



1828

THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING

What's Your Dream for LaGrange First UMC?

"Where there is no vision the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18)

Vision is essential if any person or group is to ever achieve its fullest potential. Having, sharing, and implementing a biblical Vision can give us a direction to shoot for, a goal to move towards, and the equipment needed to harness the energy and power of God to get us there. And, as the scripture above indicates, the *lack* of Vision can effectively destroy us.

Since January, our church's Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee has been working diligently to begin the process of discerning God's Vision for LaGrange First UMC for our future. When ready, that Vision will consist of input from at least three sources: (1) our identity/mission; (2) our internal congregational needs and dreams; (3) the needs of our external community.

That's why we need your help! Coming up THIS SUNDAY & NEXT WEEK, we'll be sponsoring a series of "**Vision Input TOWN HALL Meetings,**" where anyone from our church is invited and encouraged to share their thoughts and input about the dreams YOU have and needs YOU see for our church over the next year, 5 years, and 10 years. We'll offer three, hour-long meetings on *Sunday, May 7, at 10am, Sunday, May 7, at 4pm, and Wednesday, May 10, at 6pm*, and will be guided in our sharing by leaders from our LRP Committee. All Town Hall meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

We invite and encourage each and every church member and friend to mark his calendar and attend one of these so that you can share your thoughts and dreams for our church over the next 10 years with our LRP Committee. This is YOUR chance to give input about our church's future direction. And while it won't be the *only* source of input for that future, it is an essential and needed one.

If for some reason you can't be present that day, have ideas that you think about after attending, or have details that you feel would be better shared in writing, please feel free to email LRP@lagrangefumc.org (or mail them to the church office).

After this input is received, the LRP committee will also be researching the needs of our external community. Then, later this summer and early fall, they will work to bring all the pieces together to discern God's overall VISION for our church's future and bring an initial draft of that back to you as a congregation for you to give us feedback.

Until then, remember who you are - *Christians... SERVING in love, CARING with compassion, and SHARING with boldness* - and let that be a starting point for where we're going and who we're becoming. And never forget that God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

May 7, 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**

May 14, 2017

***Morning Glory**

8:45am in the Fellowship Hall

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

***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.

Wednesday Evening Weekly

Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm

WEW Meal on May 10, 2017

Menu: Chicken Fingers, Hashbrown Casserole, Salad Bar, Dessert

Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on May 17, 2017

Menu: Cookout, 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.

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorial

Mrs. Lonedta Campbell (Pat Wyche's sister) - Virginia Robertson

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Calling all couples who have been married (to the same person) for 50 years!

If you *have celebrated or will celebrate* your 50th wedding anniversary anytime in 2017, please call or email the church office at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.



We want to make sure you are in the 50th Wedding Anniversary Group, and we want you to join us on Sunday, June 4th, at the 11:00 Worship Service to be recognized.

There will be a luncheon after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone needs to call or email the church office by Thursday, June 1st, to make your meal reservation for the luncheon.

Worship Committee Announces Special One-Service Sundays

July 2nd, 10:30am, *Patriotic Service* in the Fellowship Hall with a Church Family Cookout after the service

August 27th, 10:30am, *Homecoming Service* in the Sanctuary with a Covered Dish Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following, Dr. Gil Watson, preaching

October 1st, 10:30am, *World Communion Sunday* in the Sanctuary with our Korean Congregation

December 24th, *Christmas Eve Services*
(Morning) 10:30am, Worship Service in the Sanctuary
(Evening) 5:00pm & 11:00pm Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary

December 31st, 10:30am, *Worship Service* in the Fellowship Hall



Congregational Care Corner

Did you know that FUMC started a new ministry area called Congregational Care last year? Its members develop and oversee nurturing and caring ministries that provide compassion and support for our congregation and community. **Our Church family is very important to us!**

Under this umbrella, we currently offer these ministries: Bereavement, Lay Visitation for Homebound members, Prayer Ministry, Stephen Ministry, S.O.U.L group (Survivors of Unexpected Loss through suicide), the Resource Center, and Journeying Through Grief book ministry. Check out descriptions of these 7 ministries on our Church website under Programs - Nurturing and Caring.

Watch for this Congregational Care Corner in future *Flame* newsletters as we highlight a specific ministry designed just for you, a fellow Church member and/or your friends in our community.

Pat Gilbert, Congregational Care Chairperson

MAY USHER COMMITTEE

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| John Jackson, Captain | Matt Orr | Steve Cole |
| Mark Kostial | Jared Jones | Steve Close |
| John Holliday | Mike Wilson | Dee Woodward |
| Tommy Britt | John Cook | |

ALTAR GUILD

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Joyce Morgan Young, Chair | Elizabeth Burch | Kim Burch |
| Terri Cook | Melissa Jolly | Martha Pirkle |

Communion: Joyce Morgan Young, Jane Willey, Louise Horvath, Betty Johnson, Deb Johnson, Pat Gilbert, Linda Frano

UMW Circles May 8, 2017

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|-----------|---------|--|
| Esther | 10:00am | Church Library |
| Ruth | 10:30am | Joanna Selbie 304 Victoria Point Tee Borders 211 Springdale Drive |
| Susanna | 10:00am | Cheryl Weldon 164 Wisteria Ridge Ter. |
| Lydia | 10:00am | Loretta Beall 114 Wisteria Ridge Ter. |
| Elizabeth | 10:00am | Genesis Classroom |
| Hannah | 7:00pm | |

UMW Circle May 9, 2017

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|------|--------|---------------|
| Mary | 3:00pm | Church Parlor |
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MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL OFFERING for Wesley Woods Foundation

We will receive our annual special offering for Wesley Woods on **Sunday, May 14th, Mother's Day.**



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.

PSALM 150, A PARAPHRASE

At the last Church Council meeting, Pastor Brian shared the following paraphrase of Psalm 150 that he wrote. We're sharing it here for your inspiration and challenge...

Praise God at LaGrange First UMC!

Praise God with trumpet, handbells and pipe organ!

Praise Him with electric guitar, bass and keyboard!

Praise God with reverence and awe that goes beyond words

Praise Him with clapping, dancing, and bodies that move a beat!

Praise God while sitting in our pews, standing in our row, or kneeling at the altar.

Praise God if you've been the victim of someone else's selfishness, prejudice, pride, and oppression.

Praise Him even when you wake up and realize that you're the one who's been selfish, prideful and doing the oppressing!

Praise God through traditional affirmations of faith and formal liturgy,

But praise Him also through informal ritual and spontaneous liturgy.

Praise God in English, Korean, Spanish, and any other human language.

Praise Him through silence and meditation.

Praise God with the beauty of tradition and ritual at contemporary services.

But praise Him also with the use of video clips and multimedia at traditional services...on Easter Sunday morning... at the beginning of the service... speaking an emotional language that younger adults connect to in a way that traditional liturgy alone does not always do!

Praise God with preaching that's done from the pulpit, from the lectern, from the middle of the chancel area, or even from the middle of the Sanctuary!

Praise God through the reading of His Holy word from a scroll, from a paperbound book, or from an iPad!

Praise God at 8:45, 9:00 & 11am on Sunday morning in the Sanctuary, Chapel, and -Methodist Ministries Center.

But praise Him also on Saturday night at a local pub, Wednesday night on the campus of LaGrange College, 10am Sundays at West Point Lake during the summer, and any other time and place where "two or more" of His people are gathered in His name.

Praise God when you've got your life together and everything is right with the world.

But praise Him also when your heart is breaking, your life is falling apart, and you're not sure if you can make it another day.

Whoever you are, however you experience faith, in whatever spiritual shape you find yourself, if you have breath in you, then praise the Lord!

People of LaGrange First UMC... Praise the Lord!



Graduate Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, May 21st, we will recognize all graduates at our worship services. If you are graduating in 2017 with a degree of any type, please join us at one of our services.

At the 11:00 Worship Service, we will have a special presentation for our High School graduates.



Camp Viola 2017
Our church's week to host Camp Viola this summer is

June 5th — June 8th.

We anticipate 45 to 50 rising 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to join us for our week of camp.

This important ministry takes a commitment from you to make it happen. Rick Free will lead this ministry, and he needs your volunteer help. Donations are essential to sponsor the children's camp experience. Please email him at rick@lagrangefumc.org to let him know he can count on your help. The cost to sponsor one child is \$125.00. If you wish to sponsor one or more campers, make your check payable to the church, marked Camp Viola. Every year our Camp Viola week continues to be one of the best weeks in the life of our church family. Let's work together to keep this ministry alive.



LFUMC AGAIN SPONSORING "CHURCH ON THE HOOCH"

Sundays @ West Point Lake from 10:00-10:45am, May 28-July 30

LaGrange First UMC will again host our lake ministry initiative called "**Church on the Hooch.**" Each Sunday morning, May 28-July 30, from 10:00-10:45am (new time!), we will provide a casual worship service at the Boy Scout Camp on the northwest bank of West Point Lake where campers and boaters may gather either in their boats or on shore. There will be songs, prayer, scripture and a message for all. This is a great opportunity for our church to be in ministry to and with our community.

We still have need of some volunteers to help with the following items. Maybe one of these is just right for you!

- Equipment set up (willing to help just a few of the Sundays, or even all of them)
- Advertising...distribution of flyers, posters, and yard-signs
- Social media promotion
- Financial Donations for ongoing costs (Memo: Church on the Hooch)

If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Mike Wilson at mikelamar.wilson@gmail.com or email your contact info to churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org so we can get in touch with you. Please continue to be in prayer for this important outreach initiative of LaGrange FUMC.

THE FLAME

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 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. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship
- Mr. C. J. Lord (ext 215).....Director of Mid High Youth
- Mr. Greg Nichols.....Morning Glory Worship Leader
- Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
- Mr. Harrison Pollard (ext 215).....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*

Non Profit Periodical
 U.S. Postage
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 PERMIT NO. 079260
 LaGrange, GA 30240

ATTENDANCE , Sunday, April 23
 Sunday School.....148
 Worship Service.....248

ATTENDANCE , Sunday, April 30
 Sunday School.....167
 Worship Service.....235

Save These Dates
Church "Town Hall" Meeting
 Long Range Planning wants to hear from you as they work to discover God's next vision for LaGrange First UMC. Save the date for one of the following three Town Hall sessions and come share your wishes and desires for ministry of our church.

- Sunday, May 7th, 10:00am, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, May 7th, 4:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, May 10th, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

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 May 7 - May 13

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|---|---|
| <p>Sunday *Worship Services *10:00am.....Sunday School 10:00am.....Town Hall Meeting 4:00pm.....Town Hall Meeting 5:00pm.....Youth Sunday Night Live Monday 11:30am-12:00.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen 5:00pm.....UMW Executive Board 5:45pm.....Stewardship Committee Tuesday 9:00am.....Community Care 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class 5:30pm.....SPR Committee 7:00pm.....Morning Glory Band Rehearsal 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts Wednesday 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal 5:30pm.....Handbells Rehearsal 5:45pm.....Missions Committee / M.E.R.G.E & Children's Choir 6:00pm.....Town Hall Meeting 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir Thursday 9:00am.....Community Care 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry 10:00am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal Friday 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group Saturday 8:00am.....Men's Breakfast</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">* Nursery</p> |
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Calendar for May 14 - May 20

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|---|---|
| <p>Sunday *Worship Services *10:00am.....Sunday School 5:00pm.....Youth Sunday Night Live Monday 11:30am-12:00am.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen Tuesday 9:00am.....Community Care 10:00am.....Dulcimers Class 5:30pm.....Worship Committee 7:00pm.....Boy Scouts 7:00pm.....Morning Glory Band Rehearsal Wednesday 11:30am.....Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch 5:00pm.....Wednesday Evening Weekly Meal 5:30pm.....Handbells Rehearsal 5:45pm.....M.E.R.G.E & Children's Choir 6:30pm.....Chancel Choir Thursday 9:00am.....Community Care 9:45am.....Prayer Ministry 10:00am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal 7:00pm.....LaGrange College Nurses Pinning Ceremony Friday 7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group 5:00pm.....LaGrange College Baccalaureate Saturday</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">* Nursery</p> |
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Our Sympathy to
 Tee Borders & Family in the death
 of her sister-in-law,
Virginia Borders Whitley,
April 30, 2017

Sanctuary Flowers
 Our flowers on Sunday, May 14th
 are from the wedding of
Rebecca Hill & David Ferguson,
May 13, 2017.