

The Spire



October 2018

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



Trunk or Treat October 27

It is that time of the year for decorating your car and hosting a treat pick up along the trunk or treat trail of cars in the church parking lot. This is a trick or treat experience where kids go from car to car instead of from door to door. To participate, sign up on the lower entrance hall lobby board, chose a theme for decorating your car such as sports, movie, era, whatever suits your fancy; select a treat, be it candy or other item, to place in each child's bag and consider getting into the spirit of the event by wearing a costume. This event, scheduled for Saturday, October 27, from 5 to 7 PM, is intended to engage the community and to be a fun time for the treaters and the car hosters. We are requesting Loch Raven members to assist in recruiting area businesses to participate with a vehicle. The Loch Raven Branch Library is participating and we would like to see other businesses join them.

World Communion

On October 7, 2018 we will celebrate World Communion Sunday, a time where Christians all over world, from many different cultures and denominations celebrate Christian unity and ecumenicism. We celebrate this unity through the Lord's Supper. Global Ministries, a non-profit dedicated to ecumenicism writes, "World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church." Even though we choose this day to celebrate the fact that we are one, this is truly a reality that we should embrace every time we partake of the bread and the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:26 states, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1st Corinthians teaches us that we do not partake in Communion just as a memory that Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross for us, but that he will come again to judge the quick and the dead. As Christians we are called to be in covenant with one another, not just people who look like us and worship in our preferred style. Every time we partake in the Lord's Supper we are having a World Communion and we should see it as such.

In the United Methodist Church we have an open table, so all are welcome to share of the Holy meal. All people are welcome. All people are of sacred worth. All people are created in the *imago dei*, the image of God. We are all sinners saved by grace and God pours out his spirit on all. Joel 2:28 declares, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, young men will see visions."

(Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue ...

Trustees Report	Page 2
Missions In Action: Operation Christmas Child	Page 4
From the Church Office	Page 6
The Roof Is Raised	Page 7

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 November issue is **Sunday, October 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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Visit us on FACEBOOK.



Trustees Report

After a brief hiatus to catch their collective breaths, the LRUMC Trustees met on Wednesday, September 5th. Last year's projects included repair/replacement of sanctuary gutters and downspouts, removal of the large tree near the playground, repairs to the arcade roof and repointing brickwork in that area. These were major successes in improving the physical structure of our church. Now the ceiling tiles can be replaced in the arcade.

Recognizing that our facility is over 60 years old and with age comes the need to maintain and upgrade our physical plant, the committee's focus is on the future. The Trustees are currently developing a master plan including such items as repair/replacement of the entire sanctuary roof, painting of the entire sanctuary as well as multiple other rooms and removal of excess stored materials. Additionally, Trustees are looking at the needs of future programs such as the food pantry and a potential preschool. The budget is currently being put together for submission to the Finance Committee. Watch for updates in future issues of the *Spire*.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Palazzi, Chair

And the entire committee

Awujoh Sunday, October 7

Over Loch Raven's 65 years, it has had members from over a dozen countries. Awujoh, a West African word for "feast," is a lunch celebration following the 10 AM worship service. Please join us as we share the food and culture of these countries.

United Methodist Women October Schedule

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, October 1

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *When Faith Is All You Have*

Lesson 4—When Faith Seems Ordinary

Study: Myra

Devotions: Myra

Hostess: Sharon

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, October 2

10:00 a.m.—Parlor

Study: Chapter 9

October 6th Flea Market is cancelled.

World Communion

(Continued from page 1)

In this time of division, we need World Communion Sunday. We need an understanding of world wide communion. We are one under the cross, different people, different cultures, different understandings but one Savior. As Christians we are rooted in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This is what we declare on World Communion Sunday.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George



**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

- \$821.46 (includes \$100 from our Vacation Bible School students and teachers) was collected for Christian Blind Mission International 3-D printer project for prosthetics. ***Thank you!***
- Start collecting items for our Christmas Shoebox donations to Samaritan's Purse.
- Instead of sending individual Christmas cards to your church family, considering posting one card on our display, and donate the money saved to Missions for Life Water Canada.
- 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 – **October 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.

Remaining Special Giving Sundays for 2018

World Communion Sunday—October 7

In the United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday continues to be a special giving Sunday. The monies raised help provide scholarships to equip gifted, qualified students from the U.S. and around the globe to become the world changers God created them to be.

For more information on this special giving opportunity, read a story about the impact you are making with your gifts:
www.umciving.org/your-impact/P0/2750.

United Methodist Student Day Sunday - November 25

Missions *In Action*: Operation Christmas Child

“We praise God for allowing us to touch the lives of so many children and their families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ over the past 25 years.” Franklin Graham

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally and internationally. Our focus this month is on Operation Christmas Child, a project sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse.

For 25 years, Samaritan’s Purse has partnered with local churches around the world to deliver **157 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children in need in 160 countries.** Each one—packed full of fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items by a family or individual—is sent with a prayer that the child who receives it will experience God’s love through their simple gifts.

Through Operation Christmas Child, God has provided unparalleled opportunities to touch the lives of millions of boys and girls in over 160 countries. Many of these children have never received a gift and never heard the true meaning of Christmas—until they open your shoeboxes. Your gift-filled shoebox helps bring good news and great joy to children in Africa, Asia, Europe, Central America and South America. These boys and girls are coming to Christ and leading their families to follow Him, too. Churches are being planted and new generations of evangelists are rising up through *The Greatest Journey*, our discipleship program just for shoebox recipients.

<p style="text-align: center;">SHOEBOX</p> <p>Pick up an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox or get an average-size cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you want to wrap it, cover the box and lid separately.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GIRL OR BOY?</p> <p>Decide whether you will pack a box for a girl or a boy, and the age category: 2–4, 5–9, or 10–14.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“WOW” TOY</p> <p>Start with a quality “wow” toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OTHER GIFTS</p> <p>Fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PRAY</p> <p>Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INCLUDE \$9 DONATION</p> <p>A donation of \$9 is critical to cover shipping and other project costs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT INCLUDE</p> <p>Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">National Collection Week (Nov. 12 – 19) DROP-OFF Bring your shoebox gift to church by our drop-off date (see Sunday bulletin for due date).</p>		

For more information, see: www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

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.

October Birthdays

- 1 Anne Palazzi
- 2 Adelaide Wilson
Doris Ndlovu
- 3 Gary Messman
- 4 Jen Dorsey
- 7 Jo Thomas
- 8 Molly Shock
- 14 David Brown
- 16 John Mayden
- 17 Hazellene Milligan
- 21 Chidozie Osuwa
- 22 Donna Welsh
- 23 Ardith Luttrell
- 26 Joyce Deitrich
- 29 Edith Pratt
- 30 Lydia Kendzierski
- 31 Stephanie Houston

Membership Updates

Address Change:

Doris Passley
2500 Wildpark Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234
410-591-5314

Address Unknown:

(Please let the office know of any current addresses of which you are aware.)

Cathy Gansert



Pipes and Bells Concert

Sunday, November 18
3:00 PM

We're pulling out all the stops for this interactive, family-friendly 45-minute program of pipe organ and handbells, followed by hands-on experiences with the instruments, then crafts, cookies and pizza!

This fun program is **FREE!**



“That pesky attendance pad!!”

“Why do I have to sign in every week?”

“You all know who I am.”

“What do you do with these sheets anyway?”

These may have been some of your thoughts over the years as you’ve seen the attendance pad passed from front to back, trying to sign it in between hymns, prayers and other parts of the worship service. So, I thought I’d let you know exactly what is done with those sheets every week.

First, we do track attendance. A volunteer marks our members and frequent non-members as present or absent every week in our database.

Second, we check for visitors (those not on our database) and mark their attendance on file cards in the “Visitors File.” When someone begins attending regularly, they are added to our database.

Third, we look for first-time visitors. A card is made for any first-time visitors and if they are nice enough to leave an address or email, we send a welcome letter from the office.

Fourth, it gives each of you an opportunity to check on names of those you do not know—new or regular attenders. (I’ve suggested a few times that we should start the attendance pads in the back so we would get to see the names of those who sit behind us. No one has ever taken me up on that, however!)

Fifth, Pastor Wayne receives a copy of the sheets. He uses them to put names and faces together. He also makes note of any frequent absent members.

Why track attendance?

1. I can make a list of regular attending members for the Lay Leadership Committee when choosing people to fill vacancies on committees.
2. If someone notices another person has been missing from worship, I can quickly check their last attendance date, at which point we can follow up with the individual.
3. When preparing names to be removed for Charge Conference, I can easily run a list of members who have not attended since a target date. (It has occurred more than once that a regular attending member has come up for removal. Fortunately, I knew the person and found they never signed the attendance sheets.)

So please do sign the pad when it comes by you. If someone you are with is running the sound board or serving as liturgist, please sign them in also. There is an attendance pad in the choir loft on the pulpit side for someone to sign in choir members. Take a minute to peruse those who signed before you. You may learn a new name!

Myra Wagner
Administrative Secretary

ASSOCIATED HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

Village Health & Wellness Center Project

The Roof Is Raised

By: Theresa Alaeze

Designed to engage the community in developing strategies to prevent illness, disease, disability and promote good health through outreach activities, the Village Health & Wellness Center Project mirrors the community's values, cultures, social interactions and other determinants of life that either promote or act as a barrier to good health.



How It Got Started

I decided to share my passion for this project with the congregation of LRUMC after 3 years of active participation in 7 different medical missions outreach to individuals living with HIV/AIDS and in communities at high-risk categories for contracting the virus, particularly those living in the remote villages in Nigeria and Senegal.

Mission In Action: LRUMC

After sharing my activities with LRUMC members, the Missions

Committee announced a desire to conduct a fundraising event. The event was titled "Buy-A-Brick" to build a facility in Ekpeye community in Nigeria to care for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The event was organized and implemented with the goal to raise money for the proposed building.

Collectively, the Missions Committee raised \$3,454.57 toward the construction of a building to care for PLWHA. Funds raised at that event were instrumental to the initial laying of the foundation of the building. The total amount spent from start to the completion of the building was \$63,700.00

The Benefits of This Building

The building will help in the coordination of care and services to persons in need:

HIV/AIDS services and care, including testing and counseling

preventative health education

self-management education and increased awareness on acute chronic health conditions

treatment of minor injuries

wound care

women and children's health issues

locate and acquire resources to those who lack access to basic life supportive services and care

Thank you so much for your support for this project.

Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

Fall is by far my favorite season of the year. Growing up in Michigan it was always a joy to see mother nature showcase its colors as it cooled off from the hot and sticky summer months. As a parent now, the start of school is also a definite reason to love this time of the year. Even the Detroit Lions are undefeated for a very short time in September.

Here at Loch Raven UMC, Fall also brings a new season of choir and handbells. I've been here 7 years now and I still get excited to see everyone come back the Thursday after Labor Day. Hope to have a great season once again.

It is my pleasure to showcase Theresa Alaeze to begin this 2018 season. Two words come to mind when I think of Theresa: poised and dedicated. Theresa usually arrives to choir practice after a full day of work, often straight from work. No matter how tired she seems Theresa always has a poised and gentle presence. Theresa, who is a registered nurse, is very involved with medical missionary work in her native Nigeria. Her dedication to that ministry is moving and inspiring. Ask her about it next time you see her!

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

I joined Loch Raven United Methodist Church in September 1991. First, I got involved with the mission/outreach committee after three months, and then Music Ministry in April 1992.

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

My most memorable experience in LRUMC's Music Ministry was in Christmas 1992 during the Christmas Eve worship, and the setting of the manger for the Christ-child. It reminded me of Christmas back home in Nigeria. For the Christians, Christmas in Nigeria is a festival of music and celebratory weeks of happiness, eating and cultural displays—an ongoing merry-go-round kind of atmosphere.

What are your favorite hymns?

In Christ Alone, My Eyes Have Seen The Glory of The Lord, Amazing Grace, Here Am I Lord, Sweet Hours of Prayer, It Is Well With My Soul, What A Friend We Have In Jesus, As The Deer Pants for the Water, Peace Like A River and more, including all the traditional Christmas and Easter music. Generally, I love music.

Three adjectives to describe LRUMC?

Traditional, Inspiring and Evolving

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

To serve as a catalyst in the promotion of the gospel through a coordinated and integrated art of worship through music and compassion and by spreading the good news of our Lord Jesus to the world. As a team of devoted believers, reaching more people through collective energy in psalms and hymns can attract a wide range of audience because music can minister to people from every culture, race/ethnicity and age. Music brings healing and it reflects a universal language that touches people in many ways irrespective of their geographical locations.

Under the leadership of Mr. Samuel Doo-Sik Chin, LRUMC's Music Ministry has a promising future of expanding its current activities to both old and new members, our children and even to a generation yet unborn. Thank you Sam!

Membership/Outreach Committee Event Follow up: Career Discovery Workshop

By: Debi Wynn

In August, the Membership/Outreach Committee held Loch Raven's second job event, this one titled a *Career Discovery Workshop*. In addition to visitors having the opportunity to talk one-on-one with an employment services guest, there was a panel discussion with all employment organization representatives including the Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development, Baltimore County Library's Loch Raven Branch, Express Employment Professionals, New Destiny Health Career Center and the Assistance Center of Towson Churches. This discussion was informative for everyone in attendance, not just job seekers, and it provided an inspiration for partnerships among these organizations to assist Loch Raven with future employment events. Many thanks to these folks for their participation.



Veterans Day Lunch Sunday, November 11 Veterans Day Sunday

A recognition of veterans during the church service followed by a lunch in their honor. If you have a veteran in your family or community, please invite them and RSVP on the board in the lower entrance lobby.

UMC Lectionary Calendar October 2018

*Season of Saints
October 1-November 5*

October 7

20th Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Church Color: Green

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Psalm 26 or 25 (UMH 756)

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Children's Sabbath

Friday October 12—

Sunday October 14

October 14

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Church Color: Green

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm 22:1-15 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

October 21

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Laity Sunday

Church Color: Green

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
(UMH 826)

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 28

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Church Color: Green

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)
(UMH 769)

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52