



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans... to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Under the theme *“Therefore, Go!”* (from Jesus’ “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:19-20), our denomination’s top policy-making body (called *“General Conference”*) will be meeting from May 10-20th in Portland, OR to make important decisions for our church’s future. According to church law, no person or organization except General Conference (including our own church Bishops, courts, or individual Annual Conferences) has the authority to speak officially for our denomination. Consequently, this body meets once every four years in a different location around the country, and is comprised of 1000 delegates (500 clergy and 500 laity), apportioned by the total membership of each Annual Conference from here in America, as well as our Conferences in other countries. This year our North Georgia Conference is sending 22 delegates (one of the larger delegations).

General Conference has several purposes: to revise or reaffirm policies and guidelines regarding local church structure, ministry, and the pastoral leadership by examining and/or revising our Book of Discipline (our church’s law book), our “Social Principles,” and adopt various resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues; to approve plans and budgets for church wide ministry initiatives for the next four years; to elect members of our church’s “Judicial Council” (our church’s “Supreme Court”); and (if necessary) to propose amendments to our church’s Constitution (which must be then ratified later by each of our denomination’s 133 National and International Annual Conferences).

The legislation for General Conference comes from petitions and proposals written by church agencies, organizations, Annual Conferences (and through them from any church organization, ordained minister or lay member). Though one of our church’s bishops presides over each session, in order to ensure the authority of elected delegates, bishops themselves have neither voice nor vote at General Conference.

The decisions made at General Conference have many potential ramifications for you and I as a local church here at LaGrange First UMC, so I ask that you be in prayer for this assembly for God’s will and way to be done during and through it. You can sign up [here](#) or prayer devotions that can be sent to your email.

As with every General Conference, there will be controversial issues addressed which will incite intense passion and heated debate on all sides, and (as has happened in the past) may even get mis-reported by the secular press. So as you hear reports about this assembly on the news, I encourage you not only to be in prayer for all (including ourselves) to have Godly responses, but also for each of us to get our facts straight before we form opinions.

For more information and impartial coverage of General Conference’s events and decisions, please visit our North Georgia Conference’s coverage [here](#) or visit the official General Conference website [here](#). If you own a smart phone, you can even download an official app (Apple or Android compatible) to follow all the news and events (find information about the app [here](#).)

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

Pastor Brian

May 1, 2016

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

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

***Traditional Service
11:00am in the Sanctuary**

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

May 8, 2016

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

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

***Traditional Service
11:00am in the Sanctuary**

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

**Child care is provided.*

Mark your calendar

Upcoming Extra-Special Sundays

Graduate Sunday, May 15th

Patriotic Sunday, July 3rd
(combined service, 10:30)

Homecoming, August 28th
(combined service, 10:30)

**** 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.

Wednesday Evening Weekly

Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm

WEW Meal on May 4, 2016

Menu: Spaghetti casserole, salad bar, dessert

Children: Spaghetti & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on May 11, 2016

Menu: Taco salad, 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

Memorial

Mrs. Jean Ellis - Gary & Jane Stephens, Ann & Perry Wilder

Mr. Jerry Evans - Sue & Larry Rich

Mr. Jeff Hagood - Martha Stanley

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO HENDERSON TRAYLOR MEMORIAL EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP

Mrs. Libba Traylor - Milton & Louisa Edelson

*****An Important Reminder*****

This is a reminder of where you can find a First Aid Kit, a Defibrillator, or a Fire Extinguisher.

If a situation ever arises, please inform a member of our Staff Team as soon as possible after the situation is under control. Please do not hesitate to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

First Aid Kits

1. One in the Church Office.
2. One in the Children's Director's office on the first floor of the Children's building.
3. One on every floor of the Children's building close to the water fountains.
4. One by the elevator on the first floor of the Methodist Ministries Center.
5. One in Scott Hill's Office in the MMC.
6. One in the Kitchen.

Defibrillators

1. One in the hallway outside the Church Offices.
2. One by the water fountains near the Kitchen in the MMC.

Fire Extinguishers

We have many fire extinguishers all over campus; at least one if not two per hallway.

Security Committee

Take Note and Come Get Involved

As of last week, we had a total of 97 people participating in our small group Bible Studies. **Contact the church office to find the right one for you!**

"Faith Through Music"

Monday, May 2nd at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, join Jordan Bearden & Marissa Smith as they present their senior capstone project. Since both are music majors and heavily involved with worship ministry, they decided to make their joint capstone project a worship program. The point of the program is to showcase different ways music is being used to worship God. Members of the Morning Glory Band will be participating, as well as a small chamber choir that Jordan and Marissa put together to sing one of Jordan's original choir pieces.

This is a free program open to the public.

May Thursday Lunch Club

Welcomes the **Reunion Gospel Quartet** to the May 5th luncheon at 12 noon, in the fellowship hall. The cost is \$6 per person. For reservations for the meal and program call or email the church at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.



MAY USHER COMMITTEE

John Jackson, Captain	Matt Orr	Steve Cole
Bill Lovejoy	Mark Kostial	Scott Jones
Jared Jones	Steve Close	Jeff Rogers
Mike Dobbs	John Holliday	Mike Wilson
Dee Woodward	Doug Cox	Jimmy Keith
Tommy Britt	Dan Lee	John Cook

ALTAR GUILD

Joyce Morgan Young, Chair	Kim Burch	Suzanne Adams
Terri Cook		Melissa Jolly

Martha Pirkle

Youth: Elizabeth Burch & Annie Burch

Communion: Belinda Borders, Betty Johnson, Joyce Morgan Young

MORNING GLORY Pat Bodine

UMW Circles May 9, 2016

Esther	10:00am	Church Library
Ruth	10:30am	Jackie Huckstep
		229 Laurel Lane
Susanna	10:00am	Tee Borders
		211 Springdale Drive
Lydia	10:00am	Pat Bodine
		4720 Hammatt Road
Elizabeth	10:00am	Carol Harlin
		316 Broad Street
Hannah	6:00pm	Genesis Classroom

UMW Circle May 10, 2016

Mary 3:00pm Church Parlor



National Day of Prayer Service

at the

Biblical History Center (Explorations in Antiquity)

130 Gordon Commercial Drive

Thursday, May 5, 2016, from 12:15pm – 12:45pm

Time to Celebrate!

Our church family is invited to a time of celebration on **Sunday, May 22nd, from 12 to 2:00pm**, in the church fellowship hall, honoring

Blake Trent and Katie Westbrook

on their upcoming marriage, June 26, 2016.

This is your special opportunity to extend your good wishes to them.



Decision Sunday, April 17, 2016

Please welcome (left to right) our new members, **Linda Mann, Chris Rosendahl, Jessica Brooks, and Jared Lovin** joined our church at the Spring Decision Sunday Luncheon.



Recently, our church partnered with our sister church, Warren Temple UMC, to present the "Living Last Supper". Thank you to Joe Ragland, Jim Thornton, and Fred Bodine for participating as cast members this year. We look forward to even more opportunities for partnerships in ministry with our community.

Missions Committee

RICHARD LINCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

High School Seniors: The deadline to receive completed applications for the Richard Linch Memorial Scholarship is Wednesday, May 4th. The scholarship will be awarded on Graduate Sunday, May 15th. If you have not yet applied, you can pick up an application in the youth office or the church office. Interviews for the scholarship will be held on Monday, May 9th.



Church Work Days!

When?

Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 7:30 am to 1 pm.

Where?

Meet in the MMC parking lot for instructions.

Why, you say?

Good question. The answers are simple.

1. Working together is a form of Christian fellowship.
2. Some of the tasks are better suited for group work.
3. Everyone is likely to learn something new.
4. Our church home should look like our own home, well kept.

What kind of work will be done and how hard will the work be? That depends. Most of the work will be outdoors, trimming & shaping bushes, trees; some moving of debris to dump sites, spreading of mulch, pruning of flowering bushes, and hopefully, planting of bulbs and flowers for each season.

**When the weather does not permit outdoor work, indoor projects will be designated.*

IF for some reason the weather is really bad and there is no indoor project for that work day, the day will be canceled. IF the work day is canceled you will be informed by 5 p.m. the Thursday before the Saturday Work Day!

Please email Scott Hill at scott@lagrangefumc.org to sign up. If you can't work the whole time that is perfectly fine, please join us and work what you can.

Every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated!

Board of Trustees

2016 Confirmation Class

We welcome into our church membership these young people who joined our church on Sunday, April 24, 2016.

Will Allred, Ally Arp, Alison Baker, Mariana Ceja, Chloe Dagenhart, Reid Doerr, Caroline Erickson, Jesse Nix, Ander Gay, Grace Huff, Alyssa Jolly, Grace Jones, Thomas Jones, Megan Knight, Caleb Kostial, Adaline Lanier, Holly Lynn, Mackenzie Mitchell, Mallory Ragland, Elizabeth Rainey, Jacob Rogers, Bella Sanchez, Olivia Sato, Valerie Tures

Not pictured: Michael Evans, Aaron Fritchley, Nathan Fritchley, Hooper Hammond, Charlie Wilder



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USPS (079-260) IS PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY BY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

401 Broad Street

LaGrange, Georgia 30240

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Postmaster: Send Address Change to
The Flame, 401 Broad Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

Miss Grayson Bailey (ext 209).....Director of Children's Ministry
Miss Katie Crumbley (ext. 209).....Director of Summer Camp
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.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

Needed Weekly	\$ 23,617.49
Received Week 16	\$ 13,050.38
Received Week 17	\$ 24,084.56
Other Income	\$ 2,730.55
Total Received since last Flame	\$ 39,865.49
Needed YTD	\$ 401,497.33
Received YTD	\$ 368,453.66

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, April 17th

Sunday School.....	273
Worship Service.....	300

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, April 24th

Sunday School.....	297
Worship Service.....	494

Calendar for May 1 - May 7

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
5:00pm.....	Youth Activities
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
7:00pm.....	Jordon Bearden's Senior Program
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Beginning Class
12:30pm.....	Red Cross Blood Drive
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:30pm.....	Handbells / Children's M.E.R.G.E. Activities
6:00pm.....	Women's Bible Study
6:00pm.....	BELIEVE Bible Study Group
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
Thursday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
12:00.....	Thursday Lunch Club
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	

Calendar for May 8 - May 14

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*9:30am.....	Sunday School
5:00pm.....	Youth Activities
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
6:00pm.....	Linch Scholarship Interviews
7:00pm.....	Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Beginning Class
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:30pm.....	Handbells / Children's M.E.R.G.E. Activities
5:45pm.....	Missions Committee
6:00pm.....	Women's Bible Study
6:00pm.....	BELIEVE Bible Study Group
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities
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

"To Know and To Make Christ Known"

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Our Rosebud

Our rosebud on Sunday, May 1st, is in honor of **Emily Jane Close**, born **April 5, 2016**, the daughter of Daniel & Amanda Close, the granddaughter of Steve & Donna Close & the great granddaughter of Betty Daniel.

Camp Viola 2016

Our week at Camp Viola is **June 20th through June 23rd**. Mark your calendars—more details coming soon.

United Methodist Men

The May breakfast for the United Methodist men will be held **Saturday, May 14th at 8:00am** in the **small dining room**. The program will feature Blair Harlin. Come join the fellowship and have a wonderful homecooked breakfast.

*****Attention*******All Graduates**

If you are graduating from High School or from College with a degree, in the year 2016, please send us your picture.

Parents—We may need your help with getting a picture of your graduate for our **Flame**. Your church family wants to share in this celebration.

Please bring to the church office or email churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org a picture along with the name of the school and degree **no later than May 4th**. We will recognize all graduates on Sunday, May 15, 2016.