



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

August 27, 2017

No Sunday School

***Homecoming Service**

10:30am

in the Sanctuary

**Rev. Dr. Gil Watson,
preaching**

followed by

Covered Dish Luncheon

*Please bring a side dish and/or
dessert to share.*

Serving utensils provided

***Korean Worship Service**

11:00am in the Chapel

September 3, 2017

***Morning Glory**

8:45am in the Fellowship Hall

***Early Worship Service**

9:00am in the Chapel

***Traditional Service**

11:00am in the Sanctuary

***Korean Worship Service**

11:00am in the Chapel

**Child care is provided.*

Children's Church is for ages 3rd grade & younger. Children will dismiss to Room 203 in the Children's building.



Let Peace Begin With Me – EMBRACE LOVE

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.” (Psalm 34:14)

This past week has been filled with news stories of violence and hatred both around the world (in Spain) and right here in our own country (Charlottesville, VA).

Some of you were at worship on August 13 when – with Pastor Blake standing at my side -- I read and

reinforced the message of our North Georgia United Methodist Bishop, Sue Hauptert-Johnson:

“We in North Georgia need to, with one voice, speak from our pulpits and condemn white supremacy, racism, the Alt-Right, and any of our church and governmental leaders who even appear to support these dangerous and sinful attitudes. You simply cannot be a white supremacist and a follower of Jesus. We need to pray and take action.”

[--Bishop Sue's August 12, 2107 email message to N.Ga. UM clergy]

Neither Blake nor I could have said it better ourselves! As followers of Christ, there is simply no room in either our words or our behaviors for bigotry, racism, or prejudice -- anything to the contrary clearly demonstrates a lack of understanding of the true ways and teachings of Jesus found in the Bible. In his care for and ministry with Samaritans, “ladies of the night,” lepers, and even Gentiles, Jesus reached beyond the established racial and social customs of the day and sought to love everyone, and, as his followers, we are called to do the same.

And yet, the love and peace of Christ is sometimes elusive because we find that – at times – there are tempting forces within ourselves vying to be heard.

The biblical story of Pilate asking the crowd to choose between releasing either Barabbas or Jesus metaphorically also asks them to choose between the way of violence and hate (represented by Barabbas), and the way of love and compassion (represented by Jesus). Read this story in Matthew 27:15-23, Mark 15:6-15, Luke 23:18-25, and John 18:39-40. In many ways, this choice haunts us today, and challenges each of us to ask ourselves, *“What part am I playing in enabling peace and love to win out over prejudice, violence, and hate?”*

The plot of the 1986 movie *The Mission* highlights this choice between choosing the way of love or choosing the way of violence, and how – just as with Jesus – too often we choose the latter. The very last scene of the movie shows an 18th-century religious leader in Paraguay who had ordered the removal of missionaries by force, questioning those who carried it out why the brutality and slaughter that ensued was necessary. One of them replies, *“You had no alternative, your Eminence. We work in the world, and the world is thus.”* The religious leader replies, *“No, Señor Hontes. Thus have we made the world.... Thus have I made it.”*

So, before we go around complaining about what someone else is not doing to bring peace and understanding, we need to first look deep inside *ourselves* and ask what we are doing to help foster them and to make sure our actions are not the inadvertent cause of strife, prejudice and hatred.

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**Wednesday Evening Weekly
Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm**

WEW Meal on August 30, 2017

Menu: Baked Tilapia, rice pilaf, veggie, salad bar, dessert.

Children: Corn dogs & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on September 6, 2017

Menu: Chicken Alfredo, veggie, garlic bread, salad bar, dessert.

Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

Call or email the church office at 884-4635 by NOON on MONDAY to make your meal reservation.

Cost: \$0 for those 2 years & under, \$3 for those 3 years-12th grade, and \$6 for adults.

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorial

Mrs. Mary Lou Walker - Catherine Carmical

Honorarium

Dr. Frank McCook - Louisa & Milton Edelson

Rev. Helen Henry - Mike & Nancy Cammon



Journeying Through Grief Ministry

Last year Congregational Care started a new ministry for church members who have lost a spouse or child. *Journeying Through Grief* is a set of four short books which we deliver to these church members during their first year after the loss of their loved one.

Book 1 - A Time to Grieve, is delivered by one of our Pastors within 3 weeks after the loss. The additional books are delivered by Lay Volunteers.

Book 2 - Experiencing Grief, 3 months later

Book 3 - Finding Hope and Healing, 6 months after the loss

Book 4 - Rebuilding and Remembering, 11 months after the loss

Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief – offering understanding, empathy, compassion and hope. Written by the founder of Stephen Ministry, author Kenneth C. Haugk walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical truths and stories that provide comfort and reassurance. **We care as you go through your grief journey.**

September Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, September 9th, at 8:00am in the small dining room, all men in the church will meet for a homecooked breakfast meal, and a program provided by LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton.

continued...

The words of a famous hymn (that we actually sang at the end of the 9am Chapel service on August 13) say it well:

*“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

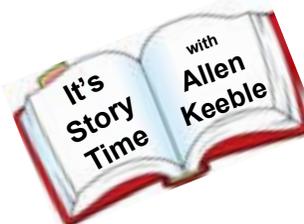
[--Words by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson (1955), cited from the United Methodist Hymnal #431]

May this be our prayer as we struggle in our world to choose the ways of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Always remember that God loves you and I do, too!

NOTE: Our own United Methodist Church tradition is currently promoting a national campaign to encourage a unified stand against racism, challenging people to learn how we all can be a force for good. A compilation of articles and denominational statements is available at www.UMC.org/EmbraceLove.

Resources from across the connection are also available, including liturgies, discussion guides, videos to use in worship and on social media, and tips for talking to kids. Explore some of these at <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/archives-racism-resources>.

**Thursday Lunch Club
September 7th, 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall**



For reservations for the meal & program call or email the church at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org. Cost is \$6 per person. All are welcome!

**2018 CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN**

Our church's Committee On Nominations and Leadership Development has begun its work to discern God's will for church leadership for next year. To assist them in their task, they need your help before September 20th in identifying potential candidates who are willing to serve in areas of both program and administrative church leadership.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for a leadership committee or ministry team for next year, please read the instructions in the "Join In The Ministry of God's Church" brochure available in our newsletter, online, or in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, or Church Office and follow the instructions there. For further information, contact either our Senior Pastor or email nominations@lagrangefumc.org.

Your 2017 Committee On Nominations and Leadership Development



Need to Talk? Refer yourself or a friend in need to one of our church's confidential Stephen Ministers who can help walk one-to-one with you or them through crisis. For more information or for a referral, speak to one of our Pastors or email stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org.



What is a Fresh Expression?

A "Fresh Expression" is a ministry that engages **NEW** people in **NEW** places in **NEW** ways.

The goal of a "Fresh Expression" is to offer Church to people who are not currently part of a community of faith.

Starting in September Blake Trent and a few others will launch our first Fresh Expression called **Wing Church**. This is a young adult gathering at the Brickhouse Grille, with the hopes of offering an authentic experience of Christian community to **new** people under the age of 35.

The first gathering will be on Tuesday, Sept. 12th, at 6:00pm with meetings to follow every other week.

How can you help? Pray for this **new** ministry. Pray that God will send us **new** people and that we can craft a **new** experience that will connect them to Christ in a **new** and meaningful way.

Children's Ministry

Jeanne Jones, Director
jeanne@lagrangefumc.org

THE VISION

to give all children a biblical foundation, to provide them time to experience worship and praise, and to share with them and allow them to be the hands of Christ in the world they live in day-to-day.

Nursery News - Carpet, toys, and rooms have been cleaned and made ready for little ones. Volunteers are needed.

Sunday School - Teachers are Amy Orr, Robin Roberts, Julie Smith, Jason & Stacey Weldon, Kim Burch, and Mandy Hill. Classes will be held on the first floor of the Children's Building.

Children's Church - Will move to the first floor of the Children's Building.

Children's Wednesday Program - Children will participate in mission projects, hear from guest speakers about how faith is put into action, and celebrate being a part of God's kingdom.

Lead me in your truth and teach me...

Psalm 25:5

Youth Ministry

CJ Lord, Director
cj@lagrangefumc.org

Hi, FUMC Student Ministries Family! Just wanted to welcome everyone back into the swing of things. Last week we kicked things off and had around 60 students and volunteers in worship and small group time on Wednesday. It was SO AWESOME! We also had the debut of our worship band "Will and the D Minor 7ths"!



Confirmation is also about to kickoff. Confirmands only will be going to Camp Glisson the weekend of September 29-Oct. 1. If your student has never been through Confirmation or is ready for Confirmation, we encourage you to sign him/her up by just shooting C.J. a text or an email. The total cost of Confirmation is going to be \$100; that includes the retreat, a trip to the Biblical History Center, and more. Also, Scholarships are available, so do not let that \$100 be a hindrance to your student's participation. Confirmation classes will begin during Sunday School hour on Oct. 8th. In these classes we will learn everything from the history of the Methodist Church to what we believe as Christians. The sole purpose of Confirmation is to get your student to make his or her own decision to follow the way of Jesus. It will be a really great class, and a lot of time and effort has already gone into making it all that it can be.

We will start Chick-Fil-A Devo for Middle Schoolers at 7:15 on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Commerce Avenue location. In order to go deeper with the high schoolers, we will start a book study at 505 Eats called 7:05 @ 505. We will read *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith*. This book has been one of the most influential books in my own faith walk, and I cannot wait to share it with the students. High Schoolers, I hope you will sign up so that I can get a good count as to how many books to order; just let me know as soon as possible.

College Ministry



Welcome Neighbors
Our College Ministry welcomed each LaGrange College Servant Scholar with a basket of goodies on Move in Day.



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com

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 The Flame, 401 Broad Street
 LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Mr. Rick Free (ext 210).....Director of Food Services
- Dr. Brian Germano (ext 205).....Senior Pastor
- Mr. Eddie Giddens.....Custodian
- Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager
- Mrs. Jeanne Jones (ext 209).....Director of Children's Ministry
- Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
- Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Director of Mid & Sr High Youth
- Mr. Greg Nichols.....Morning Glory Worship Leader
- Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
- Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Church Administrator
- Rev. Blake Trent (ext 206).....Associate Pastor

To reach all other employees and/or volunteers,
 please call the church office.

We always look forward to hearing from you.



*Christians . . .
 SERVING,
 CARING,
 & SHARING*

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 PERMIT NO. 079260
 LaGrange, GA 30240

Sunday, August 27th



10:30am Combined Worship Service
Dr. Gil Watson, preaching

No Sunday School (Nursery provided during the worship service.)
 Covered Dish Luncheon following the service. Please bring sides dishes and/or
 dessert to share with your friends.

Bishop Sue Harpert-Johnson will preside over the Installation Service of
The Reverend Susan Gary Landry as Superintendent of The LaGrange District,
 UMC, 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
 Reception to follow in the Methodist Ministries Center.

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, August 13

Sunday School.....193
 Worship Service.....302

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, August 20

Sunday School.....149
 Worship Service.....224

Supporting Our Ministries

In addition to traditional giving methods (cash & check), you can also donate
 to First United Methodist Church via Text-to-Give (Text LGFUMC to 73256)
 or online at lagrangefumc.org/online-giving.

Calendar for August 27 - September 2

Sunday * Nursery
 *10:30am.....Combined Worship Service
 12:00.....Homecoming Luncheon
 3:00pm.....District Superintendent Installation Service
 5:00pm.....Disciple II Bible Study
Monday
 11:30am-12:00.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class
 5:15pm.....Congregational Care Committee
 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts
 7:00pm.....Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
Wednesday
 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal
 5:30pm.....Handbell Rehearsal
 5:45pm.....Children's Program
 6:00pm.....Mid & Sr. High Youth Small Groups
 6:00pm.....SPR Committee
 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday
 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal
Friday
 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday

Calendar for September 3 - September 9

Sunday * Nursery
 *Worship Services
 *10:00am.....Sunday School
 5:00pm.....Disciple II Bible Study
Monday
 Church Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class
 12:30pm.....Red Cross Blood Drive
 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts
 7:00pm.....Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
Wednesday
 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal
 5:30pm.....Handbell Rehearsal
 5:45pm.....Children's Wednesday Program
 6:00pm.....Minor Prophets Bible Study
 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal
 12:00.....Thursday Lunch Club Luncheon
 6:00pm.....Long Range Planning
Friday
 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday
 8:00am.....Men's Breakfast

The Morning Glory contemporary service will transition to THE BRIDGE on September 10th, at 10:55 A.M. It will remain a casual service featuring a message and trending contemporary Christian music. Please be in prayer for all of our church's worship services. For questions, please email worship@lagrangefumc.org.

OUR SYMPATHY
 Our sympathy is extended to Jerrie Holmes & Family in the recent death of her sister **Judy Cox** and her brother **Joe Jiles**.

Food Closet - Urgent Need
 The Community Food Closet has an urgent need for the following items:
Bars of Soap Toothpaste
Tooth Brushes - Child & Adult size
 Please bring donations to the church office.