



The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter • Mother's Day
May 9, 2021 • 11:00 am**

Welcome to First Methodist!

ALMA MATER

When we use the term *alma mater*, we are often referring to our high school, college, or university. But long before we began referring to an educational institution as our *alma mater*, the church of Jesus Christ was called our *alma mater*, our "foster" or "fostering mother."

Consider this quote from Leo Tolstoy (1828–1910) in "*The Lion and the Honeycomb*:

"Women who fulfill their vocation hold power even over powerful men; such women mold public opinion and prepare future generations. And so it is they who would hold the power to save people from all our present and impending evils. Yes, women, mothers, in your hands more than in of those of anyone else lies the salvation of the world."

No wonder we call the church our "foster(ing) mother!"

Today we celebrate the 114th anniversary of the very first Mother's Day service held in the United States of America at Andrews Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. We gather to celebrate the courageous, compassionate character of our mothers—the women God used to give us life, and the women God continues to set us to "mother us" in the faith.

Join me and giving thanks to the Lord for our mothers and all of the women who mother us by modeling the love, mercy, and grace of the Lord.

Happy Mother's Day!

VERNON WOODS SHUTTLE MINISTRY

Last week, we had a wonderful start to our Vernon Woods Shuttle Ministry as many residents were given the opportunity to worship again in the beautiful Sanctuary of The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange. The residents were so appreciative, upbeat, and excited for the opportunity to gather with the Body of Christ for the first time in 14 months.

Thanks to our faithful ministry volunteers and leaders, we plan to offer transportation from Vernon Woods on the **first and third Sundays** of each month. However, we would love to expand our services. To do so, we need additional volunteers that are willing to drive the church bus one Sunday morning a month.

You may volunteer by reaching out to **Pastor Ben Wills** at 706-884-4635, or email at Ben@LaGrangeFUMC.org, or by logging on to our website, LaGrangeFUMC.org, clicking "Make an Impact," and filling out the volunteer form.

I hope that you will consider taking part in this impactful new ministry opportunity and enable our great church to say to our Vernon Woods friends,

**"When you cannot come to First Methodist,
First Methodist will come to you!"**

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


Dr. John Beyers

We're Better Together!