



1828

December 4, 2016

***Morning Glory
8:45am in the Fellowship Hall**

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

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

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

December 11, 2016

***Morning Glory
8:45am in the Fellowship Hall**

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

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

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

December 18, 2016

***Morning Glory
8:45am in the Fellowship Hall**

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

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

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

**Child care is provided.*

Mark your calendar

**Christmas Eve, Sanctuary Services
5:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M.**

**** 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 ages 1st grade and younger. Children attending the early services will dismiss to the Small Dining Room in the MMC building; 11:00am service children will dismiss to Room 203 in the Children's building.

THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

TRAVEL TIPS FOR ADVENT

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3)

The Christian season of Advent (the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day) is often called a season of preparation. Not only are we preparing for the holiday of Christmas *physically* (with decorations, Christmas cards, shopping, parties, etc.) but also *spiritually* (by looking within ourselves for how God wants us to grow in our love towards Him and others).

With that in mind, a number of years ago I read an article detailing several "travel tips" that can help us spiritually "prepare" for our "journey" through Advent:

1) **PACK LIGHTLY**: One of the indicators that our annual Christmas buying neurosis has gone wrong is this idea that those who give the most, and get the most, matter the most. Such mistaken reasoning leads us to teach our children that Christmas is the annual bash we put on for ourselves, all the while trying to believe Bethlehem's boy child is the "reason for the season." ...But this myth can't be disguised forever. This year, why not pack lightly? Rather than "shopping til you drop," drop to your knees and ask the One Who Comes what he would have you do to make ready HIS coming.

2) **WALK SLOWLY**: Am I the only person who notices how rushed we get the closer "it" gets? Was it only a few weeks ago that we started seeing signs saying "only 44 more days"? Slow down. Take time to sip cider with your mate. Hug your kids. Tell them the Advent-Christmas story and then live the story before them. Refuse to sing *Silent Night* from a noisy heart. Simply put, make the powerful emotions of these days your *servants*, not your *master*.

3) **LISTEN CAREFULLY**: Someone you love very much is talking, saying something really important, maybe even life-changing. Listen carefully and, who knows, you may hear the night wind speak to the little lamb saying "a child is born." I can't prove it, much less illustrate it, but I'm almost certain that most of us on the journey miss half the joy because we're too busy talking; the sound of our own importance has drowned out the promise of "*I am coming soon.*"

4) **LOOK WISTFULLY**: Where, you ask, should I look? My best advice is: none of the obvious places. Those who traffic in seasonal things know what easy prey most of us are. "*Get them in the stores, turn on the music and lights, plop the man dressed in red in the middle of it all and, bingo, it's Christmas.*" But the truth is that only those who look wistfully beyond what IS to the One who COMES really experience the mystery and miracle of Advent. Why? Because Advent is a journey we take into the reality of the journey God made in Christ. That journey, which included stops at such places as a stable, a hillside, a cross, and an empty tomb, had one purpose: to love the likes of you and me back to the God who created us.

So, journey on, fully aware that at destination's end is the one who loves you and gave himself for you. "*Even so, come Lord Jesus!*"

[--Shared by Dr. Timothy Owings in an editorial in The Augusta Chronicle newspaper (August, GA), Dec. 1997]

As we continue to prepare for Christmas this Advent season, I invite you to allow these "tips" to become a reality in your life, as I seek to have them do in my own! Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

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

WEW Meal on December 7, 2016

Menu: BBQ, baked beans, corn on the cob, salad bar, dessert

Children: Nachos & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on December 14, 2016

Menu: Hamburgers, Hotdogs & trimmings, no 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.

December 14th will be the last WEW until we resume on January 4, 2017.

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorials

Mrs. Sammie Jones - Hildred Cammon, Faye & Cliff Rainey, Jane & Gary Stephens, John & Rocio Lancaster, HCC Ladies Golf Association, Terry Gautsch, Pat & Pearce Wyche

Mrs. Frances Thornton - Ellen & Mike Dobbs

Mr. Tom McLaughlin - Donna & Jay Fager

Mr. Bobby Dodgen (Sharon McLaughlin's Nephew) - Virginia Robertson

Mr. John Myers (Richard Myers' Brother) - Sam & Heather Graham

Mrs. Pearle Simmons - Faye & Cliff Rainey

SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25th

Combined Worship Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
No Sunday School, No Children's Church

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1st

Combined Worship Service 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall



**THE NATIVITY
God's Gift to Humanity**

•First United Methodist Church
December 7 & 8 and December 11, 2016
Wednesday & Thursday, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.
and Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

•Vernon Woods Retirement Community,
101 Vernon Woods Drive
Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Throughout December

**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. Be on the lookout for him to come and visit with you.



Children's Ministry

Open Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, December 4
4:00-5:30pm, MMC

This meeting is open to any and all interested in our church's children's ministry.

United Methodist Men's December Breakfast

Please join us for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 10th at 8:00am in the small dining room. The program will be presented by **Laura Jennings**, Director of marketing for the Biblical History Center (formerly the Explorations in Antiquity Center). See you on the 10th.

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 12th. A list of all those honored will appear in the Flame printed on December 20th.

In Honor _____

In Memory _____

Of: _____

By: _____



WHAT'S IN A FACE?

A face can tell much about us: our hopes, joys, cares and concerns. Join Pastors Brian and Blake each Sunday of Advent in a new series called The Faces of Christmas as they explore what the faces of the biblical Christmas story can teach us about our life and relationship with God. Best of all, experience how the face of Christ can touch your heart this holiday season!

- Dec. 4 - *The Faces of FAITH: The Shepherds* (Luke 2:8-20)
Reclaiming the sharing of our faith
- Dec. 11 - *The Faces of PRAISE: Angels* (Luke 2:13-14)
Discovering the power of praise
- Dec. 18 - *The Faces of ACCEPTANCE: Mary & Joseph*
(Matthew 1:18-25)
Uncovering the power of acceptance & surrender to God

The Angel Tree

All Angel gifts for this year's ministry need to be returned to the Fellowship Hall no later than Tuesday, December 13th. The Salvation Army will pick up gifts on Wednesday, December 14th.

Please remember to 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. **Thank You!**



The Angel you take will receive only the gifts purchased for that child. Thank you for supporting this ministry of First Methodist.



Dave Ramsey's FINANCIAL PEACE

LaGrange First UMC would like to host the **Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Course** again this coming January. This is a 9-week course. Please call or email the church office at churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org or 706-884-4635 to sign up or to get more information. **Please share this with your friends.**

Children's Ministry Schedule

Sunday, December 4th

- Sunday School & Children's Church
- Children's Town Hall Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7th

- Children's Choir Practice & MERGE, 5:45pm

Sunday, December 11th

- Sunday School & Children's Church

Wednesday, December 14th

- Children's Christmas Party, 5:45pm
(There will be snacks & crafts, and a visit from Santa!)

Sunday, December 18th

- Sunday School & Children's Church
- Children's Choir sings at 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, December 21st

- No Wednesday evening activities for kids

Christmas Eve, December 24th

- Children's Christmas Pageant, 5:00pm Service, Sanctuary

Youth Ministry

Sunday night, Dec. 4th the Youth Group will have a Potluck Dinner with the Builder's Sunday School Class. Start time is 6:00 p.m. in the MMC – pick up is at 8:30. Senior High youth will bring side dishes, and Mid High youth will bring desserts. The adults will bring chicken fingers, and the church will provide the drinks. After dinner, we will go shopping for our two Salvation Army angels. Please bring \$5 to \$10 to help with buying the gifts.

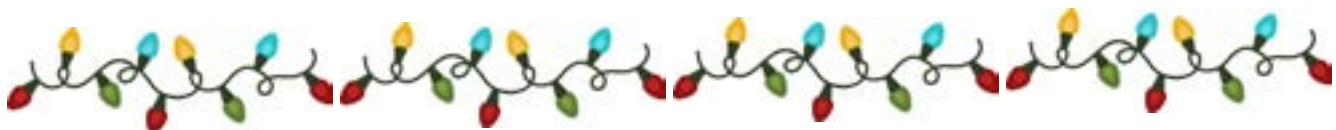
Christmas Parties are scheduled for Wed., Dec. 21st at 5:30. Senior High's party is at Brickhouse and Mid High's party is at Los Nopales. More details to come.

If you are not on the NEW youth email list, please send your contact info to fumcyouthlagrange@gmail.com.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:30pm in the small dining room. For those who will roll off the Council with this last meeting of the year, we say **Thank You** for your service in leading our church family so faithfully.

2016 Leadership LaGrange FUMC
December 10th, 9:00am to 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall & Chapel. The 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!



THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

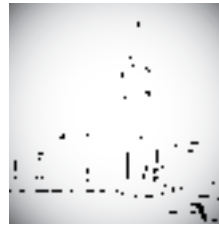
401 Broad Street
 LaGrange, Georgia 30240
 Tel: (706) 884-4635 Fax: (706) 845-7068
 After-Hours Pastoral Emergencies: 888-456-1203
 E-Mail address churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org
 Web Site: www.lagrangefumc.org
www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com

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

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
 Mr. Eddie Giddens.....Custodian
 Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager
 Mr. Scott Hill (ext 213).....Landscape/Maintenance
 Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
 Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Interim Director of Mid High Youth
 Mrs. Patti Lybrand (ext 203).....Church Secretary
 Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
 Mr. Harrison Pollard (ext 215).....Interim Director of Senior High Youth
 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*

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Our Rosebuds

Our rosebud November 20th was in honor of **Larkin Emilia Selbie**, born **November 10, 2016**, the daughter of Leah & David Selbie, the granddaughter of Sue Larkin and Joanna & Ric Selbie.

Our rosebud on Sunday, December 4th is in honor of **John Michael Hayes II**, born **November 26, 2016**, the son of Audrey & Michael Hayes, the grandson of Suzie & Mark Highland and Lenora & David Hayes.

In Memoriam
Sammie Jones
November 21, 2016

In Memoriam
Myrtle Renfroe
April 30, 1916

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the following.

Sharon McLaughlin & family in the death of her husband,
Tom McLaughlin, November 10, 2016.

Jim Thornton & Jane Upchurch & families in the death of their
 grandmother, **Frances Thornton, November 16, 2016.**

Gary & Laurie Wilder & family in the death of Gary’s mother,
Ruth Wilder, November 24, 2016.

Debbie & Sandy Simmons & family in the death of Debbie’s
 step-brother, **Don Cope, November 25, 2016.**

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, November 13

Stop Hunger Now.....233
 Worship Service.....241

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, November 20

Sunday School.....209
 Worship Service.....287

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, November 27

Sunday School.....207
 Worship Service.....289

	October	Year-to-Date
Budgeted Receipts	\$95,470	\$996,502
Actual Receipts	\$117,158	\$970,678

Budgeted Expenses	\$101,632	\$1,033,504
Actual Expenses	\$107,977	\$999,157

Calendar for December 4 - December 10

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
12:15pm.....	Leader’s Edge Meeting
4:00pm.....	Children’s Ministry Open Town Hall Meeting
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
5:00pm.....	UMW Executive Board
6:00pm.....	UMW Christmas Banquet
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
12:30pm.....	Red Cross Blood Drive
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
2:00-7:00pm.....	Nativity Festival
4:00pm.....	Youth Activities
5:30pm.....	Handbell Choir
5:45pm.....	M.E.R.G.E & Children’s Choir & Connections Class
6:00pm.....	Believe Bible Study
Thursday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Class
2:00-7:00pm.....	Nativity Festival
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men’s Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	
8:00am.....	Men’s Breakfast
9:00am.....	Leadership LaGrange FUMC

Calendar for December 11 - December 17

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*9:45am.....	Sunday School
12:00-5:00pm.....	Nativity Festival
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
6:30pm.....	Church Council
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
4:00pm.....	Youth Activities
5:30pm.....	Handbell Choir
5:45pm.....	M.E.R.G.E & Children’s Choir
6:00pm.....	Believe Bible Study
Thursday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Class
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men’s Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	

Calendar for December 18 - December 24

Sunday	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
6:30pm.....	Carols by Candlelight Christmas Musical Program
Monday	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
Tuesday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
5:30pm.....	Evangelism & Worship Committees
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
Thursday	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
Friday	
7:00am.....	Men’s Coffee & Prayer Group
Saturday	
5:00pm.....	Candlelight Family & Children’s Service
11:00pm.....	Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day
 Combined Worship Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 1st - New Year’s Day
 Combined Worship Service 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall