



# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

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

## NEW YEAR'S GIFT

*"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

*"In your hand has been placed a priceless gift. Look at it closely. There is no price maker stamped on it. It cannot be weighed, because no scale can balance its value. A king's ransom in comparison is as nothing yet it is given to beggar and prince alike. The giver asks only that it be used wisely and well.*

*This jewel, rare and unique, is not displayed in any shop window. It cannot be purchased, cannot be sold. No other treasure holds the possibilities this gift offers -- none can surpass its golden splendor.*

*Of all gifts, this is one of the most precious. It has been offered many times before; today, from the depths of a limitless love it will be given again. It will be left to you to find the golden thread running through it. Only with great care will the jewel retain its luster. Carelessness, ingratitude and selfishness will tarnish the brilliance, break the unspoiled thread, mar the perfection.*

*Guard it closely, lest through weak fingers it slip from the hand. Look often at its faultless beauty. Accept it as it is offered from the heart of the giver. Consider it is the most treasured of possessions, for of all gifts it is by far the greatest. It is the gift of the New Year."*

*[--Cited from timothyreport.com, December 27, 2004]*

As we begin a new year, I hope and pray that you will keep and use each moment for God's glory. If you've gotten out of the habit of weekly worship, now's an excellent time to start back.

Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

**January 15, 2017**  
**\*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**

**January 22, 2017**  
**\*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.*

**\*\* 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 3rd grade & 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.

**Thank You** to Lamar & Dorothy McKeen, December Place Farm, for donating the beautiful trees in our sanctuary, chapel, and fellowship hall this past Christmas.

**Thank You** to WandaAnn Kinnaman & Joanna Selbie for coordinating this past Nativity Festival.

**Thank You** to Davie Biagi, the Altar Guild, and the many helpers for decorating our church (inside and out) for Advent.

## Wednesday Evening Weekly

Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm

### WEW Meal on January 18, 2017

Menu: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, veggie, salad bar, dessert.

Children: Grilled Cheese & PB & J sandwiches

### WEW Meal on January 25, 2017

Menu: Baked chicken, sweet potato fries, salad bar, dessert

Children: Mini chicken & 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. Clark Rich** - Carolyn & John Alise

**Mr. Charles Maire** (Linda Maire's Father) - Virginia Robertson

**Mr. Jeff Davis** - Virginia Robertson, Peggy Lukken

**Mr. Lamar Reese** - Heather & Sam Graham

**Mrs. Evelyn Smith** - Virginia Robertson, Heather & Sam Graham, Jane & Gary Stephens, Brenda & Ron Martin, Cecilia & Mike Stevenson, Ray & Sally Holmes, Allen & Marilyn Smith, Martha & Gordon Smith, U.M.W., Pat & Orren Gilbert, Elizabeth Circle, Alan & Sharon Jones

**Mr. Tom McLaughlin** - Cecilia & Mike Stevenson, Allen & Marilyn Smith

**Mrs. Sammie Jones** - Brenda & Ron Martin, Peggy Lukken

**Joe & Helen Williams** - Diane Hurston

### *A Big Thank You*

When you spend around half of your life serving the church, you have the privilege of connecting with so many wonderful people. I feel so very blessed to have had this opportunity at First Methodist for over 29 years.

Words cannot express my many thanks to the Maranatha Sunday School Class, Rick Free and Beth Godwin for the beautiful reception that was held for me on January 8th. It was a grand time to gather with my family, my church family and dear friends.

*Patti Lybrand*

## OFFICES CLOSED

The church offices will be closed Monday, January 16th, for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday.

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call 888-456-1203.

## Begin Your New Year in Mission Work

During the month of January, we will have a brief Missions Moment at each of our worship services for you to learn more about some of the mission work to which our Church is committed. Let this be the year that you get involved in a church ministry. Here's a sampling of ministry work that will be talked about....all can use your help.

January 15th, Dorothy Cammon: Meals on Wheels

January 22nd, Jamie Seagraves: Safe Families for Children

January 29th, Andrew Ochsenknecht: Blessings in a Book Bag

## United Methodist Men's December Breakfast

Please join us for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 14th, 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 next year on January 14th.

## JANUARY SERMON SERIES'

Join pastors Brian and Blake for these two unique, sermon series through January.

### VINTAGE FAITH - 8:45am



People seem to be paying homage to the past more than usual these days. Sports teams are wearing throwback jerseys and Instagram has dedicated an entire day for people to post throwback pictures.

With that in mind, maybe the church should do the same. Join us as we explore some of Christianity's historical teachings on God, the Bible, and Grace.

### CHRISTIANITY THE WESLEYAN WAY - 9am & 11:00



What's so special about "being a Methodist"? Aren't we supposed to just be "Christian"? How does Methodist Christianity address today's post-modern culture in uniquely relevant ways? Join us as we rediscover how the practice of Wesleyan Christianity can make a dramatic difference not only in your life but in the world around you!



**Soup for Sale Sunday, February 5th**

**\$6 per Quart**

**10:00am till sold out (No pre-orders)**

*Choices Available*

**Potato**

**Vegetable Beef**

**White Chicken Chili**

**Mexican Chicken Corn Chowder**

**\*NEW Creamy Chicken and Rice**

**Thursday Lunch Club  
February 2nd, 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall**

featuring



**Randy & Debbie Ogle**

For reservations for the meal & program call or email the church at 706-884-4635 or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).  
Cost is \$6 per person. All are welcome!  
First United Methodist Church, 401 Broad Street

**Did You Know????**

Our church's Library is growing and changing to meet your needs. First of all, it has been renamed and is now called the **Resource Center**. (New door sign is in process) You will also notice new paint and carpeting to freshen the study area and a reorganization of books. We now have 4 sections: Reference, Congregational Care, Church Archives, and Curriculum. The Resource Center accepts only new or gently used books as donations and encourages classes and study groups to donate their material for sharing with others in the congregation.

The Resource Center's purpose is

- To provide a resource to the congregation, group leaders, Sunday School teachers, and the Stephen Ministry.
- To maintain reference books not easily available elsewhere.
- To provide a networking of resources from Sunday School classes, bible studies, UMW, prayer groups and youth ministries.
- To be a storage place for FUMC historical records.
- To provide educational media.

Watch for more information about the new Resource Center in future newsletters. An open house will be coming soon.



*What Is that? You say  
it's happening here in  
February!*

**The S.O.U.L. Group**

(Survivors of Unexpected Loss) meets

**The first Monday of each month @ 7:30pm  
LaGrange First United Methodist Church  
Builders Sunday School Classroom**

Sponsored by

Congregational Care Ministry

For more information contact the church office  
([churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-884-4635)

**Upcoming MLK Jr. Celebrations**

Please support any or all of the following:

- Sunday, Jan. 15th**, 4pm, Celebration Service @ Hogansville Elementary School (611 E. Main St. Hogansville)
- Monday, Jan. 16th**, 10am, Celebration Service @ New Beginning Baptist Church (506 Ware St)
- Monday, Jan. 16th**, 6pm, Celebration Service @ Bethlehem Baptist Church (1109 10 St. West Point)
- Wednesday, Jan. 18th**, 4pm, "The Trust Building Experience" Program at LaGrange College Callaway Auditorium  
Dr. John Franklin, speaker
- Thursday, Jan. 26th**, 6pm, Service Remembering Past Racial Injustice @ Warren Temple UMC (416 E. Depot St.)

**Youth Ministry**



The mid high Christmas Party had 17 students in attendance for an ugly sweater contest, party games, and a ton of quesadillas and tacos! The best part was that we collected over **130 pairs of socks** which we donated to the local clothing shelter!

Harrison and C.J. anticipate what is bound to be an amazing 2017 filled with fun youth events along with some powerful spiritual growth. Currently, our Sunday mornings and Wednesday evening curriculum center around identity, and searching to discover who God says that we are!

**Chick-Fil-A Mid-high devotionals** start back on **January 17th** at the Commerce Avenue Chick-Fil-A! The Mid-High youth are taking an **Ice Skating** trip down to Columbus on **January 22nd** that is filling up fast! Please tell C.J. if you are planning to attend!

Also, thank you to all the staff, youth, and parents who have worked tirelessly to close out 2016 with a bang. We hope that you and those you may know in middle school and high school will come and hang out with us at any of our Wednesday Night programs (lounges open at 4pm) or to any of our special Sunday night events like Ice Skating in January!

**THE FLAME**

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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LaGrange, Georgia 30240

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[www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com](http://www.pastorbriang.blogspot.com)

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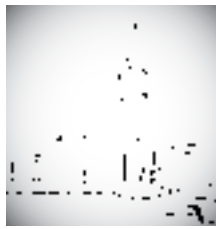
The Flame, 401 Broad Street

LaGrange, Georgia 30240

- Miss Grayson Bailey (ext 209).....Director of Children's 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. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
- Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Interim Director of Mid High Youth
- 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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**ATTENDANCE, Sunday, December 25**

Worship Service..... 150

**ATTENDANCE, Sunday, January 1**

Sunday School..... 20

Worship Service..... 123

**ATTENDANCE, Sunday, January 8**

Sunday School..... 204

Worship Service..... 299

**A Big Thank You!**

Thank you for the cards, candy, fruit, flowers, nuts, popcorn and other wonderful treats that came into the church office. We all enjoyed the gifts, and we are most grateful for the prayers and good wishes that came with each one.

**Brian, Blake, Darian, Patti, Lisa, Dodie, Grayson, Avery, Rick, Andy, Scott, Cindy, Eddie, Jordan, CJ, Harrison, Meghan, Boley, & Jane**

**Calendar for January 15 - January 21**

<b>Sunday</b>	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
5:00pm.....	Disciple Bible Study
<b>Monday</b>	
Church Offices Closed for the Holiday	
11:30am-12:00.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
<b>Tuesday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
5:30pm.....	SPR Committee
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal
5:45pm.....	M.E.R.G.E & Children's Choir
6:00pm.....	Long Range Planning Committee
6:00pm.....	Believe Bible Study
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Class
<b>Friday</b>	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
<b>Saturday</b>	
9:30am.....	Stephen Ministry Training

**Calendar for January 22 - January 28**

<b>Sunday</b>	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
5:00pm.....	Disciple Bible Study
<b>Monday</b>	
11:30am-12:00am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
12:00.....	Memorial Foundation
<b>Tuesday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal
5:45pm.....	M.E.R.G.E & Children's Choir
6:00pm.....	Believe Bible Study
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Class
<b>Friday</b>	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
<b>Saturday</b>	
9:30am.....	Stephen Ministry Training

**OUR SYMPATHY**

We extend our sympathy to:

the family of **Fern Niedrach**, former church member, **January 9, 2017**

Darian Krimm & family in the recent death of his uncle, **Alfred Andrews**

**EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP  
JUNE 24-JULY 1, 2017**

It is not too late to sign up for this great mission opportunity. A deposit of \$100 is due by January 16th. Blair & Laura Harlin will be our team leaders. Call Blair at 706-594-2610 or Laura at 706-594-2609 for more information or email them at [blairharlin@mindspring.com](mailto:blairharlin@mindspring.com).