

Lake Deaton Happenings!

Official Newsletter of the Lake Deaton United Methodist Church

The Lake Deaton Missions/Out-Reach Team commits to serving our local community. [p.4](#)



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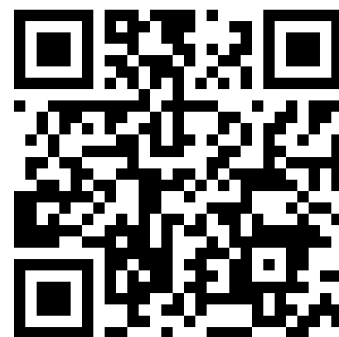
PASTOR'S CORNER

By Loida Divine

This year we started with a preaching series on questions we have for God. Tough questions- like the ones that have no easy answers or the ones that have been in our minds for years. Maybe some that we don't dare confess because we think they might show lack of faith.

The truth is, without questions we cannot arrive to true faith. I remember back when my son, Jonathan, at four years old, was very reflective at questioning the world around him. He wanted to know the "why?" of everything. He was never happy with the answer, "because." As tired as we would get of his many questions, we now remember fondly the growth in our relationship as we would sit with Jon to explore the answers.

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God in His desire to reconnect with humanity, welcomes the tough questions. God is not offended by our lack of faith. In fact, He encourages us to come and ask boldly for deeper faith as we wrestle with the questions of life. That is one of the reasons I love the ancient creeds. They remind me of the foundations of our faith. "I believe in God... I believe in Jesus... I believe in The Holy Spirit... I believe in the Church universal... I believe in the resurrection," and so forth. Sometimes we sing these truths in our worship songs and hymns. Sometimes we hear them over and over in scripture, and sometimes we affirm them together as the body of Christ.

You know, in February, I am turning one year older. People often will say warmly, every year we turn older and wiser. The truth is that sometimes I feel the older I grow, the more I have yet to learn. When we enter into conversation with questions of faith in humility, God is there to meet us and guide us to a deeper faith.

Keep on asking questions! See you at church on Friday at 5pm, Saturday at 9am or Sunday at 10:30am.

In Christ's love,

Leida

Groovy 70's Disco Party – Tuesday, Feb 14



Couples, singles, spouses and spices can gather to show off their best Disco dance moves at our church's 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Event. It'll be a "Groovy 70's Disco Party" on Tuesday, February 14, from 5 to 8pm, right in the Lake Deaton UMC's multipurpose room.

Guests can enjoy a fabulous dinner with music provided by Arlyn at the piano, followed by dancing led by our very own Leo Steffen- AKA 'The Traveling Nerd', one of the most entertaining DJ's in The

Villages. Leo will have a music set that will get you off your feet and dancing your best John Travolta moves! Don't worry, if dancing isn't your thing - people watching will probably be even more fun! Just visualize Disco outfits, retro colors and hopefully lots of flower power dresses, disco boots, bell bottoms, and maybe even a few leisure suits! Guests will be seated comfortably - six to a table - all around the center dance floor for a perfect view! Seating will be limited, so be sure to secure your ticket by clicking [here](#), or stopping by our information table during our weekend services. It's only \$25 per person and proceeds will go towards Lake Deaton UMC Missions and Outreach Ministries. Dinner: Chicken over rice, rolls, glazed carrots, green beans, ceasar salad and groovy dessert.

FOR THE MEN

"Miracle on the Hudson"

Join us Tuesday, February 28th at 5 PM for a "Miracle on the Hudson" Dinner and Movie event. We will be watching the movie, "Sully." Based on true events.

Cost is \$10. Sign up today!

[Click here](#)



FEBRUARY
28TH AT 5PM

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Wednesdays at 8 AM

"Developing Your Personal
Spiritual Checklist."

MOAMI

Join our MOAMI class which meets every Tuesday until March 12, from 1 to 3pm.

MOAMI offers encouragement for women experiencing any life transition... a move, loss of a loved one, retirement, becoming a caregiver, etc.

Cost is \$30 - Click [here](#) to sign up today!

Bloom Women's Day Out

Come hang out with us on February 15.

We are taking a bus trip to 3 Sisters Springs at Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge to see the manatees.

The cost is \$45. Register [here](#).

For more information contact Nancy at:
ken48nan50@gmail.com

Invitation to Psalms

Ladies, you are invited to be part of this 12-week study group on Thursdays, until May 4.

We are learning about the Book of Psalms.

For more information contact Barbara at:
barb28268@gmail.com

Bloom Book Club

Join us on the fourth Monday of each month from 1 to 3pm. We are reading "A Lineage of Grace." On February 27, we will discuss the 4th section of the book, the story of Bathsheba.

To join this group contact Pat at
pawood45@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S SECTION

THE LAKE DEATON MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A NEW MINISTRY....

By LuAnn Gilbert

During the past few years Lake Deaton has had volunteers serve at Wildwood Elementary School in a variety of ways. All of these efforts are good and appreciated, but not a consistent focus. Moving forward, we are hearing God's call for Lake Deaton UMC to build a long term, continual partnership with Wildwood Elementary School. Our church family has the power to make a big impact on our community- putting our faith into action!

Wildwood Elementary Connect has begun to build a partnership with Wildwood Elementary School over the past few months. The school is on Huey Street, near downtown Wildwood, about 2.5 miles from our church location. The Principal is Shirley Cromwell, she leads the students, faculty and staff. Currently the school is bursting at the seams with 950 students, with 68% at or below the poverty level. There are 65 teachers and many other staff members. Pastor Jim and the Co-chairs of Mission & Outreach recently met with Principal Shirley and asked her, "How Can Lake Deaton UMC partner with Wildwood Elementary School?" Principal Shirley asked, "What did you have in mind?" Pastor Jim's response was, "Give us your wish list and we'll see where we can fit in." Just a simple conversation, sharing and listening- our hearts were moved to commit to serving our local community by building this partnership; where simple acts of kindness and support can make a positive change for these precious children, teachers and staff.



The first two wishes Principal Shirley shared:

1. Helping to give her faculty a fun boost at the monthly Faculty Meetings by purchasing snacks and drinks designed around a fun theme. (We Can Do That!)
2. Purchasing back packs and needed items to assemble emergency "Go Bags" for the 20 students that have special medical needs, to be used in case of a lock down or evacuation. (We Can Do That!)

These two wishes are in process as we look forward to meeting with the principal again, very soon, to hear about future partnership opportunities, as we actively engage in serving those in need in our community and changing lives.

This is a wonderful ministry to be a part of where you can choose what projects you want to volunteer for and timing that works best for you.

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'" ~Mathew 25:40

Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this important new ministry. For more information email LuAnn Gilbert at: luanngilbert@gmail.com

Small Group Facilitator's Gathering & Lunch

All Small Group Facilitators, Coordinators and persons interested in becoming a small group leader are invited!



**Sunday, March 12 at noon in
Class Room 5/6**

There will be pizza and refreshments (free)

**We are in need of additional
Small Group Leaders/Facilitators.**

GRIEF SUPPORT SERIES STARTS FEBRUARY 9

Thursdays at 1:30 PM in Class Room 4

Most of us will experience some type of grief in the course of our lives. It is okay for us to have tears of sorrow, but with the help of God and fellow Christians we can move forward to experience again the joy of living through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The next Grief Support series at Lake Deaton UMC will be starting **Thursday, February 9 from 1:30 to 2:30 PM**, for eight weeks depending on the needs of the group participants. This is an opportunity for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one or other losses to receive support and encouragement as they experience major changes in their lives.

Various resources will be offered to help people through their grief journey. As we meet in a class room at church, it provides a safe environment for you to share your struggles or to listen to others who may be farther along in their healing process. Any sharing is voluntary. You may call the office to indicate your interest to Janice, or Pastor Duane for consultation. We want you to know that you are not alone! Many have reported that they have been comforted and received helpful encouragement by their participation. You are welcome to bring a friend.

ZOOM PRAYER EXPANDING TO PRAYING TEAM STARTS FEBRUARY 9

Thursdays (2/9 - 4/27) at 3 PM in Class Room 4

For a while we have been meeting for prayer via Zoom on Thursdays at 3 PM for confidential needs that are only shared within this group as well as praying for needs that people have given permission to publish. **Starting February 9 from 3 to 4 PM**, we will be inviting anyone who has a heart, for praying for people and ministry needs, to gather in person at Lake Deaton to join us in prayer.

One of the ways we can put Christ's Love in Action is through praying. To help us accomplish that more fully, we are expanding the Zoom Virtual experience to include face-to-face prayer meetings as another way to help people experience the presence of Christ in their lives.

Our prayer ministry works to minister in healing prayer through weekly prayer services, prayer after worship services, classes on praying for the sick, and one-on-one prayer sessions. You may contact Janice or Pastor Duane in the Care Ministries office at 352-571-4665 for more information or to sign up.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians in chapter 4:13,
"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope..."



The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The Walk will be at the Warren Willis Methodist Camp, 4990 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, FL. 34731. Applications are available at the Church Office. - \$50

**The Women's Walk will
be held March 16-19**

**The Men's Walk will be
held March 9-12**

New Testament Reading

Week

2/6 - Matthew 26-28;

Romans 1-2

2/13 - Romans 3-7

2/20 - Romans 8-12

2/27 - Romans 13-16;
1 Corinthians 1



New Testament Bookmarkers for 2023 are available at the Connection Desk.

Lake Deaton Family, Thank you for your generosity to & support of the Florida United Methodist Church Children's Home on the 5th Sunday in January. Your donations help support children & youth in their emotional, physical & religious development.

Mark Your Calendars!

From Your Event Coordinator

- **March 10** - Chili Cook-Off. Bring your favorite chili.
- **April 1** - Easter Egg Hunt. Children from our neighborhood communities come to gather "eggs" and visit with Easter Bunny.
- **October 13** - 2nd Annual OKTOBERFEST - Everyone's favorite! The Villages German Band will again perform for us. Brats, pretzels, root beer and dessert.
- **November** - 2nd Annual "Christmas at the Lake"
- **December 15** - Annual Bonfire.

Lent 2023: Gospel of Mark

Lent is coming! It is time for us again to join to study one of the Gospels. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, self-reflection, and preparation for the coming of Resurrection Day. The season of Lent lasts for forty days, not counting Sundays. We will begin our study on Ash Wednesday and conclude it on Holy Saturday.

[To sign up click here!](#)

Calling All Artists!!

Lake Deaton has an opportunity for you for the upcoming Lent Season! We're looking for artists to create and submit their creation to share with the congregation. It can be any artistic expression: painting, needlework, stained glass, quilting, woodworking, sketching, poetry, or any other form. There will be several themes (see below) during the Lent season so choose a theme or scripture and let God inspire you.

Your art will be displayed throughout the Lent season February 22 – April 9, to enhance our worship.

All pieces must be submitted by **February 13, 2023**. Please label items with your name and phone number. Place the theme or scripture you have chosen on the back or bottom of each piece. Let's celebrate LENT showing our gifts and talents! Please contact Susan and Don Van Dorn at svandorn1@gmail.com for more information:

Winter Grow Night 2023

Winter Grow Night Activity continues on Wednesdays, February 1, 8 and 15, as we watch episodes 2, 3 and 4 of "The Chosen" Season 2.

- Watch the shows in CR 5/6 from 3:45 to 4:45pm.
- Dinners start at 5pm. Cost for dinner each week is \$10. Click on the date to register for dinner for that day. **Feb 1** / **Feb 8** / **Feb 15**.
- Breakout for discussion starts at 5:45pm.

Appreciation Corner

~NANCY THURBER

"I sincerely appreciated everyone who attended my husband, Bill Thurber's Memorial Service. Thank you so much!"

Technology & You Class!

Learning to navigate your devices in this digital world.

Tuesdays, February 21 to March 21 at 4 PM

Have questions about how to best use your smart phone?

Want to learn how to zoom?

Concerned about internet safety?

Need to understand social media to connect with family far away?

This is your chance to grow in your understanding in a fun, laid back 5-week class.

This class is facilitated by Desiree Willett, Cindy Sutorka and Dave Hurnevich.

Space is limited to the first 20 registrants.

[Click here to sign up.](#)

Beacon College Event

Friday, February 3rd - 7 to 9 PM in CLC

Celebrating the music and poetry of the Harlem Renaissance era in New York City, "Of Ebony Embers" examines the lives of three outstanding, but very different African American poets — Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay.

Free Event with Boxed Meal - [Click here!](#)

Women's Bible Study - Acts

Mondays, February 6th to March 20th

2 to 3:30 PM in Class Room 4

\$15 - Book included in price.

Let's journey together with the first followers of Jesus on each Monday for seven weeks.

"Acts- Awakening to God in Everyday Life,"

[Click here to register!](#)

Community Bible Study

Join our new Women's Small Group

Wednesdays at 10 AM

until May 3rd

We will also have virtual classes for those who can't attend in person.

To sign up contact Cindy at:
cindykane1615@gmail.com

Seeds of Hope Concert

Free Concert featuring

"The Swing Band"

February 12th at 4 PM in CLC

A fund raising and food donation event to go towards Wildwood Food Pantry and Wildwood Soup Kitchen.

No need to sign up just show up.

Coffee with the Pastors



Are you new to our community? Have you been with us for a while? Coffee with the Pastors is an opportunity to meet our pastors, learn more about our church, our mission, vision and values, and learn about our expectations for members. The next class is on **Thursday, February 23rd at 10:30am**. Sign up [here](#).

Lake Deaton UMC

Worship Services:

Saturdays at 5:00 pm

Sundays at 9:00 am

Traditional Service:

Sundays at 10:30 am

Online Services:

www.lakedeatongrows.com

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday
9am - 4:30pm

Friday
9am - 1pm

Call the Office:

352-571-4665

Mailing Address:

6500 Wesleyan Way
Wildwood, FL 34785

Visit Our Website:

www.lakedeatonumc.com

Email Us:

Info@lakedeatonumc.com

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