

The Spire



March 2017

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Pastor's Spring Bible Study

If you were waiting for an invitation to follow in Jesus' footsteps—this is it. Lots of people think Christianity is all about doing what Jesus says. But what if doing what Jesus says isn't what Jesus says to do at all? His invitation is an invitation to relationship, and it begins with a simple request: follow me.

This will be a four-week study on consecutive Mondays beginning March 6th @ 7:00 PM and ending on March 27. Sessions include *The Fine Print* based on Matthew 7:24-27 and Mark 8:31-37, *What I Want to Want* based on Matthew 26:6-15, *Leading Great* based on Mark 10:32-44, and *Unfollow* based on John 6:6-66. We will be meeting in the downstairs parlor. I hope to see you there.

Pastor Cliff



What exactly is Ash Wednesday? Where does it come from? It's not in the Bible in any obvious way. But some of its ideas are. Ash Wednesday has its origin in the early church—somewhere between the sixth and eighth centuries. Originally, the idea was that a Christian, as a sign of repentance, would sprinkle ashes on his or her head.

In the Bible, ashes were always associated with humility and mortality, fasting and remorse. If you had sinned against God, and you felt remorse about that sin, and you were repenting of that sin, then you would sprinkle ashes on your head as a sign of sorrow and repentance.

For every Christian, whether we use ashes or not, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a forty-day span of time from then until Easter. The forty days do not include Sundays because each Sunday is considered a miniature Easter. Easter is a time of joy and celebration, as are the Sundays of Lent. So the early church didn't include those Sundays in the forty day Lenten season count.

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 1st @ 7:00 PM. Come and bring anything that is holding you back from being at one with God. It is a wonderful time for a fresh start.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Cliff



Inside This Issue ...

UMCOR Sunday	Page 2
UMW Chocolate Easter Egg Sale	Page 4
Fish & Chicken Fry	Page 7
New in 2017: Membership Committee	Page 9

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 12, 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

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

Administrative Secretary—
Anne McCorkle Garrett

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

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Visit us on Facebook

UMCOR Sunday – March 26
Together, we reach children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

UMCOR Sunday (previously One Great Hour of Sharing), one of six special church offerings, is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It 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 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. We are convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity without regard to race, religion or gender. 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 fundraising 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 2017:

Native American Ministries Sunday - April 30

Peace with Justice Sunday – June 11

World Communion Sunday - October 1

United Methodist Student Day Sunday - November 26



Sunday, March 12
Set Clocks Ahead
One Hour

If You Want To Make God Laugh

Have you heard the saying “If you want to make God laugh, make plans?” I feel that has been my life journey. I make plans and, along the way, discover that God has much better plans:

Plan 1: Attend the College of William and Mary – but they didn’t offer my field of interest.

Plan 2: Return to Richmond to teach – but I was given a scholarship to graduate school (2 years teaching in Maryland required); met Jim and married; actually liked Baltimore.

Plan 3: Teach at School for the Deaf, never in public schools – but the only job offering was in Baltimore City Public Schools.

Plan 4: Teach 3rd grade, never preschoolers – but the only open position in hearing-impaired department was with preschoolers; found my niche with them; Pre-school department well-run and child-centered (loved it).

Plan 5: Stay with hearing-impaired preschoolers – but after 10 years, too many teachers/too few students.

Plan 6: Resign to working with children with various special needs – but after another 10 years, asked to return to hearing-impaired preschool.

Plan 7: After contemplating retirement, offered the oral hearing-impaired class and actually told the head of the department I’d teach for another 5 years – but back problems began and felt I was not able to give my students my best.

Plan 8: Find a “retirement job” and get more involved with church – and secretary position at church opened.

Plan 9: Serve as Administrative Secretary for several years – but Jim’s health declined rapidly.

So, now I feel called to be caregiver for Jim and enjoy the remaining time God gives us together and, therefore, have resigned my position.

Thank you very much Loch Raven United Methodist Church for allowing me to serve God by serving you in the position of Administrative Secretary for 3½ years. At the time, Jim stated that he knew I wanted to get more involved with church but didn’t think I meant THAT much. Well, it wasn’t too much for me. The position never felt like a “job,” and was a much-needed Godsend after teaching. I enjoyed most aspects of the job – but especially the joy of working with the members and staff of LRUMC, and getting to know most of you on a deeper, more personal level.

As Jim and I continue on this unknown journey, we both want to thank you for your support and prayers. It is my hope to one day again be more involved with LRUMC, as a volunteer (as was originally planned).

Myra Wagner

United Methodist Women March Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, March 6

7:30 PM—Room 202

Study: *Woman of God*

Lesson 5: Trustworthy—

Standing in the World

Study Leader: Jan

Devotions: Jan

Hostess: Jan

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, March 7

10 AM—Parlor

Study: Chapter 4

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, March 19

After the church service.

Covered Dish—Bring a dish—whatever you wish.

Program: A presentation by Sharon Neumann and Nancy Gillotti of their trip to the Holy Land.

All are invited.



Lessons from the Cross

Our Lenten sermon series will be a three-week look at what Jesus taught from the cross. It begins on March 12 and runs through March 26. The first week is called *The Forgiveness Lesson* and is based on Psalm 121 and Luke 23:34. The second week is called *The Salvation Lesson* and is based on Romans 5:1-11 and Luke 23:43. The third week is called *The Relationship Lesson* and is based on Psalm 23 and John 19:26-27.

Pastor Cliff

Learn to Paint in One Easy Lesson

By: Debi Wynn

Nancy White has offered to lead a paint-a-picture workshop here at Loch Raven.



You do not have to have artistic skills to participate in

this fun evening of painting and fellowship. A date will soon be announced in an upcoming bulletin.

Help Requested!

So many kind people stepped up and generously helped in the office while Myra was on leave of absence. Now we would like to set up a small team of people who are willing to help on occasion when Anne needs to be out.

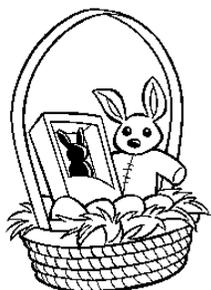
Since Anne won't usually be out many days, only basics are needed for a morning: sorting mail, answering the phone, retrieving voice mail, answering the door buzzer.

If you can help on occasion, you would be most appreciated! Please let Anne know at Office@LRUMC.org. You will have an opportunity to sign up for a morning that suits your schedule.

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 26
- Pick-up order: Sunday, April 2, 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—Peanut Butter (dark chocolate)
 # _____ dozen—Coconut Cream (dark chocolate) # _____ dozen—Peanut Butter (milk chocolate)
 # _____ dozen—Chocolate Cream (dark chocolate) # _____ dozen—Assorted (three of each kind)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

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
- 23 Tiffany Hively
- 24 Tim Price
- 30 Dave Jackson
Robert Cullum
Irene McCrea

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

I'm very late in writing this, but I wish to thank you for your loving support during Bob's illness and at the time of his death. Your visits to the funeral home and attending the church service were overwhelming. I am so blessed to have such a caring and loving church family.

Nancy Lacy

Your friendship means the world to me. Thank you for caring.

I would like to thank everyone who prayed for me during my recent fall. Reverend Harting also visited me at home. Everything was deeply appreciated. I am finally out of the woods now. Many thanks!

Love,
Ruth Kriel

There are no words to adequately thank you for all your kind words and prayers for Dellroy and me. God truly answers our prayers. They saw Dellroy through his by-pass surgery and subsequent rehab. When he was reluctant to take his medication, we prayed and ever since then, the nurses said he took his pills without complaint. When I prayed he would be home for Christmas—God complied. The only problem was I did not specify which *home*, and God, in His infinite wisdom, decided to take Dellroy to his eternal home. Al, thank you for your many uplifting visits; you were a faithful friend to Dellroy. Pete, thank you for your harmonica recitals and history lesson. I can still remember him telling Al about the "freight train song." I thank God for our wonderful church family, and can only imagine the joy and happiness in heaven with Dellroy there.

Merrill Harrison



UMC Lectionary Calendar March, 2017

March 1 – 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

March 5 – First Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32 (UMH 766)

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

March 12 – Second Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121 (UMH 844)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 19 – Third Sunday in Lent; Missions Committee Blanket Sunday

Church Color: Purple

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 85 (UMH 814)

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 26 – Fourth Sunday in Lent; UMCOR Sunday

Church Color: Purple

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Missions *In Action*: Deaf/Blind Interfaith Camp

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally and internationally. Our focus this month is on a local mission: The Deaf/Blind Camp of Maryland.

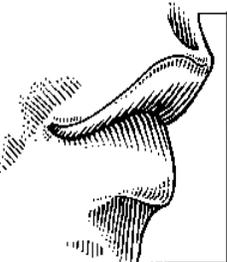
The camp, founded by Deaf Interfaith, was established in 1998. Its mission is to provide a safe, fun, free week for persons who have significant hearing and vision loss. The camp has grown from six campers the first year to over forty campers currently. Campers have varying degrees of hearing and vision loss; many are totally deaf and blind.

Campers are able to take part in many recreational activities such as: climbing walls, hiking, boating and canoeing. Educational opportunities include a technology exhibit of new devices that could improve their home and/or work lives. Campers can participate and often lead many of the programs, including cooking classes, support group discussions and worship services.

Through your support, financial assistance is provided to meet the needs of the individual camper: Braille for those who cannot read print, ramps for campers using wheelchairs and sighted guides for those who need guiding. Communication is provided in whatever mode meets the need of the camper: American Sign Language including tactile, spoken English, amplified sound or writing.

Everyone involved in the camp is a volunteer. They are the eyes and ears for campers and give up their own vacation to make sure each camper experiences the camp to its fullest.

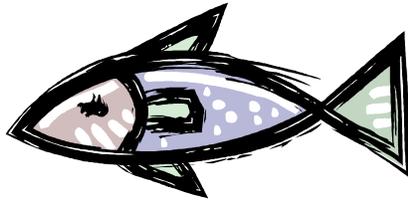
If you would like to be a camp volunteer, see:
<http://www.deafblindcampofmd.org/ssp-application>



O LORD, OPEN MY LIPS,
AND MY MOUTH WILL
DECLARE YOUR PRAISE.

PSALM 51:15, NRSV

Loch Raven United Methodist Church Invites you to our Annual Lenten Event



Fish & Chicken Fry
With potato salad, string
beans & cornbread

Friday, March 24

6:00 PM

Adults \$12

Children \$10

Tickets available after Sunday worship in
Fellowship Hall.

Weekdays in the Church Office,
10 AM – 2 PM.

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 –
May 6, July 15 and Oct. 14

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.

Sunday School Easter Celebration!



The Loch Raven Sunday School will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 16th at 9:00 AM. All children are welcome to join us for egg hunting, crafting, snacking and story time. We need your help. Donations of wrapped Easter candy and plastic eggs can be placed in the donation boxes located in the narthex and outside the fellowship hall. For more

information please contact Carole Webner (carolewebner@hotmail.com or 410-592-5222). Thanks for all of your support for this event.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LIFEWATER CANADA

By taking part in our church-wide Christmas cards exchange, Missions was able to donate \$1,120 to this special mission project.

Loch Raven Festival of the Arts: A Look Back to 2016

By: Debi Wynn

As 2016 has ended, looking back over the past several months, a major THANK YOU!!! to church members who supported the Festival of the Arts with their participation of music and art showcasing and their attendance:

To Ms. Merrill for her above and beyond support.
 To Sam Chin for adding the Messiah music to rehearsal nights and directing it on this Saturday event.
 To Patti Gould for her accompanying and learning the Messiah music and each rendition of the solos.
 To church members Cheryl and Michael Koogler, Joyce Deitrich, Cecelia Miller and to Viola Watson and her talented IMPROVE children for showcasing their artistic talents.
 To Judy Zahren for her marketing assistance.

Returning for a second year to the Festival was artist Dean Davis. Dean is also a talented actor/singer, appearing at Toby's Dinner Theatre, Charm City Players and other MD/DC theatres. The DC Metro Theatre Awards awarded Dean Best Performer in a Musical for his role of Shrek in 2015.

Two Glendale residents participated with their artwork: a rising artist, Alex Goldenberg-Donahue, and Nancy White, an arts instructor. Nancy donated her paintings for sale as a fundraiser for this event and we are very appreciative of her support. Several of these beautiful paintings are still available for Easter and Mother's Day and birthday gifts. If you visited the church office during the past year, her lovely flower paintings were on display there.

Guest soloists John Day, Laura Fuentes and Emma Rosenthal sang beautifully and a big thank you to these singers for sharing their talents.

After church the following day, the art was still on display and several church attendees said they were unaware of this event but had they known they would have submitted arts projects to display. We look forward to seeing these and other church members and community artists participate in 2017.

Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

This month's spotlight member is Maria Stockton-Porter. Maria is a very active member of our church and its various ministries. Aside from her participation with the vacation bible school and making contributions to special events at church, I have seen her perform in our skits (performing the role of my wife at one point), perform with the liturgical dancers, and of course ringing with the handbell choir. My favorite thing about her is that she always has a big smile that warms everyone's heart. Thank you for all your contributions to our church!

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

I think I became a member of LRUMC around 2008 or 2009 and I joined the Bell Choir in 2013.

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

My most memorable experience with our Church Ministry is when we have music Sundays & Cantatas!!

I love it when the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir interact with singing and ringing together. Also, when we had

(Continued on page 9)

New in 2017: Membership Committee

By: Debi Wynn

This new year brings to Loch Raven Church a new opportunity for church members to serve and assist with filling the pews. The Grow Worship Committee is now the Membership Committee, a group working to market Loch Raven's many benefits and activities to the area, expand the members roll, find new and innovative ways for the church building to serve the community, and to inspire church members to participate in fellowship activities.

There was discussion about contacting community groups and colleges for their input (which has been done), meet with them, and then plans will go forward from that feedback. We are waiting to hear back from community associations and colleges. If you have ideas for events, programs, workshops, educational or cultural activities Loch Raven UMC can offer communities, please contact Debi Wynn at 410-583-0270 or at tnhedutainment@aol.com. Help your church become an active and engaging cornerstone in the community for all ages.

You will also notice a few new additions to Sunday mornings throughout the year. The UMC provides a list of welcoming ideas to incorporate and one is the playing of music as people arrive for the worship service. If you have a favorite Christian music artist you'd like to hear, please let us know.



*May your blessings
outnumber
the shamrocks that
grow,
And may trouble
avoid you
wherever you go.*

Irish Blessing

Music Ministry Spotlight

(Continued from page 8)

UMW Sunday and the women ran the whole service—that was nice because some women who weren't already in the choir joined the group to sing. I also loved it when we had a very strong praise band with more of our younger members.

What are your favorite hymns?

OMG, I have so many songs that I LOVE!! Lord I Lift Your Name on High, Dance Like David Dances, This is My Father's World, I'll Fly Away (the real upbeat version), Never Would Have Made It Without You—Marvin Sapp, Lord Build a Fence Around Me—Fred Hammond.

Three adjectives to describe LRUMC?

Three adjectives for LRUMC would be Family-Oriented, Caring & Compassionate.

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

We really need to upgrade our music with maybe more guest musicians and choirs. Also, host special services featuring various artists and invite the community to come and listen.

More out-reach opportunities is the key to growing our church!!