

# *Lake Deaton* HAPPENINGS!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE DEATON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2026 | Volume 52

## SEASON OF GROWTH

Top Story: Grow Night  
"STARTING POINT"  
p. 7



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Highlight: Churchwide Retreat  
"RESTORE MY SOUL"  
p. 8



**2026**

# SEASON OF GROWTH



Happy New Year Greetings,

In this new year, I find myself looking back at what has transpired in the past year and where I would like to progress in our journey ahead. For a few years now, I have been working to grow each year in the five disciplines that we challenge every new member of Lake Deaton to pursue: Body, Mind, Spirit, Community and Service.

Looking back on 2025, personally, I can see that I have eaten healthier and have lost weight. I have worked to cut out wasted “online” time to spend more time reading and reflecting. I have also worked to grow in my spiritual disciplines, to be present with my small group, family and my congregation.

When I look at the work and the struggles from this past year, I find that I have a couple areas where I see my need for continued growth. As we start 2026, I want to invite you to join with me.

First, I have read through the New Testament every year for several years, but this year I want to read in community. So, I am challenging everyone in the church to read the New Testament this year (as I do every year),

but with the added opportunity to read it in community. Thus, I will be hosting a discussion group twice a week to get together and discuss what we have read. If being part of a discussion group would help your reading, then I invite you to be part of one of the weekly groups.

Second, I find that for a pastor, service is a hard thing to work into my schedule. I am working in many different places of the church, and others I cannot serve as it conflicts with my job (i.e. I can’t usher, as I am working elsewhere). But I am committed to finding a place to serve this year, somewhere that does not relate to my job and where I can bless others. I want to challenge all of us (especially those of us who are not serving) to find a place to serve in 2026 and put our full energy into that service. It is proven that service helps us feel better and have a healthier mental capacity.

These are just a couple of opportunities to continue to grow in 2026. As you work out your plans and potential areas of growth for the new year, please share them with me and I will keep you in my prayers.

Blessings,

## COLEMAN OAKS THRIFT STORE & COFFEE SHOP

Volunteer registration.



Coleman Oaks Thrift Store & Coffee Shop – in mission daily for Jesus Christ.

Lives are being transformed at Coleman Oaks everyday, and we want to share the impact you've helped make possible! We're calling on our Lake Deaton family to join us in continuing this incredible outreach. Would you consider volunteering just four hours a week? You can sign up at the store and get started with an orientation. Let's keep making a difference together!

Mission Moment: Every day, at Coleman Oaks, we gather to pray at 9:30am before opening. We pray for one another and our families and then we pray for those entering our doors that they might experience God's amazing love and grace through our outreach. Everyday we witness God working miracles in people's lives – and in ours, as we become God's instrument.

Recently, we saw God work in a powerful way. That morning, Melanie & Marie prayed for God to help bring us a ministry we could help, as we had an overabundance of winter clothes, and we knew it was getting colder at night. We had already helped five ministries by giving clothes, but we were overwhelmed with donations. That same day, a woman from a coalition, helping homeless people, located in Lake Panasoffkee, walked in. When she introduced herself to Melanie, she told her about their outreach ministry and the need for winter clothes. I wish you could have seen Melanie's face beaming! What an incredible testament to the power of prayer! Melanie and Marie's plea for a ministry to bless was answered in real-time. Several days later some of our volunteers delivered 75 large containers of winter clothes to their ministry with the promise of more to come whenever needed. Praise God!

Just when we thought the story couldn't get any more touching, we got word that a homeless woman, and her 5-month-old baby, lost everything in a car fire. No one hurt, but everything was gone. Our team sprang into action, connecting with Lake Deaton's Outreach Team and the Care Portal to rally baby essentials and support. Temporary shelter is on the way too. God's got this family's back, and we're honored to be part of the rescue mission. Won't He do it!

So, it's not all about the financial resources we are able to raise through Coleman Oaks for mission and ministry. Every day our volunteers and staff touch the lives of hundreds who enter our doors and work with numerous ministries in the area to create a caring environment sharing the love of Jesus Christ. THANK YOU, Lake Deaton, for helping give birth to Coleman Oaks! Now come join us for the blessings received every day!



Call the store (407-378-3030) or stop into the store between 10:00am and 3:00pm to complete a volunteer registration and orientation for how you can serve.

## THURSDAY PRAYER MEETING

You're invited to a time of prayer  
**every Thursday at 3:00 PM in CR4.**

Come pray for God's blessings, the needs of others, and your own personal needs. As 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reminds us, "Never stop praying."

We hope to see you there!



## PRAYER REQUEST

Do you have a prayer request?

You can call the church office or submit your request online by clicking [HERE](#). Also, please let us know when you, a relative, or a friend is in a local hospital. We can plan a visit and a Congregational Care Minister or Stephen Minister can support you through this time.

Also, if you have moved or planning on moving soon, please let us know your new address. Contact Janice Braden at [jbraden@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:jbraden@lakedeatonumc.com).



## HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

Mulligans and Do-overs  
Jesus Christ makes us new

**Tuesday, January 20 at 4:00 PM in CR 1**  
**(And on the third Tuesday of every month)**

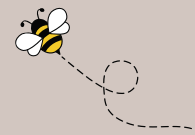
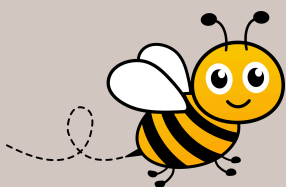
We can all use a do-over or a Mulligan, especially that first tee shot. Christ makes us new every day, every month, every year.

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. ~Colossians 3:10 NLT

Come explore your Do-over opportunities with Jesus!



PRAYER BEES 2026 - In this new year, we will continue to offer an opportunity for **Prayer on the 2nd weekend of every month**. The Prayer Bees will be available after each service. If you need prayer, this is an easy, quick and confidential time to receive. Just stay in your seat, when service is done, and a trained Prayer Bee will come and pray with you.



Grow in Prayer





## CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTERS

Our Lay Ministers are specially trained and commissioned volunteers who serve alongside our pastors and staff to provide emotional and spiritual support to our community. These dedicated ministers offer:

- Hospital visits to bring comfort and encouragement.
- Prayer support during challenging times.
- One-to-one encouragement and listening ears.

If you're interested in learning more about our Lay Minister program or would like to request support, please contact our church office at 352-571-4665.

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## STEPHEN MINISTERS



Stephen Ministers are specially trained lay people in our congregation who provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to those who are facing a crisis or going through difficult times, such as loss of a loved one, chronic or terminal illness, or other life challenges. Stephen Ministers meet with their care receivers on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists. If you, or someone you care about, is going through a difficult time, please call the care office at 352-571-4665 to find out how you can connect with a Stephen Minister.



## “THE CARING CONGREGATION” CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TRAINING

Lake Deaton Care Ministries will be presenting The Caring Congregation's CCM (Congregational Care Minister) model of care in a 2-day live-streamed event to be held at Lake Deaton UMC. This training features: Rev. Karen Lampe, Founder and Executive Director of The Caring Congregation (TCC) who authored 5 books on this effective model of care for church congregations. Karen will be joined by members of our National Team.

Your registration includes two days of training with over 10 hours of content culminating in a closing worship service and commissioning. Topics covered: Theology of Care, Prayer, Boundaries, Listening & Spiritual Guidance, Visitation, Care for the Sick and Dying, Organizing a care ministry and establishing a culture of care in your church. Registration has been pre-paid by the Church.

We encourage those with the gifts of administration to apply, as well as those interested in card ministry, in home and hospital visitation, as well as those interested in prayer ministry and working with home-bound members of the congregation.

There is a \$25 fee to cover lunches for both days. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Grow in Caring



## CARD MAKING MINISTRY

Every 1st Wednesday  
1:00 to 3:00 PM in CR 4.

Join us on **January 7th** as we make cards to help meet the daily needs of our congregation and their families. Anyone is welcome to come. No experience necessary. If you have any questions, you can email us at: Teresa at: [tnburgess@comcast.net](mailto:tnburgess@comcast.net) Kathy at: [kmskatrina@hotmail.com](mailto:kmskatrina@hotmail.com).



## PRAYER QUILTS

Every 1st Wednesday  
12:30 to 3:00 PM in CR 2.

Individuals can receive a quilt in time of need for illness, grief, or just for general comfort. You can complete the online request form by clicking [here](#). Once the request is submitted, an appropriate quilt will be selected. The quilt will be hung near the altar for the congregation to pray and tie a knot before it is given to the recipient.



## PRAYER SHAWLS

Every 2nd Monday  
9:30 to 11:30 AM in CR 2.

Shawls and lap blankets are always available on the rack in the lobby when the church is open. Shawls are prayed over while they are being knit or crocheted. When grabbing a shawl, please complete the yellow information card that is attached to the shawl and drop it in the basket provided. Thank you.



## LAKE DEATON'S BUTTERFLY & PRAYER GARDEN

Here at Lake Deaton UMC we are blessed by the beautiful property that our church sits on. God put the idea of having a peaceful spot for the enjoyment of His creation on the heart of some in our community.....and the Butterfly & Prayer Garden became a reality.

This special place sits behind the church building, it's accessible anytime with seating available. There are laminated "Butterflies of Central Florida" guides for your use while in the garden. Please visit, whenever you can, to experience this special place of peace on Lake Deaton's campus.

If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact the church office.



# A New Year of Growth and Care



A new year invites reflection, fresh starts, and honest questions about faith and life. I am glad to share that moving to Lake Deaton has been a blessing to me and my family. We so appreciate how you consistently demonstrate love and care for my family and me. From the very beginning, we have experienced Lake Deaton as a community that truly lives out Christ's compassion in tangible and meaningful ways.

As we step into this new year together, I am excited to share that **Grow Night Dinners will be returning on January 21, 2026**. For seven weeks, our Grow Night conversations will be guided by the Starting Point curriculum. Starting Point creates a welcoming, conversational environment where people can explore faith, ask honest questions, and listen to one another without fear of judgment. Over the past four years, one of the greatest joys of my ministry has been witnessing people finally feel free to ask questions they have carried for years—questions they were never sure they were allowed to ask in church.

Grow Night Dinners are designed for everyone—lifelong church members, those newer to faith, and anyone seeking deeper understanding or connection. These evenings offer more than a meal; they provide space for meaningful conversation, relationship-building, and spiritual growth. Alongside Grow Night, Lake Deaton is also investing in the health of our church through Congregational Care Ministry Training (see page 5), equipping leaders and volunteers to walk alongside others with wisdom, compassion, and grace. Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to being a church that both learns and cares well.

If you are longing for deeper connection, meaningful conversation, or a place where your faith questions are welcomed, I encourage you to join us. Grow Night Dinners and our Congregational Care Ministry are expressions of the same calling—to be a community where people are known, supported, and invited to grow. As we begin this new year, come as you are, bring your questions, and discover how God continues to meet us through conversation, care, and community.

In peace,

Lucas Bonates

Click on DATES  
to sign up...

## Winter Grow Night Dates: Jan. 21 thru March 18

- 01/21 - Winter Grow Night Kick-Off Dinner
- 01/28 - Topic: Start
- 02/04 - Topic: The Problem
- 02/11 - Topic: Trust
- 02/25 - Topic: Rules
- 03/04 - Topic: Jesus
- 03/11 - Topic: Grace
- 03/18 - Topic: Faith

\*02/18 - Ash Wednesday (No Grow Night Activity)

starting  
point

A CONVERSATION  
ABOUT FAITH

## Key Features

- Session Structure: Each session includes reading materials, discussion questions, and prompts for personal reflection. Participants are encouraged to engage with the content and share their insights with the group. There will be a video component (20 minutes) that is used alongside the study guide.
- Dinner: 4:45-5:30 PM
- Video: 5:30-5:50 PM
- Discussion 5:50-6:30 PM



Grow Together

# “RESTORE MY SOUL”

## CHURCHWIDE RETREAT

BEING DISCIPLES OF JESUS, WHO ARE MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS

These words highlight the invitation and the challenge of Jesus' commission to His church.

But what does such a disciple actually look like?

There have been many proposed answers to this question throughout history, so I'll just add mine to the mix: a disciple of Christ is one who is ...developing; growing; changing; ...

It is one who is always on a journey, never quite there, but eagerly progressing!

When we travel (by car or cart), we increasingly depend on a GPS that interrupts us on occasion to say we need to turn here/there, take the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> exit out of a traffic circle, or (in my case) “make a U-turn now”.

These GPS systems are constantly tracking where we are, where we are going, and the route we have chosen (even suggesting we take a different route altogether).

Wouldn't it be great if there was such a system for our souls – for this developing, growing, changing, progressing journey of a disciple of Christ?

Indeed, there is!

The Spirit of the Most High God lives within us and is constantly monitoring this quest we are on, is absolutely clear about the destination, and is ceaselessly suggesting various twists and turns to make along the way.

However, as with a GPS system, we must pay attention to those promptings and nudges, and we must follow those instructions.

This is what spiritual transformation ultimately comes down to: paying attention and attending to what God says.

Yet the world continues to turn at what feels like an accelerated rate, distractions draw our attention elsewhere, and mindlessness dulls our sensitivities. For these kinds of reasons, we all need a pause to re-calibrate.

*Spirit  
In  
Grew*





# “RESTORE MY SOUL”

## CHURCHWIDE RETREAT (CONTINUED)

In my own pilgrimage I have found this a chief benefit of retreat. A sacred pause to recenter, reconnect (with God and others), and re-calibrate the twists and turns toward our shared destination of the ever-increasing image of the Christ.

LDUMC describes those of us who are “all in” as disciples of Jesus as those who are growING in at least five ways:

- ...in body
- ...in mind
- ...in spirit
- ...in community
- ...in service

To manage steady development across these various arenas we will need to faithfully engage, evaluate, tweak, and re-engage rhythms of living.

And this is the focus of our **March 5-6, 2026**, Restore My Soul retreat: “Finding A Rhythm for my Soul.”

Rhythms are all around us – musical rhythms, migration rhythms, seasonal rhythms, sports rhythms, eating rhythms....

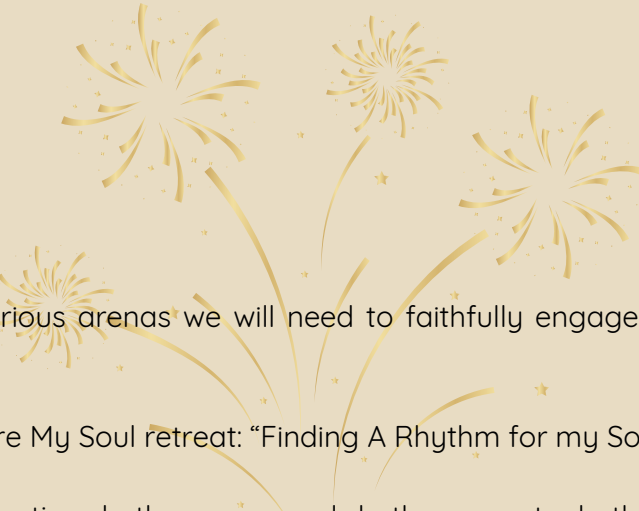
So, why not a rhythm for the care of our very souls?

Our church-wide retreat will include gently guided experiences with God, designed to help each of us notice what God is saying about our selected rhythms of living right now, and envision a plan to attend to what we are noticing.

The retreat will include some limited/focused teaching; ample personal time with the LORD built around provided spiritual exercises; fellowship, food & fun with each other; singing and worship, as well as time in communion.

**Save-the-Date:**  
**March 5 & 6, 2026.**

Let’s pause, re-calibrate,  
and create new rhythms  
together.



Grow in Giving

## FOOD DRIVE

Dear friends in Christ,

We thank you for organizing and participating in the food drive of November 22 and 23. All who helped by stapling the sacks, putting the sacks on the cars, picking up the sacks, and providing donated food items for the those in need in Sumter County! I wish our clients could tell you personally, "thank you." God bless you all and Merry Christmas!!!

Don and Marlene Huggins  
coordinators



## CHRISTMAS WISH TREE

Wow, what an incredible response to our Christmas Wish Tree campaign! Thanks to your generosity, Lake Deaton has raised an amazing \$9,945 for Kids Central as of December 15. Your support means the world to the kids and families we'll be able to help. Thank you for making a difference in our community! We have been raising money for Kids Central since November of 2020, using the Christmas Wish Tree and a one day drive on Mother's Day each year and have now reached a grand total of \$96,619. One of the primary goals of Kids Central is to keep Kids out of the Foster Care system. Keeping families together gives kids a much better chance of having a successful and happy life. Kids Central only uses the funds we donate to help families that are otherwise self sufficient but just need help to get through a difficult time. You can celebrate this Christmas knowing that many families, and especially kids, are happy and thriving because of you. Thank you!

Denny Dugay

## CHRISTMAS STAFF LOVE OFFERING

Dear Friends,

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible outpouring of love and support we received during our Staff Love Offering! Your generosity and kindness mean the world to us, and we're so grateful to be serving alongside such an amazing community.

Thank you for investing in our team and our mission. We're blessed to be a part of Lake Deaton and are excited to see how God will use us to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Warmly,  
The Lake Deaton Staff





## SINGLE / SOLO GROUP

Thursday, January 15 at 5:00 PM in CR 5/6

Singles/Solos will meet in **January on the third Thursday—January 15**—to have some fun and share snacks at 5:00pm in Classrooms 5/6. We encourage all singles/solos to invite a friend who is also single/solo—they do not necessarily need to be a church member. Please bring a snack to share as well as a game to play. We will have an opportunity to catch up after the holidays. Also, we are looking to start a book group so if you have a particular book you want to recommend, please bring it. Two books specific to being single we might want to consider initially are “They Were Single Too” by David M. Hoffeditz and “Singleness, A Life Grounded in Love.” If you have questions about the group, please contact Keith Gordon 203-537-1268, Dorothy Dobbs 205-527-3000, or Liz Schweers 850-247-9489.



## LANDSCAPE WORK DAY!



The Trustees are planning a church-wide workday for **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**.

The workday will be to spread pine needle mulch on all the plant beds at LDUMC. Everyone, both men and women who are physically able, are invited to attend and help spread the pine needles. Please bring your own work gloves. The work will start at 9 am immediately following the Journeyman's prayer breakfast and be completed in 2-1/2 hours. To register click [HERE](#) or sign up at the Connect Desk.

Everyone working that day is invited to attend the Journeyman's prayer breakfast which starts at 8 am. We will start work immediately after breakfast. For any questions, contact Ed Lovera at [elovera24@gmail.com](mailto:elovera24@gmail.com).



Did you know that Lake Deaton United Methodist Church “LDUMC” has been featured several times in The Villages Daily Sun for our Sports and Recreation programs? Our sports and recreation programs offer much more than physical exercise. They provide a space for fellowship, teach biblical values, support mental and physical health, and create outreach opportunities. We provide a safe and welcoming environment. Our sports programs are a dynamic way to bring people together, build faith, and promote well-being in a holistic, Christ-centered way. We have:

- Indoor Pickleball Tuesday mornings at 7:30, Thursday Evenings at 5:30 and Friday mornings at 7:30.
- Bone Builders Monday mornings at 10:00.
- Cardio Drumming Monday mornings at 8:30 and Tuesday afternoons at 5:30.
- Women and Men’s golf.

LDUMC has a great Sports and Recreation page on our website with more information, such as starting times, contacts and more information about each program. Click [HERE](http://www.lakedeatonumc.com/recreation) or go to: [www.lakedeatonumc.com/recreation](http://www.lakedeatonumc.com/recreation).

If you are a LDUMC member and might be interested in running a Volleyball or Basketball program please email me, and we will see if we can make that happen.

Bob Smith

*Bob*

Recreation and Sports Leader

[Bob\\_Smith98@hotmail.com](mailto:Bob_Smith98@hotmail.com)

THANK YOU!



#### Introduction to Line Dancing:

Let's dance! It's not too late to join "Introduction to Line Dancing" which continues on Thursday, January 8, 2026 from 1:30 - 2:30 PM in the CLC. Karen Maurey will again be leading the class which will continue on Thursdays through January 29, 2026.

Everyone is welcome! No prior line dance experience is needed. There is no fee for the class. You don't need to register in advance, just sign-in when you come to class. Please remember to wear shoes that will stay on your feet.

Sneakers are perfect. No flip-flops, please.

Grow in Movement





## BLOOM WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 13 at 11:00 AM in CR 5/6

A new calendar! Can you believe how fast 2025 came and left?....  
And yet the older we get, the more we need to fully rely on God!



- That's why we are inviting you to our First Ladies' Luncheon this year, on Tuesday, January 13 at 11:00 AM. Maria Arias, Communications Specialist and author, will usher the new year with thoughts of how prayer has made a difference in her life.
- Karen Fox will also share some tools from her tool-belt to inspire us in our own prayer commitments.

Register today on our website or this weekend at the Connect Desk. Cost is \$12.00 for lunch, but feel free to sign up for free and bring your own lunch if you prefer. Menu: Chicken salad on croissant with assorted chips, butternut squash soup, and pineapple upside down cake for dessert.

Finally, at this event we will be collecting items to take to Pastor Kristyne's school in south Georgia. Here is a list of her biggest needs at the moment: Elmer's glue sticks (lots of them), baby wipes, paper towels, Clorox wipes, Lysol spray, and Kleenex, most of these help with germ reduction. Thank you so much.



**TUESDAYS,  
JAN 27 - MAR 10  
1:00 - 3:00 PM IN CR 5/6**

Are you experiencing a significant life change, such as a move, loss of a loved one, or retirement? MOAMI (Moving On After Moving In) is a supportive community designed to encourage and empower women like you. Find hope, healing, and connection through MOAMI, you'll discover practical strategies to:

- Open your heart to your new reality
- Trust God and move forward with confidence

*Testimonies from Past Participants:*

*"MOAMI helped shift my frame of mind and gave me a fresh perspective."*

*"I found new friendships, felt hope, and drew closer to God through MOAMI."*

*"Thank you for this life-changing program and the love and care you invested in it."*

Join Our Next MOAMI Session - Register [HERE](#) or visit the Connection Desk to secure your spot. We look forward to walking alongside you on this journey!



Bloom Events

## BLOOM BIBLE STUDY

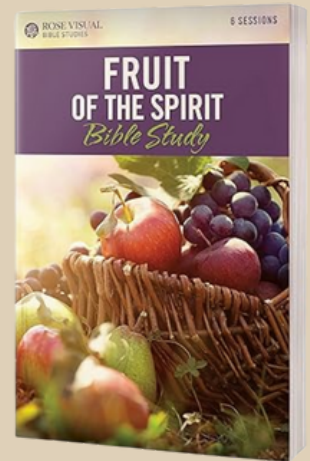
Six-Week Women's Bible Study: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Join us as we explore The Fruit of the Spirit by Rose Visual (available on Amazon)—a beautiful, Scripture-rich study designed to deepen our walk with God and one another.

**Tuesdays, beginning January 6**

**9:30 to 10:30 AM in CR 1**

Come grow in faith and fellowship with a community of women seeking to live out love, joy, peace, and more. Whether you're new or returning, there's a seat for you! For more information, contact Debbie McQuady at [mcquady1983@gmail.com](mailto:mcquady1983@gmail.com).

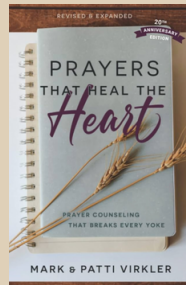


## PRAYERS THAT HEAL THE HEART

**February 4 - March 18**

**3:00 to 4:30 PM in CR 1**

Prayers That Heal the Heart explores healing your heart step by step. It is a combination of teaching and praying. You don't need the book, but you may want it. (Click the book image to purchase it.) The 7 week class will help you find healing in ways you had not considered.



## BLOOM WOMEN'S DAY OUT

Leu Gardens & Winter Park Adventure - Cost: \$50

**Wednesday, February 11**

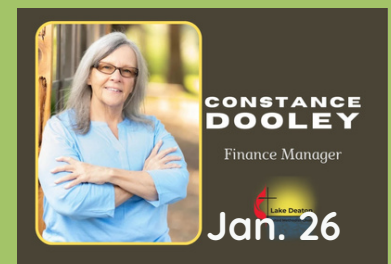
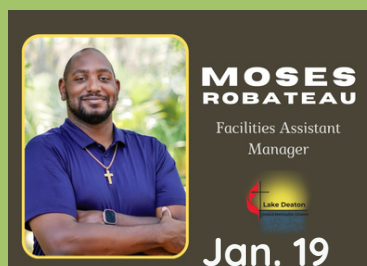
**8:15 AM to 4:15 PM**

Save-the-date and join us for a wonderful Women's Day Out as we journey to the beautiful Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando!

## Happy Birthday to the following Staff:



**Thank you for all you do at Lake Deaton!**  
(Click on image to send a birthday message.)



## JOURNEYMEN BREAKFAST

Wednesdays at 8:00 AM in the CLC

Men, join us for our mid-week Breakfast! Cost is \$6 and you pay at the door. Invite a friend, first time guest eat free! There is no need to sign up in advance.

- January 7, Stan Hoover
- January 14, Coleman Oaks Thrift Store, Melanie Barker
- January 28, All Church Workday, immediately after Breakfast, Ed Lovera, coordinator



## GET CONNECTED

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS - Guys really enjoy getting together to have a good time! Join us in renewing friendships, meeting new people and just enjoying life with other men.

SPIRITUAL EVENTS - Our goal is to hold at least two spiritual events each year, designed to ignite a spiritual relationship between men and Jesus Christ.

MENS RECREATION - We offer a variety of Recreation Opportunities for both men and women. Visit our [Recreation Ministries](#) Page to see more!

Upcoming Events - For all "Upcoming Events" or to "Plug In" to a group - Click [HERE](#).

**SAVE-THE-DATE FOR A SHREDDING EVENT!**

**Feb 28 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

SPONSORED BY JOURNEYMEN OF LAKE DEATON

Journeymen Events



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

We are spreading joy this holiday season! A group from Lake Deaton UMC volunteered at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Atlanta, Georgia this past month where they helped prepare shoeboxes filled with gifts and love for kids in need around the world. The boxes, they worked on, are being shipped to Mali and Cameroon in West Central Africa. These boxes will surely bring lots of smiles to children's faces this Christmas season. It was a heart-warming experience for the volunteers, who served with joyful hearts and a spirit of giving. Thank you to Lyn Lang, Susan Wassung, Susan Cosmai, Pastor Lucas Bonates, Rita Beauchesne, Wendy Wright for volunteering at the event. And to everyone who gave and filled the boxes with toys for the children this year, we just want to say a huge thank you! Lake Deaton collected 700+ shoeboxes... To God be all the glory!

Thank you



## FOR OUR VETERANS

Hello Veterans, I hope you all had a wonderful and memorable Christmas spent with family and friends. As we begin the new year, I would like to create a memory book honoring each of our veterans. To make this special, I'm asking for the following:

- A photo of you in your uniform (bring into the office and someone at the receptionist desk will scan it to my file so you do not have to leave it here)
- A short blurb describing your role or experiences in the military
- Your years of enlistment
- Any additional comments or memories you'd like to share

Thank you in advance for contributing. Your service and stories mean so much, and this book will help preserve them for generations to come.

JulieAnnă Davis



## “A NEW HEART FOR CHRISTMAS” MUSICAL

A special thank you to everyone who participated in making our “A New Heart for Christmas” Music Program a beautiful blessing to our congregation! The Celebration Christmas Choir, Devotion in Motion, Fermin on sound direction and Steven on Tech Direction, and All Actors in the Drama - ALL did an excellent job! We hope you enjoyed watching as much as we all did participating!

If you missed it, you can watch it now! Click the button:

**MUSICAL**

Or go to our YouTube page at: [https://youtube.com/live/dKreNXjA\\_YQ](https://youtube.com/live/dKreNXjA_YQ)

I would like to extend a special invitation to anyone who loves to sing and would like to be a part of our Lake Deaton UMC Church Choir. We sing an anthem each Sunday morning for the 10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service and for special occasions. The choir meets **each Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM**.

If you like to join or obtain more information about the choir, contact Kenn Mann, Director of Worship, at [kmann@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:kmann@lakedeatonumc.com).

Starting  
**Sunday, January 4**  
**9:30 to 10:30 AM**  
**in CR 4**

Sunday School Bible Study  
with weekly readings, and  
discussions on Sunday morning.  
**ALL ARE INVITED!**

Contact Don Argus at  
352-552-1042  
for details and to sign up.

### “EATING WELL TO SUPPORT BONE HEALTH” WELLNESS SERIES

**January 21 at 1:30 PM in the CLC**

Are there specific foods that can keep bones healthy? How do I know if I'm at risk for osteoporosis?

What exercises are best for supporting bone health?

Sharon Peterson will answer these questions and more during this seminar.

For more information or to sign up click [HERE](#).

## Calling All Creative Souls!

The Communications Department is seeking volunteers to join our dynamic team!

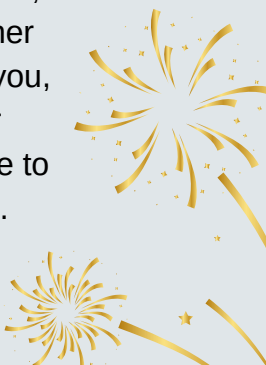
If you've got a knack for words, a camera, or just a passion for helping out, we want you!

Tasks include proofreading, writing, editing, photography, and more! If you're artsy, organized, or just love learning, please contact Maria Arias at: [marias@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:marias@lakedeatonumc.com) or 407-868-1944.



## Thank you!

Jonathan Baker has played a pivotal role in Coleman Oaks and as Director of Missions and Outreach, among countless other contributions. Thank you, Jonathan, for your dedication and service to Lake Deaton UMC.







## THE LIVING WELL SHOWCASE

*The Keys To Your Wellbeing*

### 1:00 PM - Explore. Connect. Learn. @ The Expo

Join us for an engaging day filled with resources, experts, and solutions to help seniors and caregivers live well. Discover options for housing, healthcare, safety, and community — all in one place. Come meet financial, legal, safety, home support, healthcare providers & resources.

### 1:30 PM - Special Presentation

#### GETTING YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW: PLAN BEFORE THE CRISIS

The best time to plan for the “what ifs” is before they happen — not in the middle of a crisis. In this empowering session, we’ll walk you through the essential conversations and documents every individual and family should have in place. From updating your legal and healthcare directives to outlining long-term care preferences and emergency steps, you’ll leave with clarity, confidence, and a practical roadmap to protect your future.

### EVENT DETAILS



**LAKE DEATON METHODIST CHURCH**



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026**



**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**FREE  
EVENT**

**FOR QUESTIONS CALL  
352-739-4480**



LISA HONKA

*Celebrating 9 Years As  
the Top  
Senior Living Advisors  
in The Villages!*



Thank you for growing with us in...

2025

It's been a year full of blessings and growth for Lake Deaton. Here are a few highlights...



Small Groups



Pet Ministry



Art Exhibit



Babbie Mason



Choir



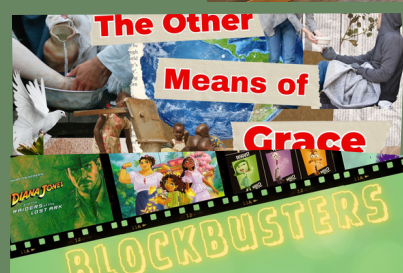
Coleman



Fashion Show



ERT



The Other Means of Grace



Serving



Welcome New Staff



Talent Show



Valentine



Card Making



Operation Christmas Child



Bone Builders



Cardio Drumming



Coffee with the Pastors





# Grow with Us in 2026!



## Lake Deaton United Methodist Church

**Saturdays at 5:00 PM**

*(with translation for the Hearing Impaired.)*

**Sundays at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM**

### Coffee with The Pastors

**Tuesday, January 13**

**4:00 PM in CR 5/6**

Click [HERE](#) to EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP

### New Testament Challenge

Week of 1/4 - Matthew 1-5

Week of 1/11 - Matthew 6-10

Week of 1/18 - Matthew 11-15

Week of 1/25 - Matthew 16-20

6500 Wesleyan Way, Wildwood, FL 34785

Tel: 352-571-4665

[info@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:info@lakedeatonumc.com)

Office Hours: Mon-Thur: 9:00 to 4:30 & Fri: 9:00 to 1:00 PM

[www.lakedeatonumc.com](http://www.lakedeatonumc.com)