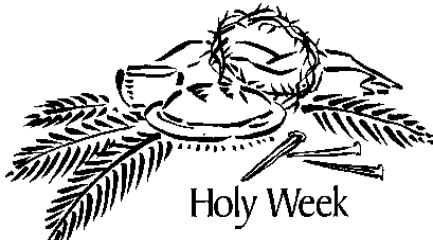


The Spire



April 2017

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



Holy Week

April 9 Palm Sunday
Worship @ 10:00 AM

April 13 Holy Thursday
Worship @ 7:00 PM

April 14 Good Friday
Tenebrae service @ 7:00 PM

April 16 Easter
Sunrise service @ 6:30 AM
Traditional service @ 10:00 AM



*We have
waited for him,
so that he might
Save Us.*

ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV

An Easter Question Matthew 21:8-10

With Easter just around the corner, there is a question that we must answer. It is the central question surrounding Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Here's the Scripture passage from Matthew 21. The question is found in the last three words.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "**Who is this?**"

We are familiar with the events of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Amid these events is that one compelling question. Who do we say this man Jesus is? Our answer will define how we live out our life.

Do we answer with the religious establishment of Jesus' day? They saw Jesus as a threat to their way of life. They would say, "If we live his way we must give up some of our worldly gain." It would affect their power, prestige and position in the community.

Would we answer like Judas? He could be described as the disciple who followed conveniently in name only. Have we ever done that? When the opportunity for personal gain (at Jesus' expense) presented itself, he sold out.

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The Spire is published monthly (except July and August) by Loch Raven United Methodist Church, 6622 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239.

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 9, at 11:00 a.m.**

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

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Visit us on Facebook.

Native American Ministries Sunday April 30

Together, we empower local spiritual development and educate Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully.

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.

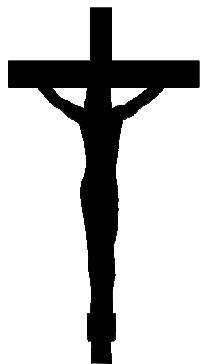
For more information on this special giving opportunity, see: www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday

Other Special Giving Sundays this year include:

Peace with Justice Sunday—June 11

World Communion Sunday—October 1

United Methodist Student Day Sunday—November 26



I asked Jesus,
"How much do
You love me?"
"This much,"
He answered,
and stretched
out His arms
and died.



In addition to our celebratory services during Holy Week, the Chancel Choir will be performing *TENEBRAE, A Service of Darkness* by Hal H. Hopson.

Please join us on Good Friday, April 14th, as we experience the suffering, death and burial of Jesus Christ in preparation for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Hope to see you there!

Sam Chin, Music Director

An Easter Question

(Continued from page 1)

Would we answer like the Roman centurion? Like the rest of society back in his time he worshiped many gods, but now he realizes that Jesus is the only one who can save him.

As Easter approaches let's ask ourselves that question. Who do I say Jesus is? Does my life evidence the answer? Do my words bear it out? Can you see it in my relationships?

Grace and peace,
Pastor Cliff

Confirmation 2017 Update

The 2017 Confirmation class is doing well. We have three students: Erika Stiles, Caitlin Webster and Gabby Schwartz. Pastor Cliff and Cathy Miles are teaching the class.

We have learned what confirmation is. We've learned what church is. We've learned who John Wesley is. We've learned about the books of the Bible. We've learned about the holy Trinity.

The Confirmands will be received into membership on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th. If you see Erika, Caitlin or Gabby please make sure to encourage them and please continue to lift the class in prayer.

Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

This month's spotlight member is Helen Blakey. Helen is one of our newer members having joined the church in 2013. Right from the start Helen has embraced our Music Ministry becoming a member of both the Hand Bell and the Chancel choirs. I don't think many people know this, but Helen has a degree in Music Composition from Towson University and has previously served as a music director in local churches. Her expert knowledge of hand bells and her ability to introduce very interesting (and beautiful) songs has been something I've really cherished. In fact, she'll be singing *Christ Went Up Into The Hills* by Richard Hageman, a song dedicated and made popular by John McCormick during the 1920s, for Holy Thursday with our organist Patti Gould. If you are a dog lover, ask her about her dogs. I guarantee it will be an interesting conversation.

When did you start attending Loch Raven UMC and when did you get involved with the Music Ministry?

Both the same, November 2013.

What is your most memorable experience in LRUMC's Music Ministry?

When I came to visit before I started attending and members of the choir came up to say hello.

What are your favorite hymns?

Ah, Holy Jesus, Here I am Lord, Beach Spring, (several texts to this tune), One Bread, One Body

Three adjectives to describe LRUMC?

Caring. Sharing. Prayerful.

How do you envision the Music Ministry and LRUMC growing in the future?

We need to involve young people (4+) in being part of a community of singers, learning the hymnal and music resources, and how music is part of the worship experience.

United Methodist Women April Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, April 3
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Woman of God*
Lesson 6: *Forgiving—Beginning With Yourself*
Study Leader: Yvonne
Devotions: Nancy
Hostess: Leslie

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, April 4
10 am—Parlor
Study: Chapter 5

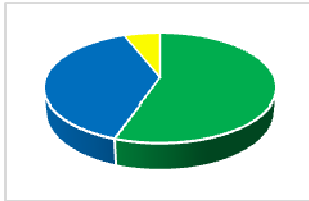
GENERAL MEETING Sunday, April 30

After the church service.
Covered Dish
Bring a dish—whatever you wish.
Program: Speaker from Manna House.
All are invited.

Missions In Action: Your Dollars in Action

You may not be able to serve on the mission field, but the giving of your tithes, offerings, talents and service are just as important.

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally and internationally. Here are some of the many projects you help support:



Local 55%
International 39%
National 6%

Local Missions

Abbottston Support
Assistance Center of Towson Churches
Board of Child Care Auxiliary
Breakfast Club (Manna House)
Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity
Deaf Interfaith Camp
Healthcare for the Homeless
Heart's Place (Back Packs)
Manna House
Table of Grace & Sandwiches

National Ministries

Society of St. Andrew
The Samaritan Women

International Missions (including U.S.)

Doctors Without Borders
Heifer International
Lifewater Canada
Ludhiana Medical College
Warne Baby Fold

In addition, the Missions Committee also sponsors the following monthly activities which you so generously support through your gifts, tithes and prayers:

March

Blanket Sunday

April

Food Drive for the ACTC

June – August

Collection for Christian Blind Mission

November

Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes
ACTC Thanksgiving Baskets

December

Angels for Abbottston Elementary School

Every Month

Sandwiches for Essex UMC
Toiletries for Essex UMC
ACTC Food Collection

Quarterly

Manna House Breakfast Club

and other events as needs arise.

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities:

To help better serve food-starved individuals in our community, we will be collecting specific, non-perishable food items monthly for ACTC. Watch the Sunday Worship Bulletin for the most critical need.

Manna House Breakfast Club – **May 6, July 15 and Oct. 14.** If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Linda Cole: 410-666-5222.

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 3rd or 4th Tuesday of every month.

UMC Lectionary Calendar April 2017

April 2 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130 (UMH 848)
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

April 9 – Passion / Palm Sunday

Church Color: Red or Purple

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or
Matthew 27:11-54

April 10 – Monday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

April 11 – Tuesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

April 12 – Wednesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

April 13 – Maundy Thursday

Church Color: Purple
Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 14 – Good Friday

Church Color: None
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

April 15 – Holy Saturday

Church Color: None (prior to sunset); White (Easter Vigil)
Job 14:1-14 or
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or
John 19:38-42

April 16 – Easter: Resurrection of the Lord

Church Color: White
Acts 10:34-43 or
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or
Matthew 28:1-10

April 23 – Second Sunday of Easter

Church Color: White
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 30 – Third Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday

Church Color: White
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Trustees Report

Trustees have been busy with a variety of diverse issues:

1. It's almost time for spring cleaning. Watch upcoming church bulletins for more information.
2. Plans are still in place to repair the steeple as soon as final estimates are received.
3. Stanley Steemer will be cleaning all of the carpets in the sanctuary.
4. We are getting estimates on the cost of stripping and waxing floors in other areas of the church.
5. Trustees are reviewing the issue of the need to improve the handicapped access of our building. One major concern is the need to have a handicapped accessible restroom on both the first and second floor. Another concern is the heavy exterior doors which are difficult to open for many people, especially those with canes/walkers/wheelchairs. Watch for more on this soon.
6. The coke machine will be removed soon. There is little use of the machine to the extent that recently over 180 cans of soda, many of them over two years old, were dumped. The usage doesn't justify the cost of maintaining the old machine or investing in a new machine.

Board of Child Care Membership Renewal

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.

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 84 packages of cookies and other snacks donated.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

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

Dear Loch Raven Family,

I want to thank my LRUMC family for all your prayers, visits, cards and calls. It is such a blessing to have a loving and caring congregation. Thank all of you very much.

Vesta Williams

Membership Updates

We welcome our newest brother and sister in Christ:

April Elizabeth Eshleman
Baptized 21 August 2016

Charles Malcolm Cloud
Baptized 8 January 2017

Give a warm welcome to our newest members:

Jack Brown
27 November 2016
Al Cox
27 November 2016
Dana Cox
11 December 2016

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of:

Robert Lacy
17 October 2016

Dellroy Harrison
15 December 2016

Jeanette Chilcoat
24 December 2016

Marty Marvel
9 March 2017

Wesley Courtney
18 March 2017





The Loch Raven Sunday School Easter Celebration will be held on Easter Sunday, April 16th, at 9:00 AM. Come join us for story time, crafts, snacks and egg hunting! All children are welcome. Hope to see you then.

For more information please contact Carole Webner at 410 592-5222.



EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to place a lovely plant in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday in memory of and/or in honor of a loved one, please fill in the form below and place in the offering plate or return to the Church office. **FIRM DEADLINE Sunday, April 2. All orders must be accompanied by full payment.**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Type of Plants:

LILIES (\$14.00): _____ 4-6 Blooms on single stem TULIPS (\$13.99): PINK____ RED____ YELLOW____

LILIES (\$17.50): _____ 8-10 Blooms on 2 stems HYDRANGEAS (\$22.75): PINK____ BLUE____

AZALEAS (\$17.50): PINK____ WHITE____ RED____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

OTHER: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

_____ I WILL PICK UP THE PLANT AFTER THE 10 a.m. EASTER SERVICE

_____ I WILL DONATE THE PLANT TO THE CHURCH TO BE PLANTED ON CHURCH GROUNDS