Lake Deaton



PASTOR'S CORNER

Making Room for Wonder...

As December begins, I always find myself trying to hold two things at once: the joy of the season and the pace that threatens to steal it. December in a kindergarten classroom is full of energy and sparkle — glitter glue on every surface, Christmas songs in the background, and children buzzing with excitement. We spend so much time getting everything just right — bulletin boards, class parties, gifts, decorations. And that all spills out into my personal life. Between the decorating, the shopping, the traveling, and the planning, it's easy to look up and realize I've filled every bit of space — except the one meant for Christ.

This year, I've been thinking about what it means to "make room." When Mary heard the angel's words, she didn't rush to make everything perfect or try to figure out every detail. She simply opened her heart to what God was doing. "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." (Luke 1:38). That's what it looks like to make room — to let God's presence take shape in our lives, even when we don't fully understand how. I think that's our invitation, too.

Making room might look like setting aside five quiet minutes each morning before the day begins. It might mean forgiving someone or letting go of a worry that's been crowding our peace. It might mean saying "no" to something good so we can say "yes" to something holy.

The wonder of Christmas doesn't begin in the noise — it begins in the stillness, in the space we make for God to enter our ordinary days. My prayer is that as we move through Advent, we would each find room for that holy presence — not just in our homes and churches, but in our hearts, where love is born anew.

Grace and peace,

Kristyne

Pastor Kristyne



GRIEF SHARE...

Thursdays through Dec 18 in CR 1

Feeling like "no one understands?" Have questions about "heaven?" Do you feel like it's impossible to move forward? **Join us from 1 to 2:30pm** to help you find answers to these questions and more. You are not alone... Questions? Contact Pastor Duane at dmarburger@lakedeatonumc.com.



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent is a season to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming of Christ. Let's ensure we don't rush through this special time this year. Let's slow down and enjoy our time together. This year we will go through the themes and scriptures of Advent along with our preaching theme of "Hearing from Messengers of God."



Each day during Advent, starting on Monday, December 1, you will receive an email devotion directly in your email inbox. Each devotion is written by either a staff person or a congregation member. Along with the devotion, you will have some scripture to read, a story or comments, and a prayer for the day. Our prayer is that this Advent Devotional is a blessing to you as you prepare for the coming of Christ.

Sign up TODAY! Click *HERE* or visit our website at: *lakedeatonumc.com/upcoming-events*.

Coleman Oaks Thrift Store & Coffee Shop!



Holiday Blessings to Everyone!

There is still time to find an amazing gift for everyone on your list and save at Coleman Oaks Thrift Store!

Shop until 1:00pm on Tuesday, Dec 23. The Coffee Shop will have last minute sweet treats to make your season merrier and hold you over till we come back on Jan 2. We hope to See You Soon!

BLOOM EVENTS...

BLOOM LADIES LUNCHEON





ATTENTION Ladies: Advent is a time to Pause, Reflect, and Enjoy. There's still time to invite a friend and come to our "Bloom" Christmas Luncheon. Over the years this has been a vital ministry of Lake Deaton. Plug In today!

On **Tuesday, December 9 at 11:00am.** we will gather to hear the joyful sounds of the "Sunshine Harmony Choir." We will also reflect on tips for keeping our relationships "in tune" through the holidays. So, mark your calendars, invite a friend and join us for this event. The meal cost is \$12.00. Menu is Pork loin, scalloped potatoes and green beans. You can also come join us in fellowship and bring your own lunch if you prefer, at no cost. Bring your favorite Christmas mug for a Special Surprise!! Deadline for signing up for this lunch is Sunday, December 7.

Sign up by clicking the "Register" button above, online, at the Connect Desk, or call the church office.

Hot off the press... Coming up on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 11:00am.** A lunch conversation with our very own Communications Specialist and author... Maria Arias. Maria's latest book, "Bella, Daddy's Girl No More" can be purchased at <u>Amazon.com</u> and <u>Barnesandnoble.com</u>. This visit with Maria will be to learn more of her personal journey as a believer and the vital role of prayer in her life. Then we will get a few tools for revitalizing prayer in our lives as we begin the new year. Mark your Calendars, January 13 at 11:00am.







REUNION FOR MOAMI Classes of 2022-2025

Are you one of the 150 women who attended or volunteered with Lake Deaton UMC's MOAMI program between 2022 and 2025? Then, please join us for a MOAMI reunion being held **Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the CLC.** We will reconnect with our MOAMI sisters, refresh on the MOAMI steps, and learn how to build resilience so we can bounce back stronger. The cost is just \$10, so register now for this fun afternoon!

REGISTRATION IS **OPEN FOR MOAMI** 2026





MOAMI (Moving On After Moving In) offers encouragement for women experiencing life's transitions...a move, loss of a loved one, retirement and other changes. During MOAMI we learn strategies to open our hearts to the life we have now, and to move forward trusting God. Comments from a recent class include: "This class helped me through a difficult change and made me feel part of this church." "I learned I'm not alone." "I made several new friends." "Thank you to all the leaders and facilitators for their thoughtful preparation, love and kindness."

Our next session of MOAMI will be held from 1-3 pm on Tuesdays for seven weeks from January 27 to March 11, 2026. Register on-line by clicking the "Register Now" button or stop by the Connection Desk.



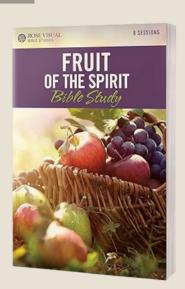
🌼 Ladies, You're Invited! 🌼

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

> 🗂 Tuesdays, beginning January 6 9:30-10:30 AM

Classroom 1

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



The Bloom Book Club will not meet in December. Stay tuned for news about what we will be reading in January. For more information contact Joan Rose at joanerose65@gmail.com.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR EVENT COORDINATOR

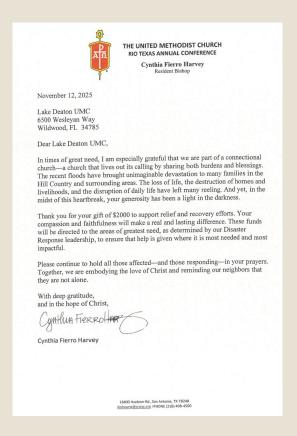
December brings many wonderful reasons to celebrate the true "Reason for the Season!" We have a delightful lineup of musicals, plays, and activities to make this a joyful time for everyone.

This year's special play, "A Heart for Christmas," (see page 13) tells the touching story of a little boy hoping for a new heart. Join us to see if his wish comes true!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 5**, when we'll gather for our annual bonfire (see page <u>12</u>). Don't forget to bring mosquito spray and a chair. For your convenience, we'll open the gate so you can drive right up to the fire and enjoy the evening comfortably from your cart. A new special addition this year is a Pet Nativity display, located at the front of the church parking lot—perfect to enjoy on your way out.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season! We look forward to seeing you at church for all the upcoming Christmas programs.

FROM THE TEXAS CONFERENCE...



A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FOR OUR STAFF



As we come to the end of the year, we want to express our sincere appreciation for two members of our Lake Deaton staff who will be stepping down from their roles this December. Each of them has given their time, gifts, and energy to support the ministry of our church, and we are grateful for the ways they have served our congregation.

Please join us in praying for each of them as they enter a new season and trusting that God's grace will guide and bless their next steps. We are thankful for the impact they have made here at Lake Deaton.

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



We're sad to announce that Dale Dooley will be retiring on January 2nd! After several years of dedicated service as our Facilities Tech at Lake Deaton, Dale is hanging up his tools. We'll miss him around here! Thanks for your hard work, Dale. Enjoy every moment of retirement!



COMMUNION PREPARATION TEAM MINISTRY

- Who do we need?
 - Excited volunteers to assist at our church services
 - Saturdays, 5:00pm; Sundays, 9:00am; and Sundays, 10:45am
- What would I do?
 - After training, you would be paired with another team member to set up the Communion tables at your service and clean up after your service (5:00 PM or 10:45 AM).
 - Set up table cards, bread baskets, juice goblets on each table.
 - Usually rotation is 1-2 times per month depending on other team members' availability.
- What if I am only here part of the year?
 - We love seasonal help!! If you are only here part of the year, we will schedule you per your availability!
- Who do I contact to join the team?
 - o Donna Gaines, Communion Preparation Team Ministry
 - 757-816-6365, call or text.
 - LDUMC Office
 - **352-571-4665**





SONRISE SHOP

Please visit our Sonrise Shop

in the church lobby...
Christmas has come! Our participants have been busy making items that everyone will love. From hostess gift to cute reindeer candy holder.
We are always open!! We will

have volunteers at the kiosk on the first two weekends in December.



Swinging with

CHRIST!

Wednesday Night, December 31

Interested in an exciting and fun Night Golf experience? Join us for a Shotgun Start at the Escambia Executive Course! The evening will end with a snack-to-share time in the outdoor seating area of the Moyer Rec Center after our adventurous evening!

For more information contact the Bakers at: donnaapn@comcast.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to serve coffee and cookies before the 9:00am and 10:45am services. We'd love to have YOU to add to our team. It's EASY and FUN!

For info., contact Rick McGhee 410-967-5995 or rick@mcghee.com

CHRISTMAS WISH TREE

Thank you to those who have taken a TAG from the Christmas Wish Trees located in our lobby. Please contact the church office for any questions. We are supporting "Kids Central."



STAFF BIRTHDAYS



Dec 13

Jan Finance Asst Dec 26





The Blue Christmas Service is for those who have experienced a loss or are having difficulty experiencing joy during this season. It is especially hard when everything else is so joyous and celebratory. We will acknowledge the pain and give space to feel less than joy in this quiet reflective service. There will be music and a story of resilience that demonstrates how God works.

Join us on **December 16 at 4:00pm in the CLC.**

2026 WINTER GROW NIGHT ACTIVITY IS COMING



Starting Point - What Is It?

A safe space to ask, listen, and talk about faith. Faith is a journey. Some of us have walked it for years; others are still exploring what we believe. Maybe you have questions about GOD, Jesus, or the Bible – and you'd like a place to talk about them honestly.

Starting Point is a seven-week conversation designed for anyone who wants to explore faith in a relaxed, welcoming environment. It's not a class or a lecture – It's a chance to share stories, listen, and discover together, free from pressure or judgement. And because this is part of Grow Night, we'll begin with a meal around the table – where great conversations naturally happen.

Winter Grow Night Dates:

Wednesdays

January through March 2026

(Registration Begins Jan 1)

1/14 - Leaders Training / Vision: Only

1/28 - Topic: "Start"

2/4 - Topic: "The Problem"

2/11 - Topic: "Trust"

2/18 - Ash Wednesday (No Grow Night Activity)

2/25 – Topic: "Rules" 3/4 – Topic "Jesus" 3/11 – Topic: "Grace"

3/18 - Topic: "Faith"



Key Features:

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

CARE MINISTRY WEBINAR

Live-Streamed Introductory Course Two-Day Care Ministry Training

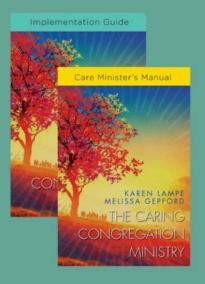
Wednesday & Thursday

January 21-22, 2026

9:00am to 4:00pm (Eastern Time)



lakedeatonumc.com/upcoming-events



Lake Deaton UMC is expanding its care ministries with "The Caring Congregation" model, developed by Church of the Resurrection in Kansas. This model trains lay members to provide pastoral care, building on our existing Stephen Ministry and other care programs.

Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs) will be trained to visit, comfort, and support members in need. To be a CCM, you'll need to:

- Be an active church member
- Regularly attend worship
- Have a scriptural and theological foundation
- Be willing to learn and grow
- Give financially to the church
- Pass a background check

Training is **January 21-22, 9:00am to 4:00pm** in **CR 5/6**, led by Rev. Karen Lampe, founder of the model.

Cost is \$25 (covers lunch for two days.)

Book, "The Caring Congregation Care Ministers Manual by Karen Lampe and Melissa Gepford" can be purchased on Amazon.com for \$10.

For more information regarding the training and to register, click <u>HERE</u>. You can also register at the Connect Desk. Contact Susan Perry at 301-906-9597 with any questions.

CONGRATULATIONS LAKE DEATON!

We did it!! We had a 700 shoebox goal and you filled and/or bought 702! Thanks to your generous support, this is our best year ever! You are going to make 702 children very happy! Next year our goal will be 800 shoeboxes and there is no doubt we can do it! All of you are a blessing!





BOB COSMAI & GARY MAILHOT









What a fun time everyone had at our Fall Fest! The Hayride was a big hit as was the barbecue, line dancing, corn hold and ring toss. Lots of new friends made fellowship and music.

If you missed it, be sure to join us for our bonfire, which will be **Dec 5 at 5:00pm**. See page <u>12</u> for details.











The Lord Restores My Soul... ~Psalm 23:3a

...but what exactly is a soul?

We dream about soul mates and eat soul food We promise to never tell a soul or to put our heart and soul into a project We describe wise younger people as having an old soul.

My favorite definition is really a description:

"...the soul is not some ill-defined, formless, 'thing'. It is YOU! That part of you that is most real. The soul is the place where you long for – ache for – more of God than you know right now...." -Ruth Haley Barton

Left unattended a soul tends to drift. When that happens, a re-calibration – a restoration – is in order.

Lent is an annual season when Christians look to God for soul restoration. This is a work that calls for making sacred space.

And creating space for restoring our souls is the objective of our LDUMC Restore My Soul retreat.

Save the date, March 5-6, 2026. (Details coming in January)

Jesus famously asked, "What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? For what could you ever trade your soul?" (Mark 8:37, -The Message)



BONFIRE & PET NATIVITY...

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 5:00PM TO 8:00PM

Join us for a cozy winter evening under the stars at our annual Bonfire & Pet Nativity event! We can't wait to see you there!

The best part? This festive gathering is completely FREE!

Get ready for a night filled with warmth and joy:

- Savor juicy Brats straight from the grill.
- Enjoy refreshing drinks.
- Indulge in classic S'mores roasted over the crackling bonfire.
- Join in on the fun with festive singing.



We are looking for a couple kiddos to be angels for the nativity. If anybody has a grandchild or somebody visiting or know of a young boy or girl that could be an angel, please contact:

Denise Mcghee at: denisehmcghee@gmail.com

Bring your chair and mosquito spray. And as you wrap up the evening, don't miss our special Drive-Thru Pet Nativity – a heartwarming surprise for families and pet lovers alike!

Bring your friends and family along! Ring them up and let's make this a memorable night together! For more information, Contact JulieAnna Davis at events@lakedeatonumc.com.







BLOOD MOBILE

COMING TO LAKE DEATON!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 8:00AM TO 12:30PM

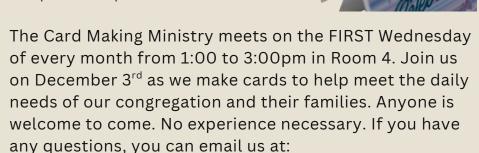


CARD MAKING

Join us!

Wednesday, December 3

1:00pm to 3:00pm in CR 4



Teresa at: <a href="mailto:true

A NEW HEART FOR CHRISTMAS

One Small Child... One Big Miracle!

Get ready for a heartwarming Christmas Musical that will touch your soul! Kenn Mann and Derric Johnson, a Disney World alum, have crafted a beautiful story called "A New Heart for Christmas."

This musical is about a child's desperate wait for a new heart transplant and the miracles that unfold. You'll be moved, touched, and encouraged as you witness God's amazing love in action. Don't miss this FREE event, featuring the Celebration Choir, soloists, and drama!

Show Details:

- Date: Saturday, December 13
- Show times: 2:00pm & 5:00pm
- Tickets: Grab your FREE ticket at: www.lakedeatonumc.com or scan the OR Code below.
- Invite: Bring friends and family to experience this spectacular production! (One ticket per person.)

About the Creators:

- Our very own, Kenn Mann: An awardwinning songwriter with over 50 choral anthems, holding a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master's degree in Church Music.
- Derric Johnson: A Disney World producer and arranger, known for creating "Voices of Liberty" at Epcot Center.

Scan a QR Code to get your FREE ticket!



<u>Dec 13</u> <u>at</u> 2:00pm



<u>Dec 13</u> <u>at</u> 5:00pm

OCTOBER'S COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS' CLASS

Join us at our next Coffee with The Pastors: Tuesday, January 13 at 10:30am in CR 5/6



LAST MONTH'S BLOOM LADIES DAY OUT TRIP



A grand time was had by the 32 women who ventured to St Petersburg on November 12. The Dale Chihully glass sculpture collection was breathtaking at every turn, as was the glass blowing demonstration. Mazzaro's market and the adjacent home goods and decor store did not disappoint either. Our next trip will be a garden tour of the Harry P Leu Gardens and Museum in Orlando in February. Details to follow.

















SAVE-THE-DATES HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1/13

BLOOM WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Tuesday at 11:00am (See page 4)

1/21

WELLNESS SERIES BEGINS

Wednesdays, once a month, at 1:30pm in 2026 Grab a flyer from Connect Desk while supplies last.

1/27

MOAMI - MOVING ON AFTER MOVING IN

Tuesdays, Jan 27 - Mar 11 at 1:00pm - seven weeks. (See page <u>5</u>)

2/10

BLOOM WOMEN'S DAY OUT

Tuesday at 8:00am

2/12

BEACON COLLEGE SALON SERIES

Thursday at 7:00pm

3/5 3/6

CHURCH FAMILY GATHERING - RETREAT

"Restore My Soul" - March 5 & 6 See highlight on page <u>11</u>.



Hello Lake Deaton Friends and Family!

My name is Bruce Wolfe, and I am chairman of the Staff Parish Resource Team. In that role, I have come to know and appreciate our staff at Lake Deaton very well, and to realize how much they do to keep our growing church running smoothly.

As you know, we are continually adding new members and new ministries, plus the innovative work at Coleman Oaks Thrift Store and Coffee Shop. All these new activities mean more work for our expanding staff. We really are blessed to have creative and dedicated staffers who are ready to jump in and do whatever it takes. Every single one of them is committed to giving 110%. They really are an amazing group.

As most of you know, each year during the Christmas season we "surprise" our staff with a love offering to show our appreciation for all they have done throughout the year. So, again this year, I am inviting you to join with me in blessing our staff with a generous Christmas gift. Everything we receive will be divided equally among all the staff members, including our pastors. Here are some ways you can give:

- There are specially marked "Love Offering" envelopes available in the sanctuary that you can drop in the offering baskets.
- You can give online by going to our website's "Give" page and clicking on "Staff Offering."
- You can mail your contribution to the church at 6500 Wesleyan Way, Wildwood, FL.
- You can drop your gift at the church office any day during business hours. Please be sure to clearly mark your check or donation as "Staff Love Offering."

All contributions must be received no later than **Sunday, December 14**. You and I are blessed to live in a wonderful community, and what better way to celebrate the birth of our Lord than by honoring our staff members for all they do to serve our Lord, and us?

Thank you and Merry Christmas!







Merry Christmas





FROM THE LDUMC

Staff



JIM DIVINE LEAD PASTOR

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

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

Christmas Eve

Service Times: 3:00pm & 5:00pm

Weekly Prayer Time

Thursdays at 3:00pm in CR 4



LUCAS BONATES EXECUTIVE PASTOR

WWW.LAKEDEATONUMC.COM 6500 WESLEYAN WAY, WILDWOOD, FL 33837 352-571-4665

Take the Challenge!

Hey Lake Deaton!

We're excited to invite you to join us in our 2026 challenge journey!

We're calling it:
"The New Testament Challenge!"

The plan is simple: read five chapters of the New Testament every week, and track your progress as you go!

Whether you're a morning person, a lunchtime reader, or a before-bed devoter, we've got you covered.

Will you join us? Let's dive into the life-changing words of the New Testament together in 2026!



hew Testament Weekly Reading Year 2026

(Mark each week as you read.)

1	Sunday	Weekly Lible Reading
	1/4	Matthew 1-5
	1/11	Matthew 6-10
	1/18	Matthew 11-15
	1/25	Matthew 16-20
	2/1	Matthew 21-25
	2/8	Matthew 26-28; Mark 1-2
	2/15	Mark 3-7
	2/22	Mark 8-12
	3/1	Mark 13-16; John 1
	3/8	John 2-6
	3/15	John 7-11
	3/22	John 12-16
j	3/29	John 17-21
	4/5	Luke 1-5
	4/12	Luke 6-10
	4/19	Luke 11-15
	4/26	Luke 16-20
	5/3	Luke 21-24; Acts 1
	5/10	Acts 2-6
	5/17	Acts 7-11
	5/24	Acts 12-16
	5/31	Acts 17-21
	6/7	Acts 22-26
	6/14	Acts 27-28; Romans 1-3
Í	6/21	Romans 4-8
į.	6/28	Romans 9-13
	7/5	Romans 14-16; 1Cor 1-2
	7/12	1Corinthians 3-7
	7/19	1Corinthians 8-12
	7/26	I Cor 13-16; 2 Cor 1
	8/2	2 Corinthians 2-6

www.lakedeatonumc.com/bible-reading

New Testament Weekly Reading Year 2026

(Mark each week as you read.)

1	Sunday	Weekly Lible Reading
	8/9	2 Corinthians 7-11
	8/16	2 Cor 12-13; Galatians 1-3
	8/23	Gal 4-6; Ephesians 1-2
	8/30	Eph 3-6; Philippians 1
	9/6	Phil 2-4; Colossians 1-2
	9/13	Col 3-4; 1 Thessalonians 1-3
	9/20	1 Thes 4-5; 2 Thes 1-3
	9/27	1 Timothy 1-5
	10/4	1 Timothy 6; 2 Timothy 1-4
	10/11	Titus 1-3; Phile 1; Hebrews 1
	10/18	Hebrews 2-6
	10/25	Hebrews 7-11
	11/1	Hebrews 12-13; James 1-3
	11/8	James 4-5; 1 Peter 1-3
	11/15	1 Peter 4-5; 2 Peter 1-3
	11/22	1 John 1-5
	11/29	2 John 1; 3 John 1; Jude 1; Revelation 1-2
	12/6	Revelation 3-7
	12/13	Revelation 8-12
	12/20	Revelation 13-17
	12/27	Revelation 18-22

Congratulations
on reading the
New Testament in a Year!



www.lakedeatonumc.com/bible-reading