

# The Lamplighter

## *Forgiveness* by Kevin Guiffre

Forgiveness is a profound pathway to true freedom, offering a release from the heavy burdens that can weigh us down emotionally and spiritually. When God grants us His forgiveness, we experience a transformative liberation from the guilt and shame that often accompany our mistakes. This divine act of mercy restores not only our individual sense of worth but also reestablishes our intimate fellowship with Him. It rekindles the relationship that sin can fracture, allowing us to walk in the light of His grace.

Moreover, when we extend forgiveness to someone who has wronged us, we unlock a profound freedom within ourselves. Holding onto bitterness and resentment can create a toxic environment in our hearts, leading to emotional turmoil and spiritual stagnation. By choosing to forgive, we free ourselves from the chains of anger and hurt, allowing healing and peace to flourish. This act of compassion not only benefits the one we forgive but primarily liberates us, enabling us to move forward without the heavy burden of grudges. Cont. pg. 6



### *April highlights:*

- 9<sup>th</sup>: ESL Registration
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Hooks & Needles  
Seed Party (see p. 7)

### **April 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	29	30		

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

We have ministry openings available if you can be...

- 1. a Sunday School class helper**  
(see Kevin Guiffre)
- 2. ride giver**  
(see Pastor Gary)
- 3. meal preparer**  
(see Elaine Anderson)
- 4. UPWARD devotion giver/coach**  
(see Shannon Pankhurst)

## Friendly Reminders

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.

Women on Mission is spearheading efforts to support a nursery and primary Christian school in Cameroon, Africa. Members, Valentine & Felicia Nchinda, founded the school & the school is in need of supplies.

**Here is a list of items we are collecting until April 19<sup>th</sup>:** pencils, erasers, small dry erase boards & dry erase markers, composition notebooks, small first aid kits, rags/dusters, drinking cups, small bowls (for students to wash their hands in), hooks/racks (for students to hang their bags), fans for classroom, toys for nursery



Every year a concession stand is set up during the UPWARD soccer games (1st game is 4/18). All proceeds go to support Operation Christmas Child (OCC). We are looking for grill/stand help and also donations of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, Gatorade, etc. Please put items in kitchen & MARK ACCORDINGLY.

## Library Monthly theme: Easter & The Resurrection

Come in and check out what we have!

### Children's section:

*The Good News of Easter* - Rousseaux Brasseur  
*Why Did the Resurrection Happen?* - Danika Cooley  
*Why Did the Exodus Happen?* - Danika Cooley  
*What Was the Cross?* - Danika Cooley  
*The Donkey Who Carried a King* - RC Sproul  
*The Prince's Poison Cup* - RC Sproul  
*Benjamin's Box* - Melody Carlson

### Non-Fiction:

*Is Easter Unbelievable?* - Rebecca McLaughlin  
*Salvation by Crucifixion* - Philip G Ryken  
*The Case for Easter* - Lee Strobel  
*The Truth of the Cross* - RC Sproul  
*The Passion of Jesus Christ* - John Piper  
*24 Hours That Changed the World* - Adam Hamilton

### DVD's:

*The Case for Easter*  
*Risen*  
*How Jesus Died: The Final 18 Hours*  
*What Did Jesus Do? Understanding the Work of Christ*  
*Tetelestai: The Eternal Story of Redemption (series)*  
*Charlton Heston Presents the Bible: The Passion*

Do you have recommendations for library material?  
Email Karen Law at [library@fbclaplata.org](mailto:library@fbclaplata.org)

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO GO TO CAMP CARMEL THIS SUMMER, PLEASE LET BRO. GARY KNOW SO TRANSPORTATION CAN BE ARRANGED. INFO & REGISTRATION AT CAMPCARMEL.COM  
BRO. GARY & ANDY GIBSON WILL BE ATTENDING CAMP 6/21 -27.

# Come Join Us

## Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th

- 7 am Sunrise Service
- 8-8:30 am Continental Breakfast in FH
- 8:30 am Early Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11 am Late Worship
- No Evening Activities



It's time to start thinking about...


# VBS

again! We would love it if you could be a part of our 2026 event! If you're willing to help, please see Donna Duehring or Shannon Pankhurst to see what roles are available!



CELEBRATE  
*and Rejoice*

Do you have a picture of you as a child doing something related to what your job/hobby is now as an adult (construction, teacher, homemaker/mom, etc.)! Please send me your pics and we can enjoy getting to know more about you! This is me, by the way, passing out bulletins at the church I grew up in. 😊 ~~Amanda





# BENEVOLENCE

Offering

April 5th



Women  
on  
Mission  
April 2nd  
9:45 AM



Merry Widows  
4/3 @ 12 PM

Brotherhood & Mission Warriors  
will meet Sat., 4/4 @ 9am.



Deacons' Meeting 4/6, 7 PM

VISITATION MINISTRY WILL MEET  
THURS., APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>, 9:45 AM

E.S.L.  
Classes  
6 PM  
4/9 to 5/14



April 18<sup>th</sup>  
9 am to Noon

Hooks & Needles



College & Career  
(and beyond)

Bible Study









Thursdays, 7 PM

see Robby Jones

YOUTH  
GROUP

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Food Dist. 5 pm	2 Women on Mission 9:45 am  College Bible Study 6:30 pm	3 Merry Widows 12 pm  Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM 	4 Brotherhood & Mission Warriors 9 am
5  EASTER Sunday	6 Deacons Meeting 7 pm	7 Ladies of the Light and Men in the Word 10 am	8 Food Dist. 5 pm	9 ESL Registration 6p College Bible Study 6:30 pm	10 Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM 	11
12 AWANA 5:30 pm	13 PACE 8:30am	14 Ladies of the Light and Men in the Word 10 am	15 Food Dist. 5 pm	16 Visitation Ministry 9:45am College Bible Study 6:30 pm	17 Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM 	18 Hooks & Needles 9-Noon  Seed party 3pm
19 AWANA 5:30 pm	20 PACE 8:30am	21 Ladies of the Light and Men in the Word 10 am	22  Administrative Professionals Day Food Dist. 5 pm	23 ESL Class 6 pm College Bible Study 6:30 pm	24 Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM 	25
26 AWANA 5:30 pm	27 PACE 8:30am	28 Ladies of the Light and Men in the Word 10 am	29 Food Dist. 5 pm	30 ESL Class 6 pm College Bible Study Study 6:30	31 Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM 	

**Sunday Morning Nursery:**

Infant/Toddler

- Apr. 05 Norma S., Ruth D.
- Apr. 12 Norma S., Stephanie W., Abby P.
- Apr. 19 Norma S., Adrielle L.
- Apr. 26 Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.

**Greeter Schedule:**

- |         |           |           |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
|         | 8:30 AM   | 11:00 AM  |
| Apr. 05 | Gary B.   | Andrew C. |
| Apr. 12 | Kevin G.  | Paul D.   |
| Apr. 19 | Bobby J.  | Ken D.    |
| Apr. 26 | Marion S. | Billy M.  |



**Children's Worship:**

- Apr. 05 Stephanie W., Donna F., Kayla H.
- Apr. 12 Jennifer C., Chloe C.
- Apr. 19 Amanda N., Kristen G.
- Apr. 26 Stephanie W., Abby P.

**Sunday Morning Security Team:**

- |         |             |                    |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|
|         | 8:30 AM     | 11:00 AM           |
| Apr. 05 | Marion S.   | Al L., Jamie H.    |
| Apr. 12 | Courtney H. | Bob & Terry M.     |
| Apr. 19 | Norma S.    | Jennifer & Jim M.  |
| Apr. 26 | Kevin G.    | Brian M., Jerry P. |

**There are updated directories available on the office counter.**

We have added a new section in our directory for those who are a faithful part of our congregation but are not members. **If you would like your info added, please contact the office.**



**Administrative Professionals Day**

## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®

Your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and The Cooperative Program fuel the work of missionaries and chaplains who are taking the Gospel to the most unreached communities across the US, Canada and beyond. We will be collecting until Sun., April 5th, and **our goal as a church is \$8,500.**



Cont. from pg. 1

The concepts of receiving God's forgiveness and forgiving others play a central role in the life of a Christian. They are intertwined practices that reflect the very essence of our faith. By embracing forgiveness, we align ourselves with the teachings of Christ, who exemplified sacrificial love and mercy throughout His life. In doing so, we imitate the ultimate example set forth by God, who generously extends to us the greatest act of love and grace—His unconditional pardon for our sins.

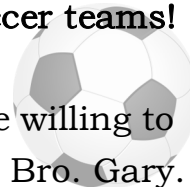
### **GOD'S CHALLENGE**

Colossians 3:13 "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

**Come out and support our UPWARD soccer teams!**

1<sup>st</sup> Game: April 18, 2026

**WE NEED COACHES AND REFS & those willing to give devotionals before games--please see Bro. Gary.**



**EASTER MORNING**  
CHANGES EVERYTHING.

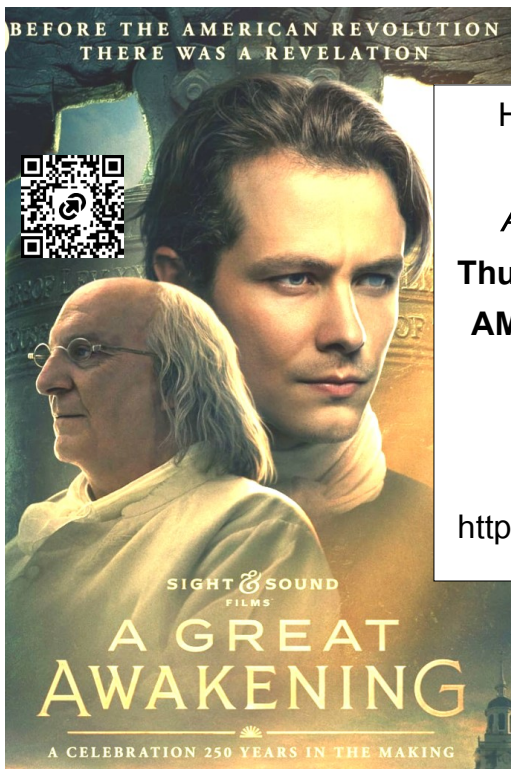
Have you been wanting to attend **Sunday School** but you're not sure which class to attend? Here are the teachers, what their class is studying & where to find them!

### **Located on the adult classroom side:**

- Adult 1:** Glenn Miller, finishing 1 Peter/starting Eph., meets in room # 12 (last room on left)
- Adult 2:** Buddy Sanders, studying Matthew, meets in room # 14
- Adult 3:** Ken Doyle, studying Habakkuk, Haggai, Hosea & Hebrews, meets in Fellowship Hall
- Adult 4:** Henry Norton, studying 1 & 2 Cor., meets in 2nd classroom on left (#'s 15/16)
- J.O.Y. class (& classroom):** Gary Boston & Billy Moore, studying Matthew (3rd class on left)

### **Located on the children's classroom side:**

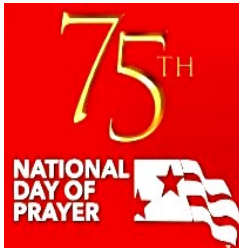
- Married & More** (single adults, married, 25-30's age range), Andrew Conant, studying James (meets in last classroom on right)
- Women:** Courtney Harbin, studying Matthew, meets in (1st classroom on right)
- Faith: Genesis to Revelation**, meets in choir room, taught by Mike Pickens



Here is another movie opportunity!  
*A Great Awakening*  
**Thursday, 4/02 @ 7:10 PM**  
**AMC Hoffman Center 22**  
 206 Swamp Fox Rd  
 Alexandria VA  
 Sign up on WC!  
<https://tinyurl.com/3d4hwyjk>

[NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG](http://NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG)

**SEEKING HIM**  
 IN ALL GENERATIONS  
 1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB  
**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026**



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!  
 BRING YOUR CHILDREN & JOIN US!

*"Plant the good seeds of righteousness and you will harvest a crop of love."*  
*Hosea 10:12a*

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 18TH**  
**3-5 PM**



# SEED PACKING PARTY



The 2025 VBS theme was *Discovering the Bigness of God in the Smallest of Things*. Monetary donations collected during that event are funding a project entitled: *Turning Seeds of Hope Into Flowers of Faith*.

During the "Seed Packing Party", flower seeds will be packaged into individual envelopes and distributed to three areas of the US (Kentucky, North Carolina & Texas) where devastating natural disasters have occurred.

We strive to bring hope and encouragement to those that are hurting as they discover the bigness of God in the smallest of things. The seeds are intended to show God's love to those affected as they recover and rebuild their communities.



This special event will consist of:  
 a time of prayer  
 a video presentation  
 packing of the seeds  
 food, fun & fellowship

PLEASE RSVP BY 4/12 ON THE WELCOME CENTER SO WE'LL KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE TO PREPARE FOR!

# SHOEBOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS



## GIFTS FOR GIRLS

### A "WOW" ITEM

- Doll
- Soccer ball or football and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Musical instrument
- Dress-ups – crown, fairy wands etc



### PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Comb or brush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Fun band aids
- Eating utensils
- Water bottle
- Nail clipper and file
- Small blanket



## GIFTS FOR BOYS

### A "WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Musical instrument
- Large toy truck or car
- Skipping rope



### PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Comb or brush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Fun adhesive bandages
- Eating utensils
- Nail clipper and file
- Small blanket
- Water bottle

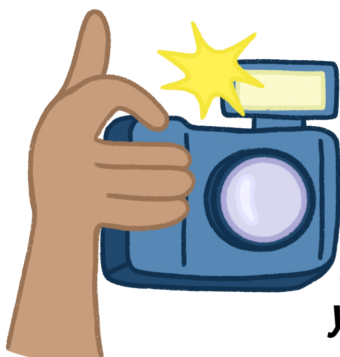


We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).



If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?



## WANTED: YOUR SMILE!

*It's time to update our church photo directory & we want you ALL to be included! You don't have to be a member & only your photo & names are printed & shared internally. Email the office your Easter picture or another one you like & Amanda will add it to the rest!*  
**secretary@fbclaplata.org**