



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

December 3, 2017

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

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

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

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

December 10, 2017

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

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

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

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

**4:00 to 7:00 pm
Nativity Festival
(begin on Trinity Street)**

**Child care is provided.*

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

1 CORINTHIANS 13 -- CHRISTMAS VERSION

"Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen cannot love God whom they have not seen." (1 John 4:20)

"If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shining balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my relatives, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my spouse and in-laws, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crystal snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ in my own household, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child or grandchild. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse or call the relative. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love to our families (and all people) will endure."

As we prepare for the coming of Christmas, I pray that we will all recall love as the greatest gift we can offer each other, especially as we give it in and among each other as the family of God!

Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

HOMEBOUND CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

As part of his annual tradition, our Senior Pastor will be sharing Holy Communion with all of our church's local Homebound members prior to Christmas. Homebound members: please be on the lookout for him to come and visit with you. To verify you are on our homebound list, or if you have a specific time that you'd prefer he visit, please contact the Church Office at (706-884-4635) or email churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

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

WEW Meal on December 6, 2017

Menu: Chicken Parmesan Casserole, Corn on the Cob,
Salad Bar, Dessert.

Children: Hot Dogs & PB & J sandwiches

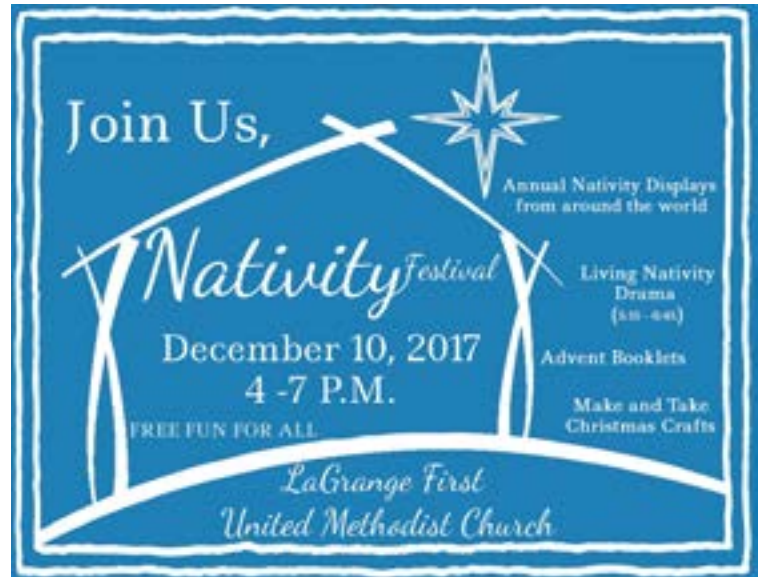
WEW Meal on December 13, 2017

Menu: Breakfast for Dinner

Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

Call or email the church office at 884-4635 by NOON
on MONDAY to make your meal reservation.

Cost: \$0 for those 2 years & under, \$3 for those
3 years-12th grade, and \$6 for adults.



REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorials

Mr. Raymond Rambo - Nancy & Mike Peterson

Mr. Fred Willingham - Nancy & Mike Peterson

A Security Update

A house of worship was once considered to be one of the safest places to be. The times in which we live today, however, seem to have brought the world, with its crime and uncertainty, right into the place we deem most sacred. In a further attempt to ensure the safety and security of staff, visitors, and worshipers at LaGrange First, members of our Security Committee have recently met and will soon implement many changes on campus.

The beginning of these changes consists of enhanced security measures within our Children's Building, slightly modifying the times in which exterior doors on campus will be accessible, completely restricting access to our buildings through a small percentage of exterior doors, and the installation of hardware which will allow nearly all of our interior doors to be locked should a crisis situation arise on campus. There will be new training for our Staff and Usher Team members on the use of portable radio devices during worship services and Sunday School hours.

While we are also working on additional measures for the near future, these are a good start. If there are other specific safety improvements that you would like members of our Security Committee to consider, please email the Church Office at churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org or the Security Committee directly at safety@lagrangefumc.org.

Help FUMC Spread the Spirit of Christmas!



The Evangelism Committee is hosting a community outreach, offering free gift wrapping on the Plaza of the Chamber of Commerce (*across from the fountain*), from 11 am till 5 pm on Friday, December 8th, and Saturday, December 9th. If you enjoy wrapping gifts and can help for a couple of hours on one or both of these days, please call Lea Rawlinson at 706-333-8446 or Terri Cook at 770-548-3918.

**YOU'RE INVITED to 2017 Leadership LaGrange
Saturday, December 9, 9:00am to 12:30pm**

2018 Leaders Please Mark Your Calendar for our "LEADERSHIP LAGRANGE," Saturday, December 9, 9:00am-12:30pm

9:00 -10:45 am (Fellowship Hall) – General leadership orientation meeting for all new and returning 2018 church leaders, as well as anyone else who desires to learn more about our church leadership structure and processes.

11:00am – 11:45pm (Fellowship Hall) – Church Council Member Orientation (For all 2018 Church Council members)

12Noon - 12:30 pm (Chapel) – Leadership Commissioning Service (for all new AND returning leaders)

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 5th. A list of all those honored will appear in *The Flame* printed on December 12th.

In Honor _____

In Memory _____

Of: _____

By: _____

Children's Ministry

Jeanne Jones, Director, jeanne@lagrangefumc.com.

Our children were busy serving in November. With the help of the church body, we delivered 90 filled boxes to the Operation Christmas Child distribution center. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event. If you didn't see the children perform their Mayflower skit on November 15th, you missed a treat. The FUMC children did a fabulous job acting out and retelling the story of the first Thanksgiving.



If your child would like to take part in the Christmas Nativity being presented on December 24th during the 5:00 p.m. service, please email Jeanne Jones. There will be one rehearsal on December 23rd from 9-10 a.m. in the sanctuary. There is a part for everyone who would like to participate.

Be sure to put these December events on your calendar and invite your friends.

- December 6** – Miss Merry Christmas will be our special guest at the Wednesday Night Kid's Program
- December 10** – Live Nativity – children will have a craft section just for them
- December 13** – Children's Christmas Party – bring diapers and wipes for the Methodist Children's Home
- December 20 & 27th** – No Wednesday Night Program
- December 23** – Rehearsal for Children's Nativity, 9-10 a.m.
- December 24** – Children's Nativity presented during the 5:00 Candlelight Worship Service

UMW CHRISTMAS BANQUET

The UMW Christmas Banquet will be held on Monday, December 4th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall with special music by Callie Hammond.

Thursday Lunch Club December 7th, 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall



First Baptist Church on the Square's New Horizon Choir

For reservations for the meal & program call or email the church at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.
Cost is \$6 per person. All are welcome!

Carels by Candlelight

December 17, 2017

6:30pm

LaGrange First United Methodist Church
Chancel Choir with Orchestra

DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

9am & 11am "Traditional" – COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Are you tired of the rat race of the popular Christmas season? ...the hustle and bustle that today's holiday has become? Well, beyond the tinsel and the garland is a need for each of us to reconnect with what is familiar and real, both in our families and in our faith. No matter where life's journey has taken us, Christmas is the time to come home. In this Advent sermon series, Dr. Germano will help us explore attitudes and spiritual postures that can better equip us to deal with the stress of the holidays and to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Offered each Sunday at our 9am Chapel and 11am Sanctuary Traditional worship services.

10:55am "THE BRIDGE" – The Messengers of Christmas

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of social media. Their messages were often short and to the point with their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. Join Rev. Trent as we look at the stories of these Christmas messengers. Throughout this series, we will reflect upon what their words mean for us and how we can bring about #MoreHope, #MorePeace, #MoreJoy to all the world.



THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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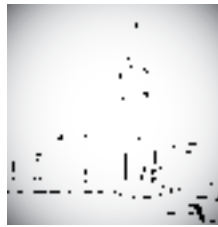
E-Mail address churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org
 Web Site: www.lagrangefumc.org
www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com

Postmaster: Send Address Change to
 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
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 PERMIT NO. 079260
 LaGrange, GA 30240

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, November 19

Sunday School.....159
 Worship Service.....257

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, November 26

Sunday School.....121
 Worship Service.....235



God Gave YOU Spiritual Gifts

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?

Watch for registration information coming your way soon.



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.

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.

Calendar for December 3 - December 9

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
12:00.....	FUMC Leaders Edge
Monday	
11:30am-12:00.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
6:00pm.....	United Methodist Women's Christmas Banquet
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
11:00am.....	Dulcimers Class
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
7:00pm.....	THE BRIDGE Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
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
12:00.....	Thursday Lunch Club
5:30pm.....	Board of Trustees
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	
9:00am.....	Leadership LaGrange

Calendar for December 10 - December 16

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
12:00.....	NATIVITY FESTIVAL..... 4:00 TO 7:00 PM
Monday	
11:30am-12:00am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
5:45pm.....	Stewardship Committee
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
11:00am.....	Dulcimers Class
6:00pm.....	Church Council
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	

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY
 WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve
 December 24th**

10:30am, Combined Worship Service,
 Sanctuary

No Sunday School, No Children's Church

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

11:00pm, Candlelight Communion
 Service

**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
 Jimmy & Beth Doerr and Family in
 the death of his brother, **Jeff Doerr,**
November 26, 2017.

Advent 2017

Daily Scripture and Reflections for the Sacred Season

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Keep Awake! We do not know when our Lord and Master will return, so we watch and wait for him. <i>Mark 13:33-37</i>	4 Walk in the Light Pray to the Prince of Peace to grant his peace among the nations of the world. <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i>	5 The Shoot of Jesse The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Jesus, and he will judge the nations. <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>	6 Jesus Has Compassion We glorify God because of the healing that our compassionate Savior brings. <i>Matthew 15:29-37</i>	7 Build on the Rock Withstand the storms of life by building on the words of Jesus our Savior. <i>Matthew 7:21, 24-27</i>	8 Mary's Holy Son Give thanks and praise to God for Mary's Son, the Holy One, the Son of God. <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	9 Praise Our God God gathers the outcasts, heals the broken-hearted and lifts up the humble. <i>Psalms 147:1-6</i>
10 Comfort My People Our Lord God will feed his flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs in his arms. <i>Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11</i>	11 The Holy Way The redeemed of the Lord will enter his presence in everlasting joy. <i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i>	12 Worship Him We worship the Holy Child, who will rule the nations with a rod of iron. <i>Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6, 10</i>	13 Bless the Lord! The Lord is merciful and forgiving; he crowns us with his mercy and love. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 8, 10</i>	14 In the Spirit of Elijah John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah to proclaim the coming of the Lord. <i>Matthew 11:11-15</i>	15 Delight in the Law Delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night. <i>Psalms 1:1-2, 3-4, 6</i>	16 Restore Us, Lord! The Lord shines the light of his face on us and we are saved. <i>Psalms 80:2-6c and 3b, 15-16, 18-19</i>
17 Witness to the Light We are called to be witnesses to Jesus our Savior, the Light of the world. <i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</i>	18 Name Him Jesus Joseph was to name the holy Child Jesus, for Mary's son would save his people. <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	19 Repent of Your Sins John the Baptist came to turn the hearts of the people to the Lord their God. <i>Luke 1:5-25</i>	20 The Son Immanuel The son to be born will be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us." <i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i>	21 Rejoice in the Lord Mary is blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of her womb. <i>Luke 1:39-45</i>	22 Magnify the Lord! The Lord will lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. <i>Luke 1:46-56</i>	23 A Refiner's Fire The messenger of the covenant will be like a refiner's fire, purifying his people. <i>Malachi 3:1-4, 4:5-6</i>
24 The Son of David The Lord will raise up a Son of David and will establish his kingdom forever. <i>2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14-16</i>	25 Good News! How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news, who say, "Your God reigns!" <i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i>					

For God ... has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. - 2 Corinthians 4:6

11/7/2017

LaGrange First UMC Members and Friends,

For over 20 years, our church has hosted our annual **Nativity Festival** to honor the coming of Jesus who was not only born as "God-in-flesh-on-earth," but as he who seeks to be born to live in *our* hearts, as well! This year, we will once again be hosting this special community-wide event on **Sunday, December 10 from 4-7pm.**

As you may already be aware, this year we are transforming our Festival by adding outside events such as a Living Nativity, food booths, children's arts and crafts, and other interactive holiday experiences. We still need volunteers and helpers for these parts of the event.

However, even with these changes, the heart of our Festival will continue to be the offering of beautiful exhibits of art, sculpture, and crèches/nativity sets (manger scenes). Consequently, I want to invite you to join my family and me in displaying your nativities and artwork as we invite our community to celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus our Lord.

If you have items of any sort (nativity sets, angels, sculptures, or other artwork) to loan for the exhibit, please fill out the form below and mail it to the church, drop it off in the church office, or call or Dodie Patterson at the church office (706-884-4635, churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org). We ask that you bring your exhibit to the Church Office on Sunday, December 3rd, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon or on Monday, December 4th, from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Please contact Dodie to schedule a drop-off time if these hours are not convenient for you.

The exhibit will be displayed in the church sanctuary Sunday, December 10th, 9am-12Noon, and during the Festival itself from 4:00 – 7:00 pm, and exhibits should be picked up on Monday, December 11th, between 8:30am-4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to volunteer for any other part of this year's Nativity Festival or to find out more information, please contact our event coordinator Wanda-Ann Kinnaman through the church office.

In the meantime, please invite your neighbors to this special family-oriented experience as we celebrate the nativity of Christ!

In Christ,

Pastor Brian

Rev. Dr. Brian Germano, Senior Pastor

Exhibitor:			
Address:			
City, ST Zip:			
Telephone:	() -	Home: <input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile: <input type="checkbox"/>
		Work: <input type="checkbox"/>	

Nativity Painting Sculpture Other _____

All loaned items should have the exhibitor's name
All paintings must be framed or matted

Interesting Facts:	Handcrafted; <input type="checkbox"/>	Unique Material; _____
	Made In; _____	Other; _____
No. of Pieces:		
Brief Description: (Include artist and title if known)		

Signature: _____ Date _____