



1828

# THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, GA

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

**September 10, 2017**

**\*Early Worship Service  
9:00am in the Chapel**

**\*THE BRIDGE  
10:55am in the Fellowship Hall**

**\*Traditional Service  
11:00am in the Sanctuary**

**\*Korean Worship Service  
11:00am in the Chapel**

**September 17, 2017**

**\*Early Worship Service  
9:00am in the Chapel**

**\*THE BRIDGE  
10:55am in the Fellowship Hall**

**\*Traditional Service  
11:00am in the Sanctuary**

**\*Korean Worship Service  
11:00am in the Chapel**

*\*Child care is provided.*

**Children's Church** is for ages 3rd grade & younger. Children will dismiss to Room 203 in the Children's building.

## PARABLE OF THE LOBSTER

“God is our refuge and strength.... Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change....” (Psalm 46:1-2)

As our church experiences several significant changes this Fall through transitioned worship and a new outreach to young adults, I thought it would be helpful for us all to remember the blessings and challenges of CHANGE – of being willing to stretch and become more than we already are. Highlighting this, the following modern day parable comes from Rev. Carolyn Wittwer of the New York Annual Conference by way of Rev. Doug Smith, former Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Morristown, Tennessee:

“Long ago, when the world was very new... there was a certain lobster who determined that the Creator had made a mistake. So he set up an appointment to discuss the matter. ‘With all due respect,’ said the lobster, ‘I wish to complain about the way you designed my shell. You see, I just get used to one outer casing, when I’ve got to shed it for another; very inconvenient and rather a waste of time.’ To which the Creator replied, ‘I see. But do you realize that it is the giving up of one shell that allows you to grow into another?’

‘But I like myself just the way I am,’ the lobster said. ‘Your mind’s made up?’ the Creator said. ‘Indeed!’ the lobster stated firmly. ‘Very well,’ smiled the Creator. ‘From now on, your shell will not change... and you may go about your business just as you are right now.’ ‘That’s very kind of you,’ said the lobster, and left.

At first, the lobster was very content with wearing the same old shell. But as time passed, he found that his once light and comfortable shell was becoming quite heavy and tight. After a while, in fact, the shell became so cumbersome that the lobster couldn’t feel anything at all outside himself. As a result, he was constantly bumping into others. Finally, it got to the point where he could hardly breathe. So with great effort, he went back to see the Creator.

‘With all due respect,’ the lobster sighed, ‘contrary to what you promised, my shell has not remained the same. It keeps shrinking!’ ‘Not at all,’ smiled the Creator. ‘Your shell may have gotten a little thicker with age, but it has remained the same size. What’s happened is that you have changed inside, beneath your shell.’ The Creator continued: ‘You see, everything changes... continuously. No one remains the same. That’s the way I’ve designed things. And the wisest choice is to shed your old shell as you grow.’ ‘I see,’ said the lobster, ‘but you must admit it is occasionally inconvenient and a bit uncomfortable.’

‘Yes,’ said the Creator, ‘but remember, all growth carries with it both the possibility of discomfort... and the potential for great joy as you discover new parts of yourself. After all, you can’t have one without the other.’ ‘That’s very sensible,’ said the lobster.

‘If you’d like,’ offered the Creator, ‘I’ll tell you something more.’ ‘Please do!’ encouraged the lobster. ‘When you let go of your shell and choose to grow,’ said the Creator, ‘you build new strength within yourself and in that strength you’ll find new capacity to love yourself... to love those around you... and to love life itself. That is my plan for each of you.’”

How is God calling you to stretch and change in your life? in your faith? What new thing(s) is He challenging you with lately? In what ways are you and/or our church being called to be more than you/we have been? Whatever transformation challenge you are facing, my hope and prayer is that even though change is often difficult and uncomfortable, you and we will all welcome it as a tool from God to help us become who He wants us to be. Remember, God loves you and I do, too!

Pastor Brian

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

**WEW Meal on September 13, 2017**

Menu: BBQ, Baked Beans, Sweet Potato Fries,  
Salad Bar, Dessert.

Children: Grilled Cheese & PB & J Sandwiches

**WEW Meal on September 20, 2017**

Menu: Poppyseed Chicken, Rice, Fried Okra,  
Salad Bar, Dessert.

Children: Same & PB & J sandwiches

Call or email the church office at 884-4635 by NOON  
on MONDAY to make your meal reservation.

Cost: \$0 for those 2 years & under, \$3 for those  
3 years-12th grade, and \$6 for adults.

**REMEMBRANCE RECEIVED**

***Honorarium***

**Mary Funk** - Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class



THE BRIDGE  
opens September 10th  
10:55 A.M.  
in the  
Fellowship Hall.

See more on our website  
[lagrangefumc.org](http://lagrangefumc.org).

Please be in prayer for all of  
our church's worship services.

For questions, please email [worship@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:worship@lagrangefumc.org).



***Welcome people to  
Christ's Church***

Be a Greeter and welcome  
visitors and church members to  
worship. Be the first  
impression of our church with  
your smiling face. What a  
tremendous impact you could have with very little effort.  
Please consider serving as a Greeter for THE BRIDGE other  
services. Contact the Church Office at 706-884-4635 or  
Terri Cook or Fred Bodine at  
[terricook12@gmail.com](mailto:terricook12@gmail.com) or [FredBodine@gmail.com](mailto:FredBodine@gmail.com).



**We Offer a Helping Hand  
When You Lose a Loved One.**

Losing a family member can be one of the  
most difficult and painful experiences a  
person will go through. Often at the time  
of a loss, the grieving family members find  
it difficult to focus on ordinary tasks. The  
Bereavement Committee at FUMC offers  
assistance to families of church members  
who experience the death of a spouse or a child OR when the  
deceased was a member of the church.

The committee tries to assist by preparing a meal for the  
family or preparing and serving food for a reception. The  
meal can be served at the home or in the Small Dining Room.  
The reception is normally in the Methodist Ministries Center  
(MMC). Cards are also sent to all those in our church family  
who have suffered a loss.

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 the Church Office at  
706-884-4635 or our Bereavement Chairperson Shirra Rogers  
at [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).

**Our Sister Church Revival**

Warren Temple UMC invites you to join them for their  
Homecoming Revival, Tuesday, September 19th through  
Thursday, September 21st. This year's theme is  
*Show Your Work*, 2 Corinthians 15:58.

Warren Temple UMC Family  
416 East Depot Street

**Thursday Lunch Club  
October 5th, 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall**



**Historical Postcard Collection**



**Chris  
Cleaveland**

For reservations for the meal & program call or email the church at  
706-884-4635 or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).

Cost is \$6 per person.

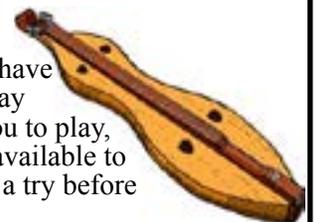
All are welcome!

**Learn to Play the Mountain Dulcimer**

**Free Lessons! Can't read music?**

**No Problem!**

Nancy Larson and Ann Wilder have  
taught hundreds of people to play  
the dulcimer. Let them teach you to play,  
too! Cardboard dulcimers are available to  
those who would like to give it a try before  
investing in an instrument.



Classes begin September 12th, and will continue on  
Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Genesis Classroom. Call  
Nancy at 706-883-6915 or Ann 706-882-5027.



**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](mailto:stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org).

### Ways YOU Can Help with Hurricane Relief Efforts

1. Continue to pray for those whose lives have been impacted by the Hurricane Harvey and Irma.
2. Make a donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) by following the instructions at this link: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies> or consider donating larger-ticket items including:
  - Box fans (To dry out houses following flooding.)
  - 25' heavy duty 14 gauge extension cords (To move the fans around inside a home)
  - 2 gallon garden sprayers (To fight mildew and mold)
  - Flat billed shovels (Remove mud, wet carpet, pads, sheet rock insulation, etc.)
  - Rakes with 3" tines (Remove tree limbs, leaves and muck from inside homes and yards)
  - Wheel barrows (2 wheels, so they will not turn over going to the street)

*If you want to donate any of the items above, please contact our church's Missions Committee ([missions@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:missions@lagrangefumc.org)) for instructions of how & where to take them.*

3. Donate through any North Georgia Conference UMC, including LaGrange First, by clearly marking your donation "Hurricane Relief" or give online directly at UMCOR's website here.

### Youth Ministry

CJ Lord, Director, [cj@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:cj@lagrangefumc.org)

The student Ministries are back in full swing at LaGrange FUMC! We have had between 60 and 70 students each week in worship on Wednesday Nights. We recently had a cookout at Highland Park, and on September 24th we will have a Confirmation Cookout at Highland Park for all mentors and confirmands. We look forward to the Confirmation Retreat at the end of September and the official start of Confirmation classes on Oct. 8th. The High School students are beginning a book study on Tuesday Mornings where we will read through Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith. As always, if you or someone you know would like to become more active in the student Ministries here at LaGrange FUMC, please just reach out.

Thanks so much for all the congregational support as we continue to impact lives for the kingdom of Heaven.

Grace and Peace, CJ Lord

### Children's Ministry

Jeanne Jones, Director, [jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org).

#### Family Worship Sunday

Periodically throughout the year, we will have family worship Sundays. This is an opportunity for the whole family to worship together in the service of their choice. On most Sundays our children leave to go to Children's Church so that they can be ministered to in a way that is engaging and age appropriate for where they are developmentally. We believe that it is also important to allow children a time to worship together with their full church family. Family worship Sundays will give our children a chance to see their parents and other adults worship the Lord, experience all the elements of a church service (music, communion, prayer, etc.), and together talk later about the message. Our first family worship Sunday will be on September 17th.

#### Children's Sunday School and Children's Church

Starting September 10th, our children will be starting a new curriculum. During Sunday School and Children's Church we will be digging into the Bible and going through the Bible in a year. All children's classes will be on the first floor of the Children's Ministries building. Room 107 - Sunday School, Room 111 - Children's Church.

### SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES

Join pastors Brian and Blake September 10-24 for two unique, 3-week sermon series:



9am & 11am "Traditional" – ARE YOU KIDDING?

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus told His disciples that unless they changed and became like children they would never enter the kingdom of heaven. Throughout His ministry Jesus interacted and cared for children. He talked with them, listened to them, healed them and even raised them from the dead. During most of these meetings Jesus took the time to highlight that He had given children a special status among the people of God. Join Pastor Blake at our traditional worship services at 9:00am and 11:00am as we will look at some of Christ's encounters through the eyes of a child, with the hopes of discovering a kind of wisdom that adults frequently miss.



10:55am "THE BRIDGE" – GRACE ALL THE WAY HOME

The grace of God is one of the most important concepts of Christian faith. But what exactly is it? What's so "amazing" about it? And why is it so important in and to our lives of faith? Join Pastor Brian in this 3-part series as he uses characters from one of the most famous parables of Jesus to explore God's grace and what it actually looks like in our daily lives.

**THE FLAME**

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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LaGrange, Georgia 30240

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After-Hours Pastoral Emergencies: 888-456-1203

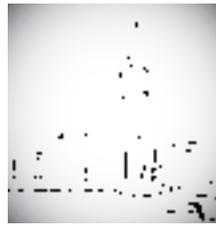
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Mr. Rick Free (ext 210).....Director of Food Services  
Dr. Brian Germano (ext 205).....Senior Pastor  
Mr. Eddie Giddens.....Custodian  
Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager  
Mrs. Jeanne Jones (ext 209).....Director of Children's Ministry  
Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship  
Mr. C. J. Lord (ext 215).....Director of Mid & Sr High Youth  
Mr. Greg Nichols.....Morning Glory Worship Leader  
Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary  
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*

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### 2018 CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Our church's Committee On Nominations and Leadership Development has begun its work to discern God's will for church leadership for next year. To assist them in their task, they need your help-before September 20th-in identifying potential candidates who are willing to serve in areas of both program and administrative church leadership.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for a leadership committee or ministry team for next year, please read the instructions in the "Join In The Ministry of God's Church" brochure available in our newsletter, online, or in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, or Church Office and follow the instructions there. For further information, contact either our Senior Pastor or email [nominations@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:nominations@lagrangefumc.org).

Your 2017 Committee On Nominations and Leadership Development

#### ATTENDANCE, Sunday, August 27

Worship Service.....415

#### ATTENDANCE, Sunday, September 3

Sunday School.....153

Worship Service.....192

### 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](http://lagrangefumc.org/online-giving).

#### Calendar for September 10 - September 16

**Sunday** \* Nursery  
\*Worship Services  
\*10:00am.....Sunday School  
5:00pm.....Disciple II Bible Study  
**Monday**  
11:30am-12:00.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen  
5:45pm.....Stewardship Committee  
**Tuesday**  
9:00am.....Community Care  
11:00am.....Dulcimers Class  
5:30pm.....SPR 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.....Handbell Rehearsal  
5:45pm.....Children's Program  
5:45pm.....Missions Committee  
6:00pm.....Security Committee  
6:00pm.....Mid & Sr. High Youth Small Groups  
6:30pm.....Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
**Thursday**  
9:00am.....Community Care  
9:45am.....Prayer Ministry  
10:45am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal  
**Friday**  
7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group  
**Saturday**

#### Calendar for September 17 - September 23

**Sunday** \* Nursery  
\*Worship Services  
\*10:00am.....Sunday School  
5:00pm.....Disciple II Bible Study  
**Monday**  
11:30am-12:00am.....Meals On Wheels & Soup Kitchen  
**Tuesday**  
9:00am.....Community Care  
11:00am.....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.....Handbell Rehearsal  
5:45pm.....Children's Wednesday Program  
6:00pm.....Mid & Sr. High Youth Small Groups  
6:30pm.....Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
**Thursday**  
9:00am.....Community Care  
9:45am.....Prayer Ministry  
10:45am.....Dulcimers Rehearsal  
3:00pm.....PAUMCS Conference  
**Friday**  
7:00am.....Men's Coffee & Prayer Group  
PAUMCS Conference  
**Saturday**  
PAUMCS Conference



Are you looking for an opportunity to serve that requires just one hour of your time a week once or twice a month? Do you like to laugh and see kids grow in their faith?

Join the Wednesday night Children's Ministries team. We need volunteers to come and act as an extra set of hands to serve and love our kids. Email or call

Jeanne Jones today at  
[jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org) or  
706-884-4635.

### LaGrange First Welcomes the 2017 PAUMCS Conference

Our church is happy to serve as the host site for the 2017 Annual Conference of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries. Church Administrators from both the North Georgia & South Georgia Conferences will be with us from September 21st through the 24th.