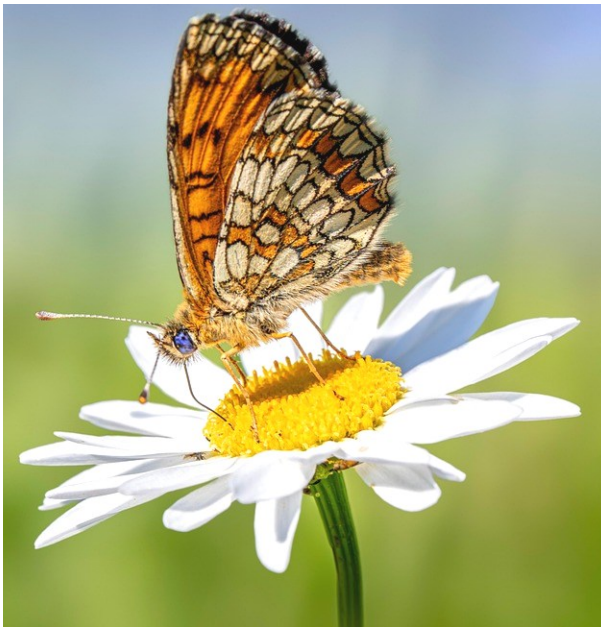
First Baptist Church of La Plata
May 2026 Newsletter, Vol. 19, Issue 5

The Lamplighter



Remembering What Matters Most

by Kevin Guiffre

In the busyness of everyday life, it's easy to forget.

We forget appointments, conversations, and responsibilities--but more importantly, we often forget what God has done in our lives. We forget the prayers He has answered, the doors He has opened, and the strength He has given us in season when we felt like we couldn't go on.

Scripture reminds us of the importance of remembering: "Remember the wonders He has done…" (Psalm 105:5) "Forget not all His benefits…" (Psalm 103:2) This call to remembrance is not just a suggestion--it's a spiritual discipline.

The Danger of Forgetting

One of the greatest challenges we face as believers is not always disobedience, but forgetfulness. When we forget God's past faithfulness, we begin to view our present circumstances through the lends of fear and uncertainty.

Doubt begins to creep in.

Anxiety grows.

And we start to feel as though we are facing life on our own.

Continued on page 5

May highlights:

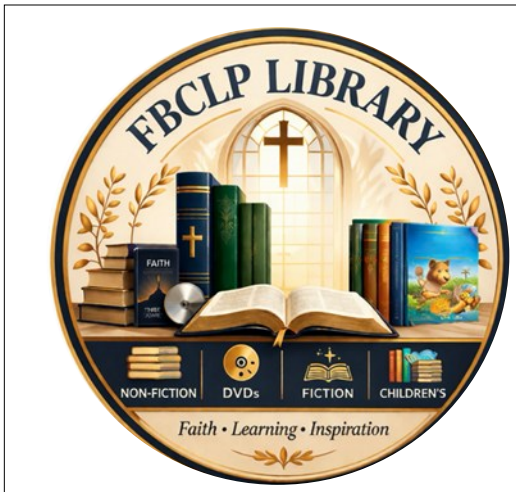
2nd: Brotherhood & Mission Warriors

10th: Mother's Day

16th: Hooks & Needles



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MAY FOCUS: Fiction Series

In May our library has a "Series" theme. We have so many books and materials for children, teens, and adults. Get ready for your summer vacation by checking out an author or two! You can even check out the whole series at once, or in parts. Leave a note in the book cover to let us know what you think of the book(s)! ~Karen Law





There is a young girl from PA that has been very sick with sepsis, blood pressure issues, she's on an ECMO (heart lung bypass machine), fever, etc.
We would like to shower her with cards. Her name is Liliana Arrison & you can place cards in the basket on the Welcome Center and we will mail them out **OR** contact the office for the address.

Can You Help?

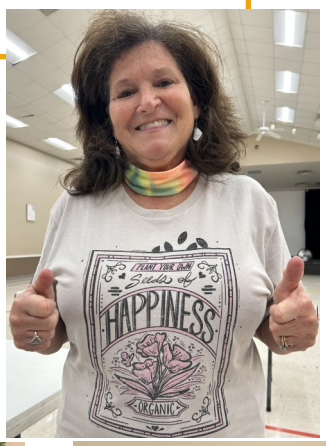
Joanie Pleffner is looking for a place to rent. If you know of something, please contact Bro. Gary or the office. Thank you

We are still looking for grill/stand help and also donations of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, Gatorade, and baked goods for the bake table, etc. for the UPWARD concession stand (to help OCC). Please put items in kitchen & mark accordingly. IF ANYONE WANTS TO HELP GRILL OR DONATE ITEMS, PLEASE SEE JENNIFER.

On April 18th, ladies met and packed 900 seed packets (!!!!) to send to 3 different states that have suffered natural disasters. Thanks to Sally P. & her sister, Barb, for spearheading this ministry (that was funded during 2025's VBS).





















Greetings!
These flower seeds are provided through monetary donations given by VBS staff and students during our 2025 Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church of La Plata, Maryland.
May planting them and seeing them grow bring you hope and joy as you rebuild and recover from your natural disaster. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Put Your Hope In The Lord!
Psalm 33:20-22





Here are the possible mission trips available this summer & there are strict limits on the number of spaces available. **If you are interested in either of the trips, let Jennifer Miller know ASAP.**

- June 6th-June 12th: Toronto Canada **(only 1 spot left)**
- July 25th-Aug. 3rd: Panama (only 10 spots)



Sunday, June 14th

Men & young men: if you would like to attend the **Iron Sharpens Iron Conference** on May 2nd (8:30am-3pm), please sign up at the Welcome Center and scan this code to register.







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 one of our members in her Easter outfit when she was 7 years old. Is it:

1. Judy Cherest
2. Susan Sanders
3. Eleanor Grunstra
4. Pat Hancock

*answer on page 8



Brotherhood & Mission Warriors will meet Sat., 5/2 @ 9am.



Benevolence Offering
May 3rd

Deacons' Meeting 5/4, 7pm



Grace & Truth
Young Adult Bible Study
Fridays, 7 pm
Ages 18-35
Contact: Robby Jones 240-925-9912

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



Memorial Day Sunday
May 24th
Military uniform can be worn.
Bring flowers to put at the healing garden cross during wreath laying ceremony.



May 16th
9 am to Noon
Hooks & Needles

VISITATION MINISTRY
WILL MEET
THURS., MAY 21ST
9:45 AM

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

Cont. from p. 1

The truth is, God has not changed. His faithfulness remains constant. But when we forget what He has already done, it becomes difficult to trust Him with what lies ahead.

We see this clearly in the story of the Israelites. Despite witnessing incredible miracles—deliverance from Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and daily provision in the wilderness—they quickly forgot. In moments of hardship, they doubted, complained, and feared.

It's easy to read their story and wonder how they could forget so quickly—but if we're honest, we often do the same.

The Power of Remembering

Remembering is more than simply recalling the past—it is a way of strengthening our faith in the present.

When we intentionally reflect on God's goodness:

- Our fear is replaced with confidence
- Our anxiety gives way to peace
- Our doubt is overcome by trust

Throughout the Bible, God instructed His people to build reminders of His faithfulness. They set up stones, observed feasts, and told stories from generation to generation. These were not just traditions—they were intentional acts of remembrance.

Today, we may not build physical altars, but we are still called to remember in meaningful ways.

Sometimes, the most powerful words we can speak in a difficult season are: "I don't understand this moment—but I remember what God has already done."

Looking Back to Move Forward

Imagine walking down a dark path with only a small light in front of you. You can't see very far ahead, and it's easy to feel uncertain. But if you stop and look behind you, you'll see the ground you've already covered. You'll see how far you've come.

That's what remembering does. It reminds us that even when the future feels unclear, God has been guiding us every step of the way. Cont. p. 8







May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Brotherhood & Mission Warriors 9 am
3 Benevolence Offering VBS Sunday AWANA 5:30pm	4  Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm	5 Ladies of the Light/ Men in the Word @ 10 am	6 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	7  ESL 6 pm	8 Merry Widows 12 pm Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	9
10 	11	12 Ladies of the Light/ Men in the Word @ 10 am	13 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	14 ESL 6 pm	15 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	16 
17 AWANA 5:30pm	18	19 Ladies of the Light/ Men in the Word 10 am	20 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	21 Visitation Ministry 9:45 am	22 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	23
24 Memorial Sunday	25 	26 Ladies of the Light/ Men in the Word 10 am	27 Food Dist. @ 5 pm	28	29 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm	30

Sunday Morning Nursery:

Infant/Toddler

May 03	Norma S., Ruth D.
May 10	Norma S., Stephanie W. , Abby P.
May 17	Norma S., Adrielle L.
May 24	Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.
May 31	Norma S., Donna F.

Children's Worship:

May 03	Stephanie W., Donna F., Kayla H.
May 10	Jennifer C., Chloe C.
May 17	Stephanie W., Kristen G.
May 24	Amanda N., Gracelynn N., Abby P.
May 31	Debbie S., Jennifer M.

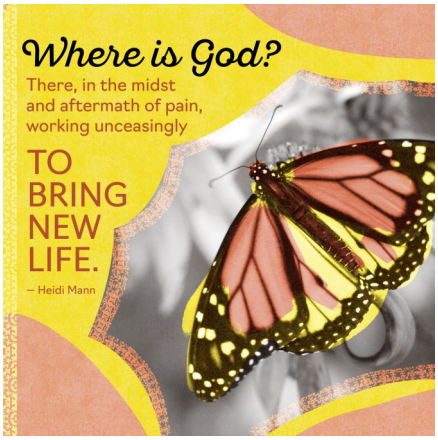
Greeter Schedule:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
May 03	Gary B.	Henry N.
May 10	Kevin G.	Dave B.
May 17	Bobby J.	Andrew C.
May 24	Marion S.	Paul D.
May 31	Gary B.	Ken D.

Sunday Morning Security:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
May 03	Marion S.	Patrick H., Melvin K.
May 10	Courtney H.	Robert H., Al L.
May 17	Norma S.	Bob & Terry M.
May 24	Kevin G.	Jim & Jennifer M.
May 31	Marion S.	Jerry P., Jim M.

Cont. from pg. 5



Living a Life of Remembrance: If we want to grow in our faith, we must be intentional about remembering. Here are a few simple ways to do that:

- **Write it down:** Keep a journal of answered prayers and moments where God has been faithful.
- **Share your story:** Testimonies not only strengthen your faith, but they encourage others.
- **Create reminders:** Whether it's a meaningful verse, a date, or a personal milestone, mark the moments that matter.
- **Practice gratitude daily:** Take time each day to thank God for specific blessings.
- **Stay rooted in Scripture:** God's Word continually reminds us of His character and promises.

A Final Encouragement You may be walking through a season of uncertainty right now. You may have questions, struggles, or challenges that feel overwhelming. But take heart in this truth: the same God who was faithful in your past is faithful in your present—and He will be faithful in your future. So when life feels heavy, don't just look ahead—look back. Remember His goodness.
Remember His provision.
Remember His promises.

And let what God has already done give you confidence in what He is still doing.



Don't forget to grab an AGAPE bag to hand out to someone in need (and share the Gospel).



We would like to have a band together for Memorial Sunday (5/24). If you play an instrument, please see Bro. Gary!

Answer to photo quiz on page 4...

2. Susan Sanders

2026 National Day of Prayer

Theme: *Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations*
Scripture: "Tell of His Glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." (I Chronicles 16:24)
Date & Time: Thurs., May 7th, 2026, 12 Noon
Location: Sanctuary of FBC La Plata

Light refreshments will be available in church fellowship hall immediately following the prayer service (sponsored by WOM's).



Pastor Gary is currently scheduling devotions for UPWARD halftimes.

THANK YOU to everyone that came out to celebrate our son & DIL on our newest grandson soon to be born. Our church family was so gracious with their gifts and we truly appreciate the love you showered on our family! Please pray for a safe delivery & healthy baby & mama. --Jeni Irwin









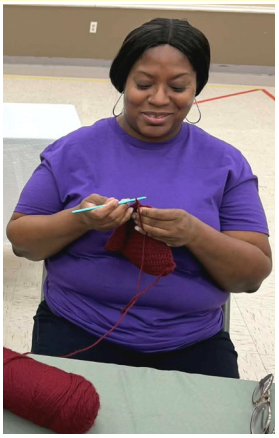




Ladies/girls: you're missing out if you haven't joined us for Hooks & Needles yet! Every 3rd Saturday from 9am-Noon. Bring ANYTHING to work on (or nothing at all) and enjoy some fellowship (and snacks) with like minded women!















SHOEBOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS

GIFTS FOR GIRLS

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils and sharpener
- Pencil case
- Erasers
- Pens
- Crayons
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Small Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small sticky tape



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Clothing and undergarments
- Shoes
- Sunglasses
- Bags, backpacks, or purses
- Hair accessories
- Hats
- Wristwatch or jewelery
- Torch with extra packaged batteries



GIFTS FOR BOYS

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils and sharpener
- Pencil case
- Erasers
- Pens
- Crayons
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Small Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small sticky tape



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Clothing and undergarments
- Shoes
- Cold weather items
- Sunglasses
- Bags or backpacks
- Hats
- Wristwatch
- Flashlight with extra packaged batteries





A few weeks ago Nan, Debbie, Sally, Candi, Steve & Jennifer took a trip to Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky.





God said to Noah,
"This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."
Genesis 9:17

