



# 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,

As Easter approaches, we reflect on the new life of Jesus that wells up within our hearts and spirits in the wake of Jesus' resurrection! Through Jesus' sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, God overcame our bondage to the powers of death and sin, offering new life to all who have faith in Jesus. Jesus' true life is not simply about life after death – it's about a new way of living here on earth, a way of life empowered by God's Holy Spirit!

And just as Jesus brought new life to us through His resurrection, we can see the Spirit working in new ways to bring God's life to our church body and community. God dwells within us by means of the Spirit, and as we are seeing how those willing to embrace change and allow the Holy Spirit to work in new and exciting ways are refreshed with God's enlivening presence!

Paul speaks to this idea of new life in 2 Corinthians 5:17, where he says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Paul reminds us, God's children, that we are no longer bound by our old ways of thinking and living. Rather, we are given a fresh start and a new perspective to live into God's mission!

Our new life in Jesus Christ is characterized by a willingness to serve others, to love sacrificially, and to follow God's will above our own just as Jesus did. As we all have seen, embracing God's new life may require difficult changes. Yet, by embracing the new life that Christ offers, we can experience renewed purpose, passion, and energy in our church as we seek to follow God's will and make a difference in the world around us!

So, let's continue to chase God's mission and calling for our church right here within our community together, as we continue the legacy of those who have come before us by putting love into action here and now!

Peace and grace,

Pastor Anthony

## April Events As of 3/30/2023

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	Saturday	<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> , 10am-noon, FLC; Cantata Practice, 10am, S
2	Sunday	<b>Sunday School classes*</b> , 9:15 - 10:15 am, FLC; <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
3	Monday	<b>Trustees Meeting</b> , 2pm, O;
4	Tuesday	<b>Pastor's Bible Study*</b> , 1pm, FLC, ZVC
5	Wednesday	<b>A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel*</b> , 9:00 am, S; <b>UWF</b> , 10:00 am-noon, FLC; <b>Praise Band Practice</b> , 5:30pm, S; <b>Hope House Mobile*</b> , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC; <b>Choir Practice*</b> , 6:30 pm, S
6	Thursday	<b>Food Pantry</b> , 9:30 am-11:30 am, O; Seder Meal, 5pm, FLC
7	Friday	
8	Saturday	<b>Hope House*</b> , 9:30am –1:00pm, FLC; Cantata Practice, 10am, S
9	Sunday	<b>Harvest Sunday</b> (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry) <b>CANTATA</b> , 10:30am, S
10	Monday	<b>Finance Meeting</b> , 1pm, FLC
11	Tuesday	
12	Wednesday	<b>Merry Matters</b> craft group, 9:30, Bonnet Springs Park;
13	Thursday	<b>ALBOH Board Meeting</b> , 2pm, FLC
14	Friday	
15	Saturday	<b>SPPR Meeting</b> , 10:00 am; FLC
16	Sunday	
17	Monday	<b>Admin Council Meeting</b> , 10am, FLC
18	Tuesday	
19	Wednesday	<b>Praise Band Practice</b> , 5:30 pm; S
20	Thursday	
21	Friday	
22	Saturday	
23	Sunday	
24	Monday	
25	Tuesday	
26	Wednesday	<b>Merry Matters</b> craft group, 10:00 am-noon, FLC Classrooms;
27	Thursday	
28	Friday	
29	Wednesday	<b>Praise Band Practice</b> , 5:30pm, S
30	Thursday	

## Pennys from Heaven

On March 5th we began a program entitled “Pennys from Heaven”. The purpose of this program was to give us the means to give aid to those agencies needing just a little bit of extra help. Each Sunday the children collect coins from the congregation in small buckets. We encourage you to make some noise as you deposit your pocket change into the metal cans each week. The collection for the month of March is designated for the Homeless High School Seniors of Polk County. We are VERY excited to report that as this newsletter goes to print, we have collected \$266.54 with one more Sunday to collect in the month of March. This is an amazing and most generous amount. Our spare change, each week, is hardly missed by many but can make a world of difference to one these kids. Be generous, it is good for the soul.

Lynn Meske

Harriet Shapiro

Carol Troup

Sharon Coddington

## Food Pantry

Thanks for all your donations. The pantry could not run without your help. This month we need rice a roni, rice a chicken, etc in the box. We are out!

Thanks,  
Ann Johnson

## Can the “Easter Bunny” find your house?

Maybe the “Easter Bunny” needs access to the Lake Gibson United Methodist Church Directory. It reflects your name, address, phone, etc. It might just help to find you on the Google Maps before they drop eggs in your yard. Of course, it also works for other congregants. Check it out the next time you need a phone number.

Log in by going to : [https://servantkeeper.com/directory/Lake\\_Gibson\\_UMC](https://servantkeeper.com/directory/Lake_Gibson_UMC)

Password is: LGUMCFL

## Introducing Our New Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries: Justin Bennett!

Justin Bennett comes to us from Shepherd’s Community UMC in South Lakeland, where he has served for over two and a half years as the youth director. Justin has helped Shepherd’s grow their youth group from the ground up as an unpaid volunteer, working with the church to build and implement a vision for reaching out to the children and families in their community!

Everyone we spoke with about Justin’s work and ministry underlined his passion for sharing God’s love and Gospel with young people! His ministry among Shepherd’s has been marked by passion, determination, and commitment. After earning his Bachelors in Youth and Family Ministry from Johnson University Florida, Justin has committed his time and service to God’s Kingdom sacrificially.

We look forward to Justin joining us here as part of our family at Lake Gibson UMC – I ask that you pray for him and show him your love and support in helping him to reach the children, youth, and families of our community with the good news of Jesus’ love and life!

## Where are the children?

Good question! But, are we really ready to have children attend church? Our discipline requires that we care and nurture children and youth within our care. As you know, we are seeking a Youth/Children Director to join our congregation. This is a big deal if we are to grow our church. Unfortunately, it is not a one-person job. It takes a community to provide the atmosphere of love needed to guide an earlier generation. We are asked to contribute in many ways. One is to adhere to our Child Protection Policy. This requires annual renewal training and often background checks (at no expense to the individual). May I remind you that the annual renewal training may be obtained online by viewing a video. <https://lakegibsonumc.com/training-opportunities/safe-sanctuary-training-2020-child-protection-policy/> Our church's Child Protection Policy, Safe Sanctuary Covenant, Background Request and Reference forms are all found on this page. Additionally, an online quiz helps you to learn the salient points about our policy. For renewal training, scoring well on the quiz itself certifies that you are aware of what should be done. Please, take a little time now to renew your familiarity with this policy. We need more ready and willing to interface with younger visitors to our church. Knowing how we should care for the youth and children within our congregation will help our congregation grow

## Women In Faith

Attention Ladies! Our next Circle Meeting is April 5, 2023 at 10:00AM in Rooms 1 & 2 in the FLC. We are privileged to have a speaker, Vickie Griffis.

Vickie is from the Polk County Schools. She is a Budgetary Accountant for the Exceptional Student Education Department and works with the homeless graduating seniors project. We are so excited to have her come and explain the program and answer any questions we might have about this mission that we support for the homeless youth of Polk County. Please come and show her our love of supporting this mission comes from our hearts.

## The Spring Rummage sale of 2023 has come and gone.

When the doors were opened at 9:00am on Friday morning March 24th, we expected to see a few people lined up waiting to come into the FLC. What we didn't expect is that line to extend beyond the church. We tried counting the people as they came in but I believe we lost track around 200. Even though we found ourselves backed up a bit at checkout occasionally, everyone was patient and very friendly. We received SO MANY compliments on how clean and well organized everything was, how some people can't wait for our next sale because we have really "nice stuff" and very "reasonable prices". The Women of Faith have established a positive reputation with the regards to hosting a good sale. The sale was over on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The Salvation Army truck was loaded, tables and chairs put where they belonged and the FLC was lightly cleaned by 3:30.

The net proceeds were \$6,425.25.

Michaels Family Catering again filled the air with the delicious smell of grilled food, putting everyone in a hungry but generous mood.

The United Women of Faith thank each and every person who helped, either by contributing their treasures or working the sale. It was the best one yet. Thank you, all.



# RUMMAGE SALE SPRING 2023





“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him Endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”. Hebrews 12:2 NKJV



As we prepare for the events that take place prior to Jesus’s ascension into heaven we are reminded of the joy that will follow. Christ will rise, the tomb will be empty, Jesus will have finished his work here on earth and will be in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. Jesus’s life was planned out long before he was leaving Calvary, just as our life is also planned out by God.

We give thanks for Jesus’s sacrifice to give us victory in all trails and sadness and to know one day the doors of heaven will open for us that we shall know such glory. You, Christ, are continually worshipped in heaven and on earth, for you live and reign with the Father of the Holy Spirit now and forever. May we cling to Jesus to have eternal life and give thanks for his love for us. Amen

Blessings at Easter

Prayer Ministry -Fran

**CROP WALK TOTALS**

Final tally of this year's CROP Hunger Walk: \$9,477.05

Lakeland CROP Hunger Walk (39th CROP Walk)

February 26, 2023 At Lake Hollingsworth

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Funds</u>
Beacon Hill Fellowship	700.00
Bethany Christian Church	1,382.00
Chapel in the Grove	200.00
College Heights UMC	150.00
First Presbyterian Church	1,274.00
Florida Presbyterian Homes	115.00
Grace Lutheran Church	815.00
Hunger Fighters of ATL	500.00
Lake Gibson UMC	429.50
Lighthouse Ministries	535.00
Mulberry UMC	200.00
Presbyterian Church in the Highlands	3,176.55
<u>Total</u>	<u>9,477.05</u>

## Financial:

If you look closely, you will note that our current budget forecast has increased. This is primarily due to small changes in the manner in which we have computed payroll. Additionally, we now have increased our employees since September with an Assistant Worship Leader, an Audio Technician, and a Sound Booth Assistant. We have yet to hire a youth director which will increase our expenses once again. I anticipate that this will be decided within the next month. While January has consistently looked good, it is partially due to our receiving one member's entire year's tithes in January. This significantly skews the data. Additionally, the church attempted to acquire a second used van for ALBOH. While ALBOH was paying for the van, it would be owned and insured by the church. This required that \$10,000 of ALBOH's reserves be transferred to LGUMCH in January. Unfortunately, the conference informed us that they would not insure this 15 passenger van. In February we returned the \$10,000 to ALBOH. So, January was overstated by \$10,000 and February was reduced by \$10,000.

### Current Budget

**\$313,092**

Month	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2023
January	\$19,250	\$41,469	\$45,644	\$106,363	\$35,454	\$35,454	\$45,864
February	\$26,344	\$26,633	\$26,373	\$79,350	\$26,450	\$61,904	\$11,416
March	\$31,430	\$23,181	\$43,835	\$98,446	\$32,815	\$94,720	
April	\$48,131	\$24,073	\$23,275	\$95,479	\$31,826	\$126,546	
May	\$25,816	\$26,093	\$18,433	\$70,342	\$23,447	\$149,993	
June	\$25,894	\$15,866	\$18,293	\$60,053	\$20,018	\$170,011	
July	\$20,865	\$23,104	\$22,512	\$66,481	\$22,160	\$192,171	
August	\$22,494	\$20,877	\$19,894	\$63,265	\$21,088	\$213,260	
September	\$25,185	\$21,208	\$16,749	\$63,142	\$21,047	\$234,307	
October	\$20,998	\$20,238	\$19,161	\$60,397	\$20,132	\$254,439	
November	\$25,284	\$18,325	\$15,192	\$58,801	\$19,600	\$274,040	
December	\$26,088	\$25,183	\$22,293	\$73,564	\$24,521	\$298,561	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$317,779</b>	<b>\$286,250</b>	<b>\$291,654</b>	<b>\$895,683</b>	<b>\$298,561</b>	<b>\$298,561</b>	<b>\$57,280</b>

If we adjust for these issues, we are receiving less now than we did in FY 2020 while our expenses are higher. Our anticipated shortfall is approximately \$43,000 for FY 2023.

We often have individuals contributing to restricted accounts (which we don't spend on other items without their permission). These are often items which make us "feel good" as they are items in which we have a particular interest. Examples would include the food pantry, Jerusalem Fund, Insurance Deductible Reserve, Air Conditioner Reserve, Hope House, Sound Booth Renovation, Roof Reserve, Parking Lot Paving, etc.

### Current Year

**2023**

### Current Budget

**\$313,092**

Month	% Needed Monthly	\$ Needed Monthly	Received Monthly	% Needed Cumulative	\$ Needed Cumulative	Received Cumulative	Status Ahead or (Behind)	% Ahead or (Behind)
January	11.88%	\$37,180	\$45,864	11.88%	\$37,180	\$45,864	\$8,684	23.36%
February	8.85%	\$27,737	\$11,416	20.73%	\$64,917	\$57,280	(\$7,637)	-11.76%
March	10.99%	\$34,412	\$0	31.73%	\$99,330	\$57,280	(\$42,050)	
April	10.66%	\$33,375	\$0	42.38%	\$132,705	\$57,280	(\$75,425)	
May	7.85%	\$24,589	\$0	50.24%	\$157,294	\$57,280	(\$100,014)	
June	6.70%	\$20,992	\$0	56.94%	\$178,285	\$57,280	(\$121,005)	
July	7.42%	\$23,239	\$0	64.37%	\$201,524	\$57,280	(\$144,244)	
August	7.06%	\$22,115	\$0	71.43%	\$223,639	\$57,280	(\$166,359)	
September	7.05%	\$22,072	\$0	78.48%	\$245,711	\$57,280	(\$188,431)	
October	6.74%	\$21,112	\$0	85.22%	\$266,823	\$57,280	(\$209,543)	
November	6.56%	\$20,554	\$0	91.79%	\$287,377	\$57,280	(\$230,097)	
December	8.21%	\$25,715	\$0	100.00%	\$313,092	\$57,280	(\$255,812)	

(Financial cont)

What I would like to propose is that we should give to our general budget first and to designate accounts second. Better yet, we should consider whether we can afford to tithe to the church's general budget. If we each did this, I believe there would be sufficient funds to operate the church's primary mission. After this, it is time to prioritize our designated needs and raise funds. The Conference has often thought that every church should get rid of their designated accounts as they are not easily fungible (changeable based on new situations). If we had excess funds within our General Budget it would be easy to move funds around to meet new requirements. But, we need to insure that we can meet our budget before we continue to put funds toward designated purposes. Only by your support can we actually meet our budget obligations.

### **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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**Kristie Otte, Dave McPherson, Bob Siegel, Stacie Sullivan and Bailey Taylor**, Audio/Visual Team





## Birthdays in April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
4/1	Cindy Heishman
4/5	Bruce Dollens
4/8	Stanley Retter
4/9	Richard Kneeland
4/10	Bonnie Fuqua
4/15	Kyle Fox
4/16	Sarah Schiemann
4/19	David Hess
4/25	Judy Sadwick



## Anniversaries in April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
4/29	Leon & Kathy Rumohr