

one student to another: How are you growing in faith? In grace? In obedience to God? Are you closer to God today than you were yesterday? Or, was there a time long before now when you felt more connected, less anxious, more on fire for God and less distracted by the world? If your yesterday was better than your today with Jesus? That should tell you something. It's time to go back to school! Don't wait. It's back to school time. Get back to study of God's

Word and daily prayer and worship with the One who has all you need to know. Learn and grow, friends. It's not just for kids! His... and Yours,

Pastor Susan

Kids' Korner

Let Us Pray

Let's Celebrate!

Facebook Find

A Prayer For Our Students

Get Ready, Get Set...

The fall will be here before you know it and so is the new youth group here at La Plata Church! We are finalizing meeting times and what we wish to call ourselves. Activities are being lined up and we want to make sure we leave nothing and no one behind. If you know of a youth (12-17) that likes fun, fellowship, working for the good of others and learning more about God, then look no further. La Plata's new youth group is the place to be!

Whether or not you have a youth in your sphere of influence, we could use YOUR help. If you are willing to offer your gifts (from encouragement to planning, to being a chaperone for overnight excursions) our youth need YOU. It might cost you some time, but I can't think of any better way to spend it than helping our young people build a relationship with Christ. Can we count on ya? Let the church office or Pastor Susan know.... THANKS!

Help Us Update our Prayer List

Please take a look at our prayer list. If you have updated information on any of the folks listed, please let the office or Pastor Susan know.



Membership Has Its Privileges!

La Plata Church is receiving New Members this Fall.

Have you been blessed through your interactions with our church family?

Have you felt welcomed and engaged in some of our ministries?

Have you been looking for someplace to "belong"?

Do you believe in in our mission to "Make disciples for Jesus Christ"?

If you said "yes" to any of those questions, you are already a part of our family of Faith. Now, you have the chance to make it official. Come join the membership of our church and stake YOUR claim as one who stands with La Plata Church as we stand for Christ in the world! Please check the "new member" box in the red fellowship folders on Sunday mornings, call the church office, OR just grab Pastor when you see her! All are welcome here.

3 Port Tobacco Road La Plata, MD 20646 301.934.2288 laplataumc.org laplataumc@gmail.com

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Susan E. Boehl

Summer Sunday Worship Services: 8:30am In-Person Worship Service 10am Facebook Live Online & In-Person Worship

Sign-up to Help at our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year!

We need YOU to help us run the LPUMC Food Booth at the 100th Charles County Fair, **Sept 12-15**. This is one of our most important church fundraisers. Use the Sign Up Genius below or call the church office to sign up for as many shifts as you'd like! https://www.signupgenius.com/

go/409084EACAA29A5FD0-50132054-2024

ABR Circle Sisters Meeting

The ABR Circle Sisters will begin meeting again on Thursday morning, September 5 and will visit the Mt. Carmel Monastery. There will be a guided tour of the historic "Old Monastery", visit the chapel, prayer grounds, and gift shop. Please meet at the LPUMC parking lot (rain or shine) at 10:00 AM to carpool or you may drive directly to the monastery located at: 5678 Mt. Carmel Road, La Plata, MD. The tour begins at 10:30 AM, so if you are driving directly, please be on time. After the tour, we will be going to Texas Ribs in Bel Alton for lunch. Many THANKS to Mary Vance for arranging the details for this awesome field trip. During lunch, we will share the "God Moments" that we had during the summer break and plan the activities for our 2024-25 club year. Questions? Contact Mary Vance at msvance79@comcast.net.

New members are warmly welcome to join this excursion to see if you want to join the ABR Circle. The amount of walking that you do is entirely us to you – the program is flexible. ABR Circle meets the 1st Thursdays of each month at 10:00 AM at the LPUMC church Parlor for general meetings with guest speakers, meditations, study of various topics, or we meet in the parking lot to carpool to another inspiring, educational fieldtrip location. Put September 5 at 10 AM on your calendar now and JOIN US!

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Worship Attendance

Jul 28	119
Aug 4	168
Aug 11	174
Aug 18	149

This Past Week

8:30	64
10:00	69
FB Live	16
Total	149

Facebook Views 571

546

Preacher's Pop-Up Prayer

Pop-Up Prayer

The Grapevine
Editor: Sherri Hastings
Publisher: Carrie Summers
Send articles to
news@laplataumc.org
Weekly deadline for submitting
articles is Wed. at 4 PM.

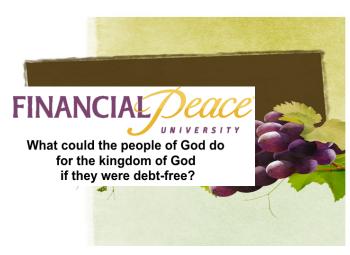
2024 Finances at a Glance

Prior Month Analysis			
May budget needs	\$44,838		
May offering \$34,			
Year to Date Analysis			
January thru May total income	\$199,712		
January thru May total expenses	\$209,800		
Income less expenses	(\$10,088)		

Thank you for your generous financial support of our program, missions, and ministries. Your contributions empower us to enrich the lives of everyone in our church and our community. In order for us to meet our planned budget needs for this year, we need to receive an average weekly contribution of \$10,762. Another way of meeting this goal is for **100 families to contribute a minimum of \$466 monthly**. Please consider if this goal is within your reach.

SAVE THE DATE! Financial Peace University: Classes Start 9.19.24

Did you know that 89% of the people in a typical American congregation don't have a financial safety net? Shocked? But there's HOPE! And that hope is Financial Peace University. FPU is a nine-lesson course taught by Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts. With FPU, you will master how to handle money using biblical wisdom and common sense. Through life-changing videos, online tools and resources, and group accountability, you will learn how to create and stay within a budget, save for emergencies, pay off debt, retirement, insurance, and investments. Just imagine the impact we could have on the community if we were all debt-free! Marriages and families would be strengthened. People would be freed up to be outrageously generous. This kind of hope will ignite change in our entire community!



Weekly classes will begin on **Thurs, Sept 19 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM through Thurs, Nov 14**. The cost is \$79.00 for a digital workbook and \$99.99 for a physical workbook per family unit including teenagers still living at home. If you have already taken the class in the past and just need a refresher, you can take it again for free! If you have never taken the class and would like to signup, visit https://www.fpu.com/AA8D8D or use the QR code below. If you have already taken the class and just want a refresher without the latest workbook version, please email fpu.laplataumc@yahoo.com to signup. If you have any questions, please contact John or Sherri Hastings at 240-299-9485 or fpu.laplataumc@yahoo.com. Come join us and learn to "live like no one else, so that later, you can live like no one else!"





Donation Request from the Food Pantry

Always ready to go above and beyond, our Food Pantry volunteers will often stock personal hygiene items to give to our clients who need them. It's an often over-looked, but much appreciated service to provide for those who need it most. With the extreme heat this summer, their supplies are almost depleted. They staff of the pantry has asked for donations of the following items: deodorant, bar soap, tooth brushes (individually wrapped please), toothpaste, feminine hygiene products and wipes. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Charlotte Bowie, Pat Pritchard, Jean Stoddard, Susan Yates or the Church Office.

Holiday Shoppe is Seeking Vendors

The annual LaPlata United Methodist Church Holiday Shoppe will be taking place on Saturday, November 23 this year. It will feature one of a kind handmade items, our famous Recycled Christmas shop, a bake sale and lots of vendors. We are currently seeking vendors to set up their displays. A special early bird discount applies to applications sent in by September 1. If you are interested in being a vendor yourself, or if know someone else in our community who would like to participate, please contact the church office for an application.

Join Carl's Crew In the Walk to End Alzheimer's

In July 2021, Carl Greene got lost on his way home from a local Chinese restaurant. He was missing for two hours. This day hinted to his future. In February 2022, his worst fears were confirmed when Carl was diagnosed with dementia due to Alzheimer's disease. Despite having severe dementia, Carl has not stopped. He lives each day with intention and joy. The La Plata UMC church family has been a great blessing support to him over these years. He is still active and high functioning. He participates in research studies and is an advocate for finding a cure and resources for afflicted families.



Figure 2 - La Plata UMC at the Walk to End Alzheimer's 2023

Alzheimer's is a fatal diagnosis; it transforms lives. And, Alzheimer's is just one form of dementia. Many La Plata UMC families have loved ones afflicted with dementia. We invite you to support Carl or honor your loved ones by joining "Carl's Crew" in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can support dementia research and provide resources to families.

Walk to End Alzheimer's – Charles County

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024

Time: Ceremony 9:30 a.m. | Walk 10:00 a.m.

Location: Town Hall of La Plata, 305 Queen Anne Street

Link: http://act.alz.org/goto/CarlWalks

If you prefer to send a check, make it payable to La Plata UMC and include "Carl's Crew" in the memo line.

Contact Kathryn Greene on 301.502.0125 or greene.kc10@gmail.com for more information.



Scan to Join or Support Carl's Crew

Civil War Tour of Charles County

The Civil War Tour of Charles County will be on **Saturday, September 7 from 9 AM to 4 PM** with our tour guides Garth and Debra Bowling. The cost of the tour is \$20.00 which covers the cost of the school bus. We will stop at Captain Billy's Restaurant for lunch. Everyone pays for his/her own lunch. We will meet at the church parking lot at 8:45 AM and pay as you get on the bus. If you are interested in going on the tour, call the church office and make your reservation. This tour is not only for church members. Friends and relatives are welcome.

Request for School Supplies

It's time for backpacks, paper, scissors, and glue; Composition books, markers, and pencils, too. Add notebooks, highlighters, binders, and pens. And yes, please add plenty of folders again. The students thank you; their teachers do, too. We all appreciate everything YOU do!

Yes, it's time for our annual School Supplies drive! Please consider making a donation for students at our partner schools: Blessed Lambs Preschool, Matula Elementary School, and Milton Somers Middle School.

Items can be dropped off in the designated box in the Narthex. Thank you so much for blessing our students with school supplies for this school year, and for your continued support!

Save the date: **Sunday, August 25**, you are invited to join Pastor Susan and members from our prayer ministries as we pray over and for our partner schools for this new school year. We will visit Blessed Lambs, Matula ES, and Somers MS. Meet up in the Narthex after the 10 AM service.

Life Celebrations at La Plata United Methodist Church

On **Saturday, August 24 at 11 AM**, there will be a Celebration of Life for Gilbert "Buddy" Bowling, followed by a meal of Love and Remembrance in the Fellowship Hall. The Funeral and Interment will be private.

Kent Ave Block Party - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

La Plata UMC will have a table at the annual Kent Avenue Block Party on **September 21** at the Caroline Drive Park. The La Plata Police Department hosts this event as a way to provide services to a community that can use a little extra help. Community partners conduct health screenings, provide information on eldercare and childcare, giveaway backpacks containing school supplies, and more.

We are seeking volunteers to help staff our table and share the love of Christ. We will have a prayer request box, information about our church programs and activities, and giveaways to connect the community with Christ. Last year, we gave school supplies to the kids. The event is from 12 – 3 PM. We'd like to have at least two people at the table. Volunteers can commit to only a couple hours and work in shifts. All are welcome. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office.

Come have fun and engage with the community!





You are invited to La Plata UMC 2024 - 2025 Sunday School

Opening Sunday September 8th

at 9:45 - 10:45am

Fellowship Hall 1

Register for Sunday School

Meet the teachers

Join in family fun and fellowship

Games and crafts

(Adult Sunday School will meet in their rooms - Fellowship Hall 2 and Room 110)

Sunday School is for everyone ages 2 - 100



Applications Accepted for Queen Nicotina

It's time for organizations to enter Charles County girls in the Queen Nicotina Contest, sponsored each year by the Charles County Fair Board. The entry form must be mailed to Mrs. Louise Stine, 5185 Colebrook Dr., La Plata, MD 20646 no later than Aug. 30, 2024.

Queen Nicotina will reign over the 100th Fair to be held Sept. 12-15.

On Sept. 6, a panel of judges will interview all of the girls who have been nominated and will select the Queen as well as her court for the coronation ceremony to be held on Thursday, Sept. 12, and they will be honored participants throughout the fair.

The Queen will be selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, poise and appearance, personal interview and presentation. She will receive a \$1,000 tuition scholarship to be given by PNC Bank.

All contestants must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Must be a resident of Charles County for at least four years.
- 2. Must be sponsored by a recognized Charles County civic or educational organization.
- 3. Must be unmarried
- 4. Must be a senior at a Charles County high school who plans to continue her education, or is:



File photo 1989 Coronation

- a freshman at the College of Southern Maryland during the school year 2024, or
- a senior commuting daily to high school.
- 5. Must be a student in good standing, morally and scholastically, with a C or better average.
- 6. The entry form must be signed by the president of the sponsoring organization and a school official at the last school attended.
- 7. The entry form must be postmarked no later than midnight Aug. 30
- 8. Must be present at the judging which will be held Friday, Sept. 6, at the Charles County Fairgrounds. The Judges will select from the contestants who are present a court of 13.
- 9. All reasonable precautions will be taken to provide for safety of all participants, but the Fair Board shall not be responsible for injury to any persons.

Name		
Address		
PhoneAge	School	
Signature and address of Presid	dent of Sponsoring Organization	
This is to certify that	is a st	— Judent of good
standing, morally and scholastic	cally with a grade average of C or be	tter.
Signature of school official		
All entries must be accompanied	d by a photograph (This picture may	y not be returned) and school transcripts.
I will not hold the Charles Coun County Fair.	ity Fair Board liable for any accident	or injury which may occur to me while participating in the Charles
Signature of participant		_ Date
I will not hold the Charles Coun	nty Fair Board liable for any accident	or injury which may occur to my child while participating in this
Charles County Fair activity.		
Signature (parent/guardian)		Date

2025 Budget Planning Process Begins

It's time to start planning the 2025 church budget and we need your help! Our budget is the financial roadmap that reflects our current and future priorities. As our vision statement says, we hope to share our love of Christ through inclusion, community service, worship, and fellowship. In this spirit, we also appropriately fund our ministries, programs, and community outreach activities

Church leaders, please carefully review your financial needs for 2025. Review the balance of any restricted funds and historical spending trends in your program area to prayerfully determine financial needs for 2025. Send your budget needs or requests to the Finance Committee by September 1.

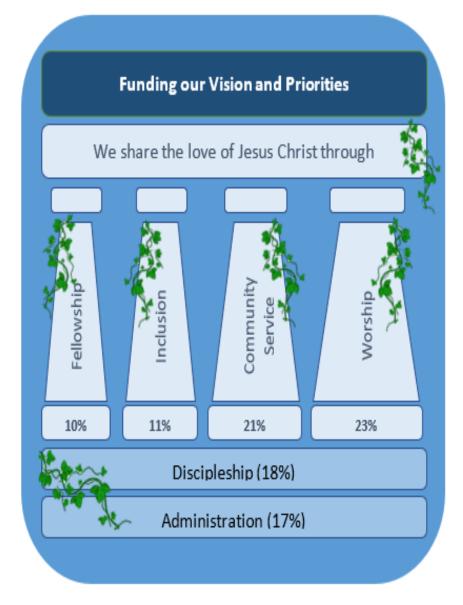


Figure 1-2024 Budget Priorities Aligned with Pillars of the Vision Statement

You may email Kathryn Greene,
Finance Committee Chairperson, and Laurie Smith, Treasurer, at
greene.kc10@gmail.com and lrsmith987@gmail.com. The Finance Committee will meet
on September 10 to create the 2025 budget proposal. This proposed budget will be
reviewed by Pastor Susan and presented at the subsequent Administrative Council
Meeting for approval.

We need everyone's <u>help</u> to develop a healthy and accurate budget and join God in what He is doing through our church! Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.



Relax, I'm not with the FBI, the Justice Department, or Homeland Security, nor am I even a Safeway nightwatchman. But I do have a public service warning to share with you. There have been corroborated reports of individuals leaving deposits on the doorsteps of unsuspecting neighbors. They have been spotted late at night and are thought to be members of the dreaded "Zucchini Cartel".









According to the amazing internet:
Although zucchini has its origin in
Mesoamerica (the part of North America
extending from central Mexico through
Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador,
Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern
Costa Rica), It appears that the zucchini,
as we know it, was developed in Italy

around the latter half of the 1800s and thought to be reintroduced to the United States by Italian immigrants in the 1920s. I have no supporting evidence, but I believe that the infamous Corleone (Godfather) family was first responsible for the illicit distribution of this prolific fruit (yes, it's technically a fruit).

The cartoon above is from "Pickles" by Brian Crane. The seniors Earl and Opal are seen distributing their bounty to unsuspecting neighbors. Where does it all come from? Apparently it's so easy to grow that even a black thumb like me could do it. I'm told that one zucchini plant can produce between three and ten pounds of produce. That's a lot of bread.

As much as I appreciate the generosity of those with excess bounty, I am not a huge enthusiast. Still, I want to reciprocate if a neighbor shares their zucchini with me, I usually leave a fruitcake in their mailbox the next day.

Of course, in the end, it's not about the zucchini or even the fruitcake. It's all about our willingness to share what we are fortunate enough to possess with others who may have needs. 2 Corinthians 9:6 explains: ...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to garden and the whole neighborhood gets zucchini.



We have wonderful friends who are blessed with the skills to grow and harvest delicious fruits and vegetables and willingly and happily share that bounty. And so, to all my zucchini-growing acquaintances, keep doing what you're doing and I'll keep making bread (actually Pat will do the making part). But don't feel you need to make your deliveries in the dead of night. We'll leave a light on for you.

Online Giving Just Got Easier!

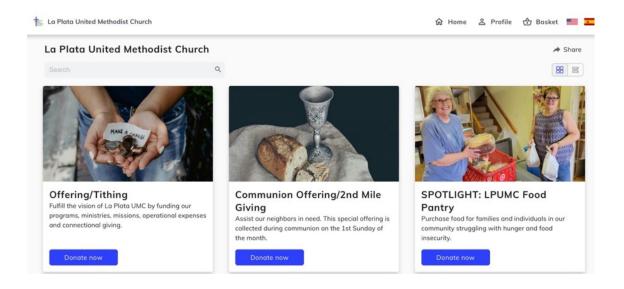
We've streamlined our online giving page so it is easier to find what you're looking for. Our donation page is not just a tool for giving. It showcases our teams that are engaged as God's hands and feet in the world and narrates the good work that we are doing in our community and the world.

Our page features unique "tiles" for our LPUMC programs and ministries, our missions, global ministries, and our partners. The tiles are categorized by LPUMC programs and ministries, missions, global ministries, special needs, and LifeStyles of Maryland support. Each tile gives a short and long description about what your donation is supporting. Our page also spotlights any local ministries that need special financial support so that you can direct your funds to the needs of the church. You can also easily find global ministry special Sunday giving opportunities. And you can change to an express view if you prefer a drop-down list to the tiles.

Don't see what you are looking for? We have hidden or archived tiles that are seasonal or inactive to de-clutter our page. We will review our page monthly and make appropriate updates to display or hide tiles This flexibility helps us focus on seasonal activities. For example, in June, Vacation Bible School tiles will appear and, in November, Giving Tuesday and Turkey Basket tiles will display.

Online giving has many benefits. You have many donation options such as major debit and credit cards, bank transfers, or ACH. We appreciate your help covering the processing fees for these transactions (2.75% for card transactions; 1% for bank transactions). You can set up recurring giving or give one-time on a date of your choice. You can even share a link with your friends and family.

Take a peek at our streamlined page on https://secure.myvanco.com/YQE6/home. If you have a program that needs funding, please contact the Finance Committee through the church office.

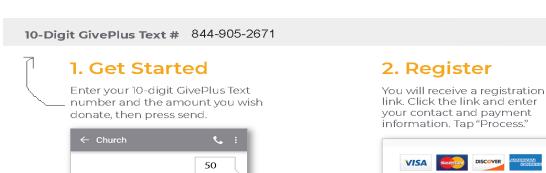






Text your Tithe

Supporting our ministries and mission is only a click away. We offer convenient online giving, so you never have to worry about leaving your cash or checkbook at home. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts. Get started by visiting our online donation page at laplataumc.org. For text giving, simply send a text message to 844-905-2671 with the amount you would like to contribute. We appreciate your generosity, whether you're donating from the pew or virtually!

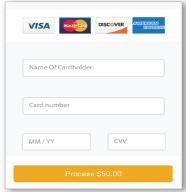


You're almost done! Go to [unique web link] to complete your donation.

3. Give

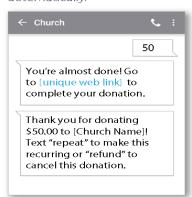
After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.





4. Repeat

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.





Kids' Korner Children's Bible Activity Sheets



Jesus Gives Us Confidence





How can we draw near to God?



Supply 2 letters to make a word that fits the definition. Put the resulting vertical words into the blanks to complete the verse.

calm	Е	Α	С	Ш	U	L
igloo builders	S	K	I	Μ	Ш	S
speaking	Η	Е	Т	0	1	С
eternity	0	R	Ш	٧	R	
wearing away	R	0	S	1	Е	
fortresses	Α	S	T	L	S	
moods	Е	M	Р	Ш	S	

By one sacrifice He has made	
	those who are being made holy.



Let's Celebrate! Birthdays & Anniversaries



Friday, Aug 23

Cody & Alex Anderson-10 Carlie Lancaster-6

Monday, Aug 26

William Deaton
Paul Lincoln

Thursday, Aug 29

Karen Hamner

Friday, Aug 30

Joseph Boswell Brittany Grace Harold Hayes

Sunday, Sept 1

Adeline Wheeler-7

Let Us Pray

For our friends and family who have medical issues:

Doris Ager
Wade Beswick
Hugh Blaine
Carol Burch
Robin Boswell
Jerry Bowie
Karen Bowie
Anne Buckler
Patricia Buckler
Vickie Carsley
Jennifer Carpenter
Steve Chess

Steve Chess
Jerome Church
Harriette Clayton
Myrna Clements
Debbie Cornell
Donna Cottrill
Jimmy Cottrill
Linda Curry

Anna Grace Daetwyler

Pat Day
Joyce Dean
Kathie Dolder
David Fuchs

Jon Gausman Katrina Gessner Jean Glover Richard Gordon Tom Grace Carl Greene Millie Head Addison Herbert Rose Hodson Sylvia Hollar Fay Howell Ginger Jones Julie Keesee Mike King

Mary Kotarski Mary Lilly Matthew Lincoln Allison Littleford Cristen Luke Kevin Lyng

Johnny McPherson Travis McPherson Penny Morgan Pastor Jeanne Parr James Pifer
Heather Powers
Steve Purdy
Brian Pyle
Roger Rollins
Brandon RT
Crystal Rupprecht

Patty Rupprecht Donna Sarnacki Xyla Savage Tabitha Schneider

Bill Sigmon
Carol Sorenson
John Sorenson
Judy Stancliff
Richard Stancliff
Tim Strasbaugh
Linda Valente
Barbara Williams

Linda Wood Tony Wright Kirk Wyant William Young

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

Eileen & Dean Howard, Doris & Ken White, Charlie Hayden & Linda Wood

Continue to pray for:

Please pray for our Law Enforcement Officers as they risk their lives each day to protect their communities.

Our Pastors as they continue to find new ways to minister to their flock and keep us all connected. And for each other that Christ will calm our fears and keep us safe.



Lord, thank you for the unique gifts of every child as they transition into a new school year.

Fill each student with fresh enthusiasm and a heart that is excited to learn and grow.

Cover them with your enduring love, give them confidence and grace, and equip them with the ability to persevere through trials.

Bless their teachers with wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve, as they embark on the journey together!

Amen!



