

The Spire



May 2024

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Let Mother's Day Be More Than A Day



The old adage says that April showers bring May flowers and with the amount of precipitation this year the flowers should be lush. A hallmark of spring is Mother's Day, the day that we set aside to honor our mothers and to share with them how important they are to us individually and societally. Mother's Day is a secular celebration but has deep religious ties. As many in Methodist circles are aware, the modern iteration of Mother's Day was first celebrated by a Methodist woman named Anna Jarvis at Saint Andrew's Methodist Church in West Virginia in 1908. Ms. Jarvis honored her mother who had passed away and fought to have the day officially recognized. Due to her hard work and perseverance, by 1911 all 50 states observed Mother's Day. Mother's Day is a time where we celebrate mothers and motherhood. Even though the modern celebration started in the early 20th Century, honoring mothers has deep biblical roots. Honoring mothers is not just a good idea, it's a biblical mandate.

Exodus 20:12 declares "Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord gives you." Terence E. Fretheim in describing this commandment informs us that, "No interhuman relationship is so basic as that between children and parents. It is a fundamental order of creation. At no age do people cease to be children of parents. The importance of this commandment is measured not simply by its foundational relationship to society but also by its nurturing role for those who will inevitably function in that context." Fretheim also notes that it is striking that the commandment "places father and mother

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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

Rev. Dr. George Winkfield

Administrative Secretary

Maurita Bowie

Church Office Hours:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday.

Phone: 410-825-0900

E-mail: Office@LRUMC.org

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.

National Day of Prayer—May 2, 2024

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May inviting people to pray for our nation.

- 1775 – The first Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer.
- 1952 – Congress established the National Day of Prayer as an annual event by a joint resolution and was signed into law by President Truman.
- 1988 – The law was amended and signed by President Reagan designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.
- There have been 151 national calls to prayer, humiliation, fasting and thanksgiving by the President of the United States (1789 – 2022).
- Every President since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.
- There have been 1,526 state and federal calls for national days of prayer since 1775 and counting.

Believers in Jesus are called to pray for their political leaders. Saint Paul also preached on the importance of prayer in 1 Timothy 2:1-2:

*¹ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—
² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

Now more than ever, pray for our local, state, national, and world leaders.

In worship we are inspired by the mere fact that in worship we are not alone and gain strength from the communion of the saints, both past and present.



Food Pantry Update

Our community continues to benefit from our Food Pantry. So far this year we have averaged 108 families (14 to 20 are first-time visitors) per event. On average the families were comprised of 462 adults and 230 children for a total of 692 individuals.

Here are a few statistics about these neighbors:

- 29% are on Social Security
- 17% are disabled
- 9% are unemployed
- 6% are veterans
- 2% are homeless

We will be collecting tea bags and coffee (ground, instant, K-cups) for the pantry in May. If you would like to contribute other items make sure they are nonperishable and have a shelf life of at least 6 months.

If you would like to help out with the pantry, we need hosts and hostesses the day of the event, packers to help restock the carts, and in addition, if you are available the 2nd and/or 4th Wednesday of each month between 8 AM and 12 PM—and would like to save on your gym fees—we could use your help in stocking our cupboards with the food delivered to the church from the Maryland Food Bank. Linda will notify you by text or call to alert you of the arrival of the truck.

Please contact Linda Cole (proplady7@gmail.com) or Merrill Harrison (hmerrillh@verizon.net) if you would like to join our team.

**Remember, if your month is longer than
your food supply, our pantry is open to serve YOU
the first and third Tuesday of each month from
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.**

MAY 7 AND 21

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Let Mother's Day Be More Than A Day

(Continued from page 1)

together as equally to be honored. This is striking, given the evident patriarchal character of Israelite society.” To honor our mothers does not mean that we are to blindly obey everything they say. Instead, honoring our mothers means that we are giving them our utmost attention and our respect.

In honoring our mothers, we should not see them one dimensionally as ones whose primary function is to serve the various needs of their families. Our mothers are diverse, complex, and imperfect but all are to be honored by recognizing the fact that they are human and make mistakes. Honoring our mothers is more than a one-day obligation to take them to brunch after church. It is a lifelong endeavor. We are to be in right relation with our mothers and honor them in life and honor the memories of our mothers who have passed away. For those whose mother is still with them, let them know that your adoration and appreciation last longer than a day. For those of us whose mom is in glory, let us treasure their memories in our hearts and honor them with the lives we live.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George



Summer Loose Change Collection Marty Marvel Food Pantry

Start saving your loose change—**dollars and checks are okay, too!** This summer (June through August) Missions will once again sponsor our annual loose change collection project.

This year's donation will go toward our Marty Marvel* Food Pantry.



As you know inflation has had a large, negative impact on food prices. Food costs more, donations are down, more people are in need – people in our own community.

We welcome your support to keep our cupboards open.

** Marty was a longtime member of the Missions Committee and was committed to helping the food needs of our community. Thanks to his bequest to the church, we were able to endow our Food Pantry.*



May 27

Spring Line Dance Party Joy Report

Loch Raven UMC hosted a line dance on April 13 to benefit our food pantry. Through admissions and the sale of baked items and chocolate Easter eggs, \$865 was raised. We are grateful for everyone who supported this event. It takes a village (or a church family).

From the Mailbox

There are no words to adequately thank you all for your prayers, calls, visits, flowers, and edible food during my recent hospital stay and rehab. God faithfully answered your prayers—and once again confirmed to and reassured my sister and brother's family that I am not alone and that you are, in fact, my second family. ***Thank you, again.***

Merrill Harrison

United Women In Faith May Schedule

Phyllis Downes Circle
Monday, May 6
10:00 AM—Room 202

Women in Christ Circle
No meeting this month

Missions In Action: Helping Up Mission

Churches grow more compassionate through mission.

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Our focus this month is on a local mission: Helping Up Mission.

Helping Up Mission provides emergency shelter and meals to men, women and children experiencing homelessness. Their flagship Spiritual Recovery Program offers a long-term, residential recovery with full substance use disorder and mental health counseling.

More than 834 men and women enter their year-long Spiritual Recovery Program each year. Every person receives individualized care to help address the root cause of their addiction or homelessness and the unwavering commitment of our staff as they return to wholeness through God's love.

Through counseling, classes, substance abuse and mental health services, Bible study, and other personal care, lives are renewed and families rebuilt.

Their approach to treatment is holistic in nature, integrating the practical needs of their vocational needs, all of which is built upon a Gospel foundation.

Their Mobile Street Outreach program reaches out to people living on Baltimore's streets, providing food and care to meet their immediate needs. Then, they share the message of God's love and invite them to come to the Mission to get the long-term care they need to rebuild their lives

Helping Up Mission is currently conducting a Toiletry Drive to provide needed personal care articles for the 550 men and women receiving services at the center and for individuals living in tent encampments or on the streets of Baltimore (*also see article on page 8*). If you would like to personally participate in this campaign, you can order items online from their Amazon "wish lists".

Men's Hope Tote: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

(https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/38YIK9197XFIU/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1)

Women's Hope Tote: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

(https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3MT51KMH3F7T3/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2)

Other HUM Wish List Items: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

(https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3DQWTWRQI0TZ5/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4)

For more information, on Helping Up Mission see: <https://helpingupmission.org>

Mission Thank You

Churches grow more compassionate through mission.

Board of Child Care

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1000 in support of Board of Child Care. We are deeply grateful for your generous investment in our work to enrich communities one family at a time. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your generous support of our ability to provide life-changing experiences for the youth in our care.

On behalf of the entire organization and the youth whose lives you have touched, we extend our heartfelt appreciation. We are so grateful to you for helping us to magnify our purpose and drive impact that improves child, family, and community well-being. Your commitment to their well-being has made all the difference, and we are deeply grateful for your belief in our mission!

Warmly,
Caitlin A. Christ
Senior Director of Development and Marketing

Heifer International

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your group's recent contribution of \$1000 to Heifer. All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and receiver. And to magnify the joy of your gift, an additional group of generous donors has matched your donation, doubling the impact of your gift!

Moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children; dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away; you are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation.

I hope you know how much we, and the families who are touched by your generosity, appreciate you all. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With appreciation,
Christy Moore
Senior Vice President of Marketing

Lifewater Canada

I am writing to thank you for your recent donation of \$2940 to Lifewater Canada. The gift you made has a tangible investment in the lives of people who desperately need safe, accessible drinking water and related necessities including latrines and health & hygiene training. What a blessing your faithful gifts are!! The impact of your kindness is incredible—we are very grateful!

Sincerely,
Lynda Gehrels
President

Peace With Justice Sunday – May 26

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?*
Micah 6:8b, NRSV

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of the six special offerings of the United Methodist Church and is traditionally observed on Trinity Sunday (the First Sunday after Pentecost). It attests to our Triune God's call for a faithful, just, and peaceful world.

The United Methodist Church, moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice. We strive to honor the dignity of every individual made in God's image.

Your Peace with Justice gifts enable the church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs by seeking peaceful solutions, creating and supporting peace-related ministries in our conference and learning about peaceful, just efforts around the world.

**Through your giving, good news is proclaimed
to—and experienced by—the poor.**

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

(Luke 4:18-19)

To sow into this special ministry, send a check to the church office, payable to LRUMC and write “Peace With Justice” on the memo line.

For more information on this special giving opportunity, see:

www.umc.org/en/content/peace-with-justice-sunday-ministry-article

Other Special Giving Sundays this year include:

- World Communion Sunday - October 6
- United Methodist Student Day Sunday - November 24

UMC Lectionary Calendar May 2024

May 5—Sixth Sunday of Easter – *Cinco de Mayo*

Church Color: White

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98 (UMH 818)

1 John 5:1-5

John 15:9-17

May 12—Seventh Sunday of Easter – Ascension of the Lord

*Mother's Day; Festival of the
Christian Home*

Church Color: White

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1 (UMH 738)

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 (UMH 781)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

May 19—Pentecost

Heritage Sunday

Church Color: Red

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

(UMH 826)

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 26—Trinity Sunday First Sunday after Pentecost

Peace with Justice Sunday

Church Color: White

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29 (UMH 761)

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

May 27 Memorial Day

United Women in Faith Women & Men's Hope Tote Campaign

Helping Up Mission (HUM) has been part of both the Mission and United Women in Faith budget. This organization plays a pivotal role for people on their journey to recover from addiction and/or homelessness.

Helping Up Mission would like us to partner with them by hosting a Hope Tote Campaign toiletry drive.

As Mother's Day is in May, this will be a perfect month to collect items for the HUM Center for Women & Children. Our June collection month, Father's Day recognition, will feature requested items for the HUM Men's Center along with their new Street Outreach program.

Listed below are the most critical needs at this time:

May—Women's Hope Tote (including pregnant women & new moms)

Shampoo & Conditioner
Body Wash & Body Lotion
Hairbrushes
PJ's, Underwear (S, M, L), Leggings (S, M, L, XL, XXXL, XXXXL)
Hoodies
Journals & Planners
Nursing Bras (all sizes)
Baby Lotion & Wipes
Diapers (Size 1 & 3), Full-size Bath Towels
Night Lights

June—Men's Hope Tote

Shampoo & Conditioner
Body Wash, Body Lotion, Body & Foot Powder
Razors & Shaving Cream
Undershirts & Boxers/Briefs (M, L, XL)

Thank you for your donation to the Helping Up Mission campaign!



May Birthdays

- 3 Olive Githinji Njuguna
- 8 Janet Gaver
- 11 Samantha Shelton
- 12 Steve Webster
- 17 Linda Jones
Cathy Miles
- 21 Patti Ferguson
Melva Scruggs
- 22 David Cole
Jonathan Cuthbert
- 27 Melvin Alaeze

