



**LITTLE
RIVER** 
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 14, 2024
The Third 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

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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 14, 2024

* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

CENTERING MUSIC

Meditation on 'Easter Hymn'
by Michael Bedford

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

Rev. Jonas Zanke

One: Sing praises to God, you faithful, give thanks to the Holy One!

All: Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

One: You turn our weeping into dancing, God;
you remove the garments of mourning and clothe us in gladness.

**All: May we praise you and not be silent!
We will give thanks to you, our God, forever!**

* HYMN 290

I Cannot Dance, O Love

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

INVOCATION

Rev. Jonas Zanke

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

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

Christ Has Risen
by J. Bell & G. Maule

Joyful Noise Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Jonas Zanke

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 3:16–18, 23–24

Rev. Jonas Zanke

One: The Word and Wisdom of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What Is Love?

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

* HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Jonas Zanke

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

Rev. Jonas Zanke

* 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 worshiping in person may raise a hand and a microphone will be brought to you. You may also write your request on a card in the pew and place it in the offering plate as you leave. 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

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

SING TWICE

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

POSTLUDE

Paraphrase on 'Judas Maccabaeus'
by Alexandre Guilmant

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); *The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd ed.* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013). Music used with permission, reprinted and streamed under Onelicense A-715105.

TODAY

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.

Digging Deep:

Sunday, April 14, 3–5 P.M.

How Our Moral Foundations Shape Our Views

Gather this afternoon at Little River for a presentation by David Asher Tassell, adjunct faculty, Religious Studies, George Mason University and sponsored by Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD). "My neighbor and I just don't see eye to eye. We passionately disagree on the biggest issues of our day. How can we possibly have a civil conversation?" David Tassell will introduce a framework for discovering shared values and understanding the factors that drive conflicting views. Join us in actively listening to one another through small group discussions as we explore the core values that shape our own and others' perspectives on contentious issues.

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

Being a Pastor in Central Germany

Wednesday, April 17, 7 P.M.

Lots of historic churches, but only a few members! Being a pastor in central Germany can be challenging. In this presentation, Rev. Jonas will talk about what it means to work in an environment that has a long history of church life but where now only 15% of the people are members in a church.

Mental Health Sunday

Sunday, April 21

Next week we will be observing Mental Health Sunday with resources for the liturgy from the UCC's Mental Health Network. We will hear from Bryce Summers and Emily Weinig, who will talk about how to support people with mental illness; Karen Holley, who was a psychiatric nurse for a decade, will talk with us about suicide prevention.

Church History of Central Germany from the Reformation to the Present Day

Wednesday, April 24, 7 P.M.

Central Germany is the region in which the Protestant Reformation took place, but since then there has been a lot of change. Disputes, wars, monarchies, and their successors transformed the face of the Protestant church many times. Rev. Jonas will lead us through those changes and how they inform current Protestant life in central Germany.

Invasive Plant Removal Work Day

Saturday, April 27, 9–11:30 A.M.

Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive vines on the church property. This effort will count towards Little River's cost share for the TPPF (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) mini-grant that we received for invasive plant removal in 2024. This will be moderately strenuous work that requires bending over, digging, and pulling. Wear long sleeves and pants; sturdy socks that cover the ankles; closed toe shoes; sun hats; sturdy work gloves or garden gloves are A MUST! Please bring hand trowel; clippers; hand weeding tools (some tools will be provided); water bottle; sunscreen. Questions? Contact Robin Petrusak at trustees@lrucc.org.

Dinner with Rev. Jonas

Saturday, April 27, 6–8 P.M.

On April 27, Rev. Jonas's final Saturday with us, the congregation is invited to enjoy dinner with him at Carrie and Bruce Douglasses' house from 6 to 8 P.M. The Douglasses will provide the entree (vegetarian and non-vegetarian) and ask people to bring a salad or dessert. Please RSVP at bit.ly/LR-JonasDinner. Their address is 3700 Chanel Rd, Annandale, VA 22003.

African American Museum Tour**Sunday, April 28, 1:45 P.M.**

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 on Sunday, April 28, 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 25 passes; please RSVP at bit.ly/LR-AfricanAmericanMuseum.

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 everywhere still find inspiration today in his tireless struggle, brilliant words, and inclusive vision of humanity. The Women's Ministry Team and Antiracism Ministry is 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.). Please use the Sign Up Genius link if you are interested in taking the group tour. 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.

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!

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES**Queer Theology****Tuesdays, 7:30 P.M.**

Pastor Shelli is leading Tuesday discussions on Queer Theology. The field is new and burgeoning. It has nothing to do with arguments from scripture or tradition about whether same sex relationships are legitimate or sacred. They are! 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, April 20, 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 fun and movement 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.

April 15 - Resume Hybrid Class Schedule

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. To join by Zoom: bit.ly/LR-ReligiousStudy.

Upcoming Youth Events

- **April 21 - Mental Health Sunday.** We encourage everyone to come to church and for all youth to stay in the service. During the service, there will be reflections and resources offered to support caring for mental health including suicide prevention.
- **April 28 - African American History Museum.** Families with older children and teens are invited to join the anti-racism ministry's visit to the African American History museum. (See details 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)! Parents are invited to come, too, and hang out separately.
- **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 from the end of 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. You're welcome to join as a family or youth can attend with the youth group. 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. More information to follow.

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. We invite you to bring donations for the food pantry to the church on Communion Sundays (usually the first Sunday of each month) 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 14, 2024

Sunday, April 14	9:00	Meditation Group Meeting
	10:00	Sunday Worship Service (Hybrid)
	10:00	Nursery
	11:15	Coffee Hour
	11:15	Handbell Rehearsal/Room 8
	11:15	Confirmation Class (Jubilee Room)
	11:30	Church Council Luncheon (Choir Room)
	3:00	ICD Program: Digging Deep
Monday, April 15	10:00	Religious Studies (Hybrid)
	7:00	Scouts
Tuesday, April 16	12:00	Staff Meeting
	7:30	Queer Theology Discussion (Zoom)
Wednesday, April 17	1:30	Greenspring Ministry
	7:00	Rev. Jonas Presentation
Thursday, April 18	3:00	Strategic Planning
	7:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 19		No LRUCC Events
Saturday, April 20	8:30	Yoga Class

I Cannot Dance, O Love

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Unison

1. I can - not dance, O Love, un - less you lead me on.
 2. Love is the mu - sic 'round us, we glide as birds in air,
 3. O bless - ed Love, your cir - cling u - nites us, God and soul.

I can - not leap in glad - ness un - less you lift me up.
 en - twin - ing, soul and bod - y, your wings hold us with care.
 Your arms from the be - gin - ning, em - brace and make us whole.

Harmony

From love to love we cir - cle, be - yond all knowl - edge grow,
 Your Spir - it is the harp - ist and all your chil - dren sing;
 Hold us in steps of mer - cy from which you nev - er part,

Unison

for when you lead we fol - low, to new worl - ds you can show.
 her hands the cur - rents 'round us, your love the gold - en strings.
 that we may know more ful - ly the dan - ces of your heart.

WORDS: Jean Janzen, 1991, based on the writing of Mechthild of Magdeburg BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR
 MUSIC: Swedish folk tune; harm. Lahrae Knatterud, 1983 76.76.D

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be - banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Purcell, c. 1680
Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

May the God of Hope Go with Us

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en



lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -



on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.



Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.



work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.