

The Spire



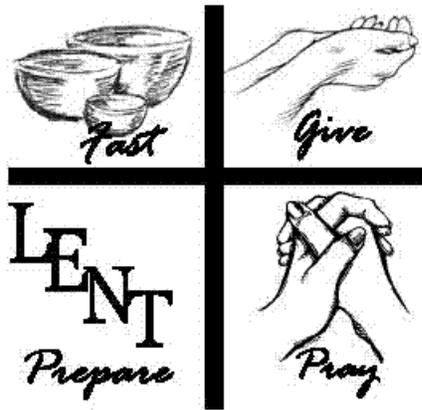
February 2016

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Confirmation 2016

Confirmation classes begin Sunday, February 14th at 9:00 AM. We will be meeting in the Youth Room (#214) for twelve weeks. The class is for students in the sixth through twelfth grade. Some of the topics we will cover are faith, the church, United Methodist history, and the United Methodist Church. The classes will conclude with the students being received into the full membership at Loch Raven United Methodist Church. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

The Lengthening of Days



The word “Lent” is derived from the “lengthening” of days during the season of spring. The daylight gets longer as we head into spring. For Christians, Lent is the 40-day preparation for Easter. Easter can be interpreted as the lengthening of life, as in eternal life or new life. Jesus’ preparation for Easter meant sacrifice. It meant the giving up of himself, even to the point of death. He gave up his life so

that he could atone for our sin-filled lives. He had to die so that God could resurrect him. That, in turn, made it possible for us to experience resurrection—the lengthening of our days.

The Scripture describes Jesus’ sacrifice in Matthew 20:17-19: “As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, ‘We are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man (Jesus) will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life.’”

The disciples were confused, angry, and grief-stricken. They didn’t know what to make of what Jesus was saying. We are like that sometimes. We might be in the middle of a confusing life situation and we can’t figure out what God is up to or if God is even involved in it. His plan doesn’t make clear sense to us.

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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 March issue is **Sunday, February 14, 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

Pastor - Cliff Webner

Pastor of Congregational Care - Wayne Harting

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Change of Name/Address - Call, mail or e-mail church office

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Visit us on Facebook

Ash Wednesday Service February 10—7:00 PM

On Ash Wednesday we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

There are a number of ways United Methodists celebrate Ash Wednesday:

1. Through the imposition of ashes which signifies a call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name.
2. Alternatively, ushers may distribute small cards or pieces of paper on which each person may be invited to write a particular sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. They may then be brought forward by the ushers following the sermon and placed upon the altar to be burned with palm branches for the ashes.
3. Holy Communion may be celebrated.

This year, we will be celebrating through choice number 2 above. So, prayerfully be thinking about what it is that is preventing you from an even closer relationship with God. Use this service to offer that obstacle up to God. May this be the start of a blessed Lenten season.

Lent Is Almost Here

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, comes on February 10. We Christians observe Lent for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to examine our spiritual condition and to strive to improve our relationship with God.

Lent is also a period of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday, the greatest day on the Christian calendar.

During Lent most churches have additional services. Some offer special Bible study events or classes in strengthening the spiritual life. It is a good time to study the life of a great Christian from the past and the ways that person developed closeness to God.

It's important that each Christian practice spiritual disciplines to "show that you are a letter of Christ . . . written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, NRSV).



February 14

UMC Lectionary Calendar February, 2016

February 2 – Presentation of the Lord/Candlemas

Church Color: White
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84 or 24:7-10 (UMH 755)
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

February 7 – Transfiguration Sunday/Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Church Color: White
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99 (UMH 819)
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:2-36 (37-43a)

February 10 – Ash Wednesday

Church Color: Purple
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 14 – First Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple
First Sunday in Lent, Year C
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810)
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

February 21 – Second Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27 (UMH 758)
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

February 28 – Third Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8 (UMH 788)
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

United Methodist Women February Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle
Monday, February 1
7:30 PM—Room 202
Study: *Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World*
Lesson 3—Opening Our Ears
Study Leader: Amy
Devotions: Jennifer
Hostess: Amy & Jennifer

Phyllis Downes Circle
Tuesday, February 2
10 AM—Parlor

GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, February 21
Covered Dish
After the church service

COMING UP
Ladies Tea—April 16

LRUMC FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PRESENTS 2016 SUPER BOWL SUBS TO GO



WE HAVE HAM, TURKEY & VEGGIE SUBS
WITH CHEESE, LETTUCE, TOMATOES, & ONIONS
CHIPS & EVEN CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES FOR DESSERT
SO HURRY AND PLACE YOUR ORDER BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
PICK UP ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
COST: \$10.00 EACH

NAME & CONTACT NUMBER:

HOW MANY SUBS: HAM _____
TURKEY _____
VEGGIE _____

PAYMENT AMOUNT: (CASH OR CHECK) _____

(Please make checks out to LRUMC. Write *sub-fundraiser* on memo line. Thank you)

The Lengthening of Days

(Continued from page 1)

I am going to address that issue during the five Sundays of Lent in a sermon series called *Grief*. The dates, titles, and Scriptures are listed below:

2/14/16 *As Those With Hope*
based on Psalm 30:4-5 and
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

2/21/16 *Grief From Aging*
based on Psalm 31:9 and
John 3:1-8

2/28/16 *Grief From Death*
based on Psalm 38:10 and
Job 19:25-27

3/06/16 *Grief From Grudges*
based on Leviticus 19:18 and
Matthew 18:21-35

3/13/16 *Grief From Trouble*
based on Isaiah 43:16-19 and
John 12:1-11

Hopefully, when we are finished, we will be more prepared for Easter. Maybe our days can be lengthened.

Grace and Peace,
Cliff

Love Offering for Bishop Marcus Matthews

To celebrate the ministry of our retiring bishop, Marcus Matthews, the Conference has made an appeal for local churches to take a special love offering. This offering will be given in the Bishop's name toward building a health facility on the Africa University Campus. The offering will be presented this spring at Annual Conference. If you would like to make a contribution you may do so by placing a check in the offering plate with a notation "Bishop Gift." For more information you can contact me at 410-592-5222 or carolewebner@hotmail.com.

Carole Webner
Lay Member to
Annual Conference

It's Cookie Time at the Board of Childcare

February provides an opportunity to support the Board of Child Care.

We have been asked to donate cookies for the girls and boys who live on the Board of Child Care campus. A box will be placed in Fellowship Hall if you would like to help. Store-bought cookies are preferred. Some of the children have food allergies and the staff can check the ingredients in store-bought cookies. Please bring them from January 31 until February 28. Cash to purchase cookies is also being accepted. Thank you.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

SHOPPERS & DINERS (Gift Card Update)

We want to thank everyone who bought Gift Cards through the UMW fundraiser. A total of 534 gift cards were sold, totaling a face value of \$11,100.00. Our profit was \$779.63 or (7%).

The next UMW fundraiser will be the sale of our ever popular Easter Eggs. Order forms will be in the bulletin. Thanks in advance for your support.

UMW Executive Committee



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:

Evelyn Dorfler
6451 N. Charles Street
Room 254
Baltimore, MD 21212

Virginia Skelly
Address Unknown

Transferred:

Lois Hively
To Oakcrest Protestant Faith
Community Church

Withdrawn:

Wendy White-Doyle

Notes of Thanks

Rick Neumann and Rella Sessa would like to thank the Loch Raven Church family on behalf of Eddie for their monetary contributions toward Eddie's Christmas shopping spree.

Dear Friends at Loch Raven United Methodist Church,

We cannot thank you enough for your \$700 donation to our "Table of Grace" Soup Kitchen. Our guests will have a better 2016 because of your generosity. Thank you for your compassion for our needy neighbors, and for partnering with us to serve them!

Yours in Christ,
Kimberly Brown-Whale
Pastor

Loch Raven United
Methodist Church
Attn: Rev. Cliff Webner

On behalf of our school, Halstead Academy of Art and Science, I would again like to thank you for your generous donation and support during the Thanksgiving season to our students and their families. Parents were quite appreciative of your donation. Because of your generous donation, parents were also able to make sure their children had a well-balanced meal for the Thanksgiving holiday.

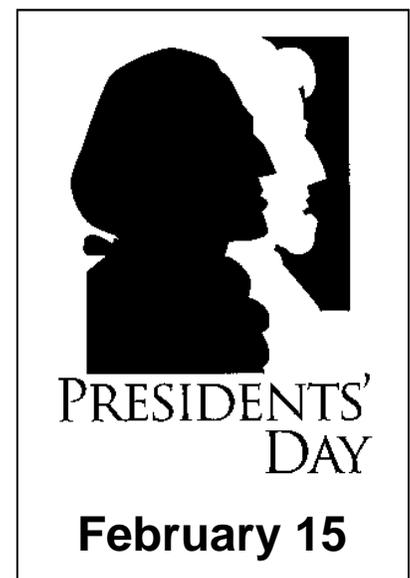
I would like to take this time to wish you a Joyous and Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tandra Chisolm, LCSW-C
School Social Worker

February Birthdays

- 1 Joyce Dixon
- 4 Chad Schoelkopf
- 5 Theresa Alaeze
- 7 Bolanle Akerele
- 10 Sandra Edmonds
Cherie Buszczak
- 14 Melissa Quinn
- 16 Kathryn Ruble
- 17 Betty Ford
RJ Stockton-Porter
- 19 Patricia Barbee
- 23 Courtney Naff
- 24 Titilayo Akerele
- 25 Laverne Nimmo
- 26 Adiaha Essien



Missions *In Action*: Lifewater Canada

In December, we asked you to post one Christmas card to all members and then donate money you might have spent on giving individual cards to Lifewater Canada. **Thanks to your generous heart, we collected \$850 for this special mission.**

Lifewater Canada has helped train and equip people in Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, and Nigeria for over twenty years to drill wells and build washrooms thus helping to save lives and improve educational opportunities for people in those countries.

Lifewater is run by volunteers working out of their homes, and they use their personal vacation time when traveling to the countries. Less than 5% of funds donated go toward administration (website costs, fundraising etc.)

Consider these facts:

- Almost 800 million people are without safe water and two-fifths (2.4 billion people) lack access to improved sanitation.
- In Africa, nearly half of the people lack access to improved water and sanitation.
- Nearly one in five child deaths is due to diarrhea, a loss of about 1.5 million lives each year. The toll is greater than that caused by AIDS, malaria and measles combined!
- If nothing is done, up to 135 million people will die from water-related diseases by 2020!
- 80% of sickness and death among children is caused by unsafe water.
- Each year, diarrhea causes 2.2 million deaths, mostly among children under the age of five. This is equivalent to one child dying every 15 seconds, or 20 jumbo jets crashing every day.
- According to UNICEF, rural African women and girls spend as many as 40 billion hours each year hauling water! This leaves women and girls with little time for education or home-based industries.

Thanks to your giving, you are helping to make a difference in the lives of millions.

For more information, see: www.lifewater.ca.

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities:

Manna House Breakfast Club – May 14 and July 16 (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.)

To help better serve food-starved individuals in our community, we will be collecting specific, non-perishable food items monthly for **ACTC** – *stock up on sale items!*

February—Potatoes (canned or boxed)

March—Spaghetti Sauce

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

Thanksgiving Basket Missions Collection

In November, your special giving to ACTC (Assistance Center of Towson Churches) totaled **\$2,739**.

Thank you!



Loch Raven's Got Talent

The Church's Fundraising Committee is in search of MC's, SINGERS, DANCERS, MAGICIANS, INSTRUMENTALISTS, COMEDIANS and ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEIR TALENT at this spring dinner and entertainment night on SATURDAY, APRIL 23.

For more information, see Debi Wynn or Patti Ferguson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



In Your Heart

If there is peace in your heart, you will find it impossible to hate.

If there is honesty in your heart, you will find it impossible to judge another.

If there is love in your heart, then that is all there is.

Fear is gone, as is judgment and the desire for violence.

—Kim Hauenstein
United Protestant Campus Ministries
Cleveland, Ohio

Chocolate Covered Easter Eggs

Individually Wrapped Easter Eggs \$12.00 per dozen

Vanilla Cream, Chocolate Cream, Coconut Cream, Peanut Butter



- Deadline for ordering: Sunday, March 6
- Pick-up order: Sunday, March 13, 9 AM—12:00 PM
- *Payment due when placing order*
- **checks payable to: Loch Raven United Methodist Women**
- Submit order(s) with payment via the offering plate, Church Office or give to Nancy Gillotti

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| # ___ dozen—Vanilla Cream (dark chocolate) | # ___ dozen—Chocolate Cream (dark chocolate) |
| # ___ dozen—Coconut Cream (dark chocolate) | # ___ dozen—Peanut Butter (milk chocolate) |
| # ___ dozen—Assorted (three of each kind) | # ___ dozen—Peanut Butter (dark chocolate) |

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____