

The Spire



December 2018

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Sanctuary Christmas Decorations

The Altar Guild is making a change this year, from live greens to artificial. Hubers has provided our greens for several years, but has decided to no longer provide this service. After contacting other sources for greens, the prices were prohibitive. Artificial greens have been purchased, with the exception of the live Advent wreath.

The Christmas tree and greens will beautify the sanctuary from the beginning of the Advent season through Epiphany. This will be a cost savings in future years, and will also address those in the congregation who may have allergies to live greens.

The deadline for ordering poinsettias and greens is Sunday, December 9. See page 6 for the greens order form and page 4 for the poinsettias order form.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions to beautify the sanctuary during this season and throughout the year.

Judy Zahren
Altar Guild



Advent Hope



The Christmas season is upon us. The weather is getting colder and it is time for caroling, drinking Eggnog, and the giving and receiving of gifts. During the Christmas season we seem to slow down just a little bit from the hustle and bustle of life. People tend to be a little nicer to each other. All these things make Christmas a special time of the year. However, the reason that Advent is truly special is because we celebrate the fact that Christ has come, and that Christ will come again. That God loves us so much that he gave his only son for us and everyone who believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life.

Advent means “coming” so we rejoice in the coming of Christ, the God of glory, coming to earth in full vulnerability as an infant. The all-powerful, all-sovereign and eternal was born in a place where animals lived. Advent is a special time of the year because we celebrate that Christ will come again. It is a yearly reminder that we are waiting. In a culture that is marked by instant gratification, waiting can be difficult and confusing. However, this issue with waiting is not just a post-modern problem that was created by cell phones and social media. John’s 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 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. Advent provides us hope for a glorified future where we will live in perfect peace with God. Revelation 21:4 promises, “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, no sorrow, nor crying.

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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 January issue is **Sunday, December 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.

Music Notes

By: Sam Chin, Director of Music

I'd like to highlight some special musical programming for the Season of Advent here at Loch Raven UMC. During weeks two and three of Advent (9th and the 16th) the Chancel Choir will perform selections from the *International Carol Suites* by Mark Hayes, performing Carols of Western Europe and Carols of the British Isles. Some of you may remember that Brian and Cecelia Miller participated in the USA premiere of these Carols at Carnegie Hall last year.



On the 24th, there will be a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols where the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Scripture readings incorporated with the singing of hymns, choral selections, and instrumental and vocal performances. Finally, our annual Festival of Christmas Music will be on Christmas Eve. Starting before the night service, this 30-minute concert will feature some of our very talented members of the Music Ministry performing wonderful Christmas music.

This really is a "wonderful time of the year" and I hope this will be a great opportunity for Loch Raven UMC to really illuminate this community with the message of hope and love that only Christ brings to our lives. Hope to see all of you at church!

Speaking of hope and love, our Musician Spotlight members for this month are Megan and Scott Eshleman.

When did you start attending Loch Raven UMC and when did you get involved with the music ministry?

We first attended Loch Raven UMC on Music Sunday back in May 2008 after moving to Maryland from PA. It was the first church we visited, and we were so impressed with the music program that we instantly knew LRUMC was our new home church. We joined the choir that fall.

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

We both enjoyed the Cluster Choir Festivals. It was a great time to get together with other churches in the area to make a joyful noise to the Lord. We've also enjoyed attending performances outside of church from our very talented music staff, including an organ concert by previous organist Nick, an opera

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Advent Hope

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There shall be no more pain,
for the former things have
passed away.”

Advent has been celebrated by Christians since the end of the 5th Century. Many scholars believe that Advent was instituted for this very reason, to help Christians who were starting to lose hope and who were beginning to forget. Advent is a declaration that we can wait with confidence because Jesus has come, and he will indeed come again. So as we celebrate Advent in our churches and homes, let us actively wait by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and taking care of those who need our help.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor George

Special Giving Sundays in 2019

Human Relations Day Sunday

January 20

UMCOR / One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday

March 31

Native American Ministries Sunday

May 5

Peace with Justice Sunday

June 16

World Communion Sunday

October 6

United Methodist Student Day Sunday

November 24

UMC Lectionary Calendar December 2018

December 2

First Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10 (UMH 756)

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Color: White

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96 (UMH 815)

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

December 25

Christmas Day

Church Color: White

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98 (UMH 818)

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

John 1:1-14

Kwanzaa Dec. 26-Jan. 1

December 30

First Sunday after Christmas

Church Color: White

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148 (UMH 861)

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

December 31 Watch Night/ New Year's Eve

Church Color: White

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Psalms 8 (UMH 743)

Revelations 21:1-6a

Matthew 25:31-46



Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday, December 1, 6PM

The return of a holiday tradition! Join us on the corner of Glendale and Loch Raven Blvd. for lighting the new church evergreen tree planted on Earth Day 2018 and welcoming in the holiday season with carol singing, jingle bell ringing, craft making and refreshments.

United Methodist Women December Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, December 3
Holiday Dinner at Nancy Williams’ Home—6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, December 4
10 am—Brunch at Nancy Gillotti’s Home

NO GENERAL MEETING

Board of Child Care News

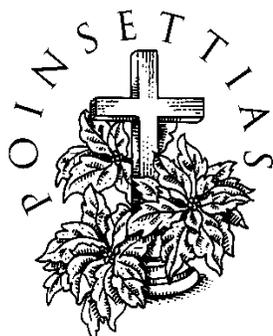
December will offer some opportunities to support the Board of Child Care.

The red Christmas stocking folders are available again this year, as well as special envelopes from the Board of Child Care for Christmas donations. Look for these in the Narthex in December.

If you prefer, you may make a donation securely online at boardofchildcare.org/christmas.

Thank you for your continued support of the children at the Board of Child Care.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson



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 9.

We cannot accept orders unless accompanied by full payment.

Plants may be picked up after morning worship on Sunday, December 23 or after the Christmas Eve service on Monday, 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 23
- I will pick up the plant after the Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24

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
- 7 Nancy Williams
- 8 Judy Feustle
- 9 Christian Smith
- 11 Wayne Harting
- 12 Douglas McCrea
- 14 Amy Burton
- 15 Albertha Weah
- 17 Taryn Mackey
- 18 Angela Chatman
- Laura Palazzi
- 21 Grace Price
- 23 Eugene Amberman
- 24 Amy Price
- 25 Paul Njuguna
- 27 Pete McGinnes
- Bernadette Williamson-Taylor
- Alexandra Weaver
- 29 Amy Hoover

From the Mailbox

The Shock and Christopher families would like to express our thanks for the support we received from the ministers and congregation upon the passing of Betty Shock. Her memorial service was a celebration of her life. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it so.

Membership Updates

Address Change:

Hillary Geyton
2874 Ash Street
Denver, CO 80207-3021

Alma Jackson
c/o Cathleen Jackson
710 Twin Point Cove Road
Cambridge, MD 21613-3213

Transferred:

John C. Mayden, Jr,
To Mt. Zion UMC
Upperco, MD
October 15, 2018

Deaths:

Betty Shock
October 17, 2018

Address Unknown:

(Please let the office know of any current addresses of which you are aware.)

Cathy Gansert
Albertha Weah

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Marty Marvel Food

Pantry: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Tuesday, December 4 and
December 18.

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 **Life Water Canada** to help build and maintain wells in third world countries.

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.

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.



Music Notes

(Continued from page 2)

from previous choir director Jennifer, and our LRUMC Bell Choir performing with the Morgan State University Symphonic Band. We haven't yet had a chance to see Sam in action with the U.S. Navy Band, but look forward to that as well.

What are your favorite hymns?

How Great Thou Art, In Christ Alone, Here I am Lord, Amazing Grace, The Gift of Love, Here I am to Worship, The Wonderful Cross

Three adjectives to describe LRUMC?

Diverse, Caring, Active

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

As the church family grows and more children become part of the church, we see the music ministry expanding. We would love to see April and the other children singing and praising God on Sunday mornings.



Opportunities available to help beautify the Sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas Season



- _____ 10 wreaths—\$20 Each
- _____ Congregational Candles for Christmas Eve—\$40
- _____ Window Candle Rings—\$50 for 10 Candle Rings
- _____ Advent Wreath—\$40
- _____ Advent Wreath Candles—\$40
- _____ 4 Wreaths for front doors and side doors—20 Each

Please contact Judy Zahren at 410-933-0936 or jzahren@comcast.net about selection and availability.

Then send your check made payable to LRUMC along with the information below to the Church Office. **All orders and payment must be received by Sunday, December 9th.**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To the Glory of: _____

Thank you for your participation.
The Altar Guild

Missions *in Action*: Thank You

By: Merrill Harrison

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally, and they are very thankful for those funds. Here is a note we recently received from **Lifewater Canada**.

Thank you for your generous gift. Your support is deeply appreciated and will help local people obtain safe water, sanitation, and basic health / hygiene training.

I am writing to update you on how we are using your donation. We wired your money to Lifewater's team of local men and women in Liberia. The team has recently used your gift to make a life-saving project become a reality.

*We invite you to visit lifewater.ca/?ID=3 and search for Project # L18-W068. Enjoy seeing first-hand how your donation helped drill a village well for the people of **New Buchanan (block-D Quarter #2)** in Liberia.*

We are pleased to present this certificate for your project sponsorship (see picture posted on the Mission's bulletin board in the Arcade) and be sure to thank everyone who gave to make this project possible.

*Thanks again for reaching out and making a difference in this world by partnering with Lifewater Canada to provide cups of cold water in **Jesus' Name!***

Plus this hand-written note:

Thank you for extending the hand of Jesus in a time of such great need for safe drinking water. God Bless.

Jim Gehrels, President of Lifewater Canada, also told of the time he was in an emergency treatment tent in a Liberian village that had been devastated by cholera. Suddenly he was faced with a young boy dying because his drinking water was contaminated, and there was nothing he could do to stop it. After reading a letter from a Liberian pastor who wrote: *There is no point talking to people about God's love when they are dying because they don't have safe drinking water*, he started Lifewater Canada. He has been investing his time, talent, and finances to work through Lifewater Canada—a small charity with a big impact. Twenty years ago, one in four children was dying before age five. Now it is one in 12—still far too high, but together our contributions and efforts are really making a difference. Lifewater crews have provided safe water for over 750,000 people!

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.