

The Lamplighter

As 2026 is underway, I've been thinking about evangelism. Jesus said, "as the father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21) I know, therefore, that because He came, I must go, but not everyone is called to leave home to become a professional evangelist. We should each be evangelizing everyone within our sphere of influence. The greatest gift you can give someone is the gospel—the gift of salvation. A traditional maxim suggests avoiding the topics of religion and politics to maintain social harmony, but following that advice may end up condemning those around you to eternal hell in order to maintain your own peaceful existence. I ask myself if I'm willing to step on some toes in order to sow the seeds that may bring someone to knowledge of the Savior and His gift of eternal life. An obvious place to start is in your own home. Your children, your spouse, your family should all hear the message of Jesus Christ from you, even if they've heard it before.

Next, you can offer a daily prayer that God will bring you in contact with those who need to hear His message, and then you must listen carefully to know whom He has prepared to hear the Word. It may be someone you least expect, or maybe someone you don't even know.

Finally, "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect." (I Peter 3:15) That's all there is to evangelism. Be willing to go, ask for God's direction, and share what you know. In 2026, I'm praying that the Holy Spirit will give me the wisdom and courage to become the evangelist He has called me to be.

—Dave Bode



Bible studies that are available:

- Tues. mornings @ 10: men & women
 - Thurs. evenings @ 7: college age+
 - Fri. evenings @ 6:30: 9-12th graders
- Also, on Sun. mornings for everyone!

There is a new women's ministry meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month for crafting, fellowship & outreach.

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

9070 Hawthorne Road, La Plata MD 20646,
301-934-9040, secretary@fbclaplata.org

Rev. Dr. Gary Schneider:

pastorgary@fbclaplata.org

www.fbclaplata.org

Facebook: FirstBaptistChurchOfLaPlata

Instagram: fbclaplata

Youtube: FirstBaptistChurchofLaPlata



Are you looking for a ministry? Do you enjoy driving? We are hoping to start a taxi service for people who want to come to church Sunday and/or Wednesday evenings but do not have a ride. Fuel reimbursement will be available. See Bro. Gary if you're interested.



Edify is rehearsing after the 11:00 service each Sunday. Please vacate the sanctuary to facilitate the rehearsal. You are welcome to stay and fellowship in the foyer as long as you like.

Attention:
Church event photos will now be available for viewing on our website rather than in *The Lamplighter*
<http://fbclaplata.org/photo-album>




New library books and materials have arrived and are available to check out!
If you have any book recommendations please email them to:
library@fbclaplata.org
for us to consider!

*THE GRASS WITHERS,
THE flower fades,
BUT THE WORD OF
OUR GOD WILL
stand forever.*
ISAIAH 40:8, ESV



Check out the *Week at A Glance* in your bulletin for character information & "seek and find" challenges pertaining to our Bible Village.

There is now a super big calendar in the office showing the groups/events that have reserved the church on a certain day/date(s). Feel free to check it out if you have something in mind BUT our procedure is still to call or email the office to double check availability and officially reserve the church. Contact Amanda at:
301-934-9040 or secretary@fbclaplata.org



God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

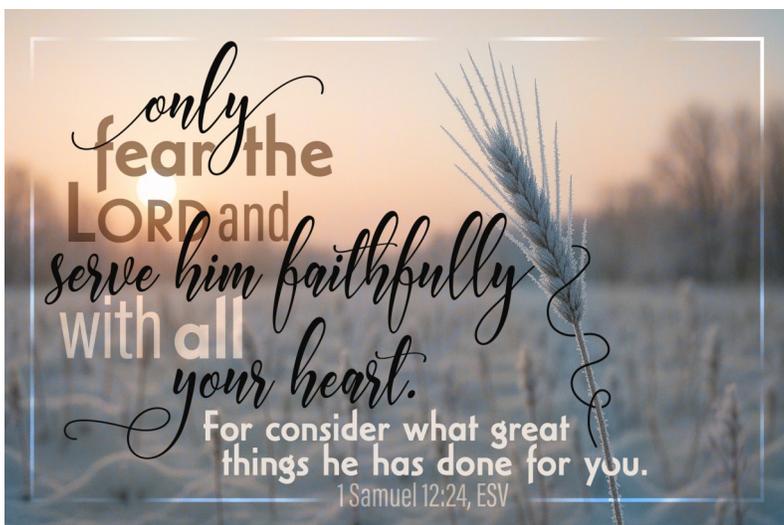
The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

February can feel long and cold... but God's love is warm and steady.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases" (Lamentations 3:22, ESV).

If you need prayer or a friendly conversation, send us a message — we're here for you.



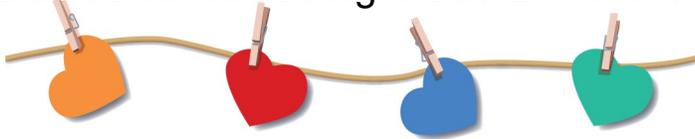
Operation Christmas Child



February Shopping Ideas:
fashion accessories



Deacons' Meeting Feb. 2nd 7 PM

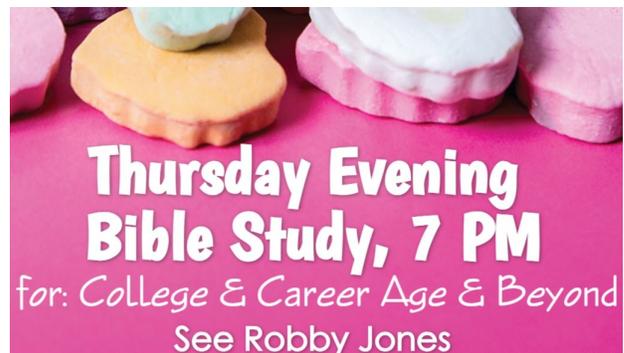


YOUTH NEWS

Friday evening Bible study 6:30-8 PM
 Youth: 6-12th grades
 See Patrick Hancock

VISITATION MINISTRY WILL MEET
 THURS., FEB., 19TH, 9:45 AM

Brotherhood & Mission Warriors will meet
 Saturday, February 7th @ 9am.



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Benevolence Offering AWANA 5:30pm	2  Groundhog Day Deacon's meeting @ 7	3 Ladies of the Light & Men in the Word 10 am	4 Food Dist. 5 PM	5 WOM 9:45am ESL Class 6pm •College Bible Study 7 PM	6 Merry Widows 12 pm Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM	7 MISSIONS Groups 9 AM
8 NO AWANA	9	10 Ladies of the Light & Men in the Word 10 am	11 Food Dist. 5 PM	12 ESL Class 6pm •College Bible Study 7 PM	13 Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM	14  Happy Valentine's Day
15 AWANA 5:30pm	16  Presidents Day	17 Ladies of the Light & Men in the Word 10 am	18 Food Dist. 5 PM	19 Visitation Ministry 9:45am ESL Class 6pm •College Bible Study 7 PM	20 Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM	21 Hooks & Needles 9-Noon 
22 AWANA 5:30pm	23	24 Ladies of the Light & Men in the Word 10 am	25 Food Dist. 5 PM	26 •College Bible Study 7 PM	27 Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM	28

Sunday Morning Nursery:

Infant/Toddler
 Feb. 01 Norma S., Donna F.
 Feb. 08 Norma S., Stephanie W., Abby P.
 Feb. 15 Norma S., Adrielle L.
 Feb. 22 Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.

Greeter Schedule:

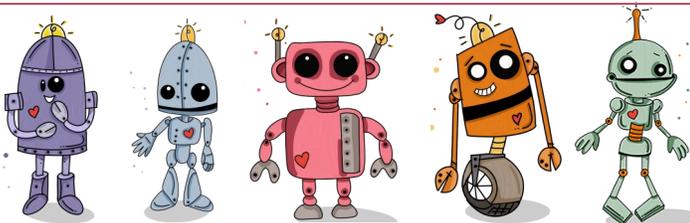
	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Feb. 01	Marion S.	Billy M.
Feb. 08	Gary B.	Henry N.
Feb. 15	Kevin G.	Dave B.
Feb. 22	Bobby J.	Andrew C.

Children's Worship:

Feb. 01 Stephanie W., Jonathan M., Kayla H.
 Feb. 08 Jennifer C., Chloe C.
 Feb. 15 Amanda N., Kristen G.
 Feb. 22 Tara H., Abby P., Ayla H., Elle H.

Sunday Morning Security Team:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Feb. 01	Marion S.	Patrick H., Melvin K.
Feb. 08	Courtney H.	Robert H., Al L.
Feb. 15	Norma S.	Bob M., Terry M.
Feb. 22	Kevin G.	Jim M., Jennifer M.





Soccer registration is open!

Boys and Girls K5 --12th Grade (Must be 5 years old by 9/1/26)

Registration: \$80 January 12th - March 7th

Late Registration: \$90 after March 7th

Shorts may be purchased for an additional \$10

Registration is available online at:

<https://registration.upward.org/UPW90147>

Evaluations: at FBCLP on Sat., March 7th, b/w 11 am - 2 pm

First practice: Week of April 6, 2026

First Game: April 18, 2026

WE NEED COACHES AND REFS!

Email fbclpsoccer@gmail.com to volunteer and receive a discount code for your family's registration. Code must be entered at time of registration in order to receive discount.

We are also looking for those willing to do a short devotional before games--please see Bro. Gary

