

The Spire



March 2016

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Worship-Related Dates to Remember for March

March 6 and 13

The sermon series on Grief continues with *Grief from Grudges* and *Grief from Trouble*, respectively at 10:00 AM service.

March 20

Palm Sunday service at 10:00 AM. Bells ringing.

March 24

Holy Thursday service at 7:00 PM. Skit and Narrative on Holy Thursday event followed by Communion.

March 25

Good Friday service at 7:00 PM. *Harvest of Sorrows* cantata by the Chancel Choir. Tenebrae with stripping of the altar.

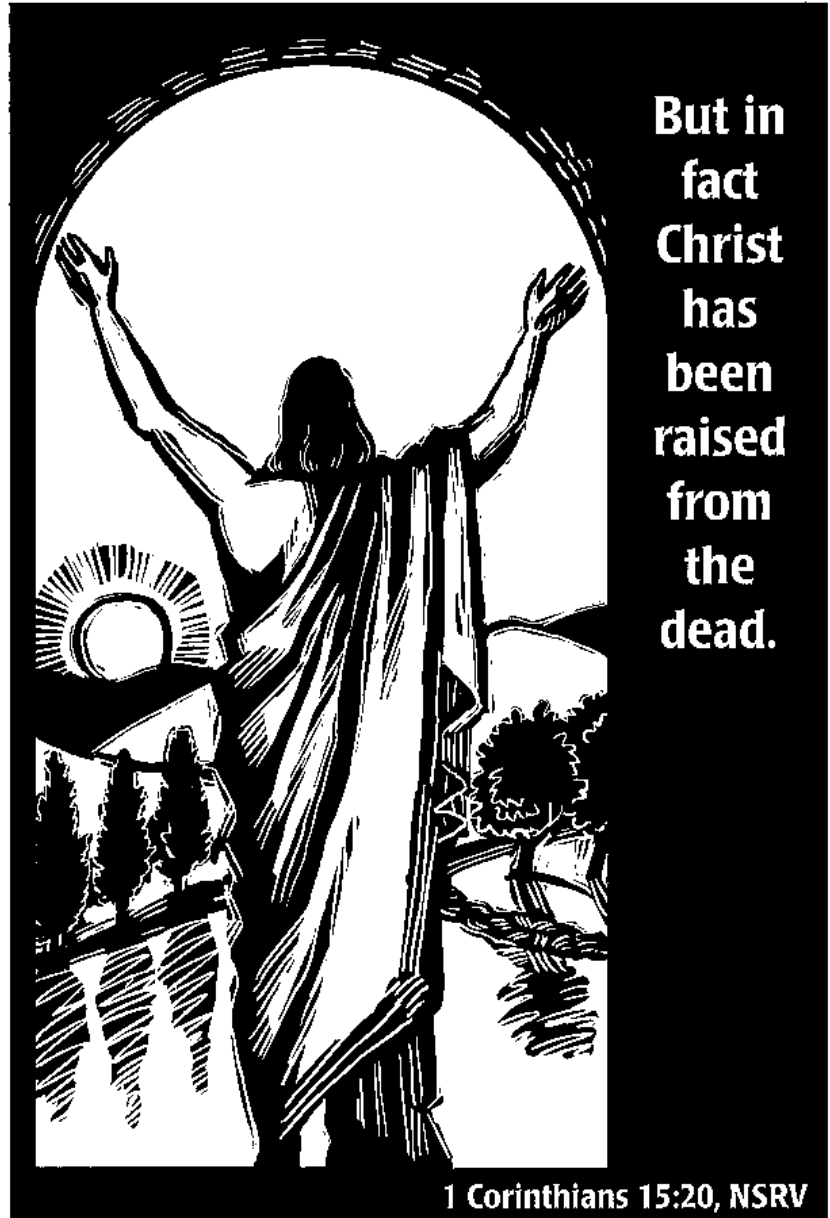
March 27

Easter services:

Sunrise service at 7:00 AM on front porch of church followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall.

Sunday school at 9:00 AM with Easter egg hunt for the children.

Worship in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM.



But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:20, NSRV

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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 April issue is **Sunday, March 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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One Great Hour of Sharing – March 6

One Great Hour of Sharing, one of six special church offerings celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name

For more than 50 years, your sacrificial gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing have helped lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) ministry of relief and hope. Acting as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days, together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Your donations through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, help cover UMCOR's costs of doing business. Your gifts make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fund-raising costs.

UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings UMCOR would not exist.

By keeping operating costs under 10% of their total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to under-funded programs, where they're most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

For more information, see: www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/one-great-hour-of-sharing

Other Special Giving Sundays in 2016:

Native American Ministries—Sunday, April 10

Peace with Justice—Sunday, May 22

World Communion Sunday—October 2

United Methodist Student Day—Sunday, November 27



Daylight Savings Time begins March 13. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

Talking Stones

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. — I Corinthians 15:20

Life can be difficult, even frustrating at times, but then there are moments of joy. Moments, fleeting as they may be, yet still it is possible to have joy in this world. I know, because I have seen it. I've even drawn close enough to experience it.

Annie Dillard tells the story of a man in his thirties who lives alone with a stone he is trying to teach to talk. That's a little different, isn't it? But I think God must look at us like that at times. The writer of Ecclesiastes shouts, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity!" It is a little like wandering around in a big, dark, room, grasping at the wall for the light switch. Yet God continues to try to teach us how to talk as with the man in his thirties in the book. God constantly shows us how to have new life.

Charles Wesley wrote about it. He called his version "O for a thousand tongues to sing." He speaks of the infirmities of life and of how God perseveres with the people in order to heal them. He writes about the mournful, the lame, the poor and broken-hearted, the deaf and those unable to speak. Then he talks about how God crashes in on those situations and rockets those people into newness of life. Those people probably didn't even realize they were dead, but God knew there was much more for them in life. Charles Wesley figured it out too. He said, "New life the dead receive."

It's the Easter message and it happens every day. God works on us, with us, and through us—transforming us into the likeness of Christ. Stone obstacles are moved away. We begin to think, act, pray, and speak in a new godly way. New life the dead receive.

Rich Mullins sings about it. He says "Our God is an awesome God." We should never forget that our God is up against some of the hardest, most difficult obstacles. Often times, it is we who fashion these obstacles. We make it as hard as possible to keep God from coming to us. Yet God never stops pursuing us—removing obstacles, building bridges, teaching stones to talk.

Happy Easter,
Your pastor, Cliff



Musical Notes

By: Sam Chin

Along with our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday celebrations the Chancel Choir will present *Harvest of Sorrows* by Joseph M. Martin. This cantata will be used as a Tenebrae "shadow" service recalling Jesus' final days before his death and crucifixion on Good Friday. Please join us on Friday, March 25th, as we come and walk the winding road to Calvary. In contrast to his dramatic triumphant entry into Jerusalem, this cantata highlights Jesus' most sorrowful moments from his betrayal to his death. We encourage all of you to bring your friends and family as we experience God's ultimate gesture of love for us, the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ. If you come back Easter Sunday you'll find out what happens at the end. Spoiler Alert—HE LIVES!

Family Ministries to Host Chicken & Fish Fry

Friday, March 18
6:00 PM

Cost: \$10.00 (adults) and
\$8.00 (children 10 years
old and under)

Tickets will be available
Sundays between services
in Fellowship Hall and week-
days in the Church Office.



Ladies Tea

Saturday, April 16, 12 Noon
Cost: \$20 per person

Loch Raven UMW invite you to join them for Tea on Saturday, April 16, at 12 Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for food, fellowship and music by Judy Zahren. All proceeds go to mission projects. Seating is limited, so reserve your place early.

Contact Nancy Gillotti (410-823-5187) or Joann Munden (410-665-6361)



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 13. 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 a.m. EASTER SERVICE

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

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.

March Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Aidoo
Stan Kriel
- 2 Erin Potter
Brianna Lee
- 4 Eddie DePrine, Jr.
- 7 Shannon Larrimore
- 10 Peggy Kelly
- 11 Michaela Jones
Heather Marsalek
- 12 Jason Myers
- 14 Norma Jones
- 15 Anne Marie Smith
- 16 Karen Seets
- 17 Matthew Price
- 19 Robert Weaver
- 20 Phil Scott
- 22 Erin Mellott
- 23 Tiffany Hively
- 24 Tim Price
- 30 Dave Jackson
Robert Cullum
Irene McCrea

From the Mailbox

Jen and Dan want to thank Rev. Webner and Rev. Harting for their visits and calls and our Church Family for their caring thoughts through calls, cards and food dishes as Jen recuperates from her fall.

We are fortunate to have such a loving Church Family.

Jen and Dan Dorsey

Dear Loch Raven Family,

I want to thank my LRUMC family for all your prayers, visits, cards and calls. It is such a blessing to have a loving and caring congregation. Thank all of you very much.

Ardith Luttrell

Rella would like to thank the LRUM church family for their prayers and concern on her recent neck and back surgeries. Recovery and healing seem to be going well.

Rella and Rick



March 17

Membership Updates

Address Changes:

Daniel and Verna Roman
1121 University Boulevard West
Unit 608
Silver Spring, MD 20902

New Members:

Joseph and Melva Scruggs
28 Allegheny Avenue
Unit 1905
Towson, MD 21204
410-828-0174
Transferring from Wilderness
Community Church,
Spotsylvania, VA

Deceased:

Dorothy Jackson
January 29, 2016

Easter Egg Collection

As I write this article spring is just around the corner and it's time to plan our Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt. We will be collecting plastic eggs and wrapped Easter candy from March 1st through March 20th. There will be collection boxes in the church narthex and in the lobby outside the fellowship hall. We need 300 eggs to make our hunt a success. Please consider making a donation. If you have any questions please contact Carole Webner at carolewebner@hotmail.com or 410 592-5222.

UMC Lectionary Calendar March, 2016

United Methodist Women March Schedule

March 6

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32 (UMH 766)
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 13

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126 (UMH 847)
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

March 20

Passion / Palm Sunday

Church Color: Red

Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
(UMH 839)

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56 or
Luke 23:1-49

March 21

Monday of Holy Week

Church Color: Red or Purple
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11 (UMH 771)
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

March 22

Tuesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Red or Purple
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

March 23

Wednesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Red or Purple
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70 (UMH 793)
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

March 24

Holy Thursday

Church Color: Red or Purple
Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
(UMH 837)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 25

Good Friday

Church Color: None
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22 (UMH 752)
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

March 26 - Holy Saturday/

Easter Vigil

No Color (prior to sunset);
White (Easter Vigil)
Job 14:1-14
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
(UMH 764)
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66

March 27 - Easter

Church Color: White
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
(UMH 839)
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, March 1
10 AM—Parlor
Study: Chapter 12

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, March 7
7:30 PM—Room 202
Study: *Jeremiah—Daring to Hope in an Unstable World*
Lesson 4
Study Leader: Judy
Devotions: Judy
Hostess: Nancy

NO GENERAL MEETING

Deadline for ordering
Easter Eggs: Sunday, March 6
Ladies Tea: April 16



Loch Raven Sunday School would like to invite all children to join us for our annual egg hunt and Easter celebration. There will be hidden eggs to find, snacks to eat, a storytime and crafts to make. Please join us March 27th at 9:00AM in the auditorium for a fun-filled hour. If you have any questions please contact Carole Webner (410 592-5222). SEE YOU AT THE EGG HUNT!

Missions In Action: Health Care for the Homeless

Helping people move from crisis to stability

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Our focus this month is on a local mission: Health Care for the Homeless.

Did you know nearly 19% of Marylanders live in poverty—including 25% of residents and 33% of children in Baltimore City. Tens of thousands of individuals in Maryland and Baltimore have no place to call home.

Last year Health Care for the Homeless helped 10,000 children and adults move toward better health and stability by:

- providing comprehensive health care services and various supportive services
- applying a whole-person approach to care that considers all aspects of a person's life and health to his or her individual treatment
- advocating for affordable housing and livable incomes for all persons

For thirty years, Health Care for the Homeless has helped children, youth, families and adults living in shelters, transitional housing, on other people's couches, and on the streets—under bridges, on benches and in tents, abandoned buildings and cars.

Their clients are employed and unemployed, educated and career professionals, veterans of war, immigrants, black, white and brown, gay, straight and transgender. They are also victims of abuse, loss and bad luck.

Health care programs include medical, convalescent, dental, psychiatric care, mental health, and addiction services.

Supportive services include:

- helping secure identification, referrals and transportation to appointments
- helping secure temporary and permanent housing
- helping individuals stay housed
- providing group support activities
- assisting with public benefits assistance, including insurance and income

For more information, see: www.hchmd.org.

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!*

March—Spaghetti Sauce

April—Canned Meat (ex.: beef stew, chili, Spam)

May—Soup

June—Spaghetti

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.

LRUMC'S SPAGHETTI DINNER AND TALENT SHOW IS COMING!

Saturday, April 23

If you wish to share a talent or can help out with dinner or the show, please contact Debi Wynn or Patti Ferguson.