

February 2026

Lake Deaton **HAPPENINGS!**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LAKE DEATON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Issue 52

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New Sermon Series: "END GAME"



lakedeatonumc.com

PASTOR'S CORNER

ENGAGED, HOPEFUL AND GROWING...

January has been a full and energizing month at Lake Deaton, and we are grateful for the many ways God has been at work among us. It has been encouraging to see our five task forces working to help us improve the vision and ministries of our church. We also celebrate meaningful moments like our Winter Grow Night kick-off, MOAMI and BLOOM women's gatherings, and the Caring Congregation webinar—signs of a church that is engaged, hopeful, and growing.

As we move into February, our attention turns toward the season of Lent, a sacred time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth. With this journey in mind, I want to warmly invite you to our Church-Wide Lenten Retreat on March 5-6 at Warren Willis Camp Center (see page 3 for more information.) This retreat will focus on finding a rhythm, exploring how God invites us to grow as followers of Jesus in our body, mind, spirit, community, and service. Through worship, teaching, guided time with the Lord, and meaningful conversation, participants will be encouraged to listen for how God may be calling them to embrace life-giving rhythms in the next season of life. Registration details are available on our website, and I encourage you to begin praying about joining us.

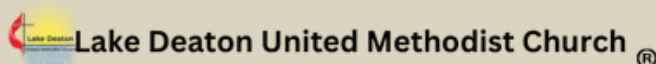
On a personal note, our family is joyfully preparing to welcome our daughter, Nina, who is expected to arrive in April. We are deeply thankful for the many expressions of love and support you have shown us, and especially grateful to the women helping to organize Thais' baby shower.

Thank you, Lake Deaton family, for your faithfulness and generosity. We celebrate what God has already done and look ahead with gratitude and anticipation for all that God will continue to unfold among us.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Lucas



COME HELP US GROW!

Coleman Oaks Thrift Store & Coffee Shop is looking for volunteers to help the ministry grow:

- Volunteer not voluntold - You schedule yourself.
- Work with friends you know or ones you haven't met yet.
- Feed your soul and serve the community.
- A place for every gift and ability.

Stop in and fill out a volunteer application:

Tuesdays - Saturdays
10:00am - 3:00pm

130 South Commercial Street
Coleman, FL 33521
407-378-3030



ZOE EMPOWERS - Mission Team Departs February 4

On February 4 through 23, eight members of Lake Deaton UMC will journey to Vizag, India to meet with the young people who are part of the Zoe Empowerment Program. ZOE'S approach has proven that orphaned children have the necessary gifts and abilities to overcome extreme poverty; they lack only opportunity and support. The goal is to not do anything for program participants that they could otherwise do for themselves. Our Team's Mission aims to build connections with the youth and children, learn from their experiences with ZOE, and share God's love to bring hope and encouragement. It's all about spreading positivity and support. Our Team will now be visiting SIX ZOE Empowerment Groups we currently support at Lake Deaton UMC through our members; two of those we partner with other churches - the Women of Faith from Community UMC in Fruitland Park and also with Edison UMC in South Georgia where Pastor Kristyne is appointed as pastor! Praise God. It is the first ZOE ministry in the South Georgia Conference! Go Kristyne!

Before and after worship on January 25 and February 2 during worship, members and friends will have an opportunity to send your love to our ZOE young women and men by signing the border of the banners we have made. We take two of these panels to each of our Empowerment Groups and all the children and young people sign their names. One panel is left with the Empowerment Group to remind them of our love and prayers, and we return with one. It is a tangible way to share God's love and to celebrate our connection with one another.

We will be traveling throughout the area to visit the businesses they have created, their homes, and meeting places. We covet your prayers for the Team members, Empowerment Group young people, and the ZOE leadership. If anyone wishes to support the ZOE Mission, contributions can be made to Lake Deaton and designated ZOE Empowers.

Team Members: Jonathan Baker- Team Leader, Donna Baker, Alison Crannell, Barbie Strome, Lisa Smith, Jennifer Flinchbaugh, Pete Popko, Edna Marie Popko.



ZOE EMPOWERMENT GROUPS

Team Intelligent - Kummari Veedhi, Vizag



Team Vision - Kotturu, Vizag



Youth Icons - Gollalapalem, Vizag



KMP Champions Etakummaripalem



Colourful Creators Gollapeta



Powerful - Kasipatnum, Vizag



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2026 SPRING GROW NIGHT

Request for Facilitators

For the SPRING of 2026, we are looking for individuals willing to facilitate classes. You can pick your subject, day of the week, time, length of class, number of weeks, as long as a room and the building are open. Classes can also be extended to include any learning opportunities.

The time frame for the Spring classes will be April 8 – May 20. We will promote your class to the congregation. There will be no classes on April 5 (Easter) or Holy Weeks (March 29-Apr. 4).

This Spring we will offer meal celebrations:

1. Wednesday, April 8 – Kickoff Night Celebration Dinner (Meal is \$12). Every teacher will present a two-minute description of classes to be offered/Special Speaker “TBD”. Dismissal and sign-up clipboards at the Connect Desk. The doors open at 4:45pm, come in and eat first, then the “Program” will start at 5:30pm.
2. Wednesday, April 22 – Church Volunteer Dinner (No Grow Night on this date).
3. Wednesday, May 6 – Spring Grow Celebration/Special Celebration (Meal is \$12). The doors open at 4:45pm, come in and eat first, then the “Program” will start at 5:30pm.

The GROW Night program has been developed to promote Christian-based education for adults that meet our “Core Values” at Lake Deaton UMC. There is no limit to what the classes can be. If you have a passion or skill for a subject, we encourage you to consider facilitating a class. Follow your passion, it doesn’t have to be a Bible Study. Classes can also be extended to include arts, health, finance and other learning opportunities.

We need your help to make GROW Night work this spring. Please let Pastor Lucas at lbates@lakedeatonumc.com or Bob Jorden at rgjorden@aol.com know your interest, as soon as possible. When you let us know, we will send you an information sheet to fill out that will give us the details of your offering (subject, day of the week, # of weeks, time, class size, etc.). Thank you for your consideration in facilitating the Spring GROW Night opportunities.

GROW NIGHTS IN FEBRUARY

“STARTING POINT”



- **Feb 4 at 4:45pm:** We have a special guest coming to this Grow Night Dinner. Lucinda Nelson, based on Andy Stanley’s lesson, explores Jesus’ love and grace toward us when we drift from God’s best. Lucinda and her husband Ken will share stories from their healing ministry and reflect on how the Holy Spirit brings insight, peace, and renewed awareness of Christ’s limitless love. Come as you are and join the conversation. (Meal- Seasoned Pork Loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert.) To sign up click [HERE](#).
- **Feb 11 at 4:45pm:** Topic 3rd Session – TRUST (Southern Fried Chicken, scalloped potatoes, collard greens, roll and dessert.) To sign up, click [HERE](#).
- **Feb 25 at 4:45pm:** Topic 4th Session – RULES (Cheese burgers, baked beans, coleslaw, dessert.) To sign up, click [HERE](#).

CARE & PRAYER

PRAYERS THAT HEAL THE HEART

February 4

Does your heart need healing? Do you find yourself continuously praying for the same healing? **This 7-week class is from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in CR 1** and is for you! We will learn how to pray effectively for generational healing, inner vows, trauma and more. Find out how much Jesus loves you! You don't need to buy the book, but you can if you want. To sign up click [HERE](#).



Click image
to order
your book.

CELEBRATING LOVE - FEBRUARY 17

February is notably the month of love with heart décor everywhere. Love is a fruit of the Spirit. How does Jesus share that love? What does that look like for us? We will explore these questions and more--**join us at our next Prayer Healing Service on Tuesday, February 17 at 4:00pm in CR 1.**

CARD MAKING MINISTRY

The Card Making Ministry meets on the **FIRST Wednesday of every month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in CR 4.** Join us on **February 4** as we make cards to help meet the daily needs of our congregation and their families. All are welcome to join us. No experience necessary. If you have any questions, email us at:

- Teresa at: tnburgess@comcast.net
- Kathy at: kmskatrina@hotmail.com

GRIEF SHARE - MARCH 5 - JUNE 4

Grief is a natural part of the human experience. Join us as we learn about the various aspects of grief through videos, scripture and discussion. Our next series of Grief Support Meetings will be on **Thursdays beginning March 5 through June 4 (except for March 26) at 1:30pm in CR 1.** The Care Ministry of Lake Deaton offers Grief Support Sessions and other resources to help people experience comfort and strength on their journey through grief to acceptance and hope.

PLANT FORWARD EATING

WELLNESS SERIES

FEBRUARY 4

1:30pm to 3:00pm in the CLC

Come explore how to create flavorful, nutrient-dense dishes featuring vegetables, whole grains, legumes and plant-based proteins. This interactive presentation will inspire and empower you to make more plant-centered meals. To register, click [HERE](#).

In November 2025, Lucinda Nelson felt a nudge from God to come to Lake Deaton UMC to share the Healing Prayer Ministry. She talked with Nancy Wilson about it and together with Church leadership decided that she and her husband, Ken, would come to Lake Deaton for 24 hours to pray for healing for anyone who needs healing (physical, emotional, relational, spiritual). **They will arrive at Lake Deaton on February 4 at 2:00pm and leave February 5 at 12:30pm.** They will facilitate GROW Night on February 4. On Thursday, from 8:00am to 12:30pm, they will hold open prayer time for anyone to receive prayer in CR 1. Lucinda clearly heard that someone at Lake Deaton needed healing when the nudge came back in November..... Is it you?

IS IT YOU?



Plan to attend one (or more) of these events:

- Prayers that Heal the Heart class - February 4 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in CR 1.
- GROW Night Dinner - February 4 from 4:45pm to 6:30pm in the CLC.
- Open Prayer Time - February 5 from 8:00am to 12:30pm in CR 1.

Contact Nancy Wilson at 240-446-6828 or colors4allnw@gmail.com to find out more.

MINI-MINISTRY FAIR

February 14 & 15

Lake Deaton UMC will once again be celebrating the many ministries that our church family participates in and supports. **Join us before and after services on Saturday, February 14th and Sunday, February 15th.** We will be featuring the following ministries:

- Missions/Outreach
- Coleman Oaks Thrift Store & Coffee Shop
- BLOOM Women's Ministries
- Financial Faith Ministries.

If you are looking for a place to plug in and connect with other Lake Deaton folks, you'll want to attend the Fair to learn more about these ministries and the variety of ways to serve. This is a great way to learn more about Lake Deaton, get better acquainted with your Lake Deaton family and also to find a really "great fit" for your considerable talents and gifts.

If you are a Ministry Team Leader looking for volunteers or wanting to build more awareness of your specific Ministry, this is an ideal opportunity for you as well!

Either way, the Lake Deaton Mini-Ministry Fair is sure to be a great way to meet new folks, learn more about what's happening in our church family, and plug into some new and exciting ways to serve, building new relationships and connections in the process.

So, mark your calendars for February 14th and February 15th, and please plan to attend this upcoming Mini-Ministry Fair. See you there!

Diane Hull, Assistant Coordinator, Ministry Fair



FROM THE EVENT COORDINATOR

JulieAnnă Davis

Hello Lake Deaton family,

February is fast approaching, and we have several upcoming events you won't want to miss. We are honored to welcome **Beacon College as they present Mike Wiley on February 12 at 7:00 pm** for his performance of "Breach of Peace - Stories of the Freedom Riders of 1961." This remarkable solo play serves as a living monument to the courageous young men and women—across races, religions, and backgrounds—who risked their safety to stand up for justice and equal treatment for all. Their stories continue to inspire, challenge, and remind us of the power of ordinary people choosing extraordinary bravery. To sign up, click [HERE](#).

Come Join Us for Our 2nd Annual Murder Mystery - "Murder Most Green" - March 20. Festivities will begin at 4:30 pm, dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the Flaherties as they mark 100 years of their beloved Shamrock Nursery at the Blarney Pub, but all is not as festive as it seems... there's been a murder! As always, the police need your help to solve the case. Join us for an evening of intrigue, laughs, and plenty of shenanigans as the mystery unfolds. It's a fun and festive way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day—don't miss it! Dinner Special: Enjoy a hearty serving of Irish Stew for just \$15. Proceeds will help to support our Pet Ministry.

Questions? Call JulieAnnă Davis at (814) 450-4899 or Denise McGhee at (410) 652-4099.



BLOOM WOMEN'S

BLOOM WOMEN'S DAY OUT - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Join us as we journey together to the beautiful **Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando!** This relaxing mid-winter excursion offers a perfect blend of nature, history, fellowship, and fun. **Our day begins with an 8:15am departure by bus.** Upon arrival at Leu Gardens, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the stunning grounds, followed by an in-depth look inside the historic Leu House Museum, a restored turn-of-the-century home that tells the story of the families who shaped this treasured property. After our morning of blooms, gardens, and Florida sunshine, we'll head to charming **Park Avenue in Winter park** for lunch and leisurely shopping. Whether you prefer a cozy café, a vibrant bistro, or the many boutiques lining the brick streets, you'll find something delightful. **We will return by 4:15pm**, refreshed and inspired after a beautiful day spent together. Sign up today, click [HERE](#).

BLOOM LUNCH BUNCH - TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Come out and socialize at our first Lunch Bunch event of 2026 on **Tuesday, March 17 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm at Evans Prairie Country Club.** Order from their menu and pay for your meal. RSVP to Suzi McGinnis at: mnsmcginnis@gmail.com. You are responsible for your own transportation. Save-the-dates for our next BLOOM Lunch Bunch events: April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18 and September 15.

BLOOM BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAYS, MARCH 3 - APRIL 7

Join us on **Tuesdays for six weeks beginning March 3 at 9:30am in CR 5/6** as we discover how Jesus' path to the cross shapes the way we live today and explore, "Journey to the Resurrection" by Rose Visual (available on Amazon). This study highlights the spiritual practices Jesus relied on (surrender, fasting, repentance, confession, perseverance, and forgiveness) and shows how we can cultivate them in our own lives. A meaningful way to draw closer to God in every season and prepare your heart for Easter. For more information, contact Debbie McQuady at mcquady1983@gmail.com. See you there!

SAVE-THE-DATE FOR THE BLOOM ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

Ladies, listen up! The BLOOM Women's Luncheon is just around the corner! Join us on **Tuesday, April 14 at 11:00am in the CLC**, for our annual Coleman Oaks Thrift Store Fashion Show! This year we have some exciting models strutting their stuff, showcasing stylish finds that you can purchase at our very own Coleman Oaks Thrift Store & Coffee Shop. Cost is \$12. It's going to be a time of fun, fashion, and fellowship. We can't wait to see you there!

JOURNEYMEN OF LD

JOURNEYMEN'S BREAKFAST - WEDNESDAYS

Men, **join us every Wednesday for our warm and yummy breakfast!** Our focus is on "Helping Men Begin and Continue in Their Faith Journey." Cost is \$6 and you pay at the door, there is no need to sign up in advance. Invite a friend, first-time guests eat free!

- February 4, The Wise Guy, Bill Jackson
- February 11, Financial Planning and Giving, Joshua Potts and Kevin Smick
- February 18, David, David Hurnevich
- February 25, Rich Young Ruler, Don Argus
- Saturday, February 28, 9am to 1 pm, Shredding Event for the Church and Community
- March 4, The Women: Issue of Blood, Caught in Adultery, Washed Jesus' Feet, Jim Divine

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.

MEN'S 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](#).

Learn more about our men's group by visiting: www.lakedeatonumc.com/men.

SHREDDING EVENT - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

SPONSORED BY THE JOURNEYMEN OF LAKE DEATON

Crown Shredding will bring a truck to our facility at approximately 8:45am and be available for folks to drop off materials for shredding. Folks will drive in, drop off, watch the shredding of their documents and leave. The truck will be on site until 1:00pm or until it is full.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

BLESSINGS

A big thank you to the Ladies of Lake Deaton UMC for your generous donations to my kindergarten classroom. Your gifts, including much-needed cleaning supplies, will help keep my room fresh, well-stocked, and as germ-free as possible for my students. You were so generous that I will also be able to share the supplies with the other teachers in the K-2 hallway. You are truly a blessing. I am deeply grateful for your support and prayers, and I look forward to the next time I am in Florida.

Kristyne Young, Deacon
Lake Deaton UMC - The Villages, Florida
Clay County Schools - Ft. Gaines, Georgia
Edison UMC - Edison, Georgia



MOAMI REUNION

The MOAMI Program at Lake Deaton UMC helps women move forward during life's transitions. On January 14, Lake Deaton UMC held a reunion for the MOAMI program classes of 2022-2025. Twenty-nine women participated in this fun afternoon. They reconnected with classmates and explored ways to build resilience in order to bounce back stronger. MOAMI's new classes have begun and will continue through April. This supportive program encourages and empowers women to find hope, healing and connection. In MOAMI, women discover practical strategies to open their hearts to their new reality, to trust God, and move forward with confidence.



SEEDS OF HOPE CONCERT

The annual Seeds of Hope concert season for monetary and food donations for the Wildwood Food Pantry and the Wildwood Soup Kitchen starts February 5 with a 7:00pm concert at New Covenant UMC. **Lake Deaton UMC will host the Villages Swing Band on February 22 at 4:00pm.**

Seeds of Hope was created to raise funds and food donations and to bring awareness to the food needs of the surrounding area. These needs have grown over the years in Sumter County. Seeds of Hope relies on the generosity of individuals, churches, businesses and civic organizations. One hundred percent of donations go to the needy families and individuals through the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry.

Both the Soup Kitchen and the Food Pantry serve food to insecure families in the Sumter County area.

The Soup Kitchen could use financial donations to help them transition to their new location where they will prepare and serve approximately 17,000 meals a week. They serve meals both at the Soup Kitchen and also deliver meals to the housebound. They also make snack packs for children for weekend nourishment. All workers at the Soup Kitchen are volunteers.

The Food Pantry is a faith-based outreach that provides qualified families with food and toiletries, diapers and hygiene products. About 190 families are served each distribution day which is twice monthly. These are manned totally by volunteers. Food drives and donations are the primary source of the pantry.

Needed items besides monetary donations for the concert include canned meats, canned fruit and vegetables, toilet paper, diapers and personal hygiene. Granola bars, juice boxes and peanut butter crackers are also in demand.

Please come and enjoy a spirited 19-piece resident big band under the direction of Lew Buckley. The group plays songs from the swing era as well as some songs from The 1950's and 1960's. It's a great band with a lot of good musicians. You will have a hard time sitting there without tapping your feet! They have generously supported Seeds of Hope Concert Series for many years and are greatly appreciated!

Judy Schober
630-640-5386

Ticket



BLOOD MOBILE COMING TO LAKE DEATON!

Sunday, February 1
8:30am to 12:30pm

Appointments are encouraged, please visit: oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 62820



All Donors Receive:

- \$20 eGift Card
- Long-sleeved T-shirt
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

IWU WIND ENSEMBLE

Experience the artistic expertise of the **IWU Wind Ensemble on Sunday, March 1 at 5:00pm in the CLC**. The Wind Ensemble, led by Michael Flanagan, Dr. Chris Lessly, and Briana Blankenship is committed to providing the best performances and ministry possible through concert band and wind ensemble literature. The ensemble has performed in over twenty states, recorded three albums, and has been featured at the Indiana Music Educators Association Convention twice. Each year, the Wind Ensemble performs in churches as well as conducting a yearly tour during spring break. Membership in the IWU Wind Ensemble is decided through competitive auditions, representing a broad spectrum of majors. The IWU Wind Ensemble seeks to worship Christ through its diverse repertoire of music. Mark your calendar today!



SETLIST COMPOSERS:

The IWU Wind Ensemble will present a mixture of sacred, patriotic, and well-known wind band literature through the music of Gustav Holst, John Williams, John Philip Sousa, Frank Ticheli, David Gillingham, and Claude T. Smith.



**No ticket needed.
This is a free event.
See you there!**

LINE DANCING

Line dancing is expanding from the occasional 8-week session to an ongoing activity. Did you make a resolution to be more active in 2026? Would you like to dance in a group without needing a partner? Come join our **Line Dancing class on Thursdays from 1:30pm to 2:30pm in the CLC** and have fun learning some level one line dances. Everyone is welcome! No prior line dance experience is needed. There is no fee, and no registration is needed. Just sign-in when you arrive. Please wear shoes that will stay on your feet (no flip-flops).



CALLING ALL SINGERS!!!

Welcome to 2026... A new time for you and your friends and family to JOIN OUR CELEBRATION CHOIR! **Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in CR 3!** My challenge to the choir is to grow from 55 folks to 100 singers by August of this year. When this occurs we will sing Handel's "MESSIAH" this Christmas! Please come and join us! How exciting and FUN!!!

Kenn Mann, Worship Ministries
Church: 352-571-4665 (ext 291)
Cell: 727-518-4978
Email: kmann@lakedeatonumc.com

STAFF / VOLUNTEERS

JUNGLE SAFARI VOLUNTEER DINNER

The Jungle Safari Volunteer Dinner is on April 22 at 5:00 pm.
WE ARE WILD ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS! More details and sign-up coming soon. Sign-up begins March 1.



LAKE DEATON UMC NEW HIRES

We are excited to welcome our new staff members! Our church is committed to creating a welcoming community where everyone feels valued and loved. We're focused on meeting physical, spiritual, and emotional needs, showing the love of Christ in our community



Kari Diaz
Director of Communications
kdiaz@lakedeatonumc.com



John Kent
Kitchen Coordinator

Happy Birthday John
(February 28)

Send John a birthday
blessing at:
jkent@lakedeatonumc.com.



Lake Deaton UMC will be hosting an open house "girl" baby shower for **Thais Bonates** on **Friday, February 13 in CR 5/6 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm**. Cake & cookies will be served. Just drop in! Thais is registered at Amazon (scan QR code or click on Amazon button) and at Target. (The "Target" registry counter is on the right as you enter. Just print out the registry, pick up the item you want and bring it to the register to pay for it. Be sure to give them the print out so they can click on the bar code to remove the item from the registry.)

SUGGESTION: Some items are expensive so your small group may want to chip in for one large gift. If you prefer, a gift card is always welcome for Pampers and baby products! If you have any questions, please contact Susan Cosmai at susanpickleball5@gmail.com or JulieAnnă Davis at kpdandjad@gmail.com.

Grow with Us in 2026!



Saturdays at 5:00 PM

(with translation for the Hearing Impaired.)

Sundays at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, which is a time of meditation, fasting, self-examination and contemplation. **Drive through ashes will start at 7:30am and end at 9:00am.**

Ash Wednesday Service will be at 5:00pm in our CLC.

Coffee with The Pastors

**Sunday, February 8th
at Noon in CR 5/6**

Click [HERE](#) to EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP

New Testament Challenge

Week of 2/1 - Matthew 21-25
Week of 2/8- Matthew 26-28; Mark 1-2
Week of 2/15 - Mark 3-7
Week of 2/22 - Mark 8-12

COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS January 2025 Class



6500 Wesleyan Way, Wildwood, FL 34785
info@lakedeatonumc.com | Tel: 352-571-4665

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

www.lakedeatonumc.com

END GAME

This short series cuts through speculation to focus on hope, perseverance, and purpose in challenging times.

(Circle the words you find in the puzzle below.)

O	O	M	V	I	G	S	O	O	N	I	U	R	D	G	E
D	N	I	E	L	U	T	C	H	R	A	G	E	M	O	O
A	A	N	O	C	H	P	O	P	U	R	P	O	S	E	C
Y	H	R	O	E	O	J	K	R	B	E	P	O	H	R	N
O	Y	F	O	R	E	V	E	R	R	I	H	U	E	O	L
F	S	N	R	L	K	H	C	S	F	G	T	B	I	E	O
E	E	A	L	P	H	A	E	E	U	N	G	T	V	N	S
C	H	A	G	C	L	V	L	C	H	S	A	E	O	D	S
A	C	E	A	L	E	T	T	E	R	L	C	O	M	U	I
R	R	T	H	R	O	N	E	I	E	A	R	L	N	R	A
G	U	O	A	R	E	S	E	V	E	N	A	B	A	E	N
H	H	N	V	E	N	E	E	P	H	E	S	I	R	N	S
E	C	N	I	V	O	R	P	S	E	N	I	A	N	T	O
E	A	E	O	Y	T	H	G	I	M	L	A	S	D	L	B

Jesus
reigns
forever
focus
hope

purpose
call
endure
Revelation
letter

John
seven
churches
The One
perseverance

Alpha
Omega
Province
Asia
Grace

peace
throne
rise
glory
Almighty

LENT CALENDAR 2026

FEBRUARY 21 – 27

- Spend 10 minutes each day researching, asking, or exploring online resources to deepen your understanding of Lent.
- Each day smile and greet someone you don't know.
- Read the Gospel of John.
- Sign up to attend "Restore My Soul" congregation retreat, March 5&6.

FEB 28 – MARCH 6

- Sacrifice something you enjoy this week (e.g., soda, coffee, TV) and use that time to read the Gospel of John.
- Send a card to a friend, neighbor or family member who needs encouragement.
- Pray for your neighborhood and your city.

MARCH 7–13

- Spend five minutes in complete silence. Allow yourself to settle into stillness, and reflect on what the Holy Spirit is whispering to your heart.
- Send an email to a friend you have not seen for a long time.
- Pray for Lake Deaton UMC, our pastors, staff, and our leaders.

MARCH 14–20

- Go for a short walk three days of the week. Be observant. What do you see that you haven't seen before?
- Call someone who has a positive influence in your life and tell them how much you appreciate them.
- Pray for our country and our leaders.

MARCH 21 – 27

- Forego one of your eating out evenings and instead prepare a simple meal at home. Calculate what you would have spent on dining out and donate that amount to Lake Deaton UMC, ZOE Ministries.
- Pray for our World, those in hunger, those in poverty, slavery, and war.

MARCH 28 – APRIL 3

- Stop by the church to walk the Prayer Labyrinth and/or Prayer Garden.
- Attend Maundy Thursday service or Good Friday service.
- Invite a friend to one of our Easter Services.
- Buy a flower to bring to Easter service.

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

"EASTER CELEBRATION – APRIL 4 & 5"

Bring a friend to one of the Easter services. Bring a flower to place on the cross.

SATURDAY at 5:00pm (With translation for the Hearing Impaired.)

SUNDAY at 7:00am Sunrise Service (Continental breakfast after service.)

SUNDAY at 9:00am (Contemporary) * **SUNDAY at 10:45am** (Traditional)

FINDING A RHYTHM: A Lenten Retreat

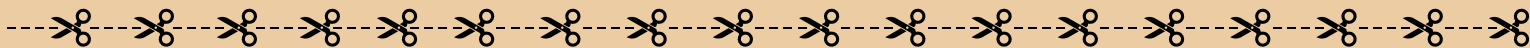
for Our Church

March 5-6 | Warren Willis Camp Center

Lent invites us to pause, reflect, and realign our lives with God’s grace. In the midst of busy schedules and constant demands, creating space to listen—to God, to our own hearts, and to the Spirit—can be difficult. Our **Church-Wide Lenten Retreat on March 5-6** offers an intentional opportunity to step away and be renewed.

The guiding theme of the retreat is “finding a rhythm.” Together, we will explore how God shapes us as followers of Jesus through life-giving rhythms in five key areas: body, mind, spirit, community, and service. Rather than striving for quick fixes, this retreat invites attentiveness—learning how to cooperate with the steady, loving work of God’s Spirit in everyday life. The retreat will include worship, short teaching sessions, guided time with the Lord, and meaningful conversation in small-group settings. Participants will spend significant time in personal reflection using guided exercises, along with shared meals, moments of rest, and opportunities to enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the camp.

This retreat is for everyone—whether you feel spiritually energized or weary, whether this is your first retreat or one of many. The hope is that you will leave with clarity about one or two rhythms God may be inviting you to embrace in the next season of life. Our time together will conclude with worship and Communion, sending us forth grounded in grace and hope.



“RESTORE MY SOUL” CHURCHWIDE RETREAT

Warren Willis Camp Center

4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park

The costs listed below are very reasonable and include three meals (dinner, breakfast and lunch) as well as the full retreat schedule (subject to change.) If you are in need of a scholarship, please contact one of the pastors.

Thursday, March 5:

- 1:00pm - Check-In
- 2:00pm - Session
- 5:30pm - Dinner
- 7:00pm - Camp fire, S’mores, Songs.

Friday, March 6:

- 7:30am - Breakfast
- 8:30am - Session
- 10:00am - Free Time
- Noon - Lunch
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm - Final with Communion

Room Costs:

_____Single \$100 _____Couple \$150 _____Roommate \$80 pp _____Commuter \$ 50 pp

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Choice: _____

If paying by check/cash, please attach to this form and turn into church office or the Lenten Retreat desk in the Lobby.

If paying by credit or debit card, please scan QR Code:



RETREAT

