

The Spire



April 2020

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



Holy Week

Sunday, April 4

Palm Sunday
10:00 AM—Sanctuary

Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 PM—Sanctuary

Friday, April 10

Good Friday Service
7:00 PM—Sanctuary

Saturday, April 11

Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 AM—Lawn
(or Auditorium if rainy)

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service—6:30 AM
Front Lawn

Traditional Easter Service
10:00 AM—Sanctuary

Because He Lives

With everything going on in the world today, it's easy to feel like we should just pull the covers over our heads and just stay in bed. With fears for the future at a fever pitch, we can fall victim to pessimism and a belief that things will only get worse. Things may get worse, but Easter is a declaration that all is not lost because he lives. The hymn *Because He Lives* by Gloria and William J. Gaither says, "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives."

Easter is a celebration that Jesus lives but Easter isn't just a day; Eastertide is a season. Easter Sunday will come, and the church will celebrate, but that is not the end. The Revelation of who God is as exemplified by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus cannot be packed up like decorations after a big event not to be seen again until the next year. Easter is an everyday reality for those who call themselves Christians.

Psalm 118:24 declares, "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." The question for us as Christians is how can we see the signs of Easter every day in our lives? Lamentations 3:22-23 inform us "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." During Lent at Loch Raven UMC we are engaging in a 40-day fast from wrong thinking. On day 4 we fasted from the thought that only bad things will happen to us. God wants only the best for God's children. Matthew 7:9-11 says, "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven

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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 12, 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.

Trustees Report

At our March meeting, Trustees decided that the idea of monthly updates to the *Spire* on Trustees activities is a good idea.

Upkeep of Building and Grounds. Following up on the discussion in earlier meetings, at the March meeting Trustees approved estimates from two different roofing companies. One relates to installing new flashing in areas around the steeple and the chimney. Note – this work was not included in the new steeple contract from just a few years ago. The second roofing estimate relates to having the eroded cement mortar joints re-pointed and having a water repellent applied to all of the steeple brick. We believe that the combination of these two jobs will resolve all of the issues with leaks.

Additionally, Trustees approved estimates for both the outside and inside painting. This will help to update all areas inside except for the sanctuary. And, finally, Trustees approved an estimate from our landscaping company to include planting of seasonal flowers.

Safety of the Congregation and Building. The Baltimore County Police Department has a program called SHIELD, which is designed to establish partnerships between the private sector and the police. In the next few weeks, representatives from Trustees will be meeting with someone from SHIELD to learn about ways that we can make sure that the building and grounds are as safe as possible and increase the awareness of our congregation related to safety concerns.

One obvious area of safety relates to fire. Here are some questions to start you thinking about this important area. Do you know how many fire extinguishers are in the sanctuary? Do you know where they are? Is there a red fire pull box (those boxes that are linked directly to the fire department) anywhere in the sanctuary? If not, where is the closest fire pull box located?

Watch out for more on safety in the next *Spire* article. In the interim, watch for roofing companies, painting, and spring planting. Together we are a very welcoming congregation. We need to make sure that our building and grounds are equally welcoming.





Feeding the Community

Food Pantry Update

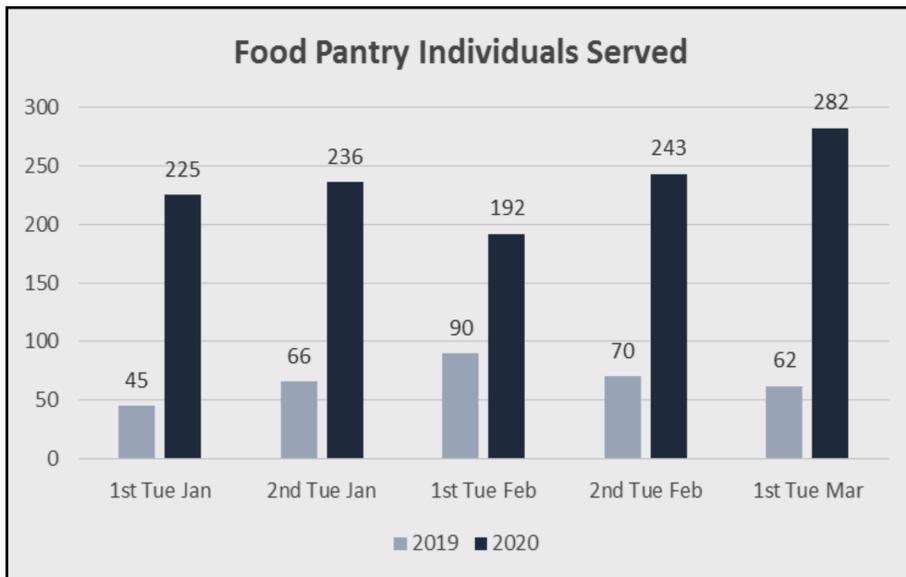
...“Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you...” Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:37-40 (The Message)

We are blessed to be able offer this ministry to food-insecure families in our community.

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Upcoming Dates: April 7th & 21st



In 2019, we served 3,520 individuals.
23,907.5 pounds of food!

Just as our patrons have increased so has our need for more volunteers. If you would like to join our crew or have any questions, contact Merrill Harrison, Linda Cole, or the church office.

Please continue to pray for us and our guests, and spread the word that our pantry is open to all—including church members—who need help in putting food on their table.

Because He Lives

(Continued from page 1)

give good gifts to those who ask him.” If we believe God is good and only wants the best for us, we should expect to see signs of resurrection and new life everywhere. This doesn’t mean that bad things won’t happen; it does mean that God is with us. We listen to doctors and scientists and do the things they tell us we should do to be safe. However, we cannot allow fear to grip us to the point where we can no longer see hope because “life is worth the living just because he lives.”

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George



Missions *In Action*: ACTC

*Reaching out to those in need with
God's love and provision*

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Our focus this month is on a local agency: the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC).

ACTC is more than a food pantry. They provide emergency help for the needy in our communities. They operate with a director, an assistant and a team of 60 trained volunteers.

Services provided include:

- Daily lunches and care bags for the homeless
- Three- to five-day supply of groceries for individuals and families in need
- Fresh produce, baked goods, and dairy items, as available
- Help with eviction prevention, fuel, utilities, and prescriptions
- Free ID, birth certificate, and license replacement
- Mail pickup for the homeless
- Clothing and shelter referrals
- Transportation tickets and passes for job interviews and medical appointments

Special Projects:

Dental Day	Christmas Family Adoption
Back-to-School Event	Community Dinner
Thanksgiving Baskets	Food for Thought

Statistics: *(Based on services given in 2019)*

- 31,390 people assisted
- 416,460 pounds of food distributed
- \$865,584 value of food distributed
- 8,485 homeless people and dependents assisted
- \$135,073 financial help given
- 2,485 helped with bus tokens, passes and gasoline
- 2,444 Thanksgiving Baskets for families
- 16,903 volunteer hours

The ACTC service area incorporates 19 zip codes in central Baltimore County extending up to the Pennsylvania line. The center is located at 120 W. Pennsylvania Avenue in Towson (between Baltimore and Washington avenues on the alley behind Calvary Baptist Church), and is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 2:45 pm. Wednesday hours have been extended until 5:45 pm. to accommodate clients with work schedules.

During the month of April, Missions will collect monetary donations (*see envelopes in the pews*) to help with the services provided by ACTC. This is a special month of giving since all funds collected ***will be eligible for a matching grant.***

For more information on the center, see: www.actconline.info/

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Marty Marvel Food Pantry
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. April dates are the 7th and 21st

To help serve individuals in our community who are food-insecure, 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 16, July 11, and Oct. 10
If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Linda Cole (see directory for telephone number or check with church office).

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

Sandwich making for **Essex UMC** 3rd or 4th Tuesday of every month.

Exploring Self-Responsibility & Self-Love

By: Reynold Small

As Christians, we sometimes rely on our faith in Christ to help us navigate through the journey of self-love and responsibility, and underestimate or neglect our role in the two.

Self-Responsibility means:

- Understanding our real needs, and finding ways to meet them directly
- Realizing that you are unique in who you are, and *the* expert about what your individuality means.
- Expressing yourself, both your ideas and feelings, in ways that effectively communicate to other people who you are, what you need, and what you know.

Self Love means:

- Listening to our heart and embracing our uniqueness and inner wisdom.
- Treating us as our own best friend, and remaining faithful, especially in the rough times.
- Being aware of our connectedness with all things.

In this our Lenten season and beyond, it is important to remember that as we take responsibility for loving others in our prayers, words and deeds that we must remember to do the same for ourselves. We must be cautious to ensure that self-love does not outweigh self-responsibility and vice versa.

1 Corinthians 13:7 speaks of love as that which “protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres,” which means that self-love is as important as the love for others, and it is our responsibility to possess and practice both. When self-love and self-responsibility are strong in our daily lives, it allows other types of energies to be present and promotes a higher level of wellness.



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

- 8 Evan Welsh
- 9 Ruth Kriel
- 14 Peggy Kendzierski
- 16 Joseph Orzolek
Zachary Starin
- 18 Sheila Wyche
- 26 Verna Roman
- 27 Coston Sedgewick
- 28 Helen Blakey
Sarah Roehl Henson
- 29 Kali Marsalek

Membership Updates

There have been many membership and address changes over the past 6 months. If you would like a copy of these updates, please contact the church office.

From the Mailbox

I would like to thank all the members of LRUMC for their cards, thoughts and prayers during my recent battle of recovering after having a brain tumor removed in late July 2019. Also, I would like to personally thank all members of the Trustees for jumping in and carrying the load over the past seven plus months during my down time after surgery. The system worked as it should, without the Trustees missing a beat, as everyone pitched in and handled all the work. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Adrian Palazzi

I want to thank the folks of Loch Raven United Methodist Church for their prayers, concern and cards during my medical procedures. Also, I want to thank you for the texts and emails that you sent my daughter, Myra, while I was in the hospital and my return home. All of this was greatly appreciated.

May God bless each of you and many thanks again.

Jane Birchard

What's Up with That?

On Shrove Tuesday, we learned that there were 47 days until Easter—we even verified it by counting the days in the calendar! But we also know there are only 40 days in Lent—a reminder of Jesus' time of fasting and temptation in the wilderness after His baptism. What's up?

Sundays are not counted, as they are considered small celebrations of Easter. Now you know!

Merrill Harrison

United Methodist Women April Schedule

Phyllis Downes Circle
Monday, April 6
10:00 a.m.—Parlor
Lesson 9

"Women in Christ" Circle
Monday, April 6
7:00 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Becoming Women of Purpose*
Lesson 6—Priorities and Planning
Study: Myra
Devotions: Myra
Hostess: Myra

NO GENERAL MEETING

UMC Lectionary Calendar

April 5

Passion / Palm Sunday

Church Color: Purple

Liturgy of the Palms:

Matthew 21:1–11

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29

(UMH 839)

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalms 31:9–16 (UMH 764)

Philippians 2:5–11

Matthew 26:14–27:66 or

Matthew 27:11–54

April 6

Monday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple

Isaiah 42:1–9

Psalms 36:5–11 (UMH 771)

Hebrews 9:11–15

John 12:1–11

April 7

Tuesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple

Isaiah 49:1–7

Psalms 71:1–14 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

John 12:20–36

April 8

Wednesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalms 70 (UMH 793)

Hebrews 12:1–3

John 13:21–32

April 9

Holy Thursday

Church Color: Purple

Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14

Psalms 116:1–4, 12–19

(UMH 837)

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

April 10 – Good Friday

Church Color: None

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Psalms 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16–25

John 18:1–19:42

April 11 – Holy Saturday/

Easter Vigil

No Color (prior to sunset);

White (Easter Vigil)

Number of readings may vary.

April 12 – Easter

Church Color: White

Acts 10:34–43

Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24

(UMH 839)

Colossians 3:1–4

John 20:1–18; or

Matthew 28:1–10

April 19 – Festival of God's

Creation

Second Sunday of Easter

Church Color: White

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

Psalms 16 (UMH 748)

1 Peter 1:3–9

John 20: 19–31

April 22: Earth Day

April 25: World Malaria Day

April 26 – Third Sunday of

Easter; Native American

Ministries Sunday

Church Color: White

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Psalms 116:1–4, 12–19

(UMH 837)

Peter 1:17–23

Luke 24:13–35



UMW LADIES TEA

Saturday, May 2

Fellowship Hall

12 Noon

\$25.00 Donation

**Join us for an afternoon
of Food, Fellowship
and Music**

To make your reservation
contact Yvonne Horn or
Joann Munden (telephone
numbers available in
church directory or through
church office).

Seating is limited to 48 guests.
Make your reservation early.
Check should be payable to
Loch Raven UMW

Native American Ministries Sunday April 26

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.

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Your gift helps equip Native congregations to worship and serve as only they can. This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give.

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 7
World Communion Sunday - October 4
United Methodist Student Day Sunday - November 29



UMCOR – United Methodist Committee on Relief

Last month's Special Giving was for UMCOR – United Methodist Committee on Relief. All the money—100%—goes toward disaster relief.

Several Tennessee communities and churches were significantly damaged in both the Cumberland River District and the Red River District. As of this writing, reports of damage are continuing to come in.

The Disaster Response team is working with clergy, district superintendents and the bishop to assess damages. So far, they know that they have churches that are severely damaged. As of this writing, they are still awaiting reports on congregation members as well as from other churches that may have been affected.

The Tennessee Conference greatly appreciates your financial assistance in responding to this disaster. Should you wish to give more, go directly to: <https://advance.umcor.org/p-620-umcor-us-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx> for the United States Disaster Response and Recovery through Advance #901670.

Or make your check payable to LRUMC and note Advance #901670 on the memo line.

For more information, see: www.tnumc.org