

The Grapevine

December 2, 2018

A Note from Pastor Susan



Hello Dear Ones,

This week, I had an experience that was unexpected but very powerful. I was in the office when the call came. It was the hospital. A patient's family was having all life support efforts removed from their loved one so the end of life journey could be a natural one. They did not have a church home but they wanted a minister to come and share prayer as they removed the life support. I went immediately. I will not share what transpired in that room, save to say that it was powerful and holy and I was honored to be called upon to bear witness.

It also reminded me of something to think about in this season of Advent, which we will begin this Sunday. This season will be filled with holy moments, and I wish you joy as we go ever nearer to the stable of the Christ Child. But there will be many in our community, our sphere of influence, or even in our own family for whom Advent and Christmas are times of loneliness or loss.

Please be mindful of them and think NOW of how you might reach out to them during this season of Advent. A card, a call, a smile or hug. Never underestimate their power to share the love of Christ with someone who needs it. It will bless them...and US TOO!

See you at the Cradle,
Pastor Susan

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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

Please join us THIS 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 now 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-Please join us

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 THIS 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 PM 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!



WE ARE A VITAL CONGREGATION

Worship Attendance

Nov. 4	277
Nov. 11	351
Nov. 18	333
Nov. 25	276

This Past Week

8:30	104
11:00	153
Facebook Views	107
Others	19
Nov. 25	276

Church Income

Nov. 4	\$ 13,622
Nov. 11	\$ 16,355
Nov. 18	\$ 9,081
Nov. 25	\$ 6,254
Need/wk.	\$ 12,911

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

Butter Braid Fundraiser to Benefit 2019 ASP Trip - Order Online

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.

It's That Time of Year to Spread Some Cheer! - NEW

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. 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.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE:



Families Sought to Light Advent Wreath- Sign up

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), 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.



Volunteers Needed!

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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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, kim.williams19721@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 – Unwrapped gifts needed 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.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS:

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.



Live Nativity Volunteers Still Needed– Volunteers still needed

We are still looking for volunteers to participate in the Live Nativity Scene at the Kris Kringle Market December 7-9. The indoor live nativity includes live animals and costumed participants playing the parts of all those who were a part of the original nativity story. Live animals are provided by Mary's Go Round. The costumes are provided (for all ages and sizes) by Pat Brennan and the participants are drawn from both our congregation and Port Tobacco Players. This is an opportunity to step into the scene and feel the joy and excitement that surrounded this tiny baby born in Bethlehem so long ago. Costumes and props are provided, as well as a dressing area.



The display is somewhat interactive and those who cannot stand may be seated on hay bales, etc. if needed. We do take breaks as necessary. We are still looking for volunteers for the Sunday shift (mainly Sunday afternoon 1-3PM). If you or your family would like to be a part of this beautiful experience, please consider signing up. If you would like to participate, please contact Pat Brennan at 301-934-0334 (home), or 240-346-4080 (cell), and you will be scheduled for whatever time you can give. What a great way to get into the rich warm feelings of Christmas!

Interfaith Service to Honor Homeless Lost-NEW

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

Monday, December 3

Peg Weiss

Kim Williams

Tuesday, December 4

Samantha Bowser-7

Wednesday, December 5

Dan Long

Darren & Jessica

Sanders-9

Thursday, December 6

Friday, December 7

Haley Holcomb-14

Ronald Kolbe

Saturday, December 8

Janice Clark

Christa Bartlett

Mark & Terry

Stancliff-23

Sunday, December 9

Melissa Bradford

Cheryl Smith



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!

For some, the longest night of the year never seems to end... but homelessness can

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL DAY INTERFAITH SERVICE

We gather to remember those who died homeless in our community

DECEMBER 21, 4:30 PM
CHRIST CHURCH
112 Charles St.
La Plata, MD 20646

We will begin outside to stand with those who have no home to come into.
Bring your prayers, your light and your hope

Sponsored by area faith communities and those who serve the homeless in our community

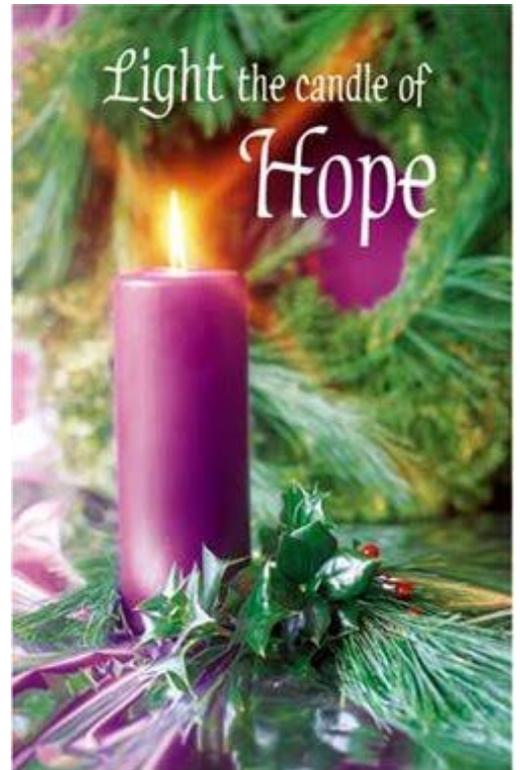



Our People:

Prayer Requests:



Bob Huffman is recovering from surgery.
Joan, a friend of Deb Bowling's, is undergoing treatment for cancer.
The family of George Morris as they mourn his loss this week.
Please pray for Skyla Shirriel and her family. She was the 7 year old that was hit by a car when she got off her school bus on Tuesday.
Please pray that she recovers from this accident.



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The weekly news of
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Methodist Church**

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