



# THE GOOD NEWS

## Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



### *From the Pastor*

Dear Lake Gibson Family,

As we draw towards Christmas and our communal focus on the gift of God's love and life this season, let us focus together on love and Christian fellowship! Christ's loving gift in laying down his life for us not only saves us from our own death and destruction, it also enables us to love each other, imitating God by doing God's work in the world!

We have so many chances to fellowship together in this season, whether we do so by uniting together as a church to sing and proclaim the story of Christmas for the community around us, or serving and uplifting those alone or in need of food, clothing, and support this Advent season. Joining to gather to eat and have fellowship together at a Christmas dinner. Let us enjoy, cherish, and live into these chances to love one another! Jesus Christ has come into the world, and he continues to be present and active in the world through us, the Church!

Together, let's put love into action and be Jesus to everyone we encounter this Advent season.

While there is discussion and concern happening over what denomination the church will affiliate with as we move forward together (United Methodist or Global Methodist), I just want to remind everyone that our primary calling is to the work of Jesus' Gospel, here and now, in our community. Ultimately, this discussion you all are working with as a congregation changes nothing about who we are as a local church of Jesus' Kingdom and what we are called to do and be here in Lakeland.

The same people and family of God make up our congregation. We will still worship together, pray together, learn together, and serve our community as Christ's body together. We are still called to minister to and be a part of God's calling to feed the poor, protect the widow and the orphan, accept and clothe the stranger and outsider. We are still a community of transformed people filled with Jesus' love—a community that invites all people to come and encounter the God and Creator of the universe, a God who walked among us and gave himself up for us so that we might live, thrive, and be in relationship with God and one another eternally.

Whatever decision you as a local family of God make together about the question of denomination and affiliation, I pray that we remain focused and committed to the love-filled ministry that we are called to as the body of Christ. Let us continue to serve, love, and welcome our community as Jesus as we step forward and put love into action together!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Anthony

## **Urgent Call to the Congregation**

**Your Church Council has requested a special meeting of the entire Congregation for December 11th, immediately following our Worship Service. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the entire Congregation with all the information available regarding where things stand on the disaffiliation process and our involvement in the lawsuit with the Florida Annual Conference.**

**Your Church Council and our Pastor want to make sure everyone is fully informed and all questions are answered. At the end of this informational meeting we will be taking a vote of the professing membership of Lake Gibson UMC. It is vitally important that we know exactly how the congregation feels about the direction of Lake Gibson UMC.**

## December Events As of 11/28/2022

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	Thursday	<b>Pastor's Bible Study</b> , 1:00 pm, Zoom;*
2	Friday	
3	Saturday	<b>Hope House Mobile</b> , 9:30am –1:00pm, FLC *
4	Sunday	<b>Sunday School classes*</b> , 9:15 - 10:15 am, <b>FLC</b> ; <b>Worship Service* and Communion</b> , 10:30 am; Publix bakery goods* in FLC for needy; <b>Movimiento Misionero Mundial Pentecostal Church*</b> , 10:30 am, FLC upstairs; <b>New Testament Christian Church*</b> , 1:30 pm, S
5	Monday	<b>Praise Band Practice</b> , 6:30 pm; <b>Boy Scouts*</b> , 7:00 pm, FLC
6	Tuesday	<b>Senior Orphans Gift Wrapping</b> , 10:00 am, FLC; <b>Book Study*</b> , <b>10:30 am</b> , off campus; <b>Cub Scouts*</b> , 7:00 pm, FLC
7	Wednesday	<b>A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel*</b> , 9:00 am, S; <b>UWF Christmas Celebration</b> , 10:00 am-noon, FLC; <b>Hope House Mobile*</b> , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC; <b>Choir Practice*</b> , 6:30 pm, S
8	Thursday	<b>ALBOH Board Meeting</b> , 2:00pm, S
9	Friday	<b>Movie on the Lawn</b> , 6:30pm-8:30pm, Behind FLC
10	Saturday	<b>Cantata Practice</b> , 10:00 am, S
11	Sunday	<b>Harvest Sunday</b> (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)
12	Monday	
13	Tuesday	
14	Wednesday	<b>Merry Matters</b> craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
15	Thursday	
16	Friday	
17	Saturday	<b>Cantata Practice</b> , 10:00 am, S
18	Sunday	<b>Potluck luncheon</b> , immediately following service
19	Monday	<b>Praise Band Practice</b> , 6:30 pm;
20	Tuesday	
21	Wednesday	
22	Thursday	
23	Friday	
24	Saturday	<b>Christmas Eve Candle Light Service</b> , 6:00 pm, S
25	Sunday	<b>Christmas Day</b>
26	Monday	
27	Tuesday	
28	Wednesday	<b>Merry Matters</b> craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
29	Thursday	
30	Friday	
31	Saturday	<b>New Year's Eve</b>

### MERRY CHRISTMAS, FELIZ NAVIDAD, JOYEUX NOELL, ZALIG KERSTFEEST!, FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN, OR BUON NATALE!

However you say it around the world it means the same thing: the birthday of the lord, celebration of His birth.

So let's celebrate His love, kindness, and leadership for us by continuing His examples.

Love one another, kindness, and lead others to His teachings.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

To paraphrase John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your church can do for you, ask what you can do for your faith and church." The church is in need of many volunteers, as demonstrated by the back of last week's bulletin on Sunday. Please answer that call, everyone has something to give.

### Request for Friday Meal Preparers

Jesus said to Peter three times, "Feed my sheep." (John 21, NRSV). Lake Gibson UMC is indeed answering the Lord's direction by providing three opportunities for our homeless brothers and sisters to receive food and other services. Wednesday night and Saturday morning volunteers provide meals at our Family Life Center (FLC). The third opportunity is described below.

Hope House Mobile (HHM) is looking for wonderful volunteers to provide meals for the homeless on Fridays. The donations may be set as a one-time event, occasionally, or once a month.

On Fridays, Geri Mayo serves at the pavilion at Hunt Fountain Park, 7036 Green Rd, Lakeland, FL 33810, from 11:30 am to 12:30-1pm.

Our December schedule as of November 21st is as follows: Dec 2nd -- covered;  
Dec 9th -- open; Dec 16th -- open; Dec 23rd -- covered; Dec 30th -- open.

HHM is requesting a Friday meal large enough for 15 servings. The extras to complete the meal would be greatly appreciated. For example: crackers for soup or chili, inexpensive parmesan cheese for pasta or bread with a casserole.

HHM has serving utensils. Also, food is either transferred to Crockpots or a Styrofoam container is used to keep pans warm. The pavilion has stainless steel serving tables, a sink and electrical outlets.

Hot food donations may be dropped off at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, 424 W Daughtery Road, Lakeland, FL 33809, by 10:45 am on Fridays, or brought to Hunt Fountain Park by 11:30 am.

Volunteers do not need to serve; however, they are welcome to stay and meet the guests.

If Fridays are inconvenient, arrangements may be made to drop off cold prepared dinners earlier in the week.

Please contact Geri Mayo at 863-589-3329 to coordinate your Friday meal donations. (Text messages are best.) She may also be reached at gerijmayo@yahoo.com.

Volunteer cooks, servers and workers are also requested for HHM's meals at LGUMC. In addition to setting up, serving food and cleaning up, workers are needed to handle the "clothes closet" and take care of towels, etc. for showers. At present, we have only three people doing all of this service. We need to step up the level of church support for this essential mission to the homeless.

1. Meals and/or side dishes would be welcome. Wednesday nights we need food for 20-25 servings. Please contact Geri to help out.

2. On Saturdays we need food for 15 servings and people to help work. Contact Geri Mayo, if you can help. HHM has a Facebook page: North Lakeland Hope House Mobile.

### FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Food pantry is doing well thanks to all of you. Right now we need canned beans and mac n cheese.

Thank you for all your help,

Ann

### COME TO BETHLEHEM

Country Oaks Subdivision  
Dec. 3rd through Dec.26th  
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
1202 O'Daniel Loop North  
off Old Polk City Rd in Lakeland  
Figurines are mostly made by Mr. Penn

## United Women in Faith (UWF)

The United Women in Faith would like to invite all ladies of the church to their Wednesday, December 7th meeting/ Christmas celebration. We will meet in the FLC at 10:00 AM. If you would like to contribute to the Food Pantry, we are asking you bring \$10.00 to share so that they can purchase meat for this mission of our church. We are also asking that you bring a white elephant gift (a regift or something < than \$10) wrapped to participate in the games. Everyone is bringing a finger food treat to share to celebrate in the Christmas event. Coffee and tea will be furnished. We are looking forward to fun, sharing, snacking, and celebrating this wonderful season, so come join us! Reminder: Our next book of study is Help Is Here by Max Lucado which we will begin at our January meeting.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for anything you did, (setup, sorted, priced, bought, cleaned up, checked out, bagged, came, gave of your time and energy before the actual sale, folded clothes, or prayed) for our Rummage sale because it was through your help that we were able to overcome the challenges that we faced that made it a success. We are able to give to our local missions and help support them through this anxious time.

We have successfully put another rummage sale in our rear view mirror even though we had a few things working against us this time. One was the weather, it was responsible for no newspaper (containing our ad) delivery on Thursday. It was also a holiday I hadn't considered, Veterans Day. With all that being said we still managed to make a little over 4,000.00. My sincere gratitude to all, who ended up giving their all, for four labor intensive days. The new shed purchased with your generous donations made the setting up a little easier than in the past and the future looks even better due to the entrance ramp added to the new shed last week. I look forward to our next sale.. Big Big Thank You.

As part of our Thanksgiving project, 30 placemats were made and delivered to Savannah Court , an assisted living facility.



## Senior Orphans Christmas Program (2022)

I would like to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and generosity with this program. Our group has successfully adopted 25 Seniors and are busy fulfilling all of their three wishes to be delivered for Christmas. We have already received some completed orders and they arrived already wrapped. However if your crafty like me (NOT) you are invited to join us on December 6th, 10:00 a.m. in the FLC to wrap our gifts together. All paper products, gift bags, tape and gift cards will be provided. Thank you again for sharing your time, your money and your love with those less fortunate.



### Prayer Ministry-December 2022

“For unto us a Christ is born, unto us a Son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” Isiah 9:6 (KJV)



As we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus may we keep in prayer those who have health issues, may be alone, are far away in the armed forces and for so many other reasons. Wherever we are in the “seasons of life” may we be reminded of our Emmanuel for He is with us now and forever, to confront us and be a light of joy and hope in our hearts. Let us keep the true meaning of Christmas is our hearts and the greatest gift of all: Jesus for eternity.

May your spirit be filled with compassion for others as we celebrate this blessed season. In Christ we give thanks. This season of celebrating Christ Jesus you may receive a calling from God to join our circle of prayer warriors. It truly is a blessing and a gift to others in need.

Fran

### Angel Tree Donations

Your response to our call has been wonderful. On Monday the 21st of November forty-five gift cards totaling \$2,100 were hand delivered to the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home. On Sunday the 20th an additional \$235 in contributions was provided during the service. We have made a significant contribution to helping bring a joyous Christmas day to many children within FUMCH.

### More refurbished bikes ready for the Christmas season.



Thanks to community and congregational generosity, another set of refurbished bicycles are being made ready for delivery to the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home in Enterprise, FL. Seven adult bikes and two smaller children’s bikes are now ready. Three additional ones are awaiting parts. 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.

Should you ever find yourself either upgrading your two-wheeled bike for an enhanced model or finding you no longer enjoy riding, we’re always interested in recycling your older bikes. This ministry continues to work thanks to those who keep the Children’s Home in mind.

# Rummage Sale



## Wonder

Sometimes I Wonder  
About a lot of things.  
The flower, the trees,  
The birds that sing.  
How God made the moon and  
Stars in the sky.  
The ocean and lakes  
All for our wondrous eye.  
Such is the love God  
has for us all.  
We must not abuse it.  
As this is our call.  
It seems to be a love  
that is forever.  
So wonderfully given to  
be used together.  
How is it that we  
fail to share this love?  
May this wonder be a  
blessing from God above.  
So smell the flowers along  
the way  
and treat your neighbors  
as you should today.  
I wonder sometimes.  
Written by Sara Hogg

## LET'S GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Volunteers are needed to "Ring The Bell" for the Salvation Army. Two hour slots are available so contact Phyllis Kitchens or Lynn Meske to sign up. Show your Christmas spirit and have a chance to wish people "Merry Christmas" and remind them what those words stand for. Two hours goes by quickly and helps so many.

## Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

Great news! Lake Gibson UMC is again participating in the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive at the Plantation Square Publix on Socrum Loop. We had lots of volunteers in 2018 and 2019, and hope to do as well this year. This is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce your grandchildren, friends and neighbors to a joyful community service.

The ringing starts on **Saturday, November 26th** and ends on Christmas Eve. **Ringin g begins at 10:00 am and ends at 8:00 pm.** We've been requested to take 2-hour blocks, but if you can only work 1 hour, we'll try to find someone to finish the block.

Our leaders are Lynn Meske, 906-360-8231 and Phyllis Kitchens, 410-790-2662. Please call one of them, or the office, 863-858-5431, if you would like to sign up to ring. There is a white board in the office where you can see the available slots and sign yourself up to take specific days/hours. Please leave a phone number (cell preferred) where we can reach you if something changes.

Bell ringing is the best way to inject yourself with a big dose of holiday cheer while performing a great service for our local Salvation Army. It also lets you meet neighborhood people and show them how loving and engaged in the community our church is. We hope you'll sign up!



December 2022 Newsletter  
 Financial Information for LGUMC

Thankfully, our year looks relatively good financially. Although we only have October's financials recorded for this December newsletter (always a month behind), we are still slightly ahead of where we would have anticipated. This trend was partially due to a larger than anticipated contribution at the first of the year. As you look at the second table, our positive percent Ahead or Behind has been dropping throughout the year.

**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	\$18,433
June	\$27,031	\$25,894	\$15,866	\$68,791	\$22,930	\$167,312	\$18,293
July	\$23,569	\$20,865	\$23,104	\$67,538	\$22,513	\$189,824	\$22,512
August	\$21,790	\$22,494	\$20,877	\$65,161	\$21,720	\$211,545	\$19,894
September	\$22,385	\$25,185	\$21,208	\$68,778	\$22,926	\$234,471	\$16,749
October	\$22,386	\$20,998	\$20,238	\$63,622	\$21,207	\$255,678	\$19,161
November	\$28,024	\$25,284	\$18,325	\$71,633	\$23,878	\$279,556	
December	\$52,968	\$26,088	\$25,183	\$104,239	\$34,746	\$314,302	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$338,877</b>	<b>\$317,779</b>	<b>\$286,250</b>	<b>\$942,906</b>	<b>\$314,302</b>	<b>\$314,302</b>	<b>\$250,315</b>

Month	% Needed Monthly	\$ Needed Monthly	Received Monthly	% Needed Cumulative	\$ Needed Cumulative	Received Cumulative	Status Ahead or (Behind)	% Ahead or (Behind)
January	9.85%	\$29,073	\$45,644	9.85%	\$29,073	\$45,644	\$16,571	57.00%
February	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%
April	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%
June	7.30%	\$21,542	\$18,293	53.23%	\$157,183	\$171,999	\$14,816	9.43%
July	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	\$19,161	81.35%	\$240,200	\$250,315	\$10,115	4.21%
November	7.60%	\$22,432	\$0	88.94%	\$262,632	\$250,315	(\$12,317)	
December	11.06%	\$32,643	\$0	100.00%	\$295,275	\$250,315	(\$44,960)	

Totals \$295,275

As of the end of October, we already had \$1,5081 towards purchasing gift cards for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home Christmas present drive. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is read, we will be able to announce the delivery of a much larger sum. Our church will have made a substantial impact on their ability to permit children to purchase the presents they actually desire. Congratulations to all of the congregation.



# Christmas Poinsettias

*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 Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Proceeds will help fund LGUMC,*

*Thanks so much for supporting our Church!*

*Paid: Yes* \_\_\_\_\_ *No* \_\_\_\_\_ *Cash:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Check:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Make Check Payable To Lake Gibson UMC**

## 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

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**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 December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
12/11	Henry Zona
12/14	Linda Smucker
12/17	Paul Havel
12/17	Beverly Hines
12/20	Kristie Otte
12/26	Ann Kneeland
12/26	Richard Thomas
12/28	Glenda Hess
12/28	Phyllis Kitchens



## Anniversaries in December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
12/10	Dwight & Phyllis Kitchens
12/15	Wayne & Jean Wesley
12/21	Richard & Marie Thomas