

La Plata United Methodist Church

Calm and Bright:



200 Years of
Silent Night

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 2, 2018**

Café Worship (8:30)

You may leave your cell phones ON, but set to vibrate or silent, please

Music Before Worship
Welcome & Centering

Mike Rainwater

*Centering Thought (Together)

The journey has begun! The destination is the cradle. It is empty now but we come to await a baby's cry, a star to guide, a Love made flesh and a Holy, Silent Night. In Christ, we pray, Amen.

Greeting Each Other in the Name of Christ

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Candle of Peace

The Sherri & Brian Fisher Family

Readers: As we enter into this season of waiting, we light this first candle. We open ourselves to your call today, O Lord, to become those who not only wait but work for peace. Peace in our families, our hearts, and our world.

People: The light of the Candle of Peace. Our peace is in you, lord. Reveal your peace among us and, through us, to your world.

Musical Moment

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

A Prayer for Advent

Merciful God, we begin our journey anew this year in the midst of uncertainty all around us in our world. May the promise of a silent night, the remembrance of a silent night, the prayer for another silent night be the tokens of peace in

our midst. As we wait for your will to be made known, help us be faithful to the One who gives us the peace the world does not have to give, and thankfully has no power to take away. This we ask through Christ, our lord, Amen.

Announcements & Invitations

Time of Prayer:

Sharing Our Week's Blessings & Trials, Requests,
Silent Prayers, Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (Together)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Reload

Scriptures for the Day

The Gospel Lesson	Luke 21: 25-36
The Hebrew Bible Lesson	Isaiah 2: 1-4, 9: 2, 6-7

The Message

Rev. Dr. Susan E Boehl

“Learning War and Peace”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation, Confessions, Consecration, Communing,
Thanksgiving.

Benediction

*Please rise in body or in spirit

Liturgist: Don Purdy; Service Prayer Partner:

Communion Steward: Rita Riley

Communion Servers: Rev. Dr. Susan E. Boehl, Carol Sorenson,
Roger & Judith Merrick

Traditional Worship (11:00)

You may leave your cell phones ON, but set to vibrate or silent, please

Prayer Before Worship

Create in me a silent space, O God, far from all things that distract my body, my mind, or my heart, that I may start this journey to the manger focused on the One who came and who will come again. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prelude, Lighting the Altar Candles, & A Time of Quiet Meditation

Linda Dent Mitchell

When the Prayer Before Worship has finished and the Prelude begins, please quiet yourselves in preparation for worship.

Introit:

Chancel Choir

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***Call to Worship (Responsively)**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Longing for truth, we turn to you

Make us your own, your holy people

Light for the world to see

Christ be our Light, our Peace, our All!

***Opening Hymn**

UM Hymnal, 196

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

A Prayer for Advent

Merciful God, we begin our journey anew this year in the midst of uncertainty all around us in our world. May the promise of a silent night, the remembrance of a silent night, the prayer for another silent night be the tokens of peace in our midst. As we wait for your will to be made known, help us be faithful to the One who gives us the peace the world does not have to give, and thankfully has no power to take away. This we ask through Christ, our lord, Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet our neighbors and extend God's peace to each other.

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Candle of Peace

The Youth Group

Readers: As we enter into this season of waiting, we light this first candle. We open ourselves to your call today, O Lord, to become those who not only wait but work for peace. Peace in our families, our hearts, and our world.

People: **The light of the Candle of Peace. Our peace is in you, lord. Reveal your peace among us and, through us, to your world.**

Welcome, News & Opportunities

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 21: 25-36

Offertory:

Chancel Choir

"Advent Canticle"

***The Doxology**

UM Hymnal, 95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (Pastor)

Hymn of Preparation

UM Hymnal, 431

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

The Hebrew Bible Lesson

Isaiah 2: 1-4, 9: 2, 67

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Message

Rev. Dr. Susan E Boehl

"Learning War and Peace"

Communion Song

UM Hymnal, 618

"Let Us Break Bread Together (verses 1,3)"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Closing Hymn

UM Hymnal, 617

"I Come With Joy (verses 1,3,5)"

Benediction

Congregational Response

The Faith We Sing, 2080

All I need is you, Jesus, all I need is you.

You are the source of all I need. All I need is you.

Postlude

Linda Dent Mitchell

*Please rise in body or in spirit



Acolyte:; Liturgist: Tom Hall
Organist: Linda Dent Mitchell; Chancel Choir Director: Pat Day
Communion Steward: Lesa Richardson
Communion Servers: Rev. Dr. Susan Boehl, Cheryl Smith,
Lynn Elmwood & Karen Hamner
Service Prayer Partner: Sandy Tull

*The flowers on the altar are
given to the glory of God,
and in celebration their 5th
Wedding Anniversary,
by Ronnie & Debbie Lucas*



The Scripture Lessons

Luke 21: 25-36 (NIV)

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Isaiah 2: 1-4, 9: 2, 6-7(NIV)

In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Living Into God's Word

What is your definition of Peace?

Do you have peace, according to your definition?
Why or why not?

If a war can be stopped, even for a few hours, can a family war be stopped? A business war, a personal war within one's self?

Can you learn peace?

Must we learn war?

Christ is _____.

Our hearts are _____ until they find their
_____ in thee. ~ St Augustine of Hippo

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 2 Holy Communion

- 8:30a **Café Worship** (FH2)
- 9:45a Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00a **Traditional Service** (Sanctuary)
- 11:15a Kid's Church (Rm. 423)
- 5:00p Christmas Potluck Dinner (FH1)
- 6:30p Hanging of the Greens (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 3

- 9:00a Meals & Hope Food Prep (Kitchen)
- 5:30p AA Meeting - 12 Step Home (Rm. 104)
- 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 1438 (Rm. 110)
- 7:30p Pastor's Advent Study (FH2)
- 8:30p AA Meeting - Warner Group (Rm. 104)

Tuesday, December 4

- 6:30p Country Clovers 4-H Club #1518 (Rm. 104)
- 6:30p Mounted Wanderer's 4-H Club (FH1)
- 7:00p Evening Circle (Off Site)

Wednesday, December 5

- 9:30a Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Rm. 110)
- 12:00p AA Meeting - Serenity Seekers (Rm. 104)
- 1:30p BLP Staff Meeting (Rm. 412/Board Room)
- 2:30p Food Pantry till 4:00 (Annex)
- 6:00p Beatitudes Puppets Practice (Rm. 110)
- 6:00p Horsemasters 4-H Club (FH1)
- 7:00p Cherub Choir & Crimson Angel Practice (Rm. 104 & 110)
- 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice (Adult Choir Room/ Rm.100)

Thursday, December 6

- 10:00a ABR Circle (Parlor)
- 11:00a UMW Christmas Luncheon (FH1)
- 6:00p Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 6:30p Cub Scout Pack 423 Pack Meeting (Rms. 104, 106 110 & FH1)
- 7:00p Disciple II (Rm. 102)

Friday, December 7

Saturday, December 8

Sunday, December 9

- 8:30a **Café Worship** (FH2)
- 9:45a Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00a **Traditional Service** (Sanctuary)
- 12:00p Youth Group (YR)
- 1:30p Sagepoint Service

Monday, December 10

- 5:30p AA Meeting - 12 Step Home (Rm. 104)
- 7:30p Pastor's Advent Study (FH2)
- 8:30p AA Meeting - Warner Group (Rm. 104)

HERE'S THE SCOOP

HANGING OF THE GREENS - The Worship Committee cordially invites you to the Hanging of the Greens. Gather, your family and friends, and join us tonight for an evening of fellowship, worship, and celebration. The evening begins with a time of fellowship and appetizers (provided by the Chancel Choir) at 5:00 in Fellowship Hall 1. A Pot luck dinner will follow at 5:30. Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share. The Hanging of the Greens worship service will begin at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. The Beatitudes, will be sharing in the service and there will be a Children's Moment also. We look forward to seeing you as we prepare for the most wonderful time of the year!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - This year the Chancel Choir will be singing Ruth Elaine Schram's "Night of Wonder, Night of Joy" with accompaniment. They will be performing the cantata only once, at the 11:00 service on December 16.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - Please join the Fellowship Ministry team for our annual Christmas Caroling on Sunday, Dec 16. We will gather in Fellowship Hall 1 for a delicious soup and sandwich luncheon provided by committee members immediately following the 11:00 AM service. After eating, we will board a school bus to visit church members who have not been able to attend services. We will return NLT 4:30 PM. Wear your Santa hat and "crazy holiday" sweaters / clothing to show your Christmas spirit. Families are welcome and lyrics are provided to all of your favorite carols. Contact Cheryl Smith @ 301-752-1386 or the Church office for any questions.

INTERFAITH SERVICE - Christ Church in La Plata will be holding an Interfaith Service to remember those that died homeless in our community this year. It will be held on Friday, December 21 at 4:30 PM at Christ Church. The service will start outside to stand with those that have no home to come into. Please bring your prayers, your light and your hope. Pastor Susan will be participating in the service. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - On December 16 and 23 our church will be decorated with poinsettias. Please use the envelope in your bulletin to order your poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you do not use your envelope, please recycle it in the basket in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with three services of worship, 4:00, 7:30 & 11:00 PM at 7:00 PM our Carillon Choir, our hand bells, will provide a mini concert. Please invite your friends.

ADOPTED CHRISTMAS FAMILIES - During the Christmas season, we adopt designated families, from our partner school, Matula Elementary. This year we have 4 families with 9 children total, ranging from 3 to 13 years of age. Six are girls and three are boys. The Christmas tree in the front entrance will have tags hanging on the tree describing specific items that the families can use. Please pray about taking an item and blessing a member of these families. Bring all unwrapped items back to church no later than Friday, December 14. A special box will be available for your gifts in the lobby and also in Fellowship Hall 2. Thank you in advance for your generosity; our church congregation is truly a blessing to our community.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SAFE NIGHTS - Overnight Hosts are needed for December Safe Nights during the week of Christmas on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. Sleeping accommodations are in the new parlor, which has it's own bathroom. Help is also needed at breakfast, and with fixing lunches. Contact Kim Williams at kim.williams19721@gmail.com or 703-615-1580. If you would like to help with breakfast contact Joyce Dean at c_dean@comcast.net.

BUTTER BRAID - The 2019 Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Team will be holding a Butter Braid Frozen Pastry Fundraiser this month to help raise funds for their trip to West Virginia next summer. The goal of the trip is to make homes Warmer, Safer and Drier. Orders may be placed by visiting www.laplataumc.org and clicking on the "Butter Braid" link. The team will also be in the lobby on future Sunday's to take orders and to receive payment for on-line orders. You can call me, John Carns, at 301-848-0060 to place an order. Please order by December 9-deliveries will be made the following week. Thank you for your support of this mission.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE - The Sunday morning worship schedule is: Café Worship at 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall 2, and Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 AM.

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE - Nursery care for little ones (ages 0-4 yrs) is available during the 11:00 Sunday morning service. If your little one becomes unsettled and is in need of more care, please contact an usher who can direct you to the nursery or to the rocking chairs in the back. We are grateful to the staff and volunteers that help us provide a nursery each week. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, please contact Alyssa Wheeler.

If you are a parent or a grandparent of young children, or you just want to spend some time with the youngest in our congregation, consider signing up to volunteer in the Nursery. To volunteer, or for information, contact Alyssa Wheeler at awheeler007@gmail.com.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES - are available, please see an usher to get one.

SERVICE & CARING

BRICKS - We now only need 9 more reservation forms to be able to send the list to the engraver, so if you have been thinking about getting a brick, now is your chance! Give me a call in the church office and I will get your information to add to the stack. Once we have 25 bricks, I will send them out to the engraver and have them installed once they are done. There are a number of \$100, \$500 & \$1,000 bricks remaining for purchase.

MEALS & HOPE - Our next date, served at The Worship Center in Bryans Road, is on Monday: Dec 3. If interested in participating, please contact Kim Williams, kim.williams19721@gmail.com or sign up to join the e-mail list.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP - The Food Pantry is requesting your donations of the following items, grape jelly, canned peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, applesauce, (no peel off cups please), pasta meal bags, baked beans, soups, children's juice boxes, snack items for kids (individual wrapped cookies, cheese crackers etc.) and empty egg cartons. You may place your donated items in the Food Donation Box in the front entrance. Pet food donations are always appreciated. You can also make monetary donations, just write "Food Pantry" in the memo line of your check, or give online.

FAITH SHARING

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS - It is the simplest and most effective way to share Christ with others: just invite your friends to church with you. Most people who grew up as Christians and who aren't in a church say they just haven't found a church they like, and because no one has invited them. Most people if you ask, will say yes to an invitation. Just ask them to come to church for a special event, or special Sunday, or to hear a sermon you think will help them.

LIVE NATIVITY OPPORTUNITY - The sixth annual Kris Kringle Christmas Market will take place at the Charles County Fairgrounds on December 7th through December 9th, 2018. Once again there will be an indoor live nativity which includes live animals and costumed participants playing the parts of all those who were a part of the original nativity story. The Market opens on Friday at 4:00 PM and closes on Sunday at 3:00 PM. If you or your family would like to be a part of this beautiful experience, please consider signing up by contacting Pat Brennan at 301-934-0334 or 240-346-4080, or sign up on our website, laplatumc.org. There is more information about the volunteer opportunity in The Grapevine.

ADMINISTRATION

STEWARDSHIP - Please be sure that the outer doors close firmly and are locked when you leave the building. Turn out the lights when you leave a room. Turn off the heat/air conditioner in the room you are using. These are all things we can do to keep our building secure, our members safe, and our operating costs down.

CHURCH WEBSITE - To go directly to our church website on your mobile phone, you can scan this little black box with your cell phone's QR Reader app. Put your phones camera over this graphic, and it will take you to our website, or key in www.laplataumc.org.



Our Prayer List

Bob Huffman - is recovering from surgery.

Joan - a friend of Deb Bowling, is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Doug Williams - Betty McPherson's nephew has Frontal Temporal Dementia, and has now been diagnosed with ALS.



Continue praying for these friends & loved ones:

Christina Kingsbury
Jennifer Carpenter
Mike Merritt
Larry Johnson
David Beatty
Sharon Ferguson
Rollie Hower
Rosalie Snyder
Katrina Gessner
Crystal Rupprecht
Stephanie Williams
Jerome Church
Sonny Rupprecht
Lennis Bridgett
Tom Berry
Barbara Rowe
Ted Rogers

Alyssa Buckler
Hailey Sellers
Laurie Hamilton
Jim Harmon
Mary Pat Berry
Mike Byrd
Jimmy Roberts
Jennifer Hamer
June Hanson
Don Stapleson
Landin Richards
Charles Snyder
Trevor Brown
Randy Hill
Bruce Richardson
Keith Winters

Jennifer Hancock
Julie Burch
John McPherson
Justin Williams
Marion Craft
Jason Morrison
Patricia Buckler
Sharon Biasatti
Madelyn Donaldson
Mary Ann Bivens
Renee Nash
Laurie Hamilton
George Morris
Diana Church
Don Rowe
Chris Rogers

Our Church Staff & Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Susan E. Boehl	Senior Pastor
Rev. Ed Chance	Retired Pastor / Visitation
Corrie Roberts	Youth Leader
Karen Hamner	Church Administrator
Patricia Day	Choir Director
Linda Dent Mitchell	Organist
Cheryl Reckeweg	Hand Bell Choir Director
Laurie Smith	Church Treasurer
Archie Verdiglione, Sr.	Building Superintendent
Jim & Dina Harris	Church Sextons
Bill Riley	Groundskeeper
Julie Robbins	Preschool Director
Trish Carruth	Asst. Preschool Director
Eugene Bradford	Administrative Council Chair
Archie Verdiglione, Sr.	Lay Leader
Kevin Robbins	Board of Trustees President
Rick Boggs	Staff-Parish Relations Chair
Zana May	Finance Committee Chair

Our Church Motto for 2018

"We are trusting in God's providence to lead us and bless us as we go through a year of change and growth"



On Facebook go to 'La Plata Umc'
and click on 'Like Page'
to see our LIVE broadcasts



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