

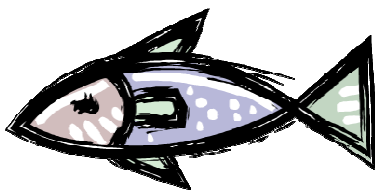
The Spire



March 2018

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Join us for our annual
Fish & Chicken Fry
With potato salad, string
beans & cornbread



Friday, March 23
2 PM—8 PM

Adults \$12
Children \$10

Tickets available after Sunday
worship in Fellowship Hall or
weekdays in the Church Office
from 10 AM – 2 PM

As We Continue Our Lenten Journey

The success of the Methodist Church in the 16th and 17th centuries in England and in the United States was in large part due to the class meetings that were established. Inspired by scriptures including James 5:16, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective,” class meetings were accountability groups that allowed people to come together to examine their faith and to share their lives with one another.

Classes would come together weekly with a class leader and would explore their faith, confess their failings to one another, and pray for one another. Some of the questions that were asked would be uncomfortable, to say the least, in our increasingly individualistic society, such as “Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?” and “Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?” However, classes became so popular that Wesley began requiring tickets for people to attend.

Even if we don’t have the opportunity to meet in accountability groups, Wesley’s small group questions are helpful for self-reflection and spiritual growth, especially in the season of Lent. As we continue in the season of Lent, I think many of these questions are good for us to meditate on in this time of reflection. Questions such as:

“Did the Bible live in me today?”

“Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?”

“Am I enjoying prayer?”

“Do I pray about the money I spend?”

As we move closer to Easter let us continue to give God praise for this season of reflection. As we enter into the month of March, the

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March 11
Daylight Savings
Time Begins
Set Clocks Ahead
One Hour

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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 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.

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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.

UMCOR Sunday – March 11

Together, we reach children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

UMCOR Sunday (previously One Great Hour of Sharing) is one of six special church offerings celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

When disaster strikes around the globe, we often feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act. So don't be fooled by the word "committee." The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

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 UMCOR's 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 underfunded 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.umciving.org/ministry-articles/one-great-hour-of-sharing.

Other Special Giving Sundays in 2018:

Native American Ministries Sunday—April 15

Peace with Justice Sunday—May 27

World Communion Sunday—October 7

United Methodist Student Day Sunday—November 25

Merrill Harrison



Where Does All the Money Go?

By: Merrill Harrison

Have you wondered where all the money goes from your offering envelopes? Some are obvious; others not so much.

- Initial Offering – offsets the costs of the envelopes themselves (any excess to the actual cost goes into the general fund)
- Weekly Offerings – goes to the general fund
- Communion Offering – goes to the Good Samaritan fund which is used by the Missions Committee and/or the pastor to help persons in need
- Improvement Fund – is used by the Trustees for building maintenance and repairs
- Holiday (Lenten, Maundy Thursday, Thanksgiving, Christmas) Offerings – goes to the general fund
- Year End Gift – goes to the general fund
- Pew Envelopes – goes to the general fund, unless a special designation is made
- Special Pew Envelopes – goes toward special mission projects as designated on the envelope
- Special Giving Sundays – six Sundays throughout the year; goes to our Conference to fund specific, vital ministries of the United Methodist Church.

There is also a special envelope (located by the flower chart in the arcade) for your use. Funds are used by the Altar Guild to actually purchase the flowers.

Note: The general fund is one of multiple accounts that are not specifically restricted for any individual purpose but the money is used to fulfill the annual budget of the church (salaries, maintenance, utilities, education and worship supplies).

As We Continue our Lenten Journey

(Continued from page 1)

winter has been cold but spring is on the way. Our spiritual reflection may seem long and at times difficult, but we are coming to the point where soon fruit will start to be produced. As we look into ourselves and look out into the world Lent begins to clear our eyes so we can see the hidden beauty that is all around us.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Monday, March 12 – Missions Committee meeting (7:00pm Parlor) – come if you would like to join our committee or if you have a special project you would like us to consider .

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 – **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.



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 over 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.

Merrill Harrison

Got Books?

By: Merrill Harrison

In addition to their food ministry, the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) also accepts books for children to take home and read. Many of their clients do not have the luxury of having their own books. This ministry was founded by the first Executive Director of ACTC, Diana Lynn "Lindy" Utermohle.

Lindy, a lifelong member of Ascension Lutheran Church, was an avid reader and knew the importance of reading to children at an early age. She realized that books were a low priority for many families short on food and other basic necessities. That is why she established a free children's book program at ACTC. She and her husband, Charlie, would go to yard sales and buy children's books. She then divided the books into two age categories - six and under (marked by round yellow sticker) and six and up (marked by a round orange sticker). Lindy passed away in May 2016, and for all this time her good work to stock up the center with books has kept the free children's book ministry going. But they are now in need of more books.

If you have books in good condition that your children have outgrown, why not donate them to ACTC? The Center will also accept books for teens and adults. Devotional books and bibles are also welcomed. Look for donation boxes in Fellowship Hall.



Upcoming Spirit Nights at Chick-fil-A Joppa Road

**May 23
July 18**

Proceeds to benefit Vacation Bible School.



St. Patrick's Day

March 17



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

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.
- 6 Agasou Rameau
- 7 Shannon Larrimore
- 10 Peggy Kelly
- 11 Michaela Jones
Heather Marsalek
- 12 Jason Myers
Joseph Caleb, Jr.
- 14 Norma Jones
Morgan Buszczak
- 16 Karen Seets
- 17 Matthew Price
Andrea Welsh
- 19 Robert Weaver
- 20 Phil Scott
- 23 Tiffany Hively
- 24 Tim Price
- 30 Dave Jackson
Robert Cullum
Irene McCrea
April Elizabeth Eshelman

Membership Updates

Address Changes

Bill and Betty Shock
615 Chestnut Avenue #203
Baltimore, MD 21204
410-842-0255

Harold and Tyler Gowie
2500 Wildpark Avenue
Parkville, MD 21234

Dave Jackson
6451 N. Charles Street,
Apt. 106
Baltimore, MD 21212

Mailing address:
c/o Patricia Hinkel
6437 Cloister Gate Drive
Baltimore, MD 21212

Linda Johansen
131 Hampshire Road
Essex, MD 21221

Births

Noah Olufidipe
December 20, 2017
Parents: Oyetola and Ola
(Akerele) Olufidipe
Grandparents: Olaseinde and
Titi Akerele

From the Mailbox

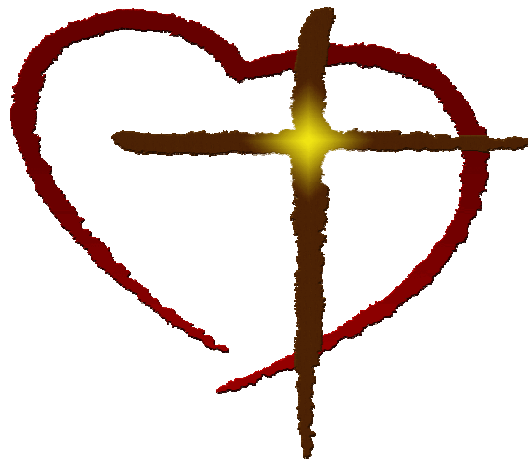
My dear Loch Raven friends,

I was so touched by the sweet gift card you all sent to me for Christmas! My family enjoyed using it on some colored acrylic tumblers, and will think of you all whenever we use them. We were so surprised to receive a staff gift after I was gone. What generous hearts you have!

I am really enjoying my position as Minister of Visitation at Timonium UMC. Pastor Francie keeps me quite busy with anything she can't get to, and I have also been covering for other neighboring pastors on their vacation and sick days. It feels so good to be back in pastoral ministry.

I think of you all often! I'm so grateful to have been able to leave things in Myra's capable hands. I hope to see you all at Conference events.

Shalom,
Anne McCorkle Garrett



Fostering a Sense of Community at LRUMC



Do you know the names of the people sitting around you? Would you like to be able to put names with faces? Contact them directly? Be a part of our new family directory program – we need YOU to make it complete!

LRUMC has contracted with Lifetouch for a new directory. Photos will be taken from 2:00 PM through

9:00 PM on March 26th, 27th and 28th in Fellowship Hall. Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 photograph and a free directory for participating. In addition, there will be a \$10 discount on each order, a 20% discount for seniors and active military members and an opportunity to give back to the community by bringing canned goods to your photo shoot. Lifetouch will donate money to the organization of our choice for every food item received!

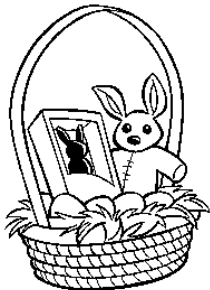
Families may sign up online at: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y9y7hr5k/>. You may connect to this site directly from the home page of the LRUMC website – www.lrumc.org. We will also be holding in-person sign-ups in Fellowship Hall after each Sunday service through March 18th.

Invite other family members/loved ones to join your photography session – even if they're not members. Please contact Cheryl Wagner, Judy Zahren, or Myra Wagner if you have questions.

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 11
- Pick-up order: Sunday, March 18, 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: \$ _____

UMC Lectionary Calendar

March is Women's History Month

March 2

World Day of Prayer

March 4

Third Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19 (UMH 750)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 11

Fourth Sunday in Lent

UMCOR Sunday

Church Color: Purple

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

(UMH 830)

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 18

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 (UMH 785)

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

March 25 Passion/Palm Sunday Sixth Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Liturgy of the Palms:

Mark 11:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

(UMH 839)

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16 (UMH 764)

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47 or

Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

March 26

Monday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 36:5-11 (UMH 771)

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:1-11

March 27 Tuesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 71:1-14 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 12:20-36

March 28 Wednesday of Holy Week

Church Color: Purple

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 70 (UMH 793)

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

March 29 Holy Thursday

Church Color: Purple

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

(UMH 837)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 30 Good Friday

Church Color: None

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

March 31 Easter Vigil

Church Color: None (prior to

sunset); White (Easter Vigil)

Number of readings may vary.

Old Testament Readings & Psalms:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a [Psalms 136:1-9, 23-26 or Psalm 33 (UMH 767)]

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 [Psalms 46 (UMH 780)]

Genesis 22:1-18 [Psalms 16 (UMH 748)]

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 [Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 (UMH 135)];

Isaiah 55:1-11 [Isaiah 12:2-6]

Ezekiel 36:24-28 [Psalms 42 (UMH 777)]

Ezekiel 37:1-14 [Psalms 143 (UMH 856)]

New Testament Readings & Psalms:

Romans 6:3-11 [Psalms 114; (UMH 835)]

Gospel Reading:

Mark 16:1-8

United Methodist Women March Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, March 5

7:30 PM—Room 202

Study: *When Faith Is All You*

Have—Lesson 1: What Is Faith?

Study Leader: Myra

Devotions: Myra

Hostess: Myra

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, March 6

10 AM—Parlor

Study: Ecclesiastes-Chapter 5

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, March 4

After the church service.

Covered Dish—Bring a dish—whatever you wish.

Program: To Be Announced

All are invited.



Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

This month's spotlight member is Judy Feustle. When I first interviewed/ auditioned for my position here at Loch Raven UMC in the fall of 2011 Judy Feustel was on the search committee. I vividly remember her because she was so cheerful and energetic throughout the whole process. I can still recall how happy she was when I picked *Victory in Jesus* as one of the hymns that I would lead as part of the audition. That first impression has stuck with me all these years and to this day I always feel a bit warmer and energized every time I talk to her. Well, it's the middle of Lent and it's still cold outside, but I hope getting to know Judy a little better will bring some cheer and energy into your life as well.

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

I've been a member of Loch Raven UMC for about 40 years, and I've been in the handbell choir almost all of that time. My home church was Arnolia UMC and I was involved in the music program there. Handbells were something that I had not played before and I've found out that it is a lot of fun.

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

Two things come to mind. First is that, years ago, we used to take our bell choir on the road. Especially at the holidays, we would load the bells, and tables if necessary, and play at a nursing home or another church. That was a lot of fun. And second is the weddings when we have played handbells - usually a choir member's wedding.

What are your favorite hymns?

My favorite hymns are from many different categories. Sometimes, I like hymns that are quieter and more contemplative. An example would be *In the Garden*, which was my father's favorite hymn. Other times, I like hymns that are louder and really shout what the story is about. Examples would be *Victory in Jesus* or *Shine, Jesus, Shine*. And I like all of the Advent, Christmas, and Easter hymns. For contemporary hymns, in addition to the groups that Adelaide mentioned in the February Spire, I like Laura Story. Her songs *Blessings* and *Indescribable* are two of my favorites.

Three adjectives to describe LRUMC?

Spirit-filled, supportive, and committed.

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

I think that this is a great time to be at Loch Raven UMC. There is a sense of renewed energy and a focus on how we, as a congregation, can best move forward to meet the needs of the community and to spread God's word. As the church grows, I'd like to see all of our outreach, including the music ministry, grow. We could sing more contemporary Christian songs. Or maybe we even add a service, with one being more traditional and the other more contemporary.