

The Lamp Lighter



5 Traits Every Church Must Have to Maintain Unity

The unity of the church is vital for our endurance. We're not meant to live the Christian life in isolation.

And it's vital for our witness; Jesus authorized the unbelieving world to judge whether or not the Father sent Him into the world based on the church's visible unity (John 17:21).

But, how do we know when we're called to fight for the unity of the church and when we're called to fight for the faith once for all delivered to the saints?

Because we, the church, are the display of God's glory and wisdom (Ephesians 3:10), we must fight to maintain Christian unity (Ephesians 4:1-3).

But this call for unity is based on the one gospel that reveals the Triune God (Ephesians 4:4-6): the one Spirit who has called us out of death into life (Ephesians 2:1-10), the one Lord who has reconciled us to God and one another through his blood, making the one body (Ephesians 2:11-22), and the one Father who planned our salvation from the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-14).

If we are to maintain the unity the Spirit has given us during times of conflict, we must cultivate the same qualities found in our Lord Jesus. Continued p. 3

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G r e e t e r S c h e d u l e :

8:30 AM

11:00 AM

August 03	Kevin G.	Dave B.
August 10	Glenn M.	Ken D.
August 17	Marion S.	Andy G.
August 24	Gary B.	Patrick H.
August 31	Kevin G.	Dave B.

S u n d a y M o r n i n g S e c u r i t y T e a m :

8:30 AM

11 AM

August 03	Kevin G., VACANT	Jamie H., Robert H.
August 10	Marion S., VACANT	Bob M., Al L.
August 17	Courtney H., VACANT	Brian M., Jennifer M.
August 24	Norma S., VACANT	Jamie H., Jerry P.
August 31	Kevin G., VACANT	Melvin K., Jim M.

S u n d a y M o r n i n g N u r s e r y :

Infant

Toddler

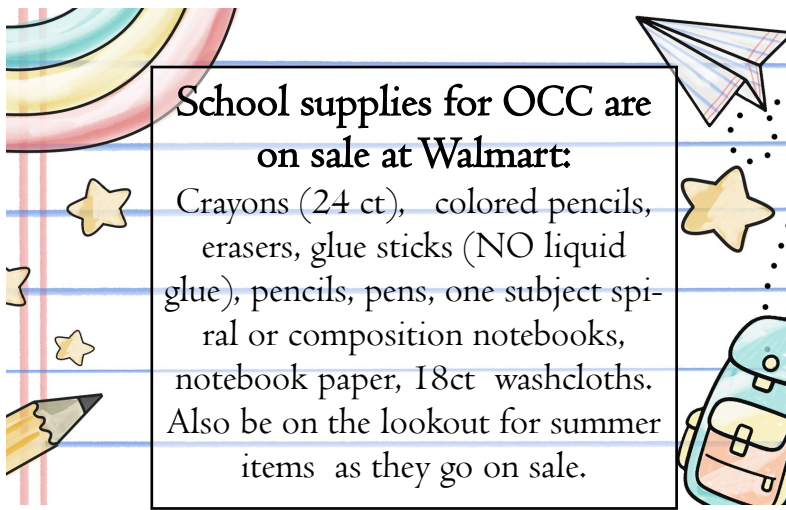
August 03	Norma S., Donna F.	Jill H., Ruth D.
August 10	Norma S., Karla M., Abby P.	Katie L., Kristen G., Erin H.
August 17	Norma S., Ruth D., Carlesh N.	Stephanie W., Ruth D., Adrielle L.
August 24	Norma S., Cecelia S.	Amanda N., Gracelynn N.
August 31	Norma S., Donna F.	Ruth D.

C h i l d r e n ' s W o r s h i p :

August 03	Stephanie W., Jonathan M., Kayla H.
August 10	Jennifer C., Chloe C.
August 17	Amanda N., Ashley M.
August 24	Katie L., Kristen G., Abby P.
August 31	Debbie S., Jennifer M.

A u g u s t T e l l e r s :

Sheri B. & Cecelia S.



School supplies for OCC are on sale at Walmart:

Crayons (24 ct), colored pencils, erasers, glue sticks (NO liquid glue), pencils, pens, one subject spiral or composition notebooks, notebook paper, 18ct washcloths. Also be on the lookout for summer items as they go on sale.

The time has come!
Ladies (18yo+),
join us for
Beauties on the Boat
Saturday,
August 16th.
The details and
sign up sheets are on
the Welcome Center.
Space is VERY limited so
2 trips will be taken to
accommodate everyone.



UPWARD REGISTRATION!

Flag Football: 5yo through 17yo

<https://registration.upward.org/UPW88614>

Co-ed Volleyball: 4th through 12th grade

<https://registration.upward.org/UPW88793>

Early registration ends: Saturday, August 2nd

Last day to register online: Monday, August 4th

Practices begin: Week of August 18th

First Game: September 6th



Youth Bible Study

(6th-12th grades)

Friday nights, 6:30-8:00 pm

Starting Friday, August 8th

at FBC LaPlata

Bible Study, games & snacks

Come out and enjoy!

For more information:

Patrick.hancock1@gmail.com

301-274-2852, 304 602-7093

Kid's Bible Club

When: Thursday mornings July 31-Aug. 21

Where: Playground at FBCLP

Jill Hancock is looking for people willing to help at various stations such as sign in upon arrival, setting up snacks, & helping with crafts or games. There will be literature with plans so if you are interested in helping prepare or just showing up to lend a hand please text or call (240)416-5321 to talk to Jill.



An English Second Language (ESL) ministry will be starting up soon! What a great way to reach out to our community, by teaching folks English and Bible at the same time! We're looking for teachers & helpers & the only requirements are that you love Jesus, love people, and speak English! An "interest meeting" will be happening sometime in August. Watch the bulletin for more info or talk to Mark or Bella Curtis ([240-320-7613](tel:240-320-7613)).

In Ephesians 4:2-3, Paul highlights five of these qualities that are necessary to maintain the church's unity.

1. Humility

Humility has to do with not thinking of yourself as better than others. It's the opposite of pride—assuming that everything and everyone exists for your joy and satisfaction. Of course, there's such a thing as false humility. It seeks to draw attention to itself. True humility is rooted in a right-thinking of God and self. If your whole world revolves around you, you're proud, and pride destroys unity like nothing else. Instead, we are to have the same mindset as our Lord Jesus, who, though God the Son, humbled himself, took on our humanity, and became a servant to die on the cross for undeserving sinners (Philippians 2:5-11). God opposes the proud, but he will exalt the humble.

2. Gentleness

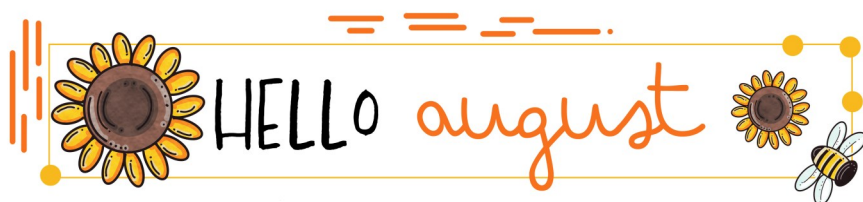
Gentleness has to do with considering others, forfeiting your rights. Today, many people think only of themselves. Sadly, these attitudes have crept into the church. Professing Christians are often harsh or rude to those who are different. Some ridicule those with whom they disagree. But, remember Jesus' heart toward sinners. He was gentle and lowly of heart (Matthew 11:29). And we are to reflect the gentleness of our Lord, whether we're restoring repentant sinners (Galatians 6:1) or, as pastors, correcting our opponents (2 Timothy 2:25). Imagine how many conflicts we might avoid if we responded with a gentle answer? By our gentleness, we may know that we are filled with the Spirit of Christ (Galatians 5:23).

3. Patience

Patience has to do with bearing other's shortcomings and faults, their weaknesses and failures. How patient are we with those who disagree with us? How long do we suffer those who think differently? The Lord has been patient with us (1 Tim. 1:16), so let us be patient with one another. If the Spirit of Christ dwells in us and fills us, we too will be patient (Galatians 5:22).

4. Love

God both displayed and defined love for us at the cross of Christ (John 15:13; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9). Love is the soil in which we are established and grow in Christ (Ephesians 3:17; 5:2). If the Spirit of Christ dwells in us, we will be loving (Galatians 5:22). By our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, we will show that we belong to God and are born again (1 John 4:7-12). Continued on page 7



WOMEN ON MISSION

WILL MEET
ON AUGUST 7TH
@ 9:45 AM.

Vacations

The Law Family recently spent time in Sanibel, Florida



If you're willing to share a picture of your vacation, we'd love to see it! Email the secretary. Address is in the bulletin.

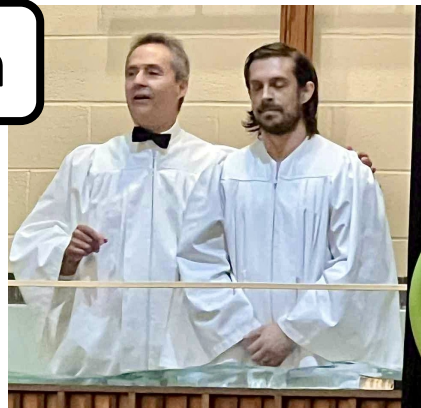


The Nicklis, Pankhurst & Bruce families enjoyed time with family at Santa Rosa Beach in FL as well as other states like Arkansas!



Baptism

On July 13th Dario Tomasevic was baptized.



Dan & Rosa enjoyed a wonderful time in Mackinac Island, MI.



Bros on a boat

One of the advantages of having a Pastor with multiple talents is that he can take his congregants on a boat ride! On July 12th, the men enjoyed beautiful weather & fellowship while cruising on the Potomac River.



Chuck, Paul & Carl



Captain Gary



Jim & Dan



Marion & Dean

There are so many ways to be of service for our **Upward** leagues including coach commissioner, referees, advertising, game day commissioner, practice night commissioner, prayer commissioner, etc. Please be in prayer for how you can help!! See Shannon Pankhurst (picture below)!



Dean Irwin is the head of our **ushers**. He organizes the volunteers that help by greeting congregants, handing out bulletins, and collecting offerings



Shannon Pankhurst & Donna Duehring are our **VBS** dynamic duo. It takes a village to pull off this ministry but these are our co-directors!

Library News

New on the Shelf—Karen Law

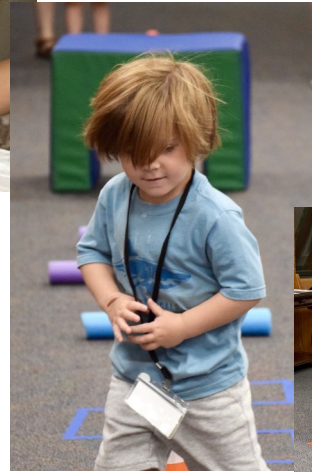
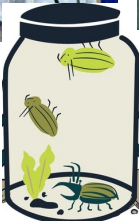
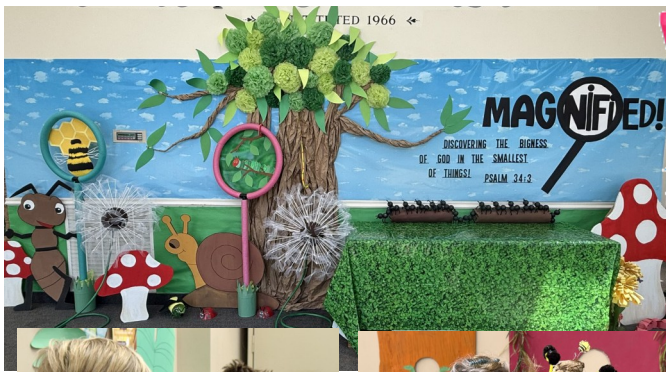


- *The Man in the Mirror - Patrick Morley
- *Getting to the Other Side of Grief : Overcoming the Loss of a Spouse - Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge
- *Exploring Bible Prophecy from Genesis to Revelation - Tim Lahaye
- *I am N: Inspiring Stories of Christians Facing Islamic Extremists - Voice of the Martyrs
- *The Birth of the Church - Ivor Davidson
- *The Boy Born Dead - David Ring
- *How Now Shall We Live? - Charles Colson
- *Love and Respect - Dr. Emerson Eggerichs
- *Every Prophecy of the Bible - John Walvoord
- *Stranger from Medina - Paul Bagdon
- *Target Israel: Caught in the Crosshairs of the End Times - Tim Lahaye



**FREE concert during our
11 AM worship service
Sunday, August 17th**

We will take a love offering & they will have a merch table available.



Our Pastor's wife, Debbie, played "Magnificent Mary" who couldn't seem to get the VBS theme correct!!



"Muscle-ized"



"Militarized"



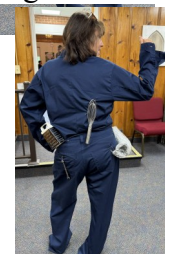
"Magnetized"

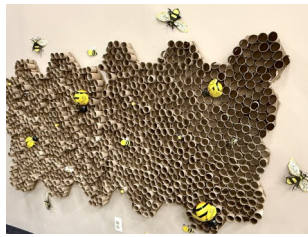


"Moisturized"



"Mortified"





A BIG thank you to EVERYONE who helped make VBS 2025 a success! We had an average of about 53 volunteers & 128 children for am & pm VBS! We appreciate ALL of the help we received--teachers, leaders, helpers, snack donations, prayers, cutting out flower petals, decorating the church, food prep for the volunteers' morning breakfasts, picnic food and all the work that goes into the evening VBS for the youth, etc.!!! Thank you ALL!





Celebrating THE LIFE OF

Jeff Bresnahan

October 12th, 2-5 PM

Blue Dog Saloon, Port Tobacco

Please RSVP to Sheri if you plan to attend.



Church Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, August 13th, 6:30 PM

Please submit reports to the office by 8/6

A Path of Persistence

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."



PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS GLOBAL HUNGER AND CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

BBQ DINNER

SUNDAY AUG. 24, 2025 5:30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$15 PP AND/OR NON-PERISHIBLE FOOD

BRING A DISH TO SHARE...
LAST NAME
A-Q SIDES
R-Z DESSERTS

Sign up at the welcome desk
See Jennifer Miller for more info

The ladies **Women on Mission** group is looking for a replacement leader! The group meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 9:45 AM. If you are interested in learning more about what this entails, please reach out to Jennifer M. or Carol Gill.

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5. Zeal

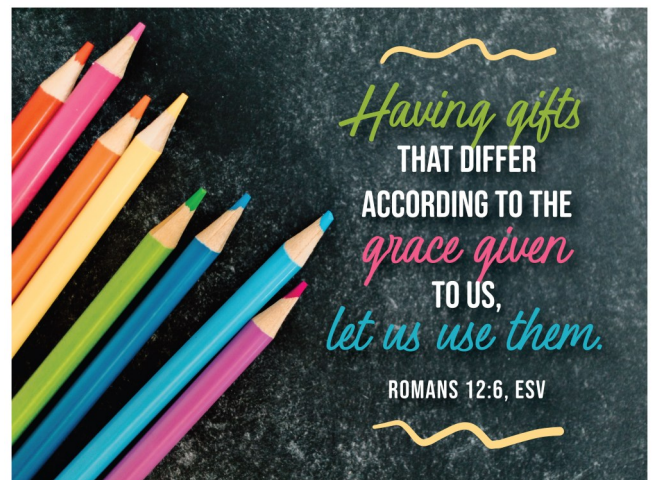
We are to zealously maintain the unity of the Spirit (v.3). We don't create the church's unity; the Spirit does when He brings us into the one body. We're only called to maintain that unity and to do so eagerly. Are we genuinely zealous in fighting for the church's unity? Or are we more zealous in fighting for our own rights, privileges, and preferences? You may be tempted to think that a global pandemic, a presidential election, and civil unrest are threats to the church's unity. They're not. They're opportunities to cultivate these Christlike qualities in us and our church members because we cultivate these qualities during times of conflict. As you're driving down the road, you don't need patience if there are no other cars on the road. You need patience when there are cars in front of you going below the speed limit or not observing the traffic laws. That's when you cultivate patience, speaking truth to yourself and resting in the good news of Jesus Christ. If we cultivate these qualities that are found in our Lord Jesus and that the Spirit produces in us, we will be empowered to walk in a manner worthy of our call and pursue Christian unity. The result will be a visible peace that binds us together and displays the wisdom and glory of God to an unbelieving world.

Sanchez, J. (2020, Oct 19). *5 Traits Every Church Must Have to Maintain Unity*. research.lifeway.com

If you would like to help those who have been affected by the flash floods in Texas, you can donate using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/eeef36b7>

or scan this code with your phone camera:



We are at capacity for the Sight & Sound trip to see *Noah* !! If you have signed up, please contact Jennifer Miller if you would like to carpool and/or for payment options.

We need:

- Children's Social Members
- Children's Worship Teachers
- UPWARD Cmte. Members
- Youth Council Members
- Audio/Visual Cmte. Members
- Music Ministry/Director
- Sunday School Teachers & Subs
- Outreach Members

VBS cont.



We are collecting items to help the *Fix Ministry*. Items can be dropped off at the church until 8/31.

See Jennifer M. and the WC for more info.

Items needed:

men's socks, prepackaged snacks, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, 50-60 gallon trash bags, clamshell to-go plate containers, gas gift cards (BP or FasMart), Amazon gift cards, Visa gift cards

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

Choice Care

to prepare for The Catherine Foundation's Benefit Dinner, which is the main fundraiser of the year, critical to our life saving mission.

Do you have someone (or a few people) in mind who might be interested in our mission? Sponsor them by purchasing a seat or a table of 10.

Secure your spot by purchasing tickets now! Seats are limited and filling fast.

Deadline: September 15, 2025



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

www.cfteam.org/event

Benefit Dinner
10/3/25

"I'm hungry!" Is a familiar complaint. Though some of us can just grab a snack from the kitchen, for 2.3 billion people, hunger is a 24 hr/7 days/week unrelenting, tormenting reality.

In 1978, the World Hunger Fund was stated (known as Global Hunger Relief today), this relief effort has become a ministry of the No. Am. Mission Board and the International Mission Board. GHR responds to immediate needs during famine and natural disasters and provides long-term solutions, job training, livestock and seed distribution, clean water, medical care, and home reconstruction.

When Jesus fed the 5,000, He understood that sharing the Bread of Life is easier if stomachs aren't empty. Hunger is easy to forget about when we have full bellies and cupboards of food.

During the month of August, we will be collecting money for Global Hunger Relief using the marked envelopes in your pew. You can also participate in a church BBQ Dinner on Sunday Aug. 24 at 5:30PM. See page 9 of the newsletter for details.

Upcoming Events:

- **AWANA** Missionary speaking in both services on 8/24
- **Catherine Foundation** (now known as Choice Care) Baby Shower Tea Oct. 17th

The PBA is asking each church to complete the following survey:

1. Are you trained & certified in disaster relief through Send Relief? _____

2. If you are a certified volunteer, do you need a replacement of your certification badge? _____

3. Are you interested in becoming certified by attending a Send Relief training event? _____

Tear this off and put on office counter or desk.

OR, just let the secretary know with a note or email.



Operation Christmas Child

The Power of a Simple Gift

Monthly Shopping Ideas: AUGUST: SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Shanika & Sherika and the Mittens

"We received mittens in our shoebox gifts in Jamaica at age 8. Before this, our father cut a notebook and pencil in half so we'd have school supplies."

We grew up in rural Jamaica sharing most things, not because we're twins but because it was a necessity for our family to make ends meet.

Our parents had us in their late teens. They couldn't afford an ultrasound, so having twins was unexpected. Our mom and dad had to stop attending college in order to provide for us. They worked hard—our mom at home and our dad in sugar cane fields.

Both Christians, our parents had faith that the Lord Jesus would provide for our needs. Every morning, they gathered us together for devotions.

"We knew that Good Samaritans had sent us these gifts."

To enable both of us to have something to write on at school, our father cut an 8- by 9-inch notebook in half. He also broke a pencil in two and sharpened the lead with a knife because we didn't have a pencil sharpener.



We wished we could have full-sized notebooks and pencils like some of our peers. Our wish came true at age 8 when we heard shriek after shriek of delight in the halls of our school.

Large cardboard boxes with a shoebox plane printed on them were delivered to each classroom. We were so excited about these huge brown boxes and were curious to see what was inside.

We rejoiced when we learned that they contained shoebox gifts for us. One of us received two full-sized notebooks! We shared what was in our shoeboxes so we would each have one. We also received our first calculator—a small, gray one we still love to use.

We received a pair of woolen mittens. We didn't need them for warmth, since we lived in the Caribbean, but we put them to good use as pot holders. Our parents still have them at home in Jamaica. Continued on page 12

Please bring in the following craft items all year long:

old t-shirts, fabric, yarn, buttons, washers, pipe cleaners, beads, pill bottles (take labels off)
old glasses cases, sewing needs, ribbon, wrapping paper, scotch tape

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“The boxes of gifts reflected the goodness of Christ.”

We were glad to receive a game of jacks since previously we used stones or the balls from roll-on deodorant to play the game.

We also each received pencils and pencil sharpeners, as well as crayons, coloring books, and personal care items, such as combs, toothbrushes, washcloths, and soap.

One of our younger brothers also received a shoebox gift. He still has the flashlight he received in his box.

At first, we wondered who we knew that would send us these gifts.

We had learned the story of the Good Samaritan in Sunday School. So, when we saw Samaritan’s Purse printed on the tape that held the shoebox closed, we knew that Good Samaritans had sent us these gifts.

Through the shoebox gifts, we learned that you don’t have to be close neighbors in order to help each other. These gifts came from strangers.

The boxes of gifts ultimately reflected the goodness of Christ, showing us that the Lord graciously provides for us. We felt God’s love for us as we received them.

Earlier that same year, we both made professions of faith in Jesus Christ during an evangelistic crusade. We each stepped forward that night to dedicate our lives to Him.

The shoebox gifts and The Greatest Gift Gospel booklet that we received along with them helped us as new Christians to continue to grow in our faith. We read the booklet in Sunday School and together as a family before we went to bed. The lessons, which we read over and over, were such a blessing and comfort to us.

Our parents instilled in us how important it is to study the Bible and pray together. We talked and prayed through any issues that came up, seeing how God works through situations. We sisters still have morning devotions together.

Our parents are so proud that both of us graduated last year with business administration master’s degrees from Liberty University, a Christian college in Virginia. Our mom went back to school to earn a teaching diploma and our dad has certifications in food service, hospitality, and nutrition.

It wasn’t until we saw an Operation Christmas Child video at our church in Virginia that we realized those were the gifts we received. We knew that logo—the shoebox plane. And there was that word again—Samaritan. We raised our arms in joy and praise. We exclaimed: “We’re shoebox recipients!” We stood and shared our stories right then.

It meant so much to us to learn the background of how our boxes were sent—through churches! It also was moving to see how much church members appreciated hearing us talk about the lasting influence the gifts had on our Christian walk.

Then, we saw the shoebox logo again on our college campus. They pack shoeboxes there, too!

That’s when we knew we had to keep sharing our story, so the message of how God is working keeps spreading.