

A large American flag is shown waving on a ship's mast against a clear blue sky. The flag is the central focus, with its stars and stripes clearly visible. The ship's rigging and masts are visible in the background, suggesting a maritime setting.

**La Plata United Methodist Church**

**Veteran's Day Recognition  
November 12, 2017**

# Café Worship (8:30)

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

Gathering Music

Mike Rainwater

Welcome

Please stand, if able

Opening Prayer (Together)

Most Loving God, we thank you for all those who have taken a part of their lives to serve our nation, and to bless all of us with the freedoms and privileges we have living here in this great land. Thank you that you put us here. Thank you that we have the freedom to worship you openly. May we guard this privilege and always strive to keep this freedom available for all people. May we also honor and appreciate the sacrifices of many so that we may have these blessings. In Jesus' name we pray, who sacrificed his life for us as well. Amen.

Greeting Each Other in the Name of Christ

Please be seated

Recognition of Veterans & Service Personnel

Pictures of our People—Serving our Nation; Recognitions

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

See page 7

Old Testament Lesson

Joshua 24:13-24

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:1-13

The Message

Rev. Bruce Jones

“Critical Choices”

Please stand, if able

Benediction

Departure Music

Mike Rainwater



Liturgist: Tina McCormick

Service Prayer Partner: Doris White

Bell Ringer: Garth & Deb Bowling

# Traditional Worship (11:00)

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

## Prayer Before Worship

Heavenly Father, we come to worship you and give you praise. Fill us with your presence, your Spirit and with power. We give thanks to you for all those who have made great sacrifices for our sakes and for our freedoms. 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.0

## Introit:

Chancel Choir

“America”

Please stand, if able

## Call to Worship (together)

from Psalm 78

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.**

We will not hide them from our descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, God’s power, and the wonders the Lord has done.

**God decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which the Lord commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.**

Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget God’s deeds but would keep God’s commands.

**They would not be like their ancestors—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to the Lord.**

## Opening Hymn

UM Hymnal, 575

“Onward, Christian Soldiers” (vs. 1,3,5)

## The Invocation (Together)

**Almighty and Everlasting God, we ask for your Holy Spirit to be present in our worship as we lift up your name, and give you thanks for all the blessings we have. We praise God for the freedoms and opportunities we have in this great nation, because of the sacrifices made by so many. We praise you for those who have served our nation well, not thinking of themselves, but of the good they could do for the sake of the world and our people. Bless all those who have served, Lord God, and help us to express our thanks to them for their bravery and their service. We pray this in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.**

## Passing the Peace

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

## Children’s Moment

Bruce Jones

## Recognition of Veterans & Service Personnel

Pictures of our People—Serving our Nation; Recognitions

## The Anthem:

Chancel Choir

“Cast Your Cares Upon the Lord”

## Welcome, News & Opportunities

## The Old Testament Lesson

See page 7

Joshua 24:13-24

Joshua offers the Israelites a choice

## The Offertory:

Chancel Choir

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Please stand, if able

## **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**

The Faith We Sing, 2152

“Change My Heart, O God”

## **The Gospel Lesson**

See page 7

Matthew 25:1-13

Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated

## **The Message**

Rev. Bruce A. Jones

“Critical Choices”

(Sermon notes can be found on page 8)

Please stand, if able

## **Hymn of Dedication**

UM Hymnal, 580

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

## **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 of 2016

Acolyte: Molly Mudd; Liturgist: Scott Sheffield  
Organist: Linda Dent Mitchell; Chancel Choir Director: Pat Day  
Service Prayer Partners: Jim Risley  
Bell Ringer: The Holcomb family

*The Flowers on the Altar  
are given to the glory of God,  
and in honor of the United States  
Marine Corps 242<sup>nd</sup> birthday,  
by Mike and Barbara Williams.*



# The Scripture Lessons

## Joshua 24:13-24 (NIV)

So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.’ “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”** Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.” Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.” But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.” Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied. “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”

## Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.



# Sermon Notes

## “Critical Choices”

As I look back on all the Veterans Day Sundays I’ve participated in, I can stand here and say, I love the \_\_\_\_\_, and I really respect those who have served our country. We all should have nothing but the highest respect for those who put their \_\_\_\_\_ for us. We all make choices. We make choices our entire lives. The college we select often determines the trajectory of the rest of our lives.

Some of us are good at making decisions:

1/\_\_\_ can make a decision in just two minutes.

1/\_\_\_ is paralyzed by the number of choices that are available.

1/\_\_\_ are most highly influenced by their friends in making decisions.

The last group, will select only the things that are comfortable, or close by, or that will cause the least disruption to their comfortable lives.

Joshua gave the people a pretty significant \_\_\_\_\_. Joshua said, “You’ve seen what God did for you. Now you have to choose. You can worship the gods of this land, or you can worship the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. The people all said to Joshua, “\_\_\_\_\_!”

You have a choice too. This very same \_\_\_\_\_. Whom will you serve? Will you serve the gods of our \_\_\_\_\_ society: the gods of wealth, the gods of pleasure, the gods of materialism, the gods of fame and notoriety, or the gods of power and violence? Or will you serve \_\_\_\_\_?

Choose whom you will serve. Here in 21<sup>st</sup> C. America, sitting in a United Methodist Church in southern Maryland, we don’t see this as a \_\_\_\_\_ choice. Of course, you are saying to yourselves, we already serve the Lord. We are becoming more and more of two \_\_\_\_\_. We like many things about the Christian faith and we like many things in our secular world.

We work hard ...

We begin to worship our \_\_\_\_\_.

We all have choices, we think choosing Jesus is something \_\_\_\_\_.

We all have heard the famous saying that you cannot sit on two chairs.

The parable of the ten bridesmaids is not a parable about \_\_\_\_\_, or the refusal to share. The parable is about faith and readiness.

We make choices about our \_\_\_\_\_. We make choices about our caring for others. We make choices about our resources. We make choices about our attitudes and how we treat people, and we make choices about our faith, and what place we are going to give to God in our lives.

# CALENDAR

## **Sunday, November 12 - Veterans Recognition Sunday**

- 8:30a **Café Worship Service**
- 9:30a Disciple I-Fast Track (Rm. 102)
- 9:45a Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00a **Traditional Service** (Sanctuary)
- 12:00p Fellowship Ministries Meeting (FH1)
- 12:30p David Bowling Chapel Re-dedication & Reception (Rm. 102 & FH1)
- 1:30p Sagepoint Service

## **Monday, November 13**

- 6:00p Cub Scouts (Rm. 110)
- 7:30p PMNS "Shiny Gods"(Rm. 102)
- 8:30p AA Meeting - Warner Group (Rm. 104)

## **Tuesday, November 14**

- 7:30a Community Round Table - at Panera Bread
- 9:00a BLP Parent Conferences (FH2)
- 10:00a UMW Book Club (Parlor)
- 2:00p Created in the Image of God: Abundant Life for Males (FH2)
- 6:00p Creative Circle (Rm. 106)
- 6:00p Men's Emmaus Reunion Group (FH1)
- 6:00p Women's Emmaus Reunion Group (Parlor/ Rm. 405)
- 7:00p UMW General Meeting (FH2)
- 7:30p Finance Meeting (Rm. 412/Board Room)
- 7:30p Disciple II Fast Track (Rm. 110)

## **Wednesday, November 15**

- 9:30a Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Rm. 110)
- 12:00p AA Meeting - Serenity Seekers (Rm. 104)
- 2:00p Food Pantry - open till 4:00 (Bowie Annex)
- 5:30p Beatitudes Practice (Rm. 110)
- 6:30p **Wednesday Night Service - M & M** (FH2)
- 7:00p Cherub Choir & Crimson Angels Practice (Rm. 423/Music Rm.)
- 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice (Adult Choir Room/ Rm.100)

## **Thursday, November 16**

- 9:00p BLP Parent Conferences (FH2)
- 6:00p Carillon choir practice (Sanctuary)
- 6:30p Cub Scout Pack 423 (Rms. 104, 106, 110 & FH)
- 7:00p Jesus in the Gospels (FH2)
- 7:30p SPRC Meeting (Rm. 412/Board Room)

## **Friday, November 17**

- 6:30p Youth Game Night (YR)

## **Saturday, November 18**

- 3:00p Birthday Party (FH1)

## **Sunday, November 19**

- 8:30a **Café Worship Service**
- 9:30a Disciple I-Fast Track (Rm. 102)
- 9:45a Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00a **Traditional Service** (Sanctuary)
- 12:00p BLP Thanksgiving Feast Set up (FH2)

## **Monday, November 20**

- 12:00a BLP Thanksgiving Feast (FH2)
- 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 1438 (Rm. 110)
- 7:30p PMNS "Shiny Gods"(Rm. 102)
- 8:30p AA Meeting - Warner Group (Rm. 104)

**KEY: FH1=Old Fellowship Hall, FH2=New Fellowship Hall, Rm. 104=Old Youth Room, Rm. 106=Old Conf. Rm #1, Rm. 110=Old Conf. Rm. #2, Rm. 102=Old Parlor  
BLP=Blessed Lambs Preschool, M & M=Meal & a Message**

# Program News

## WORSHIP

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE** - On Sundays, Café Service at 8:30 AM in the fellowship hall 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. So, if you are away for the weekend and miss church, you can hear Sunday's message on Wednesday night.

**FOOD DONATIONS** - On Sunday, November 19, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will continue the tradition of having choir members bring in fresh fruits and vegetables to fill our cornucopia which will be the focus on our altar. The fresh fruits and vegetables are available to anyone who would like to take some home to eat or prepare. The rest of the congregation is encouraged to bring canned fruit and vegetables as well as boxed foods to place in baskets at the front of the church which will support our Food Pantry ministry.

**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**

**COME, GO TO THE SHOW** - Tickets for the Port Tobacco Players show Christmas Schooner are now available. A block of seats for the Dec. 3 show has been reserved for our church family. Tickets are \$15 each, stop by the table after worship today to purchase your tickets. Tickets will be available after worship services or in the church office until November 19.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** - Our La Plata United Methodist Women will hold a general meeting this Tuesday evening, November 14, at 7:00 PM in fellowship hall 1. All women of the church are welcome! Our speaker will be Norma Johnson who will present a program on the World Thank Offering, and our need to support this special mission. We are asking everyone to bring a canned good for our food pantry. Please come and bring a friend to enjoy some fellowship time together.

## **DISCIPLESHP**

**PMNS** - The next Pastor's Monday Night Study will be "The Redemption of Scrooge." It will start on Monday, November 27, and will run for 4 weeks. The Youth Group will be doing the same study on Monday evenings during this same time. The introductory video will be viewed together and then the youth will go to the Youth Room for a discussion of the book.

## **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.

**CALLING ALL FARMERS** - The food pantry is proud to be back in business after closing and relocating to the Annex. However, we are missing a food group! We have not been able to serve fresh FRUITS AND VEGETABLES since reopening. We know the harvest season is swiftly coming to a close but if you have any excess fruits and/or veggies or have some contact with other farmers who would like to donate, our clients would definitely appreciate serving fresh fruits and vegetables to their families. Bring those that will not perish over the 3 day period to the Church Entrance on

Sunday or bring them Wednesday morning or give Joyce Dean a call at 301-934-8095 and she will pick them up. We would love to share the "Fruit of the Spirit".

**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 call Joyce Dean at 301-934-8095, if you have any questions. Also, please remember that pets need food too and our food pantry also accepts pet food. You may also make a monetary donation.

**ASP BUTTER BRAID SALE** - The ASP team will be selling Butter Braids to help support their efforts to go to West Virginia next summer. Please look for the ASP table, or go to the church website and click on the Butter Braid link to order your braids. Order deadline for Pre-Thanksgiving delivery will be November 10 and for Pre-Christmas delivery orders need to be made by December 8.

**PRAYER LIST** - Please take a moment to look over the prayer list and contact the church office if you have any current information about anyone on the list. If someone no longer needs to be on our list, please let us know.

## **FAITH SHARING**

**BELL RINGERS** - One way to share your faith is by inviting folks to church. And what better way than ringing our church bell. We are looking for families or individuals that would be willing to arrive at church 15 minutes early to ring the bell before each worship service. People all around town will hear our bell ringing on Sunday mornings, they may become curious and come check us out. If you would like to ring the bell, write "bell ringer" on the attendance pad, or call the church office at 301-934-2288.

**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.

**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.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**BUILDING SECURITY** - Please do not exit out the front (Rt. 6) door. It does not close properly from the outside, and has been found open on many Monday mornings. The church and Blessed Lambs Preschool staff arrive early in the morning, and they would not want to be surprised by someone who has come in the church during the night.

**UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS** - If you have changed addresses or phone numbers in the last 3 years, please contact the church office at 301-934-2288 or email us at [laplataumc@gmail.com](mailto:laplataumc@gmail.com) and update your information. We would like to have the most current addresses and phone numbers for our new directory.



# Our Prayer List

Sherri Hastings - is recovering from back surgery.

Russ Melvin - is now home.

Randy Hill- is at CRMC, recovering after vein surgery to help improve circulation to his right foot.

Iris Dickerson - fell and hurt her back.



## Continue praying for these friends & loved ones:

Christina Kingsbury  
Jennifer Carpenter  
Kevin McKay  
Lillian Leiman  
Chris Moorhouse  
Sharon Ferguson  
Stephanie Williams  
Rosalie Snyder  
Dorothy Jackson  
Drey Thomason  
Crystal Rupprecht  
Howard Viguers  
Ginger Jones  
Bonnie Thompson  
Peggy Gessner  
Gavin Richards  
Harryette Hower  
Sal Alaiso

Alyssa Buckler  
Hailey Sellers  
Barbara Williams  
Jim Harmon  
Greg Kenney  
Mike Williams  
Sonny Davis  
Jennifer Hamer  
Katrina Gessner  
David Smith  
Don Stapleson  
Duke Deldeo  
Landin Richards  
Bev Nuzzi  
Buddy Bowling  
Mike Merritt  
Jimmy & Dorothy Roberts  
Sharon Biasatti

Jennifer Hancock  
Julie Burch  
John McPherson  
June Hanson  
Marion Craft  
Jason Morrison  
Patricia Buckler  
Cathy Thomas  
TR Gandee  
Robert Altiero  
Sarah Edgar  
Linda Belanger  
Christine Tressler  
Sam Barber  
Laurie Hamilton  
Charlie Parsons  
Dianna Barrick  
Jerome Church

# 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
Kirby Blass .....	Staff-Parish Relations Chair
Scott Sheffield.....	Finance Committee Chair



## Our Church Motto for 2017

“Worshiping and growing in fellowship & knowledge of Christ. Maturing from membership to discipleship: for us, for others, and for Jesus’ sake.”



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