

# The Spire



April 2016

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## UMC Lectionary Calendar April, 2016

### April 3 – Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

Church Color: White

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 150 (UMH 862)

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

### April 10 – Third Sunday of Easter, Year C

Church Color: White

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalms 30 (UMH 762)

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

### April 17 – Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Church Color: White

Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

### April 24 – Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Church Color: White

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148 (UMH 861)

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

## Mark Your Calendar Church Planning Session

Saturday, April 30 - 9:00AM—12:00PM

*Rescheduled due to January's snowstorm*

*All are welcome.*

Join us as we finalize our church goals for 2016, brainstorm ways to achieve them, and set realistic action plans.

Share your ideas.

How can we help meet your needs?

How can we re-energize our membership?

How can we better engage with our community?

Got some fundraising ideas?

Let's Rethink Church; remember:

We express our love for God through **active** discipleship.

Church is about **sharing God's love** by offering hope and healing to those looking for more meaning in their lives.

**Acts of personal faith and public worship** help us grow closer to God, but we also grow in our faith by **taking action outside the church walls** to help others.

Church doesn't just happen when we are sitting in the pew.

Church happens when we reach out to others.

When we work together, when we stand together, when we open our hearts to those who are struggling, that's **putting our beliefs into action.**

Merrill Harrison  
Council Chair

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All signed articles, letters, announcements, and other information of interest are welcomed and considered for publication.

The deadline for the May issue is **Sunday, April 10, at 11:00 a.m.**

*Electronic Submission:* You may send articles by e-mail to: [njk.williams@yahoo.com](mailto:njk.williams@yahoo.com) or place articles in the Church Office's newsletter box.

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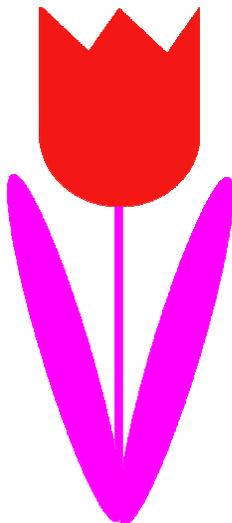
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**Visit us on Facebook**



## Mama Luiggi's Mangia! Mangia! Night A New Loch Raven Church Event of Funraising while Fundraising

It's not just a spaghetti dinner, not just a talent show! It's the three-hour extravaganza "Mama Luiggi's Mangia! Mangia! Night" on Saturday, April 23 at 6 PM.

For 100 years the Luiggi family has been hosting the community's annual Mangia! Mangia! Be An Italian Night is an event that began in 1916 when Mama Luiggi threw a thank you dinner for her neighbors when they shoveled the January blizzard's snow from her doorsteps. She prepared a delicious spaghetti feast and also provided after-dinner entertainment singing her favorite Italian songs. Everyone enjoyed this dinner so much that Mama Luiggi made it an annual tradition. The spaghetti menu is the same but over the years the entertainment included other community neighbors. The 2016 event will be bigger and better than ever. Radio station WLRC will be broadcasting live from the scene to cover this special 100-year celebration. This is an entertainment event not to be missed as it will be the talk of the church on Sunday morning. So be an Italian for a night and join in the fellowship fun. Tickets for this Loch Raven Church fundraiser of dinner and show are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets will be sold in Fellowship Hall after Sunday service.

## Native American Ministries Sunday April 10

Native American Ministries Sunday, one of six special church offerings, nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

By supporting Native American Ministries Day, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You will also empower congregations to find fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

For more information on this special giving opportunity, see: [www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday](http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday)

**Other Special Giving Sundays this year include:**

**Peace with Justice Sunday**—May 22

**World Communion Sunday**—October 2

**United Methodist Student Day Sunday**—November 27

## Pastor's Spring Bible Study

Ever feel like you can't catch your breath?

Deadlines...  
Traffic...  
Meetings...  
Work...  
Bills to Pay...  
Doctor appointments...  
Grocery shopping, errands...  
Family responsibilities...  
Email, Carpool, hobbies, exercise class, dinner...

Do you ever feel like you can't catch your breath?

Maybe you need some...[inhale]...**breathing room**...[exhale].

We all do.

In our attempt to get the most out of life, it's easy to lose control of our lives. For most of us, breathing room feels more like a luxury than a necessity. In this Bible study, Andy Stanley shows us how to create breathing room in our schedules, our finances, and our relationships.

After all, life is better with breathing room.

Come as you are and/or bring a friend. Classes begin Monday, April 11 at 7:00 PM and run for four consecutive weeks. We will also be offering the same class on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM. Choose which one fits your schedule better. That can be the beginning of you having more breathing room.

Grace and peace,  
Your pastor, Cliff

## Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Manna House Breakfast Club – May 14 and July 16 (If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Myra Wagner: 410-825-0900, 410-485-7607 or [mbwagner@lrumc.org](mailto:mbwagner@lrumc.org).)

To help better serve food-starved individuals in our community, we will be collecting specific, non-perishable food items monthly for ACTC – *stock up on sale items!*

April—Canned Meat (ex.: beef stew, chili, Spam)  
May—Soup  
June—Spaghetti

Collection of hotel-size toiletries for Essex UMC. *There is a box for the items on the hospitality desk. This is an on-going collection*

Sandwich making for Essex UMC 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month

## Board of Child Care News

### Join or Renew Membership

During April, you will have the opportunity to join or renew your membership in the Board of Child Care Auxiliary. Why join the Auxiliary? Proceeds from the membership drive help the children of the Board of Child Care by providing amenities not covered by the Board's government funding. Auxiliary projects include Easter baskets, birthday cards and gifts, gifts for high school graduates, field trips and arts and recreation activities. The Auxiliary hopes to provide driver education for eligible students, college visits for graduating seniors and assistance with prom costs.

A one-year Membership is just \$2.00 per person, but the funds raised make a big difference to the children. Envelopes will be in the pews during the month of April. Please consider helping the children by joining the Auxiliary.

### Cookie Collection and Christmas Stockings

Thanks to the congregation for your continued support of the children of the Board of Child Care. The cookie collection was successful again this year with 103 packages of cookies donated and the Christmas Stockings collection for 2015 totaled \$181.75

*Leslie Christopher*  
Keyperson



## Music Notes

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

I want to thank the members of our Music Ministry and Worship Committee for all the hard work that went into putting together this year's Holy Week. From the Memorial Handbell Choir's performance on Palm Sunday, the Chancel Choir's performance of *Harvest of Sorrows* on Good Friday and the Altar Guild setting up the sanctuary for 4 very different services within an eight-day span, it was inspiring to see the dedication and hard work that went into making this week memorable. Special thanks to Patti Gould, Debi Wynn, Cathy Miles, and Audrey Moltz for their special talents and leadership. It is a blessing to serve Loch Raven UMC with these wonderful people. I hope and pray the message of Jesus' death and resurrection was amplified in our community through all the efforts put forth this year.

Additionally, it is my pleasure to introduce our new Music Intern, Kristen Thompson. Kristen was born and raised in Clinton, Maryland, where she attended Suitland High School. During her high school years she studied music theory, sight reading, sight singing, and choral performance as part of Suitland's Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) program. With the VPA Choir, she has had the pleasure of performing for President Barack Obama as part of TNT network's *Christmas in Washington*. Her operatic singing career has featured her as Barbarina from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (VPA production), Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Randall Thompson's *Solomon* and *Balkis* (the latter two in Towson University's productions). Kristen is currently an undergraduate student at Towson University majoring in music education. Since childhood she has been immersed in the gospel music tradition gaining experience through participating in many different church and school choirs. At Towson University she has been involved with Infinite Praise Ministries, a gospel music group on campus, where she currently serves as Music Director. She has a deep passion for both vocal performance and education in the gospel and classical genres. Her internship here at LRUMC will deal with helping us incorporate contemporary-style music into our worship. We are very excited to have her share her talents with us here at LRUMC.

## IN TOUCH MINISTRY

### Special Prayer Requests

Please refer to insert in Sunday bulletins for up-to-date information.

**Stay in Touch** with some of our members who are not able to regularly attend church. Contact the church office for up-to-date information.

### April Birthdays

- 2 James Edmonds
- 7 Vesta Williams
- 8 Andrew Cole
- 9 Ruth Kriel
- 14 Peggy Kendzierski
- 18 Sheila Wyche
- 26 Verna Roman
- 28 Helen Blakey
- 28 Sarah Roehl
- 29 Bill (Fran) Shock

### From the Mailbox

It is difficult to find words to express how thankful we are for your expression of love to my family during this truly difficult time.

God bless you.

*The Webster Family*

## Missions In Action: “Thank You!” Your Dollars in Action

Last year, the Missions Committee issued a challenge to the congregation to fill up a prescription bottle with pennies or loose change to help prevent blindness or restore sight to children. You, along with our Vacation Bible School children, donated \$481 to Christian Blind Mission (CBM).

This month we would like to share notes from Caryl Garcia, CBM Chief Executive Officer:

*Thanks to your generosity and that of other donors, a six-year-old Ugandan child had double cataracts removed. The smile on his face after seeing his mother clearly for the first time was worth a thousand words—truly amazing!*

*You also helped a little, disabled girl and her family in Ethiopia. Her mother exclaimed, “God has finally answered my prayers for help!”*

*Your gift brought light to a man who has lived in darkness for years, gave mobility and pride to a child who had been shunned by his peers because of his deformed legs, and provided job skills to a deaf woman enabling her to care for her family.*

*Thank you, again, for your ongoing commitment to Christ’s work and for enabling CBM to transform the lives of so many. You are an answer to many prayers including my own.*

*“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)*

For more information on this organization and their many financial accreditations, see:

[www.cbmus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=a\\_about\\_us](http://www.cbmus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=a_about_us)



## United Methodist Women April Schedule

### “Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, April 4

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Jeremiah—Daring to Hope in an Unstable World*

Lesson 5

Study Leader: Nancy

Devotions: Karen

Hostess: Leslie

### Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, April 5

10 am—Parlor

Study: Chapter 13

### UMW Ladies’ Tea

Saturday, April 16

12 Noon

### Coming Soon:

Flea Market

Saturday, June 4

9 AM—1 PM

## Membership Updates

### Address Changes:

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