



JUNE 2021 | VOL. 58 | NO. 6

# THE FLAME

The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

JOIN US FOR A PICNIC IN THE MMC

AS WE CELEBRATE THE

## **RENOVATION OF THE METHODIST MINISTRIES CENTER**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13**

at 12:00 pm in Wesley Hall

### **Lunch and Rededication Service**

followed by an Open House and Tours of renovated spaces,  
including Wesley Hall, St. Andrew's Chapel, Epworth Dining Room,  
New Welcome Center, Conference Rooms, and Youth Center



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Will Locke, Youth Minister  
will@lagrangefumc.org

Happy June, everyone! Summer Break is here, it's vacation season, and Church on the Hooch is back! While our school year programming pauses for summer, Student Ministries still has some fun activities and engaging service opportunities for our students.

## Circles of Troup County

Sherri Brown, executive director of Circles of Troup County, visited our youth on a Wednesday evening back in April. As a result, I'm so excited to announce Student Ministries is partnering with Circles to help provide child care at its meeting on Thursday, June 10. We need four to six high-schoolers to come hang out with the kids while the parents have their meeting. We will meet at the Troup Baptist Association at 5 p.m. and should be done by 7 p.m. Dinner will be provided, so please let me know if you plan on coming by texting me or emailing me at fumcyouthlagrange@gmail.com. If you need the address of the Troup Baptist Association, please let me know. Please bring a mask with you because we want to respect and abide by the protocols Circles has in place for its meetings.

## Caroline Shelton honored with Richard Linch Scholarship

Please join us in congratulating **Caroline Shelton**, this year's recipient of the 2021 **Richard Linch Memorial Scholarship**.

We are so grateful to **Carole and Kelly Linch** for honoring Richard's memory by investing in the life of an outstanding high-school senior each year with a \$1,500 scholarship. The scholarship is made possible through The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange Memorial Foundation.



Caroline with Carole and Kelly Linch

Carole and Kelly's son Richard was an active member of our church from 1972 to 1986 and rarely missed any children's or youth activities. In the summers, he participated in Vacation Bible School, MYF retreats, and mission trips. Even though Richard's life was tragically cut short, he was always full of life. He carried a smile on his face and was just as active in the LaGrange community as he was with his church.

We think Richard would heartily approve of Caroline's receiving his namesake scholarship. Caroline has been a part of our Youth Group since middle school and has co-led our Blessings in a Book Bag program this year. She also has been a part of our youth group's mission trip to Apalachicola and has served as a counselor at Camp Glisson during the North Georgia Conference's Spiritual Life Retreat in March 2021. Caroline is the daughter of **Natalie and Wayne Shelton** and has an older sister, Emma Kate. She will be heading to Georgia College and State University this fall.

Congratulations, Caroline! Your church family is proud for you to receive this meaningful award and carry on Richard's legacy.

## Take me out to the ball game!

Student Ministries heads to Truist Park on Wednesday, June 16, to watch the Braves vs. the Red Sox. We will meet in the MMC parking lot at 5 p.m. and leave by 5:15 p.m. I'm ordering our tickets in advance so we can enjoy the game together as a group. The cost is \$46/student, and money is due soon so we can get a headcount. Please bring money for concessions, for we will eat dinner at the ballpark. More details will be sent out via email the week before the game regarding what to bring, COVID protocols, etc.

## Local Missions Week

From Monday-Thursday, July 12-15, we will partner with organizations across southwest Georgia in day-long service projects. To cap off our week of service, we will go to Urban Air in Newnan on Thursday, July 16. We will meet at the church at 3 p.m. and return between 6:45-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$29/student and is due to the church by Tuesday, July 6. More details about our Local Missions Week will be announced via email as we get closer and in the July edition of The Flame.

I look forward to the amazing ways God will continue working in and through Student Ministries as we head into the summer! May the peace of Christ and the joy of the Lord dwell in you richly.

Will Locke, Youth Minister

## Jacob Rogers receives Henderson Traylor Eagle Scout Scholarship

**Jacob Rogers** has been honored with the \$1,500 **Henderson Traylor Eagle Scout Scholarship**. Jacob is the son of **Jeff and Rhonda Rogers** and has an older brother, **Chase**. A standout on the LaGrange High School soccer team, he is heading to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa this fall and plans to major in mechanical engineering.



Jacob with Tom Traylor, son of the late Henderson and Libba Traylor

The Boy Scouts of America issued a charter to the First Methodist Church of LaGrange in 1927 to establish Troop 21, and since that time, over 100 boys have earned the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. Mr. Henderson Traylor joined this new Troop as a young boy and became one of its first two Eagle Scouts in 1936.

Mr. Traylor worked for the Boy Scouts as a district executive before serving at the Pentagon. After returning home from military service, he joined his uncle at Hutchinson Traylor Insurance Company. He served as the Scoutmaster for Troop 21 in 1947. His son, **Tom Traylor**, earned his Eagle Scout award in 1967, and then two grandsons earned their Eagle Scout Award some years later. As a tribute to Mr. Traylor, who was a lifelong supporter and leader in both the church and Troop 21, a scholarship in his name was established in 2009 to be awarded to an outstanding Eagle Scout from Troop 21.

Congratulations, Jacob! We are so proud of you for earning the Eagle Scout award and the scholarship to commemorate Mr. Traylor's service to Troop 21 and LaGrange First Methodist.

# CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2021!

During our May 23 worship service, we celebrated Graduate Sunday, a time when we honor our high school graduates who are a part of the LaGrange First Methodist family of faith. We marvel at who each of them has become as they have developed meaningful friendships, shaped our church's youth group, worked long hours in school, and strengthened their individuality through other endeavors, including dance, soccer, music, track and cross-country, art, and drama.

May 23 also was Pentecost Sunday, and it is fitting the Pentecost story is one of graduation and commencement. As Jesus's disciples huddled together in the Upper Room after His death and Resurrection, He came back to them and basically said, "Class is dismissed. Our season together has ended, and it's time for you to graduate. But first, I'm going to give you a great big gift!"

That's when commencement—or a new season with God—began. Pentecost was when God transformed Jesus's followers to prepare them for the great, big mission to share His love, mercy, and salvation with the whole world. They had been in the Upper Room's cozy cocoon, and now they were set free to spread their wings and fly. This is the good news of Pentecost for our graduates: Though it is sometimes as uncomfortable as an AP Calculus final—and though it can feel out of control—a life lived in the Spirit is life lived courageously and in the service of God's coming Kingdom of peace, love, and justice.

To our seniors: During this season of commencement, we celebrate your accomplishments, reflect on how very much you mean to us, and share our dreams and support for your future. We have such deep love and pride in honoring you! We have watched many of you grow as we rocked you to sleep in the nursery, acted out stories of Jesus with you, fed you on the playground, or mentored you in a small group.

We pray God keeps you in His care as you embark on the next chapter of your faith journey—beyond the walls of our church and the comfort of our community. We ask God to sustain you with understanding, grace, and forgiveness as you move forward to face the challenges and joys that will shape you. As you step out into the world, we pray for God to light your path and guard your hearts. We love you and are so proud of you!



*Will Allred*



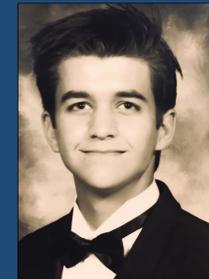
*Bella Draper*



*Aaron Fritchley*



*Nathan Fritchley*



*Hooper Hammond*



*Alyssa Jolly*



*Caleb Kostial*



*Mackenzie Mitchell*



*Jesse Nix*



*Mallory Ragland*



*Jacob Rogers*



*Elizabeth Rainey*



*Bella Sanchez*



*Caroline Shelton*

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jeanne Jones, Children's Minister | [jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org)

## Wednesday Night Kids' Family Olympics

We love our families! On May 12 our Wednesday Night Kids families gathered for dinner and a friendly but competitive round of Olympic games. (See photos on the right.) From the human ring toss to the tug-of-war, everyone participated, laughed, cheered each other on, and gave it their all. In the end, all were winners! Wednesday Night Kids will break for the summer and return again on August 18!



## First Methodist Summer Camp

Summer camp began Tuesday, June 1! Camp hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Each week we feature a different theme of the week and offer art, music, innovation lab, life-skills, P.E., chapel and more on a weekly basis. We are pleased to have another great group of counselors and campers this year. If you see us around town, be sure to honk and wave!

## Fourth/Fifth Grade Event

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 16! With the re-opening of the church, our fourth- and fifth-grade youth group will resume meeting monthly. Each month we will offer an opportunity for our tweens to gather for fellowship, fun, or service. Look for more details via email and on our Facebook page.



## Super Summer Sundays Begins

Summer is fun and exciting, and Sunday is no different for First Methodist Kids! This summer, join us each week as we celebrate warm sunny days, crazy and wacky holidays, and most importantly our God who loves us so very much.

Sunday School and Kids' Church will resume on Father's Day, June 20, when we will celebrate our dads and the men who care for and love us. It is also National Ice Cream Soda Day, so guess what we will be having? Please check in your child at the kiosk in the Vernon Street foyer. For the protection of all our children, the Broad Street door to the Children's Building will remain locked; the only open door is on Vernon Street.



June 27 is National Sunglasses Day! Kids, wear your sunglasses to church and in church if you like! During Sunday School and Kids' Church we will play some fun summer games outside if weather permits, so you'll need those shades!

Wednesday Morning Wake-Up on Instagram and Facebook: [@lagrangefumckids](https://www.instagram.com/lagrangefumckids)

Online Children's Worship on Facebook: [@lagrangefumckids](https://www.facebook.com/lagrangefumckids)

YouTube: [LaGrange Children](https://www.youtube.com/LaGrangeChildren)



Who knew water balloons could be such a hit? Our rising sixth- and seventh-graders had a wonderful time at our "Water Wars" event in May at The Thread field behind St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The event served as a way for our rising sixth-graders to "get their feet wet" as they transition from our Children's Ministries' program to our middle-school youth group.

## Summer Camp Needs You!

Our church's Summer Day Camp began Tuesday, June 1, and we'd love for you to join us. If you have had your COVID-19 vaccine and have a special talent you would like to share with our campers, we need you! We are looking for guest speakers with life skills such as woodworking, gardening, cooking, personal finance, table-setting, flower arranging, sewing, or map-reading. We also are looking for readers as well as people with drama or musical talent! Contact **Jeanne Jones** at [jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org) to share your talent with our campers. You'll be amazed at what these kids can do with your help!





# CHURCH ON THE HOOCH

We're thrilled to announce we kicked off the 2021 season of LaGrange First Methodist's Church On The Hooch on June 6 with 81 people attending! Pastor **Ben Wills** encouraged us in his message to be "All In," and continued the "Blessing of the Boats" tradition we launched last year.

Services will continue each Sunday at 10 a.m. from **now until August 8**. We welcome everyone to this casual worship experience, whether you come by land with your lawn chair in tow ... or on your boat.

Church On The Hooch is located on the banks of the Chattahoochee River across from Highland Marina at the Boy Scouts' Camp Lumpkin (2818 Antioch Road), between West Point Lake buoys 50 and 51. Close GPS coordinates are 33.0600 and -85.1427.

As the season continues, we need more volunteers to help with the setup, breakdown, and transportation of materials to Camp Lumpkin each Sunday this summer. If you are interested in helping out, please contact **Mike Wilson** at [mwilson@newventures.org](mailto:mwilson@newventures.org) or sign up online by clicking "Make an Impact" on the homepage of [lagrangefumc.org](http://lagrangefumc.org).

## Soul Connections on the Water

We are starting a new small gathering, "Soul Connections on the Water," especially for individuals who attend Church on the Hooch or spend their weekends on West Point Lake and want to grow in their faith! A casual group meant to build meaningful community and grow in love for God and others, this group is the perfect place for them to dive deeper in their faith this summer. Hosted by church members **Tina and Glenn Quiggle**, Soul Connections on the Water will meet from **5:00 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday** from **June 20 to August 8** at **The Hooch Hideaway Restaurant** at Highland Marina. Please spread the word! Appetizers will be on us ... dinner is on our guests! For more info, contact **Pastor Ben Wills** at [ben@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:ben@lagrangefumc.org).

## REMAINDER OF THE 2021 SEASON

- JUNE 13 **Will Locke**
- JUNE 20 **Jim Thornton**
- JUNE 27 **David Adamson**
- JULY 4 **Dr. Colin Dacus**
- JULY 11 **Carol Cain**
- JULY 18 **Yolanda Jones-Cotton**
- JULY 25 **Rev. Carl Von Epps**
- AUGUST 1 **Jeanne Jones**
- AUGUST 8 **Dr. John Beyers**

WORSHIP LEADER  
**LAEGAN SMITH**



*Tina and Glenn Quiggle will host our new 'Soul Connections on the Water' small group.*

## Welcome. new members!

Please join us in welcoming **Rebecca Spencer and Orien Hall!** Rebecca and Orien are new to LaGrange, and we couldn't be happier that they have chosen to be a part of the LaGrange First Methodist family.

In addition, **Rob McClellan** gave his wife, **Lynne**, a wonderful present when he joined LaGrange First Methodist on Mother's Day. LaGrange First Methodist has been Lynne's church home since she was a child, so you can imagine how thrilled she was!

Whether we welcome new friends or familiar ones, one thing's for sure: We Are Better Together!



*Rebecca Spencer and Orien Hall with Rev. Ben Will and Dr. John Beyers*



*Lynn and Rob McClellan with Dr. Beyers and their son and daughter-in-law, Henry and Dakota McClellan*

# Celebrating the Retirement of Dodie Patterson

Dodie Patterson, our dear friend and colleague, will never be able to measure the true impact she has had in the life of LaGrange First Methodist after working in our Church Office for 21 years. She has served 13 ministers, all while giving her full attention to anyone who stopped by or called. In addition, she has been an event planner, graphic designer, wise scribe, counselor, tour guide, children's Sunday School teacher, youth leader, wedding coordinator, choir member, funeral assistant, Cub Scout leader, and keeper of prayer concerns.

Our staff and lay leadership team gathered the last week of May to honor Dodie at a retirement luncheon, where we presented her with special surprises: a video with well wishes on her retirement from the ministers she has served during her time here as well as a set of luggage for the many adventures she will have in this new chapter in her life. Our church also held a retirement celebration for her in Wesley Hall on May 30. The pictures on this page easily convey the love Dodie has for those in our church family, and in turn, the love and gratitude they have for her. We are so glad Dodie will continue to be a part of our church family!



Thank you. I am overwhelmed by the many calls, cards, messages, gifts, and kind words I have received on the occasion of my retirement. I love my church family and friends and appreciate the love you have shown me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our church and the amazing retirement celebration. This church and its members are a blessing in my life, and I look forward to many more years of friendship and service together.

Dodie

## Anabeth Ivey, we will miss you!

After serving over three years as Assistant Youth Minister, **Anabeth Ivey** is leaving her leadership role at the church to pursue a master's degree while continuing her fulltime job New Ventures, Inc. Our Youth Group celebrated Anabeth at its last gathering of the season, a cookout at Highland Park, and the church also recognized her during the Graduate Sunday worship service.

Our church has been Anabeth's home her entire life and has nurtured her as she has grown on her faith journey. We are happy Anabeth is not leaving our church, only stepping down from her role on the Student Ministries team. Her role also included serving in the interim youth leadership role as we searched for our new Youth Minister, **Will Locke**. (And by the way, he was worth the wait!)



Anabeth has a deep, abiding love for Jesus, and we are grateful to her for sharing her love for Jesus with our students and for creating an authentic environment for them to encounter His love, grace, justice, and mercy. Thank you, Anabeth!

## SERVICE YEAR MILESTONES

### Eddie Giddens, 20 years

Twenty years of service is definitely worth a fist bump! On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Dr. John Beyers formally recognized Eddie Giddens, LaGrange First Methodist's custodian, at a May staff meeting with a gift for 20 years of faithful service to our church. We are so grateful for Eddie's dedication, professionalism, and care he exemplifies as he brings his best self to work each day. Our church members may not see Eddie very much, as he can be found worshipping at his home church each weekend, but our staff is amazed how Eddie seems to be everywhere at once in our buildings as he tackles both large projects and small. Thank you, Eddie, for all you do to serve LaGrange First Methodist!



### Darian Krimm, 5 years

We're so happy to celebrate Darian Krimm, our Minister of Music, who was recognized formally at a May staff meeting for his five years of service at LaGrange First Methodist. Dr. John Beyers, senior minister, presented him a five-year service award gift on behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Darian, we are so thankful for you for bringing us closer to our Lord and Savior each week through the hours you spend in preparing, practicing, coordinating and conducting for Sunday morning worship!



## Thank you, Cindy Brown!

**Cindy Brown** has made beautiful music as our Pianist/Organist for the past 15 years, and oh, how we have wanted a chance to celebrate with her when she announced her retirement in April! We had planned to honor Cindy at a retirement reception along with her colleague, Dodie Patterson, but some recent health challenges kept her from being able to attend.



Please continue to keep Cindy and her husband, Boley, in your prayers as she navigates the road to recovery. We want to get her back to morning worship, especially so she can enjoy the music without having to spend hours each week in preparation for Sunday's service. We know it will be a bittersweet time for her, for Cindy has told us on several occasions what a joy it is for her to make our piano and organ come to life. We are so grateful for how Cindy has ministered to us all through her 15 years of service at LaGrange First Methodist!

## Stephen Ministry

Our Stephen Ministry equips and empowers lay caregivers ("Stephen Ministers") to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Those receiving care may be struggling with grief, a divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other crisis. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. All inquiries and discussions are strictly confidential.

Our church's next training session to become a Stephen Minister will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays from August 14 to November 10. Wednesday evening sessions are 1.5 hours, and Saturday sessions are 4 hours (with breaks). Contact **Hank Dobbins** at [hankdobbins@gmail.com](mailto:hankdobbins@gmail.com)

# 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
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
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
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

### FRED JONES

Donna & Richard Ennis

### FRANK MCCOOK

Donna & Richard Ennis

### TOM MAHAFFEY

Sarah Funderburk  
Janet Wyche  
Donna & Richard Ennis

### KAY ROGERS

Betty & Bob Ward

### JIM WELDON

*(brother of Martha Pirkle)*

Lauranne Buchanan  
Natalie & Wayne Shelton

### CHARLES HAYS

Carolyn Alise

### LONNIE RITCHIE

Betty & Bob Ward  
Virginia Robertson  
Carole & Kelly Linch  
Shirra & Hoyt Rogers  
United Methodist Women  
Jane Willey  
Anne Allen  
Catherine Carmical  
Susanna Circle of UMW  
Freddie & Gene Hayes  
Peggy Lukken  
Carlene & Dusty Mills  
Marilyn & Allen Smith  
William B. Trotter  
Carolyn Alise  
Ann & Perry Wilder  
Donna & Richard Ennis  
Laura & Blair Harlin  
Nita & Jerry Overall

## Camp Viola

We are grateful for **Rick Free's** energy and leadership as he served again this year (after a 2020 hiatus due to the pandemic) as our church's director of Camp Viola June 1-3! We also extend hearty shout-outs to the youth and adults who stepped up to volunteer with Rick at camp, which is for area children ages 8-12 who may come from economically challenged homes.

Local churches and organizations sponsor, staff and finance Camp Viola in the summer to provide children—at no cost to their families—with outdoor activities and spiritual enrichment. When we announced Camp Viola as our church's Mission of the Month for May, we were overwhelmed by our church's generosity and are incredibly thankful for all of you who invested in the lives of these children.

*Photos from top: Campers with youth volunteers; volunteer Robin Roberts teaches music to the campers; volunteer Steve Cole shares a lesson on being fishers of men.*

