



1828

November 29, 2015

*Early Worship Service 9:00am in the Chapel

Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

*Morning Glory

9:00am in the Fellowship Hall

Mr. Blake Trent, preaching

*Traditional Service

11:00am in the Sanctuary

Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

*Korean Worship Service

11:00am in the Chapel

Rev. Daniel Kim

December 6, 2015

*Combined Worship Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary

"A Festival of Carols"

and

Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

*Korean Worship Service

11:00am in the Chapel

Rev. Daniel Kim

*Child care is provided.

**Sunday School classes
will meet at 9:30am
on December 6th.**

** **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.

THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

WAITING...

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14)

I don't know about you, but I have never been very good at waiting. Whether it is waiting in those long lines at stores or waiting on a parking space in the parking lot, it often seems that the closer something is, the more difficult it is to wait for it. In fact, our impatience seems built right into our culture and society – these days, Christmas carols and decorations usually appear even before Halloween!

And yet, the Christian season of ADVENT (from the Latin *adventus*, "coming" – a reference to the "coming" of Jesus in the past, present and future) encourages us to learn the hard and difficult lesson of waiting, of watching, of anticipating, and of expecting good things still to come. It encourages us to learn to wait for God to reveal Himself in His own way and time.

In the weeks leading up to our daughter Jennifer's birth over twenty-two years ago, Trish and I both were very much on edge. The due date arrived, then passed, and I remember thinking constantly, *"How much longer, Lord?!"* I'm sure it was the same for the early Hebrews as they waited for the Messiah to be born, probably also thinking, *"How much longer, Lord?!"* And it's the same for us today as we often ask of our problems, *"How much longer, Lord?!"* Maybe it's God's way of trying to remind us that some of the best things in life (including true, genuine fulfillment, contentment, and joy) often come only through long, hard waiting.

So, during this Advent season (which begins November 29th), I invite us all to let God teach us to wait... with patience, anticipation, and joy. One tool that can help us "wait" and prepare for the coming of Christmas is through our use of what is called an ***"Advent Wreath"*** -- a circle of four candles which are progressively lit during the four Sundays of Advent, culminating in the lighting of the central white (Christ) candle on Christmas Eve. **[CLICK HERE](#)** for a family Advent Wreath lighting that you can download and use each week leading up to Christmas.

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

Pastor Brian

Advent Calendar

Included in this issue of "The Flame" is an Advent Calendar for your family to use in preparing for the Christ Child.

Additional copies are available in the worship services, Sunday School classes, and church office if you would like to share one with a friend.

Wednesday Evening Weekly
Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm

WEW Meal on December 2, 2015

Menu: Cheesy chicken, rice, veggie, salad bar, dessert.
 Children: Corn dogs & PB & J sandwiches.

WEW Meal on December 9, 2015

Menu: Roast beef, potatoes, veggie, salad bar, dessert.
 Children: Mini-burgers & 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.

GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

In the last 114 years the Gideons have distributed approximately 2 billion Bibles around the world. This holiday season, the Troup County Gideon's are asking our church to give a gift to Jesus by making a contribution to buy a Bible that will be given to someone to help spread God's word. 100% of all money contributed goes to the printing and distributing of Bibles. Envelopes with more information are available in the Sunday School Classes and the church office.

Thank you for your help and support.

United Methodist Men's December Breakfast

Please join us for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 12th at 8:00am in the small dining room. Our program will be presented by **Dr. Richard Ingram**, Renal Specialist and owner of LaGrange Internal Medicine. See you on the 12th.

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorials

Mr. Russell Everitt - Carol Freeman, John & Carolyn Alise, Perry & Ann Wilder, Jane Williams, Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class, Martha Stanley, Catherine Carmical, Oleeta Aspinwall

Rev. Sidney Tate - Steven Seekins, Julie Fix, Maria Russell, Rick Batyko, Judy VanSlyke Turk, Robin Schell, Anthony D'Angelo, Carol Freeman, U.M.W., Ray & Sally Holmes, Anne Allen, John & Jackie Huckstep, Gene & Rochelle Davis, Jane & Gary Stephens, Susan & Lee McCrary, Jane Williams, Martha Stanley, Catherine Carmical, Sons of LaFayette Male Choir

December Thursday Lunch Club
December 3rd, 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall



New Horizon Choir
 from First Baptist Church on the Square

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

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




THE GREAT BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS

New Sermon Series connecting the stories of culture to the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is a time for stories. Stories that inspire hope, enable love and motivate peace. Stories that foster joy, and help us believe again in Christmas.

This season, join us as we connect several classic holiday stories to the true biblical meaning of Christmas through a series called "The Great Big Book of Christmas," shared at all worship services November 29th-December 20th.

- *November 29: **The Night Before Christmas** (Luke 21:25-36)
- *December 6: **Deck the Halls** (Luke 3:1-6)
 Combined Worship Service, 10:30am, Sanctuary with a Christmas Music Celebration
- *December 13: **The Heart of A Grinch** (Luke 3:7-14)
- *December 20: **A Partridge In A Pear Tree**
 (Hebrews 10:5-14)

Dave Ramsey's FINANCIAL PEACE

LaGrange First UMC will host the **Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Course** beginning January 13, 2016. This 9-week course will be led by **Zachary Taylor & Linda Frano**. Please email churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org or call the church office for more information. Please share this with your friends.

Community Care Need

Our Community Care program has never been busier. So far this year we have helped 365 clients receive their prescription medication. The need for this program continues to grow and we find ourselves short on funds. During this Christmas season, please consider helping this worthwhile program. Individuals, Sunday School Classes, Circles, any church group, we ask that you consider a onetime donation or better yet a monthly donation to Community Care. Our goal has always been to have this program fully funded by donations. That takes \$24,000 per year and we assure you that not one penny of that donated money goes to anything but the Community Care fund. Thanks so much for your support and if you have any questions, please ask Rick Free or Peggy Lukken.

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 December 4th. A list of all those honored will appear in the Flame printed on December 15th.

In Honor _____

In Memory _____

Of: _____

By: _____



The Angel Tree

Once again First Methodist is participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. The Angel Tree is located in the Sanctuary Narthex.

You will notice a red mesh bag stapled to each Angel. Please detach the Angel from the information part of the tag, and place it and the Angel gifts inside the mesh bag. If a gift is too large for the bag, label the gift with the code #, and attach the bag to it.

We need the Angel gifts returned to the Fellowship Hall Friday, December 11th. The Salvation Army will pickup all gifts on Tuesday, December 15th. **Thank You!**

SUMMER DAY CAMP DIRECTOR



We are now accepting applications for the position of Director for our Methodist Summer Day Camp Program. If you or someone you know might be interested in this position, please send a resume to "Day Camp Position" at sprc@lagrangefumc.org.

Please Join Us

2016 Leadership LaGrange FUMC December 5th
9:00am to 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall & Chapel

The entire Church Family is invited to come and learn how your LaGrange FUMC operates...the how and why we do what we do.
Church leaders will be in attendance!

Items Needed for the Month of December:
Fruit and Pudding Cups and Canned Soups

UMW CHRISTMAS BANQUET

The UMW Christmas Banquet will be held on Monday, December 7th at 6pm in the fellowship hall. Call or email the church office at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org to make your reservation by November 30th. The price is \$8 per person.

Children's Ministry

Grayson Bailey, Director
childrens@lagrangefumc.org or 706-884-4635 ext. 209

We will NOT have MERGE Wednesday, November 25. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Only one more week for kids to recite the November Memory Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1


December Memory Verse: "She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

Youth Ministry


Kali Grenus, Director
kali@lagrangefumc.org or 706-884-4635 ext. 215

Holiday Schedule: Please take a moment to look over schedule for the Youth Activities over the next month. Christmas Parties for both Sr. High and Mid-high are listed below, watch for times and locations coming soon!

NOVEMBER

22	23	24	25 No Small Groups	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29 No Sunday Night aLive	30					

DECEMBER

	1 Mid High Chick Fil A	2 Small Groups	3	4	5
6 Ice Skating 4pm-8pm \$15 	7	8	9 Small Groups	10	11
13 Salvation Army Angel Shopping 5pm-7pm	14	15 Mid High Chick Fil A	16 Sr. High Small Groups// Mid-High Christmas Party	17	18 Sr. High Christmas Party
				19	

From December 20th- January 3rd we will have No Programming! **Small Groups** will resume on Wednesday, January 6th, and **Sunday Night aLive** will be back on Sunday, January 10th.

THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

401 Broad Street

LaGrange, Georgia 30240

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E-Mail address churchoffice@lagrangefumc.orgWeb Site: www.lagrangefumc.orgwww.pastorbriang.blogspot.com

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

Miss Grayson Bailey (ext 209).....Director of Children's Ministry
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 206).....Business Manager
Mr. Scott Hill (ext 213).....Landscape/Maintenance
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.



"To Know and To Make Christ Known"

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FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

Needed Weekly	\$ 23,919.59
Given Last Week	\$ 28,930.70
Needed YTD	\$1,124,220.73
Received YTD	\$1,130,192.09

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, November 15

Sunday School.....	268
Worship Service.....	331

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, November 22

Sunday School.....	258
Worship Service.....	326

Upcoming Important Events

"The Great Big Book of Christmas"
New Sermon Series, November 29th - December 20th
All three worship services

Nativity Festival, Sanctuary
December 2nd - December 4th, 2:00pm to 7:00pm
December 5th - December 6th, 12:00pm to 5:00pm

"Leadership LaGrange FUMC", December 5th
For all church leaders, committee members and congregation
9:30am to 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Combined Worship Service, December 6th, 10:30am, Sanctuary
"A Festival of Carols", Sunday School at 9:30am

"Longing for Light in the Darkness", December 17th, 5:30pm
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Calendar for November 29 - December 5

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
5:00pm.....	Mid & Sr. High Youth Activities
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
7:00pm.....	Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
12:30pm.....	Red Cross Blood Drive
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
2:00pm.....	NATIVITY
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:30pm.....	Children's M.E.R.G.E Activities
5:45pm.....	Policy Committee
6:00pm.....	Young Parents Small Group
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
Thursday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Group
12:00pm.....	Thursday Lunch Club
2:00pm.....	NATIVITY
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
2:00pm.....	NATIVITY
Saturday	
9:00am.....	Leadership LaGrange FUMC
12:00pm.....	NATIVITY

Calendar for December 6 - December 12

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Service	
*9:30am.....	Sunday School
10:30am.....	Combined Worship Service
12:00pm.....	NATIVITY
5:00pm.....	Mid & Sr. High Youth Activities
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
6:00pm.....	UMW Christmas Banquet
7:00pm.....	Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:30pm.....	Children's M.E.R.G.E Activities
6:00pm.....	Young Parents Small Group
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
Thursday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Group
5:30pm.....	Board of Trustees
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	

WELCOME

We welcome **Rumi & Gary Smith**
into our Church Membership,
November 15, 2015.

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the
following people.

Terri Bassett & family in the recent
death of her sister-in-law, **Connie
Evans.**

Dodie Patterson & family in the
death of her sister-in-law, **Sherry
Patterson, November 13, 2015.**

Advent 2015

Daily Scripture
and Reflections in
Preparation for Christmas

He who testifies
to these things
says, "Surely I am
coming soon."
Amen. Come,
Lord Jesus!

— Revelation 22:20

Sunday

29 **NOVEMBER**
Promise

The Lord kept his promise to send a Savior, the Righteous Branch of David's house.

Jos. 33:14-16

Monday

30 **SAVED!**

Confess Jesus as Lord and believe God raised him from the dead and you will be saved.

Romans 10:9-10

Tuesday

1 **DECEMBER**
Revealed

The Father's love is revealed in and through his Son. We are blessed to hear his Word.

Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday

2 **SHOW**
Mercy

Show mercy, just as Jesus had compassion on the crowds and fed them.

Matt. 15:29-37

Thursday

3 **A FIRM**
Foundation

Build your life on the firm foundation of God. You will stand firm in tribulation.

Matt. 7:21, 24-27

Friday

4 **SEE CLEARLY**

In Christ Jesus our salvation is revealed! Share the good news with others!

Matt. 9:27-31

Saturday

5 **HEALED AND**
Forgiven

In Christ, God heals our broken hearts and binds up our wounds. We are forgiven.

Psalm 147:1-6

Sunday

6 **PREPARE**
the Way

The Savior comes! Repent of your sins and prepare the way of the Lord.

Luke 3:1-6

Monday

7 **WALK IN THE**
Way

Follow in the footsteps of Jesus and walk with joy in the Way of holiness.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Tuesday

8 **PROMISED**
Son

Rejoice in our Savior Jesus, the Son of God and Mary's Son.

Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday

9 **FORGIVEN!**

God does not deal with us as our sins deserve. We are forgiven in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10

Thursday

10 **THE HOLY**
One

Soon we will celebrate the birth of Jesus our Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel!

Isaiah 41:13-20

Friday

11 **PEACE LIKE**
a River

In Christ peace flows within us like a river. Share that peace with the people around you.

Isaiah 48:17-19

Saturday

12 **A GREAT**
Sign

A Child will be born, a holy Child who will rule all nations.

Rev. 21:19a; 12:1-6a

Sunday

13 **REJOICE IN**
the Lord!

Come before the Lord in prayer. His peace will guard your heart and mind.

Philippians 4:4-7

Monday

14 **A RISING**
Star

A star proclaimed the birth of Jesus. How will you proclaim the good news?

Num. 24:2-7, 15-17a

Tuesday

15 **REPENT AND**
Believe

The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news!

Matt. 21:28-32

Wednesday

16 **THIS IS THE**
Savior

The blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear the good news. The Savior is here!

Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday

17 **LION OF**
Judah

Jesus, the Lion of Judah, is the King of kings. Live as a child of the King.

Gen. 49:2, 8-10

Friday

18 **NAME HIM**
Jesus

Jesus is the name of our salvation. He will save us from our sins.

Matt. 1:18-25

Saturday

19 **TURN TO THE**
Lord

Turn to the Lord in repentance as you prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Luke 1:5-25

Sunday

20 **FILLED WITH**
the Spirit

Be filled with the Spirit as you rejoice in Christ's presence among us!

Luke 1:39-45

Monday

21 **FEAR NOT!**

The Lord is here! He will save you, rejoice over you and quiet you with his love.

Zeph. 3:14-18a

Tuesday

22 **MAGNIFY**
the Lord

Sing the praises of God our Savior, who kept his promise and sent his Son to redeem us.

Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday

23 **HIS NAME**
is John

How will you help others prepare for the coming of Christ?

Luke 1:57-66

Thursday

24 **SERVE HIM**
in Holiness

You are re-deemed! Serve the Lord in holiness all of your days.

Luke 1:67-79

Friday

25 **WORD**
Made Flesh

Christ, the Word made flesh, is born among us as one of us! Rejoice!

John 1:1-18

