

January 2025

Lake Deaton

# HAPPENINGS!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE DEATON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 41

# GROW

Top Story: Grow Night  
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NEW YEAR SERMON SERIES:  
"What the Tech?!"  
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## Welcome to 2025!

WOW, we are already a quarter into the 21st century.

When I was in the seventh grade, Mr. Deuth, our Social Studies teacher asked us to think about the year 2000. I don't remember the context to the question, but I still remember calculating that I would be 37 years old and thinking that 37 seemed so old. Now I find myself 25 years past that old 37 and I feel, in many ways, so young.

At this point in my life, I find myself not worrying about where I'll be in twenty-five more years. Today I think about how to live the best life now. I used to envision the best life as being retired to play and travel. Now I see it as something so much more. I still like to play and travel, but I have come to realize that I was formed in my mother's womb for so much more. God knitted the very core of my being together to grow and be productive. My 61-year-old prayer is that I am "Not Finished Yet." I am not finished growing. I am not finished learning. I am not finished serving and living in community, worshiping, and striving to know Christ more

deeply. This has become my vision for the mission of Lake Deaton over the past couple of years; "not finished yet." We are working hard to center our ministry around five core areas of healthy living: body, mind, spirit, community and service. Daily growth in these areas helps us continue to mature in our lives (no matter how old we are.)

This year we are going to sponsor health seminars, provide opportunities to learn, pursue getting everyone into a small group, and continue developing ways to serve (especially with our new Coleman Oaks Thrift Store). We will also have a sermon series early in the year on these core areas and continue to create the opportunity for each of us to "NOT BE FINISHED YET."

Welcome to a new year of challenge, opportunity and growth. God has some great things planned for us and I can't wait to get started.

Blessings!





# Never Stop Praying

## THURSDAY PRAYER MEETING

You're invited to join Pastor Duane and others **every Thursday at 3 PM in Classroom 4** for a time of prayer and thanksgiving.

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." (NLT)

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. Contact Janice at [jbraden@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:jbraden@lakedeatonumc.com).



## GENERATIONAL HEALING PRAYER

**Tuesday, January 21 at 3 PM CR 1**

We all know that your beautiful smile comes from your Grandmother. Did you know that you can also receive spiritual gifts from your family—your sense of humor or the positive way you look for a silver lining? Sometimes there are spiritual items that come down through your family that are not so good—your fear of water or the unrational reaction to big dogs. Come explore these spiritual hand-me-downs at this Generational Healing service. We will pray over your family line and ask for an increase in your positive gifts while decreasing the not so positive ones.

Prayer Bees 2025 - In this new year, we will offer an opportunity for **Prayer before and after services on the 2nd weekend of the month. Beginning with January 11 & 12**, the Prayer Bees will be available before and after services. If you need prayer, this is an easy, quick and confidential time to receive.

## GRIEF SUPPORT

Grief Share coming **Thursdays, starting January 16 from 1 to 2:30 PM.**

Grief Share in January 2025 will offer 13 sessions including:

- Video insights from respected Christian counselors, teachers, and pastors on how to navigate grief.
- Help for issues such as loneliness, guilt, anger, anxiety and questions for God.
- Testimonies of people who share what's common in grief and what people have found helpful.
- Group discussion with voluntary sharing & applications (no one is required to share.)

(If you know someone who's experienced a loss and might appreciate this time of prayer, consider inviting them! You might also offer to pick them up and accompany them for support.)

Registration fee is \$15 and may be done by clicking [HERE](#). Participants may also stop by the Connect Desk to sign up. (Scholarships are available by speaking with one of the pastors) Early registration is encouraged so we can order additional workbooks as needed. For more information, you may contact Pastor Duane at 352-571-4665 or [dmaburger@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:dmaburger@lakedeatonumc.com).

Grief Support





## The Wired Word

**Sundays at 10:15 AM in CR 4.**

This class provides the opportunity for discussion of current world events and how we, as Christians, can relate issues to scriptural teachings. Class members should be open to discussing current issues with respect for different opinions. All materials are provided to the class. For more information contact: Gemma at [gpsbenjamin@gmail.com](mailto:gpsbenjamin@gmail.com)

## CARD MAKING

**Every 1st Wednesday Starting in February from 12 to 3 PM in CR 1.**

Join us in making cards to help meet the daily needs of our congregation and their families! Cards are sent in sympathy, with get well wishes, providing encouragement, and other supportive needs. They are a lovely way to let people know that the Lake Deaton family cares about them. Contact Janice with the names and information of anyone that could benefit from one of these cards, at [jbraden@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:jbraden@lakedeatonumc.com).

## PRAYER QUILTS

**Every 1st Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 3 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 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in CR 2.**

Shawls and lap blankets are always available on the rack in the narthex 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 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 LuAnn Gilbert at [luanngilbert@gmail.com](mailto:luanngilbert@gmail.com)



## 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.



## 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 to find out how you can connect with a Stephen Minister.



## PET MINISTRY



Pets are a blessing. They are family. They know all our secrets but never tell. Don't we owe them our best? Our new Pet Ministry is intended to reach out to share God's love with precious pets and their families within the surrounds of Lake Deaton United Methodist Church.

1. Have a friend with a sick pup, kitty, or bird? We can send a card or call on the family to pray for healing. On request, an experienced pet minister is available to pray with and comfort the family of a pet who has passed away. We are good listeners.
2. Taking certified pets to schools, libraries, and assisted living venues shares the joy that pets bring. It also helps to spread the awareness of "pet culture." When a pet enters the room, things change. Children become more confident reading to a dog or cat. The presence of the "wee beastie" changes the atmosphere.
3. ANIMAL FAIR & BLESSING Annual Event. The purpose is to affirm the bond between humans and the animals in their care and to celebrate the mutual benefit of their relationship. Also, by bestowing a blessing upon each animal, we give thanks to God for the blessings that these humble, special creatures share with us every day. Enjoy the images from our recent Fair by clicking [HERE](#).
4. Want to know more? Check out Sylvester's Pet Ministry on Facebook.

You may contact Denise McGhee at [denisehmcghee@gmail.com](mailto:denisehmcghee@gmail.com) or De Raynes at [deraynes@aol.com](mailto:deraynes@aol.com).





# Missions

## MISSION TRIP TO INDIA - ZOE EMPOWERS

On October 31 through November 16, nine members of Lake Deaton journeyed to VIZAG, India to meet with the young people who are part of the Zoe Empowerment Program. It was a powerful experience and we witnessed God using ZOE to transform lives, families, and even communities. We want to share with our Lake Deaton family the joy and love the ZOE kids showered upon us and how our presence lifted their hope for the future. Just being there with them reminded them of Lake Deaton's financial support, love, and prayers.

Join us for the Grow Night Event on **January 15**. Our Team will share photos, videos, and stories about our Empowerment Groups and how "beggars have become bosses." We have returned with banners with their thumb prints on them to remind us of our ongoing connection with one another. Even more importantly, we have returned with a song in our hearts for the young people in India whose lives are being changed! Thank you, Lake Deaton, for your generosity!!

*Team Members were:*

Donna Baker, Jonathan Baker-Leader,  
Alison Crannell, Jim Divine, John Divine,  
Charlie Hannum, Cindy Hannum,  
Ron Mackenzie and Barbie Strome.



## The Sweet Sisters Group



The sweet sisters, a small group from LDUMC recently met to take a tour of the Baker House. Jan Betz organized the outing and all enjoyed seeing the decorations and learning about Christmas in the Victorian days .

## GROW Night: What is it?...Who attends?

At Lake Deaton UMC we have made a concerted effort to move our members forward in their faith journey through the intentional development of opportunities for the congregation 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.

To accomplish this, we offer the following:

1. Sunday School Classes (all year round).
2. Online devotionals (Summer, Advent, and Lent).
3. Grow Night Classes in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.



Everyone, members or non-members are welcome to attend.

### What is New in 2025 for GROW Night Dinners?

Our Discipleship Ministry is excited to announce what is coming in 2025. Get your brand new 2025 agenda and take advantage of these opportunities to GROW spiritually.

- **Wednesday, January 15, 4:45 PM** Opening Night. Angola Missions' Team and India Missions' team will share their amazing trips. Click [HERE](#) to sign up. Come enjoy a delicious meal and hear what God is doing through Lake Deaton UMC around the world. Presentation begins at 5:15 PM.
- **Wednesdays, January 22 through March 12** we will embark in a six-week study of *What Happens Next*. A Traveler's Guide Through The End of This Age. We all want to know what is coming down the pipe. In contrast to the confusion and anxiety that often comes with this topic, Max Lucado believes God wants us to be prepared, not scared; informed, not intimidated. He writes, "The future is not frightening if you know the future. And you can know the future when you know who holds it." *What Happens Next* is an optimistic, accessible, and non-sensational guide to what the Bible says about heaven's timeline that will empower you to face the future with faith. Max takes you on a well-researched overview of what God's Word says, exploring the following four big ideas that provide a solid foundation for understanding God's eternal plan. Dinner at 4:45 PM, presentation begins at 5:15 PM. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.
- **Wednesday, March 5:** There will be an Ash Wednesday Service at 5 PM.
- **Wednesdays, March 19 through April 9:** Four sessions led by our Pastors directly linked to our Lenten study of the Gospel of Luke. Dinner at 4:45, presentation begins at 5:15.



What an exciting season of Grow Night events in 2025!





## COLEMAN OAKS THRIFT STORE & COFFEE SHOP

Volunteer registration!

The time has arrived when we are planning for the opening of our Coleman Oaks Thrift Store & Coffee Shop in early May 2025. We need volunteers for every aspect of the work and outreach of our store to help us dive into our Lake Deaton mission: to be a Christ-centered community, worshiping and serving together and apart where the welcome is warm, faith grows, love becomes action and lives are changed. After the registration, you will be contacted about training sessions provided for all volunteers in February and March. Volunteers will be needed for the following:

- Intake area – sorting and preparing items for sale; persons to test electrical equipment; assist people dropping off donations.
- Truck – pickup and delivery of items.
- Office – monitor telephones; schedule pickup and deliveries; assist with general office duties.
- Connections – a ministry to assist people in crisis (special training required.)
- Store – cashiers; floor workers to restock shelves; jewelry; assist customers.
- Coffee Shop – prepare and serve drinks and food for customers; Cook food, serve love!



You may submit your application and train for multiple areas or, if uncertain where you want to serve, complete the application now and later choose your area of interest. Volunteer Sign-up Dates: Applications will be available before and after the church services on the weekends of **January 4 - 5, January 11 - 12, and January 18 - 19**. You may also contact the church office at (352) 571-4665 if you need additional information or email [colemanoaksthift@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:colemanoaksthift@lakedeatonumc.com). We are extremely excited about this new opportunity to fulfill God's mission, and we invite you to join us on our journey!!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We're excited to announce that the Coleman Oaks Thrift Store and Coffee Shop is accepting donations in preparation for our early May 2025 opening! Donations can be dropped off at Lake Deaton UMC on the following dates and times:

- **February 8 & 9:**
  - Saturdays: 4-5 PM (before service) and 6-7 PM (after service)
  - Sundays: 8-9 AM (before first service) and 11:45 AM-12:45 PM (after second services)
- **February 22-23:**
  - Saturdays: 4-5 PM (before service) and 6-7 PM (after service)
  - Sundays: 8-9 AM (before service) and 11:45 AM-12:45 PM (after second service)

We welcome clothing and household items. Please note that we're not accepting furniture donations at this time. We'll schedule furniture drop-offs closer to our opening date.

More drop-off times will be scheduled in March. Stay tuned for updates!

Thank you for your support and generosity!

**IMMEDIATE NEED:** Plastic bins (must have lids) to help us store items. Medium or large sizes. You can bring them to worship and leave outside the portico entrance before or after services in January. Questions? Contact Jonathan Baker at [Colemanoaksthift@lakedeatonumc.com](mailto:Colemanoaksthift@lakedeatonumc.com)

## EXCITING UPDATE ON THE COLEMAN OAKS THRIFT STORE & COFFEE SHOP!

Praise God! Construction is progressing well, and we're on track to start interior work after Christmas. We're aiming for an early May opening! We're grateful for your prayers and support through our "Invest in the Future" program. Your contributions have brought us closer to our goal.

We're reopening our "Investment Opportunity" to reach a new goal of \$350,000. While we met our initial construction goal, we aim to reduce our financial obligation to the landowners and create a cash flow cushion until our May opening. Details:

- We still owe \$275,000 with an 8% interest rate.
- By investing, we'll save 4% interest. That's \$12,000 a year.
- Investment packets are available in the Coleman Oaks display area next to the Sobremesa Café in the Lobby.
- Team members will be available to assist you in January.
- Investments will be accepted through April 2025.



Let's work together to reach our new goal and secure a brighter future for our community!

Watch our latest video update [HERE!](#)

To Give, click [HERE!](#)



## LANDSCAPE WORK DAY!



The Trustees are planning a Landscape Work Day on **Thursday, January 30th**, to spread pine needle mulch on the plant beds around the church property. Everybody who is able is asked to come out that morning to help spruce up the church grounds and keep them looking good. Details about the times will be coming out several weeks before the work day. For any questions, contact Ed Lovera at [elovera24@gmail.com](mailto:elovera24@gmail.com).





# Sports / Recreation

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.
- Cardio Drumming Monday mornings at 8:30 and Tuesday afternoon's 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](#) 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*

Bob Smith  
Recreation and Sports Leader  
[Bob\\_Smith98@hotmail.com](mailto:Bob_Smith98@hotmail.com)

THANK YOU!



"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price.

So, you must honor God with your body."

~1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

## SEEDS OF HOPE CONCERT

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music, community, and giving. Your presence and support will help make a real difference in the lives of those in need. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 16 at 4 PM**, and get ready to be inspired!

Lake Deaton will again host a free concert to support the 2025 Seeds of Hope Food Drive. Enjoy lively and toe-tapping music from the 19-piece Villages Swing Band, under the direction of Lew Buckley. The Swing Band will play songs from the swing era, as well as hits from the 1950s and 1960s.

Seeds of Hope is a food fund and awareness-raising committee of the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and Wildwood Food Pantry. It's sole purpose is to assist both ministries in feeding and helping the community. It is staffed solely by Volunteers so all monies go directly to either buy food or keep the facilities operating.

Food is cooked at the Soup Kitchen where meals are served to those who can come or delivered to shut-ins. Snack packs are created for children for nourishment during out of school times. Food insecure families in Sumter County come to the Food Pantry to pickup much needed food on a bi-weekly basis. Both the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and the Food Pantry rely on the generosity of individuals, churches and donations to feed the hungry.

Please consider donating the following essential items:

- Canned goods: meats, vegetables, fruits, soups, Spaghettios, and chili
- Non-perishable snacks: peanut butter, jelly, and granola bars
- Paper products: toilet paper and Kleenex
- Toiletries: personal hygiene items

Other Food Drop-Off Locations: Citizens First Banks and Regional Recreation Centers (February 1 - March 16)



## BEACON COLLEGE SALON SPEAKER SERIES

**Thursday, January 30 at 7 PM in the CLC.**

Featuring the diverse and dynamic CFCArts Big Band, "Hand-Drawn Jazz" will be an exploration and a celebration of the intersection of jazz and animation.

Click [HERE](https://bit.ly/SalonSeriesJazz) to get your free ticket & meal!



**BLOOM WOMEN'S MINISTRY VISIONING MEETING****Tuesday, January 14 from 10:30 AM to Noon in CR 5/6**

Attention All Ladies! We are excited to invite you to our BLOOM Women's Ministry Visioning Meeting, a time of fellowship, reflection, and planning for the future of our ministry.

Our goal is to gather and share our ideas, dreams, and goals for the Women's Ministry. All team members are invited to attend. Your participation and input are invaluable as we seek to strengthen and enrich our community. We look forward to seeing you there! Light snacks will be available.

For more information, please contact Debbie McQuady - 859-221-8947 (cell) or [mcquady1983@gmail.com](mailto:mcquady1983@gmail.com).

**LADIES, SAVE THE "BLOOM" DATES!****BLOOM BOOK CLUB**

**Monday, January 27**  
**1 PM in CR 1.**

Ladies, you are all welcome to be part of our book club. This month, we will be discussing Mary Magdalene, by Diane Wallis Taylor. If you enjoy biblical fiction, please join us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joan Rose at 352-391-4207 or [joanrose65@gmail.com](mailto:joanrose65@gmail.com).

Thank you.

*Joan*

**MOAMI**

**Tuesdays, January 28 - March 11**  
**1 to 3 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 online or visit the Connection Desk to secure your spot. We look forward to walking alongside you on this journey! To sign up click [HERE](#).



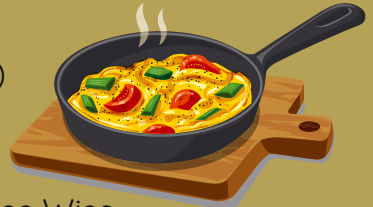
*Bloom Events*

## JOURNEYMEN BREAKFAST

Wednesdays at 8 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 1, Happy New Year! (Breakfast is cancelled)
- January 8, Travel to Normandy, Phil Andreas
- January 15, Prayer Ministry, Nancy Wilson
- January 22, The Joy of Remote Control--Drones, Cres Wise



Journeymen Breakfast is streamed live on the the Lake Deaton UMC's YouTube and Facebook sites. Streaming will start immediately after Prayer Concerns at approximately 8:40 AM.



## 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](#).

Journeymen Events



# Thank you

## BONFIRE WAS A BLAST!

What a wonderful way to launch the Christmas season! Our bonfire event was a resounding success, thanks to perfect weather, delicious food, and fantastic company!

### A Night to Remember

The evening's festivities began with the enchanting voices of the Sunshine Harmony chorus, singing beloved Christmas carols. Our talented guitarists then took the stage, filling the air with joyful melodies.

### S'mores, Food, and Warmth

As the bonfire crackled, guests enjoyed toasting marshmallows for s'mores and savoring a variety of tasty treats. The atmosphere was merry and bright, with a sense of community and connection.

### A Heartfelt Thank You

We were thrilled to see so many of you join us for this special event! Although we prepared for 200 guests, we were overwhelmed (in the best possible way!) by the attendance. Thank you all for making this Christmas bonfire kick-off such a magical and memorable night. We feel truly blessed!



## SAVE - THE - DATE!

Wednesday, February 12 - 5 to 8 PM



Come join us for our annual Valentine's Dinner/Dance.

Bring your sweetheart to celebrate our love. Food and entertainment. David Berardi will astound us with his magic tricks and our own Leo, "The Traveling Nerd" will be there to entertain us with his comics.

Don't miss this fun evening!



## LAKE DEATON CHOIR

A special thank you to everyone who participated in making our "Christmas Around The World" Music Program a beautiful blessing to our congregation! The Choir, Praise Band, Devotion in Motion and Script Readers ALL did an excellent job! We hope you enjoyed watching as much as we all did participating!

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 to 5 PM.

If you like to join or obtain more information about the choir, contact Terry Anne Farner at [angelsong3773@gmail.com](mailto:angelsong3773@gmail.com).



## SINGLE / SOLO GROUP

**Thursday, January 16 at 4:30 PM in CR 5/6**

Good day, Single/Solo Group. Join us for our next Potluck Snack Night. Join us as we welcome a knowledgeable lawyer who will discuss essential legal paperwork to consider for your future. This is a great opportunity to learn about important documents you may need, ask questions and clarify any concerns, and connect with others in our Single/Solo Group. Please bring a snack item to share with the group. We're looking forward to fellowship and delicious treats! To ensure an accurate headcount, kindly sign up at the Connection Desk or call the church office at 352-571-4665. Space is limited to 30-35 people. We hope to see you there!

# ENERGY HEALING THROUGH PRAYER & MEDITATION

**Fridays, January 17 - February 7 at 11 AM in CR 2**

Recent findings in modern medicine reveal that a staggering 85% of our health challenges are rooted in trapped emotional energy. This groundbreaking understanding highlights the critical link between our emotional well-being and physical health.

Experience the Transformative Power of God's Love

Join us on a journey to discover the liberating power of God's Divine Love and wisdom. As we explore the intersection of faith and emotional healing, you'll learn practical techniques to:

- Identify and release trapped emotional energy
- Harness the healing power of God's love
- Apply biblical wisdom to nurture your emotional and physical well-being

Embark on a Path to Wholeness

By combining the principles of emotional healing with the transformative power of God's love, you'll be empowered to:

- Break free from the burdens of trapped emotions
- Experience renewed physical and emotional vitality
- Deepen your faith and connection with God

Join us on this life-changing journey and discover the profound impact of emotional healing infused with God's love and wisdom. To sign up click [HERE](#).

Contact Meredith Brubaker for questions at [meredith@meredithbrubaker.com](mailto:meredith@meredithbrubaker.com)

## CREATING HEALTHY HABITS THAT STICK - PART OF THE WELLNESS SERIES

**January 29 at 1:30 PM in the CLC**

Nicole Anderson, from the Villages Health, will teach the group how to adopt healthy, lasting habits through small, incremental daily routines. Kristen Hubbard, from the Villages Health, will review healthy recipe substitutions and asks that each individual bring a recipe for one of their favorite "comfort food" dishes. To sign up click [HERE](#).

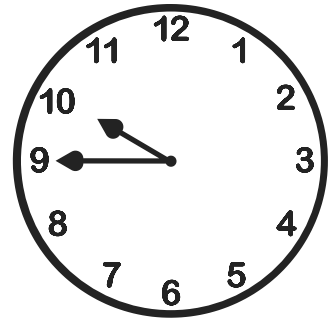




## 10:30 SERVICE TIME CHANGE TO 10:45 AM

Hello, Lake Deaton family!

I am Randy Benjamin, the chair of our Leadership Team. I have an important announcement regarding our second service on Sunday mornings.



After looking at all of the options, the Worship Team, backed by both your Ministry and Leadership Teams, has decided to change the starting time of the second service from 10:30am to **10:45am beginning Sunday, January 5, 2025**. This extra 15 minutes will help us greatly with logistics between services.

These kinds of problems are good ones to have. Back when we were coming out of COVID in 2022, we were averaging about 530 in-person attendees each weekend during our high season of January through April. Two years later, 2024's number grew to 760 people coming in our doors each weekend. And this coming high season starting next month, we are expecting that the weekly number could easily reach 820 people.

Moving the service start back 15 minutes will allow for less congestion in our parking lot as people leave the first service and others arrive for the second one. It will give our choir more time to briefly run-through and do a sound check for the music that they will present at the service. And it will generally provide more comfortable time to transition between services.

Thank you for your understanding of this change. We hope that it will not be too big of an inconvenience for those of you who attend the second service. But at the same time, let's rejoice that God had led us to provide such a great worship home for so many new and returning faces to our congregation!

God bless, and have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season.

## STEP INTO THE ROARING TWENTIES FOR A MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT!

**Friday, February 28 - 4:30 to 9 PM in the CLC**

Join us for an immersive evening of intrigue and deception at The Half Moon Club, a swanky 1920s speakeasy. The night promises to be filled with a delicious meal to savor, a thrilling murder mystery to unravel, and a dash of jazz, flappers, and vintage flair! A high-society flapper has been found shot outside the club, sending shockwaves through the community. As a valued patron of The Half Moon Club, it's up to you to gather clues and piece together the events of the fateful night, interrogate suspects and uncover their motives, and unmask the killer before the police shut down the club for good! Come dressed in your finest 1920s attire (optional but encouraged!) and be prepared to mingle, sleuth, and solve the crime! Don't miss out on this unique and entertaining experience! For more information, contact JulieAnn Davis at [kpdandjad@gmail.com](mailto:kpdandjad@gmail.com).



## FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES AT LAKE DEATON UMC



Villages Taxaide is excited to offer free tax preparation services to anyone within the scope of our program. Our team of trained volunteers will be available to assist with tax preparation,

Dates: **February 6 - April 10, 2025**

Days: **Every Thursday**

Location: Lake Deaton United Methodist Church

Service: Free tax preparation within the scope of our program

Don't miss this opportunity to have your taxes prepared at no cost. We look forward to serving you!

For questions, go to: [www.villagestaxaide.com](http://www.villagestaxaide.com).

# WHAT THE TECH?!

The Promise and Perils of Our Digital Age

## New Year Sermon Series

**1/5/25-1/26/25:** What the Tech? Americans spend \$145 billion on technology during the Christmas season, and we spend an average of four hours a day on our screens. We look at our smartphones 58 times each day, and more than 70% of us use social media. Technology touches every aspect of our lives. It holds the promise of enormous good. But misused it can cause untold pain, leaving us feeling isolated, anxious, depressed or addicted. It's been said that "technology makes a tremendous servant, but a terrible master." In this sermon series, we explore how to avoid the perils and unleash the promise of technology in our lives, our families, and our communities.



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - ATLANTA



What a blessing it was to volunteer at the Atlanta Shoebox Processing Center last month! It was an incredible experience. In just two days, an astonishing 150,000+ shoeboxes were processed and 500+ volunteers came together to make it happen. These shoeboxes, filled with love, care, and essential items, will bring happiness and hope to countless children around the globe. It's a testament to the power of kindness and generosity! Praise God! Thank you to all the volunteers, donors, and organizers who made this possible. May God continue to bless and multiply our efforts!





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

**Saturdays  
at 5 PM  
(with translation for the  
Hearing Impaired.)**

*Join Us!*

**Sundays  
at 9 AM  
&  
10:45 AM (new time)**



## Lake Deaton United Methodist Church

6500 Wesleyan Way, Wildwood, FL 34785

Tel: 352-571-4665

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

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

### Coffee with The Pastors

**Tuesday, January 21  
3 PM in CR 5/6**

Click [HERE](#) to  
EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP



### Read the Bible in a Year

Week of 1/6 - Matthew 6-10

Week of 1/13 - Matthew 11-15

Week of 1/20 - Matthew 16-20

Week of 1/27 - Matthew 21-25