



# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia

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

**October 2018**

*"O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" – Psalm 8:1*

I like the word **excellent**. This word is used a number of times in the Bible, sometimes as excellent, sometimes as excellence, and sometimes as excellency. In every case, it points to **a higher level of living** as a reflection of the character of Him who is our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

In summing up God's supernatural gifts granted by faith to each member of the Body of Christ as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12, St. Paul declares, **"I will show you a more excellent way."** He then begins his remarkable chapter on the excellent way of pro-active, self-giving, sacrificial love-in-action.

You will often hear me speak about the concept of **intentional excellence** as it relates to the ministry of the church and to the personal ministry of individual Christians. Excellence for the purpose of **serving others in love**. Why? Because I firmly believe that

- Excellence **honors** God,
- Excellence **attracts** attention, and
- Excellence **engages** individuals to live lives that really matter.

I have been intently listening to you over the past 14 weeks. You have told me about the excellent ways our excellent God has used the members of our great church across its long and storied history for His greater glory and the greater good of His people. And, I sense a deep longing in you for excellence in ministry and mission – serving others in love – to define us in an even greater way in this new season.

I hear your desire for excellence especially

- in the areas of **Children's Ministry** and **Youth Ministry**,
- in the **maintenance** and **cleanliness** of our magnificent equipping facility,
- in the planning of **Traditional** and **Modern Worship** that leads people to KNOW the Heart of God, GROW in the Grace of God, and SHOW the Love of God, and
- in the ways we communicate the Good News with others through **digital** and **print media**.

Each Sunday in **October**, I plan to share an **implementing strategy of intentional excellence** for our great church in 2019 based on all that I have heard from you and discerned from the Lord. We will know that this plan is the Master's plan for our time **based on your willingness to underwrite** the mission and ministry of First Methodist with your **generous financial support** and **hands-on personal engagement**.

Our former United States Secretary of State, the distinguished General Colin Powell, said: **"Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."** Jesus Christ can and will make His prevailing attitude of excellence your prevailing attitude as you GROW in the Grace of God:

*"<sup>6</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a human being, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!" – Philippians 2:5-8*

**I want to live a life of excellence** – serving others in love – and I want to lead men and women, boys and girls to do the same. **How about you?**

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

Dr. John Beyers



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please join us for our annual **Rise Against Hunger** meal packing event **November 11**.

We will package 18,000 plus meals beginning at 12:30 pm. Please dress casually and feel free to invite a friend.

It will be helpful in the check-in process if you would register your attendance at <http://events.stophungernow.org/LaGrangeFUMC2018>,

Thank you.



**LaGrange-Troup County Council of Church Women  
Fall Luncheon**  
**October 22nd — 12 noon**  
**Rosemont Baptist Church**  
**3794 Hamilton Road**  
**All Women Invited**

**Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased before October 15. Call Laura Shedd at 706-882-7303 for tickets or more information.**



Every year, we say we are going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children

plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism and busyness rob us of our peace and joy, and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration. Beginning on Wednesday, October 10, at 6:30 pm, for 5 weeks, through Wednesday, November 7, Denise Wilson will lead a study based on the book by Mike Slaughter, Christmas is Not Your Birthday. Come join her for a practical and inspiring study as we prepare for the Advent and Christmas season that is sure to be more meaningful as we learn how to better focus on the reason for the season. To sign up, please contact the church office at [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-884-4635. Books are \$10. If you are writing a check, please write "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday" in the memo line.



## What is Lay Visitation?

You have an opportunity to give members of our Church Family a blessing. By giving you will experience a special blessing yourself! Here's how the Lay Visitation Ministry works.

**The Lay Visitation Ministry provides inspirational support to fellow Church members who are unable to attend Church/Sunday School over an extended period of time. Our goal is to promote a feeling of Church family. Our lay volunteers reassure them that their Church family cares about them personally, and that they are not forgotten after long absences. Our dedicated lay volunteers make monthly personal visits or phone calls and/or mail cards. Gifts made by the Children's Department, the Altar Guild, and the Lay Visitation Coordinator are delivered quarterly. The lay volunteers contact our members at their private homes, in assisted living facilities, or at Hospice.**

### Lay Visitation Ministry Needs

1. Do you know of a homebound member who is not contacted by us?
2. More volunteers are needed to make visits.

**If you have an hour a month to spend with one or two of your fellow Church members, please contact Laura Harlin at 706-812-9837 or [mckeeharlin@gmail.com](mailto:mckeeharlin@gmail.com).**

If you would like to know more about this ministry or if you are interested in assisting with the preparation and serving of food, please contact Shirra Rogers, Bereavement Chairperson, at [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org) or 706-882-8707.



**Lafayette Matters, Dr. Richard Ingram**

**Thursday Lunch Club**  
**October 4, 12 noon**  
**For reservations 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!**

# FUMC STUDENT MINISTRIES



FUMC Student Ministry had a busy month during September with a Blessings in a Bookbag Pack-A-Thon on September 9<sup>th</sup> and a trip to Sky Zone on September 23<sup>rd</sup>! We are so proud of our amazing students and volunteers for SHOWING the love of God by packing 375 non-perishable food bags for our students at Ethel Kight. We mixed things up with our Wednesday night programming this month and had one of our awesome students share the message one week. Special shout out to Anna Kate Jones for showing her leadership skills and sharing a message with her peers from Jacob and Esau about staying true to who you are and not trying to be anyone else.

Over the next few months, we have some really great stuff planned. In addition to our regular programs, we are heading to Columbus Civic Center on October 20<sup>th</sup> to see NewsBoys and hear some great worship music! Looking into the month of November, we are taking our high school students on an incredible mission trip to Restoration ATL (RATL). RATL offers a unique, transformative, immersion experience in a ministry setting for groups to build relationships with those who call the city home.

**We are still asking members of the church for canned soup/Chef Boyardee donations for Blessings in a Bookbag this month. Thank you so much for supporting this meaningful ministry.**

*Phantoms of the Organ*  
 Saturday, October 27, 2018  
 First United Methodist Church LaGrange  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Free - No Admission Charge

***Phantoms of the Organ***  
***LaGrange's Great Spooktacular Organ Concert***  
***First United Methodist Church***

Sponsored by the Choral Society of West Georgia in collaboration with the LaGrange Downtown Development Authority, talented area organists will share their amazing and most fun-filled seasonal organ skills on Saturday evening, October 27, in a free, family-friendly ***Great Spectacular Organ Concert!***



**Ken Bailey**  
 St. Luke Methodist Church  
 Columbus



**Cindy Brown**  
 First Methodist Church  
 LaGrange



**Eve McKibben**  
 Ebenezer Presbyterian Church  
 Hogansville



**Anthony Criswell**  
 First Baptist Church  
 LaGrange



**Randall Smith**  
 First Baptist Church  
 West Point



**Tyra Crowe**  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 LaGrange



**James Camp**  
 First United Methodist Church  
 Pine Mountain



**Andrew Harry**  
 LaGrange College  
 LaGrange



**Paul Culp**  
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church -  
 LaGrange

# COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER  
28TH

4 - 6 P.M.

GAMES

PRIZES

COSTUME  
CONTEST

CORNER OF TRINITY AND BROAD STREETS  
LAGRANGE, GA



Sp Adobe Spark

## Opportunity Available for YOU!

We have prayed for children and they are here! We have been given the amazing opportunity to make and grow disciples, and God has faithfully brought lots of his smallest ones to FUMC. Here's where you come in — in order to grow these hearts and minds for Christ with excellence, we must have your help.

This is an opportunity for you to do kingdom work that you don't want to miss out on. We need two people every Wednesday evening from 5:45 - 7:00 p.m. to assist our leaders. If you are willing to give an hour and 15 minutes a week to be a friend to a child and share the love of Christ, we want YOU! Contact Jeanne at [jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org) with any questions or to schedule a time to talk about this.

### It's Trunk or Treat TIME

*Individuals and Families can help by*

**\*\*Joining in the Fun\*\***

♥Decorating a Trunk♥

♥Helping with Games♥

◆Making Donations of  
Small Prizes and

Bags of Individually Wrapped Candies

☺ Baking (or purchasing) Cakes  
or Treats for the Cake Walk

Have questions?

Contact [jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org).

September was fabulous and October is sure to be even better!

During the month of September the Wednesday Night kids spent time building relationships with dinner on the Lafayette Square, playing fun new team games like human rock, paper, scissors, and most importantly we learned about our amazing Lord through the stories of Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph. We also created our very own "coat" of many colors, a tie-dyed t-shirt.

In October, the children will be participating in two service projects. 1) Helping to assemble UMCOR Buckets, and 2) Creating cards and putting together the condiment packs for the Wednesday Soup Kitchen lunches.

Our Sunday School and Children's Church programs continue to grow as we make and grow our youngest disciples!

THE FLAME

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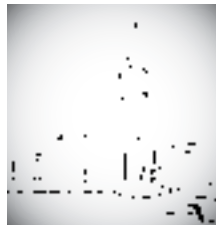
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Mrs. Jeanne Jones (ext 209).....Children's Minister
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Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Mid & Sr High Youth Minister
Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary
Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Executive 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.

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.

We will meet with other Methodist churches for
our 2018 Charge Conference on Sunday,
November 4, 5:00 pm at the Korean Methodist
Church, 1200 4th Avenue, LaGrange.

Be on the Lookout
Annual Fundraiser
POPCORN
SALE
Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
have all the popcorn you can eat!

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 13,
at 9:00 am in the Small Dining Room. Sue Larkin will pro-
vide the program on her trip hiking the Camino through the
mountains of Spain. All men in the church are invited.

ALTAR GUILD MEETS
Join us for a very important Altar Guild Meeting
October 22, 10:00 am in the Chapel.
If you haven't participated in Altar
Guild activities, now is the perfect
time! We will discuss our annual
Christmas decorating operations
which is a fun way to learn about
one of the behind-the-scenes Altar
Guild activities. Wreaths, garlands,
Chrismon ornaments, lights, and
more! Newcomers welcome.



November is OUR Food Closet Month
Our church provides volunteers for the LaGrange
Food Closet at 416 Pierce Street on the Tuesdays &
Thursdays listed below. We need 3 people per day,
(men & women) from 12:45pm until 3pm. Please
contact the church office at 706-884-4635 to
volunteer on Nov. 1st, 6th, 8th, 13th and/or 15th.



# October 2018

## Weekly

### SUNDAY

9:00a Chapel Worship  
 10:00a Sunday School  
 11:00a Traditional Worship Service  
 5:00p Disciple III

### MONDAY

10:30a Meals on Wheels  
 11:30a Soup Kitchen  
 6:30p Cub Scout Den Meetings

### TUESDAY

9:00a Community Care  
 10:00a Explorers Bible Study  
 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	1 5:00p UMW Board Mtg  5:30p Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal	2 12:30p Red Cross Blood Drive	3 6:00p Interrupted Study  6:30p SPR Mtg	4 12:00 TLC  6:00p Nominations & Leadership	5	6 9:00a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7	8 5:30p Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal	9	10 5:45p Missions Mtg  6:30p Bible Study "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"	11	12	13 9:00a Men's Breakfast
14 5:00p Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	15 5:30p Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal	16 5:30p Worship Committee	17 6:30p Bible Study "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"	18	19	20
21	22 10a Altar Guild Mtg 12:00 Memorial Foundation Mtg 5:30p Sons of Lafayette	23 5:30p Finance Committee  6:30p Church Council	24 5:00p Altar Guild Encore Mtg 6:00p Flood Bucket Assembly 6:30p Bible Study "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"	25 5:30p Board of Trustees	26	27 7:00p Organ Spooktacular
28 4:00p Trunk or Treat	29 5:30p Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal	30	31 6:30p Bible Study "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"	1 12:00 November TLC	2	3

### Congratulations!

**Andi Elizabeth Ingram**, born **September 17, 2018**, the daughter of Mia & Richard Ingram, the granddaughter of Janice & Dick Ingram.

### Welcome to

**Jacob Wise** who joined our church family on August 12.  
**Debbie & Randy Nix** who joined our church family on September 23.



### To SHOW the Love of God

through Compassionate Evangelism and Hands-On Mission Engagement

#### UMCOR Hurricane Florence Flood Buckets

Donation: \$75 each bucket

Donation deadline: **Wednesday, October 3**  
First Methodist will order and store the supplies

#### Goal

200 Flood Buckets

#### Flood Bucket Assembly

Wednesday night, October 24 at 6:00 pm

#### Needs

Monetary Donations, Assembly Volunteers, Van Loading Volunteers,  
Transportation and Unloading Volunteers

## Phantoms of the Organ

*Saturday, October 27, 2018*

*First United Methodist Church LaGrange*

*7:00 p.m., Free - No Admission Charge*

### October's Worship Team Volunteers

**Ushers:** Jim Hardy, Jeff Baker, Jay Allred, Orren Gilbert, Philip Ivey, Lamar McKeen, Skip Smith, Keenan Knight

**Altar Guild:** Joanna Selbie, Debbie Adams, Debbie Lynn, Cecilia Stevenson, Alison Vinson, Jane Willey, Denise Wilson

**Hospitality Team:** Joyce & Bill Young, Beth & Wayne Godwin, Carol & Jim Morgan, Denise & Mike Wilson, Jane Willey, Pat & Fred Bodine, Julianne Skipper, Carlene & Dusty Mills, Jean Edwards, Lauranne Buchanan, Jennifer & James Emery, Jan Lockerbie, Margie Purnell, Carolyn Day, Oleeta Aspinwall, Jackie Huckstep, Carole & Kelly Linch, Jessica & Jared Larson

### ATTENDANCE

#### Sunday, September 2

Sunday School....162    Worship Service.....319

#### Sunday, September 9

Sunday School....176    Worship Service.....354

#### Sunday, September 16

Sunday School....170    Worship Service.....335

#### Sunday, September 23

Sunday School....170    Worship Service.....361

### Wednesday Evening Weekly Menus

#### October 3

BBQ  
Baked Beans  
Corn on the Cob  
Kids: Pizza

#### October 10

TBD

#### October 24

Taco Salad  
Kids: Same

#### October 17

Soup (Vegetable Beef, Potato)  
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches  
Corn Bread  
Kids: Chicken Noodle Soup

#### October 31

White Chicken Chili  
Baked Potatoes  
Kids: Same