

The Spire



March 2020

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Women in the Church

As women, we are called daughters, mothers, aunts and sisters. We are the nurturers, the peacemakers, and the healers. Through our Christian beliefs we are sisters in Christ. Women have played an important role in the church and that remains evident at Loch Raven United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members. Loch Raven has a strong, active UMW which we want to encourage all of the women of the church to become involved in. We currently have two UMW circles: one circle meets on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 am and the other circle meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. At these meetings, bible study is our central mission. A general meeting is held once a month and features a covered dish, guest speaker and/or a mission project and all in the congregation are invited to attend. If you are not already a member of the UMW, please consider joining. If you would like more information, please reach out to Nancy Gillotti or Nancy Williams.

We hope you will consider being a part of this very important ministry.

Jennifer Webster

Lent: A Time of Reflection

When I was younger, it appeared that time moved more slowly. There were no cell phones, email or social media. People did not have 24-hour access to information or the ability to communicate continents away at real time at no expense. The increased technology and advancements are a great benefit to society in so many ways. However, not all that comes with technology is good for us. The world seems to get faster and faster and more confusing. Lent is an opportunity for us to slow down and to focus on the things that are truly important. It is an opportunity to clear out things that are no longer needed and refocus our lives toward God.

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. A time to take stock, to slow down, to reevaluate and refocus.

When we take time and slow down, we can find amazing newness all around us. Recently I discovered a bakery that I had never seen before. When I inquired if it was new I found out that they actually had been there for some time, but in my busy-ness I had not noticed. I had driven by it almost everyday but never realized it was there. This Lenten season let's take time

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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 8, 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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Website: www.LRUMC.org
Visit us on FACEBOOK.

Trustees Report

The Trustees have decided that it might be a good idea to give regular updates in *Spire* articles about what we are working on. For this first article in a series, let's start with perhaps Trustees major role.

Upkeep of the Building and Grounds

This is a major priority for Trustees. You will remember both the Outside Garden Party and the inside "Clean the Sanctuary" party. Those were both great and we thank the congregation for your support. After the bushes were trimmed, it became very clear that we need painting of the outside of the church – doors, windows, etc. Estimates were obtained, but we ran into cooler temperatures, so have deferred this until spring. But, it is not too cold to paint inside. Many areas of the hallways and stairwells are badly in need of painting. Estimates are currently being obtained. Watch for this painting to start soon.

Did you know that there is a leak in the Sanctuary Roof— not related to the new steeple, but a problem that has to be fixed. Water damage is evident in some areas of the balcony ceiling. Trustees are reviewing estimates on this as well, with a target for spring repairs to occur.

And some of you have commented on the fact that Trustees made the switch to a new custodial services company in the fall. It is so good to see the hallway downstairs by the church office shining. And other areas as well look a lot cleaner. A new effort in the past few weeks is clean up of the kitchen. Did you know that the kitchen is inspected regularly by the Baltimore County Health Department?

In the April *Spire*, watch for the article on the role of Trustees in promoting safety of the building and the congregation. In fact, don't even be surprised if one day we have a fire drill.

And if you have any questions or concerns about the building or the grounds, please let a member of Trustees or the Church Office know.



Outreach/Evangelism Moving Forth in 2020

By: Rebecca Mickey

A new year brings new hopes, new dreams and new opportunities. This is the vision for the Outreach Committee for 2020. God is always doing a new thing. Isaiah 43:19 tells us “Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand new.”

In the fall of 2019 the Outreach Committee discussed the importance of extending their ministries. Consequently, we decided to step out on faith to host a bi-monthly Family Movie Night. At our first event on Friday, February 7, we showed the 2019 version of *The Lion King*.

We invited the students from Halstead Academy, Pleasant Plains Elementary School and Improve’s before and after school program, as well as our congregation. Refreshments were served. Realizing that Valentine’s Day is a great way to show our love to others, the students received take home treats. The treats included a pack of cookies and an age-appropriate bookmark with two memory scriptures.

For those parishioners who contributed to this ministry, we thank you immensely for your service and/or gifts.

We look forward to the March opening of *The Corner Hope Chest*. Donations of clothing, clean and on hangers ready for display racks, continue to be accepted for the clothing ministry. Place items on the clothes rack in the arcade with size information attached. If you are available to help us in this very important ministry please contact Adelaide Wilson, Sandra Edmonds or Joycelynn Williams.

Lent: A Time of Reflection

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to slow down to reorient ourselves to the newness that God offers. 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. We must slow down and stop to smell the roses. To see the blessings that God has all around us and to deeply meditate about some of the things that can bring us closer in our walk with God.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

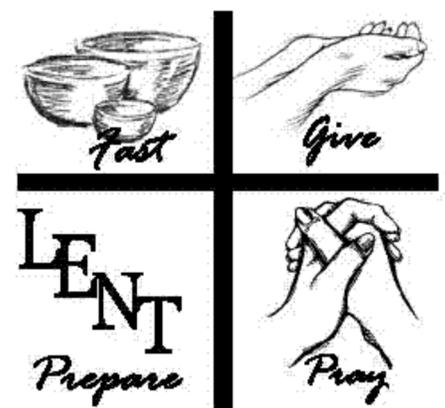
Marty Marvel Food Pantry:
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the
month. March dates are the 3rd
and 17th

To help serve individuals in our community who are food-insecure, 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 16, July 11, and Oct. 10
If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Linda Cole (check church directory or with church office for telephone number).

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.

Each year in Maryland more than 50,000 people experience homelessness.

- 38% of poor people in Maryland work full- or part-time. (*To afford a two-bedroom rental home on a minimum wage job in Maryland, you would have to work 115 hours a week.*)
- More than 50% of poor Marylanders live in “deep poverty,” meaning their incomes are 50% below the federal poverty level. Maryland prides itself on being one of the nation’s richest states, but it also has one of the highest rates of deep poverty.

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 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

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

Thank you to all who contributed to our Church World Service Blankets+ appeal.

We raised **\$456** which will provide blankets and other supplies to survivors of storms, earthquakes and other disasters.

UMCOR/One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday – March 22

***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 respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than 80 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.

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

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own and, through our connection, UMCOR has been doing this for 80 years.

By mobilizing trained volunteers who are already living in the community, purchasing emergency supplies and food from local merchants and channeling funds through trusted partners who are already on the ground, UMCOR is uniquely positioned to respond quickly after a disaster and to remain invested in rebuilding, even after these needs are no longer in the news. Recovery is a long process for individuals and communities. UMCOR also works with communities to train leaders to address infrastructure concerns, climate change and environmental degradation.

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.

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

Other Special Giving Sundays in 2020:

Native American Ministries Sunday – April 26

Peace with Justice Sunday – June 7

World Communion Sunday - October 4

United Methodist Student Day Sunday - November 29

UMC Lectionary Calendar Year A – March, 2020 *Woman's History Month*

March 1

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 6

World Day of Prayer

March 8

Second Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time

Begins at 2:00 AM

Church Color: Purple

Genesis 12:1–4a;

Psalms 121 (UMH 844)

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

John 3:1–17

March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Exodus 17:1–7

Psalms 95 (UMH 814)

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Psalms 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41

One Great Hour of Sharing

March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Church Color: Purple

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalms 130 (UMH 848)

Romans 8:6–11

John 11:1–45

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 Brianna Lee
- 4 Eddie DePrine, Jr.
- 7 Shannon Larrimore
- 10 Peggy Kelly
- 11 Michaela Jones
Heather Marsalek
- 12 Jason Myers
- 14 Norma Jones
- 16 Karen Seets
- 17 Matthew Price
- 19 Robert Weaver
- 20 Phil Scott
- 24 Tim Price
- 30 Robert Cullum
Irene McCrea
April Eshelman

From the Mailbox

I thank God for my successful knee surgery. I also wish to thank everyone in my LRUMC family for your prayers, cards, calls, words of encouragement and concern. They were very much appreciated.

Jim Harvill

Thank you so much for honoring Ken and I with the Altar Flowers in January! They made us smile every time we looked at them.

Ken and Linda Cole

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 22
- Pick-up order: Sunday, March 29, 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: \$ _____



Feeding the Community

Food Pantry Update

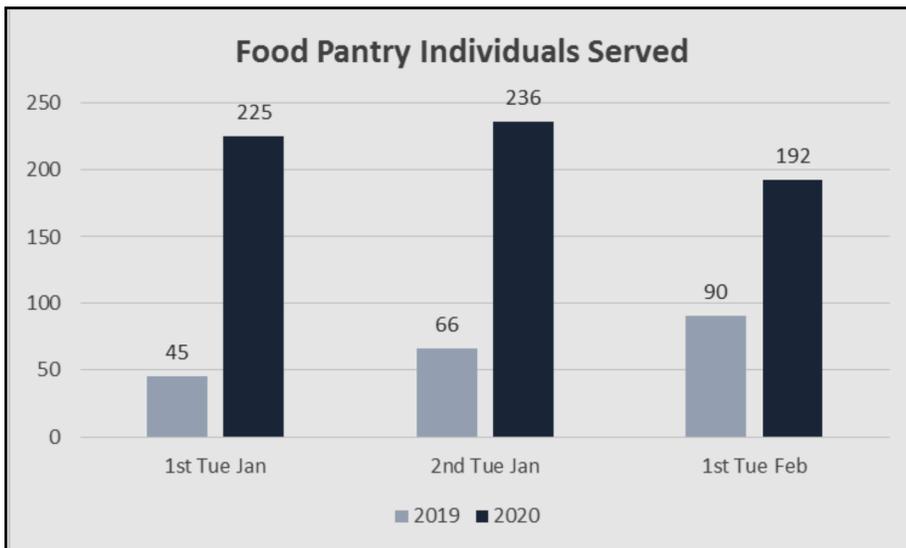
...“Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you...” Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:37-40 (The Message)

We are blessed to be able offer this ministry to food-insecure families in our community.

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Upcoming Dates: March 3rd & 17th



**In 2019, we served 3,520 individuals.
23,907.5 pounds of food!**

Just as our patrons have increased so has our need for more volunteers. If you would like to join our crew or have any questions, contact Merrill Harrison, Linda Cole, or the church office.

Please continue to pray for us and our guests, and spread the word that our pantry is open to all—including church members—who need help in putting food on their table.

**United Methodist Women
March Schedule**

Phyllis Downes Circle

Monday, March 2
10:00 a.m.—Parlor
Lesson 8

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, March 2
7:00 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Becoming Women of Purpose*
Lesson 5—Identifying God’s Purposes
Study: Cheryl
Devotions: Cheryl
Hostess: Cheryl

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, March 8
Covered dish luncheon following morning worship.
Program: Speaker from the Board of Child Care

Membership Updates

Contact the church office for up-to-date information.

Practice the Pause

*When in doubt, pause.
When tired, pause.
When angry, pause.
When stressed, pause.
And whenever you
Pause, Pray.*



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 1. All orders must be accompanied by full payment.**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

I would like to order flowers (indicate choice below):

LILIES (\$14.00): _____ 4-6 Blooms on single stem

LILIES (\$18.00): _____ 8-10 Blooms on 2 stems

TULIPS (\$14.00): PINK _____ RED _____ YELLOW _____

HYACINTHS (\$14.00): PINK _____ BLUE _____ WHITE _____

AZALEAS (\$18.00): PINK _____ RED _____ WHITE _____

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

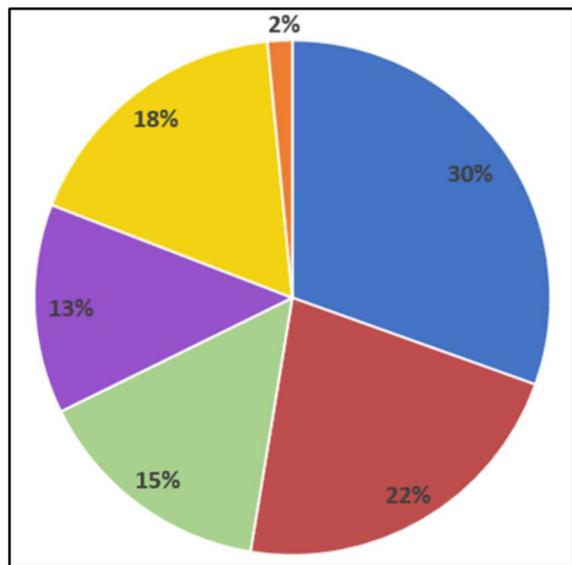
_____ I WILL DONATE THE PLANT TO THE CHURCH FOR A "HOMEBOUND" MEMBER

2020 Budget

With 2020 underway, the Finance Committee would like to share the results of our fall planning in the creation of our final annual budget. This year’s budget was presented and approved at the November Church Council meeting and represents the church’s proposed spending plan for the upcoming year. A special thank you to all committees and staff that help create, assemble, review and track our budget.

At LRUMC we regularly receive tithes and offerings from our many generous members and benefactors. One of the primary duties of the Finance Committee is to ensure that we are good stewards of these gifts and utilize them in a way that advances the church’s overall vision and mission. Creating a written budget is important for the work of the finance committee and of the entire church, as it forces prioritization of where LRUMC allocates funds based on the church’s available means. It also provides transparency to our members and other donors through communicating how valuable resources are being used.

With this in mind, we have built a total budget for 2020 of \$423,200. The below chart shows a breakdown of this budget by LRUMC’s primary service areas.



Pastoral Ministry	30%
Building and Facilities	22%
Administration and Communication	15%
Music and Worship	13%
Mission and Outreach	18%
Education and Fellowship	2%

Pastoral Ministry and Care (\$129k) - Partnering with the congregation to lead, nurture and embody Christian discipleship and helping people grow in God’s love: compensation for head pastor and minister of visitation, as well as funds for preaching and teaching, celebrating sacraments, visiting members, visioning and leadership, and pastor conferences/education.

Music and Worship (\$55.7k) - Enabling focused, beautiful worship through sanctuary adornment and sharing of musical gifts: choir director and organist salaries, as well as funds for guest musicians, choir/bell music and supplies, instrument maintenance, and Alter Guild/worship aids. In 2020, additional funds have been allocated to start a new worship experience - a contemporary worship time designed to reach unchurched people or people who desire a different worship style. This will launch in April as an additional monthly service.

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2020 Budget

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Mission and Outreach (\$74.4k) - Serving the broader community through supporting our conference and undertaking focused mission work: funds for conference apportionments, international, national, and local mission work areas, the Marty Marvel Food Pantry, and special programs. LRUMC has raised its mission and outreach budget in 2020 to provide designated contribution to UMCOR disaster relief, increased support of Halstead Academy, and additional funding to support the ever-growing Marty Marvel Food Pantry as it continues to feed local families.

Education and Fellowship (\$6.5k) - Teaching God's message, growing through Christian education and building congregational unity through fellowship: nursery nanny salary, funds for Sunday School literature, bible study literature, vacation bible school, youth camp support, family ministry activities, and special fellowship events. While the overall spending for education and fellowship appears small compared to the overall budget, it is important to recognize that learning and fellowship generally requires more time resources than monetary resources, and mission/outreach work often becomes an opportunity for quality fellowship time.

Building and Facilities (\$93.6k) - Upkeeping building and facilities as required to provide a safe, attractive environment for worship, fellowship, missions and education: funds for repair/maintenance, utilities, custodial and grounds, and insurance/taxes. LRUMC will also be starting large-scale capital improvement projects in 2020 for Mold Removal/Painting (\$70k) and Roof Replacement (\$80k). These will be funded primarily through our capital improvement investment account.

Administration and Communication (\$64k) - Performing duties required to efficiently run the church while facilitating both internal and external communication: secretary and treasurer salaries, as well as funds for office supplies, reproduction, stewardship, communications, postage, IT software/expense, recognition, and payroll expense.

LRUMC has great ambitions for 2020 and, with God's help, we will use your tithes and offerings to grow in Christian love and service. The Committee works with the [Fundraising](#) Committee to create events that help fill gaps in the budget by raising funding for specific projects. Please prayerfully consider supporting each of these efforts or taking a forward step in your regular giving/tithing. The Committee remains committed to serving LRUMC faithfully in administering the church's financial resources.

Please contact the church office or Scott Eshleman, Finance Chair, for further details on the 2020 budget or any other finance-related questions. Scott can be reached at smeshleman@hotmail.com.

