

The Spire



December 2019

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



As we approach Advent, I want to tell you a little about our Christmas Cantata. The Chancel Choir and some of our talented actors will perform **THE LIVING LIGHT** by Ruth Elaine Schram. The performance will take place Sunday, December 22nd, during our regular 10AM service. *The Living Light* is a program celebrating the birth of Christ and exploring the inner thoughts of the people who participated in or witnessed the miraculous events of the first Christmas. The Cantata not only features some of our favorite Christmas Carols but also some original compositions by Ruth Elaine Schram. Please join us for this special event!

Sam Chin
Director of Music

Worth the Wait

We live in a world where people seem to be much less patient than we used to be. As a country, we hate to wait. With fast food, instant messaging, and with Facetime we have been conditioned to believe that waiting is a bad thing. In our instant gratification culture waiting can be difficult and confusing. However, the issue with waiting is not just a post-modern issue created by cell phones and social media. The issue with waiting was as prevalent in the early church as it is today. The book of Revelation is a declaration of hope to the churches of Asia minor to hold on. It is a promise that Jesus is indeed coming back again, and that all things will be made new and set right.

The early Christians were confused and starting to lose hope that many in their number were dying and Jesus had not yet come back as promised. Advent provides us hope for a glorified future where we will live in perfect peace with God. Revelation 21:4 promises that, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, no sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation is an acknowledgment that waiting can be hard, but that Jesus' return is worth the wait.

Advent means "coming" so we rejoice that Christ has come and that Christ will come again to judge the quick and the dead. We rejoice in the coming of Christ, the glory of God, coming to earth in full vulnerability as an infant. The all-powerful, sovereign, all-knowing God was born in a place where animals lived. Advent is a special time of year because we celebrate that Christ will come again. It is a yearly reminder that we are waiting and that some things are worth the wait. So as we spend time with family and friends this Christmas season and slow down just a little bit from

(Continued on page 6)

Inside This Issue ...

Missions in Action	Page 2
Food Pantry Update	Page 3
History of the Nativity in Count and Cross Stitch	Page 4
UMW Gift Card Sale	Page 5

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 January issue is **Sunday, December 8, 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.

Editor - Nancy Williams

Lead Pastor

Rev. George Winkfield

Pastor of Congregational Care

Rev. Wayne Harting

Administrative Secretary:

Myra Wagner

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. -

3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Phone: 410-825-0900

Fax: 410-825-2600

E-mail: Office@LRUMC.org

Change of Name/Address - Call, mail or e-mail church office or leave in mailbox in hallway outside the church office.

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Visit us on FACEBOOK.

Missions In Action: YOU!

Working with you to end the global water and sanitation crisis, one village at a time

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Our focus this month is on an international ministry: **Lifewater Canada**.

Lifewater Canada is a Christian charity that started in a Thunder Bay Christian Reform Church. The ministry is worldwide and receives support from all denominations.

Their president, Jim Gehreis states:

There are two common connection points between all Christian supporters. First, we all believe that every child is created in God's image. It is just not right that many children do not get a fair chance at life just because they are born in a poor country without even basic infrastructure.

The second point of connection is that we all share the desire to provide countless cups of water in Jesus' name. We are inspired by Jesus to put our faith into action by reaching out a helping hand to those most in need.

Over the past 22 years, Lifewater crews have provided safe drinking water for over 750,000 children and their families. Right now Lifewater teams are drilling more than ever. Your church's on-going support for this ministry has brought health and hope to thousands of Liberian children and their families. Thank you so much for your inspirational love and compassion.

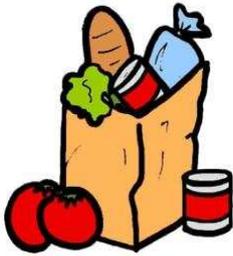
Volunteers working from home keep Lifewater Canada's overhead under 7%—as a result, every \$1 gives a child safe water for a year! In 2018, Charity Intelligence assessed Lifewater to be Canada's top-ranked water charity.

For more information on this ministry, see: www.lifewater.ca



MISSIONS IS RAISING MONEY FOR LIFEWATER CANADA.

This year, instead of sending individual Christmas cards to your LRUMC friends, give one card to the LRUMC Family and give what you would have spent on cards to this special mission project.



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)

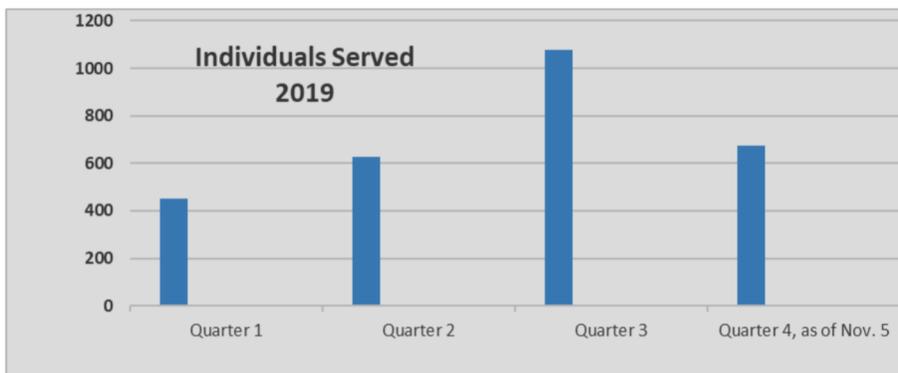
On November 5th we celebrated our one year anniversary of providing food to individuals in our community. That very first day we supplied food for 6 individuals; this year, on November 5th we were able to provide food for 266 individuals!

As of November 5, we have served **2,830** individuals.

The need in our community is great, and we are blessed to be able offer this ministry to our community. 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 (see church directory for telephone numbers).

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.

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Upcoming Dates: November 17, December 3 & 17



Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Instead of sending individual **Christmas cards** to your church family, consider posting one card on our display board, and donate the money saved to Missions for **Lifewater Canada** to help build and maintain wells in third world countries.

Campaign runs Dec. 1 – Jan. 5.

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 – Feb. 15, May 16, July 11, and Oct. 10

If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Linda Cole (see church directory for telephone number).

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.

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.

December Birthdays

- 4 Myra Wagner
Amanda Brown Scott
- 5 Jack Brown
Olivia Eshleman
- 7 Nancy Williams
- 8 Judy Feustle
- 10 Patricia Gould
Stephanie Mooney
- 12 Douglas McCrea
Rev. Wayne Hariting
- 14 Amy Burton
- 15 Albertha Weah
- 18 Angela Chatman
Laura Davis
- 21 Grace Price
- 23 P. Eugene Amberman
- 24 Amy Price
- 25 Paul Njuguna
- 27 Pete McGinnes
Bernadette Williamson-
Taylor
Alexandra Weaver
- 29 Amy Hoover

History of the Nativity in Count and Cross Stitch

(As told to Audrey Moltz by Dan Moore)

The beautiful count and cross stitch panels that grace the balcony of Loch Raven United Methodist Church during the Advent season was made and donated by Ella McDade, a member of our church for several years. My wife Lucy, sister-in-law Phyllis Cooper and I were with Ella in a stitching store in Delaware that Ella knew about. We saw the pattern for the Advent panels that were sized for sitting on the mantel over a fireplace. Ella thought it would be lovely hanging in our church over the balcony. I asked her “How could you make it large enough?” Ella said it could be done. However, she made us promise that we would finish it if anything happened to her before it was finished. We said “yes” and did our best to keep her healthy.

In the meantime, Ella was having trouble with her right hand and had to have surgery by a hand specialist. After much therapy, she was able to hold a needle in her hand and she was ready to begin the project. She bought the cloth and the thread. She started the pink angel and discovered that the graph was not correct. She got in touch with the manufacturer and finally convinced them that the graph was wrong and they corrected it and sent her a new graph. She had to start all over after pulling out all the work she had done on the pink angel. No one knows how much cloth she bought (the panels were done on #11 Aida cloth), but the cost of the thread was over \$600 when the project was finished. Every stitch was counted and, as we can see, there was not one mistake. When it was finished, we went to many stores to find the proper backing and finally found it. It was washable Bridal Satin. The lady who owned the store gave it to Ella at a good price because of what it was to be used for.

Ella made the panels in 9 months and she did not want anyone to know where they came from or who made them. She made our minister promise not to tell, but she didn’t make me promise. So I told the church on the first Sunday in Advent that this was a gift to God from Ella for healing her hand so she could make a gift for her church.

These hangings are a one-in-a-lifetime. No one else would ever attempt such an undertaking. There is not another one this size in the world that we know of. When I told the lady from South Carolina that made the graph, she could not believe that it could be done. To prove it, I sent her pictures of it and she was in awe. I told her where it hangs and that I was the first one to hang it. What a wonderful gift God gave to Ella to be able to paint such beautiful pictures with a needle and thread.

Ella lived to be 100 years and 8 months old! — or should I say “young”! She was a very lovely lady.

UMC Lectionary Calendar Year A – December, 2019

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122 (UMH 845)
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795)
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple or Pink
Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801)
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Color: White
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 25

Christmas Day

Church Color: White
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

December 29

First Sunday after Christmas

Church Color: White
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

December 31

New Year's Eve/Watch Night

Church Color: White
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8 (UMH 743)
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46



Gift Card Sale

The United Methodist Women will be taking orders for gift cards in Fellowship Hall on November 24, December 1 and December 8.

Look for order forms in the Sunday bulletin. The order forms list the most popular cards. If you don't see what you need, we can check for availability on the master list.

Payment must accompany orders. Make checks payable to Loch Raven UMW. Do not place orders or checks in the collection plate.

The gift cards can be used at grocery stores, drug stores, coffee shops, gas stations, department stores, fast food and restaurants. They also make great gifts.

For more information call: Yvonne Horn, Sharon Neumann or Joann Munden. (See church directory or contact the church office for telephone numbers.)

Membership Updates

Contact the church office for up-to-date information.

United Methodist Women December Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle
Monday, December 9
Holiday Dinner at Nancy
Williams’ Home—6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Downes Circle
Monday, December 9
10 am—Brunch at
Nancy Gillotti’s Home

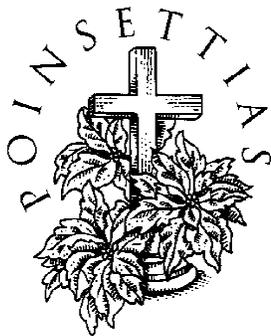
NO GENERAL MEETING



Worth the Wait

(Continued from page 1)
the hustle and bustle of life, let us remember what we are truly celebrating—that Christ came into the world to save us, that Christ will return and that His return is worth the wait.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George



It’s time to be thinking of beautifying our sanctuary for the joyous season of Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill in the form below and return it to the Church Office by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8.**

We cannot accept orders unless accompanied by full payment.

Plants may be picked up after morning worship on Sunday, December 22 or after the Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To The Glory of: _____

of Plants: _____ RED —\$13.00 each
Plants are 6” pots—1 plant per pot—5-6 blooms per plant

of Plants: _____ RED & WHITE MIX—\$23.00 each
Plants are 6½” pots—2 plants per pot—10-12 blooms per pot

Please check one of the following:

- I will donate the plant to the church for a “homebound member”
- I will pick up the plant after morning worship on Sunday, December 22
- I will pick up the plant after the Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24