First Baptist Church of La Plata
September 2026 Newsletter, Vol. 19, Issue 9

The Lamplighter



Going Deeper with God

By Dave Bode

"Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance." — Acts 2:28

Deep-sea divers speak of a phenomenon known as "the rapture of the deep." As a diver descends beyond 100 feet, the increased pressure can cause a condition called *nitrogen narcosis*. It produces feelings of euphoria, calmness, and even invincibility. A diver may lose all sense of danger, believing everything is under control. Some become so overconfident that they ignore their training, refuse the guidance of experienced divers, or make reckless decisions that can cost them their lives.

Experienced diving instructors offer a sobering warning: when you no longer fear the dangers of the deep, you are already in trouble.

Spiritually, many people experience a similar deception. The comforts of this world—success, security, financial stability, and the approval of others—can lull us into believing we are doing just fine. We become satisfied with worldly accomplishments while slowly neglecting the One who gives true life. Instead of growing deeper in our relationship with Christ, we drift with the comfortable currents of our culture.

God calls us to something far greater. Cont. p. 3

September highlights:

5th: Brotherhood 9 am
11th: Merry Widows 12 pm
13th: AWANA begins, 5 pm
19th: Hooks & Needles 9 am

September 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	28	30			

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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







You can do anything during Hooks & Needles- even put together a cabinet! Come join us!





Awana Begins: Growing in God's Word



As Awana begins a new year, we celebrate the children, families and volunteers who gather to learn, serve and grow together. May each verse memorized and every lesson shared help plant God's truth deep within young hearts.
https://tinyurl.com/n9w8pdwk

Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.



Cont. from pg. 1

Times of prayer and fasting provide an opportunity to leave the shallow waters behind and pursue a deeper walk with Him. Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."* Our greatest desire should not be for more possessions, recognition, or comfort, but for hearts that increasingly reflect the character of Christ.

Righteousness is not something we achieve through our own efforts. It is the work of God within us as we surrender to Him each day. Through prayer we enjoy daily fellowship with our Heavenly Father, allowing His voice to guide our steps. Through fasting we intentionally set aside earthly desires so our hearts can become more sensitive to His presence and His will.

As you seek the Lord, don't settle for the comfort the world offers. Instead, ask God to draw you deeper into His presence. The closer we walk with Him, the more clearly, we recognize His voice, His peace, and His purpose for our lives.

The world offers temporary peace that can leave us spiritually drifting. But the presence of God offers lasting joy, lasting peace, and the abundant life only He can provide.

As Acts 2:28 reminds us, God reveals the path of life and fills us with gladness in His presence. May our greatest desire always be to know Him more deeply.

Reflection Question

As you spend time in prayer this week, ask yourself:

How much of my prayer time is devoted to seeking spiritual growth and becoming more like Christ? Am I asking God to change my circumstances more than I am asking Him to change me?

Resource: Bible verses and biblical reference material for this article were supported by Bible.com.

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





SEPTEMBER

Brotherhood will meet
Sat., 9/5 @ 9am.
There will be no Mission Warriors.

9/3
9:45am
Women on Mission

Benevolence Offering
September 6th

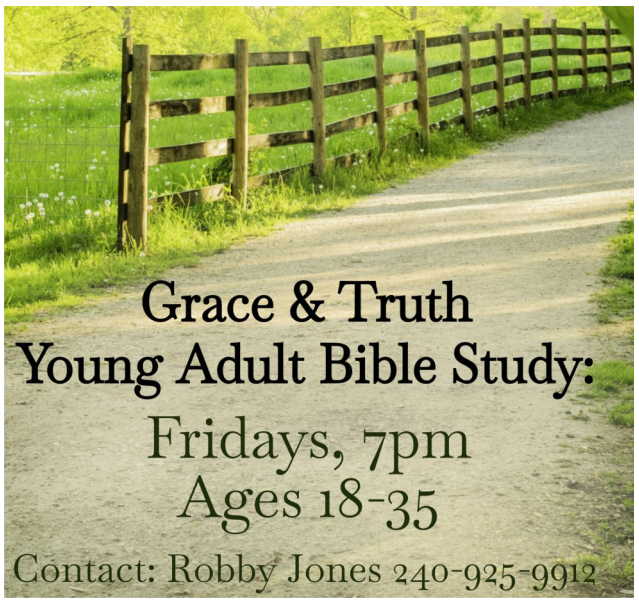


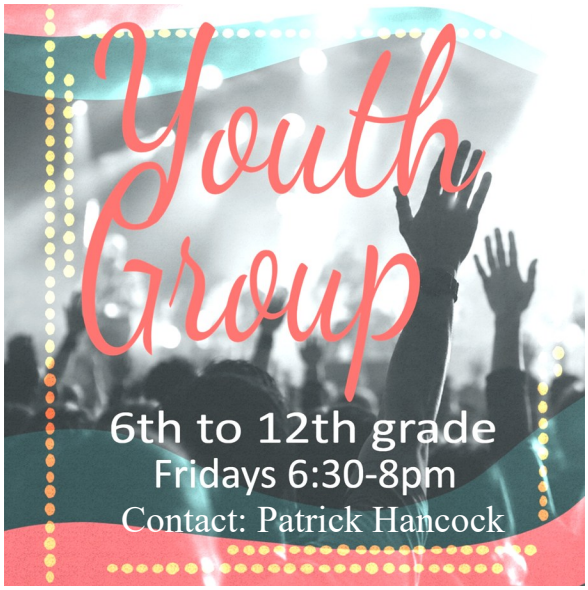
September 19th 9am-Noon
Hooks & Needles



Visitation Ministry: Sept. 17th, 9:45 AM

JOIN US FOR
Men's & Women's Tuesday BIBLE STUDIES, 10 am





Next DEACONS meeting
October 5th, 7 pm

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Food Giveaway 5pm	3 WOM 9:45am	4 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	5 Brotherhood 9am
6 Benevolence Offering	7 Office Closed 	8 Men & Women's Bible Studies 10am	9 Food Giveaway 5pm	10	11 Merry Widows 12pm Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	12
 AWANA 5pm	14 PACE 8:30am	15 Men & Women's Bible Studies 10am	16 Food Giveaway 5pm	17 Visitation Ministry 9:45am	18 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	19 Hooks & Needles 9-Noon 
20 AWANA 5:30pm	21 PACE 8:30am	22 Men & Women's Bible Studies 10am 	23 Food Giveaway 5pm	24	25 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study 7pm	26
27 AWANA 5:30pm	28 PACE 8:30am	29 Men & Women's Bible Studies 10am	30 Food Giveaway 5pm			

Sunday Morning Nursery:

Infant/Toddler

Sept 06 Norma S., Ruth D.
Sept 13 Norma S., Stephanie W. , Abby P.
Sept 20 Norma S., Karla M.
Sept 27 Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.

Greeter Schedule:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sept 06	Bobby J.	Paul D.
Sept 13	Gary B.	Ken D.
Sept 20	Marion S.	Billy M.
Sept 27	Glenn M.	Henry N.

Children's Worship:

Sept 06 Stephanie W., Sherri B., Kayla H.
Sept 13 Amanda N., Abby P.
Sept 20 Kristen G., Ashleigh G.
Sept 27 Robby J., Jennifer M., Colton J.

Sunday Morning Security:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sept 06	Courtney H.	Melvin K., Brian M.
Sept 13	Norma S.	Robert H., Patrick H.
Sept 20	Kevin G.	Terry M., Bob M.
Sept 27	Marion S.	Brian M., Jerry P.





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????

Caribbean Cruise: Sail away with Glory Way on the Carnival Glory Feb. 8, 2027 - Feb. 13, 2027. Arrangements are DIY. More info. at hitshornsandharmony.com. This is a standard cruise with Christian entertainment but is not an exclusively Christian cruise. Multiple Christian artists will be featured. Approx. cost per person including airfare to Florida: $1000.



Jamie & Amanda Hepner spent a week in Norfolk, VA and were able to tour the USS Wisconsin BB-64.





Join us on 11/11 to see Joshua at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. If you wish to carpool, we will leave church at 7:30am and return around 9 pm.
A non-refundable deposit of $50 is due by 9/13 & the balance is due by 10/12. See Jennifer Miller. Sign up sheet is on the Welcome Center.

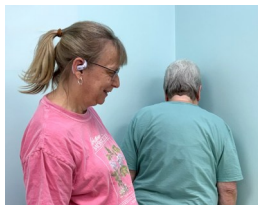








Paul & Ruth Dillon, Donna Fleming, Jan Regalado and Debbie Wedding worked hard to clean & re-paint the nursery. Ruth told Debbie that she had to stand in the corner since she matched the wall.





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

MISSIONS

In June, Pastor Gary, Debbie, Jennifer, Nan, Sally & Henry traveled to Canada and worked with ministries that are already established there.























PANAMA













In August, Jennifer traveled by herself to Panama and then met up with a team that was there from TN.





