

# The Lamp Lighter

## *The Power of Encouragement*

In a world filled with challenges, disappointments, and uncertainty, encouragement is a gift we can all give—and it costs us nothing. Yet, its impact can be life-changing. Proverbs 16:24 reminds us: *“Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”*

Encouragement is more than a polite word or a pat on the back—it is speaking life into someone’s weary spirit. It is noticing the unseen effort, affirming God’s work in someone’s life, and pointing them toward the hope we have in Christ. Jesus Himself often spoke words that built others up, restoring dignity to the broken, faith to the doubtful, and strength to the weary.

In the body of Christ, we are called to “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). That may look like:

- Sending a note to someone going through a difficult season.
- Speaking sincere words of appreciation for a person’s service.
- Sharing a Scripture that has lifted you up in your own time of need.
- Simply being present and listening without judgment.

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*“Let us  
consider  
how we may  
spur one  
another on  
toward love  
and good  
deeds...  
encouraging  
one  
another...”*

*Hebrews  
10:24-25*

## Greeter Schedule :

	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Sept. 07	Bobby J.	Andrew C.
Sept. 14	Marion S.	Paul D.
Sept. 21	Gary B.	Ken D.
Sept. 28	Kevin G.	Billy M.

## Sunday Morning Security Team :

	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Sept. 07	Marion S., VACANT	Patrick H., Jamie H.
Sept. 14	Courtney H. VACANT	Robert H., Bob M.
Sept. 21	Norma S., VACANT	Al Law, Brian M.
Sept. 28	Kevin G., VACANT	Jennifer M., Robert H.

## Sunday Morning Nursery :

	<b>Infant</b>	<b>Toddler</b>
Sept. 07	Norma S., Donna F.	Jill H., Ruth D.
Sept. 14	Norma S., Karla M., Abby P.	Katie L., Kristen G., Erin H.
Sept. 21	Norma S., Ruth D., Carlesh N.	Stephanie W., Ruth D., Adrielle L.
Sept. 28	Norma S., Cecelia S.	Amanda N., Gracelynn N.

## Children's Worship :

Sept. 07	Stephanie W., Jonathan M., Kayla H.
Sept. 14	Jennifer C., Chloe C.
Sept. 21	Amanda N., Ashley M.
Sept. 28	Katie L., Kristen G., Abby P.

## September Tellers :

Sharon Bruce, Donna Fleming



# First Baptist Church of La Plata

## Awana Calendar 2025-2026

September		February	
7	Opening Night Registration/Regular Club Activities	1	Regular Club Night
14	"Bring a Friend" Night	8	No Awana
21	Regular Club Night	15	Regular Club Night
28	Regular Club Night	22	Measles Night
October		March	
5	Regular Club Night	1	Regular Club Night
12	Mission Activity: Tin Can Line Up	8	Regular Club Night
19	Mom/Grandmom Night	15	Regular Club Night
26	Regular Club Night	22	Regular Club Night
		29	No Awana – Easter Dinner
November		April	
2	Operation Christmas Child – Item Collection	5	No Awana – Easter Break
9	Operation Christmas Child – Packing Night	12	Regular Club Night
16	Regular Club Night	19	Regular Club Night
23	Regular Club Night	26	Regular Club Night Awana Store Night – Bring Awana Bucks
30	Hanging of the Greens – Start at 5pm		
December		May	
7	No Awana – Christmas Dinner	3	Last night to say verses
14	Dress for Christmas/Awana Store Night – Bring Awana Bucks Christmas Hat/Mitten Tree	10	No Awana – Mother's Day
21	No Awana – Christmas Break	17	End of Year Awards Night
28	No Awana – New Year's Break		
January		<b>Dates are subject to change.</b>	
4	Regular Club Night		
11	Dad/Grandad Night		
18	Regular Club Night		
24	Awana Grand Prix		
25	Crazy Hair Night		



I have already started planning for VBS 2026! If you are going to get rid of anything that has to do with light: lamps, colored or oversized lightbulbs, flashlights, etc. then please consider bringing them to the office. Our 2026 theme is: **ILLUMINATION!!**  
--Amanda (Secretary)



Nick Papanicolas drove to Men's Bible Study in his 1950 Ford Custom. His wife, Maria, is pictured by his side.



Debbie Wedding posed with 2 of the Glory Way members. The congregation enjoyed worshipping with the group on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.



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Encouragement turns our attention away from our own burdens and reminds others they are not alone. It can spark courage where there is fear, hope where there is despair, and perseverance where there is weariness.

Imagine the impact if each of us made it a daily habit to encourage at least one person. Our church family would grow stronger, our community would shine brighter, and our witness for Christ would be even more powerful.

This week, pray for God to show you someone who needs a word of encouragement—and then be willing to speak it. You never know how deeply your words might reach into a heart, bringing light into the shadows and helping someone press on.

As Hebrews 10:24-25 urges us: *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

--Kevin Guiffre

### Bible Challenge:

1. According to Psalm 18, God gave the writer feet that were nimble like what animal?
2. Isaiah 11 says the leopard will lie down with what other animal?
3. What mammal does Daniel 4 tell us that King Nebuchadnezzar began to act like?
4. In Matthew 7, whom does Jesus compare to ferocious wolves in sheep's clothing?
5. Whom did John call the “Lamb of God” in John 1?

Taken from *The American Bible Challenge* by Troy Schmidt  
Answers can be found on pg. 7 of newsletter

## Beauties On a Boat

On Saturday, August 16th, some of the ladies from church enjoyed a beautiful day of cruising on the water, a quick stop at the Torpedo Factory, fry tasting at *Island Time Grill* and a final stop back at the National Harbor for ice cream at *The Yard Milkshake Bar*. We're grateful to Captain Gary & his first mate, Debbie, for a wonderful day!







## Mission Warriors is returning!

This is a women's missions group that meets on the first Saturday of the month. We will meet in a classroom and occasionally meet outside of the church. If you would like to help lead the group or want more info, see Jennifer Miller.

TENTATIVE kickoff is Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, @ 9am!



1st day September 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5 PM

Registration is **OPEN** for  
volunteers & children!

Go to [fbclaplata.org](https://fbclaplata.org) OR use this link:  
<https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=72129>

**On 9/7 there will be a meeting for all  
volunteers following 11 AM service.**



FBC will have their yearly table (inside) at the Charles County Fair from 9/11-9/13. If you signed up to volunteer, there will be a short meeting after the 11 AM service on 9/7 with Dean.

## KINGDOM GROWTH

Through Revitalization & Planting



**BCMD** BAPTIST CONVENTION OF MARYLAND/DELAWARE

**STATE MISSION OFFERING & WEEK OF PRAYER**

### What is the State Missions Offering (SMO)?

The State Missions Offering is an annual financial contribution made by BCM/D churches. This offering is given in addition to their regular Cooperative Program contributions to support specific mission-focused initiatives.

### Why should our church participate in the SMO?

Participating in the SMO allows your church to play a vital role in Kingdom growth within the BCM/D. By contributing, you help provide the necessary resources for planting new churches, revitalizing older churches, and developing church leaders, ensuring the ongoing spread of the Gospel.

### When is the SMO collected?

The SMO is collected annually, and contributions can be made at any time throughout the year. In 2025, the SMO Week of Prayer will be held from September 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. During this week, we ask our churches to pray specifically for the initiatives supported by the SMO and to consider how the Lord may lead them to contribute.



\*bring your favorite game & an appetizer



Merry Widows will meet  
on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 12 PM.





# OCTOBER activities

If you would like to come to the  
*Celebration of Life* for  
Jeff Bresnahan,  
please RSVP to Sheri.  
October 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 PM  
Blue Dog Saloon & Restaurant  
in Port Tobacco



**Prayer  
walk &  
Bible  
Museum**  
Oct. 25th



The Gibsons vacationed at Walt Disney World. It looks like they had beautiful weather & a great time!



## English as Second Language:

If anyone was unable to attend the ESL information meeting but would still like to participate in the ministry, please contact Bella Curtis @ 240-320-7613 or email: [esl@fbclaplata.org](mailto:esl@fbclaplata.org)  
The church will provide training for ESL teachers and helpers on the weekend on Oct 3/4 but you will need to sign up for the training in advance.



Jill Hancock & others hosted a Bible club for 1-10 year olds during the summer. The children enjoyed a Bible story, games, crafts & a snack!





Our Global Hunger Fundraising Dinner was a success! We raised over \$4,900 to help those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

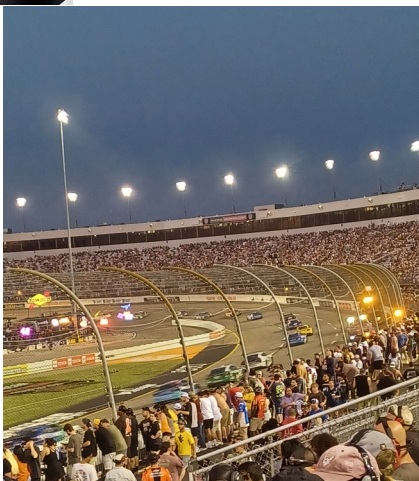
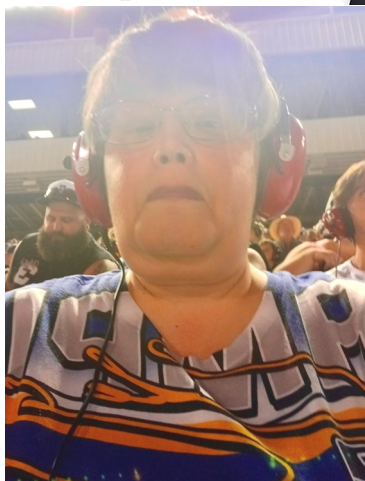


The Merry Widows group celebrated Diane Sheffe's 80th birthday with her on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**Fridays**  
6:30 - 8 PM  
6th-12th  
grades  
youth  
bible study

Becky Allison spent time at the Richmond Racetrack enjoying her favorite pastime!



Answers to Bible Trivia on page 4:

1. a deer (Psalm 18:33)
2. the goat (Isaiah 11:6)
3. the ox (Daniel 4:33)
4. false prophets (Mth 7:15)
5. Jesus (John 1:29)



# Operation Christmas Child

## The Power of a Simple Gift

### Monthly Shopping Ideas: SEPTEMBER: GAMES

#### *Olesa and the Markers*

I was born and raised in a small village in Moldova. Our country was in severe financial instability after the fall of the Soviet Union. Everyone in our family needed to work to make ends meet. Besides his daily job, my dad and the rest of the family also worked long hours gathering and selling walnuts and working on government agricultural fields.

We tended a garden and kept domestic animals in order to have food on the table. Most of our food came from the garden. During the winter, we didn't buy extra food; we ate whatever we had stored. My six siblings and I had to wake up early before school to help feed the animals.

When we weren't working, we played outside with other kids. We made up our own games because we didn't have toys.

One day, when I was 5 years old, I was told that something exciting would happen at church the next day. I remember going to bed extra early, hoping that would make the day come sooner. When I woke up the next morning, I felt it was the most glorious day ever. I was so excited to receive my shoebox and couldn't wait to open it.

We opened our shoeboxes once we got home. We sat on the living room floor and took turns opening our shoeboxes. I dumped my whole box on the floor so I could see everything at once. The gifts were wonderful—we had items such as coloring books and soap.

The thing that stood out to me the most was a pack of colorful markers. I couldn't take my eyes off them. There were so many in the pack! I didn't know some of the colors existed. I was so excited I jumped up and started running around the room.

The markers my family had at home were dried out. We would dip them in water just to make them last a little longer. I always wished I could color and draw—the markers were exactly what I wanted. I could hardly wait to show my friends at school the new markers.

*God used a shoebox to reassure me of His love.*

The day I received my shoebox I went from knowing about Jesus to actually knowing Him. I began a personal relationship with Jesus—one where He is my Best Friend—instead of just a powerful Man I'd heard about during Sunday School.

God used my shoebox to reassure me that He really loved me. It showed me that God does answer prayer. God became real and personal to me.

My family and I moved to the United States in 2003 and I now work as a nurse. I pack shoeboxes so I can bless other children. I want to help bring the same joy and happiness to other children that I experienced. I want children across the world to know Jesus.

