

**LITTLE
RIVER** 
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 28, 2024
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
8410 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003-3710
(703) 978-3060 ~ office@lrucc.org
www.lrucc.org

WELCOME!

We are glad you're worshipping with us today! Since our founding in the 1950s, we at Little River United Church of Christ (UCC) have been called by God to celebrate diversity, independent thought, and faithful action. This call led us to become racially integrated in the segregated Virginia of the 1950s, and in 2001 to become an open and affirming congregation that celebrates LGBTQ+ folks, including full access to the rites of ordination and marriage. We invite you to become part of this community, building on our heritage of proclaiming God's radically inclusive love to our congregation, neighborhood, and world. We'd love to have you join us in these sacred tasks!

Please take a moment to fill out the red friendship notebook at the end of each pew, so that our pastor might offer a word of welcome.

WE'RE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

We are excited to welcome members, friends, and visitors for worship both in person and online (hybrid services). Masks are optional for those attending worship in person. All worship services are recorded and uploaded to YouTube for on-demand viewing. Those attending worship in-person (adults and children) may be seen attending and participating during the worship service.

LET THE CHILDREN COME!

Little River's nursery welcomes infants through 4 year olds on Sunday mornings (9:30 A.M.–12 P.M.) with our devoted child care providers, Yris and Mia. During 10 A.M. Sunday worship, Sunday School is offered for 5 year olds through 12th grade. The Youth Group meets on select Sundays for 6th–12th grades. Please check with an usher for the location of classes.

STAY IN TOUCH

Little River UCC produces a weekly e-newsletter, *Current Tidings*, and periodically sends out *Alerts* (emails with significant, time-sensitive information). All submissions for the weekly bulletin and e-newsletter should be submitted to the office by Wednesdays at noon. We also send out a monthly print newsletter, *Current Reflections*. To receive any of these communications, please send an email to currents@lrucc.org or call the church office at 703-978-3060 to give us your contact information.

We have a Facebook page ([Facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist)) and an Instagram account ([Instagram.com/littleriverucc/](https://www.instagram.com/littleriverucc/)) where we post photos of recent events, announcements of upcoming programs, and news from the wider UCC. We also have a Facebook private group ([Facebook.com/groups/80950098659](https://www.facebook.com/groups/80950098659)) for members and friends, where we can share prayer concerns and thanksgivings, post and discuss church events, and post other items of interest to Little River community members.

STAFF AND PARTNERS

The Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe, Senior Minister

shelli@lrucc.org

Craig Stapert, Director of Music and Communications

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Yris Saenz, Child Care Provider

Mia Morgan, Church School Teacher Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP

APRIL 28, 2024

* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

CENTERING MUSIC

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier
by J.S. Bach

Craig Stapert, organ

*Please take a moment to fill out the red friendship notebook at the end of each pew
and return it so that you can greet those sitting near you.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrea Carpenter

One: God has made this day.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: The God who raised Christ from the dead raises us to new life daily.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

INVOCATION

Andrea Carpenter

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

If you are worshipping with us online, please type your words of peace in the chat box.

If you are worshipping in person, please greet one another as you feel most comfortable.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

Lizzy Madden, piano

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe & Rev. Jonas Zanke

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Andrea Carpenter

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-8

Andrea Carpenter

One: The Word and Wisdom of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

On Grapevines and Love

Rev. Jonas Zanke

* HYMN 245

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

BRIDEGROOM

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

CALL TO OFFERING

Andrea Carpenter

An usher will be near the back of the sanctuary to receive your gifts at the end of the service. To give online, the QR code in your bulletin will direct you to the donation webpage, or you may visit www.lrucc.org. You may also mail a check to the church.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andrea Carpenter

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THANKSGIVINGS & CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

Those worshipping in person may raise a hand and a microphone will be brought to you. If you'd like to share with our community through our email communications only, please use the Thanksgivings and Concerns card near you, and give it to an usher when the service is concluded. Those on Zoom may type a prayer request in the chat box to be read in the service on your behalf; please include your name with the prayer request. If you do not wish to share your prayer concern with the congregation, you may email Pastor Shelli at Shelli@lrucc.org.

Please end your time of sharing by saying, "This is my prayer."
We will respond by saying, "This is our prayer."

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

**Loving God, through the Spirit's revelation,
may Your true nature be honored everywhere.
May Your reign of love come.
May the desire of Your heart for the world be done,
in us, by us, and through us in the power of the Spirit.
Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us.
Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For You reign in the power that comes from love, which is Your glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

* HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

THE ASH GROVE

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Jonas Zanke

POSTLUDE

Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne
by Dieterich Buxtehude

Craig Stapert, organ

We encourage you to enjoy the postlude as a time of reflection to conclude our worship together. If you need to slip out, please use a side door.

Please join us in the social hall for coffee and conversation following the postlude.

Portions of the liturgy are adapted from Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, eds., *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated* (The Pilgrim Press, 2012). Music used with permission, reprinted and streamed under Onelicense A-715105.

TODAY

Welcome, Pastor Jonas!

Pastor Jonas Zanke comes to us from the Evangelische Kirche Mitteldeutschland (EKM) where he oversees a dozen villages with a total of 15 churches in a rural part of south Saxony-Anhalt. He studied theology in Halle and Leipzig. Watch his presentations on our YouTube page.

Childcare is available from 9:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. every Sunday! Bring your children of any age to the nursery, and Yris and Mia will care for them while you prepare for and participate in worship. At coffee hour, Yris and Mia staff our Kids' Table, where children of all ages can eat together and find table activities to enjoy. If some kids want to go outside on the playground, Yris or Mia will go with them to supervise. If you're on your way to another church activity, just sign your children in with Yris and Mia by 11:30 A.M. Depending on the needs of the children present, they'll stay in the social hall, play outside, or go to the nursery. Pick up your children by 12 P.M., or let us know at least a week ahead of time that you'll need extended child care by emailing office@lrucc.org.

Fair Trade Sale

Look for the table outside the social hall today. With Mother's Day just around the corner, it's a good time to purchase olive oil, coffee, and, of course, delicious chocolate bars!

African American Museum Tour

Our Antiracism Ministry is thrilled to offer our church community a tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, led by our antiracism consultant, Pastor Darryl! Moch. The tour will be today at 1:45 P.M. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. We have a few passes still available; please find Karen Flann for carpool and additional information.

Newcomers Welcome Opportunities

Are you new to Little River and looking for ways to connect? We want to get to know you and connect you with our community. Newcomers are welcome to join us for coffee hour after worship. Look for the "Welcome Table," where you can meet other newcomers and get to know us a bit better.

LITTLE RIVER CHANGES LIVES!



Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ministries of Little River. To use the QR Code to the left, open your phone camera and direct it toward the code. Wait for a link to pop up, and then tap the link. It will take you directly to the Little River donation webpage. Thank you for your support!

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Frederick Douglass Historic Site Tour

Saturday, May 11

Frederick Douglass spent his life fighting for justice and equality. Born into slavery in 1818, he escaped as a young man and became a leading voice in the abolitionist movement. People today find inspiration in his tireless struggle, brilliant words, and inclusive vision of humanity. The Women's Ministry Team and Antiracism Ministry are coordinating a group tour at the Frederick Douglass Historic site on Saturday, May 11 (tour begins at 2 P.M.; please arrive at the historic site by 1:30 P.M.). We need an idea of how many people are interested in taking the tour, so signing up is not a commitment to attend but only for your interest and availability to drive/carpool: bit.ly/LR-DouglassTour.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

May 17–19

Join us in person for the 2024 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Spring Summit, "Faith in Action: Advancing Human Rights and Peace for All," at the Crowne Plaza in Arlington. It will include advocacy training as well as education on topics such as voting rights, Christian nationalism, immigration, climate, human rights, and others. The Rev. Terri Hord Owens (General Minister for the Disciples of Christ) will be an opening speaker, and the Rev. Shari Prestemon (Associate General Minister) will be present at the UCC denominational time. Particularly during this election year, we need the training and connections this summit will provide to unify us and help us follow God's call for justice and peace. Plan to join and help spread the word! (Scholarships available.) For more information and to register, visit advocacydays.org.

Save the Date: Next LRUCC Book Group Meeting

Monday, May 20, 7 P.M.

LRUCC Book Group in May will be presented by the Women's Ministry and supported by our Antiracism Ministry. We will discuss *Hollywatts*, the memoir of our former interim pastor, the Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr. He describes the journey his family took from the segregated life in Memphis to a new life in Southern California, seeking a better life that his parents wanted for the family. Seven years after graduating from high school the author returns to see a dramatically changed Watts. Guns, gangs, and drugs completely transformed his childhood home, a change that Pastor Art describes as orchestrated.

Our discussion will center on the life of the Cribbs family and the possible sources of the changes the author describes. As a very special guest, the author himself, Pastor Art, will be joining the Book Group discussion from the west coast!

Knit & Crochet for Knit the Rainbow

Sunday, May 26

The Chat & Craft group will hold a “pop up” event on Sunday, May 26, 9–10 A.M. and 11 A.M.–12 P.M. in the Conference Room for Knit the Rainbow. Knit the Rainbow receives hand knit and crocheted winter accessories for distribution to homeless LGBTQ+ youth in NYC and several other US cities (knittherainbow.org). Please join us for any length of time to chat, craft, or receive a knitting or crochet lesson! Yarn, needles, and patterns will be available. All ages welcome! For questions, email chatcraft@lrucc.org.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

Queer Theology

Tuesdays, 7:30 P.M.

Pastor Shelli is leading Tuesday discussions on Queer Theology. The field of queer theology is about breaking binaries, deconstructing established categories of thought, and waking us up to new possibilities. To receive updates and materials for the sessions, email Pastor Shelli at Shelli@lrucc.org. Discussions are planned through Tuesday, May 7. Join by Zoom for this important field of theology discussion sessions: bit.ly/LR-QueerTheology.

Yoga at LRUCC

Saturday, May 4, 8:30 A.M.

Come for our yoga class led by Abigail Freeman every first and third Saturday. Abigail is experienced in teaching many forms of yoga, including Prenatal Yoga, Mommy and Me, chair yoga, and everything in between. This is a time for congregants and friends of all ages!

Meditation Group Meeting

Sundays, 9 A.M.

The Little River Meditation Group meets every Sunday in Room 8 and via Zoom. All are welcome. Meetings end at 9:45 A.M. so participants can make it to worship. Questions? Contact Carolyn Yocom. Zoom: bit.ly/LR-Meditation.

Monday Morning Religious Studies

Mondays, 10 A.M.

The class is viewing and discussing the 24-lecture video series *Thinking about Religion and Violence*. This is a hybrid class (in-person and online). For more information, please contact Little River member Joanne Zellers. In Room 8 or on Zoom: bit.ly/LR-ReligiousStudy.

2024 Graduation Information

Please help LRUCC and the Board of Christian Education celebrate our 2024 graduates by sharing graduation information using this form: bit.ly/LR-Grads2024. **Deadline for graduate information is May 17.** We will recognize graduates and celebrate high school graduates during our June 9th service. Any questions, email youthgroup@lrucc.org.

Upcoming Youth Events

- **April 28 - African American History Museum.** Families with older children and teens are invited to visit the African American History museum (see above).

- **May 3, 7:30–8:30 P.M. - Youth Group Meeting.** Youth are invited to come enjoy frozen yogurt and hangout at Peachwave in Fairfax (University Mall).
- **May 19 - Confirmation Sunday.** We will celebrate youth who have been confirmed with a cake during social hour. We will have a **youth group meeting** in Room 7 after coffee hour until 1 P.M. We will enjoy pizza and play games.
- **June 8 - DC Pride Parade.** The youth are invited to join the Little River group marching in the DC Pride parade. Please let Karen Kleiber know if your youth would like to attend with the youth group, and we can meet up at a metro station.

Any questions, please email youthgroup@lrucc.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays and Wednesdays

Little River collects donations for neighbors in need across Northern Virginia and works with F.I.S.H. volunteers for distribution; walk in requests for food donations can be made by contacting the church office. You may bring donations for the food pantry to the church on Communion Sundays and place them in the narthex. Food donations may also be dropped off on Wednesdays by placing your items in bags outside the church front doors before 3 P.M. Food bags are distributed through F.I.S.H. and are packed with canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, instant milk, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, and pasta sauce.


LITTLE RIVER EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 28, 2024

Sunday, April 28	9:00	Meditation Group Meeting
	10:00	Sunday Worship Service (Hybrid); Nursery
	11:15	Coffee Hour
	11:15	Handbell Rehearsal/Room 8
	11:15	Confirmation Class (Jubilee Room)
	11:15	Children's Choir Rehearsal/Room 7
	1:45	African American Museum Tour
Monday, April 29	10:00	Religious Studies (Hybrid)
	12:00	Staff Meeting
	7:00	Scouts
Tuesday, April 30	7:30	Queer Theology Discussion (Zoom)
Wednesday, May 1	7:00	Board of Christian Education
Thursday, May 2	10:00	Women's Ministry
	3:00	Strategic Planning
	7:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 3	7:30	Youth Group at Peachwave
Saturday, May 4	8:30	Yoga

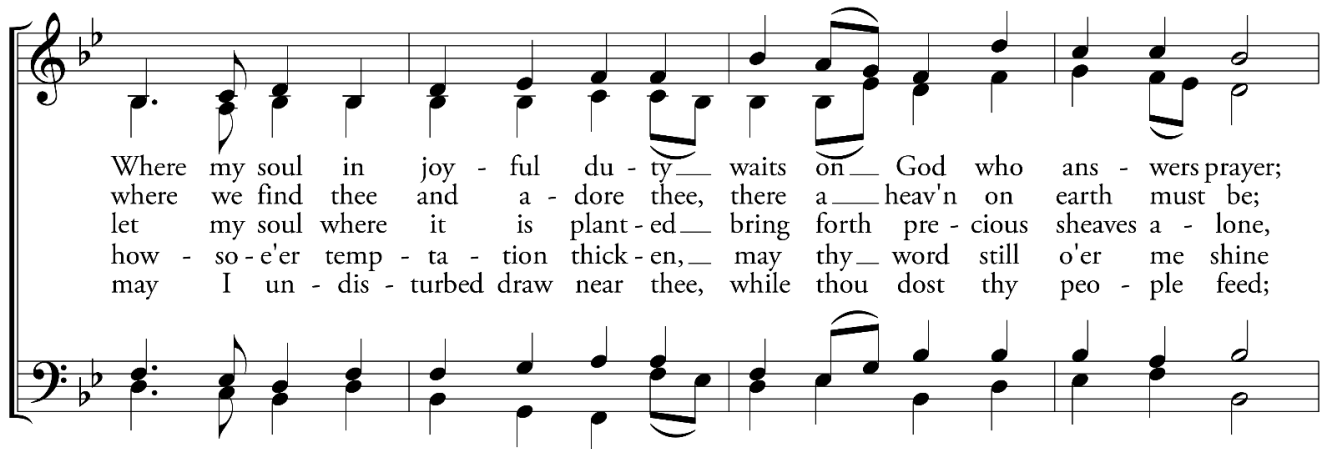
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Benjamin Schmolck

Joachim Neander



1. O pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on let me en - ter there,
2. Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee, come thou al - so down to me;
3. Here thy praise is gald - ly chant - ed here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4. Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5. Speak, O God, and I wil hear thee; let thy will be done in - deed;



Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits on God who ans - wers prayer;
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be;
let my soul where it is plant - ed bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tion thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine;
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy peo - ple feed;



O how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
to my heart O en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now.
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all my woes.

245 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Unison

1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1981
 MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1968

BRIDEGROOM
 87.87.6

Words © 1982, music © 1969, Hope Publishing Co.

♩=86-90

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in *People's Mass Book, 1964*, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
Welsh folk melody
Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.