



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 of Lake Gibson Methodist,

I want to take this opportunity to say how honored I have been to have served God as your Interim Pastor for the past several months. It was not an easy decision to make; age does detract from a person's abilities. But it has been a good experience, because of the love, support and patience of the church's leadership and you, the members of the congregation.

During these months, many momentous decisions have been made. I feel you have been wise and faithful. However, I will point out that the near future will be difficult. There is much left to be done and it will require real commitment and faithfulness to transition the congregation into a new denomination. But God honors those who serve Him faithfully.

As we enter the season of Advent, we should do so with great expectation. It is the season of Light and Hope. The people of Lake Gibson are not yet done serving our Lord. We are being given the blessing of a new beginning; something that rarely happens. Let us fully rely on God to set our course and the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us.

All of you will remain in Sue's and my prayers. You will always have a special place in our hearts.

Pastor Rob

December Events As of 11/30/2023

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)

Date Day

1	Wednesday	All Saints Day; United Women in Faith (UWF) [formerly UMW] Circle meeting , 10:00 am, FLC; Choir Practice* , 6:30 pm, Sanctuary, Hope House* , 6:30pm-9pm, FLC
2	Thursday	Food Pantry* , 9:30 am - 11:30 pm, FLC;
3	Friday	
4	Saturday	Hope House Mobile* , 9am-1pm, FLC;
5	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
6	Monday	Board of Trustees meeting , 2:00 pm, Church Office
7	Tuesday	Staff Meeting , 11am, Church Office; Youth Group , 6:30-8pm; FLC Upstairs
8	Wednesday	A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Chapel* , 9:00 am, Sanctuary;
9	Thursday	A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Board meeting , 1:00 pm, FLC;
10	Friday	
11	Saturday	Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) meeting , 10:00am, FLC 1&2;
12	Sunday	Stewardship Sunday Catered luncheon following service (Reservations Required); Harvest Sunday (canned and boxed foods for our food pantry)
13	Monday	Finance Meeting , 1pm, FLC;
14	Tuesday	
15	Wednesday	Merry Matters craft group, 10:00 am - noon, FLC Classrooms
16	Thursday	Glenridge HOA Meeting , 7-9pm, FLC 1&2
17	Friday	
18	Saturday	NTCC Luncheon, 1pm
19	Sunday	
20	Monday	Admin Council Meeting , 1pm, FLC
21	Tuesday	
22	Wednesday	Office Closed
23	Thursday	Thanksgiving (office closed)
24	Friday	Hope House Mobile , 6:30pm-8:30pm, FLC;
25	Saturday	Praise Team Practice , 1:00pm, S;
26	Sunday	
27	Monday	
28	Tuesday	
29	Wednesday	
30	Thursday	

Statistical Report on Consecration Sunday Results

A total of 48 giving units (husbands and wives or single persons) completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* on 12 November. There are 138 families with active member. There are 63 families with inactive members.

A total of 39 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount.

A total of 48 giving units present to fill out *Estimate of Giving Cards* today committed a total of \$166,129 on 12 November.

Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive \$30,238 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve months but are not present today.

Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$2024 during the coming year from that source.
(\$2115 + \$2165 + \$1803)/3

Church income from non-donor sources such as interest, rentals, and fees is expected to be \$ 6,000.
ALBOH Tithe + \$2,060 interest.

If we include reserved funds (aka designated) covering items within the budget, we have an additional \$17,935

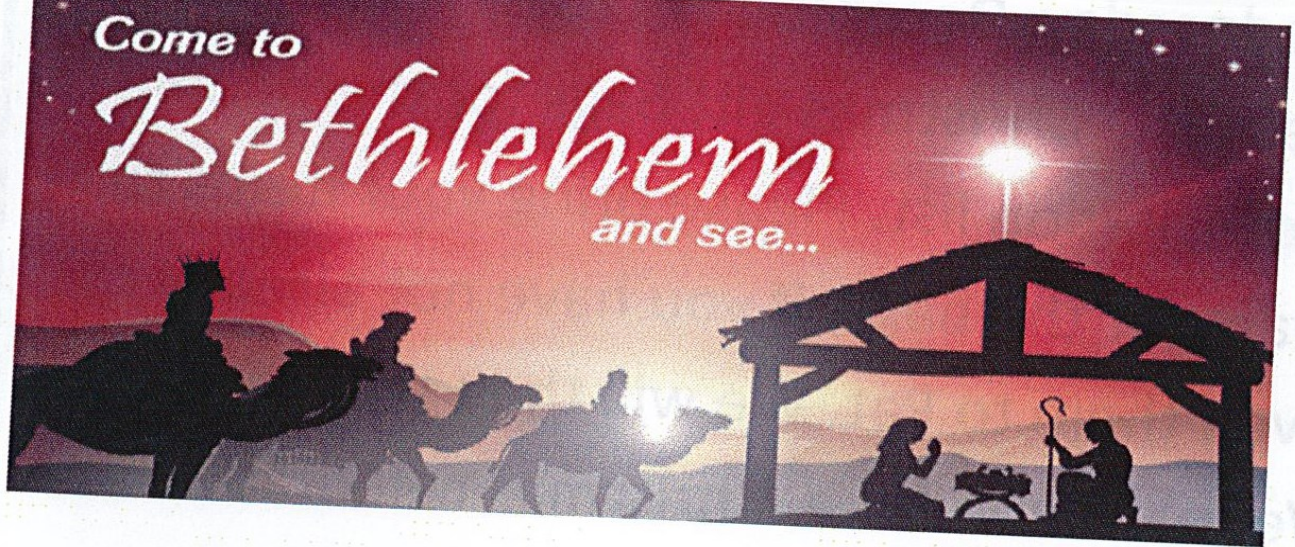
2 nd mile – any need	\$2,139
Christian Education	\$ 594
Hope House	\$5,342
Hospitality – Kitchens	\$ 300
LG Youth	\$ 75
Missions of LGUMC	\$ 150
Recurring Benevolence	\$2,000
Say It With Music	\$ 650
Social Concerns – Food Pantry	\$6,595
Total=	\$17,935

This gives us a grand total of \$224,286 anticipated income for the next twelve months.

The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was \$284,938 (FY2022 - \$291,568 – reimbursables of \$6628 from ALBOH)

Next year, we can expect our operating budget income to decrease by \$60,652.

This is a 21 percent decrease in total giving above last year.



Come To Bethlehem

It is located in "Country Oaks" off Old Polk City Rd by the Crestview Baptist Church. The lights are on from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 1st - Dec. 27th. The figurines were made by Mr. Penn.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The food pantry is in need of spaghetti sauce and jelly.

The pantry is totally OUT of paper bags.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ann Johnson

Minor Sewing Help Needed during December

Shortly, we anticipate the need for many hands to make quick work on changing denominations. By 2 December we should know that we are disaffiliating from the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

When approved, there are a number of changes which must be implemented. While the Church Council is working on a number of them, there is one which requires sewing.

Have you ever noticed the Cross and Flame logo on the church choir robe sashes? Well, these will no longer be permitted to be displayed. Rather than purchase new choir robes, we plan to stitch new embroidered patches over the old sash logos.

If you sew, might you be willing to take a few robes and patches home to transform them for us? It would be nice if we actually had them ready for the Christmas Cantata on the 17th of December.

If you have the capability to help, please call Glenda Hess, 863-307-1261 to arrange robe pickup.

Dwight Kitchens

Church Insurance

In anticipation of our congregation disaffiliating from the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, we were required to obtain a new insurance coverage. Our new policy was required to meet or exceed the coverage previously provided by a group plan through the conference. After seeking an agent to provide for these requirements, we accepted coverage acquired through ChurchInsure.com. As part of the disaffiliation package, we must maintain these coverage limits for a minimum of three years

The actual policies are issued by Glatfelter Ministry Care for basic insurance and AmTrust North America for Workers Compensation Insurance. The Church Council chose not to accept hurricane insurance as the premiums, even with a 5% deductible, would have been too expensive.

Dwight Kitchens

O.K. You have months to prepare for the next Lake Gibson Rummage Sale. But.... many will take advantage of electronics sales from Black Friday through Christmas Eve. Treat yourself. Whether you want that larger television screen for the upcoming Super Bowl, or just a SMART TV, there are lots of choices to be had. Tired of that older s.l.o.w. computer which causes more frustration every week, there are multiple replacement options available.

Our church is always looking for older computer equipment (desktop PCs, laptops, tablets, and phones) and working televisions. We refurbish computer equipment to the latest operating system they will accept, adding some public domain/shareware programs, and see that they go to good homes. If your computer has not had all of its data remove, this will be done when it is upgraded. If it is eventually sold, monies will go to the missions supported by Lake Gibson Methodist Church's women's group.

If you have either an order iPad or iPhone to donate, please unregister it from your Apple account and then reset the device. This removes all traces of your ownership. Otherwise, it can't be refurbished and must be sent to the Polk County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (recycling center).

Congratulations to Padgett Elementary School and Elizabeth Ashmore! Elizabeth was named the 2024 Polk County teacher of the year. She is a third-grade teacher at our neighborhood school.

Linda Alvarez visited Padgett Elementary School to deliver a check from Women In Faith. The school was having a drive to get sweaters and jackets for the children. The principal showed me these examples of what they will buy with the money. Right now it is hard to imagine needing them, but cool weather will be here one day.



Prayer Ministry-December 2023

Prayer Ministry for December 2023

“For unto us a Christ is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder: and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)



As we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus may we keep His spirit alive within us.

Each day may we show what Christian love is all about through our prayers, compassion, warmth and kindness to others; therefore, bringing Christ’s peace to all.

Wherever we are in the “seasons of life” may we be reminded of our Emmanuel for He is with us now and forevermore, to comfort us and be a light of joy and hope in our hearts and give us the greatest gift all: Jesus for eternity.

This season of celebrating Christ Jesus you may receive a calling from God to join our circle of prayer warriors. It truly is a blessing and a gift to others in need.

In Christ we give thanks. Amen.

Prayer Ministry -Fran

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Come join the choir on Dec 17th at 10:30 for the Annual Christmas Cantata. This year’s program is titled The Living Gift. Let’s raise our voices to honor God.



Passing of the Torch

December 24th will Rev Rob Atchley’s last day of service for our congregation. He has done a wonderful job filling in during these unusual times. Thank you Rev. Atchley.

Barb Allen-Coil

It's time for our annual sock drive!

Box for socks will be in the narthex
November 26-December 10

For people experiencing homelessness in our community, a pair of clean, dry socks is so much more than just an item of clothing.

Clean, dry, warm socks = healthy feet & human dignity



Financial Update – End of Month October

As you are likely aware, we are in the process of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church denomination. Among many actions, we will be paying the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church a total of \$107,125 in fees as of 30 June 2023. This includes apportionments for 2023 and 2024, a pro-rata share of the Conference’s unfunded pension liability, Ministry Protection Premium for 2023, and legal fees for releasing the property from Trust. We will owe less than the \$107,125 as we have made some payments since June.

We had \$37,679.45 of undesignated funds within the United Methodist Foundation and approximately \$64,980 in an Edward Jones investment account which will be used to cover our remaining balance.

Unfortunately, this leaves us without emergency funds. These will need to be rebuilt over time.

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	\$15,415
October	\$20,998	\$20,238	\$19,161	\$60,397	\$20,132	\$254,439	\$19,902
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	\$209,674

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	\$15,415	78.48%	\$245,711	\$189,772	(\$55,939)	-22.77%
October	6.74%	\$21,112	\$19,902	85.22%	\$266,823	\$209,674	(\$57,149)	-21.42%
November	6.56%	\$20,554	\$0	91.79%	\$287,377	\$209,674	(\$77,703)	
December	8.21%	\$25,715	\$0	100.00%	\$313,092	\$209,674	(\$103,418)	

Totals **\$313,092**

It's Party Time!!!!!!

All Ladies of Lake Gibson Church are invited to come to our Christmas Party on December 6th. That is the first Wednesday in December at 10:00 AM in the FLC. We ask you bring a \$10.00 gift (wrapped) to exchange, a favorite snack to share with everyone, and if you care to participate we will have a basket to donate to the Food Bank. There will be games to play, prizes to win, and plenty to eat! So come and participate in the fellowship and Christian fun, we would to have you!

We will resume with our book study the first Wednesday of January. (January 3, 2024) . We will be on chapter 10, The Coming Wave. Hope to see you at the party and at the circle meeting!

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



December Anniversaries

Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens

Dec 10

December Birthdays

Beverly Henrich	12/11
Henry Zona	12/11
Beverly Hines	12/17
Kristie Otte	12/20
Ann Kneeland	12/26
Glenda Hess	12/28
Phyllis Kitchens	12/28
Harriet Shapiro	12/30