



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



From the Pastor

What a blessing it has been to be your pastor for the past 11 years. I know all of us do not see eye to eye and there have been some hard decisions made that people may question. Please understand that in each and every case I tried to be fair and listen to God. There are times when God asks us to do things we cannot explain and in many ways God tests us like he did Abraham and the real question becomes will you obey God or not. I have tried to obey God in everything and even as I say that I know I got some things wrong. There were times when I had to make a decision on an employee issue or something like the recent social distancing and Covid 19 issues and there were and are people who did not like my decision and some left. I take the blame – I made the call; like Harry S. Truman – “The buck stops on my desk.” Even with many of the hard decisions and problems that came in my eleven years here I have been blessed. Blessed to have such a great team of leaders who offer me advice and encouragement. Blessed to have the wonderful dedicated staff (paid and volunteer) that have worked tirelessly to minister to the needs of people and the community. Blessed to have a congregation like you. Blessed that you as a congregation took Penny and I in, made us family from day one and surrounded us with the love of Christ. Blessed that I had so many people in the congregation praying for me each and every day. Blessed that you supported this church and ministry with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness throughout the hard times. Blessed in that as I look back over the years I can see God’s hand at work in me and this church during the time here. Blessed that God is faithful and his lovingkindness is new every morning, his forgiveness just a confession away and his mercy and grace ever present. Blessed that God often uses us for His purposes in spite of ourselves. Well, after praying for more than a year we have the name of the next pastor here at Lake Gibson UMC; the Rev. Anthony Purcell and his wife Emile will be ministering here. I encourage you to show them the same love you did Penny and I. Pray for them every day as you have me – begin now. Pray for God to give him the vision he has for this church and congregation I our community; a vision that will share God’s love with many. Welcome and surround this couple with the love of God and give God thanks for bringing them to Lake Gibson. I am excited about the possibilities that are opening up for this church under Rev. Purcell’s leadership. I will always think of you in love and pray for God to use this church mightily. Yes. I am blessed to have been your Pastor.

Pastor Steve and Penny

June Events As of 5/31/2022

June is National Fruit and Vegetable Month

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

Date Day

- 1 Wednesday **A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel***, 9 am, Sanctuary; **United Women in Faith (UWF)** [formerly UMW] combined circle meeting, 10 am, FLC; **Choir practice***, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
- 2 Thursday **Food Pantry***, 9:30 - 11:30 am, office; **Bible Study** with Pastor Steve, 1 pm; **Zooming the Peace**, 7pm (discuss Pastor's Left Overs from Sunday's sermon) **Praise Team practice***, 6:30pm,.
- 3 Friday
- 4 Saturday Emmaus Walk service 5-8pm
- 5 Sunday **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 Pentecost Sunday
- 6 Monday **Trustees Meeting**, 2pm Office; **Boy Scouts***, 7:00 pm, FLC.
- 7 Tuesday **ALBOH Pre-K Graduation** 4pm, Sanctuary; **Cub Scouts***, 7:00 pm, FLC
- 8 Wednesday **Merry Matters Workshop**, 10:00 am to noon, FLC (repeats 2nd and 4th Wednesdays); **Choir practice**, 6:30 am, Sanctuary; Annual Conference
- 9 Thursday **Food Pantry***, 9:30 - 11:30 am, office; **Praise Team practice***, 6:30pm, Annual Conference
- 10 Friday Annual Conference
- 11 Saturday Annual Conference
- 12 Sunday **HARVEST SUNDAY** (Bring canned or dry goods and paper grocery bags for our food pantry.) Peace with Justice Sunday; Pastor Steve and Penny Farewell Luncheon
- 13 Monday
- 14 Tuesday
- 15 Wednesday
- 16 Thursday
- 17 Friday
- 18 Saturday
- 19 Sunday Father's Day; Juneteenth
- 20 Monday
- 21 Tuesday
- 22 Wednesday
- 23 Thursday
- 24 Friday
- 25 Saturday
- 26 Sunday Pastor Anthony Purcell and Emile Welcome Luncheon in FLC
- 27 Monday
- 28 Tuesday
- 29** Wednesday
- 30 Thursday

How can we improve our online worship experience?

We've been offering livestreaming worship services for over a year. Currently, we have two cameras in the back of the sanctuary. These are good at getting the choir and pastor from different angles. Unfortunately, those online never see the joy of our congregation worshipping. They miss the prayers and praises offered by participants. Might we improve on this to give a fuller feeling of the worship experience to our online audience?

One way to do this would be to add a third camera nearer the front of the sanctuary. A third camera would permit it to focus on the congregation. We've had notices posted for over a year mentioning that worshipers could be filmed. While singing hymns, offering prayers and praises, etc., our focus could include the worship participants. What are your thoughts?

POT LUCKS FOR PASTORS

On June 12th we will be having a goodbye party for our Pastor Steve and Penny to wish them the best in their future. We will be having a barbeque pot luck right after the service. So bring your smiles, hugs, and prayers for them.

On another note, there will be a welcome-to-our-church barbeque pot luck on June 26th for the Pastor and Mrs. Purcell.. Let's show them a real welcome from Lake Gibson United Methodist church.

TUESDAY BOOK STUDY

The book study will meet on Tuesday at 10:30 am at Debbie Moore's house (400 Vineyard Dr., Lakeland). They are currently studying "Faithfully Different" but will be moving on to another title shortly. The group is lead by Glenda Hess and anyone is welcome to attend (they have participants from outside our church so don't be afraid to bring a friend, neighbor, or co-worker).

Remember- Be kind and generous with your time. Scope out your neighbors to see if there may be something you can do for them. Get a group together to help clean up a property that the owner cannot do all by themselves. Above all smile, this is what God wants us to do for one another.



FUMCH Receives More Bikes

Thanks to church and community generosity, another dozen refurbished bicycles were delivered to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise, FL on 24 May 2022. These tune-ups were performed over the winter and spring months. From tire and tube replacements, to adjustments of brakes and gearing, tender, loving care went into getting your hand-me-downs into rideable shape. Your assistance in supporting this ministry of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church is most appreciated.



Merry Matters

Wednesday, May 11th

We were blessed with the presence of two ladies, Diane and Mary, from St. Anthony's Catholic Church today, May 11th, but two other people were unable to come (Maria and Tom). They stated they like the friendliness of our group and offered to make us some lovely name tags. Today was Lynn Meske's last meeting until she returns to us from the UP in the fall. Harriet Shapiro and Barb Allen-Coil will hold down the fort until she returns.

We are still in need of people to crochet, knit, or weave our mats using plarn made from the grocery bags you have given us. All are welcome to come to our meetings. There is something for everyone to do, even if it's just to enjoy the companionship. So, please join us every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:00 am - noon. Our next adventure trip/luncheon will be in June (location to be determined). Craft, laugh, and be blessed with us.

Due to the closing of Hope House our mats will now be taken to Talbert House (this is where our recycled pill bottles are taken) for distribution until a substitute place for the homeless is found in our area.

Immediate Help Needed

The LGUMC food pantry is relied upon by many of our neighbors. As well as canned goods and meat provided by generous givers, we also benefit from Publix Supermarkets, as they supply slightly aged bread products each week. A primary issue has often been picking up bread late at night (at 10 p.m.). Some of us either have problems seeing to drive after dark or staying up late enough to make the “bread run”.

Starting June, we no longer have volunteers to pick up bread items for Thursday morning. To resolve the problem of driving in the dark, Publix has agreed to permit us to pickup bread products early Thursday morning (6:30 a.m. until 7:00 a.m.) before their patrons start shopping. Set your alarm, brew your first cup of coffee, and start the day knowing that you are helping others. Morning pickup and delivery to LGUMC still gets bread products to the food pantry before we open for business at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday.

We are looking for one or more people willing to recall their working days, get up early, and make the “bread run” on Thursday mornings. The more the merrier. We would love to alternate weeks as we do with the food pantry volunteers. Commit to one or more weeks per month. This spreads another opportunity to serve among numerous people. While it can be done by one, teams of two are more enjoyable. If you are up for the challenge, give Ann Johnson a call at (863) 450-2765.

Additionally, **about once a month we need to resupply the hamburger given as part of each good bag.** Kristie monitors the quantity and places the order. She then needs someone to drive over to Kathleen to make the pickup and return it to the church office. If you are willing to offer this service on a casual basis, please let Ann Johnson know. With multiple people volunteering, we should be able to retrieve our meat in time to accommodate the demand without putting an undue burden on any member..

Thursday night “Left Over” discussion will be on vacation end of May 2022.

The Summer season is approaching. The Thursday night “Left Overs” will be taking a vacation. Pastor Purcell will likely continue a mid-week program. You should be able to find it online at www.Facebook.com/LGUMCFL. We anticipate that we’ll be back with a weekly discussion after the Labor Day holiday.

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

Prayer Ministry



Jesus told him, “I am the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 NLT

Have you taken a trip and come to a fork in the road: one sign to the left says “our way home” and the sign to the right says “the way to God’s home”? We are not forced to take either. With “our way” we can be uncertain of the destiny, it can be lonely and fearful. However, with the right turn to “God’s home” we know no matter where we travel Jesus is guiding us; by his love and holding our hands as we journey to a safe place with God in heaven. We know this trip will be heavenly bound for eternity without a doubt.

If you care to choose another road in the fork named “prayers needed” please contact the office and sign up for prayer ministry; if you are not already a prayer warrior. With so many prayers needed in this world we can never have enough warriors walking and talking with Jesus along the way for all those in need. You will simply receive an email usually once a week of those in immediate need of prayer and a copy of our prayer list once a month for those with long term health concerns. This is an excellent way to follow Jesus’s message on need for prayers.

May God bless each and everyone of you as you journey with Jesus to meet our Father.

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



The McLellan’s received an award acknowledging their many years of service to our area homeless through Hope House. We are so thankful that the Lord has given them a heart for this ministry.

Shed Project:

The United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) are in the process of negotiating for a storage shed. We have already received a few generous donations toward this project. If you would be interested in contributing, you can send it to United Methodist Women (NOTE: **for shed project**). Drop it in the collection plate, send it to the office or contact treasurer Sarah Schiemann. We have a long way to go so a new storage shed is not in our immediate future, but a journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step.

Thank you, God Bless and have a great summer. See everyone in the fall (God willing).

Lynn Meske

2022 Fall Rummage Sale November 11th - 12th

Schedule:

The fall rummage sale is scheduled for **Friday, November 11th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm** and **Saturday, November 12th 9am-3pm**.

We will be sorting, pricing and arranging items on Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th. The hours for Wednesday and Thursday will be announced at a later date.

Donations:

We are heartbroken when it becomes necessary to turn down donations for lack of storage. PLEASE, if at all possible, **save your donations until October 1st**.

We will NOT be accepting any **large** furniture or appliances due to the lack of man power and storage and storage space. **Gently used** end tables, lamps and small furniture will be accepted.



New Options available to local churches (Revised)

Have you ever been on a committee within LGUMC? The major ones are the Board of Trustees, Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations, Finance, and the Church Council (also called the Administrative Council). Before the COVID-19 pandemic, each committee met each month to deal with matters affecting the church. Of course, for numerous reasons, we've failed to meet the requirements under the discipline over the past two years. Instead, the members of the Church Council have basically made decisions without participation of all the other committee members. As we were closed to worship we started livestreaming services to everyone. No church services were held in person. A small crew of dedicated technicians plus the Pastor and Choir Director basically provided services to be seen on Facebook, YouTube and our own website (<https://www.LakeGibsonUMC.com>).

Eventually we started to offer in-person services once again. But, with COVID-19 still causing infections, many have been reluctant to return to large gatherings. Therefore, we have continued to hold many committee meetings in abeyance. Many of our members perform multiple functions. Now with inflation, even coming to church three or four times per week becomes both time consuming and expensive. Bringing back monthly committee meetings may not be to everyone's interest.

The Church Council has been offered an opportunity not previously considered. Our Book of Discipline under paragraph 247.2 offers us an alternative structure. Your Church Council members have recently participated in Simple Accountable Leadership Structure seminar to discuss this alternative. There is a process by which we may further discern whether this form of organization is beneficial to LGUMC. It involves the Church Council, possibly a trained coach from the District, and our congregation.

Why consider something different? One primary reason is to release more lay members into focusing on our mission of "making disciples for the transformation of the world". Time involved in meetings can be redirected towards working on projects to improve our communities, doing more hands-on ministry, and introducing more people to Christ through our actions away from the church campus.

You'll be hearing more about this in the coming months. If you have questions you desire to have answered now, contact a member of the Church Council. They can either answer on the spot or provide the answer to your question after additional research.

Financial Report

The below reflects the actual revenues received thus far during 2022. Like an aircraft, we are on a glidepath for a safe landing.

During June we will be making some significant expenditures in both the Narthex and the church office. For safety, since we have significant waves in our carpeting, we are replacing the flooring within the Narthex and painting the walls. Additionally, since the carpeting on the north side of the church office has not previously been replaced, we are doing carpentry work, painting walls, and replacing carpeting with wood textured vinyl. Unfortunately, due to supply chain problems, we could not accomplish this during March - May when it was originally envisioned.

Should you look at our church's financials, we appear to have more cash on hand than usual. This was in anticipation of the desired upgrades. We did not desire to wait for a special fund raiser. The generous gift provided by the Gower family permitted us to make these upgrades before, rather than after, our new pastor arrived.

As a reminder, monthly financials are always available for your review. Contact the church office should you desire to have these made available. Should you have questions, contact Dwight@DwightKitchens.com.

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	\$23,275
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	\$135,273

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	\$23,275	39.93%	\$117,895	\$135,273	\$17,378	14.74%
May	8.22%	\$24,267	\$0	48.15%	\$142,162	\$135,273	(\$6,889)	
June	7.65%	\$22,578	\$0	55.79%	\$164,740	\$135,273	(\$29,467)	
July	5.19%	\$15,319	\$0	60.98%	\$180,058	\$135,273	(\$44,785)	
August	7.24%	\$21,386	\$0	68.22%	\$201,445	\$135,273	(\$66,172)	
September	7.64%	\$22,574	\$0	75.87%	\$224,018	\$135,273	(\$88,745)	
October	4.58%	\$13,534	\$0	80.45%	\$237,552	\$135,273	(\$102,279)	
November	7.96%	\$23,511	\$0	88.41%	\$261,063	\$135,273	(\$125,790)	
December	11.59%	\$34,212	\$0	100.00%	\$295,275	\$135,273	(\$160,002)	
Totals		\$295,275						

10 Common Myths About Aging

Vicky Pitner - May 20, 2022

Aging is a journey. We all want to maintain a positive attitude and feel good about ourselves by keeping fit and healthy. But often the misconceptions we believe about aging can prevent us from living life to the fullest and will affect our quality of life.

Many people make assumptions about aging and what it is like to grow “old.” But it is important to understand what aging is not. According to the National Institute on Aging, below are common misconceptions or myths related to aging.

Depression and loneliness are normal in older adults. False. Healthy and long-lasting relationships with family and friends show that older adults are less likely to experience depression. However, isolation can lead to feelings of depression, anxiety, and sadness. Depression is a serious mood disorder and can present differently in older adults.

The older I get, the less sleep I need. Actually, older adults need the same 7-9 hours of sleep, the same as all adults. Having difficulty falling or staying asleep should be addressed with your doctor. Inadequate sleep can increase your risk of falls, cause changes in your eating patterns, and affect your mood and overall well-being.

I’m too old to learn. False. Seeking out new hobbies and engaging in social activities will keep your brain active and boost your cognitive health.

It is inevitable that older people will get dementia. Let’s be clear, dementia is not a part of normal aging, although risks can increase as you get older. Forgetting appointments or misplacing objects can be signs of mild forgetfulness, but memory loss is much more serious. If you do have concerns about any cognitive changes as you age, speak to your doctor. The earlier any concern is identified and addressed can result in early interventions and the ability to maintain independence longer.

Only women need to worry about osteoporosis. False. Far from the truth! Although this disease is more common in women, it is still a concern for men. Men will start with more bone density than women, however, one in five men over the age of 50 will have osteoporosis-related fractures. By the age of 65 or 70, men and women lose bone mass at the same rate.

I’m too old to quit smoking. False. Quitting smoking will immediately improve your health. You are at a lower risk for colds and flu, bronchitis, and pneumonia, and stopping smoking will lead to lowering your heart rate and blood pressure.

I can stop taking my blood pressure medication because my blood pressure is lower. If you are taking medication to lower your blood pressure and your blood pressure goes down, it means that the medication and lifestyle changes are working! Always speak to your doctor about any changes in medications, but quitting the medicine can cause a rise again in your blood pressure and increase your risk for a stroke or kidney disease.

Aging does not have to cause fear. Maintaining your health by staying active, eating well, and getting the proper amount of sleep will serve you well and can lead to a wonderful and exciting time in your life!

For support in practical caregiving strategies or for information on our Memory Ministry or Virtual Support, please contact Vicky at vpitner@firstumc.org.



Birthdays in June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
June 1	Thomas Burns
June 1	Dick Lammey
June 1	Pat Moon
June 3	Lorraine Grimsby
June 7	Shirley Addems
June 7	Pat Gilmore
June 11	Tom Fischer
June 17	Tammie Clark
June 30	Corey Fredrickson



Anniversaries in June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
June 9	Michael & Sharon Moake
June 17	Bob & Lisa Evans
June 28	Tom & Betty Fischer
June 30	Rick & Lee Mueller