



1828

# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

*“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”*

## LaGrange First UMC Prescription For Health

*“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18, KJV)*

*“How can we return our church to vitality?” “How can we have more children and youth at our church like we used to?” “How can we stop our recent decline and start growing again?”* These questions – and others like them – are ones that I have heard repeatedly from various church members since arriving eight months ago. And while there is no single, “magic wand” solution that will fix these issues immediately (like some might want), there is certainly a process to follow that, in my experience leading two previous churches, can turn things around:

**Step 1** is for us to **rediscover our mission/purpose and current IDENTITY** – that is: *“Who are we now?”* - Not, *“Who did we used to be?”*, Or *“Who do we wish we were?”* But *“Who are we now?”* -- the good, the bad, the things we like, and the things we wish we didn't know. For example, we may wish we still had 1700+ members averaging nearly 600 in worship, but that is not our current reality of 1113 members, averaging 351 in worship. Instead of over 200 children and 150 youth in our programs eight years ago, we now have about 100 children and 80 youth active. Now, this kind of information is difficult for us to hear, but it is our reality. To take a successful journey, one needs to know where they are beginning from -- that is the task before us now and through probably this Summer and Fall: to rediscover who we are. So, look for various ways your leadership (starting with a Long Range Planning Survey on March 13) will be asking for input regarding this question for the next few months.

**Step 2** is for us to begin to prayerfully **discern and then eventually implement a new VISION** for LaGrange First UMC – a Vision that is bigger and more compelling and unifying than the provincial visions that many of us may currently have. It will be a Vision that is bigger than me, you, or any individual, class, or peer group. In short, it will be a Vision for who God wants us as a church to become – a Vision that grows out of who we are (our DNA) but which calls us to become something and someone new as a church congregation.

These two steps may seem elementary, but the reality is that to do them correctly and thoroughly may take up to 12-18 months, and will certainly involve a lot of hard work, discussion, flexibility, and even anguish. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that this is God's prescription for our church's future health, and you'll want to know that my intention is to lead us as a church to be willing to take these two steps over the next year or so.

In the meantime, though, we can begin to “prime the pump,” if you will, by offering renewed opportunities for each of us to engage in mission, ministry, discipleship, worship, and care as we seek to deepen our own spiritual lives. After all, since people are attracted to churches who's members are “on fire” for God, both of these steps begin with each of us being willing to open ourselves to deeper walks with God. So, look for new and renewed opportunities in this regard over the next 18 months.

I realize that some of us have grown accustomed to practices and traditions that no longer serve to help us grow, but which nevertheless make us comfortable. Consequently, I recognize that this journey will not be easy for all of us. However, just as God has walked with us through our past, I believe we can trust Him to walk with us into the future as we allow Him to lead and guide us to continue our rich heritage of being an effective, vibrant church for Him!

Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

March 6, 2016

**\*Early Worship Service**  
9:00am in the Chapel  
Mr. Blake Trent, preaching

**\*Morning Glory**  
9:00am in the Fellowship Hall  
Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

**\*Traditional Service**  
11:00am in the Sanctuary  
Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

**\*Korean Worship Service**  
11:00am in the Chapel  
Rev. Daniel Kim

March 13, 2016

**\*Early Worship Service**  
9:00am in the Chapel  
Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

**\*Morning Glory**  
9:00am in the Fellowship Hall  
Mr. Blake Trent, preaching

**\*Traditional Service**  
11:00am in the Sanctuary  
Dr. Brian Germano, preaching

**\*Korean Worship Service**  
11:00am in the Chapel  
Rev. Daniel Kim

*\*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 children ages 1st grade and younger in room 203. A leader will escort the children from the 11:00 worship service.

**Wednesday Evening Weekly**

**Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm**

**WEW Meal on March 9, 2016**

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

Children: Corn dogs & PB & J sandwiches

**WEW Meal on March 16, 2016**

Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, veggie, 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*

Mrs. Margie Williamson - Betty & Walt Knight

Mrs. Ann Petry - J. K. Boatwright & Co., P.C.

Mr. John Huckstep - Susan & Calvin Willis

Mrs. Memory Johnson - Betty & Walt Knight

Mrs. Bobby Hamilton - Betty & Walt Knight

Mr. Tim Huckstep - Betty & Walt Knight

Mr. John Huckstep - Betty & Walt Knight

**MEMORIALS GIVEN TO**

**HENDERSON TRAYLOR MEMORIAL EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP**

Mrs. Libba Traylor - Susan & Calvin Willis, Betty & Walt Knight

***SPECIAL INVITATION***

**The Builders Class and the Shepherd Family invite all of their church family to join them for a time of meeting and celebrating with Henry Shepherd and his family**

**Sunday, March 20, 2016  
1 pm - 3 pm**

**Ministries Building, Fellowship Hall**

**No Youth Yard Sale in 2016**

The Youth will not have a yard sale in 2016. Our yard sale has become bi-yearly event. If you were saving items to donate to us, please consider donating your items to the many other wonderful organizations around LaGrange. Thank you.

*The Youth Group*

**Easter Lilies**

If you would like to place an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone on Easter Sunday, March 27th, please complete this form, return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate along with your check for \$12.00, payable to the church and marked "Easter Lily" on or before March 8th. Lilies will be delivered to shut-ins unless you indicate otherwise below.

In Honor \_\_\_\_\_ or In Memory \_\_\_\_\_

OF: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up after Easter Service \_\_\_\_\_ or Deliver to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Easter Eggs**

**We need donations of candy or prize filled eggs for the children's egg hunt.**

**Please drop off your donations in the church office.**



**First United Methodist Church, LaGrange College and Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church** invite you to celebrate God's work around the world—and to explore your role in it.

Join us for a Global Worship Celebration featuring a simulcast linking congregations in Honduras, Russia and LaGrange and featuring on-site remarks by Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

Thursday, March 10th, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at First Methodist

These events are part of a 3-day Missions Celebration. Learn more at [lagrange.edu/mission](http://lagrange.edu/mission).

**March Men's Breakfast**

Come join us for breakfast on Saturday, March 12th at 8:00am in the small dining room for great food and wonderful fellowship. Our program will feature Dr. Marc Shook, Associate Provost & Dean of Student Engagement at LaGrange College. See you there!



**NEW Lay Ministry Opportunity  
— Communion Stewards**

Your Worship Committee has identified a need for Communion Stewards to assist Pastors Brian and Blake with serving communion at our worship services. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a vital part of our worship and connection to God.

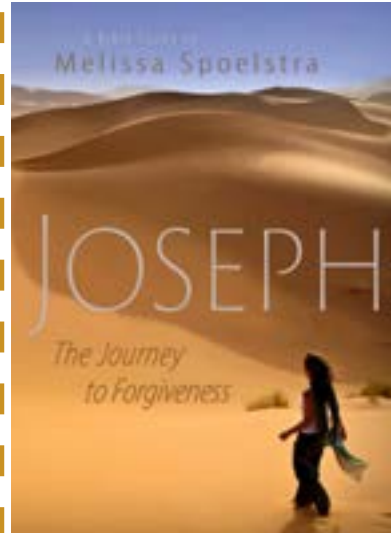


There are those of you reading this who are looking for a way to serve in our church's ministry. This may be just for you. This service opportunity is not a difficult task. You get to select the service in which you wish to serve. What a wonderful way to fulfill your need to serve while helping your pastors and church family at the same time.

If you are interested in serving or if you have questions about the details, please call Cindy Jackson, Worship Committee Chairperson, at 706-882-7967 or the church office at 706-884-4635 or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).

*Thank you for being a part of our Church Family.*

**Ladies...This is for YOU**



A New Bible Study opportunity free to women for all ages. It begins Wednesday, March 16th and will meet from 6:00pm to 7:00pm through April 27th in Room 215 on the second floor of the Ministries Center building (the Pathfinder's Classroom). We have the material, the room, a chair for you....all we need now is you.

**Children's Ministry**

Grayson Bailey, Director  
[childrens@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:childrens@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-884-4635 ext. 209

**Family Easter Meal and Egg Hunt  
Sunday, March 20th, 4:00 to 6:30pm  
at December Place Farm, 6171 Old West Point Road**

The church will provide the chicken, drinks and all paper products. Please bring a covered dish to share with your church family.

*The Egg Hunt is for toddlers through 5th grade....the meal is for everybody!!!*

**Youth Ministry**

Kali Grenus, Director  
[kali@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:kali@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-884-4635 ext. 215



Join us as we head West to Cairo, Illinois. The southernmost city in Illinois settled between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. This city is rich in heritage and history. Students will have the chance to work on work sites (minor construction, painting, etc.), participate in Kids Club, or run Outrageous Sports Camp.

Deposit: \$50

**FINAL DAY TO REGISTER MARCH 20th**

Contact [kali@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:kali@lagrangefumc.org) to Sign Up

**Mid-High Summer Trip — Epworth by the Sea  
June 13-17 Cost: \$300**

Mid-High (*students entering the 6th-8th grades*) pack your bags for a Summer Camp! Because Epworth is it's own camping experience, families will need to register directly with CampConnect via the South Georgia Conference.

Once you have registered, please let Kali know so we can plan accordingly for transportation on the 13th.

For Questions and Scholarship information email [kali@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:kali@lagrangefumc.org)



**THE FLAME**

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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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  
Miss Kali Grenus (ext 215).....Director of Youth Ministry  
Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager  
Mr. Scott Hill (ext 213).....Landscape/Maintenance  
Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship  
Mrs. Patti Lybrand (ext 203).....Church Secretary  
Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary  
Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Church Administrator  
Mr. Blake Trent (ext 206).....Preaching and Discipleship

To reach all other employees and/or volunteers,  
please call the church office.

*We always look forward to hearing from you.*



*"To Know and To Make Christ Known"*

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LaGrange, GA 30240

**Greeter Training**  
If you are interested in being a greeter for your church,  
please join us at 10:00am on Sunday, March 13th, in the sanctuary.

**MARCH USHER COMMITTEE**

Jim Biagi, Captain	Ben Crockett	Mark Hale	Charles Knight
Tim Huff	Hank Hughes	Dean Larson	Shane Moore
John Stewart	Sandy Simmons		

**ALTAR GUILD**

Deborah Johnson, Chair	Donna Close	Betty Daniel	Carolyn Day
Louise Parham	Darby Pippin	Patricia Smith	

Youth: Sarah Sims & Blakely Arp  
**COMMUNION:** Page Estes, Lea Rawlinson, Pat Gilbert  
**MORNING GLORY:** Laurie Wilder

**FINANCIAL REPORT 2016**

<b>Needed Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 23,617.49</b>
<b>Received Week 8</b>	<b>\$ 14,153.00</b>
<b>Received Week 9</b>	<b>\$ 14,652.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 845.00</b>
<b>Total Received since last Flame</b>	<b>\$ 29,650.00</b>
<b>Needed YTD</b>	<b>\$ 212,557.41</b>
<b>Received YTD</b>	<b>\$ 205,258.80</b>

**OUR SYMPATHY**  
Our sympathy is extended to Peggy Lukken and Kim & Richard Myers & Family in the death of their son and brother, **Jeff Hagood**, **February 28, 2016.**

**ATTENDANCE, Sunday, February 21st**

Sunday School.....	271
Worship Service.....	355

**ATTENDANCE, Sunday, February 28th**

Sunday School.....	279
Worship Service.....	375

**Consensus Training Workshop**  
Sunday, March 6th, 4 to 5pm  
Genesis Class  
*Led by James Emery & Brian Germano*



Kiwanis Club of LaGrange  
**Annual Pancake Breakfast**  
March 5, 2016  
Price \$6 per person  
*(all you can eat)*

First Baptist Church, 7:00am to 11:30am

**Calendar for March 6 - March 12**

<b>Sunday</b>	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*10:00am.....	Sunday School
4:00pm.....	Consensus Training Workshop
5:00pm.....	Mid & Sr. High Youth Activities
<b>Monday</b>	
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
7:00pm.....	Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
<b>Tuesday</b>	
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Beginning Class
5:00pm.....	Congregational Care Committee
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:30pm.....	Handbells
5:30pm.....	Children's M.E.R.G.E. Activities
5:45pm.....	Missions Committee / Financial Peace
6:00pm.....	Young Parents Small Group
6:00pm.....	BELIEVE Bible Study Group
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
7:00pm.....	Global Missions Celebration
<b>Friday</b>	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group
<b>Saturday</b>	
8:00am.....	Men's Breakfast

**Calendar for March 13 - March 19**

<b>Sunday</b>	* Nursery
*Worship Services	
*9:30am.....	Sunday School
10:00am.....	Greeter Training
12:00.....	Blue & Gold Scout Banquet
5:00pm.....	Mid & Sr. High Youth Activities
<b>Monday</b>	
10:00am.....	UMW Quiet Day Apart Service
11:00-11:30am.....	Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
7:00pm.....	Morning Glory Band Rehearsal
<b>Tuesday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
10:00am.....	Dulcimers Beginning Class
5:30pm.....	Worship Committee
7:00pm.....	Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	
11:30am.....	Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
5:00pm.....	Wednesday Evening Weekly
5:15pm.....	SPR Committee
5:30pm.....	Handbells / Children's M.E.R.G.E. Activities
5:45pm.....	Financial Peace
6:00pm.....	Young Parents Small Group
6:00pm.....	BELIEVE Bible Study Group
6:00pm.....	Youth Activities
6:30pm.....	Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:00am.....	Community Care
9:45am.....	Prayer Ministry
5:15pm.....	Board of Trustees
<b>Friday</b>	
7:00am.....	Men's Coffee & Prayer Group

**Church Flowers**

**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

Flowers on the Chapel altar are in honor of **Tee Borders** on the occasion of her birthday by her family.

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

Flowers on the Sanctuary altar are in memory of **Kelly Richard Linch, Jr.** on the occasion of his birthday March 18th by Carole & Kelly Linch.

Flowers in the narthex are in honor of the wedding of **Jenna Cleaveland and Jason Sherrer**, March 12, 2016, by **Lesa & Chris Cleaveland.**