



# The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.

Newsletter

February 1, 2024

Volume 12 Issue 2 Page 1

## FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Lakeland, FL 33810

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Park Administrator: Stan Welton

(Cell: 863 608-3982)

Email: [floridallpark2@gmail.com](mailto:floridallpark2@gmail.com)

Website: [lightandlifepark.org](http://lightandlifepark.org)

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[greg.t@lightandlifepark.org](mailto:greg.t@lightandlifepark.org)

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[lori@lightandlifepark.org](mailto:lori@lightandlifepark.org)

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[sherry@lightandlifepark.org](mailto:sherry@lightandlifepark.org)

(Cell: 863-255-3776)

Office Hours:

November 15-April 14: 8 am- Noon

April 15-November 14: 9 am - Noon

## Lots Available for Lease

There are currently no lots available to lease for a RV or Park Model.

The following lots are available for a modular home to be put on them:

5359 Beulah Land

5885 Shiloh Path

Call the Park Office at 863-858-7504 for information.

## News from the Park Administrator

We have a full month in 2024 under our belt already. As I reflect on the first month, I observe two realities.

1) It seems that there are more activities to choose from than in the past. This offers activities to people who may not have been interested in other choices in the past. It also may mean you will have to choose between two different but equally appealing activities.

2) There are a lot of new people here! Make sure you introduce yourselves and help them feel at home.

Welcome to all the new faces this year! I'm sure you have many questions, and we have good news. Bob Ferguson is beginning "onboarding" sessions titled, *Life at the Park*. The purpose of the sessions is to provide information that we know new members often ask as well as to answer other questions they may have. The schedule has not been finalized, so watch your email for notifications.

It appears that we are close to purchasing the property at 5580 Deeson Road. The final piece of paperwork that the owner needed to file has been filed. Now we are waiting for the residents to vacate the property. I will keep you informed as I learn more.

Many of you may not know, but this past summer a part of the ceiling in the ice machine room fell. Thanks to Mel Stevenson, the ceiling has been replaced. While he was working on that, he realized the exterior door was not opening easily and that the frame was rotting. This led to the door being replaced, which Mel also completed. Although the door is primed, it will need a coat of exterior paint to match the rest of the building. Any volunteers?

I know the gate is a concern for many of you. Our technician seemed not to know why the gate was malfunctioning. However, there are several in the Park who continue to troubleshoot, diagnose, and work to make the necessary repairs. Please know that this is a priority. We have not been ignoring it!

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As I have mentioned in the past, we will be inventorying water lines during this season and into the summer. As we do this, staff and volunteers will be uncovering your shutoff valves to identify what kinds of pipe are on either side of the shutoff. They will also be taking pictures and collecting other information to satisfy the requirements. If you have any questions about this process, please let me know.

We discovered early last year that there is some confusion about the boundaries of the eight acres that we own across from the office. We have contacted a surveyor to survey the property and provide markers. This will help us install fencing on the north and east sides of the property. This will provide a visual marker for people in Blackwater that there is a boundary. Hopefully, this will stop the four-wheeling that has taken place in the past.

We are working to replace the tables and chairs in Hood Hall. Several tables and chairs have been donated, but we still need 172 chairs and 17 tables. I estimate that the cost for the remaining need is around \$6,000. If you want to donate to this fund, you can drop off a check or cash at the office and specify that it is for the tables and chairs in Hood Hall. Flo Grabowski is going to contact the manager of Sams Club to see if she can negotiate a deal to reduce the cost.

It's great to see so many things happening and so many new faces. I pray you have an enjoyable season during which you receive spiritual, emotional, and mental refreshment.



### Office News

January has come and gone and hopefully, so have the winter temperatures. Of course, they were still warmer than most of everyone's other home, but we prefer the warmth. We have been blessed through Bible Conference and Missions Conference at the church and the winter Park Activities have resumed.

This month we are looking forward to many events. You will want to check the calendar posted at [lightandlifepark.org](http://lightandlifepark.org).

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This month includes the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration, annual FM Financial presentation, Alumni and area gatherings, Beautification parade and a signing class. Also, the regular activities like Mugs on Monday, Euchre Night, Library2Go, Bucket Listers Movie and Trivia Nights, Tell Your Story Nights, Cars and Coffee, Thursday Potlucks, Fellowship Dinner, Line Dancing, Ladies Bible Study, Aqua Splash exercise, Wood Shop project lessons, tennis and pickleball play and tournaments in some of our sports activities. Be sure to check the calendar and refer to articles in the newsletter this month. If you want something put on the park calendar, please let the office know. Don't assume that an event is automatically rolled over from last year even if it is a re-occurring event. We try to clean up the calendar from one season to the next but may miss some things.

The Enjoyment Books are still available for \$30.00. It will be easy to find places where you can use the coupons to make it worth it. Every book sold benefits the Park with \$8.00.

Jill Wood has returned to her position as a cleaning person for the Motel and Hood Hall.

Pat Wilkins oversees an inventory of items in Hood Hall. That also includes keeping the storage area in the back of the kitchen organized. If you see something is running low, please let her know so she can check the supplies. If there needs to be items ordered, she will let Greg know. He will be sure we restock.

There are still some pictorial directories that need to be picked up in the Office. If you have returned to the Park and not checked in, please do so. This is how we know you have been here for the required time. We will provide your directory upon check-in. There are also 2024 wall calendars available.

Although properties to purchase are few, there are still some available. Please remember to work with the Office when negotiating a sale to assure that you have a buyer that has been through the approval process. Here are the current listings:

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### **For Sale**

Block Home: 5311 Sharon Trail (\$120,000.00)

Park Models: 5310 Ebenezer Place (\$15,000.00)  
5333 Hebron Court (\$9,000.00)

Lots for Lease: 5340 Ebenezer Place (After March)

So, it looks like February will be just as busy as January. You can be as busy as you want. Be sure to find your choice of activity and fellowship with your fellow Park and church members. If February doesn't bring the warmth in temperature, perhaps the warmth of fellowship will help you feel warm all over.

### **The Office Staff**

### **News from the Board of Directors**

Another month has flown by and it's February already. The winter season has begun here at Light and Life Park. We held our first BOD meeting on Jan 8 and our first residents meeting of the year on January 15th. We are in full swing! There were 183 resident members in attendance at Hood Hall and 21 members online via Zoom. It was great to see all your smiling faces.

Here are some of the highlights from those meetings:

Finance: Expenses have been up but so has our income, resulting in a budget surplus to help cover our aging infrastructure. We are still seeking pledges for active projects. Contact the office for more details. Another option is to consider is the endowment fund through the Free Methodist Church.

Nominating Committee: They have met and are preparing to seek nominations for the BOD and the committee positions that need to be filled and voted on by the Park membership.

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Building and Grounds: will be seeking another option for adding a wheelchair accessible room at the RV bathhouse as well as upgrades for storm drains and water lines. They are also in the process of mapping all water lines as well as updating some equipment and purchasing new. This is the infrastructure that we must pay close attention to and keep maintaining. A tribute was given to Mike Lower for his many years of service in our Park. Volunteers will again be called on to help with these projects.

We expect many of the committees will meet soon and reports will follow. Committees can be the life blood of our community. You do not need to be a board member to serve on some of the committees. If you are interested in serving in any way, contact one of your BOD members.

Things to come: The Finance committee will be meeting soon to review the capital projects for 2024. When the property purchase at 5580 Deeson is completed, we will begin the cleanup. As a reminder, "**Safety**" is our number one concern when the work begins.

Something else in the planning stages is a "new member orientation". This would be a scheduled meeting for all **new** residents, to answer any questions you might have concerning the "Do's and Don'ts" of the Park.

It is becoming very busy in our Park with all the activities going on. The CALENDER IS VERY FULL. So full, that is hard to find openings for anything. What we really need is an **Activities Director**

God Bless

*Larry Pulnam*

### **Check out the park website!**

**Copies of the newsletter, the Park calendar, places for sale, and much more can be found there.**

[www.lightandlifepark.org](http://www.lightandlifepark.org)

### Where to Donate your Goods

The donations given at the Park to help others are appreciated. **Please take your donations to the following places:**

Food donations for Briarwood may be left on the designated table in Hood Hall.

Slightly used linens may be donated for Senior Orphans in Hood Hall. Please refer to Senior Orphans article in this newsletter.

Jean Whipple takes several items to Talbot House weekly. See that article in this newsletter for details.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### A note about pop/soda cans: A Change

I will no longer be taking pop/soda aluminum cans to Gregco for recycling. **BUT** continue to place them in the bins designated for aluminum and keep the metal cans separate.

We will turn this task over to **Errol**, who currently collects other metal. He uses the proceeds to support his son who is a Pastor.



Thanks for your help.

Wes Crist

### Talbot House Ministry

The ongoing deliveries of prescription bottles, unused medicines, good clean clothing that you no longer use, and small household items is an ongoing project. Please continue to save these helpful items for the homeless shelter and the Good Samaritan Clinic. Please deliver them to the Whipple's porch at 5866 Deeson Road any time. Jean will get them delivered.

Jean will take your items to Talbot House on Wednesdays. **Please note this change! Donations will be accepted all day on Tuesdays and until 10:30 AM on Wednesdays. PLEASE leave your items in Jean's screened porch.**

Should you wish to send financial assistance to this work, the address is: 814 North Kentucky Avenue, Lakeland.

**Thank you! Jean Whipple**

### Stamps for Missions

All donated stamps are sent to Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers where they are sold to dealers. The money is sent to a publisher in Buenos Aires, Argentina where they publish Sunday school material in Spanish that are sold to at least eight Latin American Countries as well as Spain and the US. They are used by over 40 Protestant Denominations.

We recently received some postage stamps that had been in a family's possession for many, many years, even a postcard with the stamp still attached. When you downsize, move, clean out a residence when settling an estate, etc. remember to **BE ON THE LOOKOUT** for postage stamps, new or old, domestic, or foreign, and postcards with or without stamps.

Leave at least a **1/4" border on ALL sides**. Get into the habit of opening either the left or bottom side of envelopes to protect the stamps and that border as they then increase greatly in value. The mission programs that benefit from the sale of these stamps will be grateful.

If you already have or find stamps **without the recommended 1/4" border** and/or with no paper backing, please turn them in at Hood Hall also; they'll be appreciated, just won't generate as much income for missions' projects.

There's no harm in asking your children and grandchildren to save the stamped envelopes for

you when you mail their  Valentines 

Thanks for your support! *Marilyn Stone*

### Medical Equipment Available

Maxwell Commons at The Villa has some medical equipment available that can be borrowed by any Park resident. Call someone you know in the Villa to help you. Please sign out the equipment you are borrowing. There are wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, portable pots, and shower seats. Please notify a Villa member when you are returning an item, so we know it has been returned. Please **don't** leave it on the porch. We are **not** presently accepting any equipment donations due to lack of storage space.



### SENIOR-ORPHANS

Thank you for your continued support of Senior Orphans through your donations of **gently used bed linens and towels, no bed pillows, however.**

Senior Orphans helps local, indigent seniors living with no family support and meager monthly incomes.

The drop-off location is in the totes in Hood Hall designated for Senior Orphans.

**Please label your linens**, as this saves our S.O. coordinator valuable time when trying to determine sizes.

**See the example below of how to label the item before it is placed in the tote.**

Terri Boda Coordinator



### Blood Pressure Clinic

Blood Pressure clinics for **February** will be the **14<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>** at Hood Hall 11 am to 12 pm.

But if you are unable to come at that time I can come to your house, or you can come to mine, 5437 Bethel Dr.

**JoAnn Willet RN**  
989-615-8430



### Fellowship Dinners With Programs

The **first** Monday, **February fifth**, at **five** thirty will be our **Fellowship** Dinner. A **fun** program "**The Good Old Days**" will **follow** at six **fifteen** even if you can't attend the meal, but we love to have time to **fellowship** while eating.

Bring a dish to pass for 8-10 people at your table. You may arrange ahead of time a planned meal ...or... you may be more spontaneous and join others once you arrive. Please remember to invite newer residents and singles and to bring your place setting which can be taken to Hood Hall that afternoon. Water is provided; coffee & tea are available to purchase.

Residents on Moriah Place will be doing the set-up and clean-up. Please contact Char Probst 517-812-3606 if you can assist with early set-up. We appreciate these volunteers.

*Marilyn Stone*, chairman [jaxstone68@gmail.com](mailto:jaxstone68@gmail.com)

### TELL MY STORY!

We had a very informative and interesting time Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>, as about 145 of us (including Zoom attenders) heard about life experiences from 4 of our Park residents.

Thanks to Jack O'Dell, Mel Reber, Roderick Smithson and Roger & Ellen Haskins for sharing part of your personal life experiences.

Thanks also to the Bucket Listers for providing snacks & drinks.

Please mark your calendars to join us next time, Thursday Feb 15.

If you have a story, or know someone who does, please let me know. See you next time.

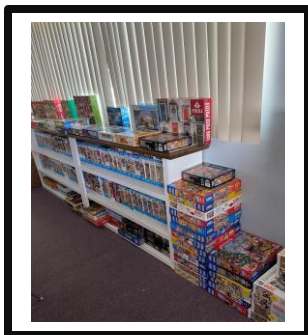
**Ken Kendall**      **214-695-5448**

## Bucket Listers



First of all, thank you for your generous donations of puzzles! There is now an extensive collection of 300, 500, 1000 and even some 2000-piece puzzles at Hood Hall.

Pick a puzzle and work on it at Hood Hall  
or take it home and work on it.



As a result of technical difficulties our first movie of the season, "I Heard the Bell on Christmas", was rescheduled for 1-20-24 and shown in its entirety.

Christmas themed Trivia Tuesday was held 1-16-24. 112 people attend and participated in Tuesday Trivia. There were some empty tables, so come and join us next time.



Tuesday Night Movies. Look for movie title announcements on Facebook and neighborhood news.

Tuesday Night Trivia Look for theme hints on Facebook and neighborhood news.



Pop and popcorn are available at Tuesday Night Movies, Tuesday Night Trivia and at Thursday Night Share Your Stories for a donation!

If anyone is interested in building a puzzle storage unit, please see Janet Wight.



*You are cordially invited to celebrate 50 years of marriage for eight of our Light and Life couples on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at Hood Hall.*

*Those being honored include:  
EJ & Brenda Miller, Stan & Gloria Welton,  
Randy & Faith Reesman, Fred & Barb  
Hartson, David & Gayle Hooks, Dennis & Jill  
Wood, Bruce & Debbie Fitch, and Vernon &  
Kathy Kauffman.*

*There will be a program beginning at 2 pm,  
followed by visiting and light refreshments from  
2:30-4 pm.*

Carolyn Lindley [carolyn\\_lindley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com)  
50th Anniversary Chair

## L & L Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

Come & enjoy fun in the sun with a low-impact workout in the water to enhance health & wellbeing.

**February Aqua Splash** will be held twice weekly, weather dependent, and on a rotating basis. The schedule will be posted via neighborhood news & on L&L Facebook. *We will attempt to create a regular schedule when the weather is a bit more predictable!*

Karen Castle-Williams  
[allforyum@aol.com](mailto:allforyum@aol.com)  
704-502-0466.



## CPC Golf

**34 Golfers competed in the 2024 two person bring your partner scramble at CPC Golf Club. Congratulations to our winners!**



Rita Conway & Denise Tomasello shot 63 on the Ladies side.

Dan Northup & Ed Stockwell shot 51 on the men's side.

## Coming up

### CPC Club Championship

Friday, February 2nd, 2024

Club Championship Tournament (two flights each for Men & Women (18 holes) **10:00 AM** start time.

Closest to the pin and longest drive contest will be held as part of the activities for this tournament.

Registration closed January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Stockwell  
517 861-0481  
[EdStockwell48@gmail.com](mailto:EdStockwell48@gmail.com)  
The Player's Club @ CPC

## Gad-About News



What an awesome time we had on our recent Gad-Abouts trip exploring the 100-year-old Sunken Gardens in St. Pete! Enjoyed a delicious lunch together at Carrabba's Italian Grille next door. We had 16 beautiful ladies join us on this trip.

## Looking Forward

The Gad-Abouts is not a club. All ladies in the Park are invited to go on the trips and get to know others!

### Two great trips are being planned.

**Thursday, Feb 15** we will carpool to Dade City for Florida Cracker Lunch on Limoges. This is a pretty, little restaurant downtown with shopping right in the store! There are many Gift Shops, Antique Shops, Resale Shops, Art stores, etc. within one or two blocks of this Restaurant.

Join us for a relaxing "Girls Day Out."

**Friday, March 1,** is our longest trip of the season. We will be going to Silver Springs, FL for a 90-minute Glass Bottom Boat Ride down the Silver Springs River to learn about the wildlife and history of the river.

\$20 per person (or better) if we have 20 or more ladies going.

We will eat at their newly open restaurant after the boat ride.

There is also a Silver River Museum and Environmental Center inside the Park for \$2 admission. Go to [Silversprings.com](http://Silversprings.com) for more information.

Flo Grabowski  
Cell 931-797-2639 [coachfllc@gmail.com](mailto:coachfllc@gmail.com)  
Peggy Dunn  
Cell 248-766-5537 [pegjim2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pegjim2000@yahoo.com)



## Library Information



### Library Notes

- Please be sure to pay for any copies you make. We do not have a budget to pay for the ink without donations. That's ten cents for black and white and twenty-five cents for color. Many people are forgetting to pay. Check the drawers for the change box.
- Movies are to be checked out for two weeks at a time.

## Book Review

### In This Moment

by Gabrielle Meyer

When I chose, *In This Moment*, time-travel intrigued me. Thinking about parallel universes is hard to imagine. In this book Maggie has inherited a gift of crossing time in three eras. One is during the Civil War, in 1861, another during World War II in 1941, and one during 2001.

She has three separate lives, not knowing which time-period she will wake up in. When she turns 21, Maggie must decide which one she will choose to live out her days in.

The author, Gabrielle Meyer has done a spectacular job of writing in three different time periods, making you feel as if you are in each one. Three different plots, yet such similarities. When you get to the end, you will be surprised at her decision.

You can find this book in the New Book Section with a white circle on the spine. Enjoy!

### Christ the Living Potter

by David W. O'Dell

Christ the Living Potter is written by a member of the Free Methodist Society and went to print last year, 2023. It is a book of several allegories with a particular message, using several significant Bible characters. This is a unique book, written in stories starting with "The Potter" as the main character.

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While walking, the narrator discovered a small building and decided to enter. This leads to encountering The Potter on several occasions. He has a lesson to learn with each visit that is applicable to each one of us.

He also encountered such Godly men as Jeremiah, Isaiah, Apostle Paul, Daniel, and Ezekiel. They all gave the same message about how the world was and what we need to do.

The allegories have many more people from the Bible involved. I found it very interesting and an enjoyable read. It was published about the same time as the Asbury Revival last year.

Take time to read this book, you won't be disappointed! You can find it in the New Book Section.

*Gloria Welton*  
Librarian

## Library2Go

If you are looking for other books that are not in our Library, Library2go will be in our Park **February 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 11:30 am.**

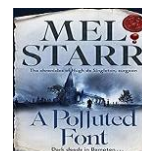
You will find them up at Hood Hall.

Hillsborough County Library cards can be issued through them as well.

## Our Resident Author: A note

Due to Susan's illness and treatment, we will not be at L&L Park until late February for the month of March. I will have books with me, including the most recent, A POLLUTED FONT.

But my books are available on Amazon. If some do not want to wait until we get to the park they can order from Amazon, and I'll sign the books when we arrive.



-Mel Starr





### Cars and Coffee

2nd Saturday of every month **8:00am to 10am,**

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** and **everyone** is welcome to come and view great restored autos and custom hot rods.

**Join us in L&L Park at the Church parking lot!**

Come, join the fun, and have a cup of coffee and a doughnut!

**Larry Thomas 540-447-0458**



### Pickleball and Tennis

One of the organized recreational activities of Light and Life Park is **mixed doubles tennis** which will be happening this season on **Saturday mornings** from **10 am to 12 pm**. We welcome all interested tennis players of all levels, as well as visiting friends, family, and guests. It's great exercise and a lot of fun. So, come on out and enjoy the friendly competition on our beautifully resurfaced court.

Keith Clement 989-254-1859

### Shuffleboard

Our Regular Tournament was a great success. We had good weather and lots of fun and fellowship.

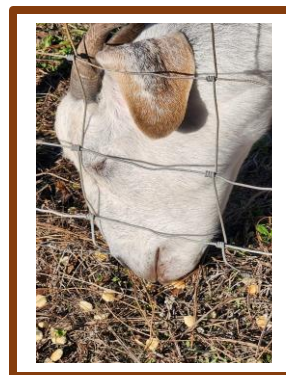


Coming up this month: **Challenge tournament February 29, March 1 and March 4.**

We try to meet at the courts on Mondays at 1:00, Tuesdays at 6:30 and Thursdays at 6:30 to play/practice.

**Dale Schantz 989 975 6710**

### Our beautiful Park



**The animal life in our park constantly Amazes.**

### Salvation Army Crafting Event

Join us in Hood Hall

Friday February 16, starting at 1:00 pm

Saturday February 17, starting at 8:00 am

Bring your projects to work on in a light hearted atmosphere.

Come and go as you please. Cost is \$20.00 for a half of an eight foot table where you can work on your project.

All proceeds go to the Salvation Army Transitional Housing Program.

Please RSVP by January 3<sup>rd</sup> to Cindy Lower at [cindylower950@gmail.com](mailto:cindylower950@gmail.com)

We will be **collecting diapers for donation**, which you can bring to HH anytime during those two days **BUT anyone is welcome to just come and watch. Also, some of the ladies have things to sell.**

Best Regards

Cindy Lower

### Game Night

Game Night is held on most **Friday evenings** at 7:00 PM in **Maxwell Commons**.

Bring your favorite game and friends and have an evening of fun and fellowship.



### Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure that your submissions to **The Life and Times** are delivered to the newsletter editor, Barb Hartson by the **20<sup>th</sup>** of the month prior to publication.

Please use this email: [bfhartson@gmail.com](mailto:bfhartson@gmail.com) Email is the preferred method.

**The March** deadline is **February 20<sup>th</sup>** unless the activity is in the latter half of the month. Then check with me to see if you can still make it in.

### WOOD ACTIVITIES NEWS

The Wood Shop is again in business to provide you woodworkers with an opportunity to work on a wood project and to those who would like to try a project in wood turning or carving.

Lee Stevens and Jim Martin are both planning to provide guidance and training for those who are interested, on Thursday evenings.

Two new tools are in the works for the shop. A new sliding compound miter saw is being purchased to allow more flexibility in angle cuts and a spindle sander is being researched to allow for curved surface and inside sanding of wood pieces. Both tools will make it easier to finish your projects.

The parking strip outside the shop will be receiving more crushed concrete soon. Volunteers will be needed to level out and finish raking the surface. More details, date and time will be posted on Neighborhood News.

Do not forget that with the new year the code will change on the door to the shop. You should receive the new code when you have paid your membership dues.

We look forward to seeing you in the wood shop this winter season.

Jim Falconer Secretary

### Ladies Golf

Our weekly women's golfing began Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at CPC. It will be Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 AM.

All women are welcome to join us regardless of skill level. Our goal is to enjoy golfing and spending time together. Just meet us at the Golf Course.

Flo Grabowski  
(931)797-2639



Denise Tomasello  
(517) 250-1420

### Light and Life Bowling

We have now completed our third week of a twelve-week League.

We have 12 teams of 4 and are enjoying the fellowship of bowling a different set of 4 people each week.

The snack bar is open now but the renovations continue. This week we noticed that they have added some landscaping to upgrade the outside of the building.

We are still in need of **substitute bowlers**. If you would like to bowl without commitment, please call me.

Barb Hartson 814-397-6274

### Annual Craft Show and Bake Sale

Friday, March 15th, 10am to 2pm at Hood Hall

I would love to have some of our talented Wood Shop and Martha's place Members showing all of us what you've been working on this season-- Please contact me and let me know so I can set aside a table for you.

So Excited to See the Talent of our Residents!

Becky Smith [becsmith62@gmail.com](mailto:becsmith62@gmail.com)

Text or Call: 231.349.2993

### Mugs on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays

February 12 and 26, come join the fun with Wade Wilson as your emcee.

Don't forget to bring your **Mug** and your **\$2** for coffee and rolls.

Organized by Marge and Wade Wilson

### Beautification Parade

The theme for the Beautification Parade this year is **"Fast Food Restaurants"**.

The date for the Parade is **February 22nd**. (Rain day is Saturday the 24th)

Start lining up at 10:30 A.M. along the North side of Deeson Road in front of the park office. Entry numbers will be provided as you line up, along with information about your entry.

The Parade path will be West on Deeson and South to Jordon Blvd, then East to Zion Ave. and north to Bethany Way, East and around putting you back up to Deeson Rd.

Sherry LaBrie is our Grand Marshall.

There will be a meal following the Parade at Hood Hall. \$7.00 charge per individual for the meal to be paid at the Hall.

Tom Lake 269-207-5776

[Laket001@yahoo.com](mailto:Laket001@yahoo.com)

### Interested in Learning Sign Language?

A class is being offered to learn to Sign the Hymn "How Great Thou Art".

Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 1PM during the month of February. Starting with the 5<sup>th</sup> and ending the 19<sup>th</sup>. We will include the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> if needed.

There is a sign-up sheet in Hood Hall.

Contact: Ted or Donna Zook 989-600-5742

5341 Ebenezer Place

### Thursday Dinners

In order to accommodate all who would like to participate during the winter season "**Dinner at Maxwell Commons**" will now be referred to as "**Dinner in the Hood**" and will be held in Hood Hall during the months of **Jan. Feb. and March**. Bring a passing dish and join your L&L neighbors in Hood Hall from 5:30-6:30 for fun food and fellowship!

Paula Daughenbaugh [Mipada3@yahoo.com](mailto:Mipada3@yahoo.com)

**Light and Life  
Free Methodist Church**

5730 Deeson Road  
Lakeland, FL 33810  
Phone: (863) 858-6361  
Fax (863) 858-3982  
Email: [church@lflmc.org](mailto:church@lflmc.org)

Pastor: Jeff Bellinger  
Associate Pastor: Roger Haskins  
Secretary: Pam Hill  
Email: [church@lflmc.org](mailto:church@lflmc.org)

**A Note from our Pastor**

In March of 2015, my mother passed away unexpectedly here in Zephyrhills Florida causing me to have to take three weeks off from my position as pastor at The Gowanda FMC. I had to handle the details of her funeral and burial, run an estate sale, begin the process of executing her will, and preparing her house for sale, that she and my dad spent the last 33 years of their lives in. It was a big job, and it was a very emotional job, selling all the familiar things that were in our home I grew up in. I know several of you have had to walk this same path, through this difficult season when your parents passed. Many of you have had to do this very thing and you can relate to how emotionally trying it is.

This all happened in March and if you're from the north you know how inhospitable March can be. When I finally arrived home, I was expecting a mess. I expected a driveway full of snow, unshoveled walks, and everything else that would happen while leaving your house unattended for three weeks during a western New York winter. But when I arrived home, I was shocked. The driveway was scraped down to the blacktop. The sidewalks were shoveled and salted. I walked to my front door and pushed in, pulling my suitcase behind me. Immediately the smell of beef stew wafted from the kitchen. What is this, I thought to myself? I walked into the kitchen to find a crockpot full of beef stew on the counter along with a loaf of fresh baked bread. The refrigerator was cleaned out and all my perishables had been replaced. Fresh vegetables,

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milk, fruit, it was all there. The house had been cleaned and smelled fresh. And an apple pie wrapped in cellophane with a smiley face drawn on top with a sharpie marker also sat atop the counter.

In that moment when I realized that this was the work of the people of my church I was so deeply touched. I had never felt more loved than I did at that moment. That act of kindness and compassion made such a huge impact on me.

Nobody claimed the credit for this act of kindness. I still don't know to this day who pulled off this generous act of love. They even covered their tracks by making the beef stew in my crockpot so it wouldn't have to be returned. When I asked my church leadership who they thought might have done this... They said, probably someone who loves God and loves you too. =)

On Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> I got a call from my son who was in the hospital in Erie PA, with a severe Bacterial infection in the bones of his back. He had already had emergency surgery to open his back and clean out an abscess that had formed on his spine. I could tell by his voice that he wasn't ok and that he was scared.

The timing couldn't have been worse for me. Bible conference kicked off that very day and the thought of getting to step away seemed unlikely due to everything that needed to happen. But when I shared what was happening with the leadership team here at the church the response was immediate. "Go! You need to be with your son."

With your permission and grace, I bought my tickets, and I was standing in my son's hospital room by early Monday morning. God did some wonderful physical healing as well as miraculous spiritual healing during that time. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to go.

When I returned home to Light and Life, I was told that not only was grace given by allowing me to step out during the busiest time of the year, but that several people had contributed toward helping to cover the

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cost of my trip north. I am humbled. Again, I was deeply blessed. Again, I felt loved by my church family.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who said go, to all of you who blessed me through giving toward the cost, and to all of you who prayed for my sons healing. You accomplished more than you can imagine. God took your prayers and performed miracles.

I love you all. Thank you for pouring out your love so generously.

Blessings,  
PASTOR JEFF



**The Missions Committee wants to thank everyone who participated in the Missions Conference. About 50 people helped in some way to make the conference a success. Your attendance was appreciated. Gerald Coates and Steve Petersen were very informative & inspirational. They challenged us to “scatter & reach out”.**

**Your donations for missions now and in the future months will further the kingdom of God.**

**From the church secretary, Pam Hill:**

The church office will be open:  
Monday – Thursday 9am – 2pm.

I would like to say Thank You to all the Bucket Listers and friends around the park that have generously gifted me and provided food throughout the holidays and this month. Thank you for showing me God's Love.

**HOME BIBLE STUDY**

Come join us in the Church Annex for this informal Bible study. **Everyone is welcome.**

We are currently discussing the Psalms and how they can impact our lives.

Cindy Igel: 716-803-3961

Pam Hill: 863-808-3779

Email: church.llfmc.org

**Ladies Bible Study**

Our annual Ladies Bible Study will begin February 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 to 10:30 AM in Hood Hall.

The Book that will be used is “It’s Not Supposed to be this Way” by Lysa Terkeurst.

Lysa is an American speaker and an author of Christian non-fiction. She has written more than a dozen books including 2 New York Times best sellers. She is also the President of Proverbs 31 ministries.

Books are on sale at the church office Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm at a cost of \$13 each.

**Come and enjoy  
what the Lord  
has in store as  
Lysa shares.**



### Outreach Ministry

Great things are happening. Please keep praying and donating. We held a pulled pork dinner in January with 180 people in attendance as well as a few meals given to shut-ins in the park. Dave and Gail Cook did an awesome job. We are already encouraging them to do a meal next year.



We even got to see again or in my case meet 2 families representing Briarwood. A few of the kids started with Light and Life in 2017 and now attend Assembly of God with Randy Williams. The girls were excited to see Rose Martin and others they remembered. The kids were excited at the generosity of folks winning and giving door prizes to them. One boy won the cutting mandolin for his mom. He had toy choices but was excited to give this to his mom. A huge shout of thanks to all supporters and the awesome folks who helped serve and clean up.

**Looking ahead** "Soup "er Bowl Sunday after 2nd service a variety of soups will be served. We are asking for SOUP, canned goods, or financial contributions. Please join us as many in the park make their SOUP specialty for us to enjoy.

Program Director  
Christine Aurich  
[Chrisaurich@hotmail.com](mailto:Chrisaurich@hotmail.com)  
616 402 8241

### Something to Keep in Mind

I hope the new year has been going well so far and all those promises you made yourself are fully intact.

I didn't make any, so I am totally compliant! How God must laugh at our plans sometimes ...

I hope He doesn't giggle as we plan to meet again at 3:00 pm on Mondays in Hood Hall to follow His leading.

Our verse for the year for our youth is Jeremiah 29:11. We must know God is in control and His ways are best.

The verse I leave with you is not about plans or promises we make ourselves, but what we are commanded to do.

John 13:34 spells it out pretty clearly that this is not a suggestion or a request.

"A new **command** I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so **you must** love one another."

and it goes on to say in verse 35, "**By this** everyone will know that you are my disciples, **if you** love one another."

So where do we stand on His command? Are we loving one another as He has loved us?

I pray this year we make a concerted effort to love the unlovable; the least of these; those outside the gate.

That this love will burst from us as we meet new people and introduce them to a friend of ours named Jesus!

We are blessed to be that blessing to others. God has the plan and the hope which will lead us, and those we love on, to an eternal future together praising Him!

As we say up in North Carolina, That'll preach son!

In HIs Grip,  
Pastor Randy 704-488-1843  
[brittandherdad@aol.com](mailto:brittandherdad@aol.com)



Is hosting the annual Ice Cream and Strawberries **night** at Hood Hall on February 21, 2024, right after Church.

Everyone in the park is welcome to come and enjoy! Hope to see you there. Blessings! **Dave Moffitt Regional Representative**