



# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

*“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”*

## WHO ARE YOU? and WHO ARE WE?

*“Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.” (Isaiah 43:4)*

Who are you? It’s an important question in a world of over 6 billion people, each struggling to discover our own unique identity and self-worth. And if we don’t know who we are, then for good or bad, the world we live in will tell us.

That’s why it’s so important for us to be clear about our own identity as children of God -- each special, each unique and valuable to Him. In Luke 12:6-7 Jesus says, *“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”*

Mother Teresa put it this way: *“In our efforts to listen to God’s words to us, we often neglect what might be called his ‘first word’ to us. This is the gift of ourselves to ourselves: our existence, our nature, our personal history, our uniqueness, our identity. All that we have, and indeed, our very existence, is one of the unique and never to be repeated ways God has chosen to express himself in space and time. Each of us, because we are made in God’s image and likeness, is yet another promise that he has made to the universe that he will continue to love it and care for it.”*

[--Mother Teresa, *Leadership*, magazine Vol. 10, No. 4]

Who are you? You are a child of God... precious, honored, and loved in His eyes. Never forget that you have a great identity as a member of God’s family!

And related to that thought, I pray that you will join me beginning February 14 as Blake and I begin a new series series based on the stories of Abraham exploring who we are (our identity) as God’s people here at LaGrange First UMC.

And always remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

**February 7, 2016**

**\*Early Worship Service  
9:00am in the Chapel**

Rev. Helen Henry, preaching

**\*Morning Glory**

**9:00am in the Fellowship Hall**

Mr. Blake Trent, preaching

**\*Traditional Service**

**11:00am in the Sanctuary**

Mr. Blake Trent, preaching

**\*Korean Worship Service**

**11:00am in the Chapel**

Rev. Daniel Kim

**February 14, 2016**

**\*Early Worship Service  
9:00am in the Chapel**

Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

**\*Morning Glory**

**9:00am in the Fellowship Hall**

Mr. Blake Trent, preaching

**\*Traditional Service**

**11:00am in the Sanctuary**

Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

**\*Korean Worship Service**

**11:00am in the Chapel**

Rev. Daniel Kim

*\*Child care is provided.*



**Wednesday, February 10th**

**2 Ash Wednesday 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 children ages 1st grade and younger in room 203. A leader will escort the children from the 11:00 worship service.

**7:00 a.m. service** in the chapel led by Blake Trent

**7:00 p.m. service** in the sanctuary led by Dr. Brian Germano

**2016 FAMILY LENTEN CALENDAR**  
is enclosed in this issue of The Flame.

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

**WEW Meal on February 10, 2016**

Menu: Pork loin, hashbrown casserole, veggie, salad bar, dessert

Children: Nachos & PB & J sandwiches

**WEW Meal on February 17, 2016**

Menu: Poppysseed chicken, rice, veggie, 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. Bud Overall** (Jerry Overall's Brother) - Carolyn & John Alise

**Mrs. Ann Petry** - Kay & Ron Cole, U.M.W., Carolyn & John Alise, Catherine Carmical, Nancy Jane Cammon, Jane Willey, Donna & Jay Fager, Mike & Ellen Dobbs, Carol Freeman, Jennie & Scott Gordy

**Mr. John Huckstep** - Jean Newman & Family, Fay & Dennis Riddle, Laura & Blair Harlin, Ray & Sally Holmes, Ellis & Jean Smith, David & Carol Bill, The Coffee Group, Alynda & Boopie Jones, Judy & Quillian Baldwin, Mike & Jean Patton, Jennie & Scott Gordy, Peggy Lukken, Loretta Beall, Page Estes, Sarah Funderburk, Carol & Jim Morgan, John & Anita Holle, Cliff & Faye Rainey, Leila & Jim Fulford

**Mr. Russell Everitt** - Jean Newman & Family

**Mr. Tim Huckstep** - John & Anita Holle

**Rev. Sidney Tate** - Sarah Funderburk

**MEMORIALS GIVEN TO  
 HENDERSON TRAYLOR MEMORIAL EAGLE  
 SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP**

**Mrs. Libba Traylor** - Susan Hyde, Kathy Wright Tilley, Nancy Jane Cammon, MIMEDX Group, Inc., Jackie Huckstep, Carol Freeman, Peggy Lukken, Loretta Beall, Betty Evans Bucklin, Jane & Buddy Adamson, Rachel Shepherd, Leila & Jim Fulford, Carol & Jim Morgan, Cliff & Faye Rainey

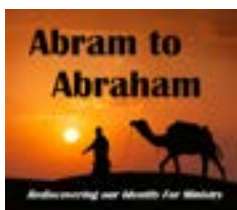
**January 4th Financial Incident Update**

In the interest of accountability, we want to update you on the recent financial incident at our church. We have learned that at least ten other North Georgia United Methodist churches, a prominent Atlanta college, and several local businesses were "spoofed" in the same manner during the same time period. We are continuing to cooperate with authorities to investigate the crime and seek any possible redress.

To date, the issue has been addressed by our Staff Parish Relations committee and changes to the Church's communications procedures have been initiated. We have also identified financial expenditure policies that will be modified and strengthened at our upcoming Finance committee meeting. All of this will be reported during the February Church Council meeting.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued trust and faithfulness through your financial gifts to God through our church. We are working hard to ensure that we continue to be good stewards of them for the work of God's kingdom. If you have questions, please contact Bill Lovejoy by email at [bill.lovejoy@charter.net](mailto:bill.lovejoy@charter.net) or by phone at 706-884-9559.

Jennifer Emery, Chairperson of Church Council  
 Bill Lovejoy, Chairperson of Finance Committee



**Abram to Abraham**

Rediscovering Our Identity for Ministry

What defines what it means to be LaGrange First UMC in 2016? Is it our buildings? Our styles of worship? Our history? Our membership? Or is it something more than these?

Join Blake and Pastor Brian in a new series February 14 - March 13 called "Abram to Abraham" as they use the stories of Abraham to lead us on a spiritual journey together to rediscover our identity, mission and purpose for ministry, not only as individuals but especially as a community of faith.

**Easter Lilies**

If you would like to place an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone on Easter Sunday, March 27th, please complete this form, return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate along with your check for \$12.00, payable to the church and marked "Easter Lily" on or before March 8th. Lilies will be delivered to shut-ins unless you indicate otherwise below.

In Honor \_\_\_\_\_ or In Memory \_\_\_\_\_

OF: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up after Easter Service \_\_\_\_\_ or Deliver to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_





**Soup for Sale \$6 per Quart**  
**Sunday, February 7th**  
**10:00am till sold out (No pre-orders)**  
*Choices Available*  
**Potato**  
**Vegetable Beef**  
**White Chicken Chili**  
**Mexican Chicken Corn Chowder**

**Children's Ministry**

Grayson Bailey, Director  
[childrens@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:childrens@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-884-4635 ext. 209

**Children's Program Fund Raiser: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**Tuesday, February 9th**



**5:00 to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**  
**\$5 per person**  
*(Children under 4 eat free.)*

*Come join us for good fun and wonderful fellowship, all while helping our children.*

**CentriKids Deadline**

If your child is interested in going to CentriKids Camp this summer, a \$50 deposit is due by February 14th.

**Youth Ministry**

Kali Grenus, Director  
[kali@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:kali@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-884-4635 ext. 215



We have two great opportunities to partake in Ash Wednesday on February 10th. Students are invited to attend the 7am Service and we will have a breakfast treat afterwards. We will also provide rides to the local Middle and High Schools.



**Who: 8th-12th Graders**  
**What: Spiritual Life Retreat!**  
**When: March 11th-13th**  
**Where: Glisson**

**Cost: \$150** (includes lodging, food, Glisson activities, and tshirts)

Let's take a trip to Glisson and spend the weekend growing in Christ together! The 2016 theme is Mirrors - taking a look at how you see yourself, how others might see you, and how God sees us.

**Sr. High Mission Trip — Cairo, Illinois — July 17-23, 2016**

Join us as we head west to Cairo, Illinois, the southernmost city in Illinois; settled between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. This city is rich in heritage and history. Students will have the chance to work sites, participate in Kids Club or Outrageous Sports camp.

Deposit: \$50 Due by March 1st  
 Informational Meeting: February 14th (after Sunday School in the Sr. High Lounge)



**THE FLAME**

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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[www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com](http://www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com)Postmaster: Send Address Change to  
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  
Miss Kali Grenus (ext 215).....Director of Youth Ministry  
Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager  
Mr. Scott Hill (ext 213).....Landscape/Maintenance  
Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship  
Mrs. Patti Lybrand (ext 203).....Church Secretary  
Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary  
Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Church Administrator  
Mr. Blake Trent (ext 206).....Preaching and Discipleship

To reach all other employees and/or volunteers,  
please call the church office.*We always look forward to hearing from you.**"To Know and To Make Christ Known"*

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**FINANCIAL REPORT 2016**

Needed Weekly	\$ 23,617.49
Needed YTD	\$ 118,087.45
Received YTD	\$ 128,291.26

Items Needed for February
Cereal & Juice boxes

<b>Offices Closed</b>
The Church will be closed on
Monday, February 15th in
observance of President's Day.

**Calling all Methodist Men: Valentine's Day is fast approaching!**

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, February 13th and plan to join us for our annual Saint Valentine's Day breakfast. Wives and/or significant others, as well as the wives of our deceased members are invited to join us. We begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and our program will feature Pepper Hagebak and Joyce Morgan Young. Contact the church office at [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-884-4635 to make your reservation.

**ATTENDANCE, Sunday, January 24h**

Sunday School.....	293
Worship Service.....	337

**ATTENDANCE, Sunday, January 31st**

Sunday School.....	278
Worship Service.....	346

**Calendar for February 7 - February 13**

<b>Sunday</b>	*Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
10:00am.....	Souper Bowl/ SOUP Sale
12:00.....	Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
5:00pm.....	Mid & Sr. High Youth Activities
<b>Monday</b>	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
5:30pm.....	Music Committee
7:00pm.....	Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
<b>Tuesday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Beginning Class
5:00pm.....	Fat Tuesday PANCAKE SUPPER
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	
7:00am.....	Chapel - ASH Wednesday Service
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:30pm.....	Children's M.E.R.G.E. Activities
5:45pm.....	Financial Peace
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities & Young Parents Small Group
6:00pm.....	Security Committee
6:00pm.....	Chancel Choir
7:00pm.....	Sanctuary - ASH Wednesday Service
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Group
<b>Friday</b>	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
<b>Saturday</b>	
8:30am.....	Men's Valentine Breakfast

**Calendar for February 14 - February 20**

<b>Sunday</b>	*Nursery
*Worship Services	
*9:30am.....	Sunday School
5:00pm.....	Mid & Sr. High Youth Activities
<b>Monday</b>	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
<b>Church Offices Closed</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Beginning Class
4:45pm.....	Discipleship Committee
5:30pm.....	Evangelism Committee
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:30pm.....	Children's M.E.R.G.E. Activities
5:30pm.....	Finance Committee
5:45pm.....	Financial Peace
6:00pm.....	Young Parents Small Group
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Group
<b>Friday</b>	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
<b>Saturday</b>	

**OUR SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy is extended to the following families.

Jerry & Nita Overall in the death of his brother, **James Overall, January 22, 2016.**Tracey & Peter Alford in the death of her father, **Pete Haralson, January 22, 2016.**Alicia & Scott Hill in the death of her grandfather, **Clayton Hurst, January 23, 2016.**Joyce & Bob Smith in the death of her brother, **Rip Darden, February 2, 2016.**



# Journey Through Lent 2016

## Special Lenten/Easter Activities:

**Wednesday, February 10**  
7:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

**Palm Sunday, March 20**  
9:00 a.m. Chapel Service  
\*9:00 a.m. Morning Glory  
\*11:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
\*Children's Palm Processions

**Sunday, March 20**  
Easter Family Meal and Egg Hunt  
4:00 to 6:30pm  
December Place Farm

**Wednesday, March 23**  
5:30 p.m. Holy Week Encounter  
Interactive Passion Experience  
Sanctuary Building Basement

**Thursday, March 24**  
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion  
Sanctuary

**Sunday, March 27, Easter Services**  
7:00 a.m., Community Sunrise Service  
(Sweetland Amphitheater)  
9:00 a.m., Early Service, Sanctuary  
9:00 a.m., Morning Glory, Fellowship Hall  
11:00 a.m., Traditional, Sanctuary

**2016 FAMILY LENTEN ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Post this calendar where it can be seen by the entire family during the season of Lent. Encourage all members to participate in the activity of the day. There are Bible readings for each of the 40 days of Lent.						
<b>February 14</b> Attend Sunday School and Worship. Thank all who help with the services.	<b>February 15</b> Pray for those suffering from illness. <i>Philippians 3:2-12</i>	<b>February 16</b> Help someone you do not know. <i>Matthew 23:37-39</i>	<b>February 17</b> Send an anonymous note of encouragement. <i>Luke 13:31-35</i>	<b>February 18</b> Pray for those in military service. <i>Romans 4:1-12</i>	<b>February 19</b> Help a friend. <i>Psalms 105:1-15, 42</i>	<b>February 20</b> Pray for the children and youth of our church & the world. <i>Luke 13:22-31</i>
<b>February 21</b> Attend Sunday School and Worship. Invite a neighbor to church.	<b>February 22</b> Pray for our church staff and volunteer leaders. <i>Daniel 3:19-30</i>	<b>February 23</b> Do something extra nice for a classmate or co-worker. <i>Luke 6:43-45</i>	<b>February 24</b> Pray for someone who has hurt you. <i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	<b>February 25</b> Surprise a family member-do something nice for them. <i>Psalms 39</i>	<b>February 26</b> Pray for missionaries around the world. <i>Ezekiel 17:1-10</i>	<b>February 27</b> Light a candle and think about Jesus, the Light of the World. <i>Luke 13:18-21</i>
<b>February 28</b> Attend Sunday School and Worship. Sit near someone you don't know.	<b>February 29</b> Give up TV, iPad, & visual screens for one day. <i>2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5</i>	<b>March 1</b> Invite a friend or family to have dinner with you. <i>2 Corinthians 5:6-15</i>	<b>March 2</b> Pray for all elected leaders. <i>Luke 15:1-10</i>	<b>March 3</b> Thank a veteran for their service to our country. <i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>	<b>March 4</b> Pray for our community, state, and country. <i>Leviticus 23:26-41</i>	<b>March 5</b> Weed someone's garden in preparation for spring. <i>Leviticus 25:1-19</i>
<b>March 6</b> Attend Sunday School and Worship. Bring a Friend.	<b>March 7</b> Display a Cross inside or outside your home. <i>Luke 9:10-17</i>	<b>March 8</b> Tell someone you love them. <i>Philippians 2:19-24</i>	<b>March 9</b> Donate clothes to the Clothing Center. <i>Philippians 2:25-3:1</i>	<b>March 10</b> Share something with a brother, sister or friend. <i>John 11:45-57</i>	<b>March 11</b> Share your faith with someone. <i>John 12:1-8</i>	<b>March 12</b> Give up something to make someone happy. <i>Psalms 20</i>
<b>March 13</b> Attend Sunday School & a Worship Service.	<b>March 14</b> Volunteer to help with Meals on Wheels. <i>1 John 2:18-28</i>	<b>March 15</b> Make an Easter gift for someone. <i>Luke 18:31-34</i>	<b>March 16</b> Visit someone who has lost a loved one. <i>Hebrews 2:1-9</i>	<b>March 17</b> Send someone an Easter card. <i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i>	<b>March 18</b> Call an out-of-town relative. <i>Luke 22:1-13</i>	<b>March 19</b> Decorate Easter Eggs and give them away. <i>Luke 19:28-40</i>
<b>March 20</b> PALM SUNDAY Attend a Worship Service & the Easter Family Event.	<b>March 21</b> Pray the Lord's Prayer at 9am, noon, and 9pm. <i>John 12:1-11</i>	<b>March 22</b> Make your own crown of thorns. <i>John 12:20-36</i>	<b>March 23</b> Participate in the Holy Week Encounter. <i>John 13:21-32</i>	<b>March 24</b> Attend the Maundy Thursday Service. <i>John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i>	<b>March 25</b> Meditate on the grief & pain Christ experienced on Calvary. <i>John 18:1-19</i>	<b>March 26</b> Gather fresh flowers to bring to church on Easter Sunday. <i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i>
<b>March 27</b> HALLELUJAH! CHRIST IS RISEN						