



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 prophet Isaiah announced to a broken and tired people of God:

^{43:18} “Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

^{43:19} See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

We are called to turn now with guidance of the Holy Spirit to the new thing that God is doing in our midst. Your church leadership recently met after prayer and listening for God’s direction to cast a vision for our church family in this year. We departed after agreeing on four pillars of a work that we believe God is calling us to accomplish here and now:

1. Building and Strengthening Structures (and Leaders!) for Evangelism and Growth
2. Rebuilding and Growing Lay Volunteer Ministry Teams
3. Reassessing How We Define Church to Meet the Needs of a New Generation Searching for Jesus
4. Seeking God in Churchwide Prayer, Repentance, and Renewal

If we are willing to lay down our desires and together set out in faith to accomplish God’s calling in these areas of our faith life and ministry – I know we will meet God, as the Spirit brings about a new things in our midst! Let’s step out in faith together and see just what our God can do!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Anthony

February Events As of 1/30/2023

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	Wednesday	UWF , 10:00 am-noon, FLC; Hope House Mobile* , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC; Choir Practice* , 6:30 pm, S
2	Thursday	Food Pantry , 9:30 am-11:30 am, O; Glenn Ridge Home Owner's Association Meeting , 7pm-9pm, FLC
3	Friday	
4	Saturday	Hope House , 9:30am -1:00pm, FLC; Hope House Fundraiser @ Harley Davidson Dealership; Peddling Parsons , 3pm-9am, FLC
5	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
6	Monday	Trustees Meeting , 2pm, O;
7	Tuesday	Book Study* , 10:30 am, off campus; Pastor's Bible Study , 1pm, FLC, ZVC
8	Wednesday	A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel* , 9:00 am, S; Praise Band Practice , 5:30 pm;
9	Thursday	
10	Friday	
11	Saturday	
12	Sunday	Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)
13	Monday	
14	Tuesday	
15	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
16	Thursday	ALBOH Board Meeting , 2:00pm, S
17	Friday	
18	Saturday	
19	Sunday	
20	Monday	Presidents' Day; Praise Band Practice , 6:30 pm;
21	Tuesday	
22	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Service , 4:30pm, S; Praise Band Practice , 5:30 pm
23	Thursday	
24	Friday	
25	Saturday	
26	Sunday	
27	Monday	
28	Tuesday	

Due to weak Internet connectivity within the FLC, we've installed a new router to enhance both the range and speed. Your Wi-Fi connectivity should be much improved. Below are the connection details:

Router Name: NETGEAR69 (all uppercase)

Wi-Fi Password: grandsea580 (all lowercase)

Food Pantry Update

We can use can beans, rice a roni, and jelly in the food pantry. Thanks for all your help and donations.

Ann Johnson

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.

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.

2023 Just Energy for All Webinars

3rd Wednesday, Every Other Month

In 2023 the United Women in Faith (UWF) will present **Just Energy for All (JE4A)** Zoom webinars every other month. All people are welcome to join. The next webinar is **Wednesday, February 15th, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm.**

The purpose of these webinars is to hear from experts, community leaders and UWF members working for just energy solutions. This effort supports UWF's core principle of **Protecting God's creation and those who are disproportionately affected by global climate change.** The webinars present information on the problems, the work being performed to solve these problems and how you can engage in the efforts that impact your local area and beyond. You don't have to be a member of UWF or possess two X chromosomes to participate.

To learn more about UWF's efforts to protect the planet and improve lives, go to the website climatejustice@uwfaith.org.

To register for the JE4A webinars, please click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcutpzljGtIsZee-DLtfPHwBwD1d0OS5>

Mark your calendars for the other upcoming JE4A webinars: April 19, June 21, August 16 and October 18. Hope to meet you on line!

Financial Contribution Statements have been sent

Again, "Thank You" for your financial support of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church (LGUMC) this past year. This is certainly not the primary means by which you support our ministries. We recognize that your worship, prayer and participation in our outreach ministries reflects what it means to be a Christian. By this time, you should have received a financial contribution statement from LGUMC. The statements were either mailed or e-mailed on the 10th of January. These may be needed by those of you who do not take a standard deduction on taxes filed with the Internal Revenue Service. Should you either find errors or have not received a required statement, please, contact the office (863-858-5431) so that we might resolve this discrepancy.

CROP Hunger Walk

Benefits People Here and around the World

This year Lakeland's **CROP Hunger Walk** will be held on **Sunday, February 26th**, gathering at 1:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801. You can enjoy a leisurely stroll around beautiful Lake Hollingsworth, view the colorful birds that live there, and go any distance you like on the 3-mile path. Please bring a canned or nonperishable food item to registration to be given to one of the downtown food pantries.

CROP Hunger Walks have significant impact for our neighbors near and far. Join us and learn from two **local** agencies and our disaster relief partners as they share the impact your Walk is having in the U.S. Sign up for the **one-hour Zoom webinar on Thursday, February 2nd at 2:00 pm**. To register go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5013584334929801045>. This will tell you why Lake Gibson UMC has participated in the Lakeland CROP Walk for many years.

If you would like to be the **church's organizer** for this event, please let the office know (863-858-5431 or email office@lakegibsonumc.com). If you cannot walk, but would like to help, please give to Lake Gibson UMC with an annotation "CROP Walk", and drop your donation off in the collection plate or at the church office. CROP Hunger Walk raises funds for Church World Service, one of the charitable organizations supported by the United Methodist Church. **(Images from previous crop walk event)**



CONGRATULATIONS
CROP WALKING TEAM

Claudia Moore, Beverly & Jay Ellis, Steve & Penny Polk, Barbara Ann Coil
SUCCESSFULLY RAISED \$708.00

United Women in Faith

Everyone is invited to our next circle meeting of the UWF which will be February 1, 2023, at 10:00AM in the FLC in rooms 1 & 2.

We will be studying Chapter 2, "Come Alongside Me", in our book Help Is Here by Max Lucado.

We are expecting a special guest and will have a special celebration after the meeting. So don't forget to read Chapter 2 and look over the questions on pages 163-166 so we can have a lively time studying the Holy Spirit.

LIBRARY INVENTORY

An inventory of the church's library will be conducted starting the last week of January. If you have materials out please either return the materials or contact Barb Allen-Coil with the material name, author, and date of publication so all items can be included. Barb can be contacted at 863-450-5488 or ballen-coil@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Raising Funds for our Hope House Ministry

On Sunday, 15 January, six LGUMC workers gathered on a cold morning to prepare a cook-out at the Lakeland Harley Davidson store. This was one of multiple opportunities given to LGUMC. We supplied the labor from 11:00 until 2:30, preparing hotdogs and hamburgers for patrons and employees of the dealership. Lakeland Harley Davidson supplied the gas grill, meat, buns, cheese, cold drinks and many condiments. We supplemented by adding sauerkraut, coleslaw, onions and chili.

Cold weather kept the less hardy customers at home. Thankfully, our donations of \$84.25 were certainly more than our expenses. With better weather, we should see a larger number of patrons and larger contributions for our Hope House Ministry during the next cook-outs (dates to be decided). A motorcycle purchase is not required. We would love to see you!



This article was inadvertently missed for the January newsletter. My apologies to Mike Stafford for the error.

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas. It truly is a most wonderful time of the year, to quote a Christmas carol. I hope that everyone had a chance to spend time with friends and family and to reaffirm that love that you have for one another, even if it is was just through a phone call or Christmas card.

The times we live in today make it more difficult to let those we love know how we feel. The hectic pace of life, the distractions of life, families separated by geography and even the chaos of finding and shipping all of those gifts. It is through those gifts that we share our love with those special people in our lives. We spend so much time trying to find that perfect gift that the recipient of that gift can enjoy and keep to themselves.

However, the most perfect gift that we as believers have received was a gift that we were intended to not to keep to ourselves, but to share with others. That of course is the gift of our Savior. God showed us how much we are loved, that He sent us His son. If we keep this most precious gift to ourselves, then it is like receiving a gift card that gets tossed into a drawer and never gets used.

As we enter into 2023, what resolutions are we going to make? Is it to lose weight, make more money or try to spend more time with our family? I would like to suggest that we resolve to spend more time getting to know our Savior and what was God's plan is for each one of us in this coming year. Each of us have been sent by God to be the perfect gift for someone that He will place in our paths. If we don't invest the time in getting to know Him, we will never be able to fully appreciate the gift He has given us so that we can share that gift with others.

I pray that each of you have a wonderful New Year and that this is the year that you become the gift to others that God intended when He sent us His son.



Prayer Ministry

Serving the Lord: Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer". Romans 12: 11-12 NKIV



Dear Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the opportunity to worship you in prayer.

As we walk with you, talk with you, and kneel at your throne in communication with you, for the needs of others. We give thanks that you rejoice in our joys and weep with us in sorrow, to be our healer and tend to our every need according to your will. Let us acknowledge how Great thou Art and it is you who gives us our spirit and directs us in your calling to pray, in love for one another.

Thank you, Father, for fulfilling our needs through eternity and making praying the center of our lives today. Amen

We've had around 40 requests for prayers the month of January and the prayer journal keeps the prayer warriors busy in prayer for long term care illnesses.

God's spirit within us is a gift beyond measure. Prayer Ministry-Fran

Study Group Resumes on Tuesdays, 10:30 AM

We hope you'll join our off-campus study group which has resumed at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Drive, Lakeland, 33809 from 10:30 am to about 12:30 pm. Glenda Hess is the study leader. We are using the book Heaven, So Near - So Far, the Story of Judas Iscariot by Colin S. Smith. Copies are available from Debbie at \$8.00.

This is a group made up of men and women who meet together for discussions of scripture, prayer, study of a focus book, fellowship and a pot-luck lunch. You don't have to be a member of Lake Gibson UMC to participate. If you would like to know more about us, please call Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193.

FLC is losing its pews!



You may have noticed that after a year we still had pews stored within the Family Life Center. Finally, after months of attempting to find a home for many our sanctuary's former pews, we have had success. **None of the current pews within the Sanctuary are affected.** A Korean American church has taken twelve pews to use in their chapel. Additionally, two other parties are picking up the remaining twelve to use in woodworking projects. This is certainly a better option than the suggestion for a large bonfire. The floor of the FLC will soon be fully available for church activities.

Red Kettle Update

Thank you again to all of you who rang the bell for the Salvation Army, or who fed the Red Kettle, at the Publix Super Market in Plantation Square this Christmas season.

Together all of the organizations who rang at this location raised \$3,688.55 out of the total of \$203,663.63 for 2022. It's amazing how God grew a trickle of a few coins and dollar bills, and sometimes more, into so much to serve the needy in Lakeland and west Polk County.

SPRING 2023

RUMMAGE SALE

SALE DATES:

Friday March 24th 9-3pm

Saturday March 25th 9-1pm

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

We are asking everyone to please

MAKE ARRANGMENTS FOR ALL DONATIONS TO BE DROPPED OFF.

Do not leave items in FLC or church office without contacting one of the numbers listed below.

Our facilities are being utilized by other groups who also have donations dropped off. Making prior arrangements is necessary to avoid anything getting misdirected.

PLEASE CALL

Lynn Meske 863-858-3589

Tom Burns 863-397-4254

Church office 863-858-5431

to make arrangements **BEFORE** donating.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Additional details will follow.

Inviting People to Church

Dick McPherson

Be intentional – Make a plan that “I’m going to do it.”

Pray for people by name that you are going to share with.

Take a walk and pray for those people as you pass the houses, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to those that need Him or that He will send them your way. Go in groups if that helps you..

Pray for people by name that you would like to see come to Jesus.

Be open to spontaneous opportunities, if you are being intentional, letting God know that you are available to share the Gospel you’ll be shocked at the opportunities that will come.

Get your Bible and go find what Jesus did during early morning hours while His disciples were still sleeping. I could give you the Book, Chapter and verse but it may benefit you to seek Him for yourself.

As you start on this journey please keep in mind and, also, be praying for our Church and the tremendous need to bring children and youth into our fellowship. Our future depends on it.

Questions? Comments? Need help with this? I’m available, 863-221-9653

MISSIONARY DOUG WILLIAMS VISITED

We were blessed to receive a visit from missionary Doug Williams on Thursday, January 26th. About 8 people came to hear Mr. Williams talk of his ministry in Argentina and his attempts to spread God's word to others. We will pray that he can continue with his good works.

Hallelujah, we were blessed to have the first children's time in church this morning (Jan 29th).

Thank you Rosita Stafford for your efforts and dressing up for the occasion. It was very uplifting to see and hear this in the church again and hope this is the beginning for a rejuvenation of youth in our church.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I schedule the use of meeting rooms and other facilities at the church?

A: Fill out request form at the church office and turn in to Kristie. Also, confirm with Tom Burns, Trustee Chair.

Q: How do I place events/activities on the church calendar?

A: Fill out request form at the church office and turn in to Kristie.

Q: Who do I contact to get things in the monthly newsletter?

A: Contact Barbara Allen-Coil at ballencoil@yahoo.com. The deadline for submission is the 25th of the month.

Q: Is there a way to get information out of the congregation electronically?

A: Fill out request form at the church office and turn in to Kristie. There is a program called "Servant Keeper" that allows for emails to be sent out to the entire congregation.

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/Worship 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, Stacie Sullivan and Bailey Taylor, Audio/Visual Team



Birthdays in January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
2/2	Lonnie Brady
2/3	Carol Troup
2/4	Lou Tindall
2/6	Sharon Moake
2/6	Brian Turner
2/11	Jimmie Gunther
2/11	Geri Mayo
2/15	Maria Thomas
2/16	Wayne Wesley
2/17	Bill Anderson
2/26	Larry Gitt



Anniversaries in January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
2/11	Henry & Ruth Zona
2/12	Jack & Laurel Vanderheyden