in school and later in their careers.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye on you." – Psalm 32:8

SATURDAY: Pray for our **spiritual life team** as they guide youth to notice and experience the love of God in their lives.

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." – 1 John 4:12

Polk County School Board Homeless Graduating Seniors Luncheon

The 2022 luncheon began with the students getting their graduation pictures taken by a professional photographer. There were approximately 70 students attending out of 112 who are graduating. They had a delicious lunch and an ice cream sundae dessert bar.

This is the first year that all students attending received a door prize. Usually there is a raffle-type drawing for the prizes. The prizes are left-over items from filling the duffle bags, or donations not on the list of items requested for the duffle bags. The door prizes were very nice this year. I heard someone make a commitment to ensure there would be enough door prizes for each student again next year. It was a pleasure to watch their faces as they picked their prizes.

Dr. Julio Cabba was the guest speaker again this year. He is awesome, powerful and motivated. He went from a high school dropout to receiving his doctorate, and he owns several businesses. He has a story to tell and the students were intrigued and could relate to his life. He is so impressed with this luncheon and event that he donates his fee and makes donations personally.

A large donation made it possible for all students to receive a **tablet computer**. The roof was raised when this was announced. I read on a thank-you note from a girl that she was going to college, but was worried she didn't have a computer. She was so thankful. Several students are going to college and technical schools. One boy is already studying welding. Several also have jobs lined up.

At the end of the program 4 students were called to the stage. They were all awarded a \$4,000.00 scholarship. They were jumping all over the stage and hugging everyone. It was an extremely hard journey for all the students. Every day was a struggle, but they were able to overcome these difficulties.

The graduating seniors were wary and subdued walking into the building, not knowing what to expect, but left with a spring in their steps and a huge smile on their faces. They left with their duffle bags filled with twin sheet sets, towels, throw, pillow, flash light and all types of toiletries, tablet, door prizes, gift cards and Lake Gibson UMC's food/gift card. They were amazed that someone cared enough about them to provide this special day and gifts to help in the next step of their journey. The Polk County community is so good to provide for their needs. We are the only ones to provide food/gift cards and couldn't provide for all of them without your help. Were there tears? Oh yes, there were, but what happy tears they were!

Cindy Webb and Bev Henrich



Bev and Cindy ready for graduation.



"Raffle" items -- one for everyone!

Homeless HS Seniors' Gifts



Girls' Duffle Bags (Boys received the same in a different color)



Dr. Cabba and Vickie Griffis

Mission u Is Coming in July

For more than a century United Women in Faith and its predecessors have been gathering annually to better understand how to live our faith in the world by studying for spiritual growth and learning about contemporary issues and neighbors in different geographic areas.

Beginning in 2022, we are taking an exciting new approach to Mission u curricula! Mission u will now introduce three new curricula each year - one for adults, one for youth and one for children - all focusing on a shared biblical theme. Through these vibrant, relevant, justice-oriented and biblically centered curricula, Mission u will continue its commitment to learning together for the transformation of the world.

These inspiring curricula include opportunities for intergenerational learning and are designed to be easy to use in small groups, local churches, vacation Bible schools, retreats and other settings. Developed by diverse teams, each study was tested in different church settings and adapted and optimized based on feedback.

Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13, the 2022 adult curriculum by Candace Simpson brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings in this chapter of Luke to explore what it means to be in community. As the author notes, "For followers of Christ 2,000 years later, it's important for us to sit with the range of emotions we have in response to these words. It's not easy to build and sustain communities, especially when there are forces that drain us, exhaust us, and even push us to act uncharacteristically. And yet, we are called to act on the most ethical principles of our faith so we can witness the *kin-dom* of God on earth." The text book is available from <https://www.umwmissionresources.org> at \$10.00; unfortunately, shipping is over \$7.00.

There will be two in-person adult classes at the Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center near Leesburg: July 11 - 13 and July 14 - 16. We will also have two virtual events via Zoom: The first is July 26, 28, August 2, and 4 (Tuesday and Thursday evenings), and the second is July 29, 30, 31, which is a weekend event.

If you are interested in more information on **Mission u** which is happening in July and August, you can find information and registration forms at the following link: <https://flconfumw.org/mission-u-%26-studies>.

Prayer Ministry

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



May 5, 2022 is National Day of Prayer. It was created as an effort to ask all American Citizens to turn to God in prayer and meditation. We can support each other and those around the world in Christian love and faith by our prayers.

Just as God created the whole universe in harmony, our prayers can help keep us undivided and connect us with peace around the world: Prayers and peace around the world -- a wonderful blessing to all.

We give thanks for the freedom to be able to pray, anytime and anywhere . . . Jesus is always with-in listening distance. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Prayer Ministry-Fran

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

Thank You for Your Wonder Walk Donations!

We received one donation (\$10.00) after the check was cut for **\$710.00** and mailed to Cornerstone Family Ministry. These funds provide tuition scholarships for the children who attend the Rosa Valdez Early Childhood Learning Center and Lab School. Rosa Valdez is supported by donations from the United Women in Faith (UWF), formerly the United Methodist Women. It is proposed that the late donation be applied to the next Cornerstone fund-raiser which, coincidentally, is described elsewhere in this issue. If the donor disagrees, please call Phyllis, 863-984-4564.

Financial Report

As the data below for Jan – Mar reflect, we are doing well in meeting our financial obligations for 2022. As always, our reported data are one month behind, as the newsletter is prepared prior to the completion of the month. Our property and liability insurance payments have been completed, and we have started to ‘whittle down’ the apportionments.

As mentioned elsewhere, we are using a generous gift from Dale and Jean Gower to do some updates in the narthex and church office. Overall, we are sound financially, if not flush, thanks to your continued generous support.

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

Data Entry

Current Year 2022

Current Budget \$295,275

Month	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2022
January	\$32,120	\$19,250	\$41,469	\$92,839	\$30,946	\$30,946	\$45,644
February	\$23,134	\$26,344	\$26,633	\$76,111	\$25,370	\$56,317	\$26,373
March	\$34,381	\$31,430	\$23,181	\$88,992	\$29,664	\$85,981	\$39,981
April	\$29,060	\$48,131	\$24,073	\$101,264	\$33,755	\$119,735	
May	\$22,029	\$25,816	\$26,093	\$73,938	\$24,646	\$144,381	
June	\$27,031	\$25,894	\$15,866	\$68,791	\$22,930	\$167,312	
July	\$23,569	\$0	\$23,104	\$46,673	\$15,558	\$182,869	
August	\$21,790	\$22,494	\$20,877	\$65,161	\$21,720	\$204,590	
September	\$22,385	\$25,185	\$21,208	\$68,778	\$22,926	\$227,516	
October	\$0	\$20,998	\$20,238	\$41,236	\$13,745	\$241,261	
November	\$28,024	\$25,284	\$18,325	\$71,633	\$23,878	\$265,139	
December	\$52,968	\$26,088	\$25,183	\$104,239	\$34,746	\$299,885	
Total	\$316,491	\$296,914	\$286,250	\$899,655	\$299,885	\$299,885	\$111,998

Monthly Budget Monitoring Based on CGP Goals

Current Year 2022

Current Budget \$295,275

Month	% Needed Monthly	\$ Needed Monthly	Received Monthly	% Needed Cumulative	\$ Needed Cumulative	Received Cumulative	Status Ahead or (Behind)	% Ahead or (Behind)
January	10.32%	\$30,471	\$45,644	10.32%	\$30,471	\$45,644	\$15,173	49.80%
February	8.46%	\$24,980	\$26,373	18.78%	\$55,451	\$72,017	\$16,566	29.88%
March	9.89%	\$29,208	\$39,981	28.67%	\$84,659	\$111,998	\$27,339	32.29%
April	11.26%	\$33,236		39.93%	\$117,895	\$111,998	(\$5,897)	-5.00%
May	8.22%	\$24,267	\$0	48.15%	\$142,162	\$111,998	(\$30,164)	
June	7.65%	\$22,578	\$0	55.79%	\$164,740	\$111,998	(\$52,742)	
July	5.19%	\$15,319	\$0	60.98%	\$180,058	\$111,998	(\$68,060)	
August	7.24%	\$21,386	\$0	68.22%	\$201,445	\$111,998	(\$89,447)	
September	7.64%	\$22,574	\$0	75.87%	\$224,018	\$111,998	(\$112,020)	
October	4.58%	\$13,534	\$0	80.45%	\$237,552	\$111,998	(\$125,554)	
November	7.96%	\$23,511	\$0	88.41%	\$261,063	\$111,998	(\$149,065)	
December	11.59%	\$34,212	\$0	100.00%	\$295,275	\$111,998	(\$183,277)	
Totals		\$295,275						

Food Pantry Update

URGENT!

We STILL need someone to pick up the meat. The church office places the meat order, but we need drivers to pick it up at the store and deliver it to the church. Ideally, we would like to have several people performing this essential service, to share the burden. Please call Ann Johnson (863-450-2765) to volunteer.

The most recent food pantry, on April 28th, helped 21 or 22 people. Our most urgent need right now is for **canned soups and beans in 16 oz. cans or less.**

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The UMM held our monthly meeting on Saturday, April 9th. We opened the meeting with breakfast and a prayer. The UMM voted to authorize \$200.00 towards the food for the April 24th church dinner. We will be assisting in the food preparation as needed.

If anyone has any projects concerning the church, please contact any of the UMM members or the church office. We are short on manpower, but will attempt to assist in any way possible. All of us are facing some kind of obstacles in our daily lives, from health issues to the increased cost of food, gas and other needed items to sustain our lifestyle. We need to hold firm in our faith as all things occur according to God's plan.

We will be holding our next meeting on **Saturday, May 14th, 2022 at 9:00 am** in the Family Life Center for anyone who cares to stop by and have fellowship with us.

After this meeting **we will not have a UMM meeting again until August 13, 2022.** Our meetings are always open-door and you are welcome to attend, with no expectations of you except that you desire to have an impact upon the growth of the church.

You can contact me at 863-816-3194 if you would like to discuss anything.

Michael Moake, UMM President

United Women in Faith (UWF)

Our next **United Women in Faith (UWF) Combined Circle meeting** will be on **Wednesday, May 6th at 10:00 am** in the FLC. Please read chapter 8 (The Voice that Empties Graves) of *Never Alone* by Max Lucado, and think about the discussion questions on page 185. We'll also discuss plans for June, July and August, while some of our members are out of the area.

The **Leadership Team's** next meeting is **Monday, May 23rd at 11:00 am** in the FLC. We are still looking for someone to serve as **vice president**. Please contact Phyllis Kitchens (863-984-4564), if you would like to learn more about this position.

Gulf Central District UWF Book Club

The book club met by Zoom on Tuesday, April 19th at 6:30 pm to discuss *One Dress, One Year* by Bethany Winz. If anyone would like to borrow this book, please contact Phyllis Kitchens (863-984-4564) or Sandy Stanfield (863-859-1505).

Continued on the next page . . .

Gulf Central District UWF Book Club, Continued

Short book report by PK: At first I found reading this book written by a 16-year-old to be challenging. After all, there's almost 60 years of education, experience, and cultural changes between us. [And after I retired, I swore to **never** wear a dress again!] A little later in the book, I became impressed with her tenacity and inventiveness -- she fell far short of her fund-raising goal, but did not give up on her commitment, and she figured out how to accessorize the plain black dress so every day she wore a different outfit. When she encountered health problems, her faith restored her drive to finish the mission, and she moved ahead. At the end of the book I was glad I'd read it, and I never would have done so without the Book Club.

The next Book Club meeting will be **May 17th at 6:30 pm**, and the book is *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. Saw the movie and expect to love the book. You will need to read the book before the meeting.

To join the book club and get the Zoom login information, email Judi Levan, Secretary of Program Resources, judilevan.umw@gmail.com. Sandy and I wish more Lake Gibson ladies would participate. This is a great way to learn about interesting people and subjects relating to the 5 mission areas of UWF which support women, children and youth across the globe. We also get to share views with interesting women from around the district.

Merry Matters

Summer Plans: Crocheters Needed!

Merry Matters will continue to meet the **second and fourth Wednesday** of each month (10:00 am - 12:00 noon) during the summer. If there is interest, we could go out to lunch afterward. **Barb Allen-Coil and Harriet Shapiro** will lead the group for the summer. Everyone is welcome to attend. Since Hope House has closed due to loss of its venue on US 98 N, we are working on supplying mats to Talbot House.

We have discussed making market bags out of plarn as a new project for the future. **We desperately need anyone who is willing and able to crochet.** We can even deliver the plarn to you. Last week we had three (one new) guests join our group from St Anthony's Catholic Church. They came to help our group make Plarn and socialize.

Barb and Harriet will also organize MM outings during the summer. If you would like to contact them with ideas or questions about activities, Barb's phone number is 863-450-5488 and Harriet's is 502-525-5682.

Merry Matters' Trip to Bartow History Museum

Six Merry Matters members carpoled to the Bartow History Museum on April 20th for a great time. We found we had just made it in time for a special exhibit on women who wore gorgeous hats to church. A man had taken photos of 20 women then, using the photos, painted those women in their Sunday hats.

Other interesting exhibits included the orange (citrus) business and what it meant to this area, the cattle ranches that peppered the area, exhibits on military moments, and, of course, early sports (like baseball and water skiing). There were also exhibits on the Green Swamp (although there was nothing on the Green Swamp Monster), interactive exhibits for the children (we had to try that one). One room included films that had been shot here in Polk county. Unfortunately, we only had a 2-hour parking limit, so we did not get to all the exhibits (we think we are going back for a 2nd trip). We then proceeded to Perkins for a lot of laughing and good food. Next month we are hoping to get to the Polk County Art museum and anyone is welcome to join us.

Book Study Continues on Tuesdays, 10:30 am at Debbie Moore's House

This group began as the United Methodist Women's Evening Circle, but decided to disaffiliate and become a book study. It always has welcomed new members, men and women, to attend. Glenda Hess leads the discussion and does a fantastic job of helping us understand some of the deep issues. The current book is ***Faithfully Different: Regaining Biblical Clarity in a Secular Culture*** by **Natasha Crain** (\$14.88 currently on Amazon for a paperback copy).

Our **Tuesday Book Study** is open to everyone. It's at 10:30 am every Tuesday at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Drive, Lakeland 33809. Everyone brings a dish to share after the study - always great food and warm fellowship. We also have others attend periodically who are not LGUMC members (snowbirds, Debbie's neighbors, friends, etc.) And yes, men also attend!! CHECK US OUT -- WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

Website *goodreads* describes the book as follows:

"Welcome to Your Place in a Worldview Minority. In an increasingly secular society, those who have a biblical worldview are now a shrinking minority. As mainstream culture grows more hostile toward the Bible's truths and those who embrace them, you'll face mounting pressures—from family, friends, media, academia, and government—to change and even abandon your beliefs. But these challenges also create abundant opportunities to stand strong for Christ and shine light to those hurt by the darkness of our day.

"In *Faithfully Different*, author and apologist Natasha Crain shares how you can live out your faith with conviction, discernment, and courage. You'll be equipped to identify and respond to today's most significant worldview pressures, such as cancel culture, secular social justice, progressive Christianity, deconstruction, virtue signaling, and to more engage effectively with a world that ridicules biblical truths, defend your faith from misguided influences and live as a bold witness for the Lord. As the standards of our day mutate and devolve, *Faithfully Different* will give you the insight and encouragement you need to believe, think, and live biblically no matter what you face in these turbulent times."

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

Phyllis Kitchens, Newsletter Editor, 863-984-4564/410-790-2662

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

Closing Hope House

[Source: Report of Volunteer and Donor Meeting on April 19, 2022]

Today, Brent, several volunteers and donors met to discuss the closing of Hope House. The buyer/ developer has stated **Hope House must be closed by the end of business day, Thursday, April 21st.** Brent advised that Kathleen Baptist Church (KBC) will store appliances, some supplies such as towels, and possibly furniture. He also advised KBC will supply plasticware and paper goods to continue serving the homeless.

At this time, volunteers will set up in the ~~empty Ignited Church parking lot~~ closed **TD Bank drive-thru** on the corner of US 98N and W. Daughtery Rd. between 11:30 am to 12:30 - 1:00 pm. From their vehicles, they will distribute a bagged or to-go lunch, water, canned goods, toiletries and other necessities.

SCHEDULE:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MAIN VOLUNTEER(S)</u>
Monday	Laura
Tuesday	Lake Gibson United Methodist Church [Dick McPherson]
Wednesday	Laura and Geri
Thursday	Joy (North Lakeland Homeless Outreach)
Friday	Lucy
Saturday	Luz and Marco

Since there is not a centralized storage unit, donors should contact their volunteer to arrange the drop off location, date and time.

FOOD DONATION REQUESTS:

BEVERAGES: Cases of bottled water, Bags of ice, Water flavor packets, Individual cans or pouches of soda or juice.

CANNED GOODS: Vienna sausages, **POP TOP CANS OF:** Pasta, stew, chili, ready-to-eat soup, etc.; Individual size cups of peanut butter; Snack sized sleeves of saltine or club/Ritz crackers; CUP of soup and/or CUP of noodles, and meals ready to eat (MREs) [military rations]

FOR LUNCH BAGS: Paper lunch bags, Ziploc sandwich bags, Large jars of peanut butter and jelly (for sandwiches), Cups of fruit, applesauce, Jell-O, or pudding; Chewy granola bars, breakfast or Kellogg's Nutri-grain bars; Fruit chews/gummies; Peanut butter crackers, Individually wrapped cookies and or individual size bags of chips, Cheez-Its, etc.

Some of the volunteers will serve a hot to-go lunch, such as spaghetti/pasta, casseroles, chili. Please contact the volunteer directly if you can provide a meal or wish to donate the food.

NON-FOOD ITEMS: Insect repellent, Sunscreen, Razor blades, Deodorant

NEW CLOTHING ITEMS: *New underwear, *New T-shirts, shorts and socks. Please contact your volunteer about what sizes are needed. Also check to see if the volunteer can accept a large donation.

All of the Hope House volunteers wish to thank everyone for their generosity, and prayers. The short-term goal is to obtain a storage unit /shed which can be used by the volunteers. We are praying for a new, permanent location for Hope House. God bless!

If you do not work with a particular volunteer, please contact me. Also, I give permission for my information to be shared.

Geri (Geraldine) Mayo

Phone number: 863-589-3329 (please leave a voicemail or send a text)

Email: gerijmayo@yahoo.com

Facebook: Geraldine Mayo

Table Talk Webinar: The History of Race in Florida II May 4, 12 Noon



Guest Speaker, **Dr. Anne Burkholder** (Candler School of Theology), is the Associate Dean of Methodist Studies and Professor in the Practice of Ecclesiology and Church Leadership. Her research interests include pastoral ethics, United Methodist polity, global Methodism, and the intersectionality of issues of race, gender, and sexuality in the history of Methodism.

In addition to her role as Professor in the Practice of Ecclesiology and Church Leadership, the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder is the first faculty member at Candler to hold the title of associate dean of Methodist Studies, responsible for the credentialing and relocation needs of Methodist students. Burkholder also supervises the training of local pastors in The United Methodist Course of Study School at Emory, and oversees other United Methodist lifelong learning opportunities sponsored by Candler. She manages relations between Candler and the denomination's annual regional conferences and general agencies.

[Register here](#)

[\[https://florida-email.brtapp.com/!F--rKQX7VyDvD0+m25pOvpZfMrGYc4vOb3XmHXJo-uBzQqBi+olfG4XnQOgh12X0w\]](https://florida-email.brtapp.com/!F--rKQX7VyDvD0+m25pOvpZfMrGYc4vOb3XmHXJo-uBzQqBi+olfG4XnQOgh12X0w)

You can register for the May webinar, or at the same time, for any or all of the remaining 2022 monthly presentations.

Webinar Recording Available for Table Talk: The History of Race in Florida I

[From the Editor: I watched this half-hour webinar and think it's one of the best the Florida Conference has produced. The speaker, **Rev. Geraldine McClellan**, spoke from her heart when she described the subtle and not-so-subtle racism and sexism she encountered during her long service to the United Methodist Church. I hope you'll watch this webinar and the second part on May 4th. Phyllis Kitchens]

[Click here](#) to access the recording.

[<https://vimeo.com/696873994>]

Here are some quotes from Rev. McClellan:

On racism in the Church: "Doors are cracked but not fully accessible to ethnic persons who are gifted to serve in key leadership."

On areas of growth for the Florida Conference: "My hope for the Florida Conference is that we would take seriously the issues of inequities and that we emerge and confront those issues courageously and with compassion. And then, that we would find creative ways to right past wrongs. We've covered up things so long, lives have been destroyed, and God has called us to work through all of it."

Other Learning Opportunities

Just Energy for All Working Group Meeting, May 3 at 7:00 pm - Interested in advancing Just Energy for All in our community? Looking for spaces to connect with other United Women in Faith leaders focused on Just Energy for All? Please join us for our next **Just Energy for All Working Group meeting, May 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm (EDT)**. We will be sharing examples of Just Energy for All events, discussing partnership in climate justice work, and preparing for upcoming legislative actions.

Continued on the next page . . .

Other Learning Opportunities, Continued

Just Energy for All Working Group Meeting, May 3 at 7:00 pm - Continued

You do not have to be a member of United Women in Faith, or even a woman, to help plan and participate in the work being done around the country to ensure all communities have access to clean energy, transportation planning and other services that don't harm the people who live nearby.

Register here.

[http://umw.convio.net/site/R?i=c56mj_inhRln8CV2f-vFku7pS3TNlonlIciui0cwF4i0NtasYVHtPg]

The **working group meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.** These meetings are separate from the monthly Just Energy for All webinars that take place every third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm. Please email climatejustice@uwfaith.org if you have any suggestions for topics to cover or suggested information.

Faith Talks: 2022 Mission Studies on Luke 13, Thursday, May 5th, 2:00 pm - We hope you will join us in this webinar to learn about this year's Mission u from the authors of the texts. Guest speakers include:

Candace Simpson, author of the 2022 adult mission study, *Who Can We Be Together?*

Kenya Cummings, author of the 2022 youth study, *Community in the Midst of Challenging Times.*

Ilka Vega, author of the 2022 children's study, *Our Growing Tree: From Self-love to the Beloved Community and All of God's Creation.*

To register, go to http://umw.convio.net/site/R?i=Y2tEa_487A3xemQpdnBKvnLct0ASE0tvGQj-GwEvY2dNg7wU5KZ5Zw.

Still in Mission Episode 42, Thursday, May 5th, 7:00 pm - We hope you will take the opportunity to participate in this monthly webinar and learn about the work of United Methodist missionaries serving around the world. You will have the opportunity to meet in a small group to hear a presentation from a **single missionary during the call**. Find out more about these missionaries below, or at www.umcmmission.org. Please select the missionary you want to learn about and **enter that name** during the registration process (free!). The webinar will be Thursday, May 5th at 7:00 pm EDT.

Bernadine Smith serves as the Wellness Coordinator/Nurse with the Global Ministries Missionary Wellness Program in St. Lucia; **Guillermo Berman Ramirez** serves as the Mexican Methodist Border Mission Coordinator with the Methodist Church of Mexico; **Joel Hortiales** serves as the Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry and Border Concerns with the California-Pacific Annual Conference; **Venus Mae Gatdula** serves as the Peace Process Accompanier with the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in Cambodia.

United Methodist Missionaries are #stillinmission and we hope that you'll join us to learn more! Registration is limited. You will get a confirmation email once your registration is accepted. If the limit is reached, you will get priority for future events. To register, click here:

<https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJModumgqTktGtEEiko5G3zogFVLXXxJCPe7>

Hope House Happenings (Excerpts from Volunteer Reports)

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 - Debbie and Rick McLellan

By the end of the day, we had served 23 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and devotion from I Thess. 4, LIVE LIKE JESUS IS COMING. Our guests were served a meal by guests' request, Debbie's Sunrise Brunch Casserole, with biscuits and sausage gravy. Our to-go bags included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a pack of Lance crackers, a pudding cup, a pack of cookies, and a fruit cup. To quench thirst was ice-cold bottled water with a flavor packet, and canned Mountain Dew. 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. The Hope House kitties also were fed. We gave out hygiene kits, razors, deodorant, flashlight, lantern and radio batteries, masks, socks, camping toilet paper and clothing items.

We gave out hygiene kits, razors, deodorant, flashlight, lantern and radio batteries, masks, socks, camping toilet paper and clothing items. We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and gave each guest a towel, washcloth and hygiene kit. Eleven guests requested showers. We had 2 guests who used the laundry. Miss Joey was a great help with cleaning the shower after each guest, helping guests get clothes in the clothes closet and do their laundry.

We had numerous donations; we want to especially thank Lake Gibson United Methodist Church who provided several New Testaments and lunch items we gave out today; Polk City Baptist Church for items we issued; Jim Aldrich and our friends at Christ the King Episcopal Church for clothing and other donations. Thanks to our friend Harry, a distinguished Veteran and former Hope Center volunteer, who brought coffee and laundry detergent. Harry has provided coffee, laundry detergent, and other items for years, a great Blessing to our homeless guests. Thank you, Harry!

God provided an exciting day with a busy atmosphere and we received many expressions of gratitude from our guests. We are so thankful for the prayers and generosity of our donors and friends of the Hope Center!

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - Laura Webb, Stevie Paton, Chris Hernbrott,
Mr. Curtis and Geri Mayo**

While HH is still under COVID-19 restrictions, 2 guests are allowed inside at a time and strongly encouraged to wear masks. The patio was open, fans were set up, and tables and chairs were set outside for our guests' comfort. A total of 14 guests signed in, with 7 using the shower and 1 using the laundry. Breakfast consisted of cereal, instant oatmeal, instant grits, with Geri's infamous breakfast casserole. Coffee, lemonade, and bottled water were the beverage choices. The cats were served their alfresco breakfast by the cat lady.

Laura and Stevie processed the clothing donations. HH received several pairs of men's shorts, belts and baseball caps. All of these are very welcome! Chris set up the tables and chairs, and the breakfast table. He was also able to minister our guests. Mr. Curtis help set up lunch bags and made sandwiches. He made sure everything was brought back onto the patio. Mariane from Cypress Lakes Veterans Association Auxiliary came by with a large food donation. Later, Maggie, the president of CLVAA, stopped by with a case of Vienna sausage. With their donations, 30 lunch bags were made today. There is enough to make another 30 for Friday. HH is so blessed by these wonderful folks.

Laura received a Hometown Hero award from the Modern Woodmen of America in appreciation for her work with our unhomed guests. Congratulations!

Laura provided the devotion from the bible.com plan: The Power Of Being Thankful: Day 10, A Beautiful Exchange. "He (God) takes all of our sins, faults, weaknesses, and failures, and gives us His ability, His righteousness, and His strength. He takes our diseases and sicknesses and gives us His healing and health. He takes our messed-up, failure-filled past and gives us hope of a bright future."

Lunch was a pork roast with potatoes and carrots, black-eyed peas, and bread and butter. Sodas were added to the beverage choices. Every guest received a lunch bag with a choice of a PB&J or ham and cheese sandwich. They were able to choose one canned good and one snack from the pantry. It was a wonderful day. God is touching lives at Hope House.

Continued on the next page . . .



Hope House Happenings, Continued

April 12, 2022 - 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, THE ARMOR OF GOD. Our guests were served chicken and yellow rice, peas, potato salad and fresh baked cookies. Our to-go bags included a meat and cheese sandwich, a bag of chips, a pack of Lance crackers, a pudding cup, a pack of cookies, and a fruit cup. To quench thirst was ice cold bottled water with a flavor packet, and cans of Mountain Dew. 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. The Hope House kitties also were fed.



We gave out backpacks, a tent, hygiene kits, razors, deodorant, flashlight, lantern and radio batteries, masks, pocket-pack Kleenex, socks, camping toilet paper and clothing items. We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and gave each guest a towel, washcloth and hygiene kit. Nine guests requested showers. We had 2 guests who used the laundry. Miss Joey was a great help with cleaning the shower after each guest, helping guests get clothes in the clothes closet and doing their laundry.

We want to thank Lake Gibson United Methodist Church who provided a tent, a special request backpack, several New Testaments and lunch items we gave out today, and Polk City Baptist Church for providing potato salad and cookies, and items we issued. God is providing answers to prayer, touching hearts and lives, thanks to the prayers and generosity of donors and friends of the Hope Center!

April 13, 2022 - Laura Webb, Lesley Kristine, Mr. Curtis and Geri Mayo

A total of 17 guests signed in, with 9 using the shower and 3 using the laundry facilities. Breakfast was very simple: cereal, breakfast bars, and pastries. Coffee, juice and bottled water were the beverage choices. The HH kitties were serve their alfresco breakfast by the cat lady.

Lesley was at HH today! She has been missed. Lesley did her usual, wonderful work in the clothing boutique. She also served lunch and washed a ton of dishes. Mr. Curtis was able to spend time with our guests. They enjoyed talking with this wonderful man of God. Ms. Stevie and Chris were not able to join us at Hope House today. Laura oversaw the sign-in and shower list. She made sure everyone received clothing and toiletries. She also cleaned the shower and bathroom. Later, Laura went back to HH and cleaned and organized the storage room.

Today's devotional was from the booklet *The Bible In One Year - The Price Of Prayerlessness*. "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom." Isaiah 40:28.

*****When Laura was taking prayer request, one of our guests, Donald, asked to be released from his addiction to meth. Donald started taking drugs when he was 12. He is now in his fifties. After the devotion, Laura prayed with him. Please, keep Donald in your prayers****

A wonderful couple donated all the food for our early Easter dinner. Dinner consisted of TWO spiral cut hams, homemade mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, mixed veggies, rolls, apple pie, and a homemade cake. They also brought soda and candy. The guests were so very thankful.

There was enough food that instead of sandwiches, every guest received a full take-home dinner and a snack bag!

Continued on the next page . . .

Hope House Happenings, Continued

April 13, 2022 - Laura Webb, Lesley Kristine, Mr. Curtis and Geri Mayo, Continued

*******Future of Hope House in Doubt*******

As many of you may already know, developers have purchased the land on which Hope House and the produce stand next door are located. The city has approved the zoning change, so 500 + apartments will be built. The closing date is in 2 weeks. Brent, the liaison with Kathleen Baptist Church, informed everyone about the exact moving date.

Even in adversity, God provides. Nine of our guests are on a short-term waiting list for housing in June. Laura and Geri are committed to distributing bagged/to-go lunches. ~~Tentatively, they'll set up at Ignited Church.~~

Laura and/or Geri will meet with the other HH volunteers, and speak with our donors, local churches, and HH's sister charities, to see what can be done if/when HH closes. The short-term hope is that the volunteers will be able to use other facilities to feed our guests and provide them with clothes and toiletries every day. The prayer is for a new, permanent home for Hope House.

April 19, 2022 - Our Last Day at Hope House - Debbie and Rick McLellan

On our last day, guests were gathered in the front yard and patio area. We require all who go inside the House to wear a mask, with only 2 at a time allowed inside. By the end of the day, we had served 20 guests. Rick McLellan led in prayer and devotion from John 11, LAZARUS, COME FORTH!

Our guests were served turkey pot pie and fresh baked cookies. Our to-go bags included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a pack of Lance crackers, a pudding cup, a pack of cookies, and a fruit cup. To quench thirst was ice-cold bottled water with a flavor packet, and canned Mountain Dew. 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. The Hope House kitties were fed.

We gave out mosquito repellent, backpacks, 2 tents, hygiene kits, razors, deodorant, flashlight, lantern and radio batteries, masks, pocket pack Kleenex, socks, camping toilet paper and clothing items. We brought sanitized towels and wash cloths for showers, and had 6 guests request showers. We had 2 guests who used the laundry. Miss Joey was a great help with cleaning the shower after each guest, helping guests get clothes in the clothes closet and their laundry.

We want to thank Lake Gibson United Methodist Church who provided numerous items, several New Testaments and lunch items we gave out today.

We are grateful to have served 9 years under the leadership and wisdom of Brent Lipham, and thank Kathleen Baptist Church for providing the building, funding, maintenance and insurance to cover unexpected events. We will not be personally involved in the off-location ministries at present due to our health conditions.

We are thankful to all who have prayed for and supported us in providing for the less fortunate. We could not have done this without you!

**April 27, 2022 - Laura Webb, Chris Hernbrott, Lesley Kristine and Geri Mayo
"Mobile Hope House"**

Hello from the Wednesday Hope House volunteers! Laura, Chris, Lesley, and Geri set up in the drive-thru of the vacant TD Bank. Thanks to Ms. Frankie, 17 hot lunches were served. The team gave out 19 bagged lunches with either a PB&J or ham and cheese sandwich. Coffee, bottles of tea and water were the beverage choices. Every guest received a canned good to take with them. Laura and Geri gave out toiletries, insect repellent, and clothes (if we had them in their size). Lesley, Chris and Laura served lunch.

Debbie and Rick McLellan brought donations for our lunch bags. These were shared with the Friday and Saturday teams. In yesterday's donations from the Cypress Lakes Veterans Association Auxiliary, was a bag of men's shorts. Teas were donated by Faith Wesleyan Church. Our guests were incredibly grateful.

Continued on the next page . . .

Hope House Happenings, Continued

April 27, 2022 - Laura Webb, Chris Hernbrott, Lesley Kristine and Geri Mayo

Our guests were grateful, calm, and well-behaved. Everyone cleaned up after themselves.

We are so very thankful for all of the donations, support, and prayers. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to feed and minister to our folks. Please keep our unhomed guests in your prayers.

And please continue to pray for a New Hope House. While we wait on God's timing, we will continue to serve. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.



Clockwise from top left: Loading up the car; 10 PB&J and 9 ham and cheese sandwiches made by Geri; Ms. Frankie, Volunteer; and Setting up at the former TD bank at the corner of US 98N and W. Daughtery Rd

Friday, April 29, 2022 - Ms. Wilma, Mr. Jaime, Mr. Marco and Ms. Luz

Even though Hope House itself is now homeless, our amazing volunteers are committed to feeding and clothing our people. I'm so thankful for and proud of all these wonderful volunteers.

Ms. Wilma, Mr. Jaime, Mr. Marco and Ms. Luz went out today. They served 20 hot lunches and gave out 20 lunch bags! Ms. Wilma made sloppy joes, potato salad, and a side salad, with ice cream sandwiches for dessert. The beverages were sodas and bottled water. Every guest received a lunch bag to take with them.

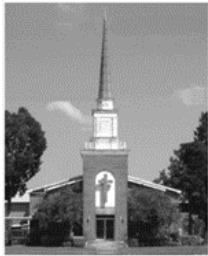
Please continue to pray for our unhomed friends and for a New Hope House. If you would like to volunteer, make a meal, make lunch bags, or donate, please contact Luz Selenia Figueroa, Christopher Hernbrott, Lesley Kelly, Joy Miller, Laura Webb or Geraldine Mayo (863-589-3329).

If you would like to donate online, Joy Miller has an Amazon wish list on her North Lakeland Homeless Outreach Facebook page. Laura created a **Walmart wish list** which you can see at <https://www.walmart.com/registry/ER/6815f9dd-acec-4fc9-b2e8-2ce3504b7544>. May God bless you. Geri Mayo



Help Fill the New Classrooms!

The need for affordable child care and education for very-low-income families continues to increase. **Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School**, one of the United Women in Faith's national mission institutions, is expanding by setting up additional classrooms at Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Tampa.



Cornerstone Family Ministries, the UWF's operating agency, has asked UWF units and United Methodist churches help set up these classrooms by providing needed items.



Cornerstone
Rosa Valdez
Early Learning Center and Lab School
NEW SCHOOL CLASSROOM SUPPLIES DRIVE!

amazon

Purchase an item from our Amazon Gift List. Go To: cornerstonefamilyministries.org/supply

To make it easy to donate, Cornerstone has partnered with Amazon, so donors can choose the items they wish to purchase from a carefully thought-out shopping list. Amazon will deliver the items directly to Oak Grove UMC, saving us the challenge of getting our donations to the classrooms.



Please go to <https://cornerstonefamilyministries.org/supply/> and check out the entire list of needed supplies. A few of the items are shown below as of April 27th. (Note: These are screen shots; you cannot click on these pictures to order them. Go to the address above to actually select and order your items.) If an item has already been purchased, the photo will be overlaid with "PURCHASED".

Rosa Valdez @ Oak Grove - Classroom Supply Drive

Sort by: Priority | Filter by:

<p>Play-Kitchen-for-Kids with 18 Pcs ... ★★★★☆ 2417 ✓prime \$139.99 Add to Cart</p>	<p>Colorations® Large Crayon Classpa... ★★★★☆ 34 ✓prime \$56.99 Add to Cart</p>	<p>Rarlan Washable Markers Bulk, Ma... ★★★★☆ 169 ✓prime \$39.99 Add to Cart</p>	<p>Colorations Washable Kids Paint - ... ★★★★☆ 65 ✓prime \$17.42 Add to Cart</p>	<p>Sargent Art Acrylic Paint 1/2 Gallo... ★★★★☆ 245 ✓prime \$90.00 Add to Cart</p>
<p>Elmers Washable No-Run School Glue ... ★★★★★ 5747 ✓prime \$5.00 Add to Cart</p>	<p>Elmer's White Glue.1 Gallon Bottle ★★★★★ 7090 ✓prime \$17.98 Add to Cart</p>	<p>Play-Doh Modeling Compound 24... ★★★★★ 20636 ✓prime \$20.99 Add to Cart</p>	<p>FRIMOONY Plastic Dough Tools, V... ★★★★☆ 2502 ✓prime \$13.99 Add to Cart</p>	<p>Peohud 36 Pieces Stencils for Kids... ★★★★☆ 51 ✓prime \$13.99 Add to Cart</p>

Thanks to Vicky Pitner, First UMC Lakeland's Memory Ministry for the Following Three Articles:

Mindful Walking for Caregivers

As spring approaches and more preventative measures are available to address the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving our homes feels a bit safer. The birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and the weather is perfect to be outdoors and begin an exercise routine. Walking is one of the best, and research shows that walking and talking with a friend is a wonderful combination and is encouraged for caregivers to promote health and wellness.

You will certainly reap the benefits of walking for exercise, but walking mindfully allows you to “create a new” and feed your mind, body, and spirit with fresh energy. Whether you walk the same path each day or seek out new trails, mindful walking can make every walk different and special. So, what is mindful walking? It is simply learning how to focus and tune out the mindless chatter in your head and listen, smell, touch, and see as you walk. Here are some suggestions on walking mindfully.

- Focus on breathing into your stomach and feel it expand as you establish a rhythm as you walk.
- Be aware of the environment around you. The walks are wonderful on hiking trails, but a walk in your neighborhood can create new experiences when you are intentional about being mindful.
- Prayer and positive self-talk can also be helpful for staying focused on your walks.
- Exercise and meditation are great for supporting good mental health. Practicing mindfulness while walking does not have to be a planned walk. Park away from the grocery store and tune into the sights and sounds as you prepare yourself for shopping.
- If your mind wanders and you begin thinking about “what’s for dinner,” that is perfectly normal. Just harness your thoughts again and focus on the precious present.

Author Mary H. Franks wrote a wonderful book on walking mindfully. ***Mind Walks***, published originally in 1999, before mindfulness was the “in thing,” is a wonderful introduction and guide to mind walks with 100 easy ways to relieve stress and nourish your soul. It may take some practice to stay in the moment and embrace your surroundings, but it is well worth it when you find yourself lost in thought.

Happy walking! [NOTE: Contact Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564, to receive a free copy of *Mind Walks*.]

Benefits of Yoga for Seniors

As we age, the idea of embarking on a new physical fitness journey can be a little intimidating. It is a good idea to avoid high-impact exercises in order to avoid injury or unnecessary stress to the body. Yoga is a great exercise option for seniors looking to improve physical health and can be modified to various levels or individual needs. Below are some of the benefits of yoga and ways to get started.

- Yoga offers the benefit of increased flexibility. With a better range of motion comes a decreased risk of falls, decreased pain, and improved ease with activities of daily living.
- Yoga promotes bone and joint health through movement and postures. This is beneficial in lubricating joints and can help with pain relief as well. For someone with joint mobility restrictions, yoga offers the use of props in order to assist with poses and stay comfortable throughout the practice.
- A mind and body connection is practiced during a yoga session. Focusing on breath awareness helps reduce stress and anxiety, and often promotes a feeling of rejuvenation.

Continued on the next page . . .

Articles on Memory Care by Vicky Pitner, Continued

Benefits of Yoga for Seniors, Continued

- For individuals who are unable to get on the floor on a mat, chair yoga is a modified option and tailored for this purpose. It offers all of the same benefits as a typical floor yoga class.

Respecting the body's abilities and limitations is a part of the art of yoga. It should never cause pain or strain, but instead, focus on the promotion of empowerment and honoring of the body God has gifted each of us.

Before beginning a new exercise regimen, always consult with your physician for safety and clearance. As well, locate a certified yoga studio or instructor who has experience and knowledge working with seniors.

Subtle Signs of the Early Symptoms of Dementia

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

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

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

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

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

If you, a friend, or family member living with memory loss would be interested in learning more about Memory Ministry, Memory Café, or our Virtual Caregivers Support Group, please contact Vicky Pitner at vpitner@fumc.org.



Birthdays in May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
5/1	Fay Herrick
5/4	Debbie McLellan
5/5	Lauren Rodriguez
5/5	Bob Holmes
5/7	Etmonia Davis
5/7	Steve Schertzer
5/9	Steven Schertzer
5/10	Linda Imel
5/12	Dena Brinkman
5/12	Barbara Gitt
5/12	Jean Welch
5/13	Sandra Armentrout
5/14	Dorothy Burns
5/14	Bob Herrick
5/15	Michelle McCaslin
5/18	Kim Watson
5/19	Sharon Vojtko
5/23	Brian Stafford
5/28	Merry Greenwood
5/30	Jay Ellis
5/30	Steve Polk



Anniversaries in May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
5/2	Sharon and Dick Shepherd
5/4	Ann and Dan Johnson
5/5	Wanda and Dick Lammey
5/6	Yvonne and Todd Bower