



1828

August 23, 2015
13th Sunday after Pentecost

***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

August 30, 2015
1st Sunday in Kingdomtide

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

Mr. Blake Trent, preaching

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

Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

***Traditional Service**
11:00am in the Sanctuary
Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

***Korean Worship Service**
11:00am in the Chapel
Rev. Daniel Kim

**Child care is provided.*

**** 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"

"GETTING TO KNOW US" SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

"Plans are established by taking advice..." (Proverbs 20:18)

You may remember that the first week of worship after I arrived as your new Pastor, I invited you to participate in a "Getting to Know Us" survey to help me better understand the overarching values and vision of LaGrange First UMC so that I can better lead us in the future. That survey remained open until the middle of July. So, here at last are highlights of those results for us all to celebrate and consider:

First of all, THANK YOU to the 100 of you (yes, exactly 100!) who turned a survey in (64 via paper; 36 via online). And while each one was prayerfully read and considered, bear in mind that what I share below are simply summaries of those results that relate specifically to our church's values and vision:

QUESTION #1: If there's one thing you hope NEVER changes about LaGrange First UMC, what would it be?

- 25 responses referenced the variety and diversity of worship options, styles, and experiences that we offer. While different responses obviously focused on differing things that people liked about our three Sunday morning services, what was clear across the board is that we all have a deep appreciation for worship and for making it as excellent and relevant as possible.
- 11 responses mentioned the importance and value of our hospitality and friendliness as a congregation.
- 8 responses focused on how much they loved the various small groups we have, including Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, Wednesday night programs, etc.
- 7 responses affirmed the many ways our church both connects with and serves our community, including the diverse offerings of our music ministry and various missions ministries like our soup kitchen, drug assistance program, meals on wheels, Camp Viola, etc.

QUESTION #2: If you could wave a magic wand and CHANGE any one thing about LaGrange First UMC, what would it be?

- 33 responses expressed in various ways their desire that our church continue to grow and be relevant in and for our community. Some responses suggested doing this through expansion of current weekly programs, others through more outreach and mission, and still others through a more intentional focus on children (9 mentioned this), youth, and young adults through our connection with LaGrange College. So, even though there are differing ideas about how to do it, it's clear that our congregation wants to grow and better connect with our community and world.
- 15 responses referenced the need to change various aspects and/or elements of our worship experiences to help us better connect with today's culture and community. Some of these involved suggestions for music, others were suggestions for changes in worship times, styles, and use of technology. So, while question #1 revealed an appreciation for our current worship, there is also a sense that work is still needed in this area in order to grow and stay relevant.
- 12 responses referenced the need to become more inviting, welcoming and hospitable, and less "clique-ish" (including responses about better accessibility in our Sanctuary and in our parking lots for senior adults). I should point out that even though this area was referenced in question #1 by some respondents as a strength, it's clear that others feel it is an area in need of growth, as well.
- 12 responses mentioned the need to change or modify our administrative and leadership structures to be more effective and efficient in our ministry.

Continued on page 2...

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

WEW Meal on August 26, 2015.

Menu: Poppyseed chicken, rice, fried okra, salad bar, dessert.

Children: Mini chicken & PB & J sandwiches.

WEW Meal on September 2, 2015.

Menu: Spaghetti casserole, salad bar, 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

Memorials

Mr. Tim Huckstep - Col. & Mrs. Shep Phillips, Kerry & Jan Franks, Jo & Bruce Crawford, Hildred Cammon, Carol Freeman, Nancy Jane Cammon, Lonnie & Bobbie Ritchie, Murbes Shepherd, Jane Willey, Jennie Wadsworth, Freddie & Gene Hayes, Carolyn & John Alise, Ellen & Mike Dobbs, Laura Shedd, Members of NAIFA LaGrange, Leila & Jim Fulford, Dusty & Carlene Mills, Mike & Dana Huckstep, Luther & Tam Hunt, Keith Huckstep, Nita & Jerry Overall, Jennie & Scott Gordy, Clark Rich, Herbert Jones

Mr. Tom Stanley - U.M.W., Russell & Patsy Everitt, Catherine Carmical Nita & Jerry Overall, Nancy Jane Cammon,

Mr. David Soltis - Lonnie & Bobbie Ritchie

Mrs. Memory Johnson - Ida & Jay Russell

UMW NEWS

The UMW Board will meet on Monday, August 31st at 5:00pm and the salad supper will be held at 6:00pm. This will be a great time to come meet UMW members.



Handbells

Our Handbell group will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 1st at 6:00 in the Handbell Room S107 in the Sanctuary basement. If you are interested in learning to play or have played in the past, please join us. For more information, call the church office at 706-884-4635.

United Methodist Women — In Mission

In May the U.M.W. collected and delivered 60 Blessing Bags to the Emmaus Women's Shelter. These bags contained personal items that are given to the clients when they arrived at the center. We will begin collecting items again in September and hope to make another delivery in December. There is a collection box in the church office or you may bring your items to the next UMW meeting. We would like for anyone in our church family to contribute if you feel so led. Some of the items needed are toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, combs, brushes, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, individual packs of kleenex, travel sewing kits and bath cloths.



Emmaus Shelter Fundraiser

Miss Emma's

Ice Cream Crankin'

fundraiser for the Emmaus Shelter will be held on Sunday, August 30th from 2 to 4 pm on LaFayette Square, downtown LaGrange. A family pass is \$15 and individual tickets are \$5 each. This is a fun, family time to enjoy cold ice cream on a warm (*or hot*) afternoon.

September Thursday Lunch Club

Our September 3rd TLC luncheon will begin at 12 noon with a family style meal, and will feature a musical program presented by the "Swingin', Singin', Seniors" from Newnan FUMC. The cost is \$6 per person and you can make your reservations for the meal and program by calling or emailing the church at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

QUESTION #3: What's the best piece of advice you could give Pastor Brian as our new Senior Pastor?

- 28 responses indicated that pastoral care, listening and communications, and being accessible to all should be areas of prime importance to me as your Senior Pastor.
- 18 responses mentioned their hope that I would take care of myself, be myself, and lead by following my heart and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit (including the importance of offering loving challenge when appropriate, and not get lost in "church politics", and even of maintaining a sense of humor and fun about ministry).
- 11 responses indicated the importance of partnership, teamwork, being available to all members and avoiding the appearance of "playing favorites".
- 8 responses asked that I seek to offer and encourage bold ministry that is relevant to people's heart needs (such as preaching God's word, connecting with current world and community events, and being involved in our community itself).
- 6 responses shared their hope that I would lead us to discover God's vision for our church.

What I've shared above are merely the "highlights" and my "take-aways" from the survey and not a recitation of every individual response. If you wish to see more detail about the raw responses themselves, contact the church office at 706-884-4635 for a printed copy or go to pastorbriang@dropbox.com and click on the link provided in the document.

Again, let me say thank you for your valued input in helping me to know and understand what you consider to be the most important things to our church's mission and ministry! I and our leadership will be taking these themes into consideration as we together seek both to discover and then implement God's Vision for us as His people here at LaGrange First UMC.

Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

A New Sunday School Class

We are still calculating some of the results from Pastor Brian's entrance survey, but we have seen one positive trend while looking through your comments. Multiple people commented on the great variety of Sunday school classes offered to our congregation. While we are happy to have these many discipleship opportunities that exist through Sunday school, we want to continue to grow our variety of classes.

On **Sunday, September 20th**, we will launch a new Sunday school class that will appeal to people **age 35 or younger**. We need your help! If you are 35 or younger, save this date on your calendar and plan to join us. If you know a young person who is looking for or needs a Sunday school class, please send them our way.

Please pray that God will grow our ministry for those under the age of 35. They are the future of our faith and our church. For all other questions, please contact the church office. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Children's Ministry

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

The FUMC Children's Ministries Wednesday night program is **MERGE!** Merging real faith into real life based on Hebrews 11:1 — "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

MERGE and **Children's Choir** practice, for children ages Pre K through 5th grade, will begin Wednesday, August 26th, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. A leader will escort the children from dinner.

Please keep an eye on your email for more information! If you are not sure that we have your current email, please contact Grayson at the above address or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

Youth Ministry

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

BLESSINGS

In the Troup County schools, over 60% of the student population is on free or reduced lunch.

Blessings in a Book Bag is a program run by the FUMC Youth to help students who go home on the weekend to a home with little or no food in the Pantry.

This year we are not only serving a new school, Ethel W. Kight Elementary, but we are also facing a difficult challenge of working with a school that the entire student body is on free and reduce lunch. You read that right, all the students at Ethel W. Kight Elementary school are on free and reduced lunch.

Currently we are beginning the year serving 55 students each week, but we expect that number to grow as the school year continues.

Want to help? We are always looking for not only monetary donations to help with shopping but that's only half the battle. Donations of the food we provide in our bags is the greatest way that you can help. Please check out the list of items we include in our bags. Donations can be put in the collection box in the MMC or in Kali's Office, or may be dropped off in the church office.

This ministry would be nothing without the support of an amazing church family! Thank you for all the continued support! If you are looking for other ways to get involved, please contact the Youth Office, ext. 215, 706-884-4635.

Food Items Needed

Ramen Noodles
Juice Pouches
Crackers
Fruit Snacks
Individual Mac 'n' Cheese
Breakfast Bars/Cereal Bars
Pop tarts
Applesauce
Fruit cups

***all item are to be individual servings and individually wrapped.*

Remember



Lounges open at 4pm!

Upcoming Events!

Wednesday, August 26th
Small Group's Start!

Sunday, September 19th
MYF begins!

THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Web Site: www.lagrangefumc.org
www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com

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The Flame, 401 Broad Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

Miss Grayson Bailey (ext 209).....Director of Children's Ministries
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.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

Needed Weekly	\$ 23,919.59
Given Last Week	\$ 11,255.92
Needed YTD	\$ 789,346.47
Received YTD	\$ 792,256.64

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, August 9

Sunday School.....	258
Worship Service.....	381

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, August 16

Sunday School.....	247
Worship Service.....	373

Church Flowers

Our sanctuary flowers on Sunday, August 23rd are in celebration of the marriage of **Lindsey Cole and Anthony Robinson, August 22, 2015**, and are given in loving memory of their grandparents.

Calendar for August 23 - August 29

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday	
10:00am.....	Dulcimer Class
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:15pm.....	Finance Committee
6:30pm.....	Church Council
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
Thursday	
9:45am.....	Prayer Group
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	



"To Know and To Make Christ Known"

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IN MEMORIAM
Tim Huckstep
August 12, 2015

Items Needed for September
Jello & Pudding Packs

Welcome!
We welcome into our
First Methodist Church family:
Cheryl Weldon
August 16, 2015

Our Sympathy
Our sympathy is extended to John & Wanda Ann Kinnaman in the death of his brother, **Richard Kinnaman, August 4, 2015.**

The FLAME
Our Church Newsletter

The Flame is published every other week. You can view it online or receive a printed copy in the mail. If you are not getting our newsletter, please call or email the church office at churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org or 706-884-4635. We want to share with you the ministry taking place at First Methodist.

Meals on Wheels

Our Meals on Wheels program needs a driver for the Amberwood Apartment route. If you and/or a partner can help deliver meals to those in need, please call the church office at 706-884-4635 or Dorothy Cammon at 706-884-2078. We really need your help.

Friendship Class...
still going strong!

The Friendship Sunday School class, formerly taught by Dr. Harold Lawrence, is still meeting in the church parlor each Sunday at 1000. We invite all who previously attended and all who may not have a Sunday School class to join us. Reverend Roberts from LaGrange College led the class in July, and we are very thankful to him for doing so. Danny Arp is leading the class discussions for the month of August. We will focus our attentions on Methodist Founder John Wesley and the Apostle Paul for the remainder of the month. We hope you can join us.

Calendar for August 30 - September 5

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
5:00 & 6:00pm.....	UMW Board Meeting / Salad Supper
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
10:00am.....	Dulcimer Class
12:30pm.....	Red Cross Blood Drive
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:15pm.....	SPR Committee
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
Thursday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Group
12:00.....	Thursday Lunch Club
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group