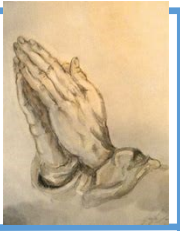




# THE GOOD NEWS

## Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



### *FROM THE PASTOR*

#### Pastor's Thoughts

As I write this note the fall season is beginning; the nights are actually two degrees cooler. But, along with the change of seasons comes one of the busiest times of the church year. During the month of October we will hold our Charge Conference at First UMC in Lakeland. There your Administrative Council will elect officers for the new year and complete reports for 2023.

Also, our congregation will begin its Stewardship program for 2024 in October. You will be reminded that a church doesn't exist to raise funds. It exists to do ministry, which is to be supported by the people of the congregation. How you support that work is between each of you and God. Stewardship is based upon you and your relationship with God. Our Consecration Sunday will be November 12, followed by a celebration dinner in the FLC.

We will be observing World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October. Laity Sunday will be observed at worship on the 15th of October. And, we will again have a Sunday of Song on the last Sunday of October. On the 1st Sunday of November we will observe All Saint's Sunday.

Plans are already in the works for Advent and Christmas. Our choir will present us with a Christmas Cantata on December 17. We will observe Christmas Eve with an early service on the evening of the 24th.

Of course, you should know by now that our congregation has voted to disaffiliate from the UM Church. That action should be completed by December 15th. You will be hearing much more about what comes next and choices we will be making in the near future.

Pastor Rob

# Ten Principles of Tithing:

Tithing shows that we acknowledge God's authority over our lives and finances.

Tithing reveals that we provide that God is our Provider. It is from him all blessing flow, and to him we return a tenth.

Giving to God what is his already opens the door to God's returning immense blessings to us. It is an amazing thing that God rewards us for doing our duty.

Today, when people tithe to the local church (the New Covenant version of the Old Covenant "storehouse"), it enables called servants of God to serve without encumbrance in their service to the Lord.

Local churches are able to help the poor and those facing unexpected hardships by using the tithe in conjunction with other special offerings.

The tithe is outside the jurisdiction of the Law and is actually built into the framework of humanity, going back to Genesis and creation itself.

If God required at least a tenth from the Old Covenant saints, is it probably, or even conceivable, that He would ask less of us? The only legitimate way to do away with the tithe is to move up to the New Covenant standard of giving everything.

Tithing should not be approached legalistically, it is something we do by faith because we believe it is the right thing to do and because we trust that God is our provider. If we give willingly and cheerfully, God will see it and return a blessing.

I believe we should consider it a minimum, a "no brainer," an automatic category in our budget. Giving beyond the tithe is an opportunity to listen to the Spirit of God for His direction in our giving. This kind of giving is sometimes called making "offerings." It is an act of obedience to the Spirit, a spiritual sacrifice that pleases God, and is a function of our faith in God and the generosity of our hearts. We learn the art of generous giving by starting with the tithe and progressing beyond.

Once you find out that tithing opens up blessings, you will be ready to ask God, "How much do you want me to give beyond the tithe?" Then you will be ready for a really exciting ride!

Excerpted from *In Disciple and Money* from Pete Beck III

<https://thirdpeter.com/2018/12/11/the-ten-principles-of-tithing/>

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## WOMEN IN FAITH

Ladies, we would love to have you join us on Wednesday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am for the Women's Circle meeting. We will meet in the FLC classrooms. We will be studying Max Lucado's book [Help Is Here](#), Chapter 8, "Soul On Fire".

Please bring your pecan order forms or a list of orders you have gathered, as well as the money for the orders. All money goes to support local missions. Also bring any ideas for the November circle meeting. Hope to see you there.

## October Events As of 9/30/2023

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	Sunday	<b>Sunday School classes*</b> , 9:15 - 10:15 am, FLC; <b>Worship Service* and Communion, 10:30 am; Publix bakery goods* in FLC for needy; Movimiento Misionero Mundial Pentecostal Church*</b> , 10:30 am, FLC upstairs; <b>New Testament Christian Church*</b> , 1:30 pm,
2	Monday	Trustees meeting 2pm
3	Tuesday	Youth group
4	Wednesday	Women In Faith circle meeting 10 am FLC classroom, Hope House FLC, Choir Practice
5	Thursday	
6	Friday	
7	Saturday	
8	Sunday	* , Harvest Sunday (food for Food Pantry)
9	Monday	Finance Committee 1 pm, FLC classrooms
10	Tuesday	<b>Youth group</b>
11	Wednesday	Merry Matters 10am—noon , Hope House, FLC, Choir Practice 6:30 pm
12	Thursday	ALBOH Board meeting 2 pm FLC 1&2
13	Friday	
14	Saturday	Staff Parish Committee 10 am FLC
15	Sunday	Laity Sunday
16	Monday	Church Counsel Meeting 1 pm FLC
17	Tuesday	Youth group FLC
18	Wednesday	Rummage Sale set up FLC, Choir Practice 6:30
19	Thursday	Rummage sale set up FLC
20	Friday	Rummage Sale FLC
21	Saturday	Rummage Sale FLC
22	Sunday	Charge Conference at 4 pm at Florida Southern , *
23	Monday	NTCC Revival in Sanctuary and FLC
24	Tuesday	<a href="#">NTCC Revival in Sanctuary and FLC</a>
25	Wednesday	<a href="#">NTCC Revival in Sanctuary and FLC</a>
26	Thursday	<a href="#">NTCC Revival in Sanctuary and FLC</a>
27	Friday	
28	Saturday	Fall Festival/Trunk -n- Treat 3-5:30pm
29	Sunday	Fifth Sunday covered dish after Worship Service , *
30	Monday	Women In Faith Leadership Meeting 10 am—12, FLC
31	Tuesday	

## **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Ann Johnson is asking for the following items for the food pantry (open every Thursday):

**Pasta**

**Jelly**

**Spaghetti Sauce**

Thank you for your giving natures to help others.

## **NUTURE 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

## **Have You Noticed?**

Our church is made up of many people. Two part-time employees are currently expected by many of us to perform near miracles.

Pastor Rob volunteered to come back from retirement to shepherd our flock part-time with a significantly reduced salary. We need to understand that, while he willingly took on this responsibility, our congregation needs to pick up the other half of the normal workload. Thankfully, Eric Hines is doing much time-consuming hospital visitation. But, are there more things which we could do to make life easier? You may have noticed our Lay Leader, Mike Stafford, orchestrating much of the worship service. Maybe we should have a backup for him! Other services, such as preparing either PowerPoint slides or Sunday bulletins would also be most welcome.

Kristie Otte, our part-time administrative assistant, is always asked to perform above and beyond her job description. After a recent automotive accident, others have graciously stepped in to help. But, even when she returns, extra help within the office would be most appreciated.

There are many behind-the-scenes actions which take place within the church. Your willingness to step up and volunteer your time would be most appreciated.

Contact the church office at 863-858-5431. You will either get a friendly response directing you to the appropriate person, or your voice mail message will be answered after the office is once again open.

Dwight Kitchens

## Prayer Ministry-October 2023



1). **"The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need."**

Psalm 23 NLT

*The Lord is my provider of all things.*

2). **"He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams."**

*The Lord brings me comfort in time of need.*

3). **"He renews my strength."**

*He brings healing to my spirit, body and soul.*

**"He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name."**

*He partners with me in worship so we may bring others to His throne.*

4). ***"Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I shall not be afraid for you are close beside me.***

*Lord, you will never leave me.*

**Your rod and staff protect and comfort me."**

*Lord, your strong hand reaches out to me.*

5). **"You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You welcome me as a guest,**

**anointing my head with oil.**

*I am your child.*

**My cup overflows with blessings."**

*I send you my thanks and love.*

6). ***"Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever."***

*May we as one family live with you forever in heaven. Thank you, Lord for your Mercy and grace. Amen*

*To my fellow Christians; the words bolded are out of NLT, 1996. Those not in bold and italicized are*

*my own thoughts on each verse. You may find it interesting to enter your own thoughts as I have to share*

*with family or others Christians also. Thank you and many blessings from above. Fran*

## RUMMAGE SALE

The Women's Fall Rummage sale is scheduled for Friday October 20<sup>th</sup> (9-3) and Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> (9-2). The hours for workers to set up on Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> will begin at 8am and continue until we are done. (We were pleasantly surprised when most of the setup was completed on Wednesday for our spring sale.) We will be unloading from the new shed located right outside the back doors of the FLC. All strong back and able-bodied persons should contract Tom Burns to schedule the transfer of sale items on Wednesday morning. I think the shed was completely unloaded in an hour for our spring sale. The Salvation Army truck will be scheduled to load any items not sold immediately after the sale ends on Saturday.

So mark your calendars for October 18th and 19th for setting up (more details to follow) and Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 3pm (workers at 8:00am) and Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00-2:00 (workers at 8:00am) for the sale.

This is a big job with unlimited rewards. If you find yourself not wanting to miss all the fun or find yourself wanting to be included in the action, please don't hesitate to give Lynn a call (863-858-3589 or 906-360-8231). We will find you a job you can do, we really could use your help.

Friendly reminder, **PLEASE do not leave any donations in the FLC or outside of any of our buildings.** All items donated for the sale **must** have prior arrangements for delivery made thru the office, Tom Burns or Lynn Meske. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lynn Meske

## THE LIVING KIN-DOM BIBLE STUDY CONFERENCE

On September 23, 2023 a joyous group of ladies came together to study The Lord's Prayer. Held at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church in Lakeland, FL, 40 women from 14 units from the Gulf Central United Women of Faith participated. Led by Deaconess Ester Kim the women explored The Lord's Prayer with the assistance of the workbook: The Living Kin-dom.

Different units were responsible for each chapter in the workbook which included writing our own version of The Lord's Prayer (in the first person pronouns), a gardening story with squirrels, and exploring what parenting meant in connection with God. Lunch, animal stretching exercises, and genial groups provided a good, worshipful experience for everyone.





# Disaffiliation Update

On Sunday, 17 September 2023, the Lake Gibson United Methodist Church formally voted to disaffiliate from the denomination. The vote was 66 in favor, 7 against, and 2 abstentions. This will eventually result in our church remaining within the Wesleyan tradition but with a name change. If you grew up in the denomination, there will likely be few changes.

Between now and 2 December, the Church Council will be working to meet administrative requirements necessary for the conversion.

- We will apply for a new corporate name of Lake Gibson Methodist Church, Inc.

- Change signage to remove the term “United” and logo

- Provide past history and records information

- Pay a significant exit fee

- Acquire a new insurance contract for property and liability

On 2 December a Special Annual Conference will be held where our church and others will be included for proposed disaffiliation. We, and others, should be voted on as a block. If approved, we will be no longer considered a United Methodist Church effective no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

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## PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

**Each Sunday children and youth collect your coins in cans. We encourage you to make as much noise as you can when dropping your nickels and quarters in the cans to increase interest and enthusiasm.**

**This month the money raised will go to Heifer International/USA. Do you know what a heifer is? If not, look it up for fun.**

**Heifer International/USA is a charity that fights global hunger and poverty through agriculture. They provide livestock, training and other services to help families earn a living wage and strengthen local economies.**

**Imagine your dimes and quarters providing chickens to a poor family. The flock would grow, providing eggs, meat and extra chickens to sell.**

**Submitted by Linda J. Alvarez, Missions Coordinator**



## Charitable Deductions Can Save You Taxes

Planning may help you reduce your taxes when making contributions to 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations such as your church. If your contribution comes from either a traditional IRA or through a stock transfer, you may avoid having to pay taxes on that amount. But, the important part is that if this contribution is made as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), it does not count as income to you in your Federal taxes. These contributions are considered to come from your wealth and not your income.

Effectively, you would maintain the entire amount of your standard deduction (which was doubled in 2018 and is reflected below). You effectively get your standard deduction plus incur no taxes on the amount of your Qualified Charitable Distribution.

The tax items for tax year 2023 of greatest interest to most taxpayers include the following dollar amounts: The standard deduction for married couples filing jointly for tax year 2023 rises to \$27,700, up \$1,800 from the prior year. For single taxpayers and married individuals filing separately, the standard deduction rises to \$13,850 for 2023, up \$900, and for heads of households, the standard deduction will be \$20,800 for tax year 2023, up \$1,400 from the amount for tax year 2022.

### Tax brackets for income earned in 2023

- 37% for incomes over \$578,125 (\$693,750 for married couples filing jointly)
- 35% for incomes over \$231,250 (\$462,500 for married couples filing jointly)
- 32% for incomes over \$182,100 (\$364,200 for married couples filing jointly)
- 24% for incomes over \$95,375 (\$190,750 for married couples filing jointly)
- 22% for incomes over \$44,725 (\$89,450 for married couples filing jointly)
- 12% for incomes over \$11,000 (\$22,000 for married couples filing jointly)
- 10% for incomes of \$11,000 or less (\$22,000 for married couples filing jointly)

### What's a Better Tax Break: Charitable Contributions From Stock or an IRA?

Donating from your IRA as a qualified charitable distribution means you won't pay any taxes on the amount donated the same way you would if you took a required minimum distribution as income. But you won't be able to claim the amount as a deduction on your annual tax return (which most of us won't need as we probably use the increased standard deduction).

But making a contribution from stocks may end up benefiting you more in the long run, especially if you held the stock for more than a year and its value appreciates by the time it is donated. This allows you to deduct the stock's full fair market value without having to realize the capital gain.

### At What Age Can I Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution From My IRA?

You can begin making qualified charitable distributions from your IRA as soon as you turn 70½. Keep in mind that any QCDs that are generated from your IRA must be limited to amounts that would be taxed by the IRS as ordinary income (monies in a tax deferred traditional IRA and not in a tax-exempt ROTH IRA). Additionally, should you have funds within a 401(k) program, you cannot directly claim a QCD. You must first move those funds you wish to donate into a traditional IRA. Once this is done, you may make a QCD from the IRA.

Other options include:

**Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust**

**Charitable Remainder Unitrust**

**Charitable Gift Annuity**

For details, check with your financial advisor.

<https://www.investopedia.com/taxes/can-i-use-money-my-ira-donate-charity/>

<https://fumf.org/giving/ways-to-give/#> Ph: 863-904-2970

Dwight Kitchens

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Joe Wallin

Church Council Chairperson,

## August Financials

Well, we've recorded the contribution data from end of month August 2023. At this time last year we were \$43,429 ahead of this year's receipts. Of course, we have had a number of people moving out of state. Some others have stopped giving as we wrestle with our discussion regarding disaffiliation. Now that our Charge Conference voted on September 17th to disaffiliate from the United Methodist denomination, we may see an influx of new members.

### 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	\$20,050
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>\$174,357</b>

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	\$20,050	71.43%	\$223,639	\$174,357	(\$49,282)	-22.04%
September	7.05%	\$22,072	\$0	78.48%	\$245,711	\$174,357	(\$71,354)	
October	6.74%	\$21,112	\$0	85.22%	\$266,823	\$174,357	(\$92,466)	
November	6.56%	\$20,554	\$0	91.79%	\$287,377	\$174,357	(\$113,020)	
December	8.21%	\$25,715	\$0	100.00%	\$313,092	\$174,357	(\$138,735)	

Totals **\$313,092**

## **Join us for our annual Trunk -n- Treat Fall Festival!!**

We invite our congregation, friends and family to come out on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 5:30pm to participate in our Trunk -n- Treat Fall Festival. Decorate your car and park behind the FLC so children can go car to car collecting goodies.

If you are unable to participate on the 28<sup>th</sup>, please feel free to bring donations of wrapped candy to the office and we will make sure that the goodies are handed out to the kids!

There will be activities for the kids to participate in inside and outside of the FLC.

**Please come and join in the fun! That is Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 5:30pm.**

### **Editorial Policy**

The articles contained in *The Good News* express the opinions of their authors, and do not necessarily reflect policies of the United Methodist Church or of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

The purpose of the newsletter is to foster better communication of ideas and opportunities for worship and service among LGUMC members and friends as we seek to share God's love and make disciples of Jesus Christ. All members and constituents are encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts and photos with the congregation.

Barb Allen-Coil, Editor

### **Contact Information**

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

**Kristie Otte**, Administrative Secretary, 863-858-5431, office@lakegibsonumc.com

**Sue Heishman**, Bookkeeper

**Office Hours: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday**

**Glenda Grant Hess**, Music/Worship Director

**Justin Bennett**, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

**Leon Rumohr**, Custodian

**Barbara Allen-Coil** Newsletter Editor, ballencoil@gmail.com

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

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



### **October Anniversaries**

Larry & Barbara Gitt	October 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Charlie & Linda Alvarez	October 4 <sup>th</sup>
David & Glenda Hess	October 6 <sup>th</sup>

### **October Birthdays**

Franki Bailey	October 7 <sup>th</sup>
Phyllis Michael	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
Debbie Mitchell	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
Betty Fischer	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Karen Acor	October 12 <sup>th</sup>
Penny Polk	October 12 <sup>th</sup>
Fran Mudge	October 14 <sup>th</sup>
Marge Payne	October 18 <sup>th</sup>
Laurie Hillsgrove	October 19 <sup>th</sup>
Sylvia Barrett	October 20 <sup>th</sup>
Gail Travis	October 20 <sup>th</sup>
Jan Henrikson	October 21
Paul Schiemann	October 26 <sup>th</sup>
Cathy D'Amato	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
Mary Friend	October 31 <sup>st</sup>