

LA GRANGE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"LOVING GOD & LIVING GRACE"

La Grange First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 89 • 1215 Von Minden Road
La Grange, Texas 78945

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Church Office Hours—Monday—Thursday—8:30am—4:00pm
Friday—8:30am—12:30pm

Website - www.office@lgfumc.org

Andy Smith
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WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays at:
9:00 am—Traditional
11:10 am—New Life



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MANNA FOR YOUR MATTER



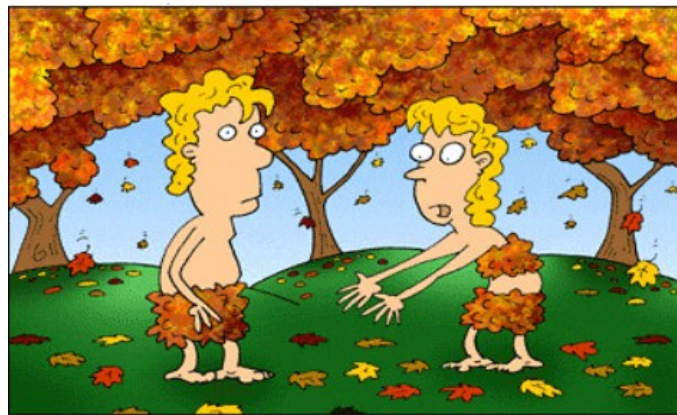
ARE YOU BIBLE SAVVY?

Answer the following. Then search the articles to check your answers.

1. What is the shortest book in the new Testament?
2. Who were the first Apostles called to follow Jesus?
3. What are the first 4 books of the New Testament called?
4. Finish this verse. "In every battle you will need faith as your _____ to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan."
5. How many books are in the New Testament?



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

CHURCH HUMOR

Actual Church Bulletin Announcements:

1. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
2. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
3. "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."



PASTOR'S PONDERING



What's wrong with this picture? It's not the fact that some fool is wearing shorts in extremely cold weather. What's wrong is the white, powdery substance covering the ground! I've lived in cold climates and have experienced severe winter storms, but never in this part of Texas!

Friends, we have endured a natural disaster. Lives have been lost and many are struggling to find drinking water. We pray and ask God for mercy. But for all of us, the chilling temperatures and icy conditions took away some of the creature comforts that we enjoy on a daily basis.

I will admit that I am spoiled. My idea of "roughing it" is calling room service at a nice hotel. I've been on camping trips in the middle of nowhere where a flimsy tent was the only luxury. But why would I choose to sleep in the cold again? Why would I want to give up indoor plumbing? Yes, I am spoiled. Our week of wintry storms was uncomfortable and revealed once again the unpredictability of weather. I'm not a fan of unpredictability.

If you've never read Psalm 139, please read it now. It's one of my favorites as it speaks about God's ordered nature. Nothing is random with God. Nothing is chaotic with God. He is in control of all things and knows all things. The theological word for this is 'providence.'

I love the idea of Divine Providence. God is caring and guiding our lives in ways we cannot imagine. There is never the possibility of living beyond God's reach. Psalm 139 speaks of how we cannot flee from God's Spirit. If life is good, God is there. If life is a frozen mess, God is there. If life is so unpredictable that we find ourselves at the farthest limits of the sea, God is there. What an awesome gift from God. No matter the season we find ourselves in, God's right hand shall hold us fast.

There are many things about God we should be grateful for, but when was the last time you thanked God for being so consistent? God is constant with His love and grace. God is constant with His providence.

Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Andy

**DON'T FORGET TO SERVE ON
CHURCH WORK DAY
MARCH 6TH**

INSPIRING READS

Pastor's Pondering

Musical Notes

Love In Action—Ramp for
Lina Fleck

Coming Attractions
2020 Kick-Off Luncheon—
*Books*Faith*Friends

Adult Sunday School Hour

United Methodist Calendar

March Birthdays

March Anniversaries

ShelbyNext Training

Children/Youth—KOZ

March 2021 Calendar

Sacrificial Serving—
Volunteers in Action—
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Being Methodist—The Called
of God

From the Director's Chair

Sages & Saints

Prayer Vigil

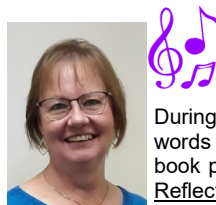
Meet The Board

Lay Leader's Linchpins

United Methodist Men

Manna For Your Matter
Are You Bible Savvy?

On the Lighter Side
Church Humor



During this season of Lent, I'd like to share with you the words of Susan Palo Cherwein. This comes from her book published by Morning Star, From Glory into Glory: Reflections for Worship. It is titled, "The Presence." (In her prelude, she writes: 'While the reflections that follow are not intended to be poetry, they are lined as such, so that they will be read slowly, in thought phrases, rather than as paragraphs.')

An ancient definition of God—
God is an intelligible circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference, nowhere.
God cannot be confined.
Not to mountaintops
Not to temples
Not to theologies
Not to doctrines.
As the Psamist sings:
"Where can I flee from the presence?
Even in the depth of Sheol you are there!"
There is no place where God is not.
God's center is everywhere.
This is good news for those on the transforming journey of Lent, of faith, of life.

In this great adventure of becoming we can take risks we can step across the threshold into the unknown without fear.
Without fear because like Christ on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah we too have allies who have walked this way before.
There is no place where God is not.
Do not fear.

Sol Deo Gloria,

Nancy

MUSICAL NOTES

We expect to use the word "worship" in reference to God. The following definition comes from Dictionary.com: "reverent honor and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred." Gospel

John 4:24 tells us: *"God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."* The NIV Dictionary of the Bible says: "The honor, reverence, and homage paid to superior beings or powers, whether men, angels, or God." When we think about what we worship, it is clear that whatever we worship is what we hold in our highest regard. On Sunday mornings when we come together in our sanctuary, it is easy to say I worship only the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What about the rest of the time? Do we worship God at all times over every other thing? As followers of Christ we are called to hold ourselves accountable to God and worshipping him is an important part of that. How can we explain to others why we worship the one true God if we don't do so ourselves?

Glory to God,

Heidi



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

"If we had no Winter, the Spring would not be so pleasant" – Anne Bradstreet, Puritan Poet.

I am not really big on the months that have 31 days. I bet for most of you it's no big deal. But 31 days rather than 30 – just bugs me! Except for March. Anne Bradstreet sure had it right! By March I am sick of winter and yearning for Spring. I want to dig in dirt, sow seeds, feel the first warm air of the coming summer, watch my garden bloom, and bask in lengthy days til after 8 pm. March brings Spring Fever—the restlessness for renewal. John

Spring affirms renewal as we wait for Easter. I love the anticipation of Easter – my favorite holiday. March embraces Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. And I am so grateful for this event. While my heart hurts for the pain and agony of the cross, it is the Resurrection that gives new birth to those who desire to know Him. John 3:3 "Jesus replied, I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." A new birth in knowing Him.

Being the Director of Ministries provides a church perspective not unlike any other. For I am blessed to see the birth of new ministries and the rebirth of old ones nearly every day. Each day at work is like Spring for me. I am very excited that we have many new faces attending, new ministries being planned, and a renewed, fresh outlook as we emerge from the Covid Cocoon. The rebirth of our church beginning this March will blossom with quality programs to enrich and strengthen you and your family's spiritual life.

Your winter hibernation is over! Arise! Get involved and watch our Body grow! Always remembering to Praise God for new life that Springs eternal.

Sherrie



MEET THE BOARD



Meet your 2021 SPRC board leader, Peggy Brisgill. The SPRC (staff-parish relations committee) is the equivalent of an HR department in a regular business. It encompasses the tasks, such as hiring/firing of a pastor, compliance with conference or federal rules and regulations, and working with the Bishop. However, there is a ministry aspect to this role as well. The SPRC is charged with knowing the "pulse of the church" by understanding its needs and working to fill them.

In 2012, Peggy retired from working in Retirement Centers in the San Antonio and Corpus Christi area. Peggy and her husband, Ty, lived in Rockport until Hurricane Harvey blew them into La Grange. God directed them to LGFUMC and according to Peggy, "We are so blessed." Peggy joined us as a member in April 2018.

This is Peggy's third year to serve on SPRC. She is active in BFF book club, coordinates the 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall Time, participates in the Prayer Vigils, serves on the Sages & Saints Board, and regularly attends various bible studies.

Peggy and Ty met and married in California. Ty served in the Air Force, worked for USDA and taught 8th grade science. The couple spends their time traveling and spoiling, Kona, their furry four-legged child. Peggy loves to read, bake, and sew. While Ty spends time growing cacti, which has won ribbons in area shows.

Peggy welcomes comments, concerns and compliments from members regarding pastor and the church staff.

LAY LEADER'S LINCHPINS



Eight signs of authentic faith.

1. Display the Beatitudes Jesus described scribed in His Sermon on the Mount Matthew (Matthew 5:1-10)
2. Think with a transformed mind (Romans 12:1,2; 13:1-7)
3. Overflow with love actions (1 Corinthians 13)
4. Display the Spirits fruits (Galatians 5:22-6)
5. Imitate Christ's humility (Philippians 2:1-4)
6. Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
7. Carry out works of faith and compassion (James 2:14-17) Control our tongues (3:1-11) Speak wisdom (3:13)
8. Hold to the truth about Jesus (2 John 4; 3) (John 3,4); and defend it (Jude 3)

Jim Howse

LOVE IN ACTION

Ramp For Lina & Ricky Fleck

L-R: Bill Koenig, Bill Wegmann, Dan Flagg, Ted Bell, Paul Brodsgaard, Orvel Hill, Steve Cameron, Frank Smith (TRP regional Coordinator), Ricky Fleck, and Lena Fleck.



The Texas Ramp Project recently built a ramp, back steps, and landing for the new home of Lina & Ricky Fleck. The Fleck's home was totally destroyed in a house fire in October 2020.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

2021 Kick Off Luncheon

Books*Faith*Friends

Books*Faith*Friends* (B*F*F*) is a non-denominational church supported ministry open to any woman, aged 17 and up, who has an interest in reading books from Christian authors that support Bible learning and enrich your spiritual life. The format is small discussion groups, limited to 7 participants, held in a member's home. Host homes are located throughout Fayette County with both morning and early evening times. Church membership is not required to participate in a group.

The 2021 Kick-Off Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 20th at the LGFUMC Fellowship Hall. A love offering will be accepted for the meal. The 2021 reading theme is WORD POWER. Reservations for the fun event are required for food preparation. Door prizes are given and their will be a table of books and other items available for suggested donations.

Contact Sherrie at satolbert@yahoo.com to secure a seat. Bring a friend! Spring group registration will start at the luncheon and continue through Friday, April 2nd. Groups begin meeting the week of April 5th and run for 6 weeks.

UNITED METHODIST CALENDAR

MARCH 2021

Sundays in Lent	March 7, 14, 21, 28
Palm/Passion Sunday	March 28
Holy Week	Mar. 29—Apr. 3



MARCH 2021
Adult Sunday School Hour
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall



March 7	Marie Allen
March 14	ShelbyNext Training
March 21	Jo Anne Hill
March 28	Sherrie Tolbert



Matthew 21:13
"My House will be called a House of Prayer." -Jesus

JANUARY 29-30, 2021
PRAYER VIGIL #1 "TRUTH"

Friday 28 Prayer Hours
Saturday 23 Prayer Hours
35 Total Participants

Next Prayer Vigil May 28-29, 2021 Theme: Justice



United Methodist Men will meet Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

For information, contact dsflagg2@gmail.com

Dan Flagg



SACRIFICIAL SERVING VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

While the Bible warns us that “idle hands” are not a desirable habit, the ladies in the Prayer Shawl Ministry certainly do not worry about their hands lying dormant. Founded in 2012 by Janetta Morris, this ministry has a long history of serving others through the fruits of their working hands. According to Janetta, she had no idea the day she was a speaker at Sages & Saints that God was going to “initiate” a new ministry. But He surely did!

After the meeting this ministry instantaneously formed. And Janetta served as its leader for more than 5 years. The purpose of the ministry is to support others in both good and bad times with a warm gift of God’s love. Shawls are made for men and women in various colors. White shawls are specially made for brides. Children’s shawls can also be made upon request for specific occasions. Peter and Andrew

To date more than 200 shawls have blessed others from our church, including white bridal shawls given to veteran’s brides at Weddings for Warriors project out of Fayetteville. The group also presented each 2020 Confirmand & Pastor Andy with handmade stoles. What is unique about this specific project is that EACH crocheter created a section on each stole. So, the entire team had a hand in the gifts. “What this shows is the love we have for each other, other, and our ministry,” added Janetta.



Currently, Diana Wilson serves as the leader of the ministry with several other women participating as able. Members of this ministry are: Janetta Morris, Jo Del Volcik, Jo Anne Hill, Carol Martyr, Lena Fleck, Andy Watson, and former member Carolyn Woodward.

The group welcomes new members. If you have a talent to crochet, you are wanted. And if you have a need for a shawl to bless someone, please contact the church office at office@lgfumc.

BEING METHODIST - The Called of God

Answer the question “Who is called by God”? If you answered Abraham, Moses, the disciples, your pastor, or the Apostle Paul- you would be right. But did you realize that as a Believer in Christ, YOU are called of God. 1 Cor. 1:9 states “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

God continues to call people today. According to 1 Peter 2:9 we “... are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...” What does this mean to you and me? We are called (like Biblical priests) to declare God’s wondrous act of salvation to those around us. Are you a salesman, a teacher, a fast-food worker, a CEO, a rancher? It matters not--if you know Christ--for you are called of God. (Rev. 5:9-10) All believers are priests in the kingdom of God, laity and clergy alike.

So, how do we Respond to His call? Consider the following short list:

Trust: (Psm 37:5) God is with us, loves us, and has a task for us.

Listen: (Ps 46:10) Have quiet time & seek Him.

Pray: (Ps. 105:4) Ask God for wisdom & listen.

Seek: (John 8:31-32) Study His word & other’s lives whom He has called.

The purpose of the church is to make disciples. That requires us to respond to the Will of God in our lives. We are to live transformed lives and reach out to others so that they can know him. To accomplish God’s work in the world each and every believer must hear and respond to that call. Shield

- Adapted from *Lay Servant Ministries. Basic Course.*
Sandy Jackson, Chpt 1 “Ministry of the Baptized”.



Jennifer Golan	Mar. 1	Theah Fleck	Mar. 22
Ryan Bremer	Mar. 1	Maxine Ballard	Mar. 23
Laura Rusek	Mar. 2	Jeff Powell	Mar. 23
Ronnie Ray	Mar. 3	Myrna Thiessen	Mar. 23
Jonathan Jones	Mar. 4	Sandra Smith	Mar. 24
Elyse Menconi	Mar. 5	Heidi Stone	Mar. 24
Sandra Anderson	Mar. 6	Margo Johnson	Mar. 25
James Roy Wessels	Mar. 8	Randy Walker	Mar. 25
Linda Childers	Mar. 11	Susan Koenig	Mar. 27
Billie Ayres	Mar. 12	Emmitt Gaylord	Mar. 29
Fran (F.D.) Covert	Mar. 13	Ruth Ann Wessels	Mar. 29
Victoria Gray	Mar. 13	Tiffany Van Dresar	Mar. 30
Madeline Willrich	Mar. 14	Braden Van Dresar	Mar. 30
Benjamin Swisher	Mar. 15	Claire Cutright	Mar. 31
Sophya Layton	Mar. 15		
Darrell Adkins	Mar. 18		



Happy
Anniversary!

Cliff & Susan Gage	Mar. 4	E.J. & Beverly Gray	Mar. 21
Jeff & Lisa Dyer	Mar. 10	Ty & Peggy Brisgill	Mar. 24
Troy & Ann Kunkel	Mar. 11	Michael & Anissa Menefee	Mar. 26
Heath & Jennifer Golan	Mar. 15	David & Cindy Zatopek	Mar. 26
Jay & Vicki Watson	Mar. 16	Mario & Lolly DeLaRosa	Mar. 30
Joseph & Kari Willrich	Mar. 19		

ShelbyNext Training

BRING YOUR CELL PHONE!
BRING YOUR LAP TOP!
BRING YOUR IPAD!



SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH
IN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

What is KOZ?

Today, over 40% of the boys in our nation do not have a dad living at home. The lack of male role models has created a dramatic increase in drug use, school drop-out, pregnancy, and other issues for adolescents. The average young person also spends only 40 minutes a week outside, but, 70 hours in front of a screen. This trend is creating an unhealthy mental, physical, and spiritual population among our boys today. 27

KOZ provides men in the church with training and a curriculum to mentor boys using outdoor adventures. Training is done via streaming video at the host church. The training includes a section with the leaders and their wives. The second training is 5-hours for mentor’s with active workbook. Once trained, the men are certified as KOZ Harvest Team Leaders (Outdoor Mentors).

After the completed training, the men plan their monthly meetings and adventures with participating boys based on the curriculum provided.

The KOZ leader’s ability to share the love of Jesus and a Heavenly Father changes a boys life. In an outdoor setting boys are more attentive and can focus on the time with their KOZ leader and the gift of knowing Jesus.

SCRIPTURAL MANDATE. Proverbs 22:6

LGFUMC is launching this unique Youth Ministry. Tom Ayres is leading the program. Other members already trained are Tom Ayres, David Connor, Dan Flagg, Bill Koenig, John Burkland, and Jim Howse. KOZ’s next meeting will be March 10th at 8:30am at Tom Ayres’ house at 3233 Hwy. 237, Round Top. **Any interested men are invited to attend. Call Tom at 210-355-1714 if you have questions.**



KOZ Leaders—L-R: Tom Ayres, David Connor, Dan Flagg, Bill Koenig, John Burkland, Jim Howse.



Mar. 28 - Apr. 3

MARCH 2021

Mar. 28



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:00am—Office Staff Meeting 12:00 noon – Emmaus Women- Conference Room <i>SINGLE BOARD MEETING</i> 5:00pm—Fellowship Hall	2 7:00pm—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall	3 8:30am—Women’s Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 10:00am—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall 5:30pm—Glory Tones 5:30pm - Weekly Prayer Mtg-Parlour 6:00pm—8:00pm—Youth	4 5:00pm—Virtual Bible Study Sponsored by New Covenant Sunday School Class	5 7:30am – Men’s Bible Study Conference Room 	6
7 Communion Sunday  9:00am – Traditional 10:15am – Adult Sunday School—Fellowship Hall 11:10am – New Life 3rd Sunday in Lent	8 10:00am—Office Staff Meeting 12:00 noon – Emmaus Women- Conference Room 6:00pm—LG City Council Meeting Prayers 2021	9 <i>COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES</i> 5:30pm—Fellowship Hall 7:00pm—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall SECOND CHANCE WORK WEEK	10 8:30am—Women’s Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 10:00am—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall 5:30pm—Glory Tones 5:30pm - Weekly Prayer Mtg-Parlour 6:00pm—8:00pm—Youth SECOND CHANCE WORK WEEK	11 5:00pm—Virtual Bible Study Sponsored by New Covenant Sunday School Class SECOND CHANCE WORK WEEK	12 7:30am – Men’s Bible Study Conference Room SECOND CHANCE WORK WEEK	13 SECOND CHANCE WORK WEEK
14 9:00am – Traditional 10:15am – Adult Sunday School— Fellowship Hall 11:10am – New Life DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS “SPRING FORWARD” 4th Sunday in Lent	15 10:00am—Office Staff Meeting 12:00 noon – Emmaus Women- Conference Room <i>SINGLE BOARD MEETING</i> 5:00pm—Fellowship Hall	16 7:00pm—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall	17 8:30am—Women’s Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 10:00am—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall 5:30pm - Weekly Prayer Mtg-Parlour 6:00pm—8:00pm—Youth	18 5:00pm—Virtual Bible Study Sponsored by New Covenant Sunday School Class	19 7:30am – Men’s Bible Study Conference Room	20
21 Communion Sunday  9:00am – Traditional 10:15am – Adult Sunday School—Fellowship Hall 11:10am – New Life 5th Sunday in Lent	22 10:00am—Office Staff Meeting 12:00 noon – Emmaus Women- Conference Room	23 7:00pm—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall	24 8:30am—Women’s Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 10:00am—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall 5:30pm—Glory Tones 5:30pm - Weekly Prayer Mtg-Parlour 6:00pm—8:00pm—Youth	25 5:00pm—Virtual Bible Study Sponsored by New Covenant Sunday School Class	26 7:30am – Men’s Bible Study Conference Room	27  Books*Faith*Friends Spring Luncheon 11:00a—1:00p Fellowship Hall
28 9:00am – Traditional 10:15am – Adult Sunday School—Fellowship Hall 11:10am – New Life 	29 10:00am—Office Staff Meeting 12:00 noon – Emmaus Women- Conference Room	30 7:00pm—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall	31 8:30am—Women’s Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 10:00am—Disciple Fast Track- Fellowship Hall 5:30pm—Glory Tones 5:30pm - Weekly Prayer Mtg-Parlour 6:00pm—8:00pm—Youth		 <p>“He fasted for forty days and forty nights...”</p>	