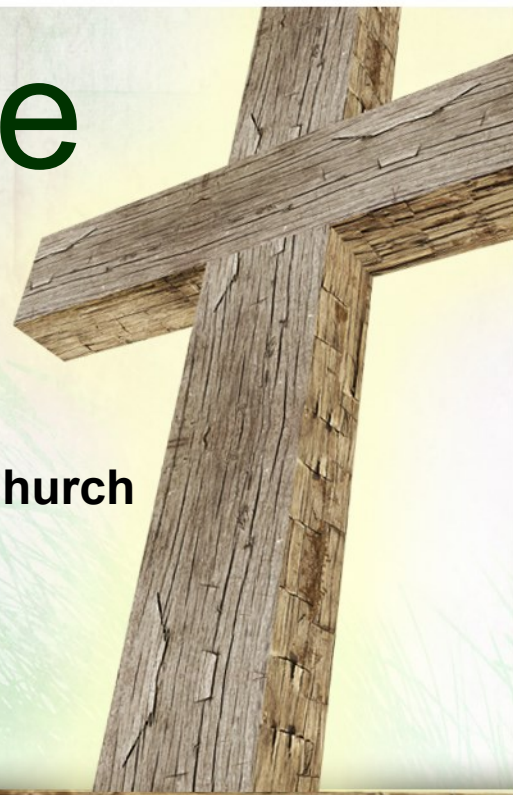


# The Grapevine



**Weekly Newsletter of  
La Plata United Methodist Church**

**March 26, 2020**



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do it every day!

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## **A Note from Pastor Susan**

Dear Family,

How in the world are you? Our new "normal" continues to evolve with social distancing, children home from school, technology becoming a lifeline for those still working and those seeking to connect with loved ones. Yet, we know in our spirits that this is anything BUT normal. We humans were created as communal creatures. We NEED other people, but the opposite is also true: people NEED us!

I am so proud to be the pastor of La Plata Church because of the many ways I am hearing and seeing that we are reaching out to others. We are BEING the Church to each other and to our community. With our Bishop's decision to extend our time apart by continuing our church building's closure through April 27, it is vital to continue that care-giving for others and our commitment to remain connected to the Church.

On our part, our online worship, Preacher's Pop Up Prayer, Stop, Drop, and Pray, Facebook daily devotionals (thank you Karen Hamner), children's connections and resources provided by Corrie Roberts, Archie Verdiglione Sr. and Jim Harris' tireless efforts to maintain and oversee the deep cleaning of our building and the MANY volunteers who have helped in this and other areas, have made blessed the Body of Christ greatly.

What can YOU do?

PRAY....flex those prayer muscles for our church, her staff, her ministries and her effectiveness in making disciples in this unprecedented time.

GIVE... the work of the church goes on. We cannot continue our vital ministries to help others without your continued financial support.

SERVE.... make a call, write a note, spread HOPE! Look for other ways to impact lives, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Finally, remember that you are not alone. Your church is ready to serve you. Call me anytime. My direct number is 240-217-6369.

We will survive. I want La Plata Church to THRIVE. Don't live in fear, but walk in faith...and God will walk with us all along the way!

His... and Yours,  
Pastor Susan

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Senior Pastor:  
Rev. Dr. Susan E. Boehl

Sunday Worship Services:  
8:30am Café Worship  
11:00am Traditional Worship

## Stop, Drop, and Pray...do it every day!

Family! As we deal with being apart in person, we are forever connected in spirit. To each other and to our God, who holds us together in the hollow of his hand. As was introduced in our online worship, **every morning at 10am**, let us lift up our voices TOGETHER in prayer. Put a notification or alarm on your phone or other device. Tell your friends and neighbors, especially those who do not have access to our online newsletter.

During worship, we invited all of La Plata Church to pray at 10am each day. During the week, we have received notice that others OUTSIDE of our church have begun to pray at that same hour as well. IT IS CATCHING ON! Please spread the word! Let God hear the faith of his people! Praise him and call upon his power and peace in this unsettling time.

## Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Preacher's Pop-Up Prayer

As we continue to connect with one another and the church during the week, do not forget Preacher's Pop-Up Prayer. **Every Thursday at 7pm**, Pastor Susan will provide a timely devotional and prayer time. Current prayer requests can be made live in the comments section. Those who would like the opportunity, need only be friends of the Church's Facebook page. Search for LaPlataUmc and hit the "friend" or "follow" button. Then, you will receive notifications when the Pop-Up goes live. At times, Pop-Up Prayer is uploaded when previously recorded. Just check the page around the 7pm hour. Here at La Plata, we are trying to connect in every way possible. NOTHING will separate our family!

## Gifts

As we navigate these uncharted waters, please remember that though the church building is closed, the work of the church goes on. Please remember the church in your faithful giving. In order to make it as easy as possible to share your gift, a link is provided in the comments section during the "offering" time during our online worship service. In addition, you may go to our website, laplataumc.org or mail your gifts to 3 Port Tobacco Rd, La Plata, Md 20646. God bless you as you have a part in God's work in the world!

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## Courage Corner

Lord, I'm stepping out from the comfort zone  
Letting go of me, holding on to you.

## On-line Worship

Worship is such an important part of our lives as Christians. It is a joy to come together as a family of faith and worship in God's House. Yet, the reality of the COVID-19 outbreak has necessarily caused us to cease gatherings in the building. However, we give praise to the Lord that we can and WILL still worship, no matter what. This past Sunday, La Plata Church had it's Facebook Live Worship, something we have been doing for several years now. It has always been a great way to tune in if you were away on vacation or obligated elsewhere during worship hours. Now, though, it is lifeline for all of us! Special thanks goes to those who helped make our online worship service possible: Mark Stancliff, Lynn Elmwood, Archie Verdiglione, Cheryl Reckeweg, Kathryn Greene and our special Children's leader, Kathy Stapleson. Last week, La Plata UMC's worship had over 450 views! This is down just a bit from last week, so please remember to share our service date and time with others. Sharing the service itself on YOUR Facebook page is also a great way to get God's Word out into the world. We continue to give thanks to the Lord that He has chosen to use our church in such a wonderful way! We look forward to seeing you this week! Or, at least, you seeing us!

## Summer Camp through BWC

Let's look ahead to the summer! Warm sun, time outside and summer camp! Baltimore Washington Conference offers summer camps at West River and Manidokan for students entering grades 2 - 12 in the fall. Camps are faith based, most are residential (week long) and offer exciting opportunities like rock climbing, hiking, water sports, and more. Check out [bwccampsandretreats.com](http://bwccampsandretreats.com) for more information and to register. Camperships are available, contact Corrie Roberts ([scarlet301@gmail.com](mailto:scarlet301@gmail.com)) to talk about your needs.

## This Past Week

Facebook Views 456

Preacher's Pop Up Prayer 251

You will get through this!  
Not because you are strong,  
but because God is.  
Not because you are big,  
but because God is.  
Not because you're good,  
but because God is.

Max Lucado

# The Church Building is Clean!

The church staff would like to sincerely thank all of you who have volunteered to come in and clean the church building. All areas of the church have been either cleaned or assigned to be cleaned. So that when we resume in-person worship, you can be assured that the church has been cleaned and disinfected.

## Ways to Connect

Many of our routines have been disrupted since the closing of events, buildings and schools. Physical distancing is the new norm and we, perhaps, have a little more time on our hands. I believe we can use this time as a blessing to ourselves and others. We often say, "If I only had the time". Well, this is our chance. Since it is so important that we keep in relationship with one another in creative way, try one of these:

1. Write a note to one of our shut-ins. A hand-written note says that they are not alone but are a valued member of our church family.
2. Use our Stop (what you're doing), Drop (into a comfortable position) and Pray at 10am everyday. God's Word says that the prayer of a believer is powerful and effective. Imagine what can happen when all of God's people pray together.
3. Make three (at least) phone calls a day. One to a close friend or family member that you can't be with at present. One to a church family member you haven't seen in a while. The third one can be anybody you want! Check in on them. Offer words of encouragement or laughter. Lighten their load. You will bless them and YOU will be blessed as well.
4. Check in with a person who is at a higher level of risk. Those who are older or someone who is immune-compromised. Ask if they need anything. Now is the time to be a gift to someone who has been a gift to others.
5. Put an inspirational quote on your Facebook page each day. You never know how far it will travel to the heart of others.
6. Make it a contest! Whoever reaches out to the most people by text or email and gets a response wins cake!

Have some other good ideas? Submit them to [sing4joy2hymn@gmail.com](mailto:sing4joy2hymn@gmail.com) and they may appear in a future edition of the Grapevine!

## ABR Circle Meeting Cancelled

The ABR Circle meeting on April 2 is cancelled due to the coronavirus closings. We will try to reschedule the tea luncheon at a later date. Be safe and healthy at home.

**2 Chronicles 20:15**

Be not afraid...for the battle is not yours, but God's.

# Family Devotion

This week's Family Time is about charity. Do the paper, "Identifying ways to show/share kindness" and then talk as a family about ways that you can reach out to others. At this time, there are folks who are not able to leave their homes due to health issues and nursing homes are not allowing visitors. Write a note to let people know they are being thought about. Together, we will get through this Coronavirus situation! Corrie Roberts

184 GOTTA HAVE GOD

## CHARITY

Church collections are a way we can help others.  
*Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*  
2 Corinthians 9:6

### Jacob's Quarter

Instead of putting his quarter in the collection plate at Sunday school, Jacob kept it instead. He thought of all of the things his shiny quarter could buy. Dreams of bubble gum and peppermint candy made his mouth water. He could almost taste their sweet, sugary goodness.

"Why do you still have your quarter?" Jacob's mommy asked him when he got home. "Why didn't you put it in the collection plate?"

Jacob looked at his mommy and answered, "Because I don't want it to be wasted. I want to buy something yummy with it."

Jacob's mommy knelt down in front of him and looked deeply into his eyes. "Yes, it's true that you could buy candy with your quarter, but just think what it would be like if you were very hungry and didn't have anything at all to eat. Think what it would be like if you had never, ever even tasted candy before."

"Never had candy?" Jacob said, surprised.

"There are some children in the world who have nothing at all to eat," said Mommy. "Our church offerings sometimes go to people like that so they can buy food. It's Jesus way of helping others through us. Now, do you still think your quarter would be wasted if you put it in the collection plate?"

Jacob slowly put his quarter back in his pocket. When next Sunday came, he was ready to place his money in the collection plate to help others.

### Your Turn

1. Why didn't Jacob put his quarter in the Sunday School collection plate at first?
2. What kinds of things does money in the church collection plate buy?
3. Have you ever put money in the collection plate at church? How does it make you feel?

### Prayer

Jesus, please help me to remember that there are always people who have less than I do, and that I can help them by my offerings in church. Amen.

GOTTA OBEY 185

## CHARITY

Read this to your child: "Jesus teaches us to help others. One way we can do that is through charity. Charity is when we give something, or do something, to help someone else. Look at the pictures below. Draw an X over the ones that are not charity. Circle the ones that are charity. You can color them when you're done." The answers are on page 238.



## Update: Edelen Family Message from Papua, Indonesia

This is a message from the Edelen family, who is working with Wycliff Bible Translators. Our church supports their efforts through our financial donations.

Dear Friends,

### Praise! The Lord has provided a vehicle!

Thank you so much for praying and searching with us. One of our loving prayer partners is actually GIVING us a car to keep! Woo hoo! We may have a second one to borrow, too. Praise the Lord!

### Here we come! Arriving U.S. this Wednesday Lord-willing

Please pray for us to stay healthy and make it back to the U.S.! Departing Papua Monday 8pm EST and scheduled to arrive in the U.S. Wednesday 9am EST. Due to our impending visa expiration we decided to return sooner rather than later given the increasing COVID travel restrictions.

### Self-quarantine and longer-term housing

We do have leads for both of these in Maryland! Pray for us to have wisdom about a good workable living situation for our family, and deciding whether one of these leads or something different would be appropriate.

### Urgent prayer request from Bayono village

Would you take a minute and pray for Amau? She is fighting for her life after complications in childbirth.



### Would you take 2 minutes and pray with us?

Praise for the Lord providing a vehicle!!

Pray for Amau's life to be spared and that she would turn to Christ through this. Pray for her son-in-law Bastian to clearly share the gospel with her.

Please pray for our safety as we travel.

Pray for the Lord's wisdom regarding our housing in the US and praise Him for some good leads!

The Lord is our shepherd and we trust in His good plan. Thank you for partnering with us!

Matt, Caroline, Mark (at Regent University), Micah, Elijah, and Luke Sentani, Papua, Indonesia  
matthew\_edelen@wycliffe.org



# Let's Celebrate! Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Thursday, March 26

Lily Compton-10  
Mike McCahill  
Kaleigh Shaw-18

## Friday, March 27

Benjamin Butler  
Jeff Caldwell  
Diane Gandee  
Jeff Matteson

## Sunday, March 29

Jack Wheeler-5

## Monday, March 30

Darren Thompson

## Tuesday, March 31

Steven & Amanda Davis-13  
Kirby Blass  
Peggy Hamilton  
John Reckeweg

## Wednesday, April 1

James Rollins

## Thursday, April 2

Zachery Dietrich-6

## Friday, April 3

Phil Herbert

## Saturday, April 4

Marilyn Edelen  
Sophie Legagneux-13  
Aiden Williams-12

## Sunday, April 5

Anna Grace Daetwyler  
Stefan Hillman

## Let Us Pray

### For our friends and family who have medical issues:

Tom Berry  
Wade Beswick  
Karyl Beverage  
Margaret Bowie  
Frank Brinson  
Patricia Buckler  
Sue Carns  
Jennifer Carpenter  
Jerome Church  
Cathy Compton  
Harolly Coombs  
Joyce Dean  
Sandra Fykes

Remy Zachary Gordon  
Carl Greene  
Peggy Hamilton  
Randy Hill  
Christina Kingsbury  
Francis Lewis  
Donna McKenzie  
Ed McKenzie  
Johnny McPherson  
Renee Nash  
Carl Occhipinti  
Frank Quinn  
Mary Beth Reckeweg  
Melissa Faith Rollins

Crystal Rupprecht  
Sunny Rupprecht  
Donna Sarnacki  
Tabitha Schneider  
Carol Sorenson  
Curt Snyder  
Don Stapleson  
Michael Stewart  
Brian Thomason  
Jeanette Tull  
Sandy Tull  
Linda Valente  
Mike Williams

### For our friends and family who are living in nursing homes, and assisted living or home bound:

Ann Bergerstock  
Lennis Bridgett

Iris Dickerson  
Sharon Ferguson

Mike Merritt  
Helen Sullivan

### For our friends and family who are grieving:

Kelly Boyce and her family as they mourn the passing of her mother, Betty.

### Continue to pray for:

Our church leadership, teams and congregation as we seek our way forward into ministry in the new year. The homeless during these cold winter months. That they might find adequate shelter from the cold. Our delegates to General Conference 2020 and the future of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Susan, our church, our denomination, our local, state and national leaders, our first responders, our armed forces and veterans.

# God's Flight

By Heather Flood

On the ground sits a bird  
That's too afraid to fly.  
Beautiful wings could make it soar,  
But the pain of past failure is its lonesome cry.

God has said unto this bird,  
"Trust and have faith in me,  
for I will carry you in your flight.  
The miracle of life is waiting for you to see."

The bird said to God, "But I can't fly.  
I am weak. I will fall and feel pain.  
It's happened before when I tried to fly.  
I'm afraid of being hurt again."

His voice soft and reassuring, God said to the bird,  
"I created you, and I will protect you.  
Your lonesome cry I have heard.  
Have faith in me. That's all you need to do.

So, stand up, bird, and spread your wings.  
The wings I lovingly created to let you fly.  
If you fall I'll pick you up,  
And lift you back into the sky."  
With trembling legs and unsure wings,


The bird finally looked to the sky.  
It took a deep breath and took the chance.  
The bird began to fly.

"Thank you, God, for believing in me.  
Thank you for giving me wings.  
Thank you for your protecting hands.  
Your glory I will now sing."

God smiled unto the bird  
In its majestic flight.  
"Little bird, I'll always be with you,  
And will protect you with all my might.

You may stumble. You may fall.  
That doesn't mean that I don't care.  
I will watch over you in case you need help,  
And then I'll be right there."

The little bird, once so scared,  
Learned to soar to new heights.  
The occasional fall no longer scared the bird,  
Choosing to have faith in God's flight.



**“Nothing pleases  
Jesus as much as  
being audaciously  
trusted”**

Max Lucado

**Facebook Find**