



# THE FLAME

The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

**Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING**

**January 2019**

## THE GATE OF THE YEAR

"The Gate of the Year" is the popular name given to a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins. The title given to it by the author was "God Knows." Written in 1908 and privately published in 1912, the poem caught the public's attention when King George VI, father of the present Queen, quoted part of it in his 1939 Christmas radio broadcast to the British Empire.

As we begin a new year together, I share these faith-filled lines with you.

### "God Knows"

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied:  
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.*

## THE CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE

Would you make an investment in your spiritual growth in 2019? Join me in reading the Bible from a unique perspective – chronologically! I especially like "**The One Year Chronological Bible**," available on Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle, which organizes the Holy Scriptures in story form from the glory of creation to our glorious redemption in Jesus Christ. The daily readings generally take 15 or 20 minutes to read.

Two translations are available, the **New International Version** (NIV) and the **New Living Translation** (NLT). Both are faithful to the meaning and message of God's matchless Word. The NIV is more formal in grammar and sentence structure while the NLT is less formal and a bit more colloquial in style.

Let's join in reading through God's Word together in the coming year.

## THE LORD'S TABLE

On Christmas Eve, we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the newly constructed **Lord's Table**. This magnificent piece was crafted to exacting detail by **Dr. Andy Wilkerson**. Note how the design matches the detail of the High Altar with amazing accuracy. The intricacy of the two unique molding patterns is remarkable. The goal of this piece was to match the architecture of the Chancel as though it were in place when the Sanctuary was consecrated in 1964.

While this piece may be properly termed the Low Altar or the Communion Table, we have chosen John Wesley's term, the **Lord's Table**.

At the **High Altar**, we celebrate the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, "**For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us**" (1 Corinthians 5:7). John the Baptist breaks forth and declares, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world**" (John 1:29).

At the **Lord's Table**, we are invited to receive the benefits imputed to us through His sacrifice. The Lord Jesus Himself sets the table of **saving** and **sanctifying grace** for us to receive by faith. By His grace, we may enter the Holy of Holies by a new and life-giving way. By His grace, we may draw near to the heart of God because His shed blood gives us confidence and boldness to do so (Hebrews 10:19-23). By His grace, we may draw close to one another and are strengthened in fellowship as believers (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

Remember how much I love you ...  
It's an honor to be your Senior Minister!

Dr. John Beyers



### Cub Scout Pack 21

The Cub Scouts in Pack 21, which is sponsored by our church, celebrated with a Christmas skating party. Each scout brought a new gift to donate to Toys for Tots.



### Congregational Care Corner

Our Lay Visitation Ministry provides support and inspiration to fellow Church members who are unable to attend Church/Sunday School over an extended amount of time.

Laura Harlin and her 19 volunteers prepared and delivered "Christmas angel bags" this Christmas season to the home bound members who have monthly visits and to some of the members on the "watch" list. The "Christmas angel bags" contained: a pine cone Christmas tree, a bag of Christmas candy, note paper & a marker, a Christmas card made by the FUMC children, a copy of the *The Tale of Three Trees* story, and a Christmas poem by Ruth Murray. About 25 bags were delivered the week before Christmas by Laura and her volunteers.

Christmas can be a lonely time for those that are home bound. This remembrance as well as a card or call from you means the world to these church members. The lay volunteers reassure these members that their Church family cares about them personally and that they are not forgotten after long absences.

If you know of a home bound member who is not contacted by us, please contact the Church Office or Laura Harlin at 706 812 9837 or [mckeeharlin@gmail.com](mailto:mckeeharlin@gmail.com). Also, men volunteers are needed as our home bound men often prefer to have a man visit or call.

### The Lord's Table

Thank you Dr. Andy Wilkerson for constructing the **Lord's Table**. It is a magnificent piece of work, crafted in exacting detail to match the High Altar.



### The Altar Guild

#### Dedicated to Glorifying God in our Worship Areas

**What an exciting year for the Altar Guild!** Our members stayed busy in 2018 and look forward to the opportunity to continue being a part of the life at First United Methodist Church by helping to show the love and respect for Christian worship experiences to everyone that enters here.

**The next meeting of the Guild is Tuesday, January 22, at 10:00 am in the Chapel** with an encore meeting the following Wednesday at 5:30pm for anyone who can't attend the morning meeting.

Please come join us. Everyone can participate in the work of the Altar Guild. If you have any questions don't hesitate to email or call the Church Office at [churchoffice@lagrang-efumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrang-efumc.org) or 706-884-4635.

Davie Biagi, Co-Chairperson

## New Year, New Goals, New Small Group & Bible Study for YOU!

Beginning Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 to 7:00 pm  
Location:  
Childcare provided



Make your first "best yes" for 2019

1. Add "Best Yes" to your calendar: Wednesdays, 6 - 7 PM
2. Order "Best Yes" from your favorite bookseller
3. Invite a friend

Cure the disease to please  
Escape the guilt of disappointing others  
Overcome the agony of hard choices



Questions? Debra Jackson [[jacksoned@troup.org](mailto:jacksoned@troup.org)] or Abbey Dockins [[AbbeyDockins@gmail.com](mailto:AbbeyDockins@gmail.com)]

# FUMC STUDENT MINISTRIES



We kicked off the month of December with a combined breakfast and Sunday school with the Epiphany Class on December 2. We joined the Sleep in Heavenly Peace ministry on Sunday, December 9 to build beds for children in our community who do not have. **We built 10 Beds!**

We ended the semester with our Youth Group Christmas party on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>!

During the month of January, C.J. will be traveling to Costa Rica for a Mission/Immersion trip which is a College class. Stay posted on social media and check your emails for frequent updates on how his trip is going.

Anabeth Ivey will be the point person for all Youth related activities for the month of January. Please remember to turn in your money and forms for the Student Life Retreat to Anabeth. Direct all your questions to Anabeth!

**We are asking members of the church for drinks, such as juice boxes and Capri Suns, for Blessings in a Bookbag this month. Thank you so much for supporting this meaningful ministry.**

## 2019...A Year to Get Involved

After slipping out of our Carols by Candlelight service a little early, I had the joy of going over to Martha Pirkle and Tom's house. They were hosting a group of our 9th grade girls from FUMC LaGrange. We played Jenga, Spoons, had a Hot Chocolate bar, and so much more.

This past summer, I asked Martha and Tom at the last minute if they would be able and willing to attend an 8th grade mystery trip with the youth group. They agreed and have since built lasting relationships with these young women. Tonight, Martha let us know that the house she lives in now is the same one she grew up in. She also attended FUMC LaGrange since she was little and even attended while His Excellency, Bishop Bevel Jones, was the Sr. Minister. She shared how impactful FUMC has been in her life and how she hopes it is as transforming for each of those young ladies. She showed us a book she received from her 2nd Grade Sunday School Class and her Confirmation Bible. Ms. Martha, you are one of the reasons why our great church is still transforming the lives of young men and women. Ms. Martha is the epitome of what our students need in their lives: lasting relationships with adults in the congregation, whose lives have been transformed by the message of the Gospel. Thank you Ms. Martha for hosting these ladies and for showing them the love of Jesus. It is my hope and prayer that more adults in churches all over will follow Martha and Tom's lead and simply be present in the lives of young women and men.

Maybe in 2019, YOU are looking for ways for God to use you. Volunteering with the student ministry might be just the place. However, we are looking for more than just volunteers and chaperones. We want to assist you in building lifelong relationships with young women and men. Join our team and see just how quickly you become a friend, mentor, and part of our FUMC Student Ministries Family.

-C.J. Lord  
Youth Minister  
cj@lagrangefumc.org



**What a wonderful Christmas season we have had!**

Our Tween's Group went to the Biblical History Center and then YourPie. We had the opportunity to explore the city of Bethlehem and talk to biblical characters. In January we will have a fun outing with a trip to the Sweetland ice skating rink on January 13. We will meet at the rink at 2:00 p.m. Be sure to call or text Mrs. Jeanne and let her know you'll be coming. The cost is \$12.00 per child.

Our children showed the Love of Christ this month by making Christmas cards for our home bound and also for soldiers in Afghanistan and by participating in the Christmas Eve service.

Thanks to all the children who participated in the children's nativity on Christmas Eve. I love to see our children participating in worship and they did a fabulous job! A big thanks to all the parents who helped with rehearsal, bell practice, costuming, staging, making sure children were at rehearsals, and moving equipment for our nativity. Your support of our Children's Ministry programs is vital and very much appreciated.

Looking ahead:

Mark the evening of **February 8** on your calendar for a **BIG EVENT!** We are hosting a program for the entire family! This event is open to all church families and our community. *We will journey through time!* Mrs. Barbara Ward will lead the entertainment portion of the evening after we all have dinner together. More details to come!

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018**



# THE FLAME

USPS (079-260) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

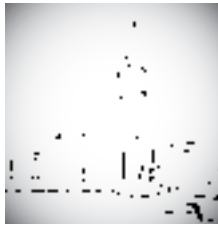
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- Dr. John Beyers (ext 205).....Senior Minister
- Mr. Rick Free (ext 210).....Director of Food Services
- Mr. Eddie Giddens.....Custodian
- Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager
- Mrs. Jeanne Jones (ext 209).....Children's Minister
- Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
- Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Mid & Sr High Youth Minister
- Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
- Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Executive Minister
- Rev. Blake Trent (ext 206).....Associate Minister

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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**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](http://lagrangefumc.org/online-giving).

 **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](mailto:stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org).

**A special Thank you** to the Meals on Wheels Volunteer Team: kitchen prep crew, drivers, substitutes, and Cecilia Goode who filled in for me following my surgery. 2018 was another wonderful year of helping those in our community with a weekly meal. A special shout out to Rick Free for all his hard work; this would never work if it were not for him.  
Dorothy Cammon, MOW Coordinator

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 12, at 9:00 am in the Small Dining Room. Blair and Laura Harlin will present a program on their El Salvador mission trip. All men in the church are invited.

**Thursday Lunch Club News**  
**Mark Your Calendars with These Date Changes**  
The next luncheon will take place on January 31, 2019, featuring James H. Camp, III.  
February 28, will be the luncheon featuring Storyteller Donald Davis.  
There's no luncheon in the month of March, but after that we return to the regular 1st Thursday of the month schedule.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Donald Dagenhart**  
**December 2, 2018**

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Evelyn Jordan**  
**December 4, 2018**

**The Traditional Chapel Worship Service**  
The Sunday, 9:00 am, Chapel Worship Service will continue to meet in the Sanctuary until the roof repair work is completed.  
We will keep updated on the repairs.



**Soup for Sale**  
**Sunday, February 3, \$6 per Quart**  
**9:45am till sold out (No pre-orders)**  
**\*\*Pick up in the Small Dining Room\*\***  
**Soup Choices Available**  
**Potato Vegetable Beef Mexican Chicken Corn Chowder**  
**White Chicken Chili Creamy Chicken and Rice**



# January 2019

## Weekly

SUNDAY	
9:00a	Chapel Worship
10:00a	Sunday School
11:00a	Traditional Worship
5:00p	Disciple III
MONDAY	
10:30a	Meals on Wheels
11:30a	Soup Kitchen
5:30p	Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal
6:30p	Cub Scout Den Meetings
TUESDAY	
9:00a	Community Care
1:30p	Staff Meeting
6:30p	Cub Scout Den Meetings
7:00p	Boy Scouts
WEDNESDAY	
10:00a	Explorers Bible Study
11:30a	Soup Kitchen Sack Lunch
5:00p	Wednesday Evening Meal
5:30p	Handbell Rehearsal
6:00p	Children's Program
6:00p	Mid & Sr. Hi Youth
6:30p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY	
9:00a	Community Care
9:45a	Prayer Ministry
10:30a	Dulcimers
6:30p	Cub Scout Den Meetings
FRIDAY	
7:00a	Men's Coffee & Prayer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Church Closed for the Holiday	2	3	4	5
6	7 5:00p UMW Board	8 12:30p Red Cross Blood Drive	9 5:45p Missions Committee	10	11	12 8:45a Stephen Ministry Class  9:00a Men's Breakfast
13	14	15 5:30p Worship Committee	16 5:30p Stephen Ministry Class	17	18	19
20	21 Church Closed for the Holiday	22 6:30p Cub Scout Pack Meeting	23 5:30p Stephen Ministry Class	24 5:30p Board of Trustees	25	26
27	28	29	30 5:30p Stephen Ministry Class	31 12:00 TLC Luncheon	1	2

## Remembrances Received, December 2018

### *In Memory of*

**Evelyn Jordan**—Jane & Gary Stephens

**Maxwell Arthur Roth**—Carol & Jim Morgan

**Donald Dagenhart**—Susannah Circle

**George Barnes**—Bill & Libba Bowling

**Judy Bledsoe**—The U.M.W.

### *ATTENDANCE*

#### **Sunday, December 2**

Sunday School....167    Worship Service.....340

#### **Sunday, December 9**

Sunday School....207    Worship Service.....394

#### **Sunday, December 16**

Sunday School....189    Worship Service.....383

#### **Sunday, December 23**

Sunday School....107    Worship Service.....404

#### **Sunday, December 24**

5:00pm Service.....527

11:00pm Service...275

### *Wednesday Evening Weekly Menus*

#### **January 9**

Chili  
White Chicken Chili  
Baked Potatoes  
Kids—Hot dogs

#### **January 23**

County Fried Steak  
Mashed Potatoes  
Veggie  
Kids—Pizza

#### **January 16**

BBQ Chicken  
Mac & Cheese  
Veggie  
Kids: Mini Chicken Sandwiches

#### **January 30**

Chicken Parmesan Casserole  
Veggie  
Kids: Same

Dessert with every meal. Adults - \$6, Children/Youth - \$3

### *January's Worship Team Volunteers*

**Ushers:** Hoyt Rogers, Bill Davidson, Blair Harlin, H.R. Shepherd, Jerry Clement, Ken Young, Lewis Powell, Mike Peterson, Perry Wilder, Ray Holmes, Ric Selbie, Robby Burch, Sam Graham, Bill Lovejoy

**Altar Guild:** Laura Harlin, Page Estes, Freddie Hayes, Davie Biagi, Shirra Rogers, Genny McGraw, Kathleen Ernest

**Hospitality Team:** Joyce & Bill Young, Beth & Wayne Godwin, Laura Holley, Pat & Fred Bodine, Jane Willey, Denise & Mike Wilson, Laura Harlin, Carol & Jim Morgan, Julianne Skipper, Carlene & Dusty Mills, Jean Edwards, Lauranne Buchanan, Jan Lockerbie, Margie Purnell, Cindy & John Jackson

### *We Extend Our Sympathy to*

Betty Ward and Family in the death of her sister, **Juanita Eichmann, December 26, 2018.**

### *Additional Poinsettias*

#### **In Memory of**

Lamar Wadsworth  
John L. Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Eidson  
Jimmy Sims  
Pearle Dunson Sims  
Windy Lupien  
Sam Rainey  
David Rainey

#### **By**

Jennie Wadsworth  
Virginia Edison Robertson  
Virginia Edison Robertson  
Elizabeth Sims  
Elizabeth Sims  
Cliff & Faye Rainey  
Cliff & Faye Rainey  
Cliff & Faye Rainey

#### **In Honor of**

Carol Freeman

#### **By**

Elizabeth Sims

