



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

December 25, 2016

***One Combined
Worship Service
10:30am in the Sanctuary**

***Korean Worship Service
11:00am in the Chapel**

January 1, 2017

***One Combined
Worship Service
10:30am in the Fellowship Hall**

***Korean Worship Service
11:00am in the Chapel**

January 8, 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.*

****Note — No Children's Church for the
Christmas Day and New Year's Day
worship services.**

**** Story Hour** is for 2 & 3 yr. olds in
Room 107 of the Children's Building
from 11am to 12 noon.

Children's Church is for ages 3rd
grade & younger. Children attending the
early services will dismiss to the Small
Dining Room in the MMC building;
11:00am service children will dismiss to
Room 203 in the Children's building.

'Twas the Week Before Christmas

*"A child has been born for us, a son given to us..."
(Isaiah 9:6)*

*"'Twas the week before Christmas when all through the town,
Men, women and children were running around,
Giving left signals and then turning right,
Shopping and spending much money all night.*

*Elbowing in at the counter of toys,
Buying up gifts for their girls and their boys.
The meaning of Christmas is clear in our city:
Mail carriers and clerks never get any pity.*

*Father is groaning; his checkbook turns red,
While visions of bankruptcy churn in his head.
Mother is baking cake after pie, saying
"If I see one more pastry, I think I will die."*

*Only for children it can't come too soon.
They'll talk about next year on Christmas at noon.
With all of the holes in our nerves and our shoes,
The meaning of Christmas we almost will lose.*

*But then comes the strains of that music so light
And soon we are humming the tune 'Silent Night'.
Our minds take us back twenty centuries past,
And the meaning of Christmas comes through to us at last.*

*No hurry, no bustle, no trees with their lights,
No honking, no hustle, no toys gleaming bright.
But Jesus our Savior, in Bethlehem born,
Becomes the true meaning of our Christmas morn."*

[--Author Unknown, cited from an old Fayetteville (GA) First United Methodist Church newsletter]

How do you and your family experience Christmas? I pray that on at least some level, you will make the difficult but rewarding choice to remove yourself from the rat race long enough both to remember and actually experience the true meaning of the season.

As part of that choice, I hope you'll join myself and your fellow church family to celebrate Jesus, "the reason for the season" at one of our **Christmas Eve Candlelighting services** (5:00pm Family Service with Children's Pageant or 11:00pm Traditional Service with Holy Communion) and/or on **Christmas Day** for our 10:30am casual Christmas celebration.

Always remember that God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

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

WEW Meal on January 4, 2017

Menu: Covered dish (church will provide meat and drinks)
Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on January 11, 2017

Menu: Homemade chili, baked potatoes, 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.

The cost is: \$0 for those 2 years & under; \$3 for those 3 years-12th grade; and \$6 for adults.

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorials

Mr. Jeff Davis (Gene & Rochele Davis' Son) - John & Carolyn Alise

Mr. Lamar Reese (Mack Reese's Father) - Virginia Robertson

Mrs. Evelyn Smith (Shirra Rogers' Mother) - H.R. & Mary Anne Shepherd, Lauranne Buchanan, John & Carolyn Alise

Mrs. Sammie Jones - Jerry & G.C. Smith, Virginia Robertson, The Elizabeth Circle, U.M.W., Shirra & Hoyt Rogers, Janet Johnson, Lauranne Buchanan, Leila & Jim Fulford, John & Dot Lancaster, Jane Willey, Laura Shedd, Jeanie Searby, Linda & G. J. Skene, Tee Borders, Richard & Marilyn Mohler

Mrs. Frances Thornton - Hildred Cammon

Mr. Cliff Cammon - Sonji & Phil Williamson

Mr. John Myers - Alynda & Boopie Jones

Mrs. Ruth Wilder (Gary Wilder's Mother) - Alynda & Boopie Jones

Sarah & John Soltis - Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben

SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary
5:00pm, Candlelight Family & Children's Service
11:00pm, Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day in the Sanctuary
Sunday, December 25th
Combined Worship Service 10:30am
No Sunday School, No Children's Church

New Year's Day in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 1st
Combined Worship Service 10:30am

Thursday Lunch Club

The Thursday Lunch Club luncheon will not be held in January. The next luncheon will be on February 2, 2017.

NEW PREACHING ROTATION COMING!

Beginning in January, Pastor Brian and Pastor Blake will experiment with rotating their preaching schedules into four week blocks. For example, one pastor will preach for 4 weeks in our Morning Glory service while the other pastor preaches in both our Chapel service and our Sanctuary service. After their four week series ends they will then switch to preaching in the service(s) they did not preach in during the previous 4 weeks.

Both Blake and Brian are excited about this new rotation because:

- (1) It will increase momentum during each of their sermon series
- (2) It will accentuate both of their unique preaching styles
- (3) It will allow both members and friends to choose the *preaching* style or the *worship* style that best fits their spiritual needs

We pray that this rotation will stretch your faith and allow you to experience God's diversity through our many worship opportunities! If you have questions or suggestions during this trial period (through the end of Spring), please contact Brian and/or Blake (brian@lagrangefumc.org or blake@lagrangefumc.org).

Reception Honoring

Patti Lybrand

**January 8, 2017
12:15 P.M.**

Fellowship Hall

The Maranatha Sunday School Class invites you to join them as they honor Patti Lybrand for her 29 years of service to LaGrange First United Methodist Church.

JANUARY SERMON SERIES'

Join pastors Brian and Blake January 8-29 for two unique, 4-week sermon series':

VINTAGE FAITH - 8:45am



People seem to be paying homage to the past more than usual these days. Sports teams are wearing throwback jerseys and Instagram has dedicated an entire day for people to post throwback pictures.

With that in mind, maybe the church should do the same. Join us as we explore some of Christianity's historical teachings on God, the Bible, and Grace.

CHRISTIANITY THE WESLEYAN WAY - 9am & 11:00



What's so special about "being a Methodist"? Aren't we supposed to just be "Christian"? How does Methodist Christianity address today's post-modern culture in uniquely relevant ways? Join us as we rediscover how the practice of Wesleyan Christianity can make a dramatic difference not only in your life but in the world around you!

Family and friends of LaGrange First UMC,

We're writing to share two things: our 2017 church budget and a new opportunity for us as church members in light of that budget.

(1) On Dec. 13, our Church Council adopted a balanced **2017 SPENDING BUDGET** of \$1,114,094. This budget, which is \$114,015 lower than the 2016 Spending Budget, will be the financial tool by which we fund the multiple areas of ministry and mission to which God has called us. Budget revenue for 2017, based on pledged financial commitments from our members and a projection of income from other sources, is estimated to be \$1,111,178. (Depreciation accounts for the small difference.)

Accomplishing a balanced budget required a major restructuring of our staff, and re-set the funding of many programs and ministries at a lower level. For our staff restructure, some positions were combined, some cut back, and unfortunately some were eliminated. None of these actions related in any way to job performance, but we reluctantly felt they were necessary. For our program funding re-set, we strategically cut funding of some programs that we felt will *not* affect our growth, and for other programs we plan to encourage more creative fund-raising outside the budget. Please feel free to come by the church office to obtain a summary of our 2017 budget.

(2) The resulting smaller budget and leaner staff does, however, open up a wonderful opportunity for **NEW VOLUNTEERS** that haven't been needed in recent years. In fact, it gives us the chance to become "*the volunteer church that we used to be.*" And that's where we need your help.

In the coming months you'll be hearing about many new opportunities to serve Christ as a volunteer through your church. For example, we'll need new teams of volunteers to help in the church office, to run sound and multimedia at our worship services, to help staff children's programs, to help our Trustees keep our church looking neat and tidy, and others. So, when you see invitations to volunteer for various ministries, please prayerfully consider signing up to help out, remembering that many of these ministries will need the commitment of church volunteers if they are to continue.

We hope each of you will understand and appreciate that the staffing and funding "re-set" that we've shared in this letter -- though painful to enact -- merely reflects our desire to be good stewards of your (and God's) resources. In many ways, it's something we should have done for several years, yet today's circumstances, with just 54 percent of our potential giving units pledging to the budget, compel us not to wait any longer.

None of this in any way lessens the fact that this is an exciting time in the life and ministry of LaGrange First UMC! Soon you'll be hearing about opportunities for you to help shape our new church-wide future vision. In the meantime, we pray that you'll join us in supporting God's ministry through your regular financial gifts and by participating in volunteer service. Your support of our 2017 budget will help us to carry out God's mission for us of *SERVING in love, CARING with compassion, and SHARING Christ with boldness!*

Bill Lovejoy, Finance Committee Chairperson
Ken Young, SPRC Chairperson

EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP JUNE 24-JULY 1, 2017

It is not too late to sign up for this great mission opportunity. A deposit of \$100 is due by January 16th. Blair & Laura Harlin will be our team leaders. Call Blair at 706-594-2610 or Laura at 706-594-2609 for more information or email them at blairharlin@mindspring.com.

Youth Ministry

What a great end to the 2016 year for our youth group!
From Potlucks, to Christmas Parties, to Haunted Houses, to Chick-Fil-A devotionals, to field day cookouts, we have been doing it all here lately! However, we cannot wait for 2017 because it will be one of the BIGGEST and BEST years ever! We already have an Iceskating Trip coming up at the end of January and a Retreat to Camp Glisson in March!

Our regular Wednesday night programming will kick off on **January 4th**. We will be talking about Identity for the whole month of January, trying to answer the question, "Who does Christ say that you are?" Come hang out with us upstairs in the MMC on Sunday mornings during Sunday School hour and Wednesday nights! Can't wait to meet you!

Merry Christmas from Your Youth Ministry Team!
Harrison Pollard-Director of High School Ministries
harrison@lagrangefumc.org
C.J. Lord-Director of Middle School Ministries
cj@lagrangefumc.org

United Methodist Men's January Breakfast

Please join us for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 14th at 8:00am in the small dining room. The program will be presented by **Laura Jennings**, Director of marketing for the Biblical History Center (formerly the Explorations in Antiquity Center). See you next year on January 14th.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church offices will close Monday & Tuesday, December 26th & 27th; and Monday, January 2nd for the holidays. If you have a Pastoral emergency, call 888-456-1203.

THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

401 Broad Street
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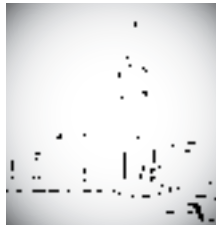
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 The Flame, 401 Broad Street
 LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Miss Grayson Bailey (ext 209).....Director of Children's Ministry
- 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
- Mr. Scott Hill (ext 213).....Landscape/Maintenance
- Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
- Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Interim Director of Mid High Youth
- Mrs. Patti Lybrand (ext 203).....Church Secretary
- Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
- Mr. Harrison Pollard (ext 215).....Interim Director of Senior High Youth
- 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from your staff at First Methodist!

Brian, Blake, Darian, Patti, Lisa, Dodie, Grayson, Avery, Rick, Andy, Scott, Cindy, Eddie, Jordan, CJ, Harrison, Meghan, Boley, & Jane

Enclosed in this Flame issue is a listing of all those individuals honored through our Christmas Decorations.

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, December 4

Sunday School.....181
 Worship Service.....281

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, December 11

Sunday School.....199
 Worship Service.....307

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, December 18

Sunday School.....183
 Worship Service.....322

	November	Year-to-Date
Budgeted Receipts	\$95,470	\$1,091,973
Actual Receipts	\$91,787	\$1,062,465
Budgeted Expenses	\$97,053	\$1,130,557
Actual Expenses	\$94,500	\$1,093,657

OUR ROSEBUD

Our rosebud on Sunday, December 25th, is in honor of **Ella Nicole Jones**, born **December 11, 2016**, the daughter of Jared & Danielle Jones, the granddaughter of Boopie & Alynda Jones.

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the following families.

- Ron Martin & family, death of his brother, **James Martin, November 28th**
- Allen Pruitt & family, death of his grandmother, **Nellie Reecie, November 30th**
- Sharon Richardson & family, death of her sister, **Jean Michely, December 2nd**
- Trish Germano & family, death of her uncle, **Joe Watkins, December 3rd**
- Linda Maire & family, death of her father, **Charles Maire, December 6th**
- Debbie Simmons & family, death of her mother, **Annabelle Algranti, December 15th**
- Joanne Leverett & family, death of her son, **Johnny Leverett, December 17th**

Calendar for December 25 - December 31

Sunday *Nursery
 *Worship Services
Monday
 Church Closed for the Christmas Holiday
 11:00-11:30am.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday
 Church Closed for the Christmas Holiday
Wednesday
 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
Thursday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class
Friday
 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday

**Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day
 Combined Worship Service 10:30am
 in the Sanctuary**

Calendar for January 1 - January 7

Sunday *Nursery
 *Worship Services
 *10:00am.....Sunday School
Monday
 Church Closed for the New Year's Holiday
 11:00-11:30am.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts
Wednesday
 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal
 5:45pm.....M.E.R.G.E & Children's Choir
 6:00pm.....Believe Bible Study
 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir
Thursday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class
Friday
 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday

**Sunday, January 1st - New Year's Day
 Combined Worship Service 10:30am
 in the Fellowship Hall**

Calendar for January 8 - January 14

Sunday *Nursery
 *Worship Services
 *10:00am.....Sunday School
Monday
 11:00-11:30am.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts
Wednesday
 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal
 5:45pm.....M.E.R.G.E & Children's Choir
 6:00pm.....Believe Bible Study
 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir
Thursday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry
Friday
 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday
 8:00am.....Men's Breakfast



First United Methodist Church Christmas Decorations 2016

In Memory Of:

Wiley & Edith Reeves
Susan Lynn Gonsalves
John A. Jones
Phyllis M. Enright
Florence & Charlie Patterson, and Howard Patterson
Sherry Patterson
Frances & James Thornton, and Frank Thornton
Edna & Dewitt Kelly, and Sue Ann Tyson
Sam Rainey
David Rainey
Windy Lupien
Walt Lukken
Jeff Hagood
John & Sarah Soltis
Jennifer Soltis Trizzino
David Soltis
John Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Eidson
Earle Williams
Walter Lukken
Jeff Hagood
John Myers
Parker Smith
Inez Champion Veal
Gary Martin Smith
Margie Williamson
Edgar Williamson
Greg Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. Joe J. Childs, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. Hugh Allen
Mr. Benjamin Hill Childs
George Deane Allen
Tim Huckstep
John Huckstep
Morgan & Joyce Jackson
Ann Seevers
O. C. Seevers
Betty Jackson
My Granddaughter, Angelia Kellogg
Thelma & Otho Morgan
Dick Willey
Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Willey, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Hartzell
Our Daughter, Nancy Beth Godwin
John Varner
Tom McLaughlin

By:

Julia A. Reeves
Julia A. Reeves
Sharon & Alan Jones
Sharon & Alan Jones
Their Family
Her Family
Their Family
Dodie Patterson & Family
Faye & Cliff Rainey
Faye & Cliff Rainey
Faye & Cliff Rainey
Marsha Holliday
Marsha Holliday
Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben
Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben
Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben
Virginia Eidson Robertson
Virginia Eidson Robertson
Jane Williams
Peggy Lukken
Peggy Lukken
Peggy Lukken
Martha & Gordon Smith
Jackson Veal
Rumi M. Smith
Susan Langford
Susan Langford
Susan Langford
Anne Childs Allen
Anne Childs Allen
Anne Childs Allen
Anne Childs Allen
The Huckstep Family
The Huckstep Family
Libba Trawick
Davie & Jim Biagi
Davie & Jim Biagi
Her Family
Betty Ward
Joyce & Bill Young
Jane Willey
Jane Willey
Jane Willey
Wayne & Beth Godwin
Elynor Varner
Bonnie Norrick

In Memory Of:

John & Suzanne Schuessler & Lydia Helms
Ralph T. Johnson
Don Rainey
Sammie Jones
Robert Cammon
Raymond A. Newman
Mr. & Mrs. Lawton G. Hiers
Mr. & Mrs. Rupert Denny
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Newman
Ed & Nona and Eddie Cooper
Lamar Wadsworth
Kelly Richard Linch, Jr.
Our Parents & Grandparents
Julia Hope Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Benefield
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Mills
Bill G. Burnett & H. E. Ivey
Rev. Sidney Tate
Samuel F. Dunn
Gregory B. Dunn
Robert Cammon

Cliff Cammon

Don Rainey

By:

Suzie & Mark Highland
Janet Johnson
Quin Rainey
Fred Jones
Hildred Cammon
Jean Newman
Jean Newman
Jean Newman
Jean Newman
Sheryl Cooper
Jennie Wadsworth
Kelly & Carole Linch
Ray & Sally Holmes
Dusty & Carlene Mills
Dusty & Carlene Mills
Dusty & Carlene Mills
The Ivey Family
Enid Tate & Family
Heidi D. Stevens
Heidi D. Stevens
Dorothy & Bobby Cammon; Margaret, Tim,
Caroline & Ben Sanders
Dorothy & Bobby Cammon; Margaret, Tim,
Caroline & Ben Sanders
Andy, Esther, Will, Matt, & Elizabeth Rainey

In Honor Of:

Hildred Cammon
The Skip & Sykes Smith Families
John & Cindy Jackson Family
James & Stephanie Jackson
John Morgan Jackson & Christina Marinelli
West Ga. Hospice Staff & Nurses
The Billy Trawick Family
Chase & Beth Parmer
Lori, Tim, Landon & Reagan Taylor
Janice Ingram
Greg McClanahan
Sue & James Harris
Our Daughters, April Cook & Mandy Nolen
Our Granchildren, Ariel, Kaylynn, McClain, Nora Ann,
Jake, Maddie
Morning Glory Band
My Mom, Rheta Norrick
Elizabeth, & Matthew Hayes
Michael, Audrey & John Michael Hayes
Our Children & Grandchildren
Davie Biagi
Loretta F. Beall
Murbes Shepherd
Andy, Esther, Will, Matt, and Liz

By:

Marsha Holliday
Martha & Gordon Smith
Libba Trawick
Libba Trawick
Libba Trawick
Libba Trawick
Libba Trawick
Libba Trawick
Mrs. Bernice Strickland
Gary & Jane Stephens
Disciple Fast Track Class
Believe Bible Study Class
Scott & Jennie Gordy
Their Parents, Wayne & Beth Godwin

Buff & Pop Pop
Bonnie Norrick
Bonnie Norrick
Suzie & Mark Highland
Suzie & Mark Highland
Ray & Sally Holmes
Anonymous
Heidi D. Stevens
Louise Horvath
Quin Rainey