

La Plata United Methodist Church



5th Sunday of Lent
March 29, 2020

Traditional Worship (11:00)

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

Feel free to share on social media that you are here at La Plata Church to walk the lenten journey to the cross!

Prayer Before Worship

Holy One, in this season of disconnectedness, connect me. In this season of want, nourish me. In this season of anxiety, quiet me and in this season of confusion, light my faithful path. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prelude

Cheryl Reckeweg

Lighting the Altar Candles, & A Time of Quiet Meditation

When the Prayer Before Worship has finished and the Prelude begins, please quiet yourselves in preparation for worship.

Welcome, News & Opportunities

***Call to Worship**

Jesus said, I AM the Vine

His words are ever true

Come and connect to his nurture and nourishment

We come to receive all that we need

Praise the Father for the great work of the Son

We worship the One who we follow to the cross.

Thanks be to God. Amen

***Opening Hymn**

UM Hymnal, 130

"God Will Take Care Of You"

Prayer Requests and Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

Gospel Lesson

Luke 12: 22-31

Passing the Peace of Christ

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Moment

Kathy Stapleson

The Offertory

*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)

The Gospel Lesson

John 15: 1-8

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

Thanks be to God.

The Message

Rev. Dr. Susan E. Boehl

"I AM: The True Vine"

*Closing Hymn

UM Hymnal, 557

"Blest Be The Tie That Binds"

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

The Faith We Sing, 2152

"Change My heart, O God"

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true

Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.

Postlude

Cheryl Reckeweg

*Please rise in body or in spirit

Organist: Cheryl Reckeweg

Service Prayer Partner: Jeanette Tull

The Scripture Lessons

Luke 12: 22-31 (NIV)

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

John 15: 1-8 (NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

P.U.S.H.

Author Unknown

A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

So, this the man did, day after day.

For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved."

Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and

that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough."

That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push.

And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just a simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong . just P.U.S.H.!

When the job gets you down ... just P.U.S.H.!

When people don't react the way you think they should ... just P.U.S.H.!

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due....just P.U.S.H.!

When people just don't understand you, just P.U.S.H.

P= Pray

U= Until

S= Something

H= Happens

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 last Sunday, 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.

Last week, 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.

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!

Our Prayer List

Please pray:

For our friends and family who have medical issues

Tom Berry	Carl Greene	Crystal Rupprecht
Wade Beswick	Peggy Hamilton	Sunny Rupprecht
Karyl Beverage	Randy Hill	Donna Sarnacki
Margaret Bowie	Christina	Tabitha Schneider
Frank Brinson	Kingsbury	Carol Sorenson
Patricia Buckler	Francis Lewis	Curt Snyder
Sue Carns	Donna McKenzie	Don Stapleson
Jennifer Carpenter	Ed McKenzie	Michael Stewart
Jerome Church	Johnny McPherson	Brian Thomason
Cathy Compton	Renee Nash	Jeanette Tull
Harolly Coombs	Carl Occhipinti	Sandy Tull
Joyce Dean	Mary Beth	Linda Valente
Sandra Fykes	Reckeweg	Mike Williams
Remy Zachary	Melissa Faith	
Gordon	Rollins	

Please pray:

For our friends and family who are living in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or home bound:

Lennis Bridgett	Mike Merritt	Sharon Ferguson
Iris Dickerson	Ann Bergerstock	
Helen Sullivan		

Please pray:

For our friends and family who are grieving:

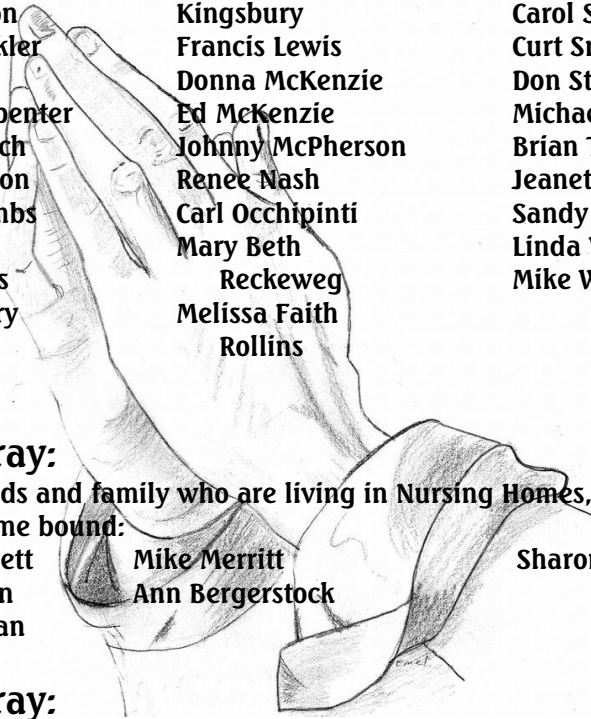
Kelly Boyce and her family as they mourn the passing of her mom, Betty.

Continue to pray for:

Our church leadership teams.

The homeless.

Pastor Susan, our church, our denomination, our local, state and national leaders, our first responders, our armed forces, and veterans.



Our Church Staff & Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Susan E. Boehl	Senior Pastor
Rev. Ed Chance	Retired Pastor / Visitation
Corrie Roberts	Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry
Karen Hamner	Church Administrator
Patricia Day	Choir Director
Linda Dent Mitchell	Organist
Cheryl Reckeweg	Coordinator of Ministries
Laurie Smith	Church Treasurer
Archie Verdiglione, Sr.	Building Superintendent
Jim Harris	Church Sexton
Bill Riley	Groundskeeper
Julie Robbins	Preschool Director
Trish Carruth	Asst. Preschool Director
Mark Stancliff	Administrative Council Chair
Archie Verdiglione, Sr.	Lay Leader
Kevin Robbins	Board of Trustees President
Tom Hall	Staff-Parish Relations Chair
Kathryn Greene	Finance Committee Chair

Our Church Motto for 2020

"Making disciples, building community, living by
faith...together"



'Friend' us on Facebook:
La Plata Umc



3 Port Tobacco Road
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2824
Office: 301-934-2288
Email: laplataumc@gmail.com
On the web: www.laplataumc.org
Rev. Dr. Susan E. Boehl cell:
240-217-6369
CCLI License # 2524825