



THE FLAME

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of LAGRANGE

September 2019

THE GIFT OF LISTENING

In her book, *Forever, Erma: Best-Loved Writing From America's Favorite Humorist*, noted columnist and humorist, the late Erma Bombeck, recounted a frustrating morning of numerous telephone calls and interrupting conversations before arriving at the airport for a flight.

She wrote, "There were thirty whole beautiful minutes before my plane took off . . . time for me to be alone with my own thoughts, to open a book and let my mind wander. A voice next to me belonging to an elderly woman said, 'I'll bet it's cold in Chicago.'

"Stone-faced, I answered, 'It's likely.'

"I haven't been to Chicago in nearly three years,' she persisted. 'My son lives there.'

"That's nice,' I said, my eyes intent on the printed page of the book.

"My husband's body is on this plane. We've been married for fifty-three years. I don't drive, you know, and when he died a nun drove me from the hospital. We aren't even Catholic. The funeral director let me come to the airport with him."

Erma wrote, "I don't think I have ever detested myself more than I did at that moment. Another human being was screaming to be heard and in desperation had turned to a cold stranger who was more interested in a novel than in the real-life drama at her elbow.

"All she needed was a listener . . . no advice, wisdom, experience, money, assistance, expertise or even compassion . . . but just a minute or two to listen.

"It seemed rather incongruous that in a society of super-sophisticated communication, we often suffer from a shortage of listeners.

"She talked numbly and steadily until we boarded the plane, [and] found her seat in another section. As I hung up my coat, I heard her plaintive voice say to her seat companion, 'I'll bet it's cold in Chicago.'

"I prayed, 'Please God, let her listen.'"

Listening is a great gift we offer to others. As we move to the year 2020, I invite you to join me in listening for ways to engage and encourage LaGrange College students, residents who are struggling with generational poverty, and neighbors who are seeking to develop their untapped spiritual potential.

This is a great season to be in ministry together and to leverage the godly influence of encouragement in our great church for the sake of others!

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

Dr. John Beyers

Our Mission:

To **MAKE** and **GROW** Disciples of Jesus Christ for the **TRANSFORMATION** of the World

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THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of LAGRANGE

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

We always look forward to hearing from you.



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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.

IN MEMORIAM

Gary Stephens
August 6, 2019



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 ministries or email stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org.

HIGH ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Fresh flowers are a symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of new life through faith in His love, mercy, and grace.

Jane Rogers, **By Special Arrangement**, will create two matching floral arrangements to perfectly fit our brass High Altar flower urns for **\$100** per Sunday.

Contact Dodie Patterson at **706-884-4635** or dodie@LaGrangeFUMC.org for available dates to honor the Lord and someone special to you.

The Community Food Closet

For the next several months, the Community Food Closet will need canned yams or sweet potatoes, mushroom soup, and condensed milk as they work to help families when the holidays arrive. You are welcome to bring the food items to the church office.

WORSHIP SERVICE VIDEOS

High-definition video recordings of our 11:00 am Traditional Worship Services and Sermons are now available on our website – LaGrangeFUMC.org.

THE ACOLYTE MINISTRY

We are looking for more students to join our Acolyte Ministry Team. Students going into the the Third Grade through High School may participate.

For more information call the church office at 706-884-4635 or email churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, August 25, 2019, we have received **103.6%** of anticipated giving based on our ten-year giving model. **Thank you** for your financial faithfulness to underwrite the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ through our great church!



September 2019

Weekly

SUNDAY	
9:00a Traditional Worship	10:00a Church on the Hooch
10:00a Sunday School	11:00a Traditional Worship
MONDAY	
10:30a Meals on Wheels	11:30a Soup Kitchen
5:30p Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal	
TUESDAY	
9:00a Community Care	2:00p Staff Meeting
7:00p Boy Scouts	
WEDNESDAY	
11:30a Soup Kitchen Sack Lunch	5:00p Wednesday Evening Meal
5:30p Hand bell Rehearsal	6:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY	
9:00a Community Care	9:45a Prayer Ministry
10:30a Dulcimers	
FRIDAY	
7:00a Men's Coffee & Prayer	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Church Closed for Labor Day	3 12:30p Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00p Disciple IV Class	4 6:00p Bible Study	5 12:00 Thursday Lunch Club Luncheon	6	7
8 5:00p Disciple IV Class	9	10	11 5:45p Missions Committee 6:00p Bible Study	12	13	14
15 3:00p Youth-Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build 5:00p Disciple IV Class	16	17 5:30p Worship Committee	18 6:00p Bible Study	19 6:30p Charge Conference Workshop	20	21
22 12:00p Safe Sanctuaries Training 5:00p Disciple IV Class	23	24	25 6:00p Bible Study	26 5:00p Board of Trustees	27	28
29 12:00p Stephen Ministry Meeting 5:00p Disciple IV Class	30	1 12:30p Red Cross Blood Drive	2	3 12:00 October TLC Luncheon	4	5

Remembrances Received, August 2019

In Memory of

Earl Cook (Kat Cook's Brother)—Dusty & Carlene Mills, Donna & Richard Ennis, Oleeta Aspinwall

Gary Stephens—Ellen & Mike Dobbs, Jane Willey, Bobbie & Lonnie Ritchie, Anne Allen, Carolyn Alise, Carol & Jim Morgan, Judy Yarbrough, Pat & Orren Gilbert, Kathleen & Stuart Gulley, Carole & Kelly Linch, Don Gregory, Bonnie & David Johnson, Carlene & Dusty Mills, Joanna & Ric Selbie, Shirra & Hoyt Rogers, Laura Shedd, Marsha Holliday, Joanna Boguski, Nancy & Mike Peterson, Margaret Camp, Mr. & Mrs. John McManaway, Catherine Carmical, Tee Borders, Lauranne Buchanan, Bernard Bledsoe, Faye & Cliff Rainey, Ann & Perry Wilder, The Susanna Circle, Marilyn & Allen Smith, Peggy Raney, Leslie Dansby Cox, Pamela Ramsey, Anne Stich, Sharon & Alan Jones, Leila & Jim Fulford, Martha Stanley, Jackie Huckstep, Betsy Hurst, Freddie & Gene Hayes

Sandra Moncus—Faye & Cliff Rainey

Cole Hagood—Cecelia & Lewis Goode, Marsha Holliday, Allen & Marilyn Smith, Patricia Vaughn, Reaunette Vaughn, Nancy & Mike Peterson, Donna & Richard Ennis

Rose Marie Krimm—Ann & Perry Wilder, Peggy Lukken, Mary Ann & Greg Keck, Allen & Marilyn Smith, The Chancel Choir, Donna & Richard Ennis

Carl Becker—Mary Ann & Greg Keck, Donna & Richard Ennis

Martha Smith—West Georgia Health Foundation

September's Worship Team Volunteers

Ushers: Jim Biagi, Charles Knight, Mark Huckstep, Hank Hughes, Forrest Johnson, Dean Larson, Alex Hughes

Altar Guild: Laura Shedd, Nancy Mahaffey, Ellen Parmer, Brenda Tilson, Dee Wallace, Beth Godwin, Joyce Morgan Young

Hospitality Team: Carolyn Day, Joye Greene, Carole & Kelly Linch, Ric & Joanna Selbie, Oleeta Aspinwall, Jackie Huckstep, Jared & Jessica Larson, Laura Jennings, Donna & Richard Ennis, Mark Huckstep, Lauren & Jared Lovin, Dee Woodward, Margie Purnell, Laura Holley, Denise & Mike Wilson, Julianne Skipper, Laura Harlin, Beth & Frank McRae, Caryn & Steve Cole, Jan Lockerbie, Nancy & Dean Larson, Susan & Bill Black, Lauranne Buchanan

Our Sympathy to

Kat Cook & Family in the death of her Brother, **Earl Cook, August 7, 2019.**

John McManaway & Family in the death of his Brother, **David McManaway, August 14, 2019.**

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 4

Sunday School....141 Worship Service.....292

Sunday, August 11

Sunday School....359 Worship Service.....174

Sunday, August 18

Sunday School....155 Worship Service.....338

Sunday, August 25

Sunday School....110 Worship Service.....351

Wednesday Evening Weekly Menus

September 4

Chicken Fingers
Roasted Potatoes
Veggie
Kids—Chicken Nuggets

September 11

Pork Loin
Sweet Potatoes
Veggie
Kids—Corn Dogs

September 18

Poppyseed Chicken
Rice
Veggie
Kids—Same

September 25

BBQ
Corn on the Cob
Baked Beans
Kids—Mini Burgers

Dessert with every meal. Adults - \$6, Children/Youth - \$3