



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,

I truly cannot express the depths of my thanks and gratitude for the love and support you all have poured into Emile and me! I say together with the apostle Paul that, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:3-6)! I have been given life and energy by y'all's love for the Kingdom and push to love our community in sharing the Gospel! We have done some amazing work together with and for Jesus, and I am excited to see where the Spirit leads you all in expanding and making real God's Kingdom right here!

Yet, let me be clear: the good and beautiful Gospel work that we have accomplished together has been the Spirit at work, not me. It's all been our willingness, all together as a church family, to follow the Spirit's leading and prompting! So, I can say with full assurance that, as I leave, God will continue to work through you all in powerful and exciting ways. Rev. Rob is a dedicated and loving pastor, who I know will step alongside you in ministry and care for this community. And I have faith that whoever God brings to Lake Gibson after Rev. Rob will be blessed with a fruitful ministry, as long as your hopes remain open and attentive to the Spirit's leading!

Paul, in fact, makes it clear that it's not who the pastor is that matters as much as a faithfulness and willingness among the church body: "What is Apollos, really? Or what is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, and each of us in the ministry the Lord gave us. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused it to grow. So neither the one who plants counts for anything, nor the one who waters, but God who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters are united, but each will receive his reward according to his work. We are coworkers belonging to God. You are God's field, God's building" (1 Cor 3:5-9).

God will work in and through us when we open our hearts and eyes to his calling and vision! We've done good and faithful work together, friends, but there is still so much to be done. Keep the faith, and finish the race together!

In love,

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	Monday	Trustees Meeting , 2pm, O;
2	Tuesday	Pastor's Bible Study* , 1pm, FLC, ZVC
3	Wednesday	A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel* , 9:00 am, S; UWF , 10:00 am-noon, FLC; Praise Band Practice , 5:30pm, S; Hope House Mobile* , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC; Choir Practice* , 6:30 pm, S
4	Thursday	National Day of Prayer; Food Pantry , 9:30 am-11:30 am,
5	Friday	
6	Saturday	Hope House* , 9:30am –1:00pm, FLC;
7	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
8	Monday	Finance Committee
9	Tuesday	
10	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am-noon, FLC Classrooms;
11	Thursday	ALBOH Board Meeting , 2pm, FLC
12	Friday	
13	Saturday	SPPR Meeting 10am, FLC; Emmaus Group , 3pm-8pm, FLC
14	Sunday	Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)
15	Monday	Admin Council Meeting 1pm
16	Tuesday	
17	Wednesday	
18	Thursday	ALBOH Employee Continuing Education, 6pm-9pm, FLC 1&2
19	Friday	
20	Saturday	Merry Matters craft group, 9:30, Bonnet Springs Park;
21	Sunday	ALBOH Board Meeting, 2pm, FLC
22	Monday	
23	Tuesday	ALBOH PreK Graduation, 3pm, S
24	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am-noon, FLC Classrooms;
25	Thursday	
26	Friday	
27	Saturday	Praise Band Practice, 5:30 pm; S
28	Sunday	
29	Monday	
30	Tuesday	
31	Wednesday	

This is a 1000 gram iron bar. It's raw value is around \$100.

If you decide to make horseshoes, its value would increase to \$250.

If, instead, you decided to make sewing needles, the value would increase to about \$70,000.

If you decided to produce watch springs and gears, the value would increase to about \$6 Million.

However still, if you decided to manufacture precision laser components out of it like ones used in lithography, it'll be worth \$15 Million.

Your value is not just what you are made of - but above all -in what ways you can make the best of who you are.

- Dr. Serhan III



Funeral Hospitality Program

Susan Ritchie will be taking over for Maria Thomas as the new Funeral/ Hospitality program director. Please contact her as the need arises. Also, she is looking for some volunteers to assist when these functions come up.

Hello LGUMC!

My name is Justin Bennett, and I was recently hired to be your new youth and children director. Firstly, thank you so much for welcoming so warmly into your church family! Since I arrived I have experienced nothing but warmth, kindness, and excitement to have me here. I am humbled and thrilled to have been welcomed with such open arms! This is actually not the first time I have had the blessing and challenge of re-starting a youth group.

Last year, I started up Reborn youth ministry at Shepherd's Community United Methodist Church, where I had served off and on since 2016. God blessed that church and group with a wonderful and energetic pastor, and we were fortunate to see our numbers nearly triple in a year. I am hopeful that we can see similar results here, as there is nothing but potential and room to grow for both the youth and the church as a whole at such a wonderful and beautiful place! I am extremely excited to see what God has in store for the new youth group we are working so hard to restart.

In the week and a half since I got started, we have an official starting date for the new youth group! Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Life Center classrooms. We also have our first outing planned! We will be going to go see "Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 3" at the Cinemark in the Lakeland Square Mall on Saturday, May 13. We will be catching the 12 o'clock showtime that day. We have many more events and ministries planned out, and are hopeful many will be able to come to fruition. We have a fun and exciting new name, logo, and branding planned for the group, so stay tuned for that! Again, I thank you all for the warmest welcome I could have ever hoped for. I cannot wait to see what fruit the Spirit will bear from this group we are forming.



HELP WANTED!

We are in need of volunteers to cover for Don and Cathy D'Amato on the first and third Saturday of the month. This would be for July and August. They pick up bread and desserts from Publix for the food pantry.

CHIME Chat

Perhaps you have heard Handbell Choirs in the past. We are BLESSED to have at our church a two octave set of "Hand Chimes." Unlike Handbells, they are lighter, & require no handbell gloves to ring, and are SO light to the hand/wrist/body, that you can easily sit in a chair while ringing them!

I used to teach Chimes to various NYC Nursing homes. They could literally be in their wheelchairs and delightfully engage in chime ringing! As soon as you hear these, ALL AGE GROUPS will want to Praise God with their music!

By the way, you do NOT have to read music to be part of this prayerful & exciting experience!

Please contact the church office or call me directly at: 914-318-7713.

I would LOVE to hear from you!

Robbin "Bobbie" Clarke

On April 18th, I was privileged to attend the celebration luncheon in Bartow given in honor of the 135 homeless graduating seniors in Polk County. The students received gift cards, duffle bags full of basic needs items and a laptop computer. In years past, Cindy Webb spearheaded an effort to provide bags of food or Walmart Gift cards to the graduating seniors who were losing their school meals program. Many of you and the United Woman in Faith generously supported this project. This year, in honor of Cindy, our participation as the United Woman in Faith and individual church members provided over half of the 135 \$20 gift cards purchased for the students. The gift cards were put together with candy in gift bags filled by several ladies in our church. A great big thank you to those who helped fill the bags.

Also with our generous donation of funds for a scholarship in memory of Cindy, a third student was given a scholarship this year. The young man plans to attend Polk State College. Thank you everyone for your generous love and support for these young people who overcame great obstacles to not only attend school but to graduate! Some will attend college as well. Please pray for their success and as they venture out into the world. We pray that along their way, they are surrounded by those who can also teach them to trust in God and walk with Him.

Many blessings and thanks.

Beverly Henrich

(Pictured below are Vickie Griffis and Melissa Porrtin from Polk County Schools, a few of the LGUMC gift bags and the luncheon set up for the students.)



Please pardon our dust!

There are lots of things going on here at Lake Gibson! We are hard at work trying to find activities that will attract new members and young families to our church. We want them to find a place they can call home and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Well, just like when you have company come to your house for a visit, you need to tidy up a bit. We have received approval to finally pave our driveway and parking lot in front of the Sanctuary and FLC. We can finally get rid of all that dust and muddy puddles.

We are also making some changes to the use of our facilities. We have hired a Director of Children/Youth Ministries, Justin Bennett. With that exciting new hire, we need to provide him with a place to live. So, we are converting the Church office back into a Parsonage. This Parsonage will also continue to be used for our very important Food Pantry. We will be moving the Church Office into the overflow areas of the Sanctuary. One very exciting aspect of this move will be that everyone will now have access to the Sanctuary throughout the week during regular office hours for prayer, meditation, etc.

There have been a couple of concerns that have been expressed to me regarding moving the office into the Sanctuary that I would like to address. First, if we take the seating in the overflow areas for office use, where will people sit? Well rest assured we have considered that. The overflow areas being converted into office space currently provides seating for 45 people. We can add two more rows of chairs in the front of the Sanctuary that will make up those 45 seats. So, you better get to church early if you don't want to sit up front. Also, if we are so blessed that we run out of seats, we can go to two services. I know many of you miss an early service.

The second concern that has been expressed to me regarding these improvements is, "How are we paying for this?" Well, all of these improvements are being paid for utilizing donations made by individuals specifically for these purposes. Therefore, we are not compromising our General Budget funds for any of these improvements.

Along with these changes to our facilities, the Body of Christ has been incredibly busy with activities. Those of you that currently participate in the many different ministries and committees know exactly what I am talking about. The Trustees, Finance, Staff-Parrish, Church Council, Visitations, Prayer Warriors, UWF, Food Pantry, Hope House, Outreach Ministries, Nurturing Ministries, Worship/Welfare Ministries, Music, Missions and so many more. We are blessed with hard working volunteers that love the Lord and live to serve Him. If you are not aware of this bee hive of activity going on in your church, then you need to ask someone how you too can get involved.





Prayer Ministry May 2023

“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. Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, godliness, and dignity. This is good and pleases God, our savior.” I Timothy 2: 1-3 NLT



Thursday, May 4th is National Day of Prayer. It was created as an effort to ask all American citizens to turn to God in prayer and meditation. We can support each other in Christian love and faith by our prayers and for those around the world. Just as God created the whole universe in harmony, our prayers can help us keep undivided, and connect us with peace around the world.

We give thanks for the freedom to be able to pray; anytime and anywhere. Jesus is always within listening distance: seek Him with all your heart and you will find Him.

Thanks be to God. Amen Prayer Ministry-Fran

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Pantry needs rice a roni varieties, dry pasta noodles, canned beans, jelly and soup. The beans and soup I get at Aldi. Thank you for all your donations.

NURTURE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Nurture committee needs volunteers for visiting members in the hospital and shut ins (home bound, sick at home, nursing homes, assisted living). We need to step up as a Church and visit those needing caring attention. It only takes once a month or once a week if you wish to visit more often. Please volunteer to help. Call Ann Johnson 863-450-2765

Women In Faith

You are cordially invited to our next circle meeting on Wednesday, May 3,2023, at 10:00AM in the FLC. We will have a guest speaker, Kathy Ammon from Guardian Ad Litem. Kathy will explain our role in sponsoring this worthwhile mission and will answer any questions that we might have about it. If time allows we will discuss Chapter 5, A Sure Salvation in our study book, Help Is Here by Max Lucado. So don't miss this informative meeting and come and enjoy lunch with us afterward.

BONNET SPRINGS PARK OUTING

Bonnet Springs Park was well worth the visit on April 12th. While many were not able to attend, those that did had a great time. The rain had stopped, nice breeze blowing, and lots of interesting sections to see. We were surprised by the number of play areas and even adult exercise areas. Lots of interactive centers like the Nature Center, the History Center (2nd floor of the Welcome Center) had an overhead train running the rails, and The Children's museum. The tram made getting around easy and the people friendly.

Luke 14:23 NIV (Red Letters) Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. Here we find one of the last verses of The Parable of the Great Banquet which starts with the 15th verse of Chapter 14 in Luke and time to read it would be a good investment of your time.

The House of God at Lake Gibson Methodist Church is far from full. What higher priority do we have that holds us back? Next Tuesday, May 2, we are expecting young adults and middle school kids to be in the gym for volleyball and out back playing soccer. A night of Wings, Word, and sports activities. Please be in prayer that God can use these efforts to bring families into our family life.

Financial:

Financial Information thru January 2023

Last year our budget was set at \$295,275. This year we start with an increase of \$8,848. This change is before we finalize the hiring of a full-time youth director. Additionally, the Church Council will likely look into other one-time expenses which we may need to incur during FY2023. Some will likely be required should Lake Gibson United Methodist Church pursue disaffiliation from the denomination. Additionally, there are other actions under discussion which were not envisioned in October 2022 when the budget was initially drafted. Should these additional actions be approved, they will likely be prioritized by the Church Council for implementation.

When looking at the months of January in 2021, 2022 and 2023, it appears that we start the year off well. Later months take a significant drop in contributions. This is partially due to receiving at least one yearly tithe during the first month of the year.

Current Budget

\$304,123

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	
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	
Total	\$317,779	\$286,250	\$291,654	\$895,683	\$298,561	\$298,561	\$45,864

Current Year

2023

Current Budget

\$304,123

Month	% Needed Monthly	\$ Needed Monthly	Received Monthly	% Needed Cumulative	\$ Needed Cumulative	Received Cumulative	Status Ahead or (Behind)	% Ahead or (Behind)
January	11.88%	\$36,115	\$45,864	11.88%	\$36,115	\$45,864	\$9,749	26.99%
February	8.86%	\$26,943	\$0	20.73%	\$63,058	\$45,864	(\$17,194)	
March	10.99%	\$33,427	\$0	31.73%	\$96,484	\$45,864	(\$50,620)	
April	10.66%	\$32,419	\$0	42.39%	\$128,903	\$45,864	(\$83,039)	
May	7.85%	\$23,884	\$0	50.24%	\$152,788	\$45,864	(\$106,924)	
June	6.70%	\$20,391	\$0	56.94%	\$173,178	\$45,864	(\$127,314)	
July	7.42%	\$22,573	\$0	64.37%	\$195,751	\$45,864	(\$149,887)	
August	7.06%	\$21,481	\$0	71.43%	\$217,233	\$45,864	(\$171,369)	
September	7.05%	\$21,439	\$0	78.48%	\$238,672	\$45,864	(\$192,808)	
October	6.74%	\$20,507	\$0	85.22%	\$259,179	\$45,864	(\$213,315)	
November	6.56%	\$19,965	\$0	91.79%	\$279,145	\$45,864	(\$233,281)	
December	8.21%	\$24,978	\$0	100.00%	\$304,123	\$45,864	(\$258,259)	

Totals \$304,123

(Continued on next page)

(Financial cont.)

LGUMC has a number of reserved funds which are not found within our yearly operational budget. Contributions have been made to these “designated accounts” for a specific purpose. We also have reserved funds which came from our former endowment accounts. Examples are that we have \$17,096 in our Youth Operation Account from 2017 and \$65,558 from our former Youth/Child endowment. Once these funds are expended, our budget would need to be increased to continue these programs.

I encourage you to look now at how you support the continued operation of our church. If you do not tithe, consider that the church, like individuals, incurs increasing costs to keep our doors open. This past year, many of us received an eight point seven percent increase in Social Security payments. Hopefully, you found it in your heart to share this in helping to continue the mission of our church.

Dwight Kitchens

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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Birthdays in April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
5/1	Fay Herrick
5/04	Debbie McLellan
5/07	Etmonia Davis
5/10	Linda Imel
5/12	Barbara Gitt
5/14	Dorothy Burns
5/14	Bob Herrick
5/15	Michelle McCaslin
5/24	Brayden Gullede
5/28	Merry Greenwood
5/30	Jay Ellis



Anniversaries in April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
5/2	Dick & Sharon Shepherd
5/4	Dan & Ann Johnson
5/5	Dick & Wanda Lammey