



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

July 30, 2017

**Church on the Hooch
10:00am, West Point Lake**

***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**

August 6, 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.*

Mark Your Calendar

August 27th, Homecoming
Combined Service, 10:30am, Sanctuary
Covered Dish Luncheon

** **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 will dismiss to Room 203 in the Children's building.

The Lesson of the Fire Coals

"Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)

There once was a member of a Christian congregation who, though once very active in her church, got "out of the habit" one summer and stopped attending and participating regularly.

A lay visitation team soon came to her house to let her know that she had been missed at church. It was a chilly evening. The team leader found her at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire in her fireplace. Guessing the reason for the visit, the woman welcomed them, led them to a big couch near the fireplace, and waited.

The team made themselves comfortable but said nothing. After a few minutes, the team leader took fire tongs sitting nearby, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember, and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone.

Then she sat back in the couch with the rest of the team, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the team was ready to leave, the leader picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the team reached the door, the host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the 'fiery sermon.' I shall be back in worship Sunday."

This summer, if you've accidentally slipped into the habit of missing worship, remember (as this woman did) that Christians grow and "glow" with the love of Christ *best* when we gather *together* to worship, study, and pray (as the scripture above indicates). For those of you we've missed seeing this summer, I hope to see you back in worship soon! After all, as the scripture above indicates, worship matters to God, so it should matter to us!

Here at LaGrange First UMC, there's a place for you in worship. Whether it's using formal ritual, tradition, and music at either our 9:00am Chapel and 11:00am Sanctuary services, or using casual liturgy and song at our contemporary service that will move on September 10th to 10:55am and be renamed "THE BRIDGE" (read details about this elsewhere in this newsletter), each of us needs regular corporate worship in order for our souls to be fed properly.

So, regardless of your pattern of worship up to now, I hope you'll remember the lesson of the fire coals and plan to make a regular habit of worshipping with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we move into Fall at LFUMC!

Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

Bible Study Opportunities

Included in this issue of *The Flame* is an insert with information on upcoming Bible Studies and how you can become involved.

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorial

Mrs. Mary Lou Walker (Janice Ingram's Mother) - H.R.
& Mary Anne Shepherd

AUGUST USHER COMMITTEE

Jay Russell, Captain	Mack Reese	Wayne Shelnutt
Quillian Baldwin	Charles McLeod	Bob Harris
Bobby Carmichael	Bowen Beall	Bill Lovejoy
Richard Ennis	Bill Young	Lenny Bateman
Dan McAlexander	Danny Arp	

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Stevens, Chair	Susan Hinson	Ida Russell
Catherine Carmical	Deborah Johnson	Jennie Gordy

MORNING GLORY Sharon Jones/Julie Smith

COMMUNION Belinda Borders, Perry & Ann Wilder,
Carolyn Alise, Tina Diskin

Thursday Lunch Club presents

Ken Miles



Rachel & Darian Krimm

August 3rd, 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall

For reservations for the meal & program call or email the church at
706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

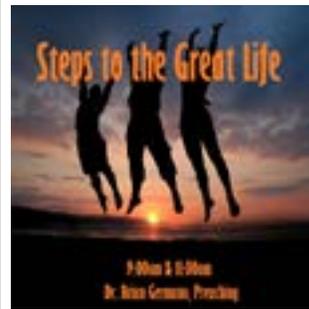
Cost is \$6 per person. All are welcome!

First United Methodist Church, 401 Broad Street

August Sermon Series

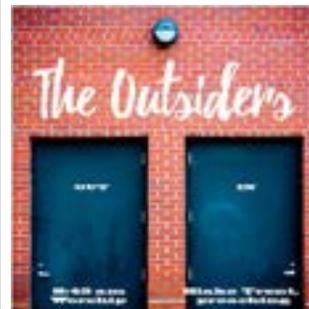
Join pastors Brian and Blake, August 6th-20th
for two unique, 3-week sermon series.

9am & 11am Traditional STEPS TO THE GREAT LIFE



What are the essentials of a "great life" with God? How do they impact our daily lives? And how do we go about practicing them? When Jesus was asked these questions, he didn't give an elaborate speech on what we need to believe

or recite a rational creed of propositions that we need to adopt. Instead, he gave two simple commands to follow in our behaviors and actions. 1800 years later, the founder of Methodism John Wesley laid these out as three simple rules for Christians to follow, and they have remained at the heart of our practice of faith since then. Join us in this 3-part series by Dr. Germano.



Have you ever felt like you are outside of the "in" crowd? Feeling excluded, overlooked or unworthy can make it difficult to fit in or to feel at home. Chapters 7 and 8 of Luke's Gospel chronicles Jesus' ministry with those on the so-called "outside."

What can we learn from these stories and from Jesus' call to turn the inside out and the outside in? How can we better understanding our feelings of exclusion? How can we become more aware of those who feel excluded or overlooked by the Church? Join us in Morning Glory this August as Blake Trent leads us on the journey through this series.

8/6/17 – The Unworthy (Luke 7:1-10)
8/13/17 – The Tormented (Luke 8:26-35)
8/20/17 – The Humble (Luke 7:36-48)

FALL CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP TRANSITION



On behalf of the Worship and Task Force Committees, we are pleased to announce the transition of a restructured Morning Glory contemporary service to THE BRIDGE, beginning September 10th at 10:55 A.M. It will remain a casual service featuring a message and trending contemporary Christian music.

A "Frequently Asked Questions" brochure based on feedback from the congregational Input and Long Range Planning Town Hall meetings -- along with written and verbal feedback -- is available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall for anyone who would like further answers regarding this transition and is also available online on our church website.

We ask that you continue to be in prayer for all of our church's worship services that we may better serve and promote Christ not only through and in our church congregation but also with and for our community as well.

For further questions, please email
worship@lagrangefumc.org.

No UMW Circle Meetings in August



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.

Youth Ministry

CJ Lord, Director, cj@lagrangefumc.org

On **August 6th**, we will take our annual Six Flags Trip. Invite your friends and follow the link on the Student ministries webpage to sign up. There is also a Back-to-School Lock-in with other churches in the district on **August 10th**. We will meet at the church in the evening before joining other churches in worship, and then head to Malibu Grand Prix for an epic lock-in. Sign up for the lock-in is also on the webpage.

Student Spotlight: This August, the Student Ministries would like to recognize **Will Holmes, Sophie Myers, and Ben Ivey** for being our 2017-2018 Blessings in a Bookbag Coordinators. Be on the lookout for how you can help support Blessings.

On July 23rd, we had a **Volunteer Summit** for those interested in serving the student ministries at LaGrange FUMC. If you were not able to come but would like information on how you can serve, please contact C.J. On **August 9th**, we will commission our volunteers who have filled out a volunteer covenant form. This will be a holy time to acknowledge that, in whatever way our volunteers serve our students, they are also serving God.

Children's Ministry

Jeanne Jones, Director, jeanne@lagrangefumc.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a success.

We had 100 children at **Super Hero Central** go on epic adventures alongside biblical heroes to connect the Bible with real life applications. Without all of you this wouldn't have happened. To our teachers, group leaders, snack and recreation leaders and helpers, registration table helpers, prayer support, cleanup crew, decorators, setup crew, and everyone that lent support in so many ways, **THANK YOU!**

The gift of your time and talent is kingdom work and so very appreciated!

LaGrange First UMC School Shepherds



There are a lot of churches, businesses, and organizations that help children in need get ready for the new school year. What happens when the children run out of supplies or when the teacher requires a different type of notebook or a special calculator that they can't afford?

First Methodist steps in to help those in need.

1. Our School Shepherds are contacted by the child's School Counselor who has identified the need.
2. Our Shepherds get the item(s) needed, which often requires purchasing a special item.
3. The Shepherd takes the item(s) to the School Counselor, who then gives the needed item to the student.

The greatest need for this Mission Project is funding. Your donations ensure that when a child runs out of notebook paper, pencils, etc., or if a child is in need of some clothing, someone in this world is there to help him. That's YOU! Please prayerfully consider financially supporting this church mission.

Summer Camp Ministry

Emily Sims, Director, emily@lagrangefumc.org

Campers raising money to donate to Blessings in a Bookbag and the American Red Cross.



THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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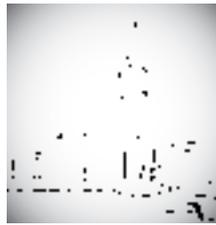
E-Mail address churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org
 Web Site: www.lagrangefumc.org
www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com

Postmaster: Send Address Change to
 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
- Mrs. Emily Sims (ext 209).....Director of Summer Camp
- 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,
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 & SHARING*

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Last Sunday this Year

July 30 – Rev. Dr. Brian Germano

Please save your Church on the Hooch signs to use next year. You can either keep them at your house or bring them to the church office. Thank you for your support of this service.

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, July 16

Sunday School.....180
 Worship Service.....243

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, July 23

Sunday School.....163
 Worship Service.....275

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 July 30 - August 5

Sunday * Nursery
 *Worship Services
 *10:00am.....Sunday School
Monday
 11:30am-12:00.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
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
 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 Committee
Friday
 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday

Summer Camp — Monday through Friday

Calendar for August 6 - August 12

Sunday * Nursery
 *Worship Services
 *10:00am.....Sunday School
Monday
 11:30am-12:00am.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class
 5:30pm.....SPR Committee
 6:00pm.....The Bridge Task Force
 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts
 7:00pm.....Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
Wednesday
 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday
 9:00am.....Community Care
 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry
 10:00am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal
Friday
 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday

Summer Camp — Monday through Friday

Your Church Newsletter

After reviewing our Fall Programming Schedule, we have determined that it would be better to postpone the launch of the monthly format for *The Flame* until January 2018.

The new format will include (1) a monthly publication delivered the first of each month via both email and post-mail, and (2) a weekly electronic update delivered via email to all, and both formats via post-mail to our Homebound members and anyone else who requests it.

In the meantime, please think about what you would like to see in your church newsletter and call the office at 706-884-4635 or email dodie@lagrangefumc.org to give us your ideas.

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the following families.

Janice Ingram & Family in the death of her Mother, **Mary Lou Walker, July 15, 2017**

Lisa Highland in the death of her Cousin, **Marc McClendon, July 15, 2017**



DISCIPLE is a popular interdenominational small-group Bible Study experience which has touched and transformed literally hundreds of thousands of lives over the last 30 years. Participants commit to reading selected biblical passages for 30-40 minutes daily, and then gather with a group once a week for an hour and a half guided discussion based on their readings. Throughout this process, you will be strengthened in faith and ministry, and will develop long-lasting friendships within your group.

This Fall we will offer these signature small group Bible studies:

- **DISCIPLE I Fast Track** will meet on Tuesdays from 5:30pm-7pm, beginning August 15th, for 12 sessions.
- **DISCIPLE II Fast Track**, composed of those who have taken DISCIPLE I in the past, will meet on Sundays from 5:00pm-6:30pm, beginning August 13th, for 12 sessions.

(DISCIPLE groups will be finished with their Old Testament studies by Thanksgiving to resume New Testament after the first of the year.)

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK SIGN UP

If you are interested in taking either **Disciple Fast Track**, please complete this part of the sheet and turn it into the church office, or register on the church website www.lagrangefumc.org no later than August 10th.

Minimum of 12 persons needed to form a class. Cost for each participant is \$40 (scholarships available).

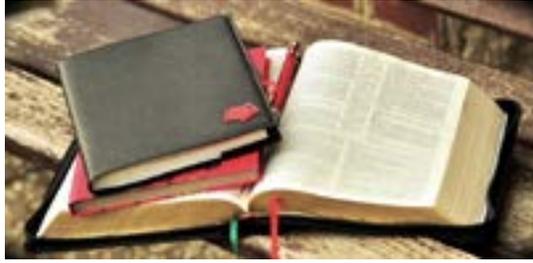
Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Will you need childcare? If so, please list the name & age of each child:



This Fall we will offer two new Small Group Bible Studies:

- A 6-week study on the minor prophets **Hosea, Joel, Amos, Habakkuk, and Malachi**, using Scripture and other material, on Wednesdays, 6:00–7:30pm, from September 6th, to October 18th, but will not meet the week of October 11th.
- A 6-week study on **David**, using Scripture and other material, will meet on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, from October 25th, to December 6th, but will not meet the week of November 22nd.

Throughout these studies, you will strengthen your faith while enjoying the fellowship within your group.

Minor Prophets and David SIGN UP

If you are interested in taking either of these Bible Studies, please complete this part of the sheet and turn it into the church office, or register on the church website www.lagrangefumc.org no later than August 20th. No cost.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Will you need childcare? If so, please list the name & age of each child:
