

The Lamplighter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 7

JULY 2020

Pastor's Page

by Pastor Gary

July means Independence Day, and Independence Day means we will notice more prominent displays of our national flag. We know there is much symbolism in our flag: thirteen stripes representing the original thirteen colonies, one star for each state, and a blue union symbolizing one country. But what about the colors: red, white, and blue? Is there significance to these? It may surprise you to learn that there is no official statement on the colors. The color scheme was probably chosen because of our mother country, Great Britain: these were her colors, all of our founding fathers served under or were exposed to those colors, we are indisputably connected to her, so the colors stuck.

Congress adopted the Great Seal of the United States five years after adopting the flag, and the colors of the great seal are defined as red for hardiness and valor; white for purity and innocence; and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice. President Reagan in proclaiming 1986 as the Year of the Flag, defined the colors as, "Red for courage and readiness to sacrifice; white for pure intentions and high ideals; and blue for vigilance and justice. Here is my simpler explanation: the colors are a reminder; blood red reminds us of the cost of freedom; pure white reminds us of our founding innocence; and heavenly blue reminds us of our godly heritage. We proudly display the American flag on our church plat-

form—even though we don't know exactly what it all means.

We also display another red, white, and blue flag on our platform whose symbolism and colors we do know. The Christian flag has a red cross representing the blood sacrifice of Jesus; a large white area representing peace, purity, and innocence, and a blue area representing heaven, our eternal home. Unlike our American republic, the Christian flag stands for a monarchy in which Jesus is King. Most of us were born as Americans, but to become a citizen of Jesus' kingdom, one must be born again.

Flags are only symbols, but our national flag in particular deserves our honor and respect. No other nation in the history of the world has done more to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ and improve the overall condition of mankind. The United States Constitution states that it was written and adopted "to form a more perfect union." The United States is not, never was, nor ever will be perfect; however, the perfect Judaeo-Christian ideals upon which we were founded can continue to guide us toward the perfection we all hope to achieve.

In the end, The United States and her flag will perish along with the rest of the nations and flags of the world. Even the land masses that comprise the different nations will be eliminated. Revelation 21:1-2 informs us that there will be a new

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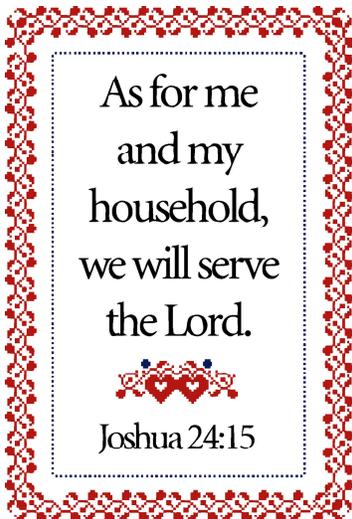
"The United States is not, never was, nor ever will be perfect; however, the perfect Judaeo-Christian ideals upon which we were founded can continue to guide us toward the perfection we all hope to achieve."

- Pastor Gary



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This page is dedicated to the memory of
our Sunday School Director, Geary Bish



Pastor's Page (cont.)

heaven, a new earth, a new Jerusalem, and a new people redeemed from all of the old nations from the old earth. We will live forever in the perfection that could only be imagined under our current dispensation. Until then, remember that Americans live in the greatest nation on the face of the earth, and America's flag is worthy of our honor and respect.





Library News

New and on the Shelf

Fiction

Phoebe's Light by Suzanne Woods Fisher (F FIS)

The First Love by Beverly Lewis (F LEW)

Children's Non-fiction

Miracles by the Sea by Catherine Storr

Ruth's Story by Catherine Storr

Moses and the Plagues by Catherine Storr

Moses in the Wild by Catherine Storr

The Trials of Daniel by Catherine Storr

Joseph and his Brothers by Catherine Storr

A Little Queen is on her way!



Please join us for a baby shower honoring

Kristen Gibson & Baby Kayla

Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 2:00 pm

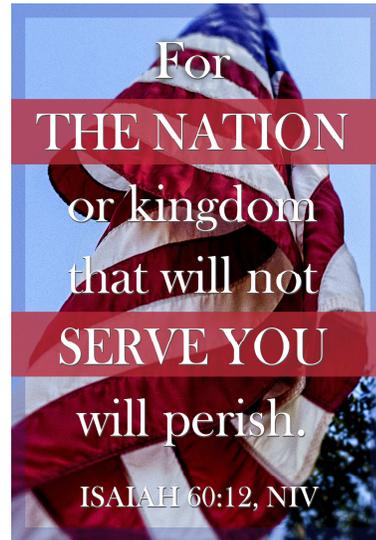
First Baptist Church of La Plata

9070 Hawthorne Rd.

La Plata, MD

Kindly RSVP to cairna.muniz@gmail.com

Kristen is registered at Target & Amazon.



How will we use our freedom?

In 2000, Cornealious Anderson was sentenced to 13 years for robbery. The 23-year-old was released on bail and told to await orders to show up to prison. But due to a clerical error, those orders never came. Some people might have taken advantage of such freedom and committed more crimes. But Anderson started a business, coached youth football and volunteered at church, earning respect in his community.

Thirteen years later, when Missouri officials discovered the error and put Anderson behind bars, an online petition called for his release. A judge agreed that Anderson was a changed man and, again, he was freed.

Bible Quiz

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug

(See Matthew 10:42.)



“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”

--Author unknown

“Solutions are not found by pointing fingers; they are reached by extending hands.”

—Aysha Taryam



Missions & Outreach

VBS 2020
July 20-24
6:30 - 8:00



Due to the recent pandemic and current health concerns, we have had to make some major changes to this year's VBS. VBS is still on for the week of July 20 -24. We will have an outdoor modified VBS in the evenings from 6:30 – 8 p.m. and will save the Concrete & Cranes materials for next year.

Youth who have completed grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend on **Monday and Tuesday evenings**, with Bible Studies and outdoor games.

Children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday** evenings, for Bible Studies, games, and crafts, with a theme of *Go and Tell Kids*. We regret that we will be unable to provide classes for preschool children for either the community or workers' children. All activities will be outside, and we will do our best to maintain social distancing.

Because we had to make major changes to our plans, we are now in critical need of volunteers who are willing to step up and fill VBS roles, some the same as always, and some new. Here are some positions that need to be filled immediately:

- Children's team leaders for all ages
- Children's recreation leaders
- Children's Bible study leaders
- Children's craft leaders (you don't have to prepare crafts; they will all be pre-packaged.)
- Opening Assembly leader (Wednesday – Friday)

- Bathroom monitor(s) (these are the only people who get to stay in the air-conditioned building!)
- Water bottle distributors (with masks and gloves!)
- Snack distributors (with masks and gloves – all snacks will be pre-packaged)
- Registration assistants – particularly on Monday and Wednesday evening
- Youth Bible study leaders
- Youth recreation leaders

Please contact Alison Bode right away if you can help one day or all 5. Her phone number is: **301-246-4957** and her email address is: **thebodes@verizon.net**.

Be part of this amazing opportunity to share the love of Christ with children and their families in our community. At a time when uncertainty prevails, we can provide hope!

Status of Planned Events due to Coronavirus

Sunday School: Via Zoom

Sunday Morning Services:

8:30 am - In person, with social distancing

11 am - In person with social distancing, via Facebook Live, and audio only on 88.1 FM in parking lot

Sunday evening services: Suspended until further notice

Wednesday evening services: Live & via Zoom

Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study: cancelled until further notice. Please continue reading the book of Isaiah.

Women on Mission & Mission Warriors—may be able to meet. Contact Carol Gill or Jennifer Miller for the latest information.

Youth Mission Trip to WV - Cancelled for this year.

July 3rd Fireworks Watch Party in Parking Lot - still tentative. (THIS WON'T HAPPEN IF THE COUNTRY CLUB DOESN'T HOLD FIREWORKS THIS YEAR.)

FYI

(Sermon Topic Subject to Change)

July 05	<i>"Spiritual Fruit"</i>	<i>Galatians 5:22-23</i>
July 12	<i>"Words Say Much"</i>	Judges 12:4-5
July 19	<i>"Racism is Natural"</i>	Ephesians 3:11-19
July 26	<i>"Ruth's Commitment"</i>	Ruth 1:16-17

Tellers for July

Courtney Harbin & Rosa Minehan

Door Team for July

05

12

19

26

Schedule Pending

Deacon of the Week

Jul. 05

Jul. 12

Jul. 19

Jul. 26

Rotation has not yet resumed.

Nursery Schedule - Sundays

Jul. 05: - AM

- PM

Jul. 12: - AM

- PM

Jul. 19: - AM

- PM

Jul. 26: - AM

- PM

Wednesdays:

Jul. 01:

Jul. 08

Jul. 15:

Jul. 22:

Jul. 29:

Nursery not yet available

Children's Worship Workers

July 5 & 12:

July 19 & 26:

Children's Worship has not yet resumed.

July Family News



02	Ben Doyle	22	Sandy Janke
03	Barbara Madison	23	Jordan Hancock
05	Cairna Muniz	25	Jerry Hill
07	Tyler Irwin	25	Shirley Kirby
09	Ethan Hancock	25	Emily Thompson
09	Angie Still	26	Alison Bode
11	Scott Nupson	26	Mark Burgess
12	Bobby Jones	26	Betty Lou Moore
14	Cory Robertson	27	Billy Tippett
15	Carol Gill	27	Neal Wilsey
15	Frances Osakowicz	28	Colby Thompson
15	Dale Smith	29	Wyatt Jones
17	Jim Miller	30	Lyle Elder
18	Cara Chandler	31	Austin Tarburton
22	Melissa Braun		

07	Jeff & Beth Clark
17	Bill & Ruby Breitenbach
20	Bob & Sharon Farncomb
23	Bill & Julie Burgess
29	Andy & Kristen Gibson

We have another graduate to celebrate! **James Miller** graduated with honors on May 18th from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a BA double major in History and Anthropology with minors in Archeology and Museum Studies. He plans on going into museum education or archival work.

prayers as they mourn her loss.

Also, Gary Bish lost his valiant battle against cancer on June 4, 2020. He was retired from the Teamster's Union, had served as a volunteer fireman for two stations, and had served faithfully for the past seven years as our Sunday School Director. He always greeted the children, asking how things were going with them. In fact, he treated everyone as if they were special to him. He was very handy and served on the Building & Grounds Committee for many years until 2019 when his health forced him to give up active participation. However, he still managed to stay involved by helping control the temperature in the sanctuary and fellowship hall remotely. Thank you for helping keep us comfortable! He also was co-coordinator/security monitor for our SafeNights week.

Please keep his mother, Bonita, his daughter Jennifer and the rest of the family in your prayers. Although we are all grieving his loss, we are rejoicing that he knew that he would soon be with his beloved Savior.

Sadly, on June 18th we also lost Arlo Bowie unexpectedly when he passed away at his home. He was retired after serving 36 years in the U.S. Air Force and he and Lucy loved to travel. Besides serving as a deacon at FBC La Plata and singing in the choir, he was founder and co-leader of a summer campground worship service at Goose Bay Marina.

Please keep Lucy, his wife of 62 years, their 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 22.5 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren in your prayers. While they are mourning their loss, they are rejoicing that he is now in "the best place."

New Members

Please help us welcome **Pastor Schneider's family** to FBC La Plata. **Debbie and their exchange student Rapunzel** arrived on June 17th and are now officially part of our church family. Xaris will be here in early July after visiting friends.

We extend Christian condolences to the family of Alice Hanson, who Although she had been homebound for many years, she had previously served with her husband "Dickie" on the Baptism Committee and also helped prepare and serve meals on the Fellowship Committee.

She was a retired school bus driver, having served Charles County Public Schools for 38 years in that capacity.

When she was able, she enjoyed camping, needlepoint and spending time with her family, who will miss her while rejoicing that she is now in the arms of Jesus.

Please keep Dickie and the rest of the family in your



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La Plata, MD 20646

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The “wow!” factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, “Wow!” The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.



The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally non-verbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout “Wow!” — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a “Wow!” of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.

—adapted from HomeTouch Ministry