First Baptist Church of La Plata
August 2026 Newsletter, Vol. 19, Issue 8

The Lamplighter

Jesus Wept: The Compassion of Our Savior

By Kevin Guiffre

John 11:35 – "Jesus wept."

At only two words in most English translations, John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible. Yet within those two words is one of the most powerful pictures of the heart of Jesus. The scene takes place at the tomb of Lazarus. Jesus had intentionally delayed His arrival, and by the time He reached Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Mary and Martha were overwhelmed with grief, and family and friends had gathered to mourn alongside them.

What makes this moment so remarkable is that Jesus already knew what He was about to do. He knew that in just a few moments He would call Lazarus out of the grave and restore him to life. Yet before the miracle came the tears. **Jesus wept.**

Why would Jesus cry when He knew the ending? Because Jesus wasn't simply focused on the outcome—He was moved by the suffering of the people He loved. He saw Mary and Martha's broken hearts. He witnessed the pain that death had brought into the world. He felt the weight of human sorrow. His tears remind us that our Savior is full of compassion. Cont. p. 3

August highlights:

1st: Brotherhood 9 am
2nd: Glory Way 11 am
22nd: Hooks & Needles 9 am

August 2026

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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	31					

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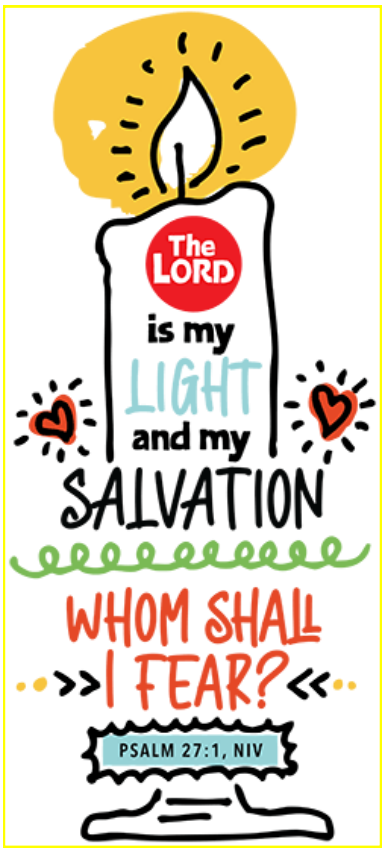
Be sure to stop by our library often to see what's new!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Karen Law: library@fbclaplata.org



From the Church Secretary

A B I G T H A N K Y O U

to each and every person that helped me in some way with the VBS decorations!! I couldn't have finished without you all and I really appreciate your time & generosity!

♡ Amanda

Carried and Called to Follow

Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead.

There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.

Cont. from p. 1 This beautiful verse teaches us that God is not distant from our struggles. He does not ignore our pain or dismiss our tears. He walks with us through every heartache and every trial. When we feel overwhelmed, He understands. When we grieve, He grieves with us.

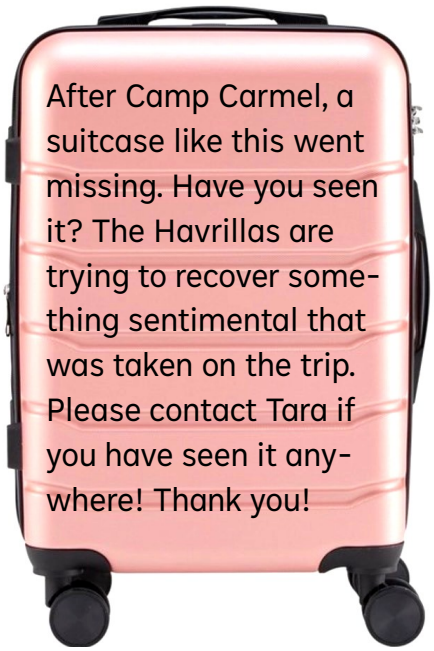
For many people, there is comfort in knowing that Jesus experienced deep emotion. Sometimes we think we have to be strong all the time or hide our tears. Yet the Son of God openly wept. His example reminds us that tears are not a sign of weak faith—they are often an expression of love, compassion, and the reality of living in a fallen world.

John 11 also points us beyond sorrow to hope. Jesus' tears were not the end of the story. Moments later, He stood before the tomb and declared, "Lazarus, come forth!" The One who wept also demonstrated His power over death itself.

That same hope belongs to every believer today. We serve a Savior who not only has the power to change our circumstances but also chooses to walk with us through them. He is both mighty enough to perform miracles and compassionate enough to hold us while we wait.

As a church family, may we follow the example of Jesus. Let us be people who don't rush past the hurting or offer quick answers to deep pain. Instead, may we sit with those who mourn, encourage those who are discouraged, pray for those who are burdened, and remind one another that our hope is found in Christ.

Whatever burden you may be carrying today, remember this simple but profound truth: **Jesus sees your pain. He knows your heart. And He cares deeply for you.** *"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* — Psalm 34:18



Register for UPWARD volleyball HERE:
https://registration.upward.org/UPW90973

VBS in Numbers:

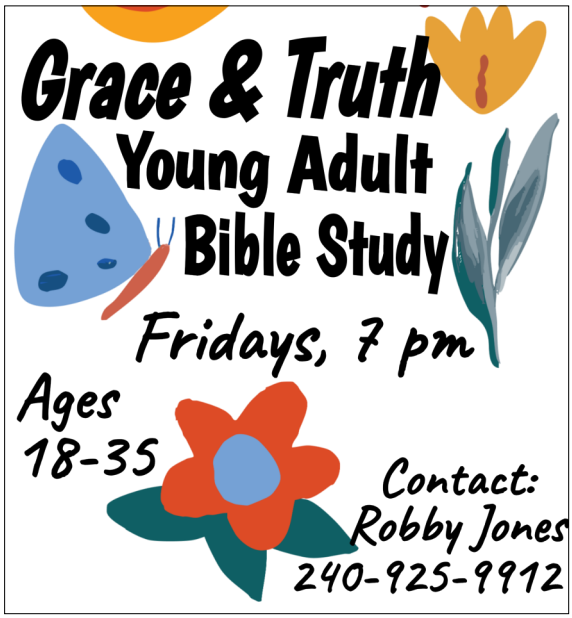
105 children attended am session
41 youth attended pm session
65 volunteers helped
$1,730 in donations collected that will be split between Jake Burgess & OCC box shipping costs

Brotherhood & Mission Warriors will meet Sat., 8/1 @ 9am.

Deacons' Meeting 8/3/26, 7 PM

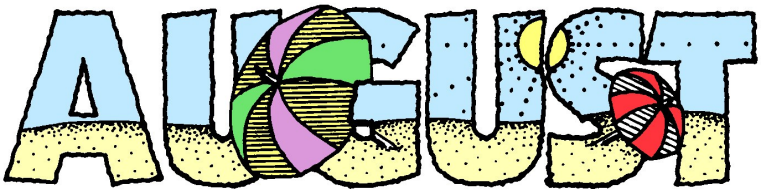
...will be with us Aug. 2nd during late service & we will take a love offering. Early service & Sunday School will not be affected.

Visitation Ministry will meet Aug. 20th, 9:45 AM



Friday evening
Bible study, 6:30-8 PM
6th-12th grades
see Patrick Hancock

YOUTH GROUP



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Brotherhood & Mission Warriors 9 AM
2 Benev. Sun. GLORY WAY 11am	3 Deacons Meeting 7 PM	4 Men in the Word 10 AM	5 Food Distr. 5 PM	6	7 Youth Bible Study 6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	8
9	10	11 Men in the Word 10 AM	12 Food Distr. 5 PM	13	14 Widows 12p Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	15
16	17	18 Men in the Word 10 AM	19 Food Distr. 5 PM	20 Visitation Ministry 9:45a	21 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	22 Hooks & Needles 9-Noon
23 30	24 PACE Mtg 5:30 31	25 Men in the Word 10 AM	26 Food Distr. 5 PM	27	28 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	29

Sunday Morning Nursery:

Infant/Toddler

Aug 02	Norma S., Ruth D.
Aug 09	Norma S., Stephanie W. , Abby P.
Aug 16	Norma S.
Aug 23	Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.
Aug 30	Norma S., Donna F.

Greeter Schedule:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Aug 02	Kevin G.	Dave B.
Aug 09	Bobby J.	Andrew C.
Aug 16	Marion S.	Paul D.
Aug 23	Gary B.	Ken D.
Aug 30	Kevin G.	Billy M.

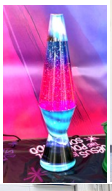
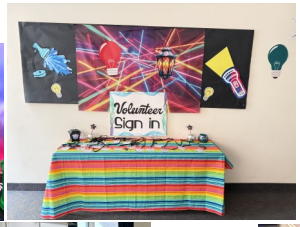
Children's Worship:

Aug 02	Stephanie W., Donna F., Kayla H.
Aug 09	Jennifer C., Chloe C.
Aug 16	Stephanie W., Kristen G.
Aug 23	Amanda N., Gracelynn N., Abby P.
Aug 30	Debbie S., Jennifer M.

Sunday Morning Security:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Aug 02	Marion S.	Patrick H., Melvin K.
Aug 09	Courtney H.	Robert H., Al L.
Aug 16	Norma S.	Bob M., Terry M.
Aug 23	Kevin G.	Jim M., Jennifer M.
Aug 30	Marion S.	Jerry P., Jim M.

VBS
JESUS
ILLUMINATION STATION
JESUS
WELCOME TO KALEIDOSCOPE
Welcome to GLOW DARK missions
ILLUMINATION STATION
MISSIONS
Light of the World
JESUS IS THE LIGHT



Volunteer
Sign in

JESUS

ILLUMINATION
STATION

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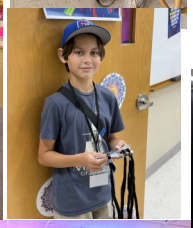

JESUS
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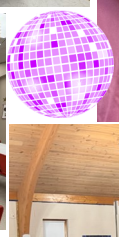

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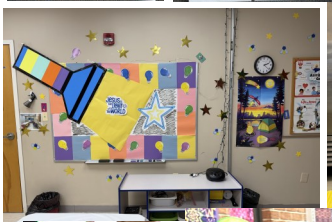
WELCOME
TO
KALEIDOSCOPE
CRAFTS



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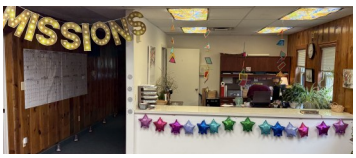
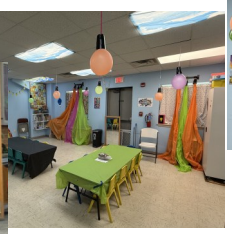
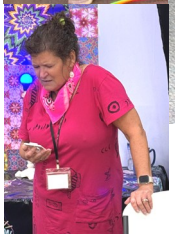
First Baptist Church of La Plata
ILLUMINATION
VBS


MISSIONS



JESUS
Jesus


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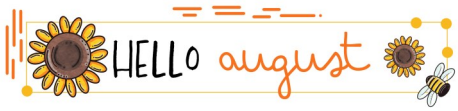
SHOEBOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS

DO NOT INCLUDE

- **SOAP***
- Food, lollies, chocolate, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Second-hand, used or damaged items or clothing
- Scary or war-related items – toy guns, knives, wearable camouflage clothing, military figures, skull and crossbones, Halloween items
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids – shampoo, bubbles, or liquid paint
- Medication or vitamins
- Play Money
- Breakable items – glass, porcelain or clay
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knife, saw, or razor blades
- Bibles, religious material, or tracts (children receive OCC's The Greatest Gift booklet at the Outreach Event)

Due to increasing customs regulations and challenges in many countries, all types of soap will NO longer be allowed in shoebox gifts starting in 2025.

This summer, consider packing an OCC shoebox online! Each box is $30 and that includes all the items + the box & shipping cost. These boxes are becoming more and more important as they go to areas that are 'hard to reach' meaning they are cut off from the Gospel in some way. It's never been easier to pack a box and can be done anytime! Why wait????



Christmas in August provides a simple way you can directly help North American Mission Board missionaries by sending them supplies they need for their ministries. Most often, these are supplies that are needed in bulk. This year we will support the missionaries that we met in Hamiliton Canada. You can use their Amazon wish list to purchase items or donate monetary funds through the regular offering. Please indicate that it is for Christmas in August. Some immediate needs that your monetary donation will go towards: large roasting pan, lockable medicine cabinet, large office shredder, large speaker and keyboard, community outreach events. If you have questions, please direct them to Jennifer Miller.

https://tinyurl.com/3y2mussx
(Hamilton Canada Church Wishlist)

https://tinyurl.com/59maczm6
(Hamilton Ministry Centre Wishlist)

https://tinyurl.com/4a39n4f7
(SEEDS House Wishlist)

Upcoming Activities

Aug. 23rd: Global Hunger Sunday
Aug. 29th: Prayer Walk/Bible Museum
(sign up sheet forthcoming)

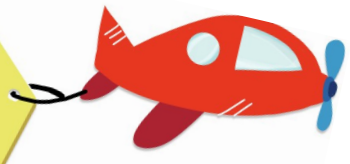
When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought me joy.
Psalm 94:19, NIV

Please pray about serving in the church.
We are in need of:

- Nursery Director
- Music Director
- Help with upward to unlock the church/shed for practice nights
- Journey Director for Awana
- M&M Teacher for Sunday School

Mark & Bella Curtis went on a 3 week cruise. Here they are on the cliffs of Shetland, Scotland and at the Dover Castle in England!

Where have you traveled lately? Send me an email! secretary@fbclaplata.org



A belated Congratulations to
Ryder Havrilla
for graduating Towson Univ.
& receiving his BS in Business.
He is working for Off the Hook
Yachts as a boat broker.