Vol. 59
October 2026

Lake Deaton

HAPPENINGS!

The official newsletter of Lake Deaton United Methodist Church



HIGHLIGHT
p 5

Rise AGAINST HUNGER

TOP

"Faith through the Fire!"

The Carole DeCosmo Story
p 12

Operation Christmas Child

p 9

SHARING HOPE. PACKING LOVE. CHANGING LIVES.

CELEBRATING OUR PASTORS!

A heartfelt thank you to:

Pastor Jim Divine & Pastor Lucas Bonates

October gives us a special opportunity to pause and say something that deserves to be said all year long: Thank you, Pastor Jim and Pastor Lucas, for the love, leadership, and faith you pour into Lake Deaton United Methodist Church!



Pastor Jim, thank you for your leadership, wisdom, and steady presence. Through your preaching, teaching, and care for our congregation, you challenge us to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and to live out our faith beyond the walls of the church.

Pastor Lucas, thank you for the energy, compassion, and heart you bring to our church family. Your ministry, teaching, and willingness to connect with people help us see new possibilities for how we can grow together in faith and serve others.











Together, you remind us that the church is not simply a building or a place for Worship services. It is a community of people following Jesus, caring for one another, and seeking ways to share God's love with the world. We know that ministry comes with long days, difficult conversations, countless prayers, and responsibilities that often happen quietly and behind the scenes. Please know that your Lake Deaton family sees you, appreciates you, and is grateful for all that you do.

This Pastor Appreciation Month, we celebrate you—not only for what you do, but for who you are and for the difference you make in the lives of so many. Thank you for answering God's call, for serving with faithful hearts, and for walking alongside us on this journey. We are blessed to have you as our pastors, and we thank God for both of you!

With love and appreciation,

Your Lake Deaton UMC Family!

A SPECIAL GIFT OF APPRECIATION:

If you would like to bless Pastors Jim & Lucas, a special gift offering will be available throughout October as a tangible expression of our love and appreciation.

Go to our church "Giving" page, or click ***HERE***.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lake Deaton Happenings!

COMMUNITY

Annual Church Conference 10

Craft Fair & Guys w/Pies 14

First Impressions All-Team Meeting 12

Healing Prayer Service 08

New Staff 10

Parkinson's Symposium 13

Pastor's Note 04

Stewardship Effort 07

Understanding Medicare 07

CLUBS/CLASSES

Card Making 08

How to Deal w/Emergencies 15

Lit & Lemonade 13

New Cancer Support Group 08

Quilt & Shawl Ministries 15

Women's Bible Study 10

INSPIRATIONAL

Carole DeCosmo Story 11

Pastors Appreciation 02

Randy & Gemma Farewell 18



MISSIONS/OUTREACH

Mini-Ministry Fair 06

Operation Christmas Child 09

Rise Against Hunger 05

Thrift Store 06

Lake Deaton United Methodist Church

EVENTS/DINNERS

An Evening w/Kenn Mann 13

Bloom Events 17

Coffee at the Lake 19

From the Event Coordinator 14

GROW Dinners 16

Journeymen Breakfast 06

Singles/Solos 16

To download this current issue of the newsletter to your tablet, computer or phone, visit:.

WWW.LAKEDEATONUMC.COM/RESOURCES

PASTOR'S **NOTE**

I found myself the other day walking into the Garden Department at Walmart looking for a tool I needed for my yard. To my surprise the garden section was almost empty with only one row of half empty shelves with the summer's garden supplies priced at 80% off.

And it hit me; Walmart is getting ready for the Holidays! Before you even get this October newsletter many of the big stores will already have their Christmas trees, lights and other paraphernalia on full display! Even we have all our Christmas gear out at Coleman Oaks Thrift Store.

I started doing some research and discovered that (as has been for over 100 years) Christmas is the number one holiday for consumer shopping. Halloween is now second and Thanksgiving third. In fact, between the beginning of October to the end of December, the average American will spend over $1,000 for Christmas gifts, decorations, food and other holiday items. They will spend approximately $115 for Halloween per person, and a household will spend $150 to $200 for Thanksgiving.

In a time that historically people celebrated God's bounty and provision, to then celebrate Family and blessing, and finally to celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, we have become consumerist junkies.

This year, as we are searching for God's will, I find myself wanting to slow down from all the holiday madness. I will seek to focus on my hope in Christ and my relationship with God and family, which comes out of that hope in Jesus.

So, as a son of God, I encourage my sisters and brothers, let's start early this year preparing ourselves for a season of celebration––not of needless consumerism, but of relationships with each other, our families and ultimately with God, through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Blessings and Happy Holidays,



- First Impressions All-Team Meeting - **Thursday, Oct 15 at 11:00am in the CLC** (*page 12*).
- Annual Church Conference - **Sunday, Oct 25 at 4:00pm in the CLC** (*page 10*).

Rise® AGAINST HUNGER

Lake Deaton is proud to be part of this mission!

For more than 25 years, Rise Against Hunger has been working toward a world without hunger through sustainable programs focused on nutrition, education, and economic empowerment.
In 2025, Rise Against Hunger served an incredible 7,389,552 people across 41 countries—an impact made possible through the generosity and service of donors, partners, and volunteers.

Lake Deaton UMC is proud to be part of this mission! Through our upcoming Rise Against Hunger experience, we have the opportunity to come together as a church family, package meals, and help make a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Together, we can turn compassion into action and help fight hunger—one meal at a time!



Friday, October 9

9:00am - noon (or when completed)
in the **CLC**

We need 250 volunteers to help us reach our goal!
Come be part of this powerful experience and help Lake Deaton put faith into action.

20,000 MEALS, 250 VOLUNTEERS, ONE MORNING!

Sign up today and invite someone to join you!

Click ***HERE*** to register.



JOURNEYMEN BREAKFAST!



Men, come and enjoy a delicious, warm breakfast and great fellowship with friends. Breakfast is just $6 (pay at the door), and first-time guests eat FREE!

- **October 7**, God Speaks Through Community, Tom Gilbert
- **October 14**, Living the Yes, David Hurnevich
- **October 21**, Biblical Management, Don Argus
- **October 28**, Music, CD, Awards in His Life, and New Book, Kenn Mann

MINI-MINISTRY FAIR

Featuring the Care and Golf Cart Ministries

Saturday, November 7 & Sunday, November 8

Before and After Services.

Looking for a place to connect, serve, and share your gifts?
Stop by the Fair to learn more, meet your Lake Deaton family, and find a ministry that's a great fit for you!

Ministry Team Leaders: This is also a great opportunity to connect with potential volunteers and showcase your ministry.

Come discover where you can plug in and serve!

Diane Hull, Assistant Coordinator, Ministry Fair

Upcoming fall 2026 **STEWARDSHIP EFFORT**

By Bob Jorden



God has entrusted each of us with gifts, abilities, experiences, relationships, time, and financial resources, not so we can keep them, but so we can invest them in God's kingdom. Generosity is not paying God back; it is paying God's blessings forward.

Preaching Series:

October 17 & 18: "Everything is a Gift"
We don't own anything. We are stewards. The first step in generosity is recognizing that everything ultimately belongs to God.

October 24 & 25: "What will you do with what you've been given?"
The master isn't asking. "How much did you receive?" He's asking, "What will you do with what I entrusted to you?"

October 31 & November 1: "Blessed to Bless."
Our resources exist to bless others. Generosity changes lives.

November 7 & 8: Commitment Sunday – "Much Given, Much Expected"
Because God has trusted us, we respond joyfully ("From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded…". Three Commitments: I will pray, I will serve, I will give".

November 14 & 15: Celebration Sunday – "Look What God Can Do."
Imagine what God could do…if every person prayed faithfully, served joyfully, and gave generously.

We have been blessed to become a blessing!

UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE

Wednesday, October 7 at 1:00pm in CR 5/6

Navigating Medicare can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to figure it out alone. Join Donna Blackwell for an informative class designed to help you better understand the Medicare system and the choices available to you.
Click ***HERE*** to register.

Learn about Original Medicare (Parts A & B), supplemental coverage, Medicare Advantage, prescription drug coverage, and other options that may help meet your individual healthcare needs.

TUTORS 4 KIDS

Make a Difference—
Become a Tutor!

Tutors4Kids.org is looking for volunteers to tutor local children. If you have a heart for helping young people, please prayerfully consider this meaningful opportunity to serve our community. For more information, call 352-568-5843 or email Shirley Potts at *potts.shirley77@gmail.com*.

You Are Not Alone...

GRIEFSHARE in October
Thursdays from 1:30pm to 3:00pm in CR 4

Dates	Title
October 1	Self-Care: Keeping up your strength
October 8	Fearful & Overwhelmed: Facing the unknown
October 15	Anger: When it all seems so unfair
October 22	Regrets: Dealing with the 'if only'
October 29	*Lesson 1:* Grief & your household facing the empty chair *(Class starts at 12:30pm)*
	Lesson 2: Grief & your friendships: Does anyone understand

CANCER SUPPORT AND SURVIVOR'S GROUP

Welcome all cancer warriors!
Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9:00am

We are excited to announce a new Care Ministry "Cancer Support and Survivors Group," which will be meeting **twice a month for an hour in CR 1, beginning *October 7th*.**

Our mission is to provide a safe and confidential place for cancer patients, survivors and caregivers to share their story. Going through cancer creates a wide range of emotions. We live with fear, anxiety and questions; sometimes long after we are survivors. The good news is that we can share these stories, celebrate victories, anchor our hearts in God's peace alongside peers who truly understand.

We invite you to find community, comfort and hope here at Lake Deaton UMC Cancer and Survivor's Group. The Cancer Support Community based out of Washington DC makes a very important statement, "All people who are impacted by cancer should be empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community."

Carole DeCosmo
(Read my story... page 11.)

HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, October 20
at 4pm in CR1
(and every 3rd Tuesday)

As the season changes, where is God leading you?

As we enter into the autumn season with cooler temperatures and changing leaves, we invite you to pause and reflect on the seasons of your life.

Join us for this peaceful, prayerful time as we seek God's comfort and renewed strength for the journey ahead. Come as you are and allow God to meet you in this season of life.





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 **October 7** 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.

For questions, email us at:
Teresa at: *tnburgess@comcast.net*
Kathy at: *kmskatrina@hotmail.com*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: SHARE JOY. GIVE HOPE. CHANGE A LIFE. **KICK-OFF: October 17 & 18!**

One of Lake Deaton UMC's most meaningful outreach ministries is Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Every year, shoeboxes filled with small gifts, school supplies and personal care items are delivered to children around the world who may otherwise receive no Christmas gift at all. But these boxes are about more than presents—they are an opportunity to share God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Each child also receives The Greatest Journey, which teaches them about Jesus and helps them begin a journey of faith.

HELP US REACH 800 CHILDREN!

Last year, Lake Deaton filled an incredible 700 shoeboxes! In Sumter and Lake Counties, 104 churches participated, and Lake Deaton ranked 7th in the number of shoeboxes collected. This year, we're reaching even higher—our goal is 800 shoeboxes! There are several ways YOU can help:

- Pack a Shoebox: **Pick up an empty shoebox (or several!) during our Kickoff Weekend, October 17 & 18.** Dollar Tree is a great place to find school supplies, coloring books, crayons, personal care items and other small gifts. Please include $10 for shipping—either a $10 bill or a check payable to Samaritan's Purse.
- Purchase a Pre-Filled Shoebox — $30: Let us do the shopping for you! Purchase a pre-filled shoebox for $30, which includes the $10 shipping cost. Boxes will be available before and after worship services and at the Reception Desk during the week. Make checks payable to LDUMC and write "Shoeboxes" in the memo line.
- Sponsor a Shoebox: Every donation helps us fill more boxes and move closer to our goal of 800! Make your check payable to LDUMC and write "Shoeboxes" in the memo line.

Please Do Not Include: Toothpaste, lotions, candy, gum, liquids, glass items or aerosol containers.

Thank you, Lake Deaton, for continuing to make Operation Christmas Child such a powerful outreach ministry. Your generosity brings joy to children around the world and gives us an opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

Shoebox Deadline:
Sunday, November 15

Susan





WELCOME DEB COMBS!



Staff Spotlight!
Please join us in welcoming ***Deb Combs***, our new Administrative Assistant at Lake Deaton UMC!
Deb and her husband, David, recently moved to The Villages from Ohio and have been part of the Lake Deaton family since May. A lifelong Ohio State Buckeye fan, Deb proudly cheers, "O-H!" (You know the response—"I-O!")

With experience in church office administration and 21 years as a teacher, Deb brings a heart for serving, encouraging, and connecting with others. She and David have five children and two grandchildren.

Deb says, "The opportunity to serve the people of Lake Deaton is exciting, and I look forward to meeting and working with you!"

Welcome to the Lake Deaton family, Deb! We're so glad you're here!

Ladies, You're Invited!
A SIX-WEEK
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:
The Way of the Wildflower
(Available on Amazon)

Join us as we begin *The Way of the Wildflower* by Ruth Chou Simons, a beautiful devotional that encourages us to lay down our burdens, quiet anxious thoughts, and rest in God's faithful care. Through 30 gospel-centered meditations, Ruth explores five key themes: Dependency, Freedom, Resilience, Unhurriedness, and Belovedness. Filled with Scripture, prayer, practical application, and stunning botanical artwork, this study will help us deepen our trust in God's love and provision. We look forward to growing together as we discover how to live more freely and faithfully in Christ. Whether you're new or returning, there's a seat for you!

- **Tuesdays, beginning November 3**
- **9:30am – 10:30am in CR 5/6**

For more information, contact Debbie McQuady at *mcquady1983@gmail.com*.

2026 GETTING A PIECE OF THE PIE **CHURCH CONFERENCE!**

You are invited to attend our annual Church Conference, which will take place **Sunday, October 25th at 4:00pm in the CLC.**

We will have homemade pie and refreshments beginning at 3:30 before we begin the Conference at 4:00.

The Church Conference is the annual meeting of a local United Methodist Church. It is a time to look back at where we have been, celebrate what God has done, and look ahead to where we are going in the coming year.

During the Conference, we will conduct important church business, including:

- Voting on the Pastors' salaries for the coming year
- Approving the nominations of new officers and leaders for church teams
- Voting on a proposal to consolidate two land loans with the existing mortgage into one loan moving forward

This year, Rev. Dr. Sarah Campbell will return to serve as the presiding Elder for our Church Conference.

If you have any questions about any of these items, please contact one of the pastors (Jim or Lucas) or Kathy Schroeder (Chair of Lead Team), any of whom would be happy to respond.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual Church Conference. (Registration is not required.)

A JOURNEY *THROUGH* CANCER, A JOURNEY *TO* FAITH

Carole DeCosmo's Story of Hope and Transformation



I am a four-time cancer survivor—and I'm still standing. To God be all the glory! Looking back now, I can see that God was keeping me here for a purpose far greater than I could understand at the time. Through every diagnosis, every challenge, and every uncertain moment, He was quietly leading me toward something I never expected: a deeper journey of faith.

My first experience hearing the dreaded words, "You have cancer," came in 2011. Before that diagnosis, I endured two CT scans, two needle biopsies, a collapsed lung, and two PET scans. After months of uncertainty, fear, and unanswered questions, I finally had an answer: lung cancer. Those two words changed everything. What I didn't know then was that this would be the beginning of a much longer journey—one that would challenge me physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and ultimately lead me closer to God.

I was already carrying the deep grief of losing a child in 2009, and now I was facing cancer. To make matters even more difficult, I was just one year away from becoming eligible for Medicare and had no health insurance. For days, I fought to get someone to understand just how urgent my situation was. There were tears, frustration, and, admittedly, a little guilt-tripping, but eventually, someone listened. Within a week, I had insurance, and soon after, my surgery was scheduled. At the time, I was simply trying to get through one crisis at a time. I had no idea that God was already working behind the scenes, making a way when I couldn't see one.

Before my first surgery, I remember lying on a very hard table in a very cold room when someone asked me, "Is it okay if we pray before your surgery?" I said yes, thinking, maybe it will help. Today, I know it did!

I believe Jesus was there with me, reaching out His hand. I just wasn't ready to reach back. After surgery, life became a routine of CT scans every six months—and the "scanxiety" that came with each one. Then, in 2019, I heard those dreaded words again. This time, it was lymphoma, and I needed chemo-therapy.

There were days when I was frightened and overwhelmed. My family loved and supported me, but I didn't yet understand how much it could help to talk with others who had experienced cancer themselves. There are fears, questions, and emotions that only someone who has walked that road can truly understand.

That same year, I was rushed by ambulance to Shands and came dangerously close to losing both my leg and my life because of a vascular issue. Then, in 2022, I faced lung cancer again and underwent radiation.

Through all of these experiences, I kept telling myself, I'm strong. I can handle anything. And I did my best to handle everything on my own, still not reaching out my hand to Jesus.

Then, in January 2025, my husband passed away. While I was caring for him, I had postponed my scheduled cancer scans. When I finally had my scan in March, I learned that the lung cancer had returned. This time, I truly felt alone. My family was 1,500 miles away, and many of the friends who had been part of our lives were older than us and had passed away. I

(Continued on next page...)

A Journey *through* Cancer, A Journey *to* Faith *(continued)*

Carole DeCosmo's Story of Hope and Transformation

told myself that tough old me would handle it. And I went through radiation once again. But the truth was, I wasn't really handling it. The months that followed were some of the loneliest of my life...

Then I walked through the doors of Lake Deaton United Methodist Church. I had signed up for GriefShare and then cancelled. But Pastor Dwayne called me, and I was so surprised by his call that I signed up again. That decision changed my life!

Little by little, the faith I had lost in my 20s began to return. I started listening to sermons, learning, asking questions, reading Scripture, and opening my heart. And I began to realize something: Jesus had been beside me through every diagnosis, every treatment, every loss, and every lonely moment! He had never stopped reaching out His hand, and I was finally ready to reach back.

The people at Lake Deaton have had an incredible impact on my life. Learning from Pastor Jim and Pastor Loida through their weekly Bible discussion groups, reading Scripture, and growing in my faith has been both humbling and energizing. Pastor Loida also helped me discover that I have a spiritual gift—even though I never thought I did. That discovery led me to something I believe God had been preparing me for all along: a **Cancer Support and Survivor Group** (*see page 8*) through Lake Deaton's Care Ministry!

I know what it feels like to be afraid, overwhelmed, and alone. I don't want anyone facing cancer to feel like they have to walk that journey by themselves. If my experiences can help someone else feel supported, understood, and a little less alone, then perhaps I can finally see more clearly why God kept me here.

Cancer is part of my story, but cancer does not define me.

My faith, my hope, and the people God has placed in my life are now a much bigger part of my story. I am grateful that God never gave up on me—and that He eventually led me through the doors of Lake Deaton.

To all the cancer warriors, survivors, caregivers, and families, remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28:

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

For many years, I thought being strong meant carrying everything by myself. Now I understand that I was never meant to do that. I finally reached out my hand, and He took it. And I am so glad I did!

Thank you for reading my story. *Carole*

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

All-Team Meeting in the CLC

Thursday, Oct 15 - 11 to 12:30pm.

(Greeters, Ushers, VIP, Connect, Sobremesa, Coffee & Cookies, Tumbler Team, Golf Cart, Greeters, and Discover Lake Deaton)

Engaging Conversation, Policy Updates and Light Snacks will be served. Questions? Contact Kari at *kdiaz@lakedeatonumc.com*.

Click ***HERE*** to register.



To register, go to our church "Upcoming Events" page or click on image.

PARKINSON'S SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, October 22 - 11 to 2:30pm

Please join the Parkinson's Foundation for Florida Chapter Parkinson's Symposium, a free program at Lake Deaton UMC - CLC. Vendors will be available, and a boxed lunch will be provided. Registration is required



LIT & **LEMONADE**

Book Club

The next Lit & Lemonade will be:
Thursday, October 29 at 2 pm in CR 2.

We will be discussing:
Whistler by Ann Patchett.

The group is open to anyone who wishes to explore the book deeper.

To register, click ***HERE***.



From your **EVENT** COORDINATOR

JulieĂnnă Davis - *events@lakedeatonumc.com*

I hope you enjoyed our BBQ, line dancing, corn hole, and hayride! It was a wonderful time of food, fun, and fellowship!

Our busy season is here, with many exciting events ahead! You'll find more details throughout this newsletter, so be sure to read on and mark your calendars.

- **Parkinson's Seminar: October 22, 10:00 a.m.–1:00pm**. Learn about Parkinson's, helpful resources, and support for individuals and families. (*See bottom of page 13.*)
- **Divine Thanksgiving at the Lake: November 26.** Join us for fellowship, food, and giving thanks. More details coming soon!
- **Annual Bonfire: December 4.** S'mores, brats, music, and fellowship! Watch for details.

You won't want to miss it! Mark your calendars and join us for these special events!



To order your pie(s), scan QR code or click ***HERE***.

For more information about the Craft Fair, click ***HERE***.

PRAYER **QUILT** MINISTRY



Join us!

Our quilting group meets on the **first Wednesday of each month from 12:30–3:00pm in CR 2 (October 7).**

Contact Lois Borlase at: *quilter8509@yahoo.com*

Dedicated quilters come together to create beautiful, handmade quilts that carry a special message of love, comfort, and prayer. As each quilt is created, it is prayed over and dedicated to someone who is facing a difficult time, illness, loss, or other life challenge. The recipient is reminded that they are surrounded by the prayers and care of our church family.

Whether you are an experienced quilter or simply have a heart for serving others, we would love to have you join us! Come share your talents, learn from others, enjoy fellowship, and help create quilts that bring comfort and hope to those who need it most.

*Click **HERE** to request a Prayer Quilt.*

PRAYER **SHAWL** MINISTRY



Join us!

Our shawl group meets on the **second Monday of each month. Our next gathering is October 12 from 9:00am-11:00am in CR 2.**

Contact Paula Labonte at: *seashels3@comcast.net*

Whether you're an experienced knitter or simply have a heart for prayer and service, we invite you to be part of this meaningful ministry.

Together, we wrap others in warmth, prayer, and love, one shawl at a time.

Need a Prayer Shawl?
Prayer Shawls are available on the Shawl Stand in the church lobby near the Connect Desk. If you or someone you know could use a shawl, please take one, complete the yellow card attached to it and place it in the basket. This allows us to continue praying for the person receiving the shawl.

HOW TO DEAL WITH **EMERGENCIES** WALKING TOUR





Have you ever wondered where the emergency equipment is located at Lake Deaton?

- **Sunday, Oct 25 at 10:15am** - Click ***HERE***
- **Monday, Oct 26 at 11:00am** - Click ***HERE***

Gather in the Lobby area with Paula Labonte for a walking tour, where we will explore the locations and look inside the emergency equipment around the church building. Contact Paula to sign up at: *seashels3@comcast.net*.

WALK AWAY THE POUNDS

Every Tuesday at 3:00 PM in the CLC
Looking for a fun way to stay active, feel energized, and enjoy some great fellowship? Come join us! We spend about 45 minutes doing aerobic exercise to upbeat music and a guided workout video. You can move at your own pace and choose the level of activity that feels right for you. No matter your fitness level, you're welcome to participate! It's a great opportunity to get moving, meet new friends, and enjoy some encouragement along the way.

All are welcome—so bring a friend and join us! We hope to see you there!

—Nancy Ward

GROW CLASS PLANNING FOR 2026-2027

We are organizing our days of the week to have GROW classes (Bible Study, Art, Health, Grief Class, and other learning opportunities). The intentional development of opportunities for the congregation of LDUMC to grow in our "Core Values" and in our goal of being a Christ-centered community, worshiping and serving together and apart, where... The welcome is warm, faith grows, love becomes action, and lives are changed.

www.lakedeatonumc.com/GROW.



TWO FALL **GROW NIGHT DINNERS** REMAIN

- **Wednesday, October 7** – Game Night Event (Meal is $15 - Click ***HERE***). The game will be "Bible Trivia" hosted by Pastor Jim: Kitchen doors open at 4:45pm, come in and eat first, then the "Program" will start at 5:45pm.).
- **Wednesday, November 4** – Grow Celebration and ZOE Presentation (Meal is $15 - Click ***HERE***). There will be a full Thanksgiving Meal with all the trimmings. There will also be a ZOE presentation from the groups trip to India: Kitchen doors open at 4:45pm, come in and eat first, then the "Program" will start at 5:30pm).

Mark Your Calendars for the Winter GROW Sessions 2027!

(January 20 – March 20) - "SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN RETIREMENT"

During the winter we will offer "Spiritual Growth in Retirement". Six sessions / Six dinners. (Meals are $15).

LAKE DEATON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SINGLES / SOLO
MINISTRY

Hi friends!

Our October Singles/Solo activity will be on **Thursday, October 15 at 5:00pm in CR 5/6.**

Please plan to bring your favorite game to share as well as your potluck specialty. Drinks will be provided. Questions?

Call Liz Schweers at *850-247-9489.*



Join the Fun! - **September 8, 2027**
Save the date for a night of fun, fellowship and friendly competition!

Contact Donna Baker at:
donnaAPN@comcast.net.

BLOOM LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 13 at 11:00am in the CLC.

Join us for our upcoming Bloom Luncheon and enjoy a wonderful meal, fellowship, and an inspiring message from Marge Felix of Hands of Mercy Everywhere.

Hands of Mercy Everywhere provides a home for teen mothers and their babies, as well as teen girls at risk of trafficking. Marge will share more about this important ministry and show a special video highlighting the work they are doing.

Meal is $15 - *Menu: Chicken salad sandwich on a croissant, cream of broccoli soup and dessert*. (Or bring your own lunch and attend for free - please register.).

Help Us Give Back...
As a special way to support Hands of Mercy Everywhere, we invite attendees to bring donations of paper products and cleaning supplies.

For more information and to sign up, click ***HERE***.

SAVE-THE-DATE!

BLOOM Women's Event
Tuesday, February 9, 2027
9:00am – 12:30pm



Join us for a meaningful morning of worship, fellowship, and inspiration as we welcome guest speaker Robyn Dykstra. Our theme, "Finishing Faithful" The event cost is $50, which includes the full program and a catered luncheon.

An optional prayer bead workshop will be offered from 12:30–1:30 PM. The workshop fee is $20 to cover materials.

Scholarships are available for the luncheon and/or the workshop by contacting the church office. Mark your calendar and invite a friend; this will be a day to remember.

BLOOM WOMEN'S DAY OUT!

Ladies, Join us for a incredible evening of lights, delicious food, shopping, and fun as we head to the Asian Lantern Festival at the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens in Sanford, Florida!

- **Sunday, November 15**
- Departure: 2:00 PM from LDUMC
- Return: Shortly before 10:00 PM
- Cost: $50 per person

We'll begin our evening in downtown Sanford, where you'll have time to stroll through the charming historic downtown, browse the shops, and enjoy dinner at a restaurant of your choice. Dinner is on your own.

Shortly before 6:00 PM, we'll meet back at the bus and travel to the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens for the highlight of our evening—the spectacular Asian Lantern Festival! Prepare to be amazed as the zoo comes alive with hundreds of dazzling lanterns, colorful displays, and beautiful illuminated creations inspired by Asian art and culture. We'll have until 8:15pm to stroll through the festival at our leisure and enjoy all the sights. There will also be food and drink booths available at the festival for those who would like an additional snack or beverage.

At 8:15 PM, we'll board the bus and relax on our way back to LDUMC, arriving shortly before 10:00 PM.

Registration: Sign up ***HERE***, or if you need assistance, come to the Connect Desk before or after service and a volunteer will help you sign up online.

With Love We Say Farewell...

RANDY & GEMMA BENJAMIN

How do you say goodbye to friends who mean so much? How do you earnestly thank those friends who worked so hard beside you to build a church home; and how do you recognize people who because of their love of Christ and leadership abilities worked to help put in place programs and venues that offered opportunities for others to work for Christ, and helped change lives.

We take this opportunity as a church of faithful believers to say farewell to Randy and Gemma Benjamin who are now returning to the state of Michigan and to a new home and community. It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with them over these past years and they leave behind a legacy of good works that will continue to grow and nurture others. These programs below will miss your caring, skillful touch and the vigor and thoughtfulness you brought to each.

Randy:

- Leadership Council Team Lead (including member of Finance and Stewardship ministries)
- Volunteer and Team Lead of COTS Advisory Team
- Sobremesa Volunteer
- Greeter Ministry
- Many other areas within the church as needed

Gemma:

- Small Group Ministry Lead
- Sobremesa Ministry Lead and Volunteer Trainer
- Former Sonrise Ministry Activity Leader
- Discipleship Team
- Wired Word Sunday School Class Lead Administrator
- Craft Projects for Fundraisers

We will miss your smiles, your laughter, your companionship, and sometimes funny jokes😘!

As you transition to your new home and community, we send you off with our prayers and good wishes for a new church home where you will continue to serve our Lord and remember as the song says, "A lifetime is not too long to live as friends." We'll miss you!

Glenda Wolfe



Send The Benjamins a message to:
gpsbenjamin@gmail.com











Join us at our next Coffee at the Lake on

Tuesday, November 3 at 3:00pm in CR 1. (Click ***HERE***)

Come GROW with Us!



Lake Deaton United Methodist Church

Jim Divine
Lead Pastor

Lucas Bonates
Executive Pastor



Lake Deaton United Methodist Church

Worship Services:

Saturdays at 5:00pm (w/ Interpretation for the Deaf.)

Sundays at 9:00am & 10:45am

Worship with us online at:

www.lakedeatonumc.com/worshiponline

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

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

Coleman Oaks Thrift Store & Coffee Shop

A Ministry of Lake Deaton UMC

Store Hours:
Tues - Sat: 10:00am to 4:00pm

130 S. Commercial Street, Coleman, Florida 33521
407-378-3030

colemanoaksoffice@lakedeatonumc.com

www.lakedeatonumc.com/thriftstore

2026 OCTOBER

Worship Services:
Saturdays at 5:00pm | Sundays at 9:00am & 10:45am

Much Given, Much Expected
New Sermon Series - Starting October 17 & 18

New Testament Reading Challenge Class with Pastor Jim: ***Tuesdays, 8:00am in CR 1*** *or Pastor Loida:* ***Thursdays, 2:00pm via Zoom****.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
☐ ***READ: 1 Timothy 1-5***						
				1 St. Augustine Trip	2 St. Augustine Trip	3 Wired Word Class - **Every Saturday** at 3:15pm in CR 5/6
☐ ***READ: Timothy 6 & 2 Timothy 1-4***						
4 Discover Lake Deaton - After services - CLC (gather in front of stage.)	5	6	7 **-GROW Game Night - 4:45pm** -Card Making - 1pm in CR4 -Cancer Support - 9am in CR 1 -Understanding Medicare- 1pm -5/6	8 GriefShare - 1:30pm in CR 4	9 **Rise Against Hunger - 9am - in CLC**	10 Prayer Bees - Need prayer? After service stay seated.
☐ ***READ: Titus 1-3; Philemon 1: Hebrews 1***						
11 Prayer Bees - Need prayer? After service stay seated.	12 Prayer Shawl - 11am - CLC	13 BLOOM Luncheon - 11am - CLC	14	15 **First Impressions All-Team Meeting - 11am - CLC**	16	17 **Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Kick-off**
☐ ***READ: Hebrews 2-6***						
18 **Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Kick-off**	19 Bloom Book Club meets - 10:30am in CR 2. *The Scavenger's Daughters'* by Kay Bratt	20 Healing Prayer Service - 4pm in CR 1	21 Cancer Support Group - 9am in CR 1	22 Parkinsons Symposium - 10am-1pm - CLC Singles/Solo Dinner & Boat Ride at 4:15	23	24
☐ ***READ: Hebrews 7-11***						
25 Emergency Walkthrough - 10:15am - Lobby **Annual Church Conference - 4pm - CLC**	26 Emergency Walkthrough - 11am - Lobby	27	28	29 St. Augustine Trip Lit & Lemonade *Whistler* by Ann Patchettat 2pm in CR 1	30 St. Augustine Trip	31

Sports & Recreations - For details visit *www.lakedeatonumc.com/recreation*

Mondays:
- Cardio Drumming - 8:30am
- Women's Golf - 9am (except 5th Monday)
- Bone Builders - 10am

Tuesdays:
- Cardio Drumming - 5:30pm (except 2nd Tuesday of every month)
- Pickleball - 7:30am, 9:30am (Women) and 12:30pm (Advance Begginers)
- Walk Away the Pounds - 3pm
- Nine & DIne Golf - 5:00pm

Thursdays:
- Line Dancing - 1:30pm
- Pickleball - 4:30pm

Fridays:
- Pickleball - 7:30am