

THE FLAME



The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange



FROM YOUR SENIOR MINISTER

"When Jesus came back to life, we came alive!"

Monday is perhaps the most forgetful day of the week. We live much of our lives with this escapist drive toward the weekend, thinking those two days will fulfill all of our needs and dreams. More sleep. More time to work on those assignments. A chance to have clean clothes again. Time with people we love. Time with God.

Then Monday rolls around.

"How was your weekend?" someone asks. Our minds go blank.

We prepare our hearts in anticipation of Easter. We reflect on the cross and its significance. We feel the long, heavy pause between Good Friday and Easter Sunday—waiting for the discovery of an empty grave and a risen Savior. Then it comes; He comes!

And then it is Monday.

The temptation is to treat Easter like it is an ending. The eggs have all been found, Jesus is risen, we went to church, I can finally eat sugar/watch Netflix/go on social media again . . . and now it is back to "normal life."

But nothing was normal after Jesus.

Easter was revolution. It was the day after which nothing was the same ever again. Easter is not just a time to pause and reflect on some nice truths we tend to forget about the rest of the year. It is the entire crux of our faith. It is the only reason to have hope.

We come to the Mondays after Easter a changed people because Jesus' resurrection gave us a new identity. My identity is not the choices I make or what I accomplish, but in who Christ's resurrection has made me to be.

The life of the disciples after meeting the resurrected Jesus reminds me of this. Last Sunday, we studied John 20:19-20. It was the first day of the week. The disciples had locked themselves away out of fear. Everything Jesus had taught them—everything He had said or done—it all seemed like a distant memory now.

Something happened in that locked room that radically transformed them from fearful, anxious men into witnesses that would not be silenced, would not be ashamed, would not stop sharing what Jesus had done, even at the cost of their own lives.

The resurrection was everything for them now. The cross had been the death of everything they had hoped or believed was true. But it was not the final end. It was only the end of who they had been, and it was the beginning of who they truly were meant to be. When Jesus came back to life, they came alive!

As we continue to navigate through our series, "I've Just Seen Jesus, and I'll Never Be the Same again," may we pray, "Jesus, please do not let me forget. Please do not let me forget."

Friends, there is a wonderful Ukrainian toast made at large family events. People click their glasses, look each other in the eye, and say something that translates to, "Know who you are." What a beautiful thought! As you approach your own forgetful Mondays, I hope you will also remember that you are an unrepeatable miracle of God, and it is through the resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, that we too come alive!

Your friend in sharing
life's adventure with Christ.


Dr. John Beyers

May
2022

Staff Transitions



Rev. Ben Wills

We congratulate **The Rev. Ben Wills** upon his appointment as Senior Minister of Lewis Memorial United Methodist Church and Marvin United Methodist Church, both located in Columbia County near Augusta. Pastor Ben, Sammi, and Reid have greatly blessed our congregation for three years, and we look forward to celebrating their ministry on June 12.



Elissa Lamoree

Elissa Lamoree, part-time Assistant Family Minister, has accepted a full-time position at LaGrange College in the Admissions Department. Elissa will continue working with our children and youth as a volunteer and small group leader. Elissa and her husband, Colin, remain active members of LaGrange First Methodist.



Will Locke

Will Locke, Youth Minister, will be pursuing new opportunities in ministry at the end of this academic year. We appreciate Will's efforts to shepherd our youth ministry through the challenges of COVID-19 over the past two years and wish him well on his new endeavors.

Congratulations, Eddie!

Eddie Montgomery serves on our Production Team while attending LaGrange College. He has been selected as the recipient of the **Mattox-Zachry Music Scholarship**. The scholarship is given to the student who has demonstrated musical excellence, high academic achievement, and strong service to LaGrange College's Fine Arts and Performing Arts Department. Congratulations, Eddie!



The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites you to celebrate the ministry of

The Rev. Ben Wills & Family

SUN | 12 | JUNE

12:15 pm
Wesley Hall

Light refreshments will be served.

As is the tradition of LaGrange First Methodist, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee has selected items, in conjunction with Pastor Ben, that will assist him in his transition to senior minister and his future ordination.

If you would like to participate in purchasing these items, please select "Special Offering-Wills" from our online gift fund options or note that fund on your check. All funds given above the cost of the items will be gifted to Pastor Ben to assist with his relocation.

Pastor Ben also keeps a jar of notes to read when he needs a bit of inspiration and affirmation. Letters may be brought to the Church Office.



Eddie Montgomery



TEAM TALK: JEANNE JONES

A Series of Rapid-Fire Questions with LaGrange First Methodist Staff Members

Jeanne Jones serves as our Children's Minister. Jeanne's love for children and her desire to point them to Jesus is evident in her words and actions. She is the ultimate team player, modeled by her willingness to spearhead LaGrange First Methodist's community events, including our Community Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival, and Night of Lights. Later this month, Jeanne will put on another hat—Summer Camp Director! Learn more fun facts about her.

Favorite outdoor activity?

Tennis

Do you have any pets?

We have one dog, Roxie, and six grand-dogs who come to all the family events.

What's the first thing you do when you wake up?

Go to the bathroom!

Best vacation you've ever taken?

Mediterranean Cruise

What's a surprise fact that we would not know?

Actor Woody Harrelson asked me to play a practical joke on his friend.

Do you collect anything?

Notes from people

What would you do with a day all to yourself?

Read

What song do you always have to sing along with?

"We Are Family"

What was your major in college?

Business Education

Are you a good dancer?

No, but I love dancing!

How did you meet your husband?

At Rider College

Who is your favorite Disney character?

Cinderella

Favorite ice cream flavor?

Rum raisin

Favorite band or musician?

I like a variety!

Popcorn or pretzels?

Popcorn

Who wins in a fight—Batman or Superman?

Superman

What would you be doing if you were not in ministry?

Attorney

Best book you've read lately?

"Mark of the Lion"

Sand or snow?

Snow! I was born in the Northeast, and I miss the snow.

What was the first concert you attended?

Billy Joel

Favorite game on game night?

Mexican Train Dominoes

What actor should play you in a movie?

Cameron Diaz (younger me!)

Favorite scripture?

Ephesians 3:14-21

Favorite Hymn?

"Amazing Grace"

SUMMER
Day Camp

MAY 31 - JULY 29, 2022

Contact Jeanne Jones (jeanne@lagrangefumc.org)
for more information.


Show the Love of God



2022 Spring Luncheon

Monday, June 6 at 12:15 pm
Epworth Dining Room

RSVP by 5/31 to 706.884.4635 or register online; \$8/person



MISSION OF THE MONTH
LaGrange Personal Aid
BENEFOLLOVENCE
Fund

June 2, 2022
TLC LUNCHEON
12:00 pm



Join us on Thursday, June 2 for family-style lunch, fellowship, and line dancing by The Active Life Dancers!

\$6/person



Welcome, New Members!



Joe & Ginger Jones



Ben & Madison Stevens



In Memoriam

FORREST CLARK JOHNSON
March 22, 2022

DONALD EUGENE HAYES, JR.
March 25, 2022

MARY FRANCES HESTER
April 22, 2022

RICHARD DWIGHT FRANKLIN
April 24, 2022

END OF SEMESTER CELEBRATIONS



Interested in you or your child serving as an acolyte? Join us!

Wednesday, May 18
4:30-5:00 pm
Sanctuary



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE TRANSITION INTO STUDENT MINISTRY!

MAY 18 **COLOR WARS** RISING 6TH GRADERS

WEAR A WHITE TSHIRT AND BRING A TOWEL!
WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AT 5:00 PM; COLOR WARS IN THE CHURCH COURTYARD 5:45 - 7:00 PM

RSVP TO WILL (WILL@LAGRANGEFUMC.ORG) BY 5/11

The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

TGIW!
THANK GOD IT'S WEDNESDAY!

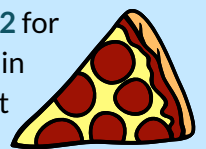
END OF SEMESTER COOK-OUT!

Wednesday, May 18
5:00 – 6:00 pm
Wesley Hall

There is no per person charge; a love offering will be collected to cover the cost of the meal.



All current 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are invited to join us on **Sunday, May 22** for our end-of-year bash! Meet at the church for 3:00 pm departure to Junction Lanes in Newnan followed by dinner at Johnny's Pizza. Bring \$20 to cover the cost. Contact Jeanne Jones (jeanne@lagrangefumc.org) for more information.



CONFIRMATION



We welcomed nine young women and men into our community of faith through the Rite of Confirmation: **Christina Ceja, Ashley Anne French, Blake French, Sam Huberdeau, Mollie Roberts, Ibbly Robertson, Elly Sanchez, Kenzo Sato, and Asher Trinrud.** In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and made members in the Church, the Body of Christ in the world. In the Rite of Confirmation, we choose to publicly respond to the grace of God made available to us in baptism, to promise to live as a person of faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and to Show the Love of God through compassionate evangelism and hands on mission engagement.

These confirmands completed lessons over the course of the academic year—39 in all!—to learn the basics of the Christian faith, foundational Methodist doctrine, how to read, interpret, and apply Holy Scripture, and how to grow through the means of grace.

Throughout this nine-month journey, each confirmand has been paired with a mentor. We extend our sincere appreciation to each of these mentors: **Molly Carmichael, Steve Cole, Jane Free, Patsy Hale, Rhonda Mitchell, Tom Pirkle, Ashley Reed, Byron Reed, and Jared Thornton.** Thank you for shepherding our young confirmands along their spiritual journey.



Kelly & Carole Linch



Back Row: Carole, Richard, Kelly
Front Row: Scott, Alan

KELLY & CAROLE LINCH

On May 7, 1986, Kelly and Carole Linch received the tragic news that their oldest son, 16-year-old Richard, had died in a boating accident. They turned that tragedy into hope by creating an endowment to support youth at LaGrange First Methodist. On May 22, the 2022 Richard Linch Memorial Scholarship will be awarded.

The day of the accident is blurred in the memories of Kelly and Carole Linch, but Carole has one distinct image that appears when she reflects on that day. She looked out her window and saw their beloved pastor, The Rev. Dr. Gil Watson, running—sprinting!—up their driveway to offer his love and comfort to their grieving family. Dr. Watson was the Senior Minister of LaGrange First Methodist, and the Linch Family centered their life activities around this community of faith.

Kelly and Carole have a great history at LaGrange First Methodist. Carole's great-great-grandfather was a member in 1850, Kelly was a member in high school, and the couple transferred their

membership from West Point First Methodist Church to LaGrange First Methodist on July 28, 1972—50 years ago! They are members of the Builders Sunday School Class and have participated on countless committees and mission projects over the past five decades. Their three sons (Richard, Scott, and Alan) were raised in the church and attended Sunday School and worship services weekly.

Richard was the typical first child, notes mom Carole. "He was baptized at West Point First Methodist in 1970. When we moved to LaGrange and joined LaGrange First Methodist, Richard attended Children's Church and Sunday School. His teachers said he always



"I came to the realization that faith and love for others is the reason we are born and live our lives"

- Carole Linch

knew his Bible verses and Bible stories. He was a great role model for his younger brothers." Scott and Alan were 12 and 8 when he died.

Richard participated in the Boy Scouts, all recreation department sports, and band. He attended camps in the summer and helped with Camp Cowpie. He loved to ski, both water and snow. He also enjoyed MYF



activities, summer mission trips, and choir. He even played Joseph in the 1984 Living Nativity. And he excelled in the classroom, scoring high on the SAT exam to qualify for the Duke University TIP program.

When asking his mom what she remembered the most about Richard, a family friend interjected with "his smile!" Richard was one of those rare individuals that radiated happiness.

"Richard had a beautiful life, filled with people and activities that he loved," noted Carole. "Kelly and I adored him each day of his life. We looked forward to many more days ahead, but it was not meant to be. Our heartache took a toll on us, but Scott and Alan were the reason we survived. Through our faith we survived."

After Richard's death, Carole and Kelly met monthly for ten years with Compassionate Friends, a griefshare group. They continue to offer care and support to parents upon the loss of a child at any age. "I don't know how anyone gets through a tragedy without their faith, family, and friends," reflected Carole. Kelly added, "The loss of a child is not something you ever get over. The memory is always present—not just at holidays, but every day I think of Richard and live with his loss."

Thirty-five years ago, the Linch Family began awarding six scholarships to the Spiritual Life Retreat annually. The Richard Linch Memorial Scholarship Fund continued to grow and was transferred to the First United Methodist Church of LaGrange Memorial Foundation. In 2000, the family began awarding a college scholarship to an outstanding teen who showed the same dedication to LaGrange First Methodist Youth Ministry as Richard while achieving academic success. On Sunday, May 22, the Richard Linch Memorial Scholarship winner will be announced with that student receiving a \$2000 scholarship.



Thanks to the generosity of Carole and Kelly Linch, their family and friends, Richard continues to influence generations of students of LaGrange First Methodist with a message of hope rather than tragedy. "I came to the realization that faith and love for others is the reason we are born and live our lives," proclaimed Carole. "Our memories sustain us each and every day. Thank goodness we have the assurance of eternal life, and we will see Richard again."



RICHARD LINCH

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Past Recipients

- 2000 — Brandon Lybrand
- 2001 — B. J. Jones
- 2002 — Katie Cox
- 2003 — Natalie Young
- 2004 — Andrew Holbrook
- 2005 — Camille Evans
- 2006 — Beth Parmer
- 2007 — Alicia Blackwell
- 2008 — Annie Jackson
- 2009 — John Morgan Jackson
- 2010 — James Jackson
- 2011 — Walter Jones
- 2012 — Sarah Allred
- 2013 — Anabeth Ivey
- 2014 — Riley Penn
- 2015 — Matthew Hayes
- 2016 — Catherine Emery
- 2017 — Will Rainey
- 2018 — Will Holmes
- 2019 — Ben Ivey
- 2020 — Miller Penn
- 2021 — Caroline Shelton

The 2022 winner will be announced on May 22 at 9:00 am Modern Worship.



MAY 22 IS GRADUATE SUNDAY

Do you have a family member graduating from high school this year? Please contact Will Locke (will@lagrangefumc.org)

HOLY WEEK 2022



He is Risen!



Family



Community Easter Egg Hunt at Southbend Park



Palm Sunday





MOTHER'S DAY

We're Better Together!



Boys and girls that attended Kid's Church and Sunday School on Mother's Day Sunday made special gifts for the moms. Each child's handprint was used for the "o" in Mom in a special picture that states, "I know you've loved me for as long as I've lived, but I've loved you my whole life!" Older children created personalized books that illustrated all things they love the most about their mother.

In Memoriam



John & Sarah Soltis
by Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben

Jennifer Soltis Trizzino
by Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben

David Soltis
by Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben

William O. Young
by Will, Natalie & Caroline Curry

So Young
by The Sato Family

Carla White
by The Sato Family

Janet Franklin
by Chuck Franklin

Don Rainey
by Andy, Esther, Will, Matt & Elizabeth Rainey

John Robertson
by Virginia Eidson Robertson

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Eidson
by Virginia Eidson Robertson

Walt Lukken
by Peggy Lukken

Jim Wiles
by Peggy, Corey, Ford, Karla, Falcon & Truth

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Mills
by Dusty & Carlene Mills

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Benefield
by Dusty & Carlene Mills

Julie Hope Johnson
by Dusty & Carlene Mills

Claire Beall
by The Beall Family

Rev. Sidney J. Tate
by Enid Tate & Family

My Parents, Bill & Ruth Guthrie
by Pat Gilbert

Orren Gilbert
by Pat Gilbert

Jack & Shirley Feather
by Peggy Feather

Gene Davis
by Sylvia Davis

Edd, Nona & Eddie Cooper
by Sheryl Cooper

Lydia Helms
by Suzie & Mark Highland

John & Suzanne Schuessler
by Suzie & Mark Highland

Kelly Richard Linch, Jr.
by Carole & Kelly Linch

Our Parents, Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Hite,
Jr. and Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Mines
by Betty & Joey Mines

Jeff & Cole Hagood
by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Myers,
Anna & Sophie

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Myers
by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Myers,
Anna & Sophie

Quillian Baldwin
by Judy, Trey, Lei & Wade

Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Mallory, Sr.
by Paul & Jan Mallory

Mr. Richard "Rick" Mallory, Jr.
by Paul & Jan Mallory

Mr. & Mrs. Larry M. Davis
by Paul & Jan Mallory

Lamar Wadsworth
by Jennie Wadsworth

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Moore
by Jennie Wadsworth

Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Youmans
by Brenda & Zack Webb

Mr. & Mrs. Roy T. Webb
by Brenda & Zack Webb

Sybil Rayburn
by Ike Rayburn

Bill Young
by Jared & Alynda Jones

Betty Knight
by Jared & Alynda Jones

Clark Johnson
by Jared & Alynda Jones

Janet Franklin
by Robert & Heather Coggins,
Amber & Ashley Franklin

Judy Tomlinson
by Robert & Heather Coggins,
Amber & Ashley Franklin

J. R. Coggins
by Robert & Heather Coggins,
Amber & Ashley Franklin

Jack Davidson, Jr.
by Jim & Linda Daniel

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Davidson, Sr.
by Jim & Linda Daniel

Mr. & Mrs. James Daniel, Sr.
by Jim & Linda Daniel

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Jones
by Sharon & Alan Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Enright
by Sharon & Alan Jones

Donnie Hayes
by Jane Willey

Donnie Hayes
by Susan Mead

Homero & Claude Bolado
by David & Anna Martin

Raymond & Sylvia Martin
by David & Anna Martin

Cliff Cammon
by Bobby & Dorothy Cammon;
Margaret, Tim, Caroline & Ben
Sanders

Hildred Cammon
by Bobby & Dorothy Cammon;
Margaret, Tim, Caroline & Ben
Sanders

Robert Cammon
by Bobby & Dorothy Cammon;
Margaret, Tim, Caroline & Ben
Sanders

In Memoriam

Frank McCook
by Elaine McCook

Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Smith & Tommie
by Allen & Marilyn Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Osborne
by Allen & Marilyn Smith

The Members of The 1st Platoon A
Troop 11th ACR Who Did Not Come Home
by Allen Smith

Florence, Charlie & Howard Patterson
by Their Family

Sherry Patterson
by Her Family

Frances, James & Frank Thornton
by Their Family

LaFaye Rainey
by Cliff Rainey

Pat Adams Anderson
by Cliff Rainey

Beth Godwin
by Seekers Class

Alex & Frances Scarborough
by Kay Scarborough

Sadie & Francis Dobbins
by Debbie & Hank Dobbins

George Deane Allen
by Anne Allen

Dick Willey
by Jane Willey

Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Willey, Sr.
by Jane Willey

Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Hartzell
by Jane Willey

Robert Parker
by Barbara Parker

Our parents and grandparents and
all of our other ancestors who made
us who we are
by Ken & Marty Young

Janet Wyche
by Seekers Class

Kenneth McGreevy
by Amy McGreevy

Maj. Gen. & Mrs. John McGreevy
by Amy McGreevy

Dr. & Mrs. Henry Jones
by Amy McGreevy

Mr. & Mrs. Fanning Potts
by Amy McGreevy

Louise Potts French
by Amy McGreevy

Clark Johnson
by Amy McGreevy

Tommy Mahaffey
by Nancy Mahaffey

Jim Hester
by Nancy Mahaffey

Allen Daniel
by Nancy Mahaffey

Hildred Cammon
by Nancy Mahaffey

Betty Knight
by Nancy Mahaffey

In Honor

Nancy Belt
by Hank & Debbie Dobbins

Rick Free & His Wonderful
Kitchen Team
by Short & Jack Brown

Our Grandchildren: Childs, Jonah
& Olivia
by Paul & Jan Mallory

Lola, Lyons, Jackson & Max
by Molly & Bobby Carmichael

The Staff & Members of FUMC
by Amy McGreevy

Greg McClanahan
by Bobby & Dorothy Cammon

Mary Ellen Taylor
by Bobby & Dorothy Cammon

GriefShare Support Group
by Bonnie Norrick

Carson, Chris, Maggie, Finley & Emma
by Ken & Marty Young

Chuck Franklin
by Robert & Heather Coggins,
Amber & Ashley Franklin

Wendell Tomlinson
by Robert & Heather Coggins,
Amber & Ashley Franklin

Jerry Coggins
by Robert & Heather Coggins,
Amber & Ashley Franklin

Jay, Morgan & Sam Jackson
by Libba Trawick

Henry Griffin Hudson
by Libba Trawick

Our Ministers & Church Staff
by Elaine McCook

My Soul Connection Group
by Elaine McCook

Tina "Nini" Diskin
by Tiana Tew

Chance Tew
by Tiana Tew

Chase & Sara Parmer
by Bernice Strickland

Beth Parmer
by Bernice Strickland

Keith & Ellen Parmer
by Bernice Strickland

Grayson Braik, Olivia & Maggie
Taunton, Sydnie & Maia Dudley
by Greg Keck & Mary Ann
Grayson-Keck

Elizabeth & Matthew Hayes
by Mark & Suzie Highland

Michael, Audrey, John & Charlotte
Hayes
by Mark & Suzie Hayes

Jack & Short Brown
by Gordon, Amy, Joe & Anna Barnett

Janice & Dick Ingram
by Anne Allen

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Pianist

Nursery Worker

Director of Development & Stewardship

Director of Food Services & Hospitality

Minister of Modern Worship

Custodian

Facilities Maintenance Coordinator

Children's Minister

Youth Minister

Nursery Worker

Organist

Minister of Traditional Worship

Executive Minister

Director of Member Engagement

Senior Associate Minister

Our Church Office is open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. After hours, you may drop off correspondence in the secure mail slot to the right of the Trinity Street door or the locked mailbox under the portico outside the Vernon Street entrance to the Children's Building.

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JOIN US FOR CHURCH ON THE HOOCH SUNDAYS, JUNE 5 - AUGUST 7



10:00 am on the shores of Camp Lumpkin on West Point Lake.
Come by land or by boat! GPS coordinates are 33.0600 and -85.1427.