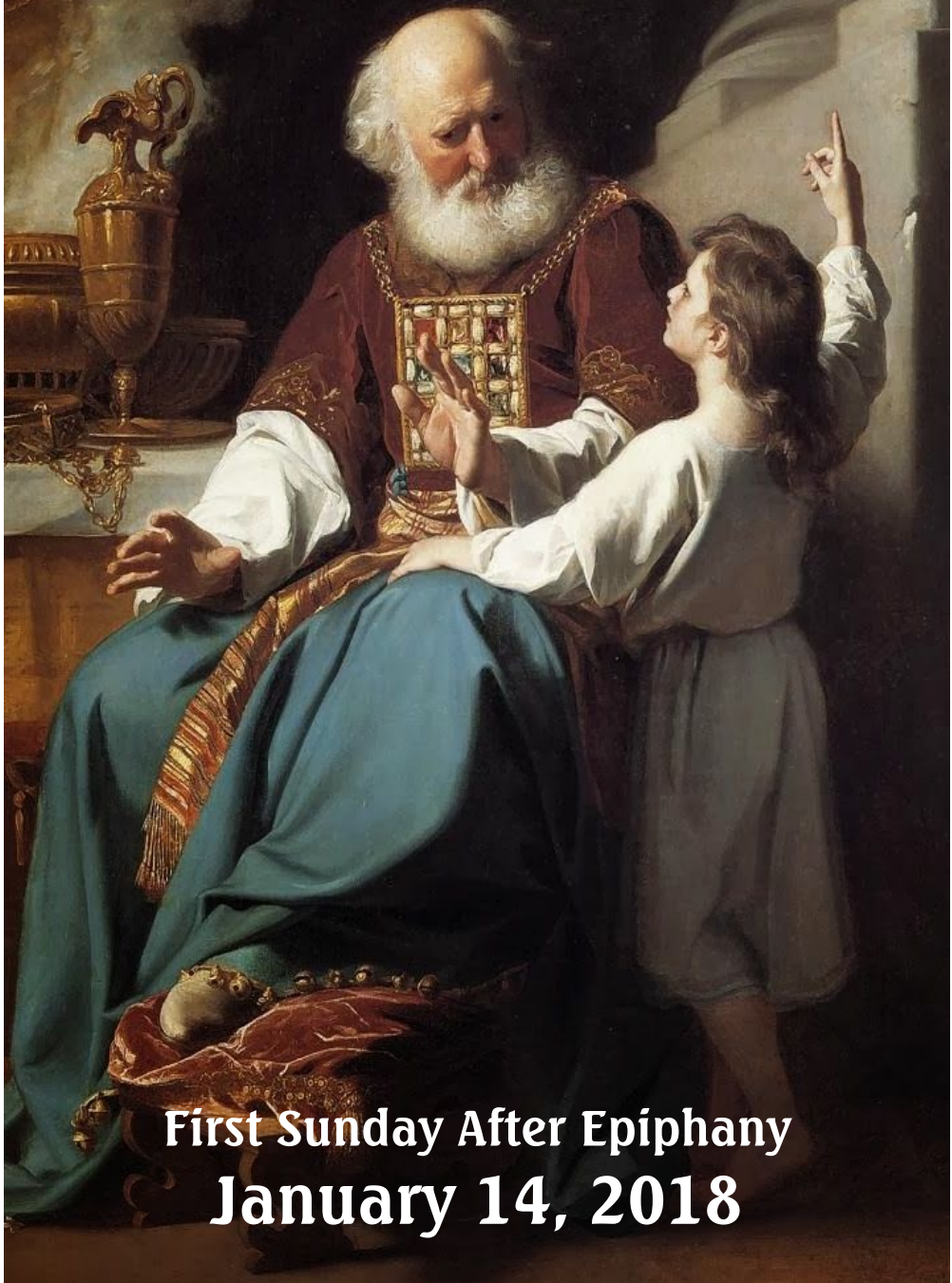


**La Plata United Methodist Church**



**First Sunday After Epiphany  
January 14, 2018**

# Café Worship (8:30)

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

Gathering Music

Mike Rainwater

Welcome & Centering

Please stand, if able

Opening Prayer (Together)

Holy & Amazing God, we are so busy living our lives and doing what we do everyday that it is hard to find time to slow down and be with you. That makes it hard for us to hear you when you speak. Help us to realize how important your Word and your words are. Help us to really listen. Help us to turn to you and say, "Here I Am, speak Lord, I am listening." Amen.

Greeting Each Other in the Name of Christ

Please be seated

Announcements & Invitations

Time of Prayer:

Sharing Our Week's Blessings & Trials, Requests,

Prayer for Churches in Transition

See page 4

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

See pages 7 & 8

New Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Gospel Lesson

John 1:43-51

The Message

Rev. Bruce Jones

“Are We Listening?”

(Sermon Notes can be found on page 9)

Please stand, if able

Benediction

Departure Music



Mike Rainwater

Liturgist: Don Purdy;  
Service Prayer Partner: Sharon Bowie

# Traditional Worship (11:00)

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

## Prayer Before Worship

**Help me quiet myself, Lord. I want to hear what you have to say to me today. Empty me of all my distractions and fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can hear your still, small voice. 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:

Cherub Choir

“There Was No Room in the Inn”

Please stand, if able

## Call to Worship (Responsively)

from Psalm 139

Lord, you have examined me. You know me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans. **You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways. There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don't already know completely.**

You surround me – front and back. You put your hand on me.

**That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it's so high above me that I cannot fathom it.**

You are the one who created my innermost parts; you knit me together while I was in my mother's womb.

**I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart. Your works are wonderful – I know that very well.**

## Opening Hymn

UM Hymnal, 454

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

## 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.

Please be seated

## **A Prayer for Churches in Transition (Together)**

**Merciful and Loving God, you have blessed us with a season of fruitfulness and growth, a season of love and understanding, and a season of sensing your hand at work among us. Lord, we are confident that you will continue to abide with us as we go through this time of transition. We know that you will abide with us and lead us into the future to which you are calling us.**

**Holy Spirit, we call on you to surround this church with your love and grace. May we all be filled with love and tenderness in these days of parting.**

**We pray for our bishop, our superintendent, and the other Cabinet members, as they begin to pray and discern your holy will. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, and give them the insights, awareness, and creativity to make powerful pairings, and holy appointments.**

**And Lord, we ask that you already begin to prepare our next pastor and family for the transitions that will take place in their lives. May you work out all the details of home leaving, and home finding. Fill this servant of yours with a special dose of your power, love, Holy Spirit, and grace, that when they arrive, they may see that you have already been here, and there is much good from which to benefit. May the early weeks, months and years, be a time of joining together in ministry for the good of your church, your people, and your kingdom. We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus, who forged the way for all who have accepted the call to follow him. Amen.**

**Anthem:**

Cherub Choir & Crimson Angels

“Lamb of God / Away in a Manger”

**Children’s Moment**

Bruce Jones

**Welcome, News & Opportunities**

**The Old Testament Lesson**

1 Samuel 3:1-20

See page 7 & 8

God first speaks to Samuel

**Offertory:**

Crimson Angels

“Offering”

## **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**

## **Hymn of Preparation**

UM Hymnal, 463

“Lord, Speak to Me” (vs. 1,2,4)

## **The Gospel Lesson**

See page 8

John 1:43-51

Jesus sees Nathanael under the fig tree

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated

## **The Message**

Rev. Bruce A. Jones

“Are We Listening?”

(Sermon Notes can be found on page 9)

Please stand, if able

## **Closing Hymn**

UM Hymnal, 593

“Here I Am, Lord” †

## **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

† Among the top 50 Favorite Hymns & Praise Songs of 2017

Acolyte: Olivia Gordon; Liturgist: Randi McWilliams

Organist: Linda Dent Mitchell; Cherub Choir Co-Director: Linda Dent Mitchell

Cherub Choir Co-Directors: Sherry McConnell, Judi Gordon, Rev. Sue Carns

Service Prayer Partner: Jan Saunders

*The flowers on the altar  
are to the glory of God, and  
in celebration of  
Martin Luther King's birthday*



# *The Scripture Lessons*

## **1 Samuel 3:1-20 (NIV)**

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son."

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

"What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May



God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

### **John 1:43-51 (NIV)**

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

# Sermon Notes

## “Are We Listening?”

The child Samuel was asleep when God spoke to him, "Samuel, Samuel!" Oh, if only that was \_\_\_\_\_!

According to 1 Kings 19:12, God speaks with a "\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_."

Mark Batterson in his new book, says God speaks to us in a "\_\_\_\_\_".

But the bigger problem is not how God speaks to us, but in fact, are we \_\_\_\_\_? Do we really want to hear what God has to say?

Sometimes, when we are all excited about our latest idea or \_\_\_\_\_, direction or scheme, we want God to come and pat us on the head and say, "You are on the right path. Just keep on going and I will be with you."

Sometimes, when we've reach a fork in the road, a decision point ...

Sometimes we hit a brick wall. We are out of ideas, out of \_\_\_\_\_.

So seriously, beside an audible divine instruction, how do we actually "hear" or know what God may want to \_\_\_\_\_?

To begin with, God loves us very much, and wants to be in communication with us. Communication is two-way, not just throwing prayers to \_\_\_\_\_.

The first requirement is that we \_\_\_\_\_ to hear from God.

Perhaps that is why only those who are \_\_\_\_\_, or who reach a state of desperation, call out to God with any \_\_\_\_\_.

God is very subtle so the next most important requirement is that we learn to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and learn to be \_\_\_\_\_.

After reading the first part of Mark Batterson's book, *Whisper*, I actually started driving around with the radio off in my car. This is so strange for me. I need and like sound all around me.

God has never been \_\_\_\_\_ about communicating with the people who are open to communicating with God.

The best place to hear the words of God for you is to read the Bible daily.

Daily devotionals: The Upper Room, or Our Daily Bread, or DevoZine, or Guidepost or hundreds of online daily devotions. **The more you fill your head with the Words of God, the more the word of God will speak to your head and your heart.**

God also speaks to us through other \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, for those of us who believe we are particularly thick when it comes to discerning God's will, there is a thing called a \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes in life, when we are at a critical decision point, we can pray and ask God to give us a sign, an indication of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, January 14

- 8:30a **Café Worship** (FH2)
- 9:30a Disciple I-Fast Track (Rm. 102)
- 9:45a Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00a **Traditional Service** (Sanctuary)
- 1:30p Sagepoint Service
- 5:00p Alpha Celebration Dinner (FH1)

## Monday, January 15 - Blessed Lambs Preschool closed

- 5:30p 12 Step Home Group - AA (Rm. 104)
- 6:00p 4-H Mounted Wanderers (FH1)
- 7:30p PMNS - "Because of Bethlehem" (Rm. 102)
- 8:30p AA Meeting - Warner Group (Rm. 104)

## Tuesday, January 16

- 7:30a Community Round Table - at Panera Bread
- 6:00p Men's Emmaus Reunion Group (Rm. 104)
- 7:00p Disciple II Fast Track (Rm. 110)
- 7:00p UMW General Meeting (FH1)
- 7:30p Trustees Meeting (Rm. 412/Board Room)

## Wednesday, January 17

- 9:30a Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Rm. 110)
- 12:00p AA Meeting - Serenity Seekers (Rm. 104)
- 2:00p Food Pantry (Bowie Annex)
- 5:30p Beatitudes Practice (Sanctuary)
- 7:00p Cherub Choir & Crimson Angels Practice (Rm. 423/Music Room & Sanctuary)
- 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice (Adult Choir Room/ Rm.100)
- 8:00p Building Committee Meeting (Rm. 412)

## Thursday, January 18

- 6:00p Carillon Choir practice (Sanctuary)
- 6:30p Cub Scout Pack 423 (FH1)
- 7:00p Jesus in the Gospels (FH2)
- 7:30p SPRC Meeting (Rm. 412/Board Room)

## Friday, January 19

- 9:00a BLP Parent Conferences (FH2)
- 6:30p Youth Group Game Night (YR)

## Saturday, January 20

- 10:00a Worship Committee Meeting (Rm. 412/Board Room)

## Sunday, January 21

- 8:30a **Café Worship** (FH2)
- 9:30a Disciple I-Fast Track (Rm. 102)
- 9:45a Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Bible Exploration (FH1)
- 11:00a **Traditional Service** (Sanctuary)
- 12:00p Youth Group (YR)
- 5:00p Alpha Course (FH1 & 2)

## Monday, January 22 - Blessed Lambs Preschool closed

- 5:30p 12 Step Home Group - AA (Rm. 104)
- 7:30p PMNS - "Because of Bethlehem" (Rm. 102)
- 8:30p AA Meeting - Warner Group (Rm. 104)

# Program News

## WORSHIP

**OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE** - On Sundays, Café Service at 8:30 AM in fellowship hall 2 and Traditional Worship in the sanctuary at 11:00 AM. Sunday school classes are at 9:45 AM for all ages.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE** - "M&M" which stands for 'Meal & a Message.' Bring or pick up what you'd like to eat for supper and join us around 6:30 PM for some great fellowship. Worship begins at 7:00 PM. You may arrive anytime from 6:30 to 7:00 to eat your food, or you may just come for the service. If you don't have a supper, you are always invited to stop by our 'Food Court', known to most people as the Sonic Drive-In next door. This service will focus on the intimacy of worship, on prayer and sharing what God is doing in our lives. Scriptures will be shared and we will dialogue around what they say us.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** - Please sign up on the clipboard during worship and choose a date to provide flowers to decorate the altar in honor or in memory of a special person in your life.

**NURSERY IS AVAILABLE** - Nursery care for little ones (ages 0-4 yrs) is available during the 11:00 Sunday morning service. Please be considerate of the other worshippers. If your little one becomes unsettled and distracting, please step out of the service. An usher 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 or Carrie Summers.

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

## FELLOWSHIP

**AWARDS BANQUET** - Our Third Annual Congregation Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening, January 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM. It will be a wonderful dinner with fabulous decorations. We have this dinner each year to say "thank you" to all the volunteers of our church. Every person who gives of their time deserves our recognition and thanks. We will again present 9 awards to volunteers who have gone above and beyond normal service to our church. We will also recognize one staff member who has contributed exceptional leadership and effort to the ministries of our church. Please mark your calendars for this date, and

please plan to help us recognize, honor and thank all the volunteers of our church.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

**BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM** - Rev. Jones' next Pastor's Monday Night Study is a book by Max Lucado called, "Because of Bethlehem." As we enter into the new year, it will be good to look at our lives and how they have been affected by the Christmas story. Please write "PMNS" on the fellowship folders to sign up for this interesting new class. It begins on tomorrow evening, January 15 and runs 3 weeks.

**BWC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS** - The Baltimore-Washington Conference will be awarding scholarships for qualified students currently attending college, as well as high school seniors who plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. The application process opens on Jan. 3 and closes March 7, 2018.

To be considered for a scholarship, students must complete the full online application which includes uploading their current transcripts. In addition, the student must provide contact information for their pastor and one additional church reference. The pastor and reference will be contacted and asked to submit information on the student's participation in the local church. The entire process will be done online for ease of the student, pastor, and reference.

For details about the individual scholarships or to apply for a scholarship, please visit [www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/](http://www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, Cheryl Cook, directly.

## **SERVICE & CARING**

**BRICKS FOR SALE** - We are still selling bricks to be engraved and placed below the bell tower to benefit our building fund. The bricks range in price from \$100 - \$1,500. Please stop by the church office in order to hand pick the location of your brick and choose your engraving. Please share this idea with anyone you think will want an opportunity to participate. If we sell all the bricks, we will raise nearly \$88,000 for the Building Fund.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP** - Our church's food pantry is requesting that we bring in the following food items: canned vegetables, fruit and soup, macaroni and cheese, shell pasta, cereal, peanut butter, grape jelly, and children's pouches or boxes of juice. Please remember that pets need food too and our food pantry also accepts pet food. You may also make a monetary donation.

## **FAITH SHARING**

**HAS GOD BLESSED YOU?** - When God answers our prayers, or provides healing, or helps us find a job or get a promotion; when God has touched our lives – we

have a responsibility to tell others what God has done. This is a great way to start a conversation about our faith with those who know us. Tell them how you feel about being touched by God, or how God has answered your prayers.

**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.

**MAKE A NEW FRIEND TODAY** - As you enter Church today to worship, look around and see if you can find someone you don't know. During Passing of the Peace, make a point to introduce yourself to them and invite them to join you in an activity of the Church. If you can't get to them during the Passing of the Peace, hang around for a bit after worship and strike up a conversation with them. In time you'll discover if they are long lost members, or here for the first time. Either way, you get to make a new friend. Thank you for being one of the friendliest and most caring congregations around.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**VOLUNTEER OFFICE STAFF** - Are you a retired administrator or a stay at home mom with administrative skills? The church office is looking for a few volunteers to help out with some light administrative duties and to fill in for Karen when she is on vacation or out of the office for meetings or training. If you are interested, please call Karen at 301-934-2288.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING** - Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23 at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall 1. The Administrative Council Meetings are open to all members, however only the committee members are able to vote on church issues. Please plan to attend.

# Our Prayer List

Larry Johnson - is home recovering from bypass surgery.

Joyce Dean - ended up in the hospital overnight last week. She's home now.

Jerome Church - Jesse Coombs' grandson-in-law, is still awaiting a liver transplant.

Janet Faherty - wife of Jack Faherty, broke her femur just before Christmas. She's recovering at Sagepoint.

## **Continue praying for these friends & loved ones:**



Christina Kingsbury  
Jennifer Carpenter  
Kevin McKay  
Lillian Leiman  
Chris Moorhouse  
Sharon Ferguson  
Rollie Hower  
Rosalie Snyder  
Dorothy Jackson  
Drey Thomason  
Crystal Rupprecht  
Howard Viguers  
Landin Richards  
Sonny Rupprecht  
Celeste Church  
Gavin Richards  
June Hanson

Alyssa Buckler  
Hailey Sellers  
Barbara Williams  
Jim Harmon  
Mike Merritt  
Mike Williams  
Sonny Davis  
Jennifer Hamer  
Katrina Gessner  
David Smith  
Don Stapleson  
Duke Deldeo  
Christine Tressler  
Bev Nuzzi  
Charlie Parsons  
David Beatty  
Dianna Barrick

Jennifer Hancock  
Julie Burch  
John McPherson  
Sal Aloisio  
Marion Craft  
Jason Morrison  
Patricia Buckler  
Sharon Biasatti  
TR Gandee  
Robert Altiero  
Becky Dean  
Linda Belanger  
Randy Hill  
Sam Barber  
Laurie Hamilton  
Jimmy & Dorothy Roberts

# Our Church Staff & Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones .....	Senior Pastor
Rev. Ed Chance .....	Retired Pastor / Visitation
Gwen Rodriguez .....	Pastoral Intern
Susan Matteson .....	Program Director
Karen Hamner .....	Church Administrator
Corrie Roberts .....	Youth Leader
Patricia Day .....	Choir Director
Linda Dent Mitchell .....	Organist
Cheryl Reckeweg .....	Hand Bell Choir Director
Laurie Smith .....	Church Treasurer
Ed McKenzie .....	Building Superintendent
Jim & Dina Harris .....	Church Sextons
Bill Riley .....	Groundskeeper
Julie Robbins .....	Preschool Director
Trish Carruth .....	Asst. Preschool Director
Eugene Bradford .....	Administrative Council Chair
Kevin Robbins .....	Board of Trustees President
Rick Boggs .....	Staff-Parish Relations Chair
Scott Sheffield .....	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"



'Liked' us on Facebook: La Plata Umc



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