



# THE GOOD NEWS

## Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



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

### *From the Pastor's Heart*

I am writing this before the special called General Conference meets in St. Louis to let you know my thoughts. This Conference is centered on the LGBTQ issue and finding "A Way Forward" for the church. Yet there is more, it is also about the primacy of Scripture, the faithful interpretation and application of Scripture and the ways we deal with those who disregard the rules of conduct within our community of faith.

I have no idea how the Conference will go, nor where you may stand on a particular issue, but I want to assure you that no matter where that may be, I will be your pastor and will do my best to show you the love of God. I do not have to agree with you on every issue to minister to you.

There are many times in a pastor's ministry that they must deal with people and situations that go against the pastor's personal belief system. The important thing at that point is allowing God's presence into that situation or person, so that God's love is actively working. The church is here to faithfully and lovingly help people in their time of need. When someone messes up (sins) we don't write them off and exile them to a place of punishment, but we hold them to accountability in a loving way and seek to minister to the need that is there.

Think of the response you would want the church to have toward you or your children if there was a divorce, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the suicide of a spouse or if a child came out as gay. Even in the midst of anger, frustration, and despair you would want the love of God to be present for all the parties involved. There is the call of a pastor – to show God's love to all people – regardless of personal preferences.

There are also many times as a pastor you have to follow orders from above that you do not agree with. It may be you have to hold to a policy the local church has that you don't agree with; it may be a denominational policy or a directive from a DS. Regardless of what it is, you obey to the best of your ability. You place yourself under the authority of the superior as long as it does not cause you to disobey your interpretation of God's Word.

There is the other side of this debate. Many are being asked to change the way they interpret Scripture and to ignore what they perceive to be clear commands of God. Pastors often struggle as they try to discern God's will in these matters. In all cases as a pastor I try to minister out of the all-compassionate, agape love of God, yet do my best to remain faithful to my calling and interpretation of Scripture.

*Pastor Steve*

## Bishop Carter's Comments on Special Session, 2/26/19, 10:41 pm

Dear Florida Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some are grateful for the results of the Special Session. And others sought a different outcome. All of this will take some time to process. Human sexuality is a topic on which our people have differing views. As evidenced by the vote of the special session, we are a global church with very different contexts. We were not able to achieve contextual differentiation as envisioned by the Commission on a Way Forward. By a majority vote, we passed the Traditional Plan, with some parts ruled unconstitutional. It now goes to the Judicial Council for review at their next meeting but our existing *Discipline* language is maintained.

We are a global church. This is a great gift in that God blesses us with diversity and the gospel is lived and shared across cultures. This is a great challenge in that we have different understandings of the LGBTQ community and, indeed, the LGBTQ persons in our own churches.

By a majority, the U.S. church seems to favor the One Church Plan that would have more openly welcomed pastors from the LGBTQ community and allowed for same-sex marriage. And, an overwhelming majority of the Council of Bishops endorsed the One Church Plan.

I am a person of evangelical and orthodox faith and respect those who see this primarily as a matter of scriptural interpretation. I will continue to live my promises of consecration as a bishop by abiding by the *Book of Discipline* as a resource for oversight and supervision in support of the church's mission (BOD ¶403).

Some believe the arc of history is moving towards more acceptance of LGBTQ people, not less. Pew Research teaches us that younger generations in the U.S., especially under 45 and more so under 30, will not participate in a church that rejects the LGBTQ community. A letter from United Methodists under the age of 35 was shared at the Special Session, with over 15,500 signatories. A greater number of LGBTQ voices were heard on the floor of the Special Session than ever before. Many of these were younger voices.

I offer the following words to the LGBTQ community:

*Please know that you are of sacred worth. You are not the problem. You are not "out there." You are present in our churches. You bless us with your faith and your gifts strengthen the church. And my calling, for you and all people, is to remove the obstacles to your experience of the grace of God, and especially in the life of The United Methodist Church.*

I also offer these words to the evangelical community:

*Please know that your faith is a great gift to God and to your local churches. Too often, your stances have been misunderstood as driven by hatred, as opposed to being of deeply held faith. Your lives have been changed by the good news of Jesus, and you have a deep desire that others know this grace. Our denomination is blessed by you and needs your gifts in our calling to share God's love across the world. Our conference includes at every level of leadership evangelicals who are of the utmost integrity.*

We remain a denomination that is open to people of all nations, ethnic groups, ages, and sexual orientations. We hope to find better ways to embrace our diversity and be on mission together. Our POV process continues to be a resource available to you.

Despite our differences, we will continue to work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and to share God's love with all people.

The peace of the Lord,

Ken Carter  
Bishop, Florida Conference

## Upcoming Events

### Ash Wednesday is March 6th

The Worship Committee led by Glenda Hess and Pastor Steve have created a Lent booklet to give out on Ash Wednesday at the Drive-Thru ash imposition and at the service that night, and each Sunday in visitor bags and in the food pantry bags. There will be special emphasis on Holy Week events.

Ash Wednesday's drive-thru **imposition of ashes will be from 7:00 to 9:00 am. The worship service will be held at 7:00 pm.**

### Five-Day Academy, March 10th - 15th, 2019

The Spiritual Formation Team of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Upper Room welcomes you to browse our website featuring the Florida Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, <https://www.flumc.org/fivedayacademy>.

Our first Five-Day Academy was held in March 2001. This year's 19th academy will be **March 10 - 15, 2019 at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, Florida.** Mark your calendars now! The faculty for 2019 will be **Rev. Kathryn Damiano** and **Rev. Steve West.**

The theme will be **A Journey of Life and Love Together.**

This Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be focused on the scripture from Micah 6:8 (NASB),

“He has told you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the Lord require of you  
But to do justice, to love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with your God?”

As we reflect on our life journey in the present and going forward, we keep these words close to the heart as we live life together and love one another.

Community in the Academy setting offers sacred space to reflect on your own

journey and the Word, share in a safe and confidential place, walk with others who drink from a deep wellspring of life-giving water and grow in intimacy with the Lord.

### The academy for spiritual formation is...

- a time to fill the deep spiritual hunger that characterizes many lives;
- an opportunity for intentional spiritual growth in a disciplined, accepting community;
- a place where community silence enhances personal prayer and reflection;
- a time of spiritual renewal and discovery through academic presentation, personal reflections and communal sharing;
- a sharing of spiritual growth in covenant groups;
- a time for healing to continue.

### Wonder Walk is March 30th

Hard on the heels of CROP Hunger Walk comes a second chance to stroll around beautiful Lake Hollingsworth for a good cause even closer to the United Methodist heart: Cornerstone Family Ministries (CFM).

CFM is a National Mission Institution founded by the predecessor to United Methodist Women in 1892. It is one of 100 NMI's, two of which are in Florida. (The other is Wesley House Family Services in Key West).

Cornerstone was founded originally to take care of the young children of immigrant workers in Old West Tampa, Old East Tampa and Ybor City. CFM provides services through its Rosa Valdez Early Childhood Learning Center and through its **Children's Nutrition Connection which helps 177 child care centers in Polk, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Manatee Counties on the USDA Childcare Food Program.**

CFM continued on the next page

## Upcoming Events, Continued

### Wonder Walk is March 30th, Continued

The children supported by CFM live in extremely low-income families who frequently are unable, or do not know how, to provide nutritious meals.

The CFM Nutritionist and Technical Assistance Coaching staff teach parents how to better feed their children, as well as coach summer meal partners on how to improve the quality and ensure that nutritious food is provided to the children they serve.

**Wonder Walk East will be held at College Heights UMC on Saturday, March 30th, starting at 8:00 am** with a continental breakfast before the walk. If you cannot walk, there will be work for you to do, such as packing weekend meal kits for the students at local CFM partner child care centers.

Participants are also asked to pray for children enrolled at the Rosa Valdez Center. You will receive a cute tag with a child's picture and name on it to pray over.

Part of the activities will include a silent auction of **delightful and festive gift baskets** donated by area churches. They make nice presents or hostess gifts for Easter.

Last year our UMW circles donated 3 gift baskets and Sharon Coddington gave a cute hand-painted picture of 3 Easter bunnies. Our gift card basket brought in \$70, while the garden-themed basket earned \$60 and the gourmet Easter goodies and stuffed toys earned \$25 -- guess everyone was on a diet.

Be sure to bring money or your check book! We will also enjoy a picnic lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers after a short program.

Last year, Mike Booker, Ruth Zona, Bonnie Cochran and Phyllis Kitchens partici-

pated in Wonder Walk (with Mike and Ruth working indoors to help pack 175 weekend care packages). Wonder Walk is fun! And it's for a good cause. It would be nice if more Lake Gibson people participated in this year's event.

Lake Gibson's congregation donated **\$680 to CFM in 2018**. This second Wonder Walk East brought in \$3,123 (\$1,000 more than in 2017), not counting proceeds from the silent auction.

**We are requesting you make donations to LGUMC with a notation for Wonder Walk throughout March.** If you want to donate cash, please use the donation envelopes in the backs of the pews to indicate your wishes.

To read more about Wonder Walk 2018, go to the church web site and find the **April 2018 newsletter** that contains a detailed report and photographs.

### United Methodist Men (UMM) Present the Easter Egg Hunt, April 20th



Easter is fast approaching! The United Methodist Men are once again holding an **Easter Egg Hunt and luncheon (juice, hot dogs, and chips) on Saturday, April 20th, 2019.**

We will **need volunteers** to stuff the plastic eggs, hide them, monitor the children, cook the lunch, etc. If you can volunteer, **please call Michael Moake, 863-816-3194.** Also, please:

1. Consider inviting youngsters you know to join in the festivities.

2. Donate individually wrapped candies for filling our plastic Easter Eggs. Just remember that chocolate based candies are not a good choice as they melt in the sun. A collection box will be found in the narthex toward the end of March.

## February News

### UMW Unit Meeting on February 11th Highlighted *Hope Center*

At the UMW Unit meeting on February 11th, 23 members and guests were fortunate to have **Debbie and Rick McLellan speak to them about Hope House**. They had a slide presentation that showed views of the house and highlighted the services that the volunteers from several churches provide for the homeless in our community. The men and women are given a hot lunch, food to take with them for the weekend, and they can shower and wash clothes. Prayer and Bible study give them spiritual guidance, and they are encouraged to attend local churches. **Donations of canned food with pop tops, clothes (small sizes), shoes and small-sized toiletries are needed.** Debbie and Rick gave us a wonderful insight into this outreach that brings many blessings to the homeless community.



Following this informative presentation, outgoing president Pat Moon installed the new officers for 2019 - 2020.



They are: Carol Davis, president; Phyllis Kitchens, vice president; Linda Alvarez, secretary; Sarah Schiemann, treasurer. Circle leaders Ruth Zona, Debbie Moore and Pat Moon were recognized.



Debbie Moore was presented with a certificate for completing the UMW 2018 Reading Program.

The blessing was given by Ruth Zona, and a lunch of soup, salad and fixings was enjoyed by members and guests.

Written by Linda Alvarez, UMW Secretary and church Missions Coordinator

Photos by P. Kitchens from top left: Debbie McLellan, Rick McLellan, Pat Moon and Carol Davis



### A New Way of Promoting LGUMC

Have you seen one of these before?

This is a **Quick Response Code (QRC)**. It is designed to permit smartphone and tablet users to easily navigate the Internet. No more typing long Internet addresses. Merely download a QRC Reader once, and thereafter read the code rather than type an Internet address (a URL).

If you don't have a QRC Reader on your device, go either to the Apple Store icon or Google Play icon and download the reader for free. From here on out, you merely use the reader to scan the code and take you to the Internet.

We're thinking of using this in some type of advertising. Try this one out and let me know what you think!

Dwight Kitchens, 863-984-4564

ps Thanks to the unknown person who took down the QRC code on an FLC door recently and put it on the Pastor's desk. Guess they are not as well-known as we had thought.

## Marina's Corner

*"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."*

Oscar Wilde

**Building Usage Reservations:** Our calendar is filling up fast. If you need to reserve any building, please contact the church office. Fill out the proper paperwork with the dates, times and your contact information. Once the document is received it will be given to the Board of Trustees for approval. Please be advised that we do need at least 3 to 4 weeks' notice.

[Note: A copy of the **FLC reservation form is on the church web site** in .pdf electronic format. Use the free Adobe Acrobat DC Reader and you can fill the form out electronically, then either print the completed form for manual delivery, or email the completed form to [office@lakegibsonumc.com](mailto:office@lakegibsonumc.com). (You can also specify which other building or portion of a building that you are requesting to use.) Editor]

**Food Pantry:** In January we gave out **78 bags of groceries and 73 bags of Publix bread and baked goods**. We need donations of Hamburger Helper, spaghetti sauce, tuna, Vienna sausages, potted meat, etc.

Thank you for your continued support of our food pantry!

### Coming in April:

The **Rummage Sale** is scheduled for **April 12th and 13th**. Please start looking for those items that you no longer need. You can bring them into the office at any time, but please hold the larger items (furniture and appliances) until closer to the set-up dates of April 10th and 11th.

The office will be closed on Good Friday, April 19th.

Marina Hernandez, Administrative Secretary,  
863-858-5431

## Church Council Report

The Church Council met on 28 January to discuss a number of issues. One was that we are required to turn a Florida Conference **Child/Youth Protection Policy (C/YPP)** template into a customized version for LGUMC over the next two months. There are a number of new requirements in this version, as well as some clarifications which we have requested. Two new items in the C/YPP are:

1. We are to have photo permission (releases) from parents of children and youth, as well as from adults, to use their images in still or video media to promote Lake Gibson UMC. You will likely see Photo Permission forms showing up in future church bulletins. Please fill them out for yourself and your children and turn them in to the office or put them in the collection plate (note that you specify whether or not you agree to this use of your image).

2. We are to restrict access to certain types of Internet sites on our computers.

The first item is a work-in-progress, and the second has been accomplished.

Additionally, members of the Church Council participated in a **survey** to see how we might **implement our primary directive to introduce others to Jesus Christ**. All responses were ranked, and will be addressed over time.

Of interest is that **the highest ranked item is person-to-person contact**. How are we doing with this? Who have you invited to participate in either worship or a church function, like the Talent Show and Dinner on March 23? How have your expressed your love for Jesus Christ to others?

Over the past two years we've developed some **advertising materials**. Within the pews you'll find **ink pens** with LGUMC website address, phone number, and an invitation to "Come Join Us This Sunday". Good Church Council continued on the next page

## Church Council Report, Continued

for leaving with restaurant servers when paying your bill. Don't worry, we'll refill the pews if you take one each week. Or, just stop by the office to get a handful. We also have **"business" cards** available in the narthex. Take a dozen and hand them out when you make new acquaintances. Write a personal note in the blank space.

You may have seen that we have a new **online 'apparel store'** from which you can order embroidered items (shirts, hats, fleece items). Just go to the [www.LakeGibsonUMC.com](http://www.LakeGibsonUMC.com) site and find the store link towards the bottom of the page. Customized church apparel is often a good conversation starter.

In fact, we actually stock some one-size-fits-all **hats with the LGUMC logo embroidered on the crown**. While you can order them in multiple colors from the online store, we have already purchased blue, tan, and white hats.



They are available now at the church office. How about wearing one when you participate in **March 30th's Wonder Walk?**

Dwight Kitchens, Chair, Church Council

## Finance and Related Reports

### Financial Report

In the February Finance Committee meeting mention was made of accomplishments of the Church in the last 3 years. Those being installation of a new system for sound in the Sanctuary to the tune of some \$21,000; the investment in the new sign of \$30,000 and the recent roof replacement at just under \$27,000.

I can imagine as you read this you are

## Financial Report, Cont'd

about to let out a loud "Praise the Lord" or sing a few courses of Hallelujah, but hold the applause for just a moment, there's more.

During 2018 we fed 800 families, helped our local schools provide backpacks and supplies, assisted Kid's Pack to feed hungry children, donated to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, and supplied over 400 pairs of socks to those in need, just to list a few of the many charities we help support in our community.

OK now, let's take a few moments to thank the Lord and give God the praise for all he has done for us and our Church. We give thanks for you and the accomplishments of God's people that make up Lake Gibson UMC.

As you read this we are two months into 2019 and on our way to another exciting year in the work of the Lord. Please take the time to pray that we grow in the Lord and share his great love, mercy and peace throughout our community in a mighty way. May we be always seeking His will with the realization that we can accomplish all that is before us with His help.

If you will permit, just a little house cleaning before I close. Summer is quickly approaching and we need to now place some emphasis on raising the remaining funds needed to **replace some very old air conditioning units**.

The Committee asked that I encourage those who are still contributing to the roof replacement to continue those contributions, because we still need to get the soffits fixed, and in 15 years of so, the sanctuary roof will need replacement again.

And last, but not least, we have received the insurance bill for 2019 in the amount of \$17,914. We will be paying this

Financial Report continued on the next page

## Financial Report, Cont'd

in 3 payments over the next few months, and if you are able and willing, we could use some assistance in covering this expense.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I'll be happy to talk with you. So til next month think of this, if March "ain't the best we've ever had, it ought to be".

Dick McPherson, Chair, Finance Committee

## An Opportunity Forgone

For the past few years, we have been most fortunate. We have taken advantage of a 2% discount on our property and liability (P&L) insurance by paying in full by the end of February. This year we were unwilling to risk paying this bill in full due to the possible detriment of our ability to pay other bills, salaries, and obligations.

Why didn't we have funds on hand to make the full payment this year? Well, a number of reasons come to mind. First, last year hurricanes hit Florida rather hard. Just ask Mexico Beach and other communities who received significant damage. Their repairs and rebuilding cost insurance companies, and they pass on future risks through their rate payers.

In 2016, our P&L bill was \$17,993. In 2017, it rose to \$18,336, and in 2018 to \$18,836. This year it rose again, this time to **\$19,117**. In each case, ALBOH pays approximately \$1,500 in workers compensation insurance. So, over four years, our bill has increased approximately 6%. Inflation, by itself, was approximately 6.1% when considering 2016, 2017 and 2018. So, the Florida Conference appears to be merely keeping up with inflation.

This year, we are planning on paying 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the P&L bill each month, starting in February and completing it in April. Why didn't we have the funds on hand to do as we

## An Opportunity Forgone, Cont'd

have in past years? Well, some may say that we have contributed to designated items to the exclusion of our general operating funds. Possibly this is so. Consider that a church must continually operate for it to be able to receive designated funds. If we, as worshipers, make designated contributions to the detriment of our general fund offerings, we are doing ourselves a disservice. If we have not increased our undesignated offering by at least 6% over the past three years, we are now "behind the power curve".

I encourage all of us to relook at what we give to keep the doors open, as well as those "special – designated projects" which we want to see accomplished. The first should not be sacrificed to fund the second.

Dwight Kitchens

## Board of Trustees

The Trustees are getting someone to fix the soffit on the Sanctuary and getting information on air conditioning units.

Tom Burns, Chair

## 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. All members of LGUMC are encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts with the congregation. The purpose of this 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 to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Phyllis Kitchens, Editor



## Sunday School Classes 9:15 to 10:15 am

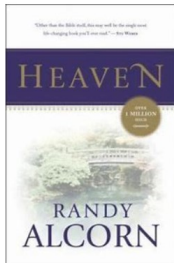


Many thanks to Pastor Rob Atchley for the 5-week combined Sunday School class he taught on the Wesleyan way to interpret scripture. The class was well received and everyone is hoping he and Sue will grace us with another class this year.

Our three Sunday School classes resumed meeting separately on February 24th:

The **Friendship** class, led by Mike Stafford, began a study of the Book of Hebrews. **Assignment for 3 March is to read all 13 chapters in Hebrews.**

The **Seekers** class, led by Sue Heishman, meets in the FLC classrooms and recently started a study using the book *Heaven, Biblical Answers to Common Questions* by Randy Alcorn.



The **Upstairs** class meets --where else? -- upstairs and is led by Michael Moake. They are continuing through the Standard Lesson Commentary, Volume 62 (2014 - 2015), KJV. Copies are available from the leader.

**People are welcome to join these classes at any time.** They meet from 9:15 to 10:15 am in the FLC. Come for fellowship, coffee and snacks before class.

## United Methodist Men (UMM)

We will meet on Saturday, March 9th, at 9:00 am to share a light breakfast, have a business meeting and work on a project to benefit the church.

Gentlemen, please join us to fellowship, pray and work to make LGUMC a better place. Call Michael Moake if you have questions (863-816-3194).

## United Methodist Women (UMW)

### UMW Leadership Team Meeting

The UMW LT met on Monday, February 25th. Present were president, Carol Davis; vice president, Phyllis Kitchens; secretary, Linda Alvarez and treasurer, Sarah Schiemann and Ruth Circle of Love leader, Pat Moon. Absent were circle leaders Ruth Zona (Heart to Heart) and Debbie Moore (Evening Circle).

Issues discussed included determining the date of UMW Sunday (usually in October) and making arrangements for a guest speaker. The next meeting will be **March 25th, at 11:00 am** in the FLC. The **April meeting will be at 10:00 am on April 22nd** due to scheduling conflicts.

### UMW Day of Giving

On Saturday, March 23rd, the United Methodist Women (UMW) celebrate their 150th anniversary. This organization sent the first Methodist missionaries, a woman doctor and a teacher, to India to minister to women and children in great need.



**The UMW requests that churches honor this milestone by donating to the Legacy Fund Endowment**, which was established to raise enough money to pay the operating and administrative expenses of the UMW for the future. This way annual donations could be spent on missions that improve the lives of women, children and youth.

To date the Legacy Fund has received about 40% of the endowment's goal.

**Won't you help by making a donation in March to Lake Gibson UMC with an annotation for UMW Legacy Fund?**

UMW continued on the next page

## United Methodist Women (UMW)

### UMW Circle News

Lake Gibson UMC currently has three circles, two which meet during the day and one that meets in the evening. Each group of women determines its own activities and what they will study. Meetings include prayers and devotions as well as a specific study.

If you want to deepen your friendship with the women in your church family, and learn more about the Bible, a circle is a great opportunity to do so. If you're not a member of UMW and want to learn more about the organization, why not visit each circle and decide if one of them would enhance your Christian journey? There is no obligation to come back or to join the UMW -- just check us out!

**NOTE: All circles are asked to collect children's underwear. Please bring them (sizes for ages 5 to 11 years) to your circle meetings.** The school nurse at Padgett Elementary School made this request of us. Missions Coordinator Linda Alvarez will make sure they get to the school.

**Heart to Heart Circle will meet on Monday, March 4th at 10:30 am** in the FLC. Phyllis Kitchens will present the program, *Happy Birthday, United Methodist Women!* from the 2018 - 2019 Program Book.

Each month in 2019 we are supporting a mission. For March our mission giving is to the Lake Gibson UMC Food Pantry. **Please bring items like packaged side dishes, Hamburger Helper, macaroni and cheese, canned spaghetti sauce, tuna, Vienna sausages, and potted meat.**

We are also making samples of small (40"x50") quilts using donated material that may be given to shut-ins and nursing home residents. Please bring in your finished quilt

## UMW Circle News, Cont'd

top to the March or April meeting. We'll decide whether to alter the design and how to assemble and quilt them.

Remember to bring your lunch and a beverage to eat after the meeting; dessert will be provided.

**Ruth Circle of Love will meet on Wednesday, March 6th at 11:00 am in the FLC.** We will be studying *Deborah* and *Naomi* in our book, *Women of the Bible*. After our study, we will go to *Apple-bee's* for a delightful lunch. All women are invited to join us. For more details please call Pat Moon, 863-858-6883.

LGUMC Members, we still have some **plain pecans**. They are **\$14.00** a package. Proceeds from this sale go to our missions. So hurry and get some for your Easter baking! If you have questions call Pat Moon.

The **Evening Circle will meet on Monday, March 11th at 6:30 pm** at Debbie Moore's home, **400 Vineyard Drive, Lakeland**. We will enjoy a fellowship meal before starting our program. We are using the book, *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus* by Lois Tverberg, and will be finishing Section I, **Hearing Our Rabbi's Words with New Ears**, with **chapter 3, Loving God with Everything You've Got**. If you'd like to check out this book, call Debbie and she'll arrange for you to borrow a copy.

This group is also responsible for preparing visitor bags for church. If you'd like to help welcome new people to Lake Gibson, **please bring some small inspirational or useful items** to put in the bags. Examples are pocket tissue packs, note pads, pencils, small calendars, etc. Let your imagination free! We also write thank-you notes to put in the bags which express our love and appreciation for those who have visited our church.

## Prayer Ministry



During Lenten season we seek to share, with Jesus, his journey on the way to the cross. One way we can participate is to be steadfast in prayer as Jesus showed us his dedication to prayer, especially during this time of his life.

Let us see the example Jesus set for us to be our guide in prayer, during Lenten season and the rest of the year. The best connection to Jesus is through our prayers and a gracious combination to follow Jesus and love another.

*Keep on praying no matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NLT)

Please take the Prayer Journal home with you and use it as your guide to prayer during the week for those in need. Please sign the "Connection Card" (Becoming a Prayer Warrior) in the Bulletin if you would care to join the Prayer Ministry team, and place it in the offering plate.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

Prayer Ministry

## Children's Ministry

The children continue to learn Bible verses for prizes. We are doing a science experiment each Sunday. Our **Vacation Bible School** is going to be "World Changers". Planning is in progress.

Debbie Moore, Children's Ministry Director

## Worship Committee

Who keeps our sanctuary ready for worship? Setting the altar, refilling pew supplies, removing left-behind bulletins and Love in Action tickets, and myriad other tasks?

They are the often unknown and un-thanked individuals who desire that your worship experience be reverent and personal.

Please, let them know that their behind-the-scenes actions are welcome and appreciated: Sue Shelton, Pat Moon, Debbie Moore, Carol Troup, Laurel Vanderheyden, Dave and Glenda Hess, Phyllis Michael and Jackie Webb.



## A Matter of Balance Classes with Lynn Meske

The UMW is sponsoring two sessions of the free class, A Matter of Balance. The first 8-week class that started in February is full. We are planning a **4-week class** to meet this fall on **Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm** in the FLC. **This class is limited to 12 and will start on October 21st.** Call Phyllis Kitchens to register (863-984-4564).

## Scouting News

### Blue and Gold Banquet

The annual Blue and Gold Banquet was held on February 23rd. Seven Cub Scouts received the Arrow of Light Award and moved up to Boy Scouts:

- ◇ **Jack Dainty**
- ◇ **Jack Fralel**
- ◇ **Brook Zinke**
- ◇ **Kalib Battle**
- ◇ **Noah Bellairs**
- ◇ **Tanner Minx**
- ◇ **Dylan Ltter**

Congratulations, guys! We're proud of you and thankful for what you have accomplished with the help of God, your families and the Cub Scout leaders.

The **District Pine Wood Derby** will be held in the **LGUMC FLC on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:00 am**. If you are interested in supporting our pack, please stop by and cheer for all the scouts.

## Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

Again we would like to thank everyone for supporting the Children's Home in 2018. Listed below are some of the things that you made possible and how you have impacted so many young lives. Not only have you helped to provide for the kids' daily needs of food, shelter and clothing, but you have also enhanced their lives:

\* Supported 297 children in the residential and shelter care programs at both the Enterprise campus and the Madison Youth Ranch.

\* Supported 592 foster children in the five counties where FUMCH provides those services.

## FUMCH, Cont'd

\* Helped to provide the Independent Living program for 75 young adults throughout the year.

\* The Legacy Scholars Academy graduated twelve students in 2018.

\* Completion of construction of The Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center on the Enterprise campus. It more than doubled the Montessori-based program, expanded the after-care and summer programs and also added a kindergarten.

\* The Madison Youth Ranch in north Florida opened the new Counseling and Support Services Center in the spring. Stained glass windows were added to its new Chapel.

**This year the gym at the Enterprise campus is undergoing much needed renovations!** The first phase is a new roof that will not only eliminate leaks, but the cost savings for cooling will be considerable.

At the February General Team Meeting **Marie Mazzula, Director of Recreation, was named Employee of the Month**. What makes Marie special is that she exemplifies servant leadership in her role as Director of Recreation, but she uses her love for recreation as well as the mission of the Children's Home to create an atmosphere of comradely love and team building with the children, staff and volunteers.

She also received another award; she was recognized for 40 years of service to the Children's Home.

Marie was originally a resident at the Children's Home. If asked she would say this was her life purpose to give back what the Children's Home gave her and to show the children that if she can do it, so can they.

Karen and Jeff Acor, FUMCH Reps



## Birthdays in March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
3/1	Bob Willome
3/2	Roy Lorent
3/2	Leon Rumohr
3/4	Anne Bernat
3/7	Dick Shepherd
3/8	Lilia Harbaugh
3/8	Lila Wilde
3/10	Ann Johnson
3/12	Betty Seabo
3/12	Sharon Shepherd
3/13	Frankie Hooks
3/13	Dwight Kitchens
3/17	Lainee Grimes
3/19	Audrey Jenks
3/19	Wanda Lamme
3/19	Wanda Stowe
3/20	Janey Heinkel
3/20	Debbie McPherson
3/21	Ann Phinney
3/24	Faye Hatchett
3/26	Danielle Cavas
3/31	Sue Bodemer



## Anniversaries in March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
3/1	Mollie and Justin Oliva
3/11	Beverly and Eric Hines
3/14	Lila and Anthony Wilde
3/23	Ann and Brad Fox
3/25	Shirley and Bob Addems
3/31	Jackie and Bill Webb

## Contact Information

**Pastor Steve Polk**, 863-858-5431; fax 863-853-1625; pastor@lakegibsonumc.com

**Marina Hernandez**, Admin Secretary, 863-858-5431, office@lakegibsonumc.com

*Office Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday*

**Sue Heishman**, Bookkeeper

**Debbie Moore**, Children's Director and Custodian

**Glenda Grant Hess**, Music Director

**Kristie Summers and Lainee Grimes**, A/V Support

**Latisha Cook**, Director, A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center, 863-858-8400, alboh@lakegibsonumc.com

# March Special Events

2019 MARCH

CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY  
FST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	01	02
					Scouts District Pinewood Derby Setup, 6 pm, FLC	Scouts District Pinewood Derby, 7 am, FLC
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
	UMW Heart to Heart Circle, 10:30 am, FLC; Trustees mtg, 2:00 pm, Office		<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Drive thru Ashes, 7 am; UMW Ruth Circle of Love, 11 am, FLC; Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm, Sanctuary			United Methodist Men mtg, breakfast and work projects, 9 am, FLC
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Daylight Savings Time begins;</b> HARVEST SUNDAY - Food Pantry Donations, Please	Staff, Pastor, Parish mtg, 2 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle, 6:30 pm, off campus			ALBOH Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC; Scouts Leadership mtg, 7 pm, FLC		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Finance Com mtg, 7 pm, FLC					UMW 150th Anniversary day of giving; LGUMC Talent Show and dinner, 5 pm, FLC
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	UMW Leadership Team mtg, 11 am, FLC; Worship Com mtg, 7 pm, Sanctuary					<b>Wonder Walk, College Heights UMC, 8 am</b>

## March Weekly Recurring Events

### Sunday

Traditional Worship Service	8:00 am	Sanctuary
Adult Sunday School	9:15 - 10:15 am	FLC
Children's Sunday School	9:15 - 10:15 am	FLC
Contemporary Worship Service (Nursery available both services)	10:30 am	Sanctuary
Kidtricity Children's Ministry	10:30 - 11:45 am	Sanctuary & FLC

### Monday

Intercessory Prayer Group	9:30 am	Off Campus
Boy Scout Troop 711	7:00 pm	FLC

### Tuesday

Olive Tree Gathering	10:00 am	Off Campus
Deadline for Sunday Bulletin	noon	Office
Revelation/John Bible Study	2:00 pm	Lakeside Hills
Praise Team Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Cub Scout Pack 711	7:00 pm	FLC

### Wednesday

ALBOH Chapel	9:00 am	Sanctuary
A Matter of Balance Class	1:00 - 3:00 pm	FLC
Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Bible Study with Pastor	7:00 pm	FLC

### Thursday

Food Pantry	9:30 - 11:30 am	Office
Bible Study with Pastor	10:00 am	FLC