



APRIL 2021 | VOL. 58 | NO. 4

THE FLAME

The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

A message from your minister ...

'It is finished' ... but it is not over!

Dear First Methodist Friends,

We are a forgetful people.

We prepared our hearts in anticipation of Easter. We reflected on the cross and its significance. We felt the long, heavy pause between Good Friday and Easter Sunday—waiting for the discovery of an empty grave and a risen Savior. We heralded the triumphant resurrection of Jesus with the notes of a trumpet and the splendor of the flower-adorned cross. Many of us enjoyed an Easter feast with family and friends, hunted candy-filled eggs, and consumed our favorite fare that we had given up for Lent.

Then it was Monday, and we returned to our normal lives. But nothing was normal after Jesus! Easter is not just a time to pause and reflect upon some truths that we tend to forget about the rest of the year; it is the entire crux of our faith. It is the only reason we have hope!

If there is ever a time for significant change, it should be now—Easter is a beginning, not an ending. St. Paul reminds us of this in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

I remain full of gratitude for the heartbeats of love in negotiable form that our congregation so graciously provides to fund our current mission and ministry projects. I am equally humbled by the faithful commitment so many have made to our future through our special projects campaign. To date, almost \$315,000 has been pledged above and beyond our regular budget to fund the renovation projects in the Methodist Ministries Center (MMC).

The MMC projects are a small part of the needed facilities improvements that have been recommended by our Board of Trustees. Our target completion date for this phase of capital improvements is June 1, and I so look forward to showing you the renovated spaces. We need to raise \$130,000 more in order to fully fund the project. If you are interested in participating, please contact me directly, email giving@lagrangefumc.org, or complete the faith commitment card found on our website (lagrangefumc.org). All gifts are gratefully received and deeply appreciated.

Just as the Trustees have developed a plan for our facility needs, we also need to determine the future of our mission and ministry programs. To do so, I need your input. I invite you to participate in our **2021 Member Survey**. You may access the survey by scanning the QR code shown below, by visiting bit.ly/fumc_membersurvey, or by logging on to our website and clicking the "Member Survey" box on the home page. If you prefer a printed copy of the survey, contact the Church Office. Please know that I value your opinion and want to hear from you.

As a community of faith, we ascribe theological—rather than physical—meaning to Jesus' last words from the cross, "It is finished." We interpret that statement to mean that the first chapter of God's mission was finished, accomplished, fulfilled, and, therefore, a new chapter was to begin. Our church has a rich history, but our work is far from over. A new life in Christ as individuals, as a family of faith, as a church is unfolding. This is our opportunity to outline our next chapter. Join me!

Your friend in sharing life's adventure with Christ,

John

Dr. John Beyers
Senior Minister

You can access our 2021 Member Survey
on your smartphone using this QR code.



Spring is a time for renewed hopes and new beginnings, and our church will be experiencing change as well.

Anabeth Ivey has served as our Assistant Youth Minister for the past three years while also maintaining a full-time position. She will be attending graduate school and has resigned, effective May 31. We will miss Anabeth's ebullient leadership but are fortunate that she will remain a faithful member of our church.



Cindy Brown has made beautiful music as our Pianist/Organist since 2006. Both she and her husband, Boley, have faced difficult health challenges in recent years, and she has decided that their overall well-being needs to be her priority. Cindy has resigned, effective April 30. I am so glad that she and Boley will remain a part of our church family.



Dodie Patterson, our Membership Engagement Coordinator, has been the friendly face and voice that has greeted our members and guests for 21 years. Dodie is retiring, effective May 31. She has gracefully served with four senior ministers and seven associate ministers. A lifetime member of our church and the person who holds more institutional knowledge than anyone else, I am thankful that she will also continue to share life's adventure with Jesus Christ with all of us.



We will certainly celebrate these ladies' dedicated service in the days ahead. I hope you will take a moment to express your appreciation to them in person or via email.

STUDENT MINISTRY

by Will Locke, Youth Minister | will@lagrangefumc.org

Happy Spring, everyone! We don't know about y'all, but we are excited about the growing amount of sunlight in the day, the warmer temperatures, and summer being just around the corner.

Spiritual Life Retreat

Before we launch into April's calendar, we wanted to share some highlights from our Spiritual Life Retreat at Camp Glisson in March. Anabeth, Will, nine students, and our fearless partners **Tom and Martha Pirkle** had a blast worshipping together, laughing together, and growing closer to God together. We saw God at work in and through each student in inspiring ways — whether through their boundless energy, their joy, their calm and inclusive leadership, or their desire to spend time with Jesus more regularly. We ate lots of good food together and plenty of junk food. (Will even got a new hairdo.) In the midst of the great times we had, the most important takeaway for us as their leaders was this: ***We run the race of life on faith by running alongside our faith community.*** Thank YOU for being a part of the faith community for these students!

Tuesday Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday Prayer Breakfasts continue to go strong in April so be sure to swing by the Wesley Hall parking lot between 7:30-8:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 20, so your student can grab a short devotional and a chicken biscuit on the way to school.

Wednesday Night Youth

Wednesday Night Youth has been a great time of fellowship and diving deeper into the Book of Acts together this year. In response to feedback from valued stakeholders in Student Ministries, Wednesday Night Youth has a new starting time! It now starts at 5:30 p.m. with a snack supper for students and leaders with programming beginning at 6:00 p.m.

We had our last Small Group Night of the school year on April 7, and we will continue diving into the second half of Acts on Wednesday, April 14, and Wednesday, April 21. On April 28, we will hear from **Sherri Brown**, the Director of Circles of Troup County, at Wednesday Night Youth. We are excited for her to share with our students about the work of Circles and how students can be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. You don't want your student to miss it!

Anabeth, we will miss you!

Lastly, it is with sadness and immense gratitude we announce **Anabeth Ivey** will be stepping down from her role as Assistant Youth Minister at the end of May. Anabeth has been on staff with the church for three years and is an invaluable member of the Student Ministries family. This church has been Anabeth's home church her entire life and has nurtured her as she has grown on her faith journey. We are happy to say Anabeth is not leaving our church, but only stepping down from her role to further pursue God's calling in her career and get her master's degree. I (Will) am so blessed to have had the privilege of working alongside Anabeth this school year and bless her as she continues to follow God's call. I will miss her laughter, deep love for our students, insight, candor, and seeing her deep, abiding love for Jesus every week. When you see Anabeth around over the next two months, please take time to thank her for her investment in our students and creating a space for them to encounter the love, grace, justice, and mercy of Jesus.

May the peace of Christ and the fellowship of His Holy Spirit go with you into the month ahead.

Your Student Ministries Team
Anabeth Ivey and Will Locke

CLASS OF 2021, *we want to celebrate you!*

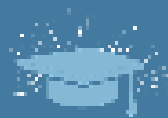


We will honor our church's graduating high-school seniors during our worship service on Sunday, May 23. In addition, we would like to highlight them individually on social media.

If you would like for your senior to be a part of this special celebration, please email **Will Locke** by **Thursday, April 22**, at will@lagrangefumc.org. Please send your child's name along with:

- a picture of your senior (preferred: formal yearbook photo)
- parents' names as they should appear in print
- college attending (if known) and/or future plans, including college athletics
- major or field of study (if known)

Thank you for helping us celebrate this milestone in your child's life. We love our seniors and are so proud of them!



RICHARD LINCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Richard Linch, Jr., was an active member of our church from 1972 until 1986. He loved our church and rarely missed any children's or youth activities. In the summers he participated in Vacation Bible School, MYF retreats, and mission trips.

Any graduating seniors who are active participants in both our church and youth activities are eligible to apply for the scholarship, which was lovingly established by Richard's parents, Carole and Kelly Linch.

If your graduating senior has not yet received an application and wishes to apply, please contact Will Locke, Youth Minister, at will@lagrangefumc.org.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28.

**THE RECIPIENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON
GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY, MAY 23.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by JEANNE JONES, CHILDREN'S MINISTER | jeanne@lagrangefumc.org

Summer Day Camp

We are excited to announce that we WILL be having summer camp at First Methodist this summer. As always, we will offer a summer full of fun, exciting, and educational activities. There are 10 themed weeks of camp. Each week students will participate in art, music and movement, STEM activities, chapel, outdoor time, a challenge of the day, life skills lab, and more. Water day, field trips, movie day, picnics, and guest speakers are all included in the summer fun.

Camp runs from **Tuesday, June 1, to Friday, August 6**. Tuition remains the same as in 2019 at \$140 per week. A non-refundable registration fee of \$50 is due with your registration form. A supply fee of \$25 is due before the first day of camp.

Due to current COVID requirements, classes must stay together for the duration of the camp; therefore, we will be having two sessions. You can register for the first five weeks, the second five weeks, or all 10 weeks. We know families often take a week of vacation during the summer. If you register for all 10 weeks, you can take one week off without having to pay tuition for that week. We will be limiting the number of students in each class. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please tell your friends and neighbors that registration is now open! To access a registration form or for more information, go to lagrangefumc.org or Facebook (@lagrangefumckids), or email Jeanne Jones at jeanne@lagrangefumc.org.

Hiring: Camp counselors

Do you know a college student who will be in LaGrange this summer? First Methodist summer camp is looking for energetic and dedicated counselors to work with children entering kindergarten through fifth grade. This is the perfect summer job for college students. Counselors will work 25 hours a week. Applicants should request an employment application by emailing jeanne@lagrangefumc.org.

Easter Egg Hunt

If you haven't seen the pictures on Facebook, the editorial in the LaGrange Daily News, or all the photos in the paper, be sure to check them out ... and then smile! On March 20 LaGrange First Methodist welcomed several hundred people from our community to a great morning of egg hunting, pictures with the Easter Bunny and inspirational Stations of the Cross walk. An event like this takes the help, time, and resources of many. Filling eggs, donating candy, dressing like a rabbit, greeting guests, hiding eggs, and sharing the story of Easter to our guests as they walk along The Thread are some of the ways you served the LaGrange community at the Egg Hunt. Thank you for always giving more than expected, serving with a smile, and sharing the love of Christ. I personally appreciate each one of you and your contribution!

Wednesday Night Kids

Did you know the early church shared everything? That Saul was traveling to Damascus following apostles to persecute them when a blinding light from heaven caused him to fall to the ground? Our children know all that and more! We have been studying the Book of Acts on Wednesday nights and are amazed by the stories. Children currently in Pre-K4 to fifth grade can join us each Wednesday from 5:30-7:00 p.m for dinner, worship, fellowship,

games, and a lesson from the Book of Acts. When the weather is cooperating, we will remain outside for the evening.

Nursery on Sunday mornings

After reviewing CDC recommendations, talking with other area churches, and formulating our own COVID-19 Nursery Policies and Procedures, we are able to safely re-open our nursery on Sunday mornings for children ages 3 and under. Along with new policies for COVID-19, we also have implemented new check-in procedures for all children through Realm, a web-based church management system that supports our staff's administrative needs while providing better communication tools for our church family to stay connected.

All children attending the Sunday nursery, Wednesday evening activities, or other programs will need to be registered each time by their parent in the Vernon Street foyer of the children's building. You will only be able to enter the Children's Building through this entrance. If you have any questions please contact jeanne@lagrangefumc.org or call 706.884.4635 ext. 209. We hope you are as excited as we are about the Realm registration and check-in system so we can all work together to provide the safest environment we can as our children learn and grow in their faith!

Connect with us!

Wednesday Morning Wake-Up on
Instagram and Facebook: @lagrangefumckids

Online Children's Worship on Facebook: @lagrangefumckids

YouTube: **LaGrange Children**



The beauty and joy of Easter!



Stations of the Cross

After the 4,000-plus plastic eggs were snug in children's baskets at our church's annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 20, we invited families to walk down The Thread to the "Stations of the Cross and Prayer Walk." As they walked to seven different stations, church volunteers at each table described to them separate events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. How wonderful it was to listen to members of our church family as they shared the story of Jesus and then helped the children understand each message even further with a short activity.

At Elaine McCook's table, for instance, she told the story of how Jesus washed his disciples' feet to give them an example of how to serve others. Then, each child used a wipe to wash another family member's hands. In turn, that person then washed the child's hands. Afterwards, they told each other something they appreciated about that person.

Thank you to these special volunteers for telling and showing the love of God during our church's beautiful morning on The Thread! Our volunteers are shown on the right (clockwise from top):

Elaine McCook, "Serve One Another"
Jack and Short Brown, "Quiet Time in the Garden"
Hank Dobbins, "The Spike"
Debra Jackson, "The Bitter Vinegar"
Caryn Cole, "The Soldiers"
David and Anna Martin, "The Tomb"
Steve Cole, "All Things New"



Easter Lilies

In Memoriam

Dick Willey
Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Willey, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Hartzell
John & Sarah Soltis
Jennifer Soltis Trizzino
David Soltis
Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Hite, Jr. and
Mrs. & Mrs. E. J. Mines, Sr.
M. Kathryn Murphy
& William E. Boeckle
Faye Rainey
Janet Franklin
Our Parents
Dr. Frank McCook
Orren Gilbert
Doris & Joe King and
Carolyn & Luther Young
Joyce & Morgan Jackson
Florence & Charlie Patterson
and Howard Patterson
Sherry Patterson
Frances & James Thornton
and Frank Thornton
Edna & Dewitt Kelly
and Sue Ann Tyson
W. B. Houze, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Osborne
Helen & Bill Johnson, Sr.
Bill Johnson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Jones
Phyllis Martin Enright
Keith Aspinwall
Gene Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ray and
Mr. & Mrs. Georg Dobisch
Jean & Harold Herrin
George Deane Allen
Ann & O.C. Seevers
Wilma & Hugh Biagi
John Alise
Lamar Wadsworth
Rev. Sidney Tate
Lewis Goode, Jr.
Ruth & Bill Guthrie
Orren Gilbert
Edd, Nona & Eddie Cooper
John & Suzanne Schuessler
Lydia Helms
Richard "Rick" Mallory, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Mallory
Walt Lukken
Jeff & Cole Hagood
The Men of the 1st Platoon
A Troop, 11th ACR Who
Did Not Come Home
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Benefield
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Mills
Julia Hope Johnson
Dr. Frank McCook
All the Spouses
Lost This Past Year
Claire Beall

Wiley & Edith Reeves
Belle Story

By

Jane Willey
Jane Willey
Jane Willey
Karen (Soltis) & Paul Tobben
Karen (Soltis) & Paul Tobben
Karen (Soltis) & Paul Tobben
Betty & Joey Mines

Steve & Kathy Murphy

Cliff Rainey
Chuck Franklin
Patsy & Marty Hale
Patsy & Marty Hale
Patsy & Marty Hale
Marty & Ken Young

Cindy & John Jackson
Their Family

Her Family
Their Family

Dodie Patterson & Family

The Weldon Family
Marilyn & Allen Smith
Marilyn & Allen Smith
Ann & Dee Woodward
Ann & Dee Woodward
Sharon & Alan Jones
Sharon & Alan Jones
Sylvia Davis
Sylvia Davis
Helga & John Ray

Lynne & Rob McClellan
Anne Allen
Davie & Jim Biagi
Davie & Jim Biagi
His Family
Jennie Wadsworth
Enid & The Tate Family
Cecelia Goode
Pat Gilbert
Pat Gilbert
Sheryl Cooper
Suzie & Mark Highland
Suzie & Mark Highland
Jan & Paul Mallory
Jan & Paul Mallory
Peggy Lukken
Peggy Lukken
Allen Smith

Carlene & Dusty Mills
Carlene & Dusty Mills
Carlene & Dusty Mills
Elaine McCook
Elaine McCook

Sarah, Bowen, Bo,
Ben & Banks Beall
Julia Reeves
Gayle & Phil Oliver

Quillian Baldwin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Youmans
Mr. & Mrs. Roy T. Webb
Pearle Dunson Sims
Jimmy Sims
John L. Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Eidson
Harper Lee Hill
Martha Nix
Marion Nix
Reaunette & Guinn Vaughn
Paige Schine
Fellow Law Enforcement
Officers and First Responders
Killed in the Line of Duty
Paige Schine

Judy, Trey, Lei & Wade
Brenda & Zack Webb
Brenda & Zack Webb
Elizabeth Sims
Elizabeth Sims
Virginia Eidson Robertson
Virginia Eidson Robertson
Lauren & Danny Hill
Beth & Alex Creed
Beth & Alex Creed
Their Family
Murray Schine
Patsy & Norman Wynne

Patsy & Norman Wynne

In Honor

The Chancel Choir
Deborah & Clark Johnson
Bill Bowling
Anne Allen
Wilma Hardy
Nathan, Craig, Kelly,
Lindsay, & Brandon Smith
Libba Trawick
Cindy & Tony Kosior
Lorie & Charles Anderson
Nancy Belt
Linda Frano
Janice & Dick Ingram
Lyons Carmichael
Max Carmichael
Jackson Carmichael
Lola Whitten
Jay Jackson
Sam Jackson
Morgan Jackson
Michael & Audrey Hayes,
John & Charlotte
Elizabeth Hayes
Matthew Hayes
The Ministers
The Church Staff
Stephen, Hannah & Abigail
Rachel & Charlie deCelle
Tristen & Isabelle
Lilly Belle Hill
Ms. Jeannie, Elissa &
Helpers, and the FUMC
Children's Ministry
Queen B and the MGs
Maranatha Sunday School
Teachers & Facilitators
LaGrange FUMC
Staff & Volunteers
Joana, Ashley, Avery,
Walker, Ellison
& Jacob Schine

By

Jack & Short Brown
Catherine Carmical
Libba Bowling
The Weldon Family
Laura Hodge
Marilyn & Allen Smith

The Jackson Family
Ann & Dee Woodward
Ann & Dee Woodward
Debbie & Hank Dobbins
Debbie & Hank Dobbins
Anne Allen
Molly & Bobby Carmichael
Molly & Bobby Carmichael
Molly & Bobby Carmichael
Molly & Bobby Carmichael
Libba Trawick
Libba Trawick
Libba Trawick
Suzie & Mark Highland

Suzie & Mark Highland
Suzie & Mark Highland
Elaine McCook
Elaine McCook
Donna & Richard Ennis
Donna & Richard Ennis
Bonnie Norrick
Lauren & Danny Hill
Jan & Brian Lockerbie

Jan Lockerbie
Jan Lockerbie

Jan & Brian Lockerbie

Murray Schine

THE FLAME

USPS (079-260) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

401 Broad Street | LaGrange, Georgia 30240

706.884.4635 | churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org | LaGrangeFUMC.org

Postmaster: Send Address Change to
The Flame, 401 Broad Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

Dr. John Beyers	ext. 205	Senior Minister
Mrs. Cindy Brown		Pianist
Ms. Jeradean Collins		Nursery Worker
Mr. Rick Free	ext. 210	Director of Food Services/Hospitality
Mr. Eddie Giddens		Custodian
Mr. Scott Hill	ext. 213	Facilities Maintenance Coordinator
Miss Anabeth Ivey		Assistant Youth Minister
Mrs. Jeanne Jones	ext. 209	Children's Minister
Mr. Darian Krimm	ext. 202	Minister of Music
Mrs. Elissa Lamoree		Assistant Children's Minister
Mr. Will Locke	ext. 215	Youth Minister
Ms. Maxine Ogletree		Nursery Worker
Mr. Don Papenbrock		Organist
Ms. Dodie Patterson	ext. 204	Member Engagement Coordinator
Mr. Andy Rainey	ext. 201	Executive Minister
Mrs. Natalie Shelton	ext. 203	Director of Communications
The Rev. Ben Wills	ext. 206	Senior Associate Minister

Our Church Office is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

We have a secure mail slot to the right of the Trinity Street office-door entrance. In addition, you also may drop off correspondence in our locked black mailbox under the portico on Vernon Street outside the Children's Building.

Non-Profit Periodical
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO. 079260
LaGrange, GA 30240

Memorial Gifts

CHARLES HAYS

Gordon "Sweetpea" Smith
Trish Smith

FRANK MCCOOK

Gordon "Sweetpea" Smith
Laura & Blair Harlin

WILLIAM B. FACKLER

Gordon "Sweetpea" Smith

PAIGE SCHINE

Gordon "Sweetpea" Smith

QUILLIAN BALDWIN

Gordon "Sweetpea" Smith

WAYNE BARTLEY

Gordon "Sweetpea" Smith

LUKE HILL

Heather & Sam Graham

TOM MAHAFFEY

Sally Worthen
Michael, Elizabeth & Matthew
Hayes and Suzie Highland
Jane & Bobby Buckler
Laura & Blair Harlin
Marie & Dan Hardy
Lana & Zim Cauble
Judy Baldwin
Elizabeth Sims
Nancy Stevens
Cecilia & Mike Stevenson
Pat & Pearce Wyche
Joan & Bill Johnston IV
Susanne Albright-Whitesides
Lea & JM Rawlinson
Amy Littleton
Diane Mahaffey
Janet & William Krueger



IN MEMORIAM

Jim Hester

March 13, 2021



IN MEMORIAM

Fred Jones

March 19, 2021



Hands In Service

A MISSION OF SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

When you have a small task or job that requires attention and you're unable to do it yourself, we're here to help! Don't hesitate to ask. We all need a helping hands from time to time, and it's completely confidential. Just call Tina at 706.406.4331.

Helping hands when you need them.