



THE GOOD NEWS

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Emile and I are so very thankful for your kind and warm welcome of us into the Lake Gibson family! I am excited to join you all in advancing the Kingdom of God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus as we love and serve our neighbors. Together, I know that we as the local church and believers in Jesus can do amazing work: work to make disciples who are united in Christ, work to draw together people through love in fellowship and discipleship, and work to serve as a light to the world around us by loving our neighbors as Christ has loved us.

I am committed to the local church, and I am here with you all as pastor because I want to be here—I felt God's calling to work with and in the local body of believers. My commitment is to the local church, not denominational politics (though, I love our district and conference as valuable partners in ministry!). I want to be honest, open, and transparent about who I am and how I ended up here. I have taken a denominational journey to find my place in the Church. I grew up Southern Baptist and was ordained as minister of the SBC, but I became quite disheartened by SBC rhetoric and practice in college. The multi-vocal nature of Scripture, as well as the communities that have interacted with it throughout time, gave me pause when it came to making strong commitments along denominational lines.

My wife and I attended a North American Baptist Church during our time in New Haven, where we grew and enjoyed fellowship with a smaller and older congregation. During my four years in Atlanta, I served as the Youth Minister at Lithia Spring UMC. Emile and I believe that the Christian faith is a communal one, and so we desired to be grounded in a communal faith context. We were seeking a denominational home where study and interaction with Scripture is nurtured alongside a love for all people and creation. I originally began work at Lithia Springs UMC simply because I wanted a place where I could minister to and explore Scripture with young adults, people preparing to make their own decisions in life as they step away from their parents' home and build their own lives. During my time at Lithia Springs, I felt God's still, small voice revealing how the United Methodist Church and its tradition fit my calling to ministry in multiple ways.

First, I treasure the United Methodist emphasis on unity that celebrates diversity, even disagreement. We live in times of discord in the world, and, within this context, I believe the Church should set a different example. One of my passions is building relationships and bridges rather than burning them, and I believe that individual churches and denominations should be focused on such work. Even if we disagree on matters of practice or theology, the world should see a Church working towards unity so that "through the Church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might be made known" (Eph. 3:10). Over the course of the past few years and my time ministering within the UMC, I have been awe-struck by the denomination's efforts to realize this goal of unity throughout its existence.

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Second, as the Church—the Kingdom of God present in this world—I believe that our primary mandate is to be a part of God’s remaking of creation and human communities by practicing the new commandment Christ gave to us: loving one another. God has called us to recreate this broken world and to show ourselves as God’s people through a radical practice of love that mirrors the love that Jesus demonstrated for us (John 13:34-35; 15:1-17).

I believe that such love should shape and define the community of God. Again, during my time at Lithia Springs, I saw both the local congregation and the larger UMC live out such a grace fueled mission in the world. Whether through nurturing a community garden to distribute fresh produce in the community or the efforts of UMCOR, I felt called to be an active part of this grace infused mission.

Finally, I am interested in the intersection of education and ministry, theology and discipleship. I believe we as Christians are called to continue seeking out and exploring how the Scriptures speak to and shape God’s living communities. It was when I began working with my younger youth in Confirmation class that I realized a calling to continue working out my faith and ministry as a part of the United Methodist Church. The Wesleyan focus on Scripture as a foundation that we then seek truth from through the lenses of reason, tradition, and experience when working out our theology and practice spoke deeply to my passions for learning and growth. As I learned about the UMC with my youth, about the flexibility built into a church structure that is ultimately united in the deepest proclamations of its faith, I experienced the beginnings of what I feel is my calling to ministry within this Church that seeks to truly be the Kingdom of God on earth.

That is who I am and why I am here! I look forward to loving you and the people who surround us as we work together for the Gospel of Jesus. I am excited to explore God’s Scriptures together as we call the world to embrace the beautiful, life-giving vision that God’s Word calls us to step into. I know that God can and will continue to do powerful, life-changing work through us here at Lake Gibson UMC!

In love,

Pastor Anthony

Editor-In-Training Opinion

Just a thought- with all the turmoil and changes in our church we need to pray to God to keep both open hearts and minds. Work together to strengthen our church.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.”

Barb Allen-Coil

July Events As of 6/29/2022

Abbreviations: FLC - Family Life Center; ZVC - Zoom Video Conference, O-Office, S-Sanctuary
(Entries marked with * repeat every week and are only listed on the first occurrence)

Date Day

1	Friday	
2	Saturday	
3	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
4	Monday	Independence Day (Office Closed); Boy Scouts* , 7:00 pm, FLC.
5	Tuesday	Book Study* , 10:30 am, off campus; Cub Scouts* , 7:00 pm, FLC
6	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 10 of <i>Never Alone</i> by Max Lucado); Choir Practice* , 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
7	Thursday	Food Pantry* , 9:30 am - 11:30 pm, office; SPPR Meeting 1pm (O)
8	Friday	
9	Saturday	
10	Sunday	Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)
11	Monday	
12	Tuesday	
13	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
14	Thursday	Zoom Bible Study* 1:00 pm;
15	Friday	
16	Saturday	
17	Sunday	
18	Monday	
19	Tuesday	
20	Wednesday	
21	Thursday	
22	Friday	
23	Saturday	
24	Sunday	
25	Monday	
26	Tuesday	
27	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am-noon, FLC Classrooms, VPK Parent Conferences 1-4 FLC Conference Room
28	Thursday	
29	Friday	
30	Saturday	
31	Sunday	

Food Pantry Update

Food Pantry The LGUMC food pantry is relied upon by many of our neighbors. As well as canned goods and meat products provided by generous givers, we also benefit from Publix Supermarkets. They supply slight aged bread products every week. Currently we are in need of volunteers for the Saturday evening “pick up” of bread and the Thursday morning “pick up” of the bread (must be there between 6:30 am and 7 am). Ann Johnson would like to have enough to be able to rotate the people picking up the product. Please call Ann at (863) 450-2765 to volunteer. On another note: The pantry welcomes all donations but currently is in need of jelly and soup. Ann has given me a total of people who received our help as 98 with the final Thursday of the month (June 30th) to be added when a total is available.

United Women in Faith (UWF)

Our next **United Women in Faith (UWF) Combined Circle meeting** will be on **Wednesday, July 6th at 10:00 am** in the FLC. Please read chapter 10 of *Never Alone* by Max Lucado, and think about the discussion questions. Lunch to follow at Britt’s Café.

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.

A Note from the Kitchen

As we begin to move back into a new “normal”, activities are really picking up around our church, praise the Lord!

When it comes to the use of our church facilities there are many groups that use our buildings, including the church kitchen. We have outside groups like the Scouts, the New Testament Covenant Church and a Spanish Church. We also have begun providing services for those members of our community that previously had access to the Hope House. Well, now we are continuing some of the work of the Hope House on our campus by providing hot showers, meals and Bible Study on Wednesday and Saturday in the FLC. We also have our preschool, A Little Bit of Heaven, utilizing the FLC for recreation for the kids, an after school program and even a 13 week Summer Camp.

Along with all of the above, we are blessed to have active ministries made up of our own church members that use these facilities. The Methodist Men, the United Women of Faith, Merry Matters, Bible Study and Adult Sunday School.

While all this activity is certainly a blessing, it also requires coordination and communication to make certain that no activities are interrupted. To this end, I would like to encourage everyone to advise the church office, in advance, of scheduling any events that involve the FLC and/or the Kitchen. If you or your ministry need access to any of the facilities, equipment or supplies in the kitchen, please contact me in advance. As the Kitchen Hostess, I am happy to help you with any and all of your needs. You can reach me at (863) 899-9286 or by email at zita72866@gmail.com.

Rosita Stafford
Kitchen Hostess

Lay Leader Report

God's grace and peace be with you!

We are entering a season of new beginnings. We have a new pastor who will begin shepherding this flock on July 1st. Please make Pastor Anthony and his wife, Emile, feel welcome as they begin their ministry together here at Lake Gibson UMC.

We are also entering that time of year when we prepare for our Charge Conference which is scheduled for October 16th. Charge Conference is a time when we reflect on all the good works and ministries that exist here at Lake Gibson. We look back at all the ways we have been able to show God's love to those in our church and those in our community and even the world. We evaluate what we have done well and we also look at what we could have done better. We also want to look at those Divine Appointments that God may have placed in our path that we may have missed. We may have even seen the opportunities but lacked the faith to be obedient. If we fail to be obedient to the callings that God places on our hearts then we miss the blessings that come with obedience, blessings for ourselves, our church and most importantly the people that would have been the recipients of those blessings.

In order to be an effective and obedient church we need volunteers that are willing to search the gifts of talent, time and presence that God has given each one of us. During this time of preparation for Charge Conference, the members of your Nominating Committee will be reaching out to our members and asking you to prayerfully consider how and where you might serve. You are familiar with the old saying, "many hands make light work." But even more, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. Jesus is counting on each member of this congregation to carry out His work in this world.

I beseech each of you to begin praying. Pray for this church that we can be effective stewards of the blessings God has provided so we can be blessings to others. I beseech you to be in prayer for those that have served this church and will continue to serve as God leads them. And finally, I beseech you to be in prayer about what God is calling you to do in His church.

If you have any questions about where you could serve, please call me at (863)797-5612. You can also call the office and talk to Kristy or Pastor Anthony. The point is that we are embarking on a new beginning and God wants you to be part of His Kingdom here on earth. Please be a "doer" of the Word and not just a "hearer" only.

God Bless!

Mike Stafford, Lay Leader

Walk to Emmaus Testimonials

The June 19th service was devoted to Testimonies from congregation members, remembering what the Walk To Emmaus meant to them spiritually. It was very emotional Praise for what God has done for them.

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.

Barb Allen-Coil, Editor

Prayer Ministry

"I urge, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them and give thanks." 1 Timothy 2:1 NLT

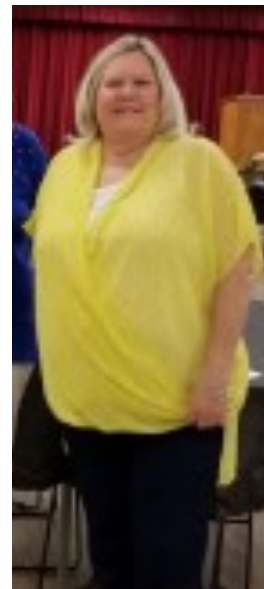
As we are into summer many will be traveling away from home. We can trust Jesus to be wherever we are, right beside us hearing our prayers and sending His blessings upon us. Thank you, Jesus, for remaining forever close to our heart all day and forever, wherever we are you are there also.

Have a safe and wonderful summer. A special thank you to our prayer warriors who continue to pray for those in need through our email prayer requests. We have approximately 40 new prayer requests each month, and 72 long term prayer needs are on the prayer journal along with 10 in group homes and 9 in the service.

God Bless.

Fran

Praise the Lord for our two newest members of our church: Geraldine "Geri" Mayo and our own "roving photographer", Cynthia "Cindy" Webb. Most of our photos in the newsletter are courtesy of Cindy Webb. It is nice to have added two talented members to our congregation



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Kristie Otte, Lexie Otte, Dave McPherson, Bob Siegel and Justin Oliva, Audio/Visual Team

Merry Matters

Weds, June 15th the Merry Matters group (at least 6 of us) found themselves at the Polk County Art Museum in downtown Lakeland. The museum shares a parking lot with the main branch of the Lakeland Public Library. We all agreed we would not have worn the masks from the African exhibit (nor did we need the fertility statues). The most educational and thought-provoking exhibition was a series of various families and a week's worth of food for their families. These photos were from various countries around the world. Plaques by the side of each photo listed statistics for each family like per capita income, size of home, and number of people per family. The lowest per capita income was \$174 from a southeastern country. Another photo showed the whole family of 22 people sharing a single dwelling. While we missed the Highwayman exhibit, we did get to see some of the statues for the upcoming Augustine Rodan show. Following the museum, we went for lunch at Reececliff Family Diner. All in all, it was a fun, but hot, day for all of us.

Five mats were delivered to Talbot House by Harriet Shapiro. Talbot House appreciated the mats because they don't have enough cots for everyone during adverse weather conditions.

We are also looking for someone who crochets to teach some of our members how to crochet the mats. Many of our people who crochet are gone for the summer

Please bare with us during this learning curve.

Thanks

Newsletter staff

“Chapel Chat”

After arriving to retire in Lakeland in November 2021, I was looking for a new opportunity for part-time work. One day, while driving past the outdoor billboard of ALBoH, I took down the phone number. I figured, that with over thirty years in Youth & Family Ministry, A masters in Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary (Methodist), and a Youth in The Church Certification from Princeton University, I could possibly help out at the school. At that time, Latisha sought a volunteer to replace the Chapel Service Director. So, every Wednesday at 9:00 am Kristie and I present an interactive service of lively songs, prayers, and Scriptures for the children, based on the school's curriculum. Kristie has a vast knowledge of available slides and colorful depictions that the children enjoy, as well as her education in Children's Development. In addition, the children are learning some ASL (American Sign Language) hand signs to their songs and prayers, incorporating a weekly "Movement Exercise" to better help them to focus on the Word of God. It has truly been a blessing for all! Feel free to drop by some morning and join us for worship, and perhaps stay for the 10 am Women's Group and Merry Matters! Robbin Clarke, MDiv., CASAC (NYC), FT (ADEC), CAM -I

Goodbye and Hello Potlucks

On June 12th we said goodbye to our Steve Polk with an emotional “goodbye”. Extra tables were needed to accommodate everyone. Under the efficient supervision of Rosita Stafford, the tables were a touch of beautiful colors. The food was wonderful. Testimonials came at the end of the dinner, ending with Pastor Steve’s own “goodbye” to the congregation. I am sure he will remain in our memories. Prayers for the move.

On June 26th we said hello to our new pastor, Anthony Purcell. Following his spirited service, we proceeded to the FLC for a wonderful meal, showing off the variety of dishes our congregation excels in making. We were also graced by the presence of members of one of our fellow churches. Welcome to Pastor Purcell and your wife, Emile.

Trustees New Laminate

I hope everyone admired the new laminate in place in the Narthex this Sunday. The Trustees have also completed the new flooring in the food pantry and the Pastor’s office. Nice job



Welcome Potluck Pictures



Tackling Procrastination to Avoid Dangerous Consequences When Caregiving

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

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

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

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

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

For support in practical care giving strategies or information on our Memory Ministry, Memory Café, or our Virtual Support Group, please contact Vicky at vpitner@firstumc.org.

Hope House Happenings,

What a wonderful Wednesday night! Hope House Mobile was at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Seven guests enjoyed a hot dinner of mini meatloaf with brown gravy, goulash, corn, green beans, cornbread muffins and French bread. A delicious cake was the dessert.

Mr. Dick McPherson kept everyone's supplied with hot coffee and bottled water was also available. Everyone received a take out bag with a choice of a PB&j or bologna and cheese sandwich.

Our guests had the opportunity to take a shower, and receive toiletries and medicine.

Many thanks to Gail Wilson Tom Wilson Ms Diane and Ms Janice for the clothing donations. (My car was so full) Thanks, also to Dick for the new men's shorts. Our guests were very thankful!

The devotion provided: Not Forsaken: Finding Freedom as Sons & Daughters of a Perfect Father
Day 1: Daddy Watch Me!

"No matter the character of your earthly father or the state of your relationship with him, there is a perfect Father who wants to be in a perfect relationship with you. You already have his affections. You already have his love. He is waiting to shower you with his blessing. He is everything you wanted your earthly dad to be and more."

Hope House Mobile volunteers will be at Hunt Fountain Park on Thursday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

HHM will be at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Good night, everyone.

Grateful, thankful and blessed.





Birthdays in July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
7/1	Jim Keller
7/2	Maureen Meyer
7/4	Gary Mudge
7/5	Joyce Cruise
7/5	Dick McPherson
7/8	Dottie Beckum
7/9	Shirley Schmidt
7/11	Jeff Acor
7/11	Dennis Greenwood
7/12	Dottie Huven
7/15	Mollie Oliva
7/15	Junaid Saqib
7/16	John Bernat
7/18	Debbie Moore
7/23	Larry Smucker
7/24	Matthew Collins
7/25	Cayden Collins
7/26	Eric Hines
7/30	JoAn Beebe
7/30	Lynn Meske
7/30	Martina Willome



Anniversaries in July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
7/11	Dennis & Merry Greenwood
7/30	Gary & Fran Mudge