



# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

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

**November 2018**

## **"America's Lost Day"**

Am I the only one who has noticed that we Americans have lost Thanksgiving?

When I was a child, Thanksgiving was the big autumn celebration. I remember school teachers decorating classrooms with pictures of turkeys, Pilgrims, and Native Americans. I remember making a construction paper turkey with my handprint serving as the tail feathers.

I remember hearing stories about our Pilgrim forbearers and about their hardships and their bounty. I remember learning about the partnership between the Native Americans and the Pilgrims. I remember feeling blessed to be an American because we are blessed by God. Maybe you did, too.

Much later, I visited the living museum at Plymouth Plantation and learned a great deal more about the Wampanoag people and the English colonists who established a community there. And, I began to reckon with the unfinished business of our unjust treatment of our native ancestors. Experiencing this living museum helped me better understand the motivation behind Governor William Bradford's proclamation of the first Thanksgiving in 1623.

Exactly 240 years later, when terrible civil strife and war between the states put our nation's moral fiber to the test, President Abraham Lincoln followed Governor Bradford's lead in proclaiming the fourth Thursday in November as a national day of prayer and thanksgiving. Gratefully, every U.S. President has followed suit since.

So, what has happened to Thanksgiving?

As a boy, I well remember that the Christmas season could not start until Thanksgiving evening. That was when the Rich's Great Tree was lighted in downtown Atlanta!

What has happened to Thanksgiving? Perhaps I should ask, What has happened to us?

I write to you before Halloween. Christmas cards are already on display at Publix. Home Depot has already decked the halls for Christmas. And, Christmas music begins playing on SiriusXM on All Saints' Day, November 1!

What has happened to Thanksgiving?

Do you suppose it is harder to feel blessed in the midst of blessings than in the midst of hardship? Is it only when we realize that we have lost something that we remember to give thanks for what we have?

While we enjoy relative peace in the world, and while America is regaining financial strength, there remain challenging issues polarizing our great country. Let us not wait until we are in turmoil before giving thanks. Let us rejoice in the providence of God, intentionally seek His guidance in addressing the unsettled issues before us, and join in this Biblical proclamation:

*"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!<sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty deeds of the Lord, or declare all His praise?<sup>3</sup> Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!" – Psalm 106:1-3*

For what and for whom are you giving thanks to the Lord in this season? For what or for whom are you seeking the Almighty's providential intervention in our time?

Please know how thankful I am for you and for your partnership in the gospel at First Methodist!

Happy Thanksgiving!

  
Dr. John Beyers



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Please join us for our annual **Rise Against Hunger** meal packing event **November 11.**

We will package 18,000 plus meals beginning at 12:30 pm. Please dress casually and feel free to invite a friend.

It will be helpful in the check-in process if you would register your attendance at <http://events.stophungernow.org/LaGrangeFUMC2018>,

Thank you.



**Evening to Give Thanks  
in our Sanctuary at 6:30pm  
November 14, 2018**

**The Very Reverend Allen Pruitt  
Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

**Traditional Thanksgiving Meal  
5 to 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall  
\$6 per person  
\*706-884-4635 for Reservations**



**Stephen Minister Training**

Stephen Ministry is designed to train church members for caring ministry. The joy of helping others is the privilege of all Christians. The Holy Spirit has given gifts to each Christian to use in service to others and to build up the church.



Stephen Ministry relies on these gifts given to church members so we are equipped to care and enable Christ's love to go out in even greater and more effective ways.

The training benefits many others besides those who receive the care of their Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministers grow greatly as they learn about helping others while learning more about themselves.

We want to grow and expand this important ministry within FUMC. To that end, we are offering Stephen Ministry training classes in 2019. These classes will start January 12 and end on April 23, meeting 4 times a month.

Perhaps God is calling you to be one of these caring servants who offers Christ's love to those who are facing real challenges in their lives. If you are interested in learning about Stephen Ministry or the training, please contact Hank Dobbins at [hank.dobbins@gmail.com](mailto:hank.dobbins@gmail.com) or 706-518-8773.

**UMW CHRISTMAS BANQUET**

The UMW Christmas Banquet will be held on Monday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be provided by Joyce Morgan Young.

To make your reservation, please call or email the Church Office at 706-884-4635 or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org) by November 27.

The price is \$8 per person.

**All Saints Day/Sunday, November 4, 2018**

On Sunday, November 4, we will celebrate the "saints" of our church who've gone to be with the Lord over the past year. We will remember each person listed below at both worship services as well as others who are special to you. We encourage you to join us for this special time in the life of our church family.

**Those We Remember**

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Charles Stevens | Ben Crockett  |
| Laura Turner    | Jane Williams |
| John Alise      | Judy Bledsoe  |
| Bill Fackler    |               |

**Christmas Decorations**

A donation of \$12.00 toward the cost of the Christmas decorations may be made in honor or in memory of someone. If you would like to participate, please fill out this form and return it with your check marked "Christmas Decorations" on or before November 21. A list of all those honored will appear in the December issue of *The Flame* printed on November 27.

**In Honor** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory** \_\_\_\_\_

**Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Children's Ministry

Jeanne Jones, Director,  
[jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org)

**Sunday School and Children's Church** - We have just completed our "Bible in a Year" curriculum and are about to embark on a new adventure - "Digging Into Discipleship" where we will explore God's character throughout the Bible and learn how God transforms us from the inside out. We will discover what it means to reflect the heart of God in everyday life.

**Wednesday Night Kids** - We have been showing the love of Christ in several ways. We recently helped Mr. Rick by making blessing cards that we placed inside the condiment bags which were given to our Wednesday lunch guests. We are also helping to get ready for our Rise Against Hunger event by making some of the signs that will be displayed.

**Operation Christmas Child** is in full swing. Boxes are available in the Children's Building, Sanctuary and Chapel. Boxes must be returned no later than November 11th. Please be sure to include a check for \$9.00 made payable to Samaritan's Purse. Thank you for sharing your love with a child.

### Looking ahead...

**Christmas Pageant** - All children interested in participating in this year's pageant during the early Christmas Eve Service will need to be at the rehearsal on Saturday, December 22, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary.

**Family Event** - Mark your calendars for Friday, February 8, 5:30 p.m. The Children's ministry will sponsor "A Journey Through Time." This event will include dinner and your active participation. Invite your friends and neighbors; you don't want to miss this fun evening.



for supporting our  
Trunk or Treat



# FUMC STUDENT MINISTRIES



One Wednesday night during the month of October, the FUMC Student Ministry had some fun with our guest speaker Jim Ellison. We were so grateful to have him come and speak to us about our upcoming mission trip to Restoration ATL. In addition to that, we had some fun Sunday night worship activities throughout the month and really enjoyed the opportunity to SHOW the love of God with our entire church family while packing 300 flood buckets for hurricane victims. We also had fun celebrating CJ's birthday with gift cards and cupcakes!

During November, we will take our high school students on an incredible mission trip to Restoration ATL (RATL). RATL offers a unique, transformative, immersion experience in a ministry setting for groups to build relationships with those who call the city home. We are also excited to join the church on November 11th, for the church-wide Stop Hunger Now event and Blessings in a Bookbag Packathon!

**We are asking for you to help by donating "pop-tabbed" canned goods for Blessings in a Bookbag this month. Please drop them off with any of our Youth or in the Church Office. Thank you so much for supporting this meaningful ministry.**

## Happy Thanksgiving, Church Family!

Our church will close on  
**Wednesday, November 21,**  
at 12 noon, and remain  
closed on Thursday  
and Friday, November 22 & 23,  
for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



## Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Please fill your box with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Do not include toothpaste, gum, breakable items, aerosol cans, food, or medicines.

Place a check for \$9, payable to Samaritan's Purse, in your box to cover the shipping and handling. All boxes must be returned by Nov. 11, to the Church Office or the Children's Minister's office, first floor of the Children's Building.



### The Angel Tree

Once again First Methodist is participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. The Angel names will be available for "adoption" before Thanksgiving. Be on the lookout for more details coming to you soon.  
***Thank You for all the support you have given this outreach in the past and for what you will do in the future!***



### Flood Bucket Assembly 2018



THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Flame, 401 Broad Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Dr. John Beyers (ext 205).....Senior Minister
Mr. Rick Free (ext 210).....Director of Food Services
Mr. Eddie Giddens.....Custodian
Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager
Mrs. Jeanne Jones (ext 209).....Children's Minister
Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Mid & Sr High Youth Minister
Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Executive Minister
Rev. Blake Trent (ext 206).....Associate Minister

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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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.

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.

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday,
November 10, at 9:00 am in the Small Dining Room.
Dr. Don Jolly will present the program. All men in the
church are invited.

FALL BACK
Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 4. Remember to set your
clocks back one hour on Saturday
night, November 3.

Christmas at First United Methodist
begins with the November 26 decorating
event to prepare for Advent. Come join
us at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. All decorat-
ing amateurs and experts are invited. If you
are interested in being a part of the Altar
Guild, this is a fun time to discover what we
do. For more information, contact the
Church Office at 706-884-4635 or Davie
Biagi at davie@charter.net.

IN MEMORIAM
Judy Bledsoe
October 3, 2018

IN MEMORIAM
Joanne Leverett
October 27, 2018



Rest assured, the dressing is ready!

These dedicated cooks prepared 380 pounds of dressing
which will be happily consumed by the church family and friends over
the upcoming holiday meals...at TLC, Evening to Give Thanks, etc.
Thank you - Murray Schine, Gail Dacus, Jill Nix, Casey Pruitt,
Barbara Crisler, Beth Godwin, and Rick Free.



# November 2018

## Weekly

<b>SUNDAY</b>
9:00a Chapel Worship 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Traditional Worship 5:00p Disciple III
<b>MONDAY</b>
10:30a Meals on Wheels 11:30a Soup Kitchen 5:30p Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal 6:30p Cub Scout Den Meetings
<b>TUESDAY</b>
9:00a Community Care 1:30p Staff Meeting 6:30p Cub Scout Den Meetings 7:00p Boy Scouts
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
10:00a Explorers Bible Study 11:30a Soup Kitchen Sack Lunch 5:00p Wednesday Evening Meal 5:30p Handbell Rehearsal 6:00p Children's Program 6:00p Mid & Sr. Hi Youth 6:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>THURSDAY</b>
9:00a Community Care 9:45a Prayer Ministry 10:30a Dulcimers 6:30p Cub Scout Den Meetings
<b>FRIDAY</b>
7:00a Men's Coffee & Prayer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00 TLC	2	3
4	5 5:00p UMW Board Mtg	6 12:30p Red Cross Blood Drive	7	8 6:00p Staff Parish Relations	9	10 9:00a Men's Breakfast
11 12:00 Noon Rise Against Hunger  Veterans Day	12	13 6:00p Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Dinner	14 5:45p Missions Committee  6:30p Evening to Give Thanks Service	15	16	17
18	19	20	21  12:00 noon Church Closed for the Holiday	22 Church Closed for the Holiday  <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	23 Church Closed for the Holiday	24
25	26 9:00a Church Christmas Decorating	27	28	29 5:30p Trustees	30	1

## Remembrances Received, October 2018

### *In Memory of*

**Judy Bledsoe**—Catherine Carmical, Don & Patty Justice, Hoyt & Shirra Rogers, Celia Haynes, Mitch & Marie Sanders, Nolan & Jeanie Vickers, Sarah Funderburk, Bob & Dorothy Cammon, Hildred Cammon, Marsha Holliday, Betty & Bob Ward, Ray & Sally Holmes, Gary & Jane Stephens, H.R. & Mary Anne Shepherd, Trish Smith, Blair & Laura Harlin, Allen & Marilyn Smith, the Susannah Circle, Brandon Parish, Larry & Norma Williamson, Environmental Specialties International, Inc., Cooper, Barnette & Page, Inc., Tee Borders, Oleeta Aspinwall, Jane Willey, Gene & Freddie Hayes, Lonnie & Bobbie Ritchie, Leila & Jim Fulford, Mary & Paul Humphreys, Dusty & Carlene Mills, Carole & Kelly Linch, Cliff & Faye Rainey, Ann & Perry Wilder, Virginia Robertson

**Guinn Vaughn**—Trish Vaughn, Reaunette Vaughn

### *In Honor of*

**Murbes Shepherd**—The Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class

### *We Extend Our Sympathy to*

Kelly Linch & Family in the recent death of his brother, **Eddie Linch**.

Debbie Ogle & Family in the recent death of her father, **George Barnes**.

Marsha Holliday & Family in the recent death of her brother, **Howard "Butch" Freeman**.

Kim Adams and Family, in the recent death of her mother, **Aileen Rice**.

Diane Hurston & Cynthia Murphy and Families, in the recent death of their sister, **Carol Williams Bryant**.

### *We Welcome to Our Church Family*

**Gene & Kathleen Ernest**, September 30; **Hank Dobbins**, October 14; and **Alex Hughes**, October 14.

### *November's Worship Team Volunteers*

**Ushers:** John Jackson, Tommy Britt, Steve Cole, Steve Close, John Holliday, John Morgan Jackson, Jared Jones, Dee Woodward, Mark Kostial, Matt Orr, Mike Wilson

**Altar Guild:** Cindy Jackson, Alynda Jones, Mary Ann Keck, Linda Marie, Debra Jackson

**Hospitality Team:** Linda Frano, Richard & Donna Ennis, Kelly & Carole Linch, Steve & Caryn Cole, Fred & Pat Bodine, Bill & Susan Black, Laura Jennings, Dean & Nancy Larson, John & Cindy Jackson, Dusty & Carlene Mills, Sharon Jones, Philip & Becky Ivey, Oleeta Aspinwall, Jackie Huckstep, Ric & Joanna Selbie

### *Wednesday Evening Weekly Menus*

#### **November 7**

Poppyseed Chicken  
Rice  
Fried Okra  
Kids: Same

#### **November 21**

NO WEW

#### **November 14**

Turkey / Dressing  
Sweet Potato Soufflé  
Veggie  
Kids: Pizza

#### **November 28**

Chicken Alfredo  
Broccoli  
Kids: Same

Dessert with every meal. Adults - \$6, Children/Youth - \$3

### *ATTENDANCE*

#### **Sunday, September 30**

Sunday School....223    Worship Service.....379

#### **Sunday, October 7**

Sunday School....177    Worship Service.....312

#### **Sunday, October 14**

Sunday School....163    Worship Service.....331

#### **Sunday, September 21**

Sunday School....177    Worship Service.....316