

# 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,

The Psalmist in Psalm 107 recites a glorious truth:

- <sup>14</sup> God brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains.
- <sup>15</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
- <sup>16</sup> for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

We easily relate to the picture the Psalmist paints: as God's people, we often feel hemmed in, restrained, pressed down and locked away, an unwanted people with an unwelcome message. Friends, let me tell you, no chains, no bars, and no gates can hold back our Creator and Savior. The psalmist lifts up joy and praise to a God who delivers and frees God's people! Jesus——in defeating sin, death, and all powers who stand against his mission to restore creation——breaks our chains to bring us out of darkness and into God's glorious light. However weak and powerless you might feel, know that our God stands ready to deliver us into the mission of remaking the world and spreading the love of Jesus!

Yet, I think we often fail to consider how we might be imprisoning ourselves, shutting ourselves out from God's deliverance into freedom and light, as we instead hold to our chains. Psalm 107 lays out just such an image of God's people—a people who have placed themselves into imprisonment and bondage. As humans, we often look (and point!) to others, "enemies" of one stripe or another, who we can blame our situation on. We claim that we can't minister freely, speak and show the Gospel, live out God's love and truth or grow as the Church because of "those" political enemies, religious enemies, because of a culture that just holds us down...and in blaming and fighting with others, we miss how we hold our chains in our own hands.

We distract ourselves from loving service of others, from healing and living out the good news of Jesus, with our anger and outrage at our "enemies" who would dare to hold us down or skew our work and mission. When we are so concerned with the fight, the struggle, the critique and hatred of our so-called "enemies," I fear that we (and I include myself wholly in this) imprison ourselves and hold back God's work by pouring our energy into everything but loving ministry. I mean, how can we reach out to those around us when we are so tired from fighting "all the wrong" in the world—doesn't someone have to overthrow these "enemies" who want to hold us down?? We channel our lives and energy into fighting the fight instead of humble love and service of each other...and isn't this distrust, dislike, name-calling, and opposition at the very heart of the imprisonment that God so wants to set us free from?

Or, Jesus himself calls us simply:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:34-35

Jesus, in fact, doesn't call us to judge one another, police one another, or fight against one another....and Jesus doesn't call us a 'restricted' love or a 'tough' love or a fenced off love, Jesus calls us to sacrificial, unconditional love. A love that would rather give of and pain ourselves rather than others, even our enemies. Who in the world will judge evil then?? John's Gospel reminds us Jesus is the only true God and Judge (John 5:19-27), and he calls, well actually commands, us to drop our anger, frustration, hate, gossip, strategizing, maneuvering—all those thoughts, actions, and attitudes that keep us imprisoned!—and turn our hearts instead to practicing self-giving love (John 15:9-17). He knows that striving after such senseless love will set us free. So, let's step into the light together, follow God into freedom and new life, drop the skirmishes and lean into loving and serving the world as the hands and feet of our Savior!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Anthony

### November Events As of 10/26/2022

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)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	
1 2	Tuesday Wednesday	A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel*, 9:00 am, S; United Women in Faith (UWF) [formerly UMW] Combined Circle meeting, and Thanksgiving potluck luncheon 10:00 am, FLC; Hope House Mobile* 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC;
Choir P	ractice*, 6:30 pm	
3 4 5	Thursday Friday Saturday	Hope House Mobile, 9:30am –1:00pm, FLC *
6	Sunday	Sunday School classes*, 9:15 - 10:15 am, 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, S
7	Monday	Boy Scouts*, 7:00 pm, FLC
8	Tuesday	Book Study*, 10:30 am, off campus; Cub Scouts*, 7:00 pm, FLC
9 10 11 12	Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	Rummage Sale Set up, FLC; Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms Rummage Sale Set up, FLC; ALBOH Board Meeting, 2:00pm, S Rummage Sale 9am-3pm; VETERAN"S DAY Rummage Sale 9am-2pm;
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday	Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)  Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms THANKSGIVING DAY; Hope House Mobile 9:30 am-1:00 pm, FLC;

If you would like to register for the upcoming FL Conf Annual Meeting, there has been a change to the registration site. The link that was previously provided did not work as expected so the link has been changed to the one shown below.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/florida-conference-united-women-in-faith-49th-annual-meeting-tickets-443852433577

Sorry for any inconvenience,

Kathy Robertson

District Secretary

### LAY LEADER REPORT

What does it mean to "disaffiliate"?

As you are all aware, we have been in a period of discernment regarding the direction of the United Methodist Church. This period of discernment began back in April of this year when we held a church meeting to discuss all the issues flying around regarding whether or not the UMC was abiding by the authority of the Holy Scriptures and the Book of Discipline.

A vote was taken at that meeting and 99% of those present were very concerned about what was happening within the UMC and our own Florida Conference. As a result, you the congregation, asked the leadership of LGUMC to gather information and report back to the congregation. Your Church Council has had multiple meetings and has been in communication with our District Superintendent and others in the Florida Conference to get answers to the questions raised by our congregation.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, our District Superintendent gave a presentation to the congregation regarding the future of the UMC. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, we heard a presentation from Chris Akers of the Wesleyan Covenant Association regarding the newly formed Global Methodist Church. An information packet was handed out to the congregation which included the slide presentation from the District Superintendent, the slide presentation from the Global Methodist Church and copies of the correspondence with our Florida Conference. After the meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>, a vote was again taken of those present and 80% voted for the leadership to continue the process of disaffiliation from the UMC.

The next step would be calling a Church Conference. A Church Conference is an official meeting of the members of Lake Gibson UMC, where each member present officially casts their vote as to whether our church should disaffiliate from the UMC or stay affiliated with the UMC. The Book of Discipline requires a 2/3 majority of the vote to pass. We have contacted our District Superintendent requesting a Church Conference and we are awaiting her response with a date. As soon as we have that date, we will use every possible means to communicate that date to all of our members.

So, what does it mean to "disaffiliate" from the UMC? A vote to disaffiliate from the UMC would mean that our church feels that the UMC no longer operates according to the fundamental beliefs that were the core on which it was founded. Some of those core beliefs are the authority of Scripture, adherence to the Book of Discipline, is the leadership of the UMC (i.e. the Bishops) following the governance authority of the UMC. These are all issues that each and every member of Lake Gibson UMC needs to be in prayerful consideration and seek the will of God and not just what is most convenient for us individually. If the majority feels the UMC has lost its way and the vote is to disaffiliate, then we would need to decide what direction Lake Gibson would go, another Methodist Denomination, non-denomination, etc. All of these decisions will be made by the entire congregation.

We are warned in Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4 and 1John 5:19 "When a church changes its values to match the current culture it's no longer following the God of the Bible, it's following the god of this world."

As we prepare for our Church Conference, please prayerfully consider; what is God's will for you, for Lake Gibson UMC and is the leadership of the United Methodist Church being obedient to God's Holy Word.

If you have questions or want more information, please feel free to contact me directly at (862)797-5612 or by email at mstafford1960@gmail.com.

### **United Women in Faith (UWF)**

The next combined meeting of our United Women in Faith will be November 2, 2022, in the FLC at 10:00. We will have a short program about our Thanksgiving Offering, followed by a come and get to know your pastor session with Pastor Anthony Purcell. This will be followed by a Thanksgiving Dinner (turkey furnished) in which you are asked to bring your favorite covered dish to share. It should be a fun and informative meeting so come and join us!

On October 5th fifteen of our church ladies were blessed to visited the Salvation Army Facility. We were given a tour of the living facilities offered to families in need of a temporary residence. We then went on the same campus to the Hazel Hailey Hope Facility which is their Pre-K and after school day care for the children living at the Salvation Army Facility.

The director of the family facility was very positive and gave us a through tour announcing that soon new units for the families would be added. It was a very interesting and worthwhile tour. We would recommend for anyone to call and tour this facility and see the outstanding work the Salvation Army is doing for families in our area.



### **2022 FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

### HOURS:

The fall rummage sale is scheduled for Friday **November** 11<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm and Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> 9am -2pm. We will be sorting, pricing and arranging items starting on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the FLC. There is a job for everyone. We share the hard work and all the fun and laughter we can muster, so consider some well-deserved fellowship in the company of a great group of people doing God's work.

### **DONATIONS:**

Donations are being accepted at this time. You can contact Lynn Meske at 863-858-3589 or call the church office 863-858-5431 to arrange drop off or pick up times between now and November 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will be unable to accept any **large** furniture or appliances due to the lack of man power at this time but we encourage **Gently used** end tables, lamps and small furniture.

### **United Women of Faith**

United Women of Faith is happy for their new addition to the church grounds. They have received their new shed, located just outside the back door of the FLC. It was received just in time for collecting of items for the upcoming rummage sale. Looking good Sandy and Tom.



### **Senior Orphans Christmas Program (2022)**

The Senior Orphans Program is an ongoing program designed to give aid to the neediest of the needy seniors. It is a program totally donation funded and run by all volunteers. Case managers from several health care agencies in Polk County supply lists of people's names to this program. Each year an orphan is asked to name their first, second and third choice for a Christmas gift. (Would paper towels make YOUR gift list?.) This list is then passed along to the Senior Orphan program.

Upon request, a list may be available to groups that would be interested in adopting a senior orphan for Christmas. Several local business and churches have contributed to this project in the past. The women at LGUMC are excited to add our group name to the list of "Santa's Helpers" for the second year in a row. In trying to take advantage of holiday sales and such, we are asking you to help in adopting a "**Senior Orphan**" a little earlier than last year. We have 25 names with their top three wishes listed on pieces of paper. You can draw one slip of paper and decide if you wish to share your list with a friend or purchase the items on your own. All items need to be turned in by November 30<sup>th</sup>. What an awesome way to bring A little Christmas Joy into these peoples lives when we all have been Blessed with so much to share.

### Contact

Lynn Meske (863-858-3589) with any questions



### **Prayer Ministry-November 2022**



'I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify him with Thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30 NKJV 1982

Dear Heavenly Father, may we keep the spirit of Thanksgiving in our hearts all year through; to be grateful for your love and blessings each day. We give thanks for the magnificent universe you have created and that you care for each and every one of us within. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to serve you by serving others and in return we receive the best relationship of all; the one with you. It is by your gracious power we reach out to others in prayer.

For the Holy Community of faith, we thank you, Father. Amen.

May God bless you during this Thanksgiving season.

Fran

### **MISSION MOMENTS**

It has been a while since you have heard from me. I am glad to see that your mission giving has been as strong as ever. But now it is SOX TIME! For many years we have collected new sox, put them in zip lock bags, and hung them outside the Fellowship Hall and A Little Bit of Heaven. There will be a collection box in the narthex from November 13th through the 27th. We will then bag them and hang them in December starting on the 11th. Please donate new sox for men, ladies and children. The holidays offer many ways to give to help those in need. Choose those dear to your heart, and give as God leads you. If I can help in any way please let me know.

### TRUNK OR TREAT

After the Sunday Service volunteers scurried in back of the FLC to prepare for our Trunk or Treat. Thanks to the energy of Pastor Purcell, Emile, and Katrina set up went quickly and games went smoothly. Working hard in the kitchen were Gerri and Peter from Hope House. The hamburgers and hotdogs were very tasty. Many thanks to all who decorated cars and ran errands. Photos attached are by Cindy Webb with two other photographers snapping photos also. Due to church policies not all photos could be used. Plenty of princesses, bananas, and even two inflatable dinosaurs helped make up the more than 200 people to attend the function. It was nice seeing the adults getting in on the fun. We had a wonderful witch, a great candy cane, a Lord's servant, a pair of bees (including their dog) and others. The pumpkin painting continued to be busy throughout the event and all cakes and other dessert items for the cake walk found owners. The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather. In short, with willing volunteers and good spirits, every one seemed to have a good time and the children were happy.







# **TRUNK OR TREAT**



Purchase a Poinsettia to display in the chapel this wonderful holiday season for the low price of \$10.00.

Please (	Check:
in	memory of
in	honor of
in	the glory
Your N	came:
	Proceeds will help fund LGUMC,
	Thanks so much for supporting our Church!
Paid: Y	es No Cash: Check:

### **FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

I would like to thank everyone for their donations of food and cash to the pantry. It is greatly appreciated. We have been running upwards to 33 people a week. We need canned beans and jelly. We can always use rice a roni, canned meats, ramen noodles, soup and mac n cheese. Something I have not found is small containers of shelf stable milk.

Thanks. Ann

### **MERRY MATTERS**

Merry Matters continues to meet on the second and fourth Weds of the month. This October we met to work on placemats for a senior center. Our goal is to complete 30 of these placemats. Geraldine and Dick of Hope House conveyed a "Thank you" to Merry Matters from one of the new homeless persons who is really enjoying his new mat. Come feel the glow to your soul knowing that these mats are truly appreciated. Everyone is welcomed to help. We are still in need of more crocheters, and people to cut and make plarn. We have no shortage of grocery bags to fold so there is also something for everyone, no matter the skill level. Come laugh, communicate, and help our community. Please hold all grocery bags until after the holidays to give Merry Matters time to complete the rummage sale. This will also give us time to process the grocery bags already so generously given to our cause. Thank you.

### **Hope House Mobile Wish List**

Naproxen, Ibuprofen, Foot Spray, Deodorant, Blankets, Hoodies, Jackets, AAA & AA Batteries Also need volunteers to prepare or serve a meal. Contact Dick McPherson or Geri Mayo if you are able to help.

### 2022 November Newsletter – Financial Data thru end-of-month September

We recently participated in a church charge conference. Unfortunately, our budget was not yet built, as it was important to see the church's financial performance for the first three quarters of 2022. Our proposed budget should now be developed and hopefully approved by your finance committee and church council.

During this last quarter of 2022, we have added two staff positions, a worship leader and an audio/visual intern. This will increase our expenses by approximately \$4,000 above our current budget. And next year, we would love to add a Youth Director if such an individual can be found. We have a designated account which could possibly fund this position for the first year.

You may have also noticed that we had storm damage from hurricane Ian. Hopefully, storm damage expenses will be covered by the conference insurance policy.

If you pay close attention, you will notice that our contributions dropped during September compared with previous months. No causal correlation can be identified.

Current Bu	dget	\$295,275						
Month	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ A			Actual 2022
January	\$32,120	\$19,250	\$41,469	\$92,839	\$30,94	6 \$30,	946	\$45,644
February	\$23,134	\$26,344	\$26,633	\$76,111	\$25,37			\$26,373
March	\$34,381	\$31,430	\$23,181	\$88,992	\$29,66			\$39,981
April	\$29,060	\$48,131	\$24,073	\$101,264	\$33,75		_	\$23,275
May	\$22,029	\$25,816	\$26,093	\$73,938	\$24,64			\$18,433
June July	\$27,031 \$23,569	\$25,894 \$20,865	\$15,866 \$23,104	\$68,791 \$67,538	\$22,93 \$22,51			\$18,293 \$22,512
August	\$23,569	\$20,065	\$23,104	\$65,161	\$22,51		_	\$19,894
September	\$22,385	\$25,185	\$21,208	\$68,778	\$22,92			\$16,749
October	\$22,386	\$20,998	\$20,238	\$63,622	\$21,20			\$10,743
November	\$28,024	\$25,284	\$18,325	\$71,633	\$23,87			
December	\$52,968	\$26,088	\$25,183	\$104,239	\$34,74	6 \$314	,302	
Total	\$338,877	\$317,779	\$286,250	\$942,906	\$314,3	02 \$314	,302	\$231,154
Month	% Needed	\$ Needed	Received	% Needed	\$ Needed	Received	Status Ahead	% Ahead
	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative	or (Behind)	or (Behind)
anuary	9.85%	\$29,073	\$45,644	9.85%	\$29,073	\$45,644	\$16,571	57.00%
ebruary	8.07%	\$23,834	\$26,373	17.92%	\$52,907	\$72,017	\$19,110	36.12%
March	9.44%	\$27,868	\$39,981	27.36%	\$80,776	\$111,998	\$31,222	38.65%
pril	10.74%	\$31,711	\$23,275	38.10%	\$112,487	\$135,273	\$22,786	20.26%
May	7.84%	\$23,154	\$18,433	45.94%	\$135,641	\$153,706	\$18,065	13.32%
lune	7.30%	\$21,542	\$18,293	53.23%	\$157,183	\$171,999	\$14,816	9.43%
luly	7.16%	\$21,150	\$22,512	60.40%	\$178,333	\$194,511	\$16,178	9.07%
August	6.91%	\$20,405	\$19,894	67.31%	\$198,738	\$214,405	\$15,667	7.88%
September	7.29%	\$21,538	\$16,749	74.60%	\$220,276	\$231,154	\$10,878	4.94%
October	6.75%	\$19,923	\$0	81.35%	\$240,200	\$231,154	(\$9,046)	
November	7.60%	\$22,432	\$0	88.94%	\$262,632	\$231,154	(\$31,478)	
December	11.06%	\$32,643	\$0	100.00%	\$295,275	\$231,154	(\$64,121)	

As we approach the end of this year, please consider how you steward the Lord's resources in support of our ministry.

Totals

\$295.275

# New Elected Officers for Lake Gibson United Methodist Church approved during 2022 Charge Conference:

Chairperson Church Council: Joe Wallin

Church Treasurer: Bob Seigel

Financial Secretary: Cindy Heishman

Lay Member to Annual Conference Mike Stafford

Lay Leader: Mike Stafford

Recording Secretary: Kristie Otte

Membership Secretary: Rosita Stafford

Campus Ministry: Youth Minister
Camps and Retreats: Youth Minister

### Administrative Committees

Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations:

Chairperson: Sandy Stanfield

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Mike Stafford

Class of 2023: Lou Tindall

Class of 2024: Sandy Stanfield, Jim Gunthal

Class of 2025: Fay Herrick, Harriet Shapiro, Ken Taylor

### Committee on Finance

Chairperson: Dwight Kitchens

Class of 2023: Carol Davis, Sarah Schiemann

Class of 2024: Sandy Stanfield, Sue Heishman, Dick McPherson Class of 2025: Frederick McLellan, Dwight Kitchens, Ruth Zona

### **Board of Trustees**

Class of 2023: Joe Wallin, John Bernat

Class of 2024: Tom Burns, Ellen Haltiwanger

Class of 2025: Henry Zona, Bob Herrick

### Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Chairperson (pastor): Anthony Purcell, pastor

Vice Chairperson: Mike Stafford

Class of 2023: Carol Davis Class of 2024: Fay Herrick

Class of 2025: Kathy Rumohr, Cindy Webb, Barbara Allen-Coil

(continued next page)

### **Interpreter of Connectional Giving**

Interpreter of Connectional Giving: Dwight Kitchens

Children's Home Representative: Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens

### **Other Ministry Leadership**

Anti-Racism Representative: Anthony Purcell Children's Ministry Leader: Youth Director Youth Ministry Leader: Youth Director

### Addendum to Nominations - 2023 Officers and Committees

### A Little Bit of Heaven CE Board

Chairperson: Sarah Schiemann

Pastor: Anthony Purcell

Administrative Rep: Joe Wallin

Trustee Rep: Tom Burns
Lay Leader: Mike Stafford
SPRC Rep: Sandy Stanfield
Finance Rep: Dwight Kitchens
Parent Rep: Valerie Simmons

### **At Large Members**

2023 - Mary Wallin

2024 - Cindy Webb

### **Other Ministries**

Nurture Ministries: Ann Johnson

Outreach: Debbie Moore, Lynn Meske Witness Ministries: Dick McPherson Mission Ministries: Linda Alvarez

### **Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)**

We are collecting Christmas gifts for tweens and teens in the Guardian Ad Litem program. The GAL program we work with is part of the 10th Judicial Court. GAL'S and Child Advocate Managers are gathering names and wish lists of the teens as I'm writing this article. We are always given the neediest of the needy. Some of the teens are so poor they don't even know what to ask for. They get help from their GAL. This is the only Christmas list they will be on. They all request toiletry bags and they will be provided. In addition they will be provided with gifts or gift cards specific to their needs. The teens and GAL program are very appreciative of all donations. The teens and tweens are often overlooked and are very excited to receive a gift. Bev and I are very thankful for your donations. Your donations help us provide Christmas for the teens. We don't get to see the kids faces but we do hear feedback. Last year several received a gift card for shoes. They ran to the clearance rack to pick out their shoes. The Child Advocate Manager told me they were so excited. New items for them are not always an option. If you can help us we request cash, fast food gift cards, full size toothpaste, toothbrushes, men and women's razors. Please bring donations by Nov 20th. Contact Cindy Webb at 863.221.5253 with any questions.

### **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

### **Contact Information**

Pastor Anthony Purcell, 863-858-5431; fax 863-853-1625; pastor@lakegibsonumc.com

Kristie Otte, Administrative Secretary, 863-858-5431, office@lakegibsonumc.com

Sue Heishman, Bookkeeper

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday

Glenda Grant Hess, Music Director

Katrina Schell, Assistant Worship Director

Leon Rumohr, Custodian

Barbara Allen-Coil Newsletter Editor, ballencoil@gmail.com

Latisha Cook, Director of A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center, 863-858-8400.

Kristie Otte, Dave McPherson, Bob Siegel and Bailey Taylor, Audio/Visual Team



# **Birthdays in November**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
11/5	Tracy Martin
11/19	John Travis
11/26	Ellen Haltiwanger
11/26	Michael Moake
11/27	Brad Fox
11/28	Sharon Hughes



# **Anniversaries in November**

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