



1828

THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

March 2018

DISTURB US, LORD...

“Thus says the Lord,... Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

*“Disturb us, Lord,
When we are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord,
When with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord,
To dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.*

*We ask you to push back
The horizons of our hopes.
And to push us into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.”*

[--Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 1577]

This month our church’s Long Range Planning Committee will be unveiling the first draft of a new VISION direction for our church for the next 5-6 years. The committee spent all of 2017 working, praying, researching, brainstorming, and discerning God’s guidance in understanding what this Vision might include and entail. And soon, our entire congregation will be invited to attend two Town Hall meetings where we’ll all be able to hear where the committee has landed thus far, and to give input, feedback, and suggestions for “next steps.”

Consequently, while we still have a few more church-wide steps to take before our Vision can be adopted and begin to be implemented, it will eventually become a framework/standard that will guide our work and direction as a body of Christ into the foreseeable future as we seek to be “Christians SERVING with love, CARING with compassion, and SHARING Christ with boldness.”

So, as we here at LaGrange First UMC begin to think about where God is leading us, my prayer is that we would be open to being “disturbed” a bit out of our comfort zones in order to hear and understand God’s Call and Vision for us as a church! I’ve heard it said before, “If God’s going to be our partner, then we better be prepared to have some big plans!” May that be true for each of us, both corporately as a church and individually in our personal lives. Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian



Your Change Can Change the World!

As Lent approaches, the Missions Committee is again asking **You** to **Change** the **World!** You can change that by simply setting aside your spare change every day during the Lenten season.

Last fall, **our church packed 20,088 meals** for the Rise Against Hunger global initiative of fighting hunger around the world. Each meal packed included enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins and nutrients. We want to participate in this effort again in the Fall, surpassing last year's **20,000 plus meals**.

You can help and **Change the World** by

- Taking a *You Can Change the World* cup that will be given out at church as Lent begins
- Collecting your extra change and place in the cup
- Bringing your change-filled cup to church and empty it into the specially marked containers, *repeat*
- Praying and watching the meal count rise during Lent

Your cup of change will help pay for the cost of providing the materials and food to make the meals. Challenge yourself, your family, your friends, Sunday School class, and co-workers, to put change in the cups to feed **one more hungry person**.

Mother Teresa said, **"If you can't feed 100 people then feed just one."** See how many meals you can provide during the Lenten season because **You Can Change the World** one meal at a time!

Summer Camp

Is Coming!

Summer camp will be in full swing before you know it and we have some exciting new things planned this year. Along with our fun-filled weeks we are including an art class and innovator's lab! Our Discovery Camp is all about discovering our community, our God, our talents, and the world around us. If you have a special talent (cooking, woodworking, art, dance, etc) we would love for you to share your gifts with our camp kids. Please email or call Jeanne at 706-884-4635 or jeanne@lagrangefumc.org and let her know your availability! If you know of anyone interested in being a counselor or who would like to attend applications are now available on the FUMC website (lagrangefumc.org) or in the Church Office.

Coming in April Church Family News Updates

The Bereavement Committee will implement a new program beginning April 1, 2018. All church members who have shared their email addresses with the Church will receive an email notification when a MEMBER of our church dies with the service arrangements if known.

If necessary, a separate email will be sent with the service arrangements - when available.

As part of this outreach program, you will also be notified through email when we have a baby born to a MEMBER of our church.

If you have a new email address or if you haven't shared your current one with us, please call the Church Office at 766-884-4635 or email churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

HOLY WEEK 2018

**March 25th — Palm Sunday, Palm Processional at all worship services
Easter Cantata, 6:30 pm, in the Sanctuary**

March 28th — No Wednesday Meal, Wednesday Activities cancelled

**March 29th — Holy Thursday, Meal from 5 to 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall
Maundy Thursday Communion Worship Service/Stripping of the Church, in the Sanctuary**

**March 31st — Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt & Prayer Walk, 10:00am
in the field behind St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

**April 1st — Easter Sunday, 7:00am Sunrise Service, Sweetland Amphitheater
9:00 am Early Service, in the Sanctuary
10:55am Bridge Service in the Fellowship Hall
11:00am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary**

A Report from the Trustees

Remember the children's song?



*A church is not a building.
A church is not a steeple.
A church is not a resting place.
A church is the people.*



Although we all learned from a very young age that a church is not a building, the task of the Trustees is to maintain our building(s). More specifically, in 1 Corinthians 4:1 we read, "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." As stewards of the mysteries of God, Trustees are entrusted with the precious and vital task of managing and using God's gifts in His ongoing work.

The LFUMC Trustees' responsibility is to supervise and maintain all property belonging to our congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective. The Trustees recognize that while our church's highest priorities are ministries, those ministries must have great facilities to thrive. For instance, imagine just how ineffective our ministries would be on a hot July Sunday without air conditioning. We don't want to find out!

Some of the major components of our HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, And Cooling) system are as old as our building – and well beyond their expected design-life. Under our direction, an independent mechanical engineering firm has done a very thorough assessment of our HVAC system and has produced a set of recommendations to update our system. These necessary updates will also provide benefits in efficiency and better temperature control in every room of the building - even the balcony. We expect to have this work underway very soon, with the majority of it completed this year. Although one of our goals is to minimize any inconvenience to worshippers, we will certainly ask for patience and understanding as we work through the many challenges of such a large complex and expensive project.

Some of the other items the Trustees have been working on recently include paving repairs all over our campus, replacement of the Methodist Ministries Center's main water heater, repairs to our walk-in freezer, MMC's curtain additions, MMC's stage audio/visual equipment upgrades, Sanctuary paint – near cross - necessary replacements of electrical equipment, LED lighting upgrades, security upgrades (including two-way radios, usher training, Remind Texts, door latches/locks, on-site security officer), and playground equipment repair.

There are also many other items the Trustees have on their agenda for the near future including Chapel carpet replacement and other chapel renovations, repairs to brick, sign replacements, kitchen cooler and freezer updates, and many others.

Many people who have served as Trustees over the years and we owe them our appreciation for their dedication to maintaining all that we have now. Starting in January the following people have agreed to serve as a Trustee for our Church and to work hard to maintain all of our facilities for future generations: Chairperson James Emery, Wayne Godwin, Dean Larson, Fred Bodine, Jane Willey, Joey Alise, Charles Johnson, Scott Hill, Denise Wilson.

So, the next time you see one of our Trustees or our Church staff, be sure to thank them for all of their hard work, and maybe even offer your help (physically or financially).

James Emery, Chairperson

Students ARE the Church:

Too often, I hear that it is my job to train up the students because “the youth are the future of the Church.” This idea paints a picture in our heads that “youth ministry” is just a holding cell for students to be entertained, trained, kept watch of, etc. until they are an adult and can participate in the body of the church at large. However, this mindset is wrong, and can be very dangerous for students, especially if they believe it about themselves. What message does the church send if we tell students that they do not have access to certain things? Maybe we aren’t explicitly saying these things, but how often are we going out of our way to include students in events with the rest of the church, rather than expecting them merely to do inconsequential work for the church?

Here at LaGrange FUMC, our student ministries equips students to be the church of today. Through service projects like Blessings in a Book Bag or our Christmas party that we threw with the non-profit Safe Families for Children, we encourage students to work to create a better world. We believe that the way things are is not the way things have to be. We analyze how we can better serve others. This summer, some high school students will be going on a mission trip to New Orleans. We will center the mission trip on getting to know the people of New Orleans. I believe you can’t serve people effectively if you do not know them well enough to know what they need. We also have done two intergenerational pot-lucks with two different Sunday School classes, Builders and Pairs and Spares. These potlucks communicate the importance of relationships with people different from you to the students and the adults. We are planning another one in March with the Genesis Class!

Ever since I joined the staff at LaGrange FUMC I have been working to make this ministry one that encourages students to be the church of today. Last month, I invited the SPR chair to Confirmation Class, and she spoke to the Confirmands about the different committees in the church. She told them that once they become members of the church they can serve on a multitude of committees. It doesn’t matter that they are teenagers.

Yes, the teenage brain is still developing. In fact, risk assessment is lower in teenagers’ brains, so they tend to take more risks. Teenagers also tend to be more creative. Couldn’t the church use some more leaders who are creative and willing to take risks? So, next time you are nominating someone for a spot on a committee, keep our students in mind. Next time you are planning an event, invite a student to the planning meeting. If you ask me to get you a student, I will probably ask you to come out to youth group and spend some time building relationships with the students.

If you are concerned about the future of the church, do not be. Be concerned about the church of today! Spend some time building relationships with our students. Come on a retreat or a SkyZone trip with us. Drive for us when we have our morning devotion and need rides to school. Just as there is a place for everyone in the church, there is a place for you in the Student Ministries of LaGrange FUMC.

Grace and Peace,
C.J. Lord
cj@lagrangefumc.org

Get to Know Your Student Ministries



Join Us for a
Congregational Town Hall
about LFUMC's Future!



Your Long Range Planning Committee has been on a journey to discover God's next vision for LaGrange First United Methodist Church.

We invite you to join us for one of two Town Hall Sessions in March to hear our understanding of where this journey has taken us, and to provide input and feedback that will help refine our next steps.

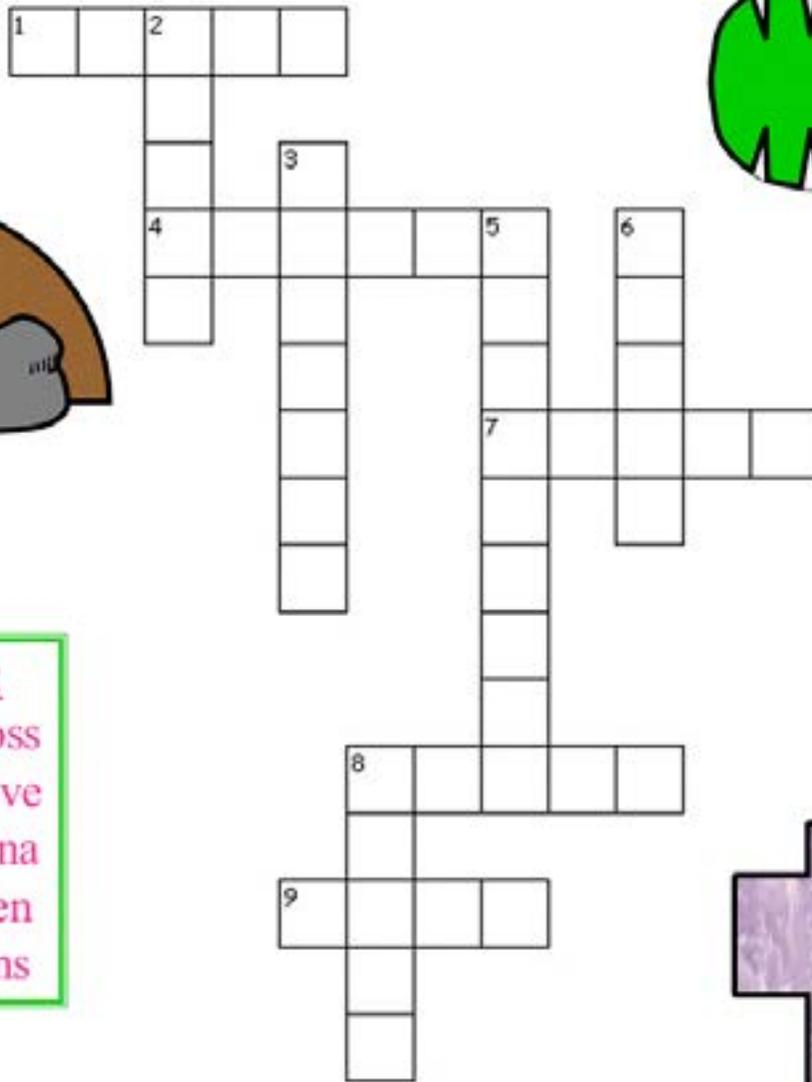
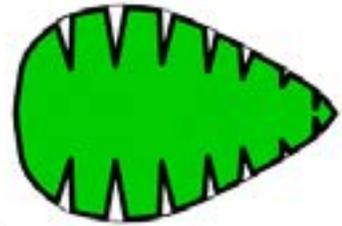
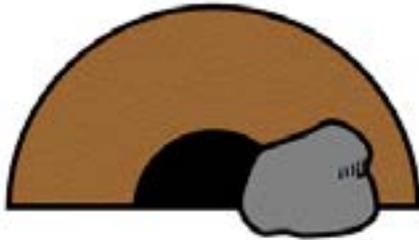
WHEN?

Sunday, March 18 @ 9:50am in the Chapel

Wednesday, March 21 @ 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

For more information, contact LRP@lagrangefumc.org.

Easter Crossword



Word List:
 bread cross
 sacrifice love
 stone hosanna
 empty risen
 slept thorns



Across

1. Taking this during the last supper symbolized Jesus' body.
4. Jesus was forced to wear a crown made of these instead of a crown meant for a real king.
7. The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, Jesus isn't here; He has ____!"
8. Instead of praying the disciples did this when Jesus went off to pray by himself.
9. The main reason that God gave His only son, Jesus to die for each of us.

Down

2. On Sunday the two Mary's didn't find Jesus but a tomb that was ____.
3. The word people shouted to Jesus that means blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
5. Jesus became the ____ for us, so we could be forgiven for our sins.
6. Jesus was meant to die on this.
8. This was put in front of the tomb so nobody could steal Jesus' body.



March 2018

Weekly

SUNDAY	
9:00a	Chapel Worship
10:00a	Sunday School
10:55a	The Bridge
11:00a	Traditional Worship
5:00p	Youth
MONDAY	
10:30a	Meals on Wheels
11:30a	Soup Kitchen
1:30p	Staff Meeting
6:30p	Cub Scouts
TUESDAY	
9:00a	Community Care
11:00a	Dulcimers
6:30p	Cub Scouts
7:30p	Boy Scouts
7:00p	The Bridge Band Rehearsal
WEDNESDAY	
9:30a	Explorers Bible Study
11:30a	Soup Kitchen Sack Lunch
5:00p	Wednesday Evening Meal
5:30p	Handbell Rehearsal
5:45p	Children's Program
6:00p	Mid & Sr. High Youth
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
February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	1 12:00 Thursday Lunch Club	2	3
4 5:00p Disciple II Bible Study	5	6 12:30 Red Cross Blood Drive	7 6:30p Cub Scout Den Leaders Mtg 6:00p CREED Class	8 6:30p Yellow Jacket district Scout Mtg	9	10 9:00a Men's Breakfast
11 5:00p Disciple II Bible Study	12 10:00a UMW Quiet Day Service 5:45p Stewardship 6:30p Bridge Task Force Mtg	13 5:30p SPR Committee 6:00p Long Range Planning	14 5:45p Missions Committee Mtg 6:00p CREED Class	15	16 5:00p Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner	17 
18 Church-wide Town Hall (TBA) 5:00p Disciple II Bible Study	19	20 5:30p Worship Committee Mtg	21 6:00p CREED Class Church-wide Town Hall (TBA)	22 9:00a Palm Cross Making Class 5:30p Board of Trustees	23	24 9:00a Easter Cantata Rehearsal
25 Palm Sunday 6:30p Easter Cantata	26	27 6:30p Church Council	28	29 5:00 to 6:30p Meal 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service	30	31 10:00a Easter Egg Hunt
<i>Holy Week</i>						

From February 2018

Remembrances Received

In Memory of

Charles Stevens—Bob & Joyce Smith, Betti & Bill Martin, Skin Edge, Stifel Nicolaus-Bobby Doerr & Dill Williams, Dupuy & Jeanne Sears, Virginia Kyle, Virginia & James Zachry, Ellis & Judy Solomon, Liza Odgen & Michael Solomon, Nancy & Dick Sheppard, Connie & Jerry Mansour, Josephine Brooks, Mike & Kathy Sweat, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bennett, Katherine & Samuel Beall, Jane Beall, Lisa Loudermilk Brooks, South Banking Company, Lentile Construction Company, Paul & Susan Wetherington, John & Grace Phillips, F & M Bank Board of Directors, Georgia Banking Company, Inc., First Laurens Bank, Lonnie & Bobbie Ritchie, Ken & Marty Young, Carol & Jim Morgan, Celeste & Dan McAlexander, Lisa & Ken Boatwright, Ida & Jay Russell, Clairnelle & Andy Wilkerson, Sue & Julian Duttera, Dr. & Mrs. Dan Guy, Elsie & Tommy Harris, Marilyn Rawls, Gerald Smith, Synovus Trust Company, N.A., Mr. & Mrs. Liam Waters, Allen & Marilyn Smith

Ann Marie Kinnaman (John Kinnaman's Mother)—Wanda Ann & John Kinnaman

In Honor

Catherine Carmical—Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class

March's Worship Team Volunteers

Ushers: Jim Biagi, Ben Crockett, Charles Knight, Tim Huff, Hank Hughes, Dean Larson, Sandy Simmons, John Stewart

Altar Guild: Deborah Johnson, Donna Close, Louise Parham, Darby Pippin, Patricia Smith, Debra Jackson

The Bridge: Jennifer Emery, Glenn Quiggle, Kory Trinrud, Kaylynn Cook, Lauren Lovin, Jan Lockerbie, Steve Cole, Meghan Ceja, Kay Cole, Greg McClanahan

Welcome/Greeter Team: Richard & Donna Ennis, Laura Jennings, Steve & Caryn Cole, Jared & Lauren Lovin, Jean Edwards, Jan Lockerbie, Dusty & Carlene Mills, Linda Maire, Margie Purnell, Mark Huckstep, Julianne Skipper, David & Angela Ochsenknecht, Trish Smith, Gary & Jane Stephens, Jim & Carol Morgan, Dean & Nancy Larson, Mike & Denise Wilson, Terri Cook, Wayne & Beth Godwin, John & Cindy Jackson, Joye Greene, Carolyn Day, Kelly & Carole Linch, Ric & Joanna Selbie

March 2018

Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal Menus

WEW Meal on March 7

Menu: Poppyseed chicken, Rice, Fried Okra, Salad Bar, Dessert
Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on March 14

Menu: Hamburger Steak, Baked Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Salad Bar, Dessert
Children: Pizza & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on March 21

Menu: BBQ Pork, Sweet Potato Fries Slaw, Salad Bar, Dessert.
Children: Corn Dogs & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on March 28

Menu: Chicken Fingers, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad Bar, Dessert.
Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, January 28

Sunday School.....172
Worship Service.....261

Sunday, February 4

Sunday School.....189
Worship Service.....254

Sunday, February 11

Sunday School.....187
Worship Service.....252

Sunday, February 18

Sunday School.....179
Worship Service.....301

Request from the Children's Ministry

***We need your Paper
Towel & Toilet Paper
TUBES***

Please save your paper towel and toilet paper tubes for our Children's Ministry for the next several months.

As you collect them, please bring them to the Children's Building or the Church Office.



Congregational Care Corner

Our Lay Visitation Ministry provides support and inspiration to fellow Church members who are unable to attend Church/Sunday School over an extended amount of time.

Our goal is to promote a feeling of family, namely one's Church family. Our lay volunteers reassure them that their Church family cares about them personally and that they are not forgotten after long absences. Our dedicated lay volunteers make monthly personal visits, phone calls and/or mail cards. Gifts made by the Children's Department, the Altar Guild and the Lay Visitation Coordinator are delivered quarterly. The lay volunteers visit our members in their private homes, in assisted living facilities, or in hospice.

If you know of a homebound member who is not contacted by us, please contact the Church Office or Laura Harlin at 706-812- 9837 or mckeeharlin@gmail.com. We also need more volunteers to make visits. If you have an hour a month to spend with one or two of "our" Church members, please contact Laura Harlin.

OUR FATHER

A journey through the Lord's Prayer

CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

MARCH 25, 2018

6:30PM

LAGRANGEFUMC.ORG



Make Note of These Changes

March 28th...WEW Meal and All Youth and Children's Activities Cancelled

**March 29th, a WEW Church Family Meal served in the Fellowship Hall from 5 to 6:30pm;
7:00pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Sanctuary**

Easter Sunday, April 1st, the 9:00am Early Service will meet in the Sanctuary.

We need your Paper Towel & Toilet Paper TUBES

Please save your paper towel and toilet paper tubes for our Children's Ministry for the next several months.

As you collect them, please bring them to the Children's Building or the Church Office.

Community Easter Egg Hunt and Stations of the Cross/Prayer Walk

Date: March 31, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: The Field behind St. Marks

We need you, yes you! First United Methodist Church is sponsoring a community Easter Egg Hunt and Prayer Walk on The Thread. At 10:00 a.m. the Easter Egg Hunt will begin on the field behind St. Marks Episcopal Church, divided into age categories with staggered start times. After families have completed the Egg Hunt, they can walk The Thread and participate in the activity stations along the path.

To insure that we do this well, we need a lot of volunteers. Let's show LaGrange that we love them by giving them the gift of an event done well.

We need:

- *1. Filled Easter Eggs - individually wrapped candies or prizes inside. (**At least 1,000 Eggs**)
2. Volunteers needed to set up the field on Saturday, March 31st, at 8:00 a.m. We have to stake the fields and hide the eggs.
3. Volunteers needed to welcome guests, direct them to the right area for the egg hunt, hand out information, and give out prizes.
4. Volunteers needed at each of the seven stations along The Thread.

**We have empty plastic eggs available for you to fill.*

Each of these tasks requires just a little of your time with no prior experience needed. Your smiling face and warm words of welcome are all that is required and is exactly what we need!



THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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.....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.

March Men's Breakfast

Please join us for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 10th, at 9:00am in the Small Dining Room. All men in the church are invited. Please call or email the Church Office at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@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.

The United Methodist Women invite all women in the church to Quiet Day Apart, Monday, March 12th, 10:00am, in the Chapel. Rev. Kathy Lamon will be the speaker.

Congratulations!

Ann Stevens Rhodes born January 26, 2018, the granddaughter of Nancy Stevens and the late Charles Stevens.

Jack Masten Johnston, born February 8, 2018, the grandson of Kim Adams.

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the following families:

Frank McRae & Family in the death of his sister Vicki Kober, January 25, 2018

Thelma Becker & Family in the death of her sister Leona Hughes, February 18, 2018



**SCOUT SUNDAY
March 4, 2018**

Join us at all three worship services to hear about the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Programs sponsored by our Church.

In order to raise money for their Pack and Troop, our Scouts will be selling \$5 Discount Cards before and after all worship services, and they will also visit Sunday School Classes. Thank you for your continued support of Scouting at LaGrange First.



The Kiwanis Club of LaGrange invites you to the 23rd Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 3rd, from 7:00 to 11:00am, in the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church on the Square. The donation cost is \$6 per person.