

The Lamplighter



Real Freedom by Bobby Jones

As we celebrate Independence Day, we often think about what freedom is and how much we enjoy it as citizens of the United States. However, it is vital for Christians to recognize the distinction between American freedom and true, eternal Christian freedom. While one secures our earthly rights, the other radically transforms our souls.

The American Ideal: Freedom From

In the United States, freedom is generally understood as the right to live, speak, and act without external tyranny or unwarranted government interference. It is a system built on individual autonomy and independence. We celebrate this political liberty—protected by the Constitution—because it allows us to gather, worship, and share the Gospel safely. It is an earthly blessing, but it is ultimately a freedom from constraint.

The Gospel Reality: Freedom For

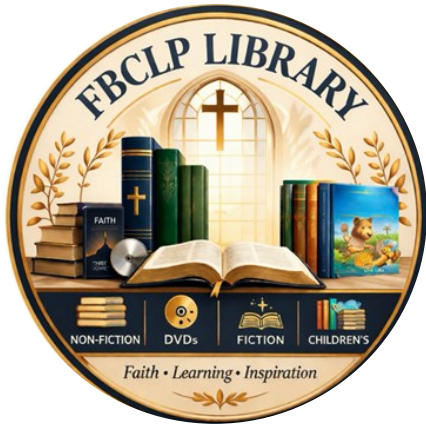
Conversely, Scripture's definition of freedom is not about being independent from others or simply doing whatever we please. Instead, true Christian freedom is freedom to love, serve, and glorify God. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 5:13, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Where American liberty often shouts for individual rights, freedom in Christ binds us to our neighbors. Cont. on page 3

July highlights:

4th: Outreach @ Fairgrounds
6th: Deacons' Meeting 7 PM
10th: Merry Widows 12 PM
11th: Brotherhood 9 AM
18th: Hooks & Needles 9 AM
20th-24th: VBS

July 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	31	

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



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

July's theme is:

Celebrating Our Freedoms!

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

We will have a 4th of July
outreach at the Ch. Co.
Fairgrounds. We are looking for
volunteers to take 2 hour
shifts beginning at 4 pm. We
can meet at the church at 3
pm & head over. Sign up sheet
is on the Welcome Center.
See Dean Irwin with questions.

A Prayer for Parents

Heavenly Father,

Make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting or contradicting them. Help me be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my children to lie or steal. Guide me, hour by hour, that I may demonstrate in all I say and do that honesty leads to happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the harshness in me. When I am out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue.

May I ever be mindful that my children are still children, and help me not expect from them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of opportunities to grow, to serve themselves and to make decisions. Grant me the wisdom to allow what is good and the courage to deny what may harm them.



Make me fair, just and kind. And fit me, Lord, to be loved, respected and imitated by my children.

Amen.

Cont. from p. 1

It is a liberation from the heavy chains of:

Sin and shame

The fear of death

Legalism and self-reliance

The True Source

Jesus stated in John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. This "indeed" (meaning genuine or true) tells us that political and social liberties are wonderful temporal privileges, but only Christ can conquer the internal brokenness of the human heart. No earthly government can grant this kind of peace.

As we give thanks for our nation, let us not confuse the two. Our ultimate citizenship is in heaven, and our highest calling is to use our American religious liberties to boldly proclaim the grace, mercy, and restorative love of Jesus to a world in need.

Pray for our members that will be sharing the Gospel at the fair grounds on July 4th. **Have a wonderful July 4th.**



When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, "I'll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk."

A month later, the young man came back. "Son, I'm proud of you," his father said. "Your grades are up, and you've been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn't get your hair cut."

The teenager paused. "Well, Dad, I've been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."

His father nodded. "That's true. And they walked everywhere they went."

We are in need of yarn, empty frosting containers, stuffed animal stuffing for **Operation Christmas Child** projects, as well as paper towel, but not toilet paper, EMPTY tubes.

Thank you to everyone that has responded to the Nominating Committee's emails, etc.

There are still some big needs that we would like to meet with your help:

UPWARD Practice Night Commissioners to:

Help hand out equipment, open the church, clean up and be a point of contact for that night's coaches & parents

Help on UPWARD Game Days

Sunday School Teachers

Nursery Director

Contact Kristen Gibson or Heather Guiffre

UPCOMING EVENTS




*Benevolence
Offering*
7/5

Brotherhood
will meet Sat.,
7/11 @ 9am.



Deacons' Meeting 7/6, 7 PM

Visitation Ministry will meet
Thurs., July 16th, 9:45 AM



**Important
reminder!**

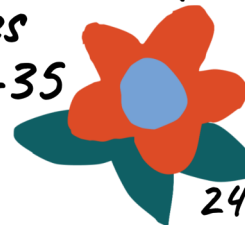
All regularly
scheduled Bible
studies/meetings
will be not be held
during the week
of July 20-24
due to VBS.



**Grace & Truth
Young Adult
Bible Study**

Fridays, 7 pm

**Ages
18-35**



**Contact:
Robby Jones
240-925-9912**



Hooks & Needles



July 18th 9 am

YOUTH
GROUP

**NO Friday evening
Bible study in July.
-will resume in August**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	2	3 Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	4  HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!
5 Benevolence Offering	6 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm	7 Men in the Word @ 10 am	8 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	9	10 Merry Widows 12 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	11 Brotherhood 9am
12	13	14 Men in the Word @ 10 am	15 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	16 Visitation Ministry 9:45 am	17 Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	18  Hooks & Needles 9-Noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27	28 Men in the Word 10 am	29 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	30	31 Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	

Sunday Morning Nursery:

Infant/Toddler

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



Greeter Schedule:

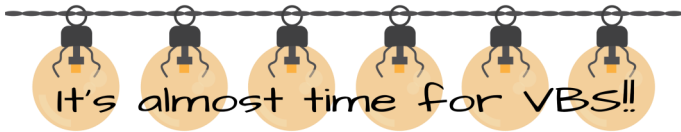
8:30 AM	11:00 AM
July 05 Kevin G.	Paul D.
July 12 Bobby J.	Ken D.
July 19 Marion S.	Billy M.
June 26 Gary B.	Henry N.

Children's Worship:

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

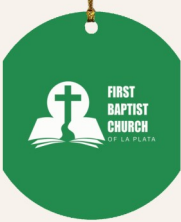
Sunday Morning Security:

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



We need THESE SPOTS FILLED:
PRESCHOOL MISSIONS: 1 Helper
NURSERY: 1 Helper
Pre- K1: 1 Helper
Grade 4: 1 Leader (THURS. & FRI. ONLY)
 see Donna or Shannon







SCAN ME
<https://tinyurl.com/shopfbclp>







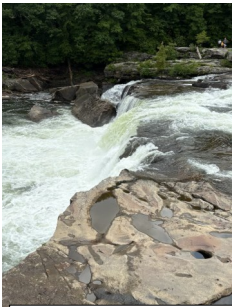
First Baptist Church of La Plata

CUSTOM CLOTHES & ACCESSORIES





Our group set out for **Camp Carmel** on Sunday, 6/21 and returned on Saturday, 6/27.



beautiful scenery



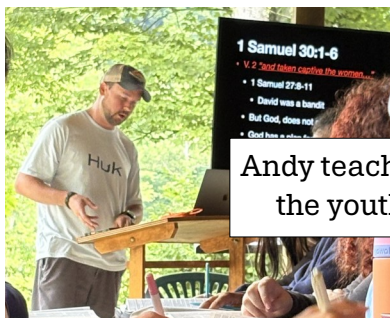
Elle & Ayla nailed their burdens to the cross.



Bike ride to Ohiopyle State Park



Kayla & Xaris



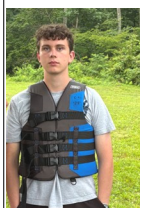
Andy teaching the youth



everyone's burdens



Elle, Catie, Ayla & Michael getting ready to canoe.





GIFTS FOR GIRLS

TOYS

- Balls – tennis ball, bouncy balls,
- Frisbee®
- Building blocks
- Finger puppets
- Slinky®
- Yo-yo
- Kaleidoscope
- Cars, trucks and boats
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures
- Small kite
- Water guns (that don't look like weapons)
- Playing cards



SHOEBOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS



GIFTS FOR BOYS

TOYS

- Ball
- Frisbee®
- Building blocks
- Slinky®
- Yo-yo
- Kaleidoscope
- Toy cars
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures
- Small kite
- Water guns (that don't look like weapons)
- Playing cards
- Baseball and mitt



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????



Have you joined us for Hooks & Needles yet?! Every 3rd Saturday, 9-Noon in FBCLP FH! You don't have to do crafts-- just come fellowship with like minded ladies.



Terry



Diane & Barb



Doreen & Vicki



Karen & Julie



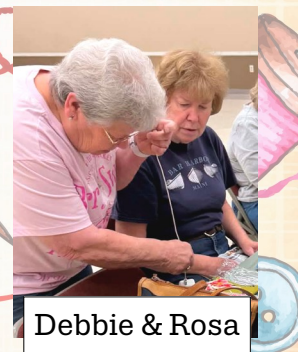
Karen & Amanda



Ruth



Aaliyah



Debbie & Rosa



Registration for UPWARD volleyball is now open! <https://registration.upward.org/UPW90973>

If you are interested in seeing the movie *Young Washington* please see Pastor Gary or Jennifer Miller for free tickets. You can also join us as a church on Friday, July 3rd for the evening showing at the Hoffman Theater in Alexandria. Sign up sheet is on the Welcome Center.



Freedom Worth Guarding

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.