

The Spire



February 2018

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13, 6:30 PM

Come out to have breakfast for dinner and learn about Shrove Tuesday.



Ash Wednesday February 14, 7 PM

Join us for worship
in the Sanctuary.

A Clearing Season

February is here. The cold of winter has set in and the season of Lent is upon us. Often, when we think of Lent, we think of a season of self-denial, of giving up something we like for a season to show our repentance and contrition. Some people give up eating meat, some give up chocolate, or alcohol, if they drink. Others may fast from technology. Some even fast from wrong-thinking. However, I like to look at Lent not as a temporary period where I stop doing something. Instead, I see it as a clearing season, a time to make room for the new things that God is wanting to add to our lives.

In Sarah Parsons' book, *A Clearing Season*, she writes, "Lent is not all about penitence or misdeeds or guilt. It is a time of introspection, true, but its ultimate purpose lies beyond penitence. In essence, Lent serves as our annual invitation to come closer to God. It provides a time to look at our lives and ourselves, not so we may criticize ourselves more harshly but so we can identify the obstructions that keep us from God." These are the things that we have allowed to fill up the cupboards of our souls. Things that are not needed and do not allow us the opportunity to experience the newness that God has for us. I liken it to a spiritual spring cleaning.

We all have things in our homes that we once loved and served us well but now we do not need them and that simply get in the way. That couch that you loved but now the springs are starting to show. The suit that looked so good but no longer fits, or even that gadget that you had to have but never left the box more than once. Revelation 21:5 tells us, "Behold, I make all things new." However, for us to experience that newness, we must clean out all of the junk that is unnecessarily taking up room in our hearts and minds.

(Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue ...

Music Ministry Spotlight	Page 3
Board of Child Care Cookie Collection	Page 4
Easter Flowers Order Form	Page 6
Missions in Action—Blanket Sunday	Page 7

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 11, 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.



Fast and Feast

Arthur Lichtenberg, when presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, quoted this Lenten advice:

Fast from criticism,
And feast on praise.

Fast from self-pity,
And feast on joy.

Fast from ill-temper,
And feast on peace.

Fast from resentment,
And feast on contentment.

Fast from jealousy,
And feast on love.

Fast from pride,
And feast on humility.

Fast from selfishness,
And feast on service.

Fast from fear,
And feast on faith.

—*The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom*

UMC Lectionary Calendar February 2018

February is Black History Month

February 4—Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Church Color: Green

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
(UMH 859)

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark
1:29-39

February 11 Transfiguration Sunday Scouting Ministries Sunday

Church Color: White

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6 (UMH 783)

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

February 14 Ash Wednesday

Church Color: Purple

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17 (UMH 785)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18 First Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10 (UMH 756)

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 25 Second Sunday in Lent

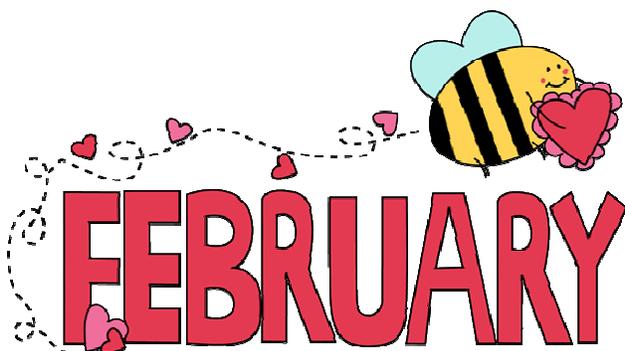
Church Color: Purple

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31 (UMH 752)

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38



Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

This month's spotlight members are Adelaide and Jonathan Wilson. My first impressions of the Wilsons were through Awujoh 2006, an event the Wilsons spearheaded. During Awujoh, which was also my first Sunday here LRUMC, it was abundantly clear that Adelaide and Jonathan loved this church and they took great pride serving this diverse congregation. I have always appreciated their leadership and their dedication not only to the music ministry but to this church and our community. When you see them please congratulate them as they welcome their 2nd granddaughter!

When did you start attending LRUMC and when did you get involved with the Music Ministry?

Adelaide: I started attending the church in the summer of 1995, after the girls and I moved from Mississippi to join Jonathan here in Maryland. I honestly cannot remember when my music ministry with this church started, but I remember we had a youth choir and I was the director for a while, and I also joined the handbell choir but can't remember when. However, I have been involved with the music ministry at LRUMC for at least 15 to 18 years.

Jonathan: I started attending LRUMC in January of 1995 immediately after arriving in the area. I walked to the closest church and I was welcomed warmly and enjoyed the service as well as the children's message in which Pastor Hank used his puppet, called Church Mouse, to keep the attention of the children. I got involved in the music ministry because one Sunday after Judith Zahren (then choir director) heard me singing she invited me to join the choir. I have enjoyed singing in church choirs since I was about 10 years old, though I do not read music or have any formal voice training.

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

Adelaide: Joining the handbell choir helped me revive my love for music. It was not easy at first, because I had never played handbells before, and I had given up music after I moved to America. For 20 years I did not play any instruments. I completely gave up music for business.

Jonathan: My most memorable experience in music ministry at LRUMC is the cluster choir music festivals that we used to participate in and also Easter and music Sundays when we were joined at the church by musicians from Morgan State and Peabody in Baltimore.

(Continued on page 4)

A Clearing Season

(Continued from page 1)

Lent is a time to take stock, to realize that we need to spend more time with the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and reading scripture, or to spend more time listening, less time on technology, or less time worrying about things we can't change. Lent is a clearing season that can lead to new growth in God.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George



United Methodist Women February Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, February 5

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

We will be doing the study scheduled for the January meeting which was cancelled:

Study: *Woman of God*

Lesson 10: Ready for God's

Grace—Ruth & Naomi's

Redemption

Study Leader: Jan

Devotions: Jan

Hostess: Jan

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, February 6

10 am—Parlor

Study: Ecclesiastes—Chapter 4

NO GENERAL MEETING

Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

(Continued from page 3)

What are your favorite hymns?

Adelaide: I love all traditional hymns, but I particularly enjoy singing contemporary music. If you ask who my favorite contemporary artists are I would say Mandisa, Phil Wickham, Casting Crowns, Matt Maher, Chris Tomlin, and Jamie Grace to name a few.

Jonathan: I love many hymns and it is difficult to select, but the Easter, Advent and Christmas hymns are on top.

Name three adjectives that describe LRUMC?

Adelaide: Devoted, Caring, and Spiritual.

Jonathan: Warm, Hospitable, Caring and Mission-oriented.

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

Adelaide: I am thrilled to see that we are having more kids in our congregation these days. In light of this, I suggest we encourage our youth to take part in the service. We need to encourage them to be musicians, liturgists, join the choir, be on church committees, etc. The more we make them feel like they are an integral part of the church, the more growth we will experience. The future of our church depends on our young people.

Jonathan: Continue to infuse more contemporary songs in combination with the traditional ones. Let the Spirit of our Risen Savior continue to lead us here.

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Monetary collection for Blanket Sunday — February 4

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. 17, April 21, July 14 and Oct. 13. If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Linda Cole: 410-666-5222.

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.



It's Cookie Collection Time for the Board of Child Care

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 February 4 until February 25. Cash to purchase cookies is also being accepted.

Thank you.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

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.



February Birthdays

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

From the Mailbox

The family of the late Willie H. Edmonds Jr. who passed on December 13, 2017 wishes to thank those who were supportive for the loss of our loved one. The many gestures (cards, calls, words of comfort, attending the memorial, etc.) were greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to Rev. Winkfield for going to Delaware to take part in the celebration of Willie's life. We thank God for him.

Yours in Christ,
Sandra & James A. Edmonds

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and visits. Thank you also for the many cards and calls, flowers and edible goodies. Your concern and caring mean so much to us and help us continue to feel connected to Loch Raven. And did we ever feel connected when choir members came to our home and sang Christmas carols!

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Albertha and Gregory Sinkler

On behalf of Eddie, Rick and Rella would like to thank the LRUMC family for their donations to help Eddie have a successful Christmas shopping spree.

Rick Neumann

Thank You to Loch Raven!

From:

Linda Lotz
Executive Director ACTC

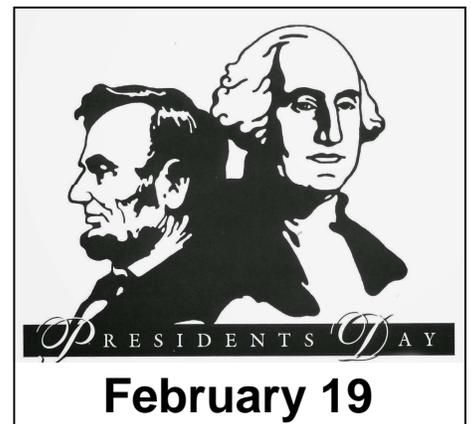
Thank you for your support of the Assistance Center of Towson Churches. Your help has brightened the life of many in need.

All at Manna House

Your generosity has been a blessing to the poorest among us. May this blessing return to you.

Board of Child Care

Thank you for helping Board of Child Care enrich communities, one family at a time.



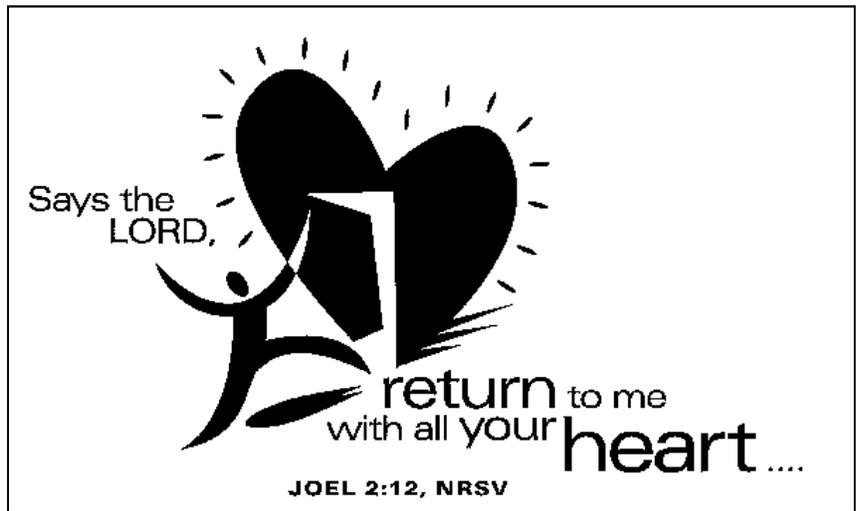
Membership Updates

Address Changes:

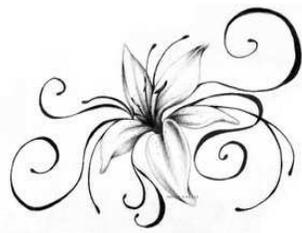
Daniel and Verna Roman
8704 Clemente Court
Jessup, MD 20794

Deaths:

Grace Davies
January 8, 2018



EASTER FLOWERS



If you would like to place a lovely plant in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday in memory of and/or in honor of a loved one, please fill in the form below and place in the offering plate or return to the Church office. **FIRM DEADLINE Sunday, March 4. All orders must be accompanied by full payment.**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Type of Plants:

LILIES (\$14.00): _____ 4-6 Blooms on single stem TULIPS (\$13.99): PINK____ RED____ YELLOW____

LILIES (\$17.50): _____ 8-10 Blooms on 2 stems HYDRANGEAS (\$22.75): PINK____ BLUE____

AZALEAS (\$17.50): PINK____ WHITE____ RED____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

OTHER: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

_____ I WILL PICK UP THE PLANT AFTER THE 10 AM EASTER SERVICE

_____ I WILL DONATE THE PLANT TO THE CHURCH TO BE PLANTED ON CHURCH GROUNDS

Missions In Action: Church World Service Blankets+ Program *Join together in reaching out to neighbors in need the world over.*

We are designating Sunday, February 4, as **Blanket Sunday**. This special giving opportunity will help provide hope in the form of blankets and other supplies to survivors of storms, earthquakes and other disasters.

For over 70 years, the Church World Service Blankets+ Program has helped people in crisis around the world. Your monetary donations will help provide:

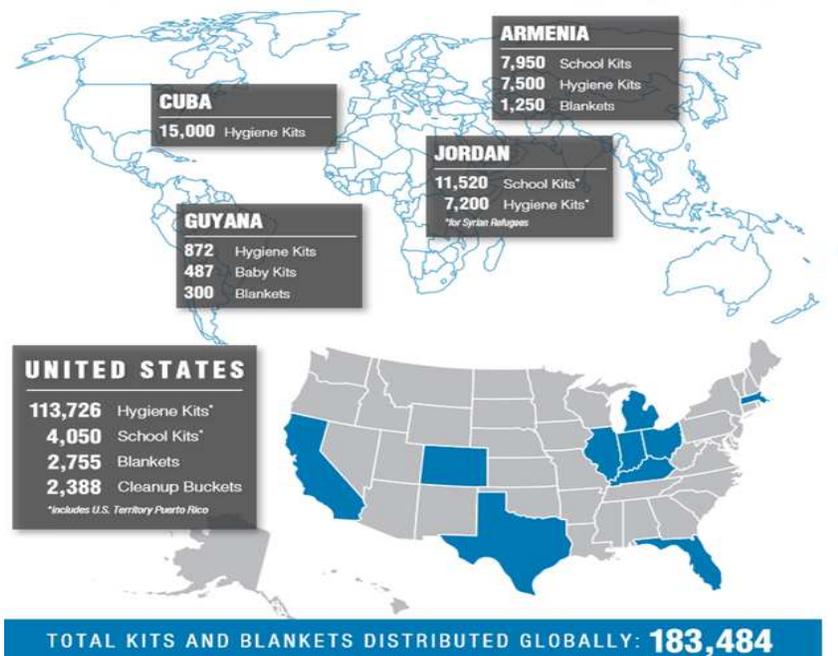
- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster.
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields.
- Wells for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens.
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Join hands and hearts with other Christians in response to Jesus' call to feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, and shelter the homeless children of God.

UMCOR Advance #982810

For more information, see:

<https://www.umcor.org/Search-for-Projects/Projects/982810>



Based on SPECIAL IMPACT REPORT: JULY – OCTOBER 2017

Have a Heart



Valentines of every size and description adorn store windows this time of year. The holiday has become a time for love to

be enthroned as a virtue, with the heart symbolizing the romance of our lives.

But the heart symbolizes not only love, but life itself! Without a heart, our bodies cannot survive.

Consider God's words to Samuel: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7, NRSV).

The heart—that inner countenance—shows what we really are. Samuel was to seek one of the sons of Jesse to be the new king. David, even though he was the weakest physical specimen, was the one selected. His heart was great.

Love looks deeper than outward appearances, and we can thank God for that. Don't be swayed by mere valentines—have a heart!