

The Spire



December 2015

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



Thursday, December 24th
Festival of Music: 7:30 PM
Candlelight Service: 8:00 PM

Homemade Cookie Sale

The Family Ministries and Fundraising Committees have combined and are now one hard-working group! As the Christmas season approaches, we have a yummy opportunity for you. On December 13th, we will be hosting a homemade cookie sale in Fellowship Hall. The homemade cookies will be sold for \$5.00 per pound. We have many wonderful bakers who will be making oatmeal, chocolate chip, ginger, sugar and many other varieties. Here's a great way to enjoy some delicious desserts without having to do any of the work!

Hope to see you there!



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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 13, 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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Pastor - Cliff Webner

Pastor of Congregational Care - Wayne Harting

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. *Phone:* 410-825-0900
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Change of Name/Address - Call, mail or e-mail church office

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Visit us on Facebook



*Silent Night,
Holy Night*

Board of Child Care News

I would like to thank the congregation for your contributions to the Thanksgiving Baskets for the Board of Child Care. We collected 96 cans of green beans and 49 cans of cranberry sauce this year. Also, during the 12-month period ending in September, 1,550 soup labels and box tops were collected.

In December, Christmas Stockings will be available for the Board of Child Care Christmas appeal. Sixteen quarters will fill a stocking and the donation will go directly to help the children at the Board of Child Care.

Thank you for your support.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson



The Missions Committee is raising money for the Lifewater Canada organization to drill wells and build washrooms in Africa and Haiti. These wells will provide clean water for villages in these countries.

Instead of buying Christmas cards for fellow church members, please consider using that money to make a donation to this mission project. We ask that you place ONE card on our Christmas card bulletin board for all to read and enjoy. The bulletin board to display your card will be located in Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, December 6th.

Special envelopes for your donation will be in the pews. Make your check payable to Loch Raven UMC, and mark the memo line – MISSIONS.

As always, we thank you for your support.

Missions Committee

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, you may telephone the church office on Sunday morning to determine if church services remain scheduled for the day. The telephone number is (410) 825-0900.



God's Christmas Mission

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have beheld his glory.

John 1:14

Some of you might remember the events of the Apollo XV mission. After returning to earth Colonel James Irwin recalled some of the high points of that experience. He remembered how it felt to float weightlessly around the space capsule.

He remembered seeing the earthrise from the vantage point of the moon. He remembered the successful splashdown and how crowds thronged to him afterward.

Irwin also remembered the impact the mission had on his spiritual life. He said that from the lunar surface he sensed both the glory of God and the plight of humanity. He knew as he sensed the majesty of God that he couldn't be just another astronaut celebrity, but that he must be more of a servant. Irwin finished by saying that if we think it's a great event sending a man to the moon, how much greater is it when God comes to earth.

On Christmas we celebrate the wonder of our Great Creator God choosing to come down in the person of Jesus Christ to allow us to become one with him. Now space flight may be good, but what God did for us on that first Christmas is a flat out miracle. And he did this for people like you and me. Let's think about what that means and live accordingly.

Merry Christmas,

Cliff



UMC Lectionary Calendar December, 2015

Dec. 6 – 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

Dec. 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Color: Purple

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55 (UMH 199)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Church Color: White

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96 (UMH 815)

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 25 – Christmas

Church Color: White

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98 (UMH 818)

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

John 1:1-14

Dec. 27 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

Church Color: White

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148 (UMH 861)

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Missions *In Action*: Board of Child Care

Hope for the future, power in the present.

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Our focus this month is on a local mission: The Board of Child Care.

The Board of Child Care, an outreach ministry of The United Methodist Church, serves children and families who require physical, emotional, behavioral and social support. Their roots stretch back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the establishment of the Kelso Home for Girls (1874), Swartzell Methodist Home for Children (1912), and the Strawbridge Home for Boys (1924). In 1960, in an effort to become more strategic and efficient, these homes merged into the organizational structure we know today, but the mission remains the same: **to provide children with the skills and support they need to lead healthy, productive lives.**

This is accomplished through residential and community-based services that provide safe, healthy and caring environments and sustain children and families by fostering self-esteem, respect for the community, and developing a sense of purpose and life skills needed to achieve their highest potential. Their vision is to become a community of hope—providing an opportunity to heal, and create a safe and caring environment for children, youth and families. They seek to make lasting change in the lives of those they serve by providing services that are durable, measurable, and sustainable.

Their residential services include the Main Campus in Baltimore (109 residents, ages 9 to 17), Falling Waters Campus in Martinsburg, WV (50 youth, ages 12 to 21), Eastern Shore Campus in Denton, MD (16 boys, ages 11 to 18), as well as Community-Based Group Home programs and the Strawbridge School. They also provide treatment foster care, mental health services, domestic and international adoption services, and an early childhood education center.

You also help the Board through your support of the workings of the Board of Child Care Auxiliary through your cookie donations, Thanksgiving Basket donations, and filling Christmas stockings with quarters and dollars. (Leslie Christopher serves as our Board of Child Care Auxiliary chairperson.)

To learn more, see: www.boardofchildcare.org/about-us/

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities:

Manna House Breakfast Club – **January 9, March 19, and May 14** (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.)

Monetary collection for *Blankets and Tools* — January

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.

Membership Updates

Address Changes:

Betty Cox
P.O. Box 963
Bel Air, MD 21014-0963

Deceased:

Charles Baker
October 12, 2015

New Member:

William (Bill) Bratton
1529 Stonewood Road
Baltimore, MD 21239
410-435-7273

From the Mailbox

Dear LRUMC Family,

We wish to thank our family at Loch Raven for all of their prayers, cards, emails, and visits during Jim's recent surgery and recovery. Although this has been (and will be) a long, difficult journey, we are grateful for God's strength and guidance each and every day. Thank you for putting a face on God for us to see him ever more clearly.

By Christ's Love,
Jim and Myra Wagner

To Our LRUMC Church
Family,

We would like to thank you all for your love and support at the passing of my father. Your prayers, calls, cards and Facebook posts were greatly appreciated.

Cheryl and Michael Koogler

I want to thank my Loch Raven Family for pulling me through my fall in the garden. Your cards, calls and prayers greatly helped me. I miss all of you.

Love,
Ev Dorfler

We would like to thank the LRUMC congregation for their prayers, cards and visits following my sister's sudden passing. It is a blessing to be part of such a caring congregation. Thank you again.

Carole, Cliff, Kerry & Matt



Birthdays

- 3 Matt Webner
- 4 Myra Wagner
Amanda Brown
- 5 Charles Chilcoat
- 7 Nancy Williams
- 8 Judy Feustle
Carole Webner
- 9 Christian Smith
Jamie Lee Evans
- 12 Douglas McCrea
Cliff Webner
- 14 Amy Burton
- 15 Albertha Weah
- 17 Taryn Mackey
- 18 Angela Chatman
Laura Palazzi
- 20 James Manley
- 21 Grace Price
- 23 Eugene Amberman
- 24 Amy Price
- 25 Paul Njuguna
- 27 Pete McGinnes
Bernadette Williamson-
Taylor
Alexandra Weaver
- 29 Amy Munden
- 30 Nancy Tarr Hart
- 31 Joseph Luke Barker



Dear Friends,

We can't thank you enough on behalf of all here at the Board of Child Care Auxiliary for all the canned goods for our Thanksgiving baskets and the goodies for the Christmas Store.

The support from you and so many others is the reason the Auxiliary of the Board of Child Care has continually served the BCC Agency. Over the years we have been blessed, through your support, with the resources to provide the extras for the children and youth of the Board of Child Care, enhancing their lives in many ways, such as, but not limited to: cookies, cookies, cookies (love them all!), parties and holiday gifts throughout the year, cultural and recreational trips, tickets to sports events, athletic activities, educational items, as well as sports equipment and musical activities. And of course our annual efforts with the Thanksgiving Baskets and the availability of Christmas Stores on the various campuses where the youth can purchase gifts at greatly reduced prices for their loved ones.

Keep those box tops and labels coming too and many thanks again! We appreciate your continued support of the Auxiliary, the Board of Child Care and "our kids." Blessings to you and yours. And, thank you again.

Peace,
Julie Wernz, Auxiliary Conference President



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



- _____ 10 wreaths
- _____ Congregational Candles for Christmas Eve
- _____ Window Greens
- _____ Advent Wreath
- _____ Advent Wreath Candles
- _____ 4 Wreaths for front doors and side doors

Please call Audrey Moltz at 410-823-7837 about selection, availability and pricing information. 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 **Friday, December 11th.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To the Glory: _____

Thank you for your participation.
The Altar Guild

Advent Is Here

November 29 is the First Sunday of Advent. It is the day when the church officially begins to prepare for Christmas. Advent means “coming,” therefore, we make ready for the coming of the Lord.

Where should we begin? With ourselves, of course. We should prepare our hearts for Christ to live in them fully. Get rid of the clutter within—the odds and ends of foolish thoughts and familiar sins we find difficult to “let go and let God handle.” Advent is heart-cleaning time, so call in the Holy Spirit Cleaning Service, and make room for the best Guest anyone ever had. Start now! Let the Spirit “Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today” (from “O Little Town of Bethlehem”).

United Methodist Women

December Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, December 7
 Holiday Dinner at Nancy Williams’ Home—6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, December 8
 10 am—Brunch at Nancy Gillotti’s Home

NO GENERAL MEETING



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 Friday, December 11. **We cannot accept orders unless accompanied by full payment.**

Plants may be picked up after morning worship on Sunday, December 27th.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To The Glory: _____

of Plants: _____ RED —\$10.50 each
Plants are 6” pots—1 plant per pot—5-6 blooms per plant

of Plants: _____ RED & WHITE MIX—\$20.00 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 on Sunday, December 28