



# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

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

**June 2018**

## **GOD GIVES THE GROWTH!**

*"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:4-7)*

It's hard to believe that this will be my last newsletter to share with you as your Senior Pastor; these past three years have come and gone so quickly! As most of you know, I've been appointed to serve as the new Senior Pastor of McKendree UMC in Lawrenceville, GA, and the combined, blended worship service at 10:30am on June 17th, will be my last time of worship with you. In the May edition of the FLAME, I shared a number of good things that I believe God has accomplished in and through our ministry together at LaGrange First UMC that have allowed me to confidently be at peace about accomplishing exactly what God sent me here to do.

Your new pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Beyers, will begin ministry with you on June 21st, and the combined 10:30am worship service on the following Sunday, June 24th, will be his first service with you. You are in for a true blessing under John's ministry and leadership! But before I leave, let me ask you to do several things to help make this pastoral transition a smooth one:

- 1) Pray for and support John. Pray that God would prepare him for the move and give him a servant's heart for you as God's people. Support him with your openness, friendship, presence, attitude, and enthusiasm.
- 2) Pray for Trish and me... that God may prepare to use us in a great way at McKendree UMC.
- 3) Don't compare. Remember, just as I was not Harold Lawrence, Greg Porterfield, or Gil Watson, so John Beyers is not Brian Germano. So, don't compare or make hasty judgments based upon whether his ministry style is like mine or not; it may be very different, but that may also mean that it's better suited to LFUMC's present needs, just as my style may have been exactly what God knew we needed for the season I was here!
- 4) While LaGrange First will always hold a special place in my heart, please remember that I will no longer be your pastor. While there's nothing wrong with keeping in touch with Trish and me as friends, please respect John's role as your new Senior Pastor. As such, allow him the privilege of doing your weddings, baptisms, counseling, etc. – please do not ask me back to do those things except through John's invitation (this is the Methodist way, by the way).
- 5) Finally, let me encourage you to read carefully the scripture at the beginning of this article and remember that it is GOD who grows a church -- not Brian, John, or anyone else. "God gives the growth," so we should give GOD the glory for the change and growth that has taken place over the last three years, and for the change and growth that God will bring through John, as well! After all, LaGrange First is not my church, your church, or John's church – it is GOD's church, and God is the one who causes it to grow.

As I close, let me leave you with some of Paul's words to the church at Philippi that accurately reflect the feelings that Trish and I have for you at LaGrange First, as well.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ...This is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. I want you to know, beloved that what has happened to me has helped to spread the gospel!"

[--Philippians 1:3-6,9-12]

Above all,... never, ever, ever forget that  
God loves you and I do, too!  
Pastor Brian

## Thursday Lunch Club, June 14th

**June TLC Date —  
changes for June  
ONLY**

**2nd Thursday  
in June**

**June 14, 2018**



Cade Farris

**12 Noon, Fellowship Hall  
Cost is \$6 per person. All are welcome!**

**For reservations, call or email the church at  
706-884-4635 or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).**

## 2018 North Georgia Annual Conference

*“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

June 12-14, over 2,800 delegates representing the 1,000 churches and 364,000+ United Methodists in North Georgia will gather at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia, for the North Georgia Annual Conference with the theme *“Moving Towards Perfection In Love.”* Linda Frano, Laura Shedd, Blake Trent, and myself are all attending as our church’s delegates, and others from our church will also be attending on behalf of our LaGrange District.

Each year's Annual Conference makes important decisions that affect every United Methodist church in our geographic area: approval and ordination of new clergy and retirement of older ones; appointments of pastors to local churches are finalized (as most of you already know, while Blake Trent will be reappointed to serve another year as Associate Pastor, effective June 21st, our Bishop, Sue Harpert-Johnson, has appointed me to be the new Senior Pastor of McKendree UMC in Lawrenceville, GA, and Dr. John Beyers will be appointed as the new Senior Pastor here at LaGrange First UMC); adoption of the conference budget; support for and reports from conference missions and ministries; exciting worship and Bible study opportunities to enrich our spiritual lives; present our **“Bishop’s Offering”** (to support our denomination’s *“Ministerial Education Fund”*) [<https://www.ngumc.org/eventdetail/5433127/item/11221511>]; and more!

Upon our return, we’ll be available to report on important decisions that were made and how these might affect us as a congregation. In the meantime, you can find more information about Annual Conference (as well as “real time” updates) on our North Georgia Conference website ([www.ngumc.org/AC2018](http://www.ngumc.org/AC2018)).

Also, thanks for your prayers, both for ourselves as your representatives, and for the Conference itself.

Always remember, God loves you and I do too!

Pastor Brian



## Prayer Ministry Opportunities

*We can bless others when we take them with us to the throne of grace, bringing them to the ONE who is the source of blessing. (Hebrew 4:16)*

You are invited, encouraged, and welcomed to join us at any of these currently meeting prayer groups.

**THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP**  
MEETS THURSDAYS, 9:45 in the Church Library. This group is open to both men and women. Currently there are 4 women who come regularly to pray, but we would love to have a room full - those who want to pray and those who prefer praying silently. They usually start with a short devotion, review the prayer needs from a list received from the Church Office and those listed in the Sunday bulletin. They send notes to those facing trials as well as praises. This is followed by praying for our church, church staff, the needs of our church family and friends, our community, our country and our world. This prayer group was started 40-50 years ago.

**MEN’S COFFEE & PRAYER GROUP**  
FRIDAYS, 7:00 - 8:00 A.M.  
7:00-7:15 meet for coffee in the MMC Building  
7:15 - 8:00 Meet in the Small Dining Room for Prayer and Devotion or Bible Study.  
This group has been meeting for over 15 years. 10 to 18 men attend; not all are from FUMC. ALL MEN ARE INVITED.

**FRIDAY MORNING MEN’S GROUP**  
FRIDAYS, 8:00 - 9:00 A.M. Chick-Fil-A, on Commerce  
The Friday Morning Men’s Group reads and discusses a chapter from the Bible each week and ends by praying for each other and the needs of which they are aware. This group has been meeting for about 25 years. ALL MEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN THEM.



**Cub Scout Camp Cowpie  
June 4th through June 8th  
8:30 am to 3:15 pm**

Cub Scouts rising 2nd through 5th grades are eligible to attend Camp Cowpie

Evans Farm (81 John Harris Road, LaGrange).

For registration forms, contact your Cub Leader or Martha Evans at 706-882-8726, or come by the Church Office.

\*Non-Boy Scouts in this age range can attend by paying an additional fee.

# FUMC STUDENT MINISTRIES

## Summer Time!

On May 22nd, Troup County Schools let out, and with that comes the end of our Wednesday Evening Programming. However, we have a huge summer planned, so stay tuned and sign up! Calling all students and volunteers!



## Summer Dates:

Camp Viola	June 4-7
NOLA Mission Trip	June 24-28
8th Grade Trip	July 1-3
Six Flags Trip	July 8
Braves Game	July 15
Youth Lead COTH	July 22
Summer Camp	July 27-Aug 1
Andretti Lock-in	Aug 3-4



## Graduate Sunday

On May 20th, we recognized all of our graduating seniors in 11:00am worship service. We hope that you will keep all of these students in your prayers, as they depart for whatever is next in their lives.

Back Row (*Left to Right*): Hunter Brazell, Hayley Brazell, Joseph Ragland, Will Roberts, Bryson Smith, Giorgia Paniconi, Will Holmes

Front Row, Mason Jones, Elaina Horlander, Abbi Lynn Lanier, Sarah Sims, Annie Burch



## Thanks, Ms. Joyce!

On Tuesday Mornings, all throughout the school year, a group of our High School Students met for a time of fellowship and a devotional at 505 Eats. Every Tuesday we met, Ms. Joyce Sato would open up her restaurant early, just for these students. We want to thank Ms. Joyce (pictured front row-left) for giving us a place to meet to grow closer to God and one another. You are an amazing servant of God and to these students!



*We ask for you prayers, patience, and understanding  
as we make all of these transitions here at LFUMC!*

### Upcoming Worship & Sunday School News

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming special events for Worship and Sunday School within the next month.

**May 27**—10am, First Sunday of 2018 “Church on the Hooch” at  
West Point Lake  
Final Sunday of THE BRIDGE at 10:55am (\*)  
9am and 11am Services as usual

**June 17**—9:30am -- Early Sunday School  
10:30am -- One Combined, Blended Worship Service, Sanctuary  
11:45am -- “Goodbye” Reception for Pastor Brian

**June 24**—9:30am -- Early Sunday School  
10:30am -- One Combined Installation Worship Service, Sanctuary  
11:45am -- “Welcome” Reception for Rev. Dr. John Beyers

**July 1**— (*NO Sunday School this Sunday*)  
10:30am -- One Combined, Casual Patriotic Worship Service in the  
Fellowship Hall  
11:45am -- Church Family Cookout (Hamburgers & Hot Dogs)

**July 29**—10:00am -- Final Sunday of 2018 “Church on the Hooch”  
9:00am and 11:00am Services as usual

**Date TBD**—THE BRIDGE resumes with new format and time

### (\*) News About THE BRIDGE

Thank you to all who shared your input, thoughts, and feedback about THE BRIDGE worship service in our recent surveys. The results of those surveys clearly highlighted a desire that we do several things:

- (1) return the service to an earlier time,
- (2) make significant changes to our music offerings,
- (3) continue to utilize lay leadership in welcome and prayer time,
- (4) add a few more “traditional” elements back into the service (such as The Lord’s Prayer and occasional creeds), and
- (5) turn down the volume and turn up the lights.

Consequently, in response to your feedback, your Church Council recently adopted the recommendation of the Worship Committee and BRIDGE Task Force to do the following.

- (1) May 27: THE BRIDGE service ends in its current format and time.
- (2) Beginning in June, our church will take time “off” from offering the contemporary BRIDGE service, so that we might retool and resume the service with greater excellence as soon as practicable with a new time and format based upon the desires of the survey and needs of our church. While we take this time to craft a better service, we invite current BRIDGE attendees temporarily to attend one of our other worship services.
- (3) For questions or comments, please email [worship@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:worship@lagrangefumc.org).



This summer we are shaking things up with new and exciting programs for the children in our church family and community.

June 8th, all elementary aged boys can invite their favorite adult male to join them at 5:30pm in the gym for dinner, a special guest speaker, and NERF NIGHT! This event is open to our community and church family; invite your friends and neighbors.

July 13th all elementary girls can invite their favorite adult female to paint, eat pizza, and enjoy a speaker. The time will be 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends with elementary aged girls.

**Get the word out!**

Special summer dates for your Children's calendars -

June 8th - 5:30 Boys Nerf Night

June 17th & June 24th - Family Worship Services at 10:30 a.m., with Children's Sunday school from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

July 1st - One Patriotic Family Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, with a church family cook-out afterward.

July 13th - 5:30 p.m., Girls Night Out

**We Need Your Feedback About Our Wednesday Night Dinner & Programming**

Whether you currently attend our Wednesday night dinners or not, please help us prepare for an even better Wednesday night experience next Fall by filling out a special survey.

Contact Andy Rainey at 706-884-4635 or by email at [andy@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:andy@lagrangefumc.org) to participate in the SURVEY.

**United Methodist Women's Covered Dish Supper**

**Monday, June 4th, 6 p.m.**

Methodist Ministries Center

Musical program provided by **Phillip Rivenbark**.

All women in the church are invited to bring a dish and come enjoy the food, fellowship, and musical program.

R.S.V.P. to the Church Office at 706-884-4635 or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).

**Group Guitar Classes**

Affordable Group Beginning Guitar Classes for All Ages



**Enjoy your vacations, wherever you find them.**

Just remember that your church will be open and holding services all summer long. Come inside and join us for worship.

**THE FLAME**

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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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.....The Bridge 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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**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](mailto:stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org).

**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](http://lagrangefumc.org/online-giving).

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Congratulations to Kirsten & Jeremy Michael in the birth of their son, **Cooper Logan Michael, May 12, 2018.**  
Grandparents are Miriam & Creighton Kelly.

**50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration**  
  
We will celebrate with all of our couples who have celebrated or will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime in 2018 at the 11:00 worship service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 10th, and at the luncheon following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Walter Murphy**  
**May 11, 2018**

 **Summer Camp is Underway**  
**On Tuesday, May 29th, we welcomed our Summer Campers & staff! Please keep all of them in your prayers.**

**OUR SYMPATHY**  
*We extend our sympathy to the following families.*  
Scott Hill & Family in the death of his grandmother, **Jacqueline Ann Morton, May 14, 2018**  
Tina & Glenn Quiggle & Family in the death of her mother, **Evelyn LaMotte, May 14, 2018.**  
Kay Copeland Thompson & Family in the recent death of her father-in-law.

**June Men’s Breakfast**  
Please join us for the Men’s Breakfast on Saturday, June 9th, at 9:00am in the Small Dining Room. Our Youth Director, C.J. Lord, will present the program. All men in the church are invited. Please call or email the Church Office at 706-884-4635 or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).



# June 2018

## Weekly

### SUNDAY

9:00a Chapel Worship  
10:00a Church on the Hooch  
10:00a Sunday School  
11:00a Traditional Worship Service

### MONDAY

10:30a Meals on Wheels  
11:30a Soup Kitchen  
1:30p Staff Meeting

### TUESDAY

9:00a Community Care  
7:30p Boy Scouts  
7:00p The Bridge Band Rehearsal

### WEDNESDAY

11:30a Soup Kitchen Sack Lunch  
6:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY

9:00a Community Care  
9:45a Prayer Ministry  
10:00a Dulcimers

### FRIDAY

7:00a Men's Coffee & Prayer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 <b>CLOSED</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	29 First Day of Summer Camp  7:00p Tucker 1st UMC Youth Choir Concert	30	31	1	2
3	4 5:00p U.M.W. Board Meeting  <b>CAMP VIOLA</b>	5 12:30 Red Cross Blood Drive  <b>CAMP VIOLA</b>	6  <b>CAMP VIOLA</b>	7  <b>CAMP VIOLA</b>	8 5:30p Guy's Nerf Night	9 9:00a Men's Breakfast
10 12:00p 50th Anniversary Luncheon 12:00p Stephen Ministry Luncheon	11 Circles Meet	12 Annual Conference, Athens	13 Annual Conference, Athens	14 12:00 Thursday Lunch Club  Annual Conference, Athens	15	16
17 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Combined Worship, Sanctuary— Reception for Brian & Trish Germano	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Combined Worship, Sanctuary— Reception for John Beyers	25	26 5:30p Finance Committee	27	28 5:30p Board of Trustees	29	30

## Remembrances Received, May 2018

### *In Memory of*

**Walter Murphy**—Sue & Winston Turner

**Nona Cooper**—Sheryl Cooper

**Keith Aspinwall**—Hildred Cammon, Margaret Camp, Lauranne Buchanan, Nancy & Mike Peterson, Cecelia & Lewis Goode, U.M.W., Catherine Carmical & Family, Carol & Jim Morgan

**Bill Fackler**—Laura Shedd, Bobbie & Lonnie Ritchie, Martha Stanley, Lauranne Buchanan, Ray & Sally Holmes, Carol & Jim Morgan, Judy & Quillian Baldwin

**John Alise**—Nita & Jerry Overall, Myrtice Adcock, Laura Shedd, Bobbie & Lonnie Ritchie, Martha Stanley, Nancy & Mike Peterson, Cecelia & Lewis Goode, Lauranne Buchanan, Heidi Stevens, Cliff & Faye Rainey, Peggy Lukken, Carol & Jim Morgan, Judy & Quillian Baldwin, Buddy & Polly Kirk, Sue & Winston Turner

**Laura Turner**—Bobbie & Lonnie Ritchie, Martha Stanley, Cecelia & Lewis Goode

### *In Honor*

**Oleeta Aspinwall**—Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class

**Ralph Fagan**—Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class

**Sheryl Cooper**—Nancy Lee Reid

### June's Worship Team Volunteers

**Ushers:** Todd Vinson, Roger Allen, Bobby Cammon, Dorothy Cammon, James Emery, Penn, Matt French, Louise Horvath, Marc Huberdeau

**Altar Guild:** Susan Black, Anne Allen, Betty Johnson, Mary Ann Keck, Kim Myers, Nancy Peterson

**Hospitality Team:** Jared & Jessica Larson, Bill & Joyce Young, Louise Kirby, Linda Frano, Dean & Nancy Larson, Richard & Donna Ennis, Julianne Skipper, Steve & Caryn Cole, Carolyn Day, Sharon Jones, Laura Jennings, Linda Maire, Margie Purnell, Dee Woodward, Mike & Denise Wilson, Philip & Becky Ivey, James & Jennifer Emery

### Church on the Hooch Schedule for June

#### Preaching

June 3: Jim Thornton  
June 10: Rev. Blake Trent  
June 17: Rick Adams  
June 24: Rev. Kory Trinrud

#### Music

June 3: Bryson Smith  
June 10: Laegan Smith  
June 17: Bryson Smith  
June 24: Bowen Beall

#### Set Up

June 3: Epiphany Class  
June 10: Maranatha Class  
June 17: *Set up help needed*  
June 24: *Set up help needed*

### ATTENDANCE

#### Sunday, April 29

Sunday School.....164    Worship Service.....244

#### Sunday, May 6

Sunday School.....140    Worship Service.....249

#### Sunday, May 13

Sunday School.....142    Worship Service.....293

#### Sunday, May 20

Sunday School.....162    Worship Service.....302

### Upcoming Special Sundays

#### Sunday, June 17th

Sunday School 9:30am    Worship Service 10:30am, Sanctuary  
Reception following the service, Fellowship Hall

#### Sunday, June 24th

Sunday School 9:30am    Worship Service 10:30am, Sanctuary  
Reception following the service, Fellowship Hall

#### Sunday, July 1st

No Sunday School    Worship Service 10:30am, Fellowship Hall  
Church Family Cookout following the service, Fellowship Hall