



THE GOOD NEWS
Lake Gibson United Methodist Church
*To be a joyful church family that is crucial to our
community*



Mark Your Calendar

September 17, 2023

Worship followed by Our

Church Conference

You Must Be Present In Person for

Your Vote to Count

Plan Now To Attend

Our congregation has not changed.

The United Methodist Church is changing.

The United Methodist denomination has left us!

Don't Straddle the Fence

Over the past two years, there have been discussions regarding disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. The reasons are numerous, whether it be changes seen in the denomination, disregard of policy specified within the Book of Discipline, questioning the Bible as our ultimate guide, and the UMC Trust Clause which prevents us from owning the property for which we have paid. Three unofficial votes have been taken by interested congregants over the past two years. In each case, over 67% of those attending had expressed interest in leaving the denomination. It is now time to officially determine whether Lake Gibson United Methodist Church (LGUMC) remains within the denomination or separates.

On 17 September 2023, immediately after our worship service, our District Superintendent will host a Church Conference within our sanctuary. Professing members of LGUMC will be permitted to vote on this issue. Voting YES means that you desire to disaffiliate. Voting NO means that you desire our congregation to remain affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Abstaining implies that you do not know enough to make an informed decision. You still have time to discuss this with other members in order to feel comfortable with either a YES or NO decision. Only those current members who are physically in attendance will have a say in our future. Should 67% or more of those members in attendance vote for disaffiliation, we will be permitted to continue the process and be proposed for disaffiliation at the 2 December 2023 Special Virtual Session of the Florida Annual Conference.

With which denomination we might align ourselves will be discussed at some future date, should sufficient votes be counted for disaffiliation. Otherwise, LGUMC will remain within the United Methodist family. As a church member, your desires need to be expressed. This will be done through your vote on this significant issue. Again, a member must be present for their vote to count. If you are a snowbird, you should plan on coming back if you wish to vote your conscience. Your vote will make the difference one way or the other. Afterwards, regardless of the decision, there is no reason to lament as your brothers and sisters in Christ have expressed their sincere beliefs through their votes. If you require transportation to attend in person, please contact the church office to make arrangements.

Dwight Kitchens

While the below chart may be helpful information regarding various options for a future affiliation, no denominational decision will be made on the 17th of September.

- If the Church Conference vote reaches the required percentage and
- The Special Virtual Session of the Florida Annual Conference approves
- We will then be able to make a decision on affiliation after 31 December 2023.

WESLEYAN/METHODIST DENOMINATIONAL COMPARISON

Denomination	Doctrine	Trust Clause	Bishops	Clergy Appt.	Apportionments	Size	History
United Methodist	Wesleyan, lack of accountability	Yes, local church holds property for conference	Elected for life	Yearly appointed by bishop/DS, some congregational input	7-15 percent of budget (varies by annual conference)	13 million members globally, 6.2 million in U.S., 30,000 churches (2020)	Founded 1968, merger of predecessor denominations founded in 1784, 1800, and 1803
Global Methodist	Wesleyan, adds Nicene and Apostles Creed, More robust accountability	No	Elected for a term (TBD at Convening GC) Likely 12-year limit	Appointed by bishop/DS, more congregational input, possible congregational search	2 percent of operating income, with a 6.5 percent cap	Projected 2,400 to 4,000 churches, 240,000 to 400,000 members in U.S. (2024)	Founded 2022
Free Methodist	Wesleyan	Yes, local church holds property for conference; property transferring in is exempt	Elected to 4-year terms, re-electable	Appointed by Ministerial Appointments Committee chaired by bishop	10-13 percent of previous year's income	77,000 members in U.S., 1,050 churches (2015)	Founded 1860, issues were abolishing slavery and eliminating pew rent
Wesleyan	Wesleyan	Yes, local church holds property for conference	One General Superintendent, 4-year term, re-electable	Congregational call system	11 percent of income	125,000 members, 1,500 churches in U.S. (2019)	Founded 1843, issue was abolishing slavery
Nazarene	Wesleyan	Yes, local church holds property for conference	Six General Superintendents, 4-year terms, re-electable	Congregational call system	15 percent of income, includes pastor's retirement	637,000 members, 5,280 churches in U.S. (2016)	Founded 1908, issue was focus on holiness
Congregational Methodist	Wesleyan	No	One president, minimal authority	Congregational call system	Decided by local church	15,000 members, 150 churches in U.S.	Founded 1852, issue was congregational government

September Events As of 8/31/2023

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)

Date Day

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 1 | Friday | |
| 2 | Saturday | Hope House Mobile* , 9am-1pm, FLC; |
| 3 | Sunday | Sunday School classes* , 9:15 - 10:15 am in Family Life Center (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, Sanctuary |
| 4 | Monday | Labor Day (Office Closed); Board of Trustees meeting , 2:00 pm, Church Office |
| 5 | Tuesday | |
| 6 | Wednesday | A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel* , 9:00 am, Sanctuary; United Women in Faith (UWF) Circle meeting , 10:00 am, FLC; Choir Practice* , 6:30 pm, Sanctuary, Hope House* , 6:30pm-9pm, FLC |
| 7 | Thursday | Food Pantry* , 9:30 am - 11:30 pm, FLC |
| 8 | Friday | |
| 9 | Saturday | Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) meeting , 10:00am, FLC 1&2; Praise Team Practice , 1:00pm, S |
| 10 | Sunday | |
| 11 | Monday | Finance Meeting , 1pm, FLC |
| 12 | Tuesday | |
| 13 | Wednesday | Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms |
| 14 | Thursday | ALBOH Board Meeting , 2pm, FLC 1&2 |
| 15 | Friday | |
| 16 | Saturday | ?? Youth Remade Disney Springs , 5pm-8pm ?? Children's Movie Night |
| 17 | Sunday | Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for food pantry), DISAFFILIATION VOTE |
| 18 | Monday | Admin Council Meeting , 1pm, FLC |
| 19 | Tuesday | |
| 20 | Wednesday | |
| 21 | Thursday | A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Board meeting, 2:00 pm, FLC |
| 22 | Friday | Hope House Mobile , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC |
| 23 | Saturday | UWF Event , 9am-2pm, (S, FLC) |
| 24 | Sunday | |
| 25 | Monday | UMF leadership meeting, FLC library 10:00 am |
| 26 | Tuesday | |
| 27 | Wednesday | Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms |
| 28 | Thursday | |
| 29 | Friday | |
| 30 | Saturday | Hope House Mobile* , 9am-1pm, FLC |

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Thanks everyone for your donations

We need spaghetti sauce and jelly.

Ann Johnson

REMADE: YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Recently my primary volunteer that I have been relying on to assist me on Tuesday nights has had to cut back to only one meeting per month due to burn out. I have been able to temporarily replace her, but need a more permanent volunteer, or number of volunteers, to alternate with assisting on Tuesday nights for youth group. The volunteers needs to be female in accordance with our Child/Youth Protection Policy (CYPP). Volunteers don't need to come every week, just once a month would suffice, and I can have people come on a rotating basis, just so long as I have them so I can continue to hold meetings weekly. These kids are wonderful, they love God, this church, and being here and a part of something bigger than themselves. But without more steady volunteers to draw on, it will be more difficult to have weekly meetings. Volunteers need to go through the CYPP classe if they have not already done so. Please note that the meetings are always held upstairs in the FLC. Thank you for your time and assistance as we continue to grow this REMADE youth ministry. CYPP training and required quiz is available at <https://lakegibsonumc.com/training-opportunities/>. A background check is required every three years if you haven't had one. Contact me to arrange for the background check.

We are very excited to be taking our first out of town trip as a youth group! On Saturday, September 16, we will be going to Disney Springs for a fun and relaxing trip up to the Happiest Place on Earth! We are very much looking forward to this trip, and will have plenty of pictures to show you! In addition, in November (exact date to be determined) we will be hosting a Rent-a-Kid fundraiser! How this will work is you will contact us if you have any work around your yard that you need doing, such as raking leaves or pulling weeds, and you will be welcome to make whatever monetary donation you wish to make to fund this growing youth ministry. This money will go towards any and all outings and trips we might wish to make in the future going forward. Once again, thank you for all you do to support our growing REMADE youth ministry!

If you enjoyed Trunk or Treat last year, I have some great news for you: we will be having another this year! It will be held on Saturday, October 28th, from 3-5:30 pm. We will need as many volunteers for this event as possible, as we would love for it to be even larger and more successful than last year's! If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact either Kristie at office@lakegibsonumc.com or Justin Bennett at youth@lakegibsonumc.com. We will have Trunk or Treat out behind the FLC, games and activities within the FLC itself, and will need wrapped candy to be donated for this event: please indicate which you would like to do when you contact Justin or Kristie. In addition, our REMADE youth group will have a bake sale fundraiser at the event this year, within the FLC. If you would like to contribute in another way than being there for the event itself, or merely want to help the new youth group succeed, please contact either Kristie or Justin and tell them which delicious baked goods you would like to contribute. Our youth are both the present and future of this church, and would greatly appreciate any and all contributions you could give.

In addition, we are planning on having Vacation Bible School next summer! This is a large and very involved event, and will need as much help as we can get! I know it is almost an entire year away, but it is never too soon to start, especially considering how long it has been since this church has had one. We will begin planning in earnest in January, but would need people who might be interested in helping for this event to let Justin or Kristie know soon, so they can put a list of potential volunteers together. Justin will keep in touch and communicate with you about it throughout the year, leading up until active planning and preparation starting in February.

Thank you, Justin Bennett



Prayer Ministry-September 2023”



“Look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and stay safe, don’t get sidetracked, keep your feet from following evil.” Proverbs 4:26-27 NLT 1996

If we are walking on a nature trail and don’t keep our eyes on the path ahead, we may quickly learn it is uneven territory, causing a fall and serious injury to our body. The scripture in Proverbs is pretty much telling us the same; except we walk a straight and narrow path with Jesus leading us, and He is to remain our leader throughout life here on earth to save our souls from destruction.

Jesus speaks of mistakes and our seeking honest forgiveness by His hard truths but also giving his grace and mercy to us to keep us balanced and in line.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Always keep your eyes on Jesus and follow Jesus’s path.

Prayer Ministry-Fran

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

VOLUNTEERS REALLY NEEDED

SOMEONE TO PICK UP THE BREAD AT PUBLIX SATURDAY NIGHT

CONTACT ANN JOHNSON 863-450-2765

HOPE HOUSE IS IN NEED OF HELP MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND SATURDAY. PLEASE CONTACT GERALDINE MAYO AT GERIJMAYO@YAHOO.COM

Financial Update

Another hot month of Summer. We lost a one pastor and gained another. Additionally, we have lost a few people as they moved to be closer to their families. With the current discussions regarding disaffiliation, some may be taking a wait-and-see approach as to whether they should support our congregation financially. Regardless of the ultimate decision, we are the same congregation we have always been.

Looking at the first chart, you will see that our actual received contributions have been below the 3 year average.

Three-year Congregational Giving Profile (CGP) Template: Monthly Version

Data Entry

Current Year 2023

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	\$22,184
April	\$48,131	\$24,073	\$23,275	\$95,479	\$31,826	\$126,546	\$22,778
May	\$25,816	\$26,093	\$18,433	\$70,342	\$23,447	\$149,993	\$20,719
June	\$25,894	\$15,866	\$18,293	\$60,053	\$20,018	\$170,011	\$10,979
July	\$20,865	\$23,104	\$22,512	\$66,481	\$22,160	\$192,171	\$20,367
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	\$154,307

The second chart reflects that we are behind where we would like to be at this point in the year. We have been adjusting our spending in an attempt to insure we spend no more than we actually receive. Of course, we desire to add additional youth and children's programs. Thankfully, these are currently being supported by previously accumulated reserve funds. This should give us a cushion over the next two years to get this program going.

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	8.86%	\$27,737	\$11,416	20.73%	\$64,917	\$57,280	(\$7,637)	-11.76%
March	10.99%	\$34,412	\$22,184	31.73%	\$99,330	\$79,464	(\$19,866)	-20.00%
April	10.66%	\$33,375	\$22,778	42.39%	\$132,705	\$102,242	(\$30,463)	-22.96%
May	7.85%	\$24,589	\$20,719	50.24%	\$157,294	\$122,961	(\$34,333)	-21.83%
June	6.70%	\$20,992	\$10,979	56.94%	\$178,285	\$133,940	(\$44,345)	-24.87%
July	7.42%	\$23,239	\$20,367	64.37%	\$201,524	\$154,307	(\$47,217)	-23.43%
August	7.06%	\$22,115	\$0	71.43%	\$223,639	\$154,307	(\$69,332)	
September	7.05%	\$22,072	\$0	78.48%	\$245,711	\$154,307	(\$91,404)	
October	6.74%	\$21,112	\$0	85.22%	\$266,823	\$154,307	(\$112,516)	
November	6.56%	\$20,554	\$0	91.79%	\$287,377	\$154,307	(\$133,070)	
December	8.21%	\$25,715	\$0	100.00%	\$313,092	\$154,307	(\$158,785)	

Totals \$313,092



On August 19th Lake Gibson United Women in Faith (LGUWF) hosted the planning session for the Gulf Coast Bible Study Conference. We supplied refreshments for a productive session. The Conference/Bible Study is scheduled for September 23rd to be held in our Family Life Center. We will again be providing refreshments for a breakfast. (Everyone is expected to bring their own lunch).

Hopefully, a few of our ladies will volunteer some breakfast items. We are approximating attendance at 60 people.

Thank you,

Barb Allen-Coil

WOMEN IN FAITH

Ladies, you are cordially invited to join us at our next circle meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM, in the FLC. We will study chapter 7 (How to Hear God) from Max Lucado's book entitled "*Help Is Here*". This is an area where we all can improve. Don't forget to come ready to share lunch with friends! See you there!

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



Birthdays in September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
9/1	Gloria Laube
9/6	Charles Alvarez
9/6	Fred Fredrikson
9/6	Kenneth Fuqua
9/7	Joseph Brady
9/9	Travis Wilson
9/10	Joyce Scott
9/11	Nancy Fitzgerald
9/13	George Gribble
9/13	Lois Teske
9/14	Sue Heishman
9/16	James Armentrout
9/16	Gregg Hall
9/16	Helen Vandervort
9/18	Grace Foster
9/18	Rick McLellan
9/19	Jarica Arnett
9/24	Carol Davis



Anniversaries in September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
9/7	Rick & Debbie McLellan
9/16	Tom & Dorothy Burns
9/16	Stecve & Penny Polk
9/28	William & Olga Anderson

Birthdays in September (cont.)

9/24	Ethel Somers
9/27	Creon Fredrikson
9/28	Helen Weissman