



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 New Year is often a time of 'new' resolutions (or, old resolutions...you know, the ones we didn't follow through on last year?), and, you know, the Scriptures call us to step into new things as well! God invites God's people into new spaces (from Egypt to Israel and Judah to Samaria), new practices (from worshipping in a Tabernacle to a Temple to anywhere two or three are gathered!), new contexts, challenges, questions, and ways of serving each other!

With the Psalmist, we can sing out:

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

As we walk into 2023 together as God's children, let us walk with open hearts, ready to invest sacrificially and boldly in others. Together, with a new song for an eternal Creator, let us move with the Spirit into Kingdom ministry and love this year.

In Grace and Peace,

Pastor Anthony

On the cool Friday night of December 8th, our Lake Gibson UMC family hosted a joint "Movie Night on the Lawn" with the excited and committed ALBOH Child Enrichment Center team! With a projector, huge blowup screen, and lights provided by ALBOH and a host of popcorn, snacks, and drinks provided by LGUMC, we welcomed a handful of church volunteers, the ALBOH staff, families, and over 75 visitors from our surrounding community as we watched a movie and fellowshiped together on the lawn!

Such ministries are only possible because of your generous giving, volunteering, and support. Thank you for making it possible to be the Church of Christ outside of these walls for our community!



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	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
2	Monday	Trustees Meeting , 2pm, O
3	Tuesday	Book Study* , 10:30 am, off campus;
4	Wednesday	A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel* , 9:00 am, S; UWF , 10:00 am-noon, FLC; Hope House Mobile* , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC; Choir Practice* , 6:30 pm, S
5	Thursday	
6	Friday	
7	Saturday	Hope House Mobile* , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC
8	Sunday	Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)
9	Monday	Praise Band Practice , 6:30 pm;
10	Tuesday	
11	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
12	Thursday	ALBOH Board Meeting , 2:00pm, S
13	Friday	
14	Saturday	
15	Sunday	
16	Monday	MLK Day, Praise Band Practice , 6:30 pm;
27	Tuesday	
18	Wednesday	
19	Thursday	
20	Friday	
21	Saturday	
22	Sunday	
23	Monday	Praise Band Practice , 6:30 pm;
24	Tuesday	
25	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
26	Thursday	
27	Friday	
28	Saturday	
29	Sunday	
30	Monday	

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We received many photos from many activities in December. We couldn't include all of them in the newsletter but it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves and serving the Lord. In this new year I pray we continue to share and serve the Lord.

Easter Egg Hunt

The United Methodist Men of Lake Gibson UMC will hold an easter egg hunt on Saturday, 1 April 2023. Mark your calendar now! It is designed for children through age twelve. We will have two search areas, one within the ALBOH fencing and one in the rest of the property. There will be eggs, games, food and prizes as well.

In addition to church families, we are inviting children from Cub Pack 711 and the four elementary schools served by ALBOH for after school programs. We envision this to be our largest participation ever.

Once again, we ask for support in the purchasing of non-meltable candies. Candies will be placed within plastic eggs. Miniatures which are prepackaged are probably best.

Please drop off candies within either the Narthex or the church office. We would like to get candies packed within the eggs by the end of March.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CHOIR ROBES

LGUMC Choir members began wearing choir robes during December after a long hiatus of singing in more casual clothing. Do robes contribute to better singing? Do they provide dignity and solemnity to Worship? Do they erase the individual identity of singers? Are they uncomfortable, resulting in stressful singing? Do they unify an unspoken dress code to prevent occasional gauche attire? Our Choir sings with true voices from true hearts. This month they don robes for sacred respect toward the Church's Advent Season. They hope the robes are an enjoyable, unifying experience to connect Choir and Congregation to worship God together in music!

The Administrative Council of Lake Gibson UMC would like to report the results of the vote on disaffiliation.

There were 115 total votes, both members and non-members, 80 for disaffiliation and 35 for remaining within the UMC.

Of 91 members of LGUMC, 66 were in favor of disaffiliation and 25 opposed.

Percentage wise, of members, 72.5% were in favor of disaffiliation, while 27.5% were opposed.

Based on these figures, Church Council will continue to pursue disaffiliation.

Please realize that in the near term, this is unlikely to change anything regarding how we worship each week.

MERRY MATTERS

As the year comes to an end; we are pleased to announce that Merry Matters has been able to provide over 31 sleeping mats to both Hope House and Talbot House Ministries for the homeless in the Lakeland area. We are so blessed to have so many church members and friends who continue to help with this project. Thank you.

Pedaling Parsons return to Florida

Once again, the Pedaling Parsons are bringing a group of about fifteen cyclists to Florida from Ohio. Each year they travel to raise funds to support missions. We are hosting them overnight in the Family Life Center on Saturday the 4th of February, providing an evening meal on the 4th and breakfast on the 5th.

If you would like to help Dwight Kitchens with the meals, please call 864-984-4564.

United Women in Faith (UWF)

Ladies if you didn't attend our December 7th meeting you missed a really marvelous time! There were 28 ladies at the party and we had a great time playing Christmas Bingo, a left/ right game where everyone ended with a terrific gift, and we shared some of the most delicious treats (veggie pizza, cookies, and other luscious finger foods) to a great Christmas punch! If you were in the right seat, you also won a poinsettia as a prize!

We were also given a cross in your pocket (introduced by Lynn Meske and made by Sharon Hughes) that we can share with someone as a special way to witness. If you would like one, see Lynn and she will be glad to share.

The ladies donated a monetary gift to the LGUMC Food Pantry and we were able to collect over \$200 to purchase meat for the pantry.

Our next Circle Meeting will be January 4, 2023, in the FLC at 10:00 AM. We are excited to begin our new book study of Max Lucado, Help Is Here, Chapter 1, The Holy Who? and questions on pp. 159 -161. If you were not able to purchase a book please contact Pat Moon at 863-398-9936. All ladies of the church are invited to come and fellowship with us. (photos on page 7)

This Christmas the ladies from LGUMC adopted 25 senior orphans in Polk county. It was so much fun playing Santa and granting their three wishes. The list consisted of a wide range of items including a microwave, a boom box, size 14 tennis shoes and a kitchen trash can with bags, just to name a few of the 75 gifts purchased. It is so rewarding to be able to do God's work and share our blessings with those less fortunate. A HUGE thank you to everyone that participated in the shopping, wrapping or delivering these gifts. The photos are from one of the three deliveries made.

Last year we asked everyone for their old Christmas cards. The response was overwhelming. We were able to deliver 31 handmade Christmas placemats to Savannah Court Assisted Living at the beginning of December. They were really excited to see the beautiful placemats and invited Lynn to their dining room to put the mats on the tables. Doing so added such a feeling of accomplishment and introduced a total holiday spirit. The residents know now that the reason for the season is Jesus, they will see it every day. Thank you, Shirley Schmidt for designing all the mats. Maybe next year we can add another facility and make even more mats. Just one more way to reach out and spread the Love. (photos below)



United Women in Faith (UWF) Book Club 2023

The Gulf Central District of United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, has announced the 2023 Virtual Reading Circle. Judi Levan, judilevan.umw@gmail.com, is the facilitator and all meetings will be on Zoom. Below is the draft calendar and book list for the circle's gatherings in 2023. If you have any suggestions or questions about the schedule, please let Judi know. PLEASE note that not all meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday.

Books may be obtained from your local library, ordered from an on-line bookstore, or bought in a brick-and-mortar book store. If you're interested in receiving recognition for reading the listed books, go to <https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/> for details and 2018 - 2023 book lists. Books from 2018 to 2023 are included in this year's Reading Program.

You do NOT have to be a member of the United Women in Faith to participate in the Virtual Reading Circle. If you would like to receive more information from Judi, or sign up for the circle, please email her at the address above.

Date	Title	Author	Year	Category
Jan 24th	The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek	Kim Michelle Richardson	2023	Education for Missions
Feb 21st	Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents	Isabel Wilkerson	2023	Social Action
Mar 21st	Raising World Changers in a Changing World: How One Family Discovered the Beauty of Sacrifice and the Joy of Giving	Kristen Welch	2020	Spiritual Growth
Apr 18th	Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in 15 Suggestions	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	2019	Nurturing for Community
May 16th	Anxious to Talk about It: Helping White People Talk Faithfully about Racism	Carolyn B. Helsel	2021	Leadership Development
Jun 20th	We Pray with Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead	Emily Peck-McClain	2020	Spiritual Growth
Jul 18th	What Comes with the Dust	Gharbi M. Mustafa	2020	Social Action
Aug 15th	Fire Keeper's Daughter	Angeline Boulley	2023	Nurturing for Community
Sep 19th	The Four Winds	Kristin Hannah	2023	Social Action
Oct 17th	Virtual Voices: The Power of Women Leading Change around the World	Alyse Nelson	2020	Leadership Development
Nov 14th	One: Unity in a Divided World	Deidra Riggs	2019	Education for Mission
Dec 19th	Glimpses of Heaven: God's Gifts of Grace in Daily Life	Roela Victoria Rivera	2022	Spiritual Growth



“Happy New Year from Prayer Ministry”



Welcome Prayer Warriors to a New Year of Praying for others as Christians in faith and service to our God.

" I urge you, 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-1996

Heavenly Father, you have brought us to the beginning of a new year. As this time is renewed, fresh and clean, we celebrate your glorious presence in our life. We ask you to renew our hearts with your strength and purpose. Forgive us the errors of yesterday and lead us to walk closer with you, to begin a life anew, to shine through us so that every person we meet will feel your presence is our soul. Take our hand, precious Lord and guide the way to your calling us to prayer now and forevermore. Amen.

God Bless our prayer mission and Happy New Year to everyone.

Prayer Ministry-Fran

Lake Gibson UMC participated in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle drives in 2018 and 2019, and then took two years off due to the pandemic. We started again with the Christmas 2022 drive at the same location as before, Publix Super Market at Plantation Square. In all, we fielded 18 teams of ringers, made up of 27 individuals. In addition to church members, we had two nonmembers: Jan Henrikson (and her dog, Jazzy), who rang with us in 2018 and 2019) and Karen Livingston.

Many thanks to all the people who rang for 66 hours this year, helping to raise essential funds for local Salvation Army programs:

Barb Allen-Coil

Anne and John Bernat

Sue Bodemer

Cathy D'Amato

Jan Henrikson and Jazzy

Bev and Eric Hines

Phyllis and Dwight Kitchens

Cyndi Kuhlman

Karen Livingston

Dick McPherson and Daniel G.

Lynn Meske and Sandy Stanfield

Debbie Moore and Bev Ellis

Susan Ritchie

Betty Seabo

Harriet Shapiro

Rosita and Mike Stafford

Maria and Rich Thomas

Laurel and Jack Vanderheyden



Our ringers encountered kind people who went out of their way to thank us for our service. Jan Henrikson met a lady who went back into the store and bought a box of dog treats for Jazzy, and then went back again and bought Jan a bouquet of flowers! [Photo of Jan on right from 2018] A gentleman named Casey entertained our ringers with music on his harmonica. On Christmas Eve he played beautiful carols which were warmed the heart if not our fingers!

The following people went the extra mile to support this year's Red Kettle campaign and are recognized for their special devotion: Barb Allen-Coil (10 hours over 3 days), Cathy D'Amato (4 hours/2 days), Bev and Eric Hines (4 hours/2 days), Cyndi Kuhlman (6 hours/3 days); Debbie Moore and Bev Ellis (4 hours/2 days); Betty Seabo (6 hours/3 days) and Phyllis and Dwight Kitchens (10 hours/4 days).

Due to the extreme cold (35 degrees on Saturday morning), the Salvation Army ended this Red Kettle campaign 2 hours early. So far funds raised at our Publix have been reported for only 4 of the 25 days of this campaign: \$1,714.25. The money reported is the sum for all organizations that volunteered at our Publix each day, and are not broken down by the ringer's organization.

Supporting the Salvation Army is one way we live out our vision To be a joyful church family that is crucial to our community. In both 2018 (with 33 ringers) and 2019 (34 ringers), Lake Gibson rang for 72 hours. The 2018 total raised by all organizations at the Plantation Square Publix was \$2,100. In 2019 the total was just under \$4,300.



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Financial Challenges for 2023

Notwithstanding discussions about our affiliation with the United Methodist Church, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church faces some financial challenges.

1. As our congregation ages, more people are moving to be closer to their families. Others are concerned about the possibility that we might disaffiliate and have gone elsewhere. Each results in a loss of contributions which impacts those of us remaining.
 2. For at least three years we have been asking for volunteers to help with our worship services. Primarily, our audio/video team currently requires at least three people on Sunday and one during both choir and praise team rehearsals. As current volunteers need backfill, our only solution is to attempt to hire employees. We have hired an individual to run our sound mixer. Adding a paid part-time "Audio/Video Technician" to our staff might run up to \$4,200 per year. If we found a second person for our VMix video operation, this hire could bring this total to \$8,400 per year.
 3. This past summer we added an "Assistant Worship Leader" to our payroll. This college student costs approximately \$12,750 per year.
 4. Recently we added help to run the slides for our services. This high school student does get minimally paid to the tune of approximately \$1,475 per year.
 5. For approximately four years we have been discussing getting a Youth Pastor to rebuild a program at LGUMC.
 6. Unfortunately, until recently, we have not been able to locate interested individuals. Pastor Anthony has now found an interested individual for a full-time position. There may be sufficient funds in our former Children/Youth endowment (currently a designated fund) to pay for a portion of a year's salary. The balance will have to be included in our general budget. Until an offer is made it is unknown what this might add to our budget. With possible salary, housing, insurance, and retirement contribution, it may be significant.
 7. While inflation has hit all of us, please realize that it also affects your church. Our expenses are growing as well. We will shortly modify our budget forecast to include the above anticipated additional costs.
- I'm asking that as we have ended FY 2022, you prayerfully consider how you can support our church by your prayer, presence, and financial contributions. While inflation has risen, many of us have received Cost of Living Adjustments this year. Consider how you might financially enhance your support of our church in 2023!

Dwight Kitchens – Finance Chairperson

Breath of Heaven Christmas Cantata

Under the leadership of Music Director, Glenda Hess, members of Lake Gibson's adult choir presented Breath of Heaven by Russell Mauldin and Sue Smith on December 18th. The concert was narrated by our own Joseph (Pastor Anthony Purcell) and Mary (Emile Purcell). Solo performers were Katrina Schell, Assistant Worship Director, and Dorothy Burns.

The Singers:	Dorothy Burns	Bev Hines	Bob Willome	
	Barb Allen-Coil	Eric Hines	Fay Herrick	Leon Rumohr
	Dave Hess	Katrina Schell	Bob Herrick	Kathy Rumohr
	Zandy Cole	Cyndi Kuhlman	Cathy D'Amato	Rochelle McBride

The Audio/Visual Team included Dave McPherson, Kristie Otte, Bob Siegel, Stacie Sullivan and Bailey Taylor.



photo provided by Dave Hess.

HOPE HOUSE UPDATE

Jesus, our God and Creator, came to serve! Jesus shows us how to be human by serving and loving others. This Christmas Eve, Hope House served lunch and gave gifts of backpacks, blankets, sweaters and warmers to all who desired it!

We were able to celebrate a beautiful Christmas with our unhoused folks. They had an amazing dinner prepared by several volunteers and each guest received a brand new backpack filled with clothes, toiletries, gift cards and a beautiful new blanket. God is so great and we are eternally grateful to everyone that continues to support our ministry. Merry Christmas



The Friendship Sunday School class had our Christmas party in the FLC on 12/14. We had such a wonderful time sharing food and conversation as well as some trivia and a gift exchange.

This class is such a blessing to me and especially to our church. They support many ministries with their time and talents as well as serving in leadership.

If you are looking for an adult Sunday School class, please join us on Sunday morning at 9:15am in the FLC. If you already attend our class, then bring a friend or neighbor.

For more information, give me a call at (863) 797-5612 or call the church office.

Mike Stafford.



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

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

Glenda Grant Hess, Music/Worship Director

Katrina Schell, Assistant Worship Director

Leon Rumohr, Custodian



Birthdays in January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
1/1	Joe Moon
1/4	Rochelle McBride
1/7	Kathy Rumohr
1/11	Lexie Otte
1/12	Todd Bower
1/20	Abba Schmidt
1/21	Shirley Lux
1/26	Barb Allen-Coil
1/27	Linda Alvarez
1/27	Ruth Zona
1/30	Jackie Webb



Anniversaries in January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
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