



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

December 17, 2017

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

***THE BRIDGE
10:55am
in the Fellowship Hall**

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

December 24, 2017

***Combined Worship Service
10:30am in the Sanctuary
(No Sunday School)**

**Candlelight Family &
Children's Service
5:00pm, Sanctuary**

**Candlelight Communion
Service
11:00pm, Sanctuary**

December 31st

***Combined Worship Service
10:30am in the Fellowship Hall
(No Sunday School &
No Children's Church)**

**Child care is provided.*

Children's Church is for ages 3rd grade & younger. Children will dismiss to Room 111 in the Children's building.

MARY'S DREAM

"Mary treasured all these words [of the Shepherds] and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)

"I had a strange dream, Joseph. I'm not sure, but I think it was about a birthday for our son. The people had been preparing for it for six weeks by decorating the house and buying new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They were wrapped in beautiful paper and tied with lovely bows and stacked under trees. Yes, Joseph, a tree, right in their house -- with branches decorated and full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. And there was a figure on the top of the tree -- an angel I think.

Everyone was laughing and happy and all excited about the gifts, and they gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so happy, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus -- not to be wanted at His own birthday party. I'm glad it was only a dream, though. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real."

[--By Lloyd D. Lance]

As we prepare for Christmas, please don't get so caught in all the consumerism, partying, and family get togethers that you forget Jesus as the real "reason for the season"! Instead, make plans to focus on him by worshiping Christ on Christmas Eve at church with your family and friends.

Because of the way the calendar falls, this year we'll celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent at our combined 10:30am worship service in the Sanctuary on December 24th. Then, we'll celebrate Jesus' actual birth at our two other services later that day (both in the Sanctuary):

--5:00pm Candlelight Family and Children's service,
featuring a short children's drama, carols, and short Christmas message

--11:00pm Candlelight Communion service,
featuring traditional readings, carols, and Holy Communion

Finally, don't forget to celebrate Jesus' birth again on **Sunday, December 31st** (the "first Sunday of Christmas") with **one combined worship service at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall** before we return to our regular three services on January 7th.

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

Pastor Brian

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

WEW Meals will start back on January 10th

Enjoy your holidays!

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorials

Mr. Preston Dubyak (Jean Edward's Brother) - Virginia Robertson



the wait is over...

The Flame's New Look

The next issue of *The Flame* will be in the new monthly format. We hope you will find this more helpful in planning your calendar so that you will not miss out on all that is happening here. Maybe you will find more inspiring things to read. Maybe you will enjoy the pictures. Maybe you will discover things about your church you did not know. Please feel free to send in your suggestions as to what you would like to see in your church's newsletter.

**We will send you important news and updates throughout the month as they develop.*

A Special Invitation to the First Methodist Church Family

You are all invited to share in the spirit of the Christmas season at the annual display of over 2000 luminaries in Waterford Subdivision on December 16th and 17th, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

(Waterford is located on Mooty Bridge Road in LaGrange.)

As you enter the subdivision, please turn on your parking lights only to get the full effect.



Prayer is powerful!
How can you help?

Do you have a passion for prayer and a desire to pray for others on a weekly basis? Come join Prayer Ministry on Thursdays in the Resource Center at 9:45 AM. Call our Church Office at 706-884-4635 for more information.

Prayer Ministry has met for over 40 years, to pray confidentially for you, our Congregation, our Church leadership, our country leaders and world peace. They also give praise for joyful events, such as births, new members, graduations, and confirmations.

Personal notes are sent for compassion, sympathy, or celebration. Come be a part!

Let us know what prayer needs you have. To make this easier, we offer three confidential ways you can submit your prayer requests:

Call the Church office at 706-884-4635

Email us at prayer@lagrangefumc.org

Complete our online form located on the front page of our website at <http://www.lagrangefumc.org>.

Look for the praying hands.

We believe that God listens to each prayer and it is powerful.



God's Vision for YOUR Life

Uncover your Spiritual Gifts in this 4-week Lenten Study

February 25th and

March 4th, 11th, and 18th;

2:15 PM to 4:30 PM Cost is \$18 per person

Led by Pat Gilbert and Pastor Brian

Explore these questions and more

Why Am I Unique?

What Spiritual Gifts Did God Give Me?

What Am I To Do With My Gifts?

Thank You to everyone who helped make the 20th Annual Nativity Festival a success on Sunday, December 10th. Whether you were serving with your Sunday School Class, loaning your nativity, or supporting the event through your attendance, your presence was greatly appreciated. We would like to recognize the following Sunday School classes for their help setting up and manning the various areas of the Festival this year: Builders, Genesis, Maranatha, and Seekers. In addition, a big Thank You to Fred Bodine and the cast and crew of the live drama. Last, but certainly not least, Thank You to our dedicated Church Staff for their willingness to pitch in and help where needed.

Sincerely,
The 2017 Nativity Festival Steering Committee



Children's Ministry

Jeanne Jones, Director, jeanne@lagrangefumc.org.

Christmas is in the air and we are embracing the celebration. The FUMC children have been learning about the first Christmas and what Christ's birth means for us today. Miss Merry Christmas came to visit on Dec. 7th and the children participated in making cards that would go to people who are homebound and could use a little extra love this Christmas. Be sure to see the children present the "Nativity Story" on December 24th at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. There will be parts for ALL children in attendance.

Dates to Know

December 17th - Sunday School and Children's Church

December 23rd - Practice for Nativity. All major parts must be in attendance, 9 - 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

December 24th - No Sunday School. One combined Church Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary with Children's Church.

December 31st - No Sunday School. One combined Church Service at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall, a Family Worship Sunday.

"According to biblestudytools.com, an evangelist is someone who 'carries the gospel to places where it was previously unknown.' Wouldn't this include the Sunday school classroom? Superman hides his true identity by living as a mild-mannered reporter at the Daily Planet. In the same way, every unassuming Sunday school teacher is a hero in disguise." Kristine Brown

The children at FUMC need YOU! We've all heard the saying "God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called." What could be more important than leading children to faith? Can you give one hour just a few times a year? We are looking for people to join our team of children's Sunday school teachers. We have been using a rotation model so that no one person feels overwhelmed. You will be supplied with a great lesson weeks before you have to teach and God will equip you if you step out in faith to serve. I will be happy to meet with you and answer any questions you have. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity that is available to YOU! Contact Jeanne Jones at jeanne@lagrangefumc.org or 706-884-4635.

Youth Ministry

CJ Lord, Director, cj@lagrangefumc.org

FUMC Friends and Family,

The end of the semester is fast approaching, and here at FUMC the Student Ministry Program is ready for the holidays!

Recently, the Student Ministry hosted the Pairs and Spares Sunday School class for a potluck dinner. It was a wonderful night, and I believe that it was a glimpse into what the Kingdom of Heaven looks like. People of all ages, being able to serve, love, and worship Christ together. With a great turnout from both groups, the students and the adults were able to learn a lot about each other. Hopefully, these relationships will continue to grow!

We are winding down our Wednesday night programming for the year. This Sunday, December 17th, we will have a Christmas party with those who are in the Safe Families for Children program. The Safe Families' program assists families who are on the brink of entering into the foster care system. This Sunday, from 4:30-6:30 in the MMC, the youth along with children and adults from Safe Families, will play games, do a service project, and will enjoy a hot chocolate bar! We hope you can join us! After our party, we will go to the Sanctuary to participate in Carols by Candlelight.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 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*

Non Profit Periodical
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 079260
 LaGrange, GA 30240

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, December 3

Sunday School.....174
 Worship Service.....286

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, December 10

Sunday School.....207
 Worship Service.....317

HOLLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church offices will close Monday & Tuesday, December 25th & 26th; and Monday, January 1st for the holidays. If you have a Pastoral emergency, call 888-456-1203.

Thursday Lunch Club
 The Thursday Lunch Club luncheon will not be held in January. The next luncheon will be on February 1, 2018, featuring the Valdez Brothers.


SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24th Morning Service
 10:30am, 4th Sunday of Advent
 Combined Worship, Sanctuary
No Sunday School

Christmas Eve Services
 5:00pm, Candlelight Family & Children's Service, Sanctuary
 11:00pm, Candlelight Communion Service, Sanctuary

New Year's Eve, December 31st
 10:30am, Combined Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
*No Sunday School
 No Children's Church*

OUR SYMPATHY
 We extend our sympathy to Jean Edwards in the death of her brother,
Preston DUBYAK, November 2, 2017.

 **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.

Calendar for December 17 - December 23

Sunday	* Nursery
* Worship Services	
* 10:00am	Sunday School
Monday	
11:30am-12:00	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday	
9:00am	Community Care
11:00am	Dulcimers Class
7:00pm	Boy Scouts
7:00pm	THE BRIDGE Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	
9:30am	Explorers Bible Study
11:30am	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm	Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal
5:45pm	Children's Wednesday Program
6:00pm	Bible Study - David
6:00pm	Mid & Sr. High Youth Small Groups
6:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	
9:00am	Community Care
9:45am	Prayer Ministry
10:00am	Dulcimers Rehearsal
Friday	
7:00am	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	

Calendar for December 24 - December 30

Sunday	* Nursery
* 10:30am	Combined Worship Service
No Sunday School	
5:00pm	Children & Families Candlelight Service
11:00pm	Candlelight Communion Service
Monday	
Church Offices Closed for Christmas	
Tuesday	
Church Offices Closed for Christmas	
Wednesday	
11:30am	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
Thursday	
9:00am	Community Care
9:45am	Prayer Ministry
10:00am	Dulcimers Rehearsal
Friday	
7:00am	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	

Calendar for December 31

Sunday	* Nursery
* 10:30am	Combined Worship Service
No Sunday School, No Children's Church	

*Merry Christmas and
 Happy New Year*

from your staff at First Methodist!
**Brian, Blake, Darian, Lisa, Dodie,
 Jeanne, Rick, Andy, Cindy, Eddie,
 Greg, CJ, & Boley**

**Enclosed in this Flame issue is a
 listing of all those individuals
 honored through our
 Poinsettias and Christmas Decorations.**



*First United Methodist Church
Christmas Decorations
2017*

In Memory Of:

Robert Cammon
Cliff Cammon
Alden & Helen Peterson
Ralph T. Johnson
John Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Eidson
Dick Willey
Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Willey, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Hartzell
Marjorie Wilder Collins
Marguerite Smallwood
Sherry Patterson
Florence & Charlie Patterson, and Howard Patterson
Frances & James Thornton, and Frank Thornton
Edna & Dewitt Kelly, and Sue Ann Tyson
Gene Davis
Pearle Dunson Sims
Jimmy Sims
Lamar Wadsworth
Walter Lukken
Jeff Hagood
Rev. Sidney Tate
Sammie Jones
George Deane Allen
John & Sarah Soltis
Jennifer Soltis Trizzino
David Soltis
Ethel & Pete Wyche
John Huckstep
Tim Huckstep
Steve Bledsoe
Edd, Eddie, & Nona Cooper
Ann Seevers
O.C. Seevers
Wilma Biagi
Hugh Biagi
My Granddaughter, Angelia Dunaway
John Varner
Phyllis Martin Enright
John Alford Jones
Betty Jackson
Margie Williamson
Edgar Williamson
Greg Williamson

By:

Mike & Nancy Peterson
Mike & Nancy Peterson
Mike & Nancy Peterson
Janet Johnson & Family
Virginia Eidson Robertson
Virginia Eidson Robertson
Jane Willey
Jane Willey
Jane Willey
Perry & Ann Wilder
Perry & Ann Wilder
Her Family
Their Family
Their Family
Dodie Patterson & Family
Sylvia Davis
Elizabeth Sims
Elizabeth Sims
Jennie Wadsworth
Peggy Lukken
Peggy Lukken
Enid S. Tate
Fred Jones
Anne Childs Allen
Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben
Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben
Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben
Janet Wyche
The Huckstep Family
The Huckstep Family
Judy & Bernard Bledsoe
Sheryl Cooper
Davie & Jim Biagi
Davie & Jim Biagi
Davie & Jim Biagi
Davie & Jim Biagi
Betty Ward
His Family
Sharon & Alan Jones
Sharon & Alan Jones
The Lovejoy & Fritchley Families
Susan Langford
Susan Langford
Susan Langford

In Memory Of:

Cliff Cammon
Robert Cammon
Tom Stanley III
Tim Stanley
Raymond & Madelyn Holmes and Branson &
Sarah Chandler
Don Rainey
Kelly Richard Linch, Jr.
W. B. Houze, Jr.
George Allen
Sam Rainey
David Rainey
Windy Lupien
Jeff Hagood
Robert B. Cammon
Cliff Cammon
Guinn Vaughn
John & Suzanne Schuessler
Lydia Helms

By:

Dorothy & Bobby Cammon; Margaret, Tim, Caroline &
Ben Sanders
Dorothy & Bobby Cammon; Margaret, Tim, Caroline &
Ben Sanders
Debra Redden
Debra Redden
Ray & Sally Holmes
Quin Rainey
Kelly & Carole Linch
Jason & Stacey Weldon
Jason & Stacey Weldon
Faye & Cliff Rainey
Faye & Cliff Rainey
Faye & Cliff Rainey
Faye & Cliff Rainey
Hildred Cammon
Hildred Cammon
His Family
Mark & Suzie Highland
Mark & Suzie Highland

In Honor Of:

Bryson, Laegan, & Bella Smith
Oleeta Aspinwall and Prayer Group
Hildred Cammon
Office Volunteers
Carol Freeman
Tee Borders
James Tyler Jackson, Jr. "Jay"
Lindsey Jackson
Tyler Jackson
Connor Jackson
Maggie, Trae, Susan, Drew, & Ella Holmes
Chase & Beth Parmer
Hildred Cammon
Reaunette Vaughn
Martha Nix
Hildred Cammon
Mrs. Martha Stanley
My family, Andy, Esther, Will, Matt, and Elizabeth
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Y. Murphy
Our Grandchildren
Michael, Audrey, & John Hayes
Elizabeth & Matthew Hayes

By:

Trish Smith
Creighton & Miriam Kelly
Jane Willey
Dodie Patterson
Elizabeth Sims
Elizabeth Sims
Libba Trawick
Debra & Dean Jackson
Debra & Dean Jackson
Debra & Dean Jackson
Ray & Sally Holmes
Mrs. Bernice Strickland
Dorothy, Bobby Cammon; Margaret, Tim, Caroline &
Ben Sanders
A Church Friend
A Church Friend
A Church Friend
Debra Redden
Quin Rainey
Steve & Caryn Cole
Molly & Bobby Carmichael
Mark & Suzie Highland
Mark & Suzie Highland