



DECEMBER 2021 | VOL. 58 | NO. 12

THE FLAME

The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

from your senior minister...

BLESS OTHERS THROUGH GIVING

The sound of a Salvation Army bell ringing, a child's wish written in crayon hung on a Christmas tree, hot meals served to strangers on a cold day. The holidays bring many opportunities to serve others.

When Jesus returned to heaven, His Mission "to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives" became ours to continue (Isaiah 61:1). Whether we give our money, our time and service, our prayers, or all, giving is what Jesus wants us to do. We bless others because Jesus blesses us.

We may not have as much as someone else, but we have what we need to continue Jesus' mission until He returns. Take time to bless others through generosity. Look for opportunities in our church and community to serve others. As we serve together, others begin to see that there is something special about God's people, and His goodness becomes known among the nations (Isaiah 61:8-9).

As we approach 2022, I ask you to boldly make the declaration that this is **MY Church!** You and I choose to be here because it meets our needs and our preferences for worship. With joy, we are going to offer different options: traditional worship in our magnificent Sanctuary, modern worship in our state-of-the-art renovated Wesley Hall, virtual worship via our online platforms, and small group interactions. In offering these options, we are going to do all **HIS Way**.

If you have not returned your **2022 Faith Commitment Card**, may I ask that you do so this week? You may return via mail, bring your card to the Church Office, or make your commitment online via lagrangefumc.org.

My friends, let's offer ourselves and all that we do to be blessings to others.

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

John

Dr. John Beyers
Senior Minister



Celebrations



More than sixty attendees celebrated the return of Thursday Lunch Club (TLC). All were "merry and bright" after the musical presentation by Kathy and Steve Murphy. Special thanks to these exceptional volunteers (from L-R): Bob Ward, Pat Gilbert, Fran Holland, TLC Chairperson Elaine McCook, Mary Ann Keck, and Kay Scarborough.



Arletta "Letta" Rose Ferguson (top), daughter of Rebecca and David Ferguson, was baptized!

We welcome Katy Hall as a new member! Pictured from left to right: Randy Ogle, Rev. Ben Wills, Debbie Ogle, Katy Hall, Rev. Dr. John Beyers, Molly Carmichael, and Bobby Carmichael.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Will Locke, Youth Minister | will@lagrangefumc.org

Christmas Party

Youth Ministry's Christmas Party will be on **December 8** from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. on the Youth Hall Encourage your student to invite their friends and join us for dinner, Christmas cookie decorating, games, an ugly Christmas sweater contest and more! Since we will be preparing for our amazing party, there will be no Homework & Hangout on December 8.

Wednesday Night Youth will return on Wednesday, January 12 when we will begin a series on Jesus in the Old Testament.

Sunday School

Youth Ministry's Sunday School will meet on Sunday, December 12 before pausing until Sunday, January 23. This pause makes sure Youth Ministry's Sunday School and Confirmation schedules are aligned. If you have questions about the pause in offering Sunday School or would like to partner as a Sunday School Facilitator, please reach out to **Will Locke** (will@lagrangefumc.org) for more information.

Mission Trip to Jacksonville

Registration for Youth Ministry's Mission Trip to Jacksonville, Florida closes on Wednesday, December 8. The mission trip is **July 10-15, 2022** and is a partnership with TEAMeffort, an international organization that facilitates sustainable mission trips. In Jacksonville, students will be doing home repair and disaster relief work to help the community as they recover from devastating flood waters in recent years.

The cost of the mission trip is \$400, but can be paid in three installments. Youth Ministry needs a \$100 nonrefundable deposit and a notarized current Medical and Media Release Form for you to register your student. You can pay the deposit by writing a check to the church with "Youth Mission Trip" on the memo line or by registering your student on Realm.

Save the Date

An upcoming event you want to put on your calendar is Youth Ministry's Parent & Student Lunch on **Sunday, January 9** following the 11:00 am Traditional Service. The lunch is a time to fellowship together and hear about the big trips Youth Ministry has planned for the Spring Semester. Registration for **Spiritual Life Retreat** (March 11-13, 2022) and **Confirmation Retreat** (March 4-6, 2022) is going to open at the lunch. This is also a great opportunity to give us your feedback and ask questions about Youth Ministry.

Music Notes

Kathy Murphy will conclude her time serving as our interim Minister of Music on December 31. Fortunately, she will remain an integral member of The Chancel Choir and The Wesley Ringers. Please join us in thanking Kathy for a job well done!

Our Minister of Music search committee, chaired by Debbie Ogle, has concluded that a second interim needs to be engaged during the search process.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Richard Prior has agreed to serve as our interim Minister of Music beginning on Wednesday, January 12. Many of you will know that Dr. Prior is the Music Director and Conductor of the



LaGrange Symphony Orchestra and has become a great friend to us at LaGrange First Methodist since hosting LSO rehearsals, recordings, and in-person concerts in our Sanctuary.

Dr. Prior holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral and Choral Conducting and Composition from The University of Nottingham (UK) and has a vast musical background including choral conducting in England and the United States. Welcome, Dr. Prior!

GLORIA! a choral celebration

Join our Chancel Choir, accompanied by professional orchestra, for the uplifting Gloria, arranged by Mark Hayes, followed by other musical delights that celebrate Christmas. Free admission.

Sunday, December 19
6:30 pm | Sanctuary

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Troup County Homeless Coalition seeks volunteers for the **Warming Center**, located at **150 East Lukken Industrial Drive** in LaGrange. For more information and to sign-up for shifts, please visit their website below.



<https://www.tchomeless.com/>

In Memoriam

Sadie & Francis Dobbins
by Debbie & Hank Dobbins

Orren Gilbert
by Pat Gilbert

My Parents, Ruth & Bill Guthrie
by Pat Gilbert

Sidney Tate
by Enid Tate & Family

Cynthia S. Brown
by Boley J. Brown

Loretta Beall
by Andy & Clairnelle Wilkerson

Robert Parker
by Barbara & Family

John Robertson
by Virginia Eidson Robertson

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

Gene Davis
by Sylvia Davis

Keith Aspinwall
by Sylvia Davis

Dick Willey
by Jane Willey

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

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

Rev. Charles F. McCook
by Elaine McCook

My Father, James Dobbs
by Tina Diskin

Our Parents
by Sally & Ray Holmes

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

Phyllis Martin Enright
by Sharon & Alan Jones

George Deane Allen
by Anne Allen

Claire Beall
by Her Children & Grandchildren

Wilma & Hugh Biagi
by Davie & Jim Biagi

Ann & O.C. Seevers
by Davie & Jim Biagi

Edd, Nona & Eddie Cooper
by Sheryl Cooper

Lydia Helms
by Suzie & Mark Highland

John & Suzanne Schuessler
by Suzie & Mark Highland

Kelly Richard Lynch, Jr.
by Carole & Kelly Lynch

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

Walt Lukken
by Richard, Kim, Anna & Sophie

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

Edith & Wiley Reeves
by Julia Anne Reeves

Quillian Baldwin
by Judy, Trey, Lei & Wade

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

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

Reaunette Vaughn
by Patricia Vaughn

Inez Champion Veal
by Jackson Veal

Elizabeth
by Barbara & Eddie Roland

Mr. Brown
by Barbara & Eddie Roland

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

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

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

Jennifer Soltis Trizzino
by Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben

David Soltis
by Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben

Loretta Beall
by Her Loving Family

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

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Benefield
by Carlene & Dusty Mills

Julia Hope Johnson
by Carlene & Dusty Mills

John Alise
by His Family

In Memoriam

William Boeckle
by Kathy & Steve Murphy

Kathryn Murphy
by Kathy & Steve Murphy

Sharon Richardson
by Nita & Jerry Overall

Walt Lukken
by Peggy Lukken

John & Miriam Holliday
by John Holliday & Linda Maire

Charles & Marjorie Maire
by John Holliday & Linda Maire

Beth Godwin
by Barbara & Sim Crisler

Lewis Goode
by Cecelia Goode

Dr. & Mrs. Waights Henry
by Isabel & Donald Stephens

Kay Rogers
by Jeff, Rhonda, Chase, Austin
& Jacob Rogers

Michael (Mike) Dobbs
by Ellen Dobbs

Our Parents, Billy & Evylan Morrow
& Pelar & Ocie Metcalf
by Susan & Pelar Metcalf

In Honor

FUMC Stephen Ministers
by Debbie & Hank Dobbins

Nancy Belt
by Debbie & Hank Dobbins

Our Eight Grandchildren
by Beth & Tracy Van Norman

Janice & Dick Ingram
Anne Allen

Matthew & Elizabeth Hayes
by Suzie & Mark Highland

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

FUMC Ministers
by Elaine McCook

FUMC Staff
by Elaine McCook

Our Children & Grandchildren
by Short & Jack Brown

My Children & Grandchildren
by Tina Diskin

Alice Tompkins
by Tina Diskin

Freda Markert
by Tina Diskin

Our Children & Grandchildren
by Sally & Ray Holmes

The John Jackson Family
by Libba Trawick

The John Morgan Jackson Family
by Libba Trawick

The James Jackson Family
by Libba Trawick

Our Grandchildren: Lola, Lyons,
Jackson & Max
by Molly & Bobby Carmichael

The Church Staff
by Lynne & Rob McClellan

Ben, Sammi, Reid & Copper Wills
by Lynne & Rob McClellan

Dr. John Beyers
by Lynne & Rob McClellan

Gwen & Grady Loveless
by Friends in Pairs & Spares

Nancy Cooper
by Friends in Pairs & Spares

Thelma Becker
by Friends in Pairs & Spares

Jake & Dean Behr
by Friends in Pairs & Spares

Hugh Jones
by Friends in Pairs & Spares

Nancy Jane & Robert Yates Parker
by Lauren Colgrove Parker

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jeanne Jones, Children's Minister | jeanne@lagrangefumc.org

Wednesday Night Kids

This month is going to be filled with the sounds of Christmas carols, the smell of cookies baking, and the joy of Jesus' birth at home and at LaGrange First Methodist. On December 8, we will have our normal Wednesday Night Kids program from 5:30 to 7:00 pm with dinner, games, a Christmas craft, praise and worship, and a lesson. On **December 15**, we will have a **Christmas Party** from **5:30 to 7:00 pm**.

Children's Nativity Pageant

LaGrange First Methodist children will present our annual nativity pageant on **December 24** during the 5:00 pm worship service. There will be one practice for all participants on December 23 at 10:00 am. Costumes will be distributed the week before the presentation. If your child is interested in a part, please contact Jeanne Jones.

Night of Lights

Invite your friends and neighbors to LaGrange First Methodist's Night of Lights on **December 12** from **6:00-8:00 pm**. You will begin the evening at the driveway in front of the Children's Building on Broad Street. There you will receive goodies to eat and drink and a map of your drive around LaGrange to see the beautiful and bright Christmas displays. At the end of your journey, you will come to our Living Nativity, complete with an assortment of animals, including a camel.

Sunday Morning Children

All except the first Sunday of the month, children's worship is offered at 9:00 and 11:00 am, and Sunday School is at 10:00 am. During transition times, children have interactive learning stations with activities that rotate each week. The learning stations include: discover, eat, pray, read, play, create, and listen. The first Sunday of the month is a time for the entire family to worship together. During the month of December, children will be celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Nursery

Nursery for young children is available each Sunday of the month from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm.



LAGRANGE FIRST METHODIST'S

Night of Lights

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
6:00 - 8:00 PM

A FREE DRIVE-THRU CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

FREE hot cocoa and cookies!

Live Nativity with animals ... including a camel!



The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

blessings in a bookbag

On November 14, we were left speechless at our Blessings in a Bookbag pack! With the help of a dozen students, we were able to pack **150 meals for Ethel Kight** students in about 30 minutes!

We were also left speechless from our Evening to Give Thanks donations. Through the generosity of our church family, we received more than **1,600** donated items! These items will help feed students over the weekend. Your donation is helping to fight food insecurity in our community. Food donations are accepted throughout the year; please contact Elissa (elissa@lagrangefumc.org) for more information. Thank you for your help!

Students, you are invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 15** for a Blessings pack! This December pack will ensure that meals are ready to go when school returns in January. We will be packing from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Missions Hallway. Our goal is to pack 156 bags! Don't forget to bring \$3 for TGIW Dinner starting at 5:00 pm. Grab a friend and join us!



TWEENS (FOURTH- & FIFTH-GRADERS)

Christmas Party

Tweens, get ready to celebrate Christmas! We will have a **Pajama and Waffles Tweens Christmas Party** on Monday, **December 20** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the Children's Building! We will have a Christmas feast, games, hot chocolate, and more! Be sure to wear your favorite Christmas Pjs and bring two \$5 gifts for our gift exchange. Please RSVP to **Elissa Lamoree** (elissa@lagrangefumc.org) by December 13.

Leadership Retreat

Save the date! Our 4th and 5th graders have been invited to participate in a **leadership retreat** with other United Methodist Churches and their Children's Ministries! Get ready for a retreat full of fun, worship, crafts, hiking, games, and developing leadership skills! The retreat will take place **March 18-20, 2022** at Indian Springs State Park in Flovilla, Georgia. The entire cost of the trip is \$125 which covers meals, activities, t-shirt, and more! Please RSVP to **Elissa Lamoree** (elissa@lagrangefumc.org) by December 8. A deposit of \$25 will reserve your spot. The remainder of the fee is due by January 31.

THE FLAME

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The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

401 Broad Street | LaGrange, Georgia 30240
706-884-4635 | churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org | LaGrangeFUMC.org

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The Flame
401 Broad Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

Dr. John Beyers
Jeradean Collins
Page Estes
Rick Free
Mary Elizabeth Gerick
Eddie Giddens
Scott Hill
Jeanne Jones
Elissa Lamoree
Will Locke
Kathy Murphy
Maxine Ogletree
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Minister of Modern Worship
Custodian
Facilities Maintenance Coordinator
Children's Minister
Assistant Family Minister
Youth Minister
Interim Minister of Music
Nursery Worker
Organist
Executive Minister
Senior Associate Minister

Our Church Office is open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday.
We have a secure mail slot to the right of the Trinity Street door
entrance. You also may drop off correspondence in our locked mailbox
under the portico on Vernon Street outside the Children's Building.

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IN MEMORIAM

**Allen
Daniel, Jr.**

November 14, 2021



IN MEMORIAM

**Fay Adcock
Riddle**

November 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

5:00^{PM}
**CHILDREN'S
PAGEANT**

11:00^{PM}
**HOLY
COMMUNION**



December 26
11:00 am WESLEY HALL

One Service!