



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

Is God Calling You to Stephen Ministry?

"[God] consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God." (2 Corinthians 1:4)

Stephen Ministry is a new lay-caring ministry that our church is re-starting in 2017 that will enable us as a church to care for one another in the way Paul describes above. With over 1100 members, it's impossible (and impractical) for our two Pastors to be able to take care of all the congregational care needs of our church. So, our Stephen Ministry is therefore one of the vital complementary components of our church's care systems.

Stephen Ministers themselves are fellow church members who've gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care for people who're facing a crisis or simply going through a tough time. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges or hurts, our Stephen Ministers are there!

The way the system works is this: Stephen Ministers meet with someone in need (called a "care-receiver") once week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. The caring relationship is free, and lasts for as long as the care-receiver needs the care – it's a powerful way either to receive help for ourselves, or also a great way to help a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who's been struggling in any way.

Consequently, this Fall we are recruiting a new class of Stephen Ministers who will start their training in early 2017 and be commissioned to begin their work in early Spring. To find out more about how you or someone you know can become one of our church's Stephen Ministers, you're invited to attend one of our no-string-attached "Stephen Ministry Information Sessions" on October 2, 5, or 19 (look for details about these in upcoming articles). Or you can also either email stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org, speak in person with our church's Stephen Leader Miriam Kelly, or to Pastor Brian (brian@lagrangefumc.org). To find out more about Stephen Ministry, visit www.stephenministry.org.

Our Stephen Ministry is here to for you and for our congregation and community! I pray that you will prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to care for others through this ministry!

Always remember that God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

September 18, 2016

***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**

September 25, 2016

***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.*

Mark your calendar

September 18th

**Farewell to Kali Grenus
9:45am, Fellowship Hall
12:00, Sanctuary Narthex**

**Columbarium Cross Dedication
12:15pm, Columbarium Site**

**** 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. 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.



ACOLYTE TRAINING

Any student in the **4th, 5th, and 6th Grades**, is invited to participate in our Acolyte Ministry. A training for acolytes will be held on **Sunday, October 16th**, in the sanctuary following the 11:00 worship service.

If you have any questions or want further information please call or email the church office at 706-884-4635 or churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

Wednesday Evening Weekly
Serving from 5pm to 6:30pm

WEW Meal on September 21, 2016

Menu: BBQ Chicken, hash brown casserole,
veggie, salad bar & dessert

Children: Mini chicken & PB & J sandwiches

WEW Meal on September 28, 2016

Menu: Baked Tilapia, rice pilaf, veggie,
salad bar, dessert

Children: Corn dogs & 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.



"The act or process of reclaiming."

Who are we as a Christian community of faith at La-Grange First United Methodist Church in 2016? What is the nature and essence of our identity as we carry out our current calling as God's people? Join Pastors Blake and Brian September 18 & 25 as they help us reclaim our identity and purpose by unpacking the meaning of our church's new mission in a new series called **RECLAMATION**.

REMEMBRANCES RECEIVED

Memorials

Dr. John Gamble - Jim Weldon, Cynthia & Ralph Murphy, Cecelia & Lewis Goode, Marilyn & Allen Smith, Sally & Ray Holmes



**JOB OPPORTUNITY AS
MUSIC LEADER
AT FUMC
MORNING GLORY SERVICE**

The SPR Committee has been conducting a search for a new music leader for our Morning Glory Worship Service. A description of this position is posted on our website at lagrangefumc.org. If you or anyone you know might be interested in this position, please contact the SPR committee at spc@lagrangefumc.org.

YOU'RE INVITED...

To the annual **Fall Revival** of our sister church **Warren Temple UMC** (416 East Depot St., LaGrange) "Bound For Greater Things"
September 20-22, 2016 at 7:00pm each night

Our own Senior Pastor Brian Germano and our Chancel Choir will be leading the services on Wednesday, September 21st. Let's plan to support Warren Temple as they welcome us especially on that day!

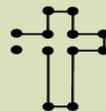


Louisiana Flooding Victim Assistance

For those who were not at our worship services this past week, we are participating with all other Methodist Churches to provide cleaning buckets for the flooding victims in Louisiana. You can be a part of this mission by purchasing a 5-gallon bucket, with a lid, and filling the bucket with all items listed on the instruction sheet available in the church office or online at this website address: (www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/Cleaning)

Please return the filled buckets to the church office by Sunday, September 18th.

**Fellow members have found that Wal-Mart seems to have all items needed at their location.*



**Connections @
LaGrange First
UMC**

This month we have launched our new **Connections College Ministry**. Every Wednesday evening we'll have a small group discussion and every Sunday morning we'll have Sunday school. Those regular meetings will be coupled with a variety of on-campus visits and different fun events that First Methodist will sponsor throughout the year.

Please remember to reach out to our college students. Many are living away from home, in a new place, for the first time.

Please pray that together we can show these students that no matter how far away they are from home that they have a home here with us at First Methodist.

2017 CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

Our church's Committee On Nominations and Leadership Development has begun its work to discern God's will for church leadership for next year. They need your help in identifying potential candidates who are willing to serve in areas of both program & administrative church leadership.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for a leadership committee or ministry team for next year, please contact either our Senior Pastor or email nominations@lagrangefumc.org by September 16th.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendars now for our **Celebration Sunday, October 23rd**. We will have one combined worship service at **10:30am** in the sanctuary with all Sunday School classes starting at 9:30am.

Immediately following the worship service, we will all meet in the fellowship hall for a **BBQ lunch**...the church will provide the BBQ, you are asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share with your church family.

Stephen Ministry

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister, or if you would just like to learn more about this Ministry, please plan to attend one of our...

“No-Strings-Attached” Stephen Ministry Information Sessions:

- **Sunday, October 2nd at 10:00 AM in the Maranatha classroom**
- **Sunday, October 2nd at 4:00 PM in the Genesis classroom**
- **Wednesday, October 5th at 5:00 PM in the Genesis classroom**
- **Wednesday, October 19th at 5:00 PM in the Genesis classroom**

If you are unable to attend but would like to have more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Brian Germano or Stephen Leader Miriam Kelly at stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org. We will be happy to share information and answer your questions.

“Bear one another’s burdens and thereby fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2)

**Stephen Ministers provide the care.
God provides the cure.**

Revamp, Reactivate, Invigorate!

Want to check out materials from the Library/Resource Center?

We have 4 sections: Reference, Congregational, FUMC Archives and Curricula.

For the first two, just remove the card in the front of the book, sign and date. Leave the card in the box labeled "Checked Out Books" on the rolling grey cart. Please return the books within a month so others can enjoy our collection of books. When returning the book(s), leave them on the grey cart and we will place back on the shelves.

FUMC Archives cannot be checked out. You are welcome to enjoy them at the table(s) in the Resource Center.

Curricula section includes books and DVDs designed for small groups, such as Sunday school classes and UMW Circles, to teach lessons. They may be checked out for 60 days. Books can be checked out as outlined above but for DVD sets we request you check them out through the church office. Also note your name and date on the DVD log in the Resource Center.

Stay tuned for more exciting ways you can use the Resource Center in the future!

Thank You!

Because of your generosity, our Meals on Wheels program received **26 floor fans**. Our drivers began distributing them this week and will complete their deliveries next week. Fans not used this year will be stored until late next spring when we will once again find individuals on our MOW routes in need of them. Every single person who received a fan was so appreciative and grateful for your help; most even uttered their “God bless you” thanks. LaGrange FUMC does make a difference in our community.



Youth Ministry

LaGrange FUMC Family,

I wanted to take a moment to **Thank You** all for allowing me to serve with your Youth Ministry these past 2 years. Following God’s call to be closer to home was a hard decision for me to make, but I know it is where God’s calling me to be. To all the students who allowed me to join them in their life journeys, the parents who supported me, and for the wonderful group of Volunteers (Small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, chaperones, and prayer warriors) for standing by my side, I thank you for your love and support. This program would be nothing without all of you!

Thank you,
Kali Grenus



CJ Lord

We are pleased to announced that CJ Lord has accepted the position of FUMC’s Interim Mid-High Youth Leader and that Harrison Pollard has accepted the position of our Interim Senior High Youth Leader. It is our hope that all of our youth will attend our youth activities. We also hope that each of you at LaGrange First will look for CJ and Harrison and extend your welcome and offer them your full support as they begin serving our youth.

Ken Young, Chairperson of SPR Committee
Brian Germano, Senior Pastor



Harrison Pollard

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401 Broad Street
 LaGrange, Georgia 30240
 Tel: (706) 884-4635 Fax: (706) 845-7068
 After-Hours Pastoral Emergencies: 888-456-1203
 E-Mail address churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org
 Web Site: www.lagrangefumc.org
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- Miss Grayson Bailey (ext 209)..... Director of Children’s Ministry
- Miss Katie Crumbley (ext. 209)..... Director of Summer Camp
- 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
- Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215)..... Interim Director of Mid High Youth
- Mrs. Patti Lybrand (ext 203)..... Church Secretary
- 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*

In our faith, family, community, & world

Thank you,

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, Sept. 4

- Sunday School.....140
- Worship Service.....210

ATTENDANCE, Sunday, Sept. 11

- Sunday School.....200
- Worship Service.....280

The Gideons International sends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the First Methodist Church congregation for the special relationship they have with our church and for the donation of \$1,325 which will help them carry out the command of Jesus Christ to spread His message to all nations.

Don Seal,
 LaGrange Gideon Camp

Columbarium Cross Dedication Service

Please plan to join us this Sunday,
 September 18th
 at 12:15 PM
 for the dedication
 of the new cross at the
 Columbarium

Calendar for September 18 - September 24

- Sunday** * Nursery
- *Worship Services
- *9:45am..... Sunday School
- 12:15pm..... Columbarium Cross Dedication
- 5:00pm..... Disciple Bible Study
- Monday**
- 11:00-11:30am..... Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
- 5:45pm..... Long Range Planning
- Tuesday**
- 9:00am..... Community Care
- 10:00am..... Dulcimers Beginning Class
- 5:30pm..... Worship Committee
- 7:00pm..... Boy Scouts
- Wednesday**
- 11:30am..... Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
- 4:00pm..... Youth Activities
- 5:30pm..... Handbell Choir
- 5:45pm..... M.E.R.G.E & Children’s Choir
- 5:45pm..... Connections Class
- 6:00pm..... Believe Bible Study
- 6:00pm..... Summer Camp Committee
- 6:30pm..... Chancel Choir
- Thursday**
- 9:00am..... Community Care
- 9:45am..... Prayer Ministry
- 10:30am..... Dulcimers Class
- 5:15pm..... Board of Trustees
- 5:30pm..... Orchestra Rehearsal
- Friday**
- 7:00am..... Men’s Coffee & Prayer Group
- Saturday**

Calendar for September 25 - October 1

- Sunday** * Nursery
- *Worship Services
- *9:45am..... Sunday School
- 5:00pm..... Disciple Bible Study
- 7:00pm..... Nominations/Leadership Development
- Monday**
- 11:00-11:30am..... Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen
- 5:30pm..... Music Committee
- Tuesday**
- 9:00am..... Community Care
- 10:00am..... Dulcimers Beginning Class
- 6:30pm..... Cub Scout Pack 21 Meeting
- 7:00pm..... Boy Scouts
- Wednesday**
- 11:30am..... Soup Kitchen-Sack Lunch
- 4:00pm..... Policy Committee / Youth Activities
- 5:30pm..... SPR Committee / Handbell Choir
- 5:45pm..... M.E.R.G.E & Children’s Choir
- 5:45pm..... Connections Class
- 6:00pm..... Believe Bible Study
- 6:30pm..... Chancel Choir
- Thursday**
- 9:00am..... Community Care
- 9:45am..... Prayer Ministry
- 10:30am..... Dulcimers
- Friday**
- 7:00am..... Men’s Coffee & Prayer Group

