

# The Spire



January 2018

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Update

If you packed a shoe box or donated money to cover the mailing/handling of the boxes, a big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Our church members packed 90 boxes this year, a record for our congregation! This means 90 additional children across the globe will also be introduced to the Good News of Jesus along with their box. Thanks again for supporting this important and meaningful project.

*Yvonne Horn*  
Missions Committee



## New Year, New Opportunities

The new year is upon us, full of possibilities for a fresh start, a new day, and a brighter future. We enter into the year with expectations, goals, and dreams. However, we often enter into the new year with the same mindset and fears and quickly find ourselves back where we started. In the book, *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See*, Richard Rohr writes, "If you surrender to the fear of uncertainty, life can become a set of insurance policies. Your short time on this earth becomes small and self-protective, a kind of circling the wagons around what you can be sure of and what you can control." Many of us circle the wagons, so to speak, year after year, stuck in cycles of mediocracy unable to get out. However, the season of Epiphany offers us hope for a truly new day.

This month we celebrate Epiphany, which marks the observance of the arrival of the wise men to encounter the Christ child. However, Epiphany is far more than a historical marker; it is an invitation to the newness that is available through the love of Jesus Christ. The word *Epiphany* means "A moment of sudden and great revelation or realization." It is an awakening of possibilities caused by a new reality. Christ came into the world to save a fallen human race and through him all things are possible. Not by our own might but through the Holy Spirit, we need not surrender to fear. We do not have to be captive to life as usual, but we can experience newness in Christ. New opportunities, new adventures, and new opportunities to bless others all are waiting for us as we put our faith and trust in Jesus. So, let us look to the new year with expectation and excitement as we declare: O come, let us Adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Grace & Peace,  
*Pastor George*

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All signed articles, letters, announcements, and other information of interest are welcomed and considered for publication.

The deadline for the February issue is **Sunday, January 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.

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**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.

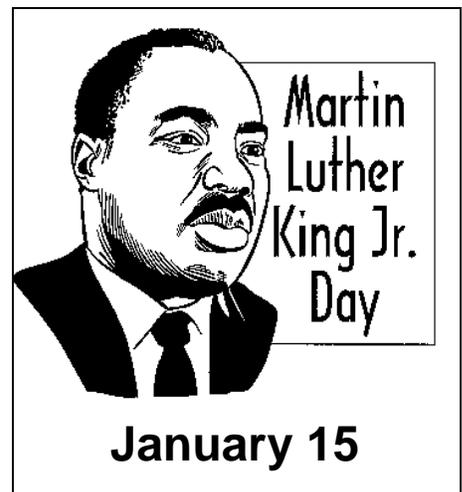
## United Methodist Women—End of Year Giving 2017

Thanks to all who supported the United Methodist Women during 2017 with your pledges and support of our flea market, chocolate Easter eggs and gift cards fundraising projects. As a result, UMW was able to donate a total of \$3,100 to the following organizations:

Board of Child Care Auxiliary	\$400
Essex UMC— <i>Table of Grace</i>	\$400
Quality of Life Retreats	\$100
Manna House	\$400
Assistance Center of Towson Churches	\$400
Ellen Hoover— <i>Advance Special #10337A</i>	\$250
Red Bird Mission	\$250
The Wesley— <i>Endowment Fund</i>	\$100
Asbury Methodist Village Guild	\$100
N. M. Carroll Home	\$100
Life Water Canada (Wells)	\$200
U.M.C.O.R.	\$400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,100</b>

## A New Year Wish

May the New Year bring us:  
Enough happiness to keep us sweet;  
Enough trials to keep us strong;  
Enough hope to keep us lively;  
Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;  
Enough failure to keep us humble;  
Enough success to keep us eager;  
Enough friends to give us comfort;  
Enough wealth to meet our needs;  
Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;  
Enough faith to overcome despair;  
And enough determination to use every day and situation for good.



## Missions in Action: Lifewater Canada

*We exist because a child dies every 15 seconds from drinking unsafe water!*

Occasionally, we hear about water main breaks in our local communities and the resulting impact and inconvenience to the residents—perhaps you have suffered through many hours or even days without water. But did you know almost 800 million people are without safe water every day and two-fifths (2.4 billion people) lack access to safe sanitation systems. In Africa, nearly half of the people lack access to safe drinking water and upgraded toileting facilities. 80% of sickness and death among children is caused by unsafe water—nearly one in five child deaths is due to diarrhea, a loss of about 1.5 million lives each year. This toll is greater than that caused by AIDS, malaria and measles **combined!** It is estimated that if we do nothing, up to 135 million people will die from water-related diseases by 2020.

These staggering statistics are some of the reasons Lifewater Canada is one of our oldest, international mission projects. Lifewater is a Christian, volunteer-based, non-profit charity “inspired by Jesus to help people obtain the safe water they need to be healthy.”

They believe that being a Christian is far more than just going to Church on Sunday. When people ask: “Why did you provide our village with the equipment and training we needed to get safe water?” their reply is “Because we are inspired by Jesus' dedication to serving others and that we are able to do this work because many people want to give back some of what they have received.”

Lifewater Canada is run by volunteers working out of their homes, and they use less than 5% of the funds donated for administration, website costs, fundraising etc. They use their personal vacation time to travel to the countries.

They have helped train and equip people in Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, and Nigeria since 1977 to drill wells and build washrooms that help save lives and improve educational opportunities for people in those countries. Most wells are completed in 5 days. Drilling is often done in 1-2 days, but it can take months to ensure that a village has received health and hygiene training, raised required funds and is mobilized to work.

Lifewater's goal is to put in as many wells as possible in area villages. Their focus is to target easy projects first. By using small, portable drill rigs they can quickly drill wells up to 100 feet in areas not underlain by hard rock. As a result of low overhead and targeted drilling using simple technology, their total program cost is kept down to under \$3,000 per well!

For more information and to learn how just \$1 can provide safe drinking water for a child for a year, see: [www.lifewater.ca](http://www.lifewater.ca). Also, check out some of their videos on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF974nSQvYI>

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS  
CARD PROJECT IN SUPPORT OF LIFEWATER CANADA.**

We are still totaling the contributions and will update you next 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.



- 1 Laurie Collidge
- 2 Gregory Sinkler
- 7 Hannah Yeich
- 14 Scott Eshleman
- 15 Jessica Lautenschlager
- 16 Owen Williams
- 21 Hortense Fauntleroy  
Stephen Ferguson
- 25 James Ferguson
- 26 Margaret Tracey  
Joseph Caleb
- 27 Nancy Gillotti
- 29 Ev Dorfler  
Carolyn Lutz  
Michael Koogler

## From the Mailbox

I can't thank you enough for all of your visits, prayers, cards and calls. A special thank you to Pastor George and Pastor Wayne for their many visits. It is wonderful to have such a thoughtful and caring church family.

Blessings and love to all,  
*Ardith Luttrell*

To Our Dear Church Family,

How in the world can we say goodbye? This move to Missouri for us is bittersweet. We have this wonderful church family that we have been a part of for 42 years. We love you all, so it is very hard to leave you, but we feel God is leading our lives as we put ourselves in His hands, and our path leads us to our two children and four grandchildren in Missouri.

Please know that each of you has touched our lives in some way, and we could not be more grateful for having been a part of this wonderful, blessed congregation. So, as we say farewell, not goodbye (we will be back to visit), we ask our God to bless this congregation, Pastor Winkfield and Pastor Harding and LRUMC.

Our love to you all,  
*Jon and Sandi Cuthbert*

Abertha Sinkler would like to give thanks for the prayers, calls and cards from her many friends at LRUMC.



## Membership Updates

### Address Change:

Jon and Sandi Cuthbert  
3917 S. Willis Avenue  
Independence, MO 64055

Vernon and Grace Davies  
(Mailing address only)  
c/o Donna Lockman  
40 Neptune Drive  
Joppa, MD 21085

Laverne Nimmo  
8832 Walther Boulevard, #G17  
Parkville, MD 21234

Richard and JoAnn Patry  
8810 Walther Boulevard,  
Apt. 109  
Parkville, MD 21234  
410-812-6226

Justin Thompson  
6879 McClean Boulevard  
Parkville, MD 21234

Jonee Wilson  
3424 S. Beaver Lane  
Raleigh, NC 27604

## UMC Lectionary Calendar January 2018

### January 1 New Year's Day, Last day of Kwanzaa

Church Color: White

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8 (UMH 743)  
Revelations 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

*Call to Prayer & Self Denial  
any period during January –  
March*

### January 7 Epiphany Sunday

Church Color: White

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
(UMH 795)  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

### Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29 (UMH 761)  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

*January 11: Human Traffick-  
ing Awareness Day*

### January 14 Second Sun- day after Epiphany Human Relations Day

Church Color: Green

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
(UMH 854)  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

*January 15: Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Day*

*January 18-25 Week of Prayer  
for Christian Unity*

### January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany

**Ecumenical Sunday**

Church Color: Green  
John 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787)  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### January 28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Church Color: Green  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111 (UMH 832)  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

## Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

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 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month.



## 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.

## Human Relations Day—January 14

*Together, we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles.*

Your Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang.
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work.

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus, Human Relations Day was established as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

For more information, see:

[www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/human-relations-day](http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/human-relations-day)

### Other Special Giving Sundays in 2018:

UMCOR / One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday—March 11

Native American Ministries Sunday—April 15

Peace with Justice Sunday—May 27

World Communion Sunday—October 7

United Methodist Student Day Sunday—November 25

## United Methodist Women January Schedule

### Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, January 2

10 am—Parlor

### “Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, January 8

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Woman of God*

Lesson 10: Ready for God’s Grace—Ruth & Naomi’s

Redemption

Study Leader: Jan

Devotions: Jan

Hostess: Jan

### NO GENERAL MEETING

## United Methodist Women Gift Card Update

We want to thank the shoppers and diners who bought Gift Cards through the UMW fundraiser. This year a total of 417 gift cards were sold, totaling a face value of \$8,480.00. Our profit was \$561.59 or (6.6%).

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

*UMW Executive Committee*

## Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director



Happy New Year! As we welcome 2018 I'd like to thank the members of the Music Ministry for all their hard work in 2017. I'd like to especially thank all those who contributed to making our Advent/Christmas Season a very special time here at Loch Raven UMC. In case you've missed a performance or want to revisit some of our past performances, please check out our YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC79HjE8oKciKYbcuKoyDbtQ>. If that is too long to remember just type in "Loch Raven UMC" and our page is the first thing up. If you click on the subscribe button you will automatically see our new videos as they are posted.

This month we feature Jan Hoener as our Music Ministry Spotlight person. Because Jan has been so involved with so many things in our Music Ministry, I was quite surprised to learn that she has only been here since the fall of 2015. Besides being in the choir, Jan can be seen singing in the Praise Band and is often featured as a soloist. She sang the role of Gabriel in this year's Christmas Cantata. We hope she continues to bring blessings to our church in 2018 as well!

### **When did you start attending Loch Raven UMC and when did you get involved with the Music Ministry?**

I moved to the area on October 8, 2015, which was a Tuesday. I walked that Sunday to the United Methodist church closest to my new home. (I planned that the next Sunday I would walk to the next closest one, and etc., until I found the one that "fit".) I was impressed by the choir and well-fed by the sermon. I received a card of welcome from Merrill which made me cry, it was so sweet. The next Sunday I attended again and sat next to Pete McGinnes who, after the service, asked if I would be interested in joining the choir. The third Sunday Sam "made a bee-line" to invite me to attend Thursday practice. That welcome was so real it shocked me.

### **What is your most memorable experience in LRUMC's Music Ministry?**

I was moved by the Good Friday Tenebrae Service, *A Service of Darkness* (a musical program by Hal Hopson based on The Passion of Our Lord). But honestly, it's the bell choir that astounds me every time. What a rich blessing - to me, nothing compares!

### **What are your favorite hymns?**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness; Lift High the Cross; Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing; How Great Thou Art; Lord of the Dance; Pass It On*

### **Three adjectives to describe LRUMC?**

Enriching; Affirming; Compassionate

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

Incorporation of contemporary Christian music into worship that welcomes and encourages congregational participation. I see workshops, open rehearsals, jam sessions; the use of simple sign language and children's' participation.