

The Grapevine

November 25, 2018

A Note from Pastor Susan

Happy Thanksgiving, dear ones,



Well, we made it! As I write this, last minute preparations are being made for great Thanksgiving feasts in many households. If you got a chance and looked at our Facebook page, you will see how so many folks shared on their own Facebook pages and our own, the things they have been giving thanks for all month. As my last public sharing of thanks, I would like to thank the anonymous person who put a thanksgiving card on the pulpit Sunday. It was a lovely card with some hand written words inside, but it had no name attached. Please know, whoever you are, that you blessed me. For my last sharing, let me say that I give thanks for those who give without thought of recognition. Now, as your pastor, I try and lift up all those who help make our mission, ministries and our church a success for the cause of Christ. But I am just as fallible as you, dear ones, and sometimes I forget someone. Let me take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to those who I didn't get a chance to thank for all their help in the church. Thank you to the ones who clean up my spills, forgive my mistakes, and help me be better. Thanks to those from La Plata UMC who preach the gospel every day in our community and never have to use words. Thanks to those little ones who call me by name and give me hugs. Thanks to Bruce, on whose shoulders I stand, and thanks to God who has always been my Provider and Friend.

Gobble, Gobble!
Pastor Susan

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Safe Nights-Miracle on 301/Christmas Fundraiser- **This Saturday**

In partnership with Lifestyles of MD, we are hosting two weeks of Safe Nights at LPUMC on Dec 23-30 and Feb 17-24, where we will provide shelter, fellowship, dinners, breakfasts and to-go lunches for the homeless of our community. However, our guests will stay with us all of Christmas Day so they have a safe place to relax and celebrate the holiday. Sandy Washington put us in touch with Victoria Chappell, who is partnering with Safe Nights at La Plata United Methodist Church during our week of December to sponsor "Miracle on 301" on Christmas morning. The event is intended to provide a catered brunch featuring a full omelet station, gifts, holiday music, decorated Christmas trees, planned activities and lots of holiday spirit for our Safe Nights guests. Her event will bring volunteers from the community into our church to help with Safe Nights. She is hosting a Paint Nite at Port Tobacco Marina on Saturday, November 24 at 11:00 AM where \$15 for each ticket goes to the event and includes the painting supplies. It's a family friendly event for those 6 years and older, and the painting is customizable. Brunch can be purchased separately, if desired. I've got tickets for my family and have invited friends, so please join us! https://www.paintnite.com/events/_10121781

by **Kim Williams**



ABR Circle Christmas Luncheon- **Get Your Tickets**

Tickets are on sale now for the ABR Circle Christmas Luncheon to be held on Thursday, December 6. Look for representatives before and after both services. We will enjoy a Tuscan formal luncheon. Tickets are \$15, and you must purchase your ticket in advance, no tickets will be sold at the door. We will also be collecting unwrapped Children's gifts for Christmas Connection.

WE ARE A VITAL CONGREGATION

Worship Attendance

Nov. 4	277
Nov. 11	351
Nov. 18	333

This Past Week

8:30	142
11:00	156
Facebook Views	144
Others	23
Nov. 18	333

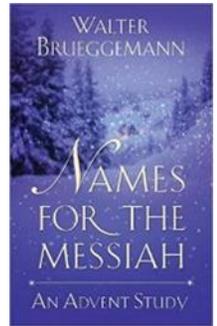
Church Income

Nov. 4	\$ 13,622
Nov. 11	\$ 16,355
Nov. 18	\$ 9,081
Need/wk.	\$ 12,911

Pastor's Advent Study - Sign Up Soon!

In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Names for the Messiah ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

Pastor Susan will begin her Advent Study "Names for the Messiah" on Monday, November 26 at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall 2. The book, by Walter Brueggemann, is available for purchase on Amazon in Kindle for \$8.00 and paperback for \$11.04, or at Christianbook.com in paperback for \$10.99. Please sign up by writing Advent Study on the attendance pad. Christians have claimed from the beginning that Jesus was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. In this study, best-selling author Walter Brueggemann tackles the questions: "What were these expectations?" and "Did Jesus fulfill them?"



Italian Feast - Appalachia Service Project Fundraiser - Great Meal for a Great Cause!

Please join us on Friday evening, November 30, for our annual Italian Feast to raise funds for next summer's ASP trips. You should be tired of Turkey leftovers by then so come on out for lasagna, spaghetti and other Italian favorites; salad, and dessert. Love offering will be taken. Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you would like to help or donate or would like more information about ASP, please contact John Carns at 301.848.0060 or carns@comcast.net.



Hanging of the Greens Dinner/Service

By Sue Carns



The season of Advent is upon us. In preparation of the birth of our Savior, the Worship Committee cordially invites you to the Hanging of the Greens. Please mark your calendars, gather your family and friends, and join us on Sunday, December 2, 2018 for an evening of fellowship, worship, and celebration. We will begin the evening with a fellowship time with appetizers provided by the Chancel Choir beginning at 5:00 in Fellowship Hall 1. The fellowship time will be followed by a pot luck dinner at 5:30. Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share. Following the dinner, we will go to the Sanctuary at 6:30 for a Hanging of the Greens worship service which will share the meanings of the Christian symbols of the holiday. Our puppet ministry, 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!

Butter Braid Fundraiser to Benefit 2019 ASP Trip - NEW

by John Carns, ASP Coordinator

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.



Our Sunday Schedule at La Plata UMC
8:30-Café Worship
11:00-Traditional Worship

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE:

Families Sought to Light Advent Wreath– **Volunteers still Needed**



With two services per week, four weeks of Advent, and three services on Christmas Eve, we have a number of slots for those who would like to light the candles of our Advent Wreath this year. We are taking names now to be one of the families, couples or groups that will help lead the Advent portion of our worship during these important weeks. If you'd like to be one of them, write "Advent Candles" on the pad, or call the church office to reserve a slot.

Volunteers are needed for Safe Nights December 23-30– **Slots still available**

Overnight Hosts are needed for December Safe Nights! We need volunteers to stay overnight as a church representative for Monday (Christmas Eve), Tuesday (Christmas night), Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thank you to John and Carol Sorenson who will be overnight hosts on Sunday and Neil Johnson on Wednesday. Sleeping accommodations are in the comfortable and beautifully furnished new parlor which features your own bathroom! What could be more cozy?

Claim your choice of reservations now. Slots are also available for February.

Dinners during Christmas week are being hosted by the following groups: Lions Club on Sunday, the Radtke, Robbins and Coombs families on Wed night, St. Ignatius Women on Thursday, and UMW on Friday evening. The Meals and Hope team has made trays of our Mac and Cheese and roasted vegetable to be served on Christmas Eve and our Harvest Dinner will be served on Christmas night. These meals are already prepared and we could use some volunteers to warm and serve on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Contact Kim Williams, kimwilliams19721@gmail.com or call/text 703-615-1580 to volunteer. We are also looking for volunteers to help serve breakfast. Contact Joyce Dean c_dean@comcast.net or Kim Williams to volunteer for a breakfast crew. Shifts do start early - 5:45 am - 7 am... there's still plenty of time to get to work. What a way to start your day!

Christmas Adopted Families – **NEW**

by Jean Sigmon

During the Christmas season, we adopt designated families, from our partner school, Matula Elementary. The families have been selected by the school and will certainly benefit from our donations. 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. For the next three Sundays, the Christmas tree in the narthex of the sanctuary 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 December 14th. 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.



Thursday, November 22

Ethan Cruz-9
Nancy Huffman
Larry Spencer

Friday, November 23

Roger & Judith
Merrick-5
John & Alyssa
Wheeler-5

Saturday, November 24

Win Barber
Sharon Bowie
Sarah Carlson

Sunday, November 25

Katie Bowling
Margie Knowland

Monday, November 26

Bonnie Thompson

Tuesday, November 27

Mary Vance

Wednesday, November 28

Ronald Lucas
Melissa Havens
Larry & Gay Johnson-31

Thursday, November 29

Shelby Smith

Friday, November 30

Pearler Washington
Ronnie & Debbie
Lucas-5

Saturday, December 1

Peggy Dixon
Jim Harris

Sunday, December 2

Eugene Bradford

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS:

#Giving Tuesday Encourages Support for LifeStyles

We all have heard about Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving), and most know about Cyber Monday (the Monday after Thanksgiving when people do a lot of shopping on line). And you may very well have heard about Giving Tuesday, which has been around since 2012. Giving Tuesday this year, is Tuesday, November 27, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. In the past we have recommended supporting United Methodist Missionaries, or UM projects listed at "Advance Specials". This year, members of La Plata UMC are being encouraged to support an important local ministry, LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc.

LifeStyles has a variety of programs you can support, and you may pick an project or program dear to your heart, such as Safe Nights, or LifeStyles General Budget, or Compassionate Communities, etc.. But if you are willing, we'd like to steer people to supporting the program that will be moving people from homelessness to transitional housing called, "Southern Crossing." Southern Crossing is the project that is converting the old Shine Inn Motel into housing for individuals and families who just need some help and guidance to get off the streets and out of the woods. They will be taught job skills, they will get vocational counseling, parenting skills, and other life skills so they can become independent, employed and self-sufficient. Please consider going online to LifeStylesofMD.org and click on the link to donate anytime on Tuesday, November 27.



#GIVINGTUESDAY™
November 27, 2018



Kris Kringle Christmas Market – NEW

The Charles County Fairgrounds will be hosting its annual Kris Kringle Christmas Market on December 7-9. It's a family-friendly event featuring handmade works by local artist and crafters, live music, food, live trees and greens, a live nativity scene and much more. Admission is \$1 per person OR one non-perishable food item to benefit The Southern Maryland Food Bank. Please come out and support the Maryland Food Bank, our local artists, while getting into the Christmas spirit.

Our People:



Prayer Requests:

Please keep **Susan Morris** and her family in your prayers as they celebrate the life of her husband, George and mourn his passing.

Please continue to pray for **Don & Kathy Stapleson**. Don is still recovering from his most recent treatment and is extremely tired, and Kathy is recovering from a procedure to place a stent and hopefully resolve an issue with circulation in her legs.

Keep all those in your prayers who will be traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday.



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**La Plata United
Methodist Church**

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