



April 21, 2024

The Fourth 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 worshiping 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 <u>currents@lrucc.org</u> or call the church office at 703-978-3060 to give us your contact information.

We have a Facebook page (<u>Facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist</u>) and an Instagram account (<u>Instagram.com/littleriverucc/</u>) where we post photos of recent events, announcements of upcoming programs, and news from the wider UCC. We also have a Facebook private group (<u>Facebook.com/groups/80950098659</u>) 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 Craig Stapert, Director of Music and Communications Ashton Streavig, Children and Youth Choir Director Kathy Heyman, Office Administrator Chris DiMascio, Building and Grounds Manager Jay Shackley, Communications Assistant Yris Saenz, Child Care Provider Mia Morgan, Church School Teacher Assistant The Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus shelli@lrucc.org craig@lrucc.org ashton@lrucc.org kathy@lrucc.org chris@lrucc.org jay@lrucc.org

The Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor

Service of Celebration and Worship April 21, 2024 * PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Centering N	AUSICThere Is a Balm in Gileadsetting by Thomas Keesecker	Craig Stapert, piano	
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 an	d Announcements	Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe	
Opening Pra	YER	Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe	
* Hymn (see back of e	O God in Whom All Life Begins Bulletin For MUSIC)	NOEL	
CALL TO WOR	RSHIP	Nancy D. Hall	
One:			
A 11.	Today is a new day, a fresh start, and a day of new begin	e	
All:	Come, let us worship God who creates peace out of calm out of anxiety, and hope out of despair.	r chaos,	
	Even when we are depressed, we trust God is with us.		
One:	Come, let us praise God who chooses to be among us, one of us,		
	a God dwelling among we who are living with mental health challenges,		
	substance use disorders, brain disorders, and neurodiversity.		
All:	All: Come, let us praise God who says to each one of us,		
"no matter who we are or what medications we take			
	or our diagnoses or where we are on life's journey: I will be your God."		
One:	Come, let us give thanks to God who promises		
	to wipe away every tear from our eyes.		
All:	Come, let us give thanks to God who loves us so much		
	that death, mourning, crying, and pain cannot stop God from loving us.		
0	This is our greatest hope: we are held in God's love		
One:	Come, let us rejoice, for God, the Alpha and Omega, is making all things new!		
Invocation		Nancy D. Hall	

Sanctuary Choir

IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY Look at the World by John Rutter

ANTHEM

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.

Time with Children		Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION		Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe
Old Testament Lesson	Psalm 23	Nancy D. Hall
New Testament Lesson	John 13:31–35	Nancy D. Hall
Reflections on Mental Health		Bryce Summers

LITANY OF EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

- One: Let us pray to the Creator of all Life: Eternal Divine Spirit, we pray for the Church that you created through your beloved, Jesus Christ; that it may provide an extravagant welcome and serve those who live with a mental illness, particularly in minority communities.
- All: God, in your grace, hear our prayer.
- One: Guide us, the citizens and leaders of this land, this region and this city ... that we may unite to provide for and protect those of us who are poor, homeless and suffer in mind, body and spirit,
- All: God, in your wisdom, hear our prayer.

One: Forgive us as a community, when we knowingly or unknowingly ridicule, look in disgust, neglect or discriminate against those who suffer from mental illness.

- All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- One: Comfort and relieve those who are troubled in mind and spirit. Bring them hope, peace and the consolation of a loving community.
- All: God, in your love, hear our prayer.

One: Grant patience and courage to the families and friends of those who are ill. Increase their perseverance as they face challenges to recovery for their loved one.

- All: God, in your faithfulness, hear our prayer.
- One: Protect and defend those living with mental illness from exploitation, addictions and abuse.
- All: God, in your power, hear our prayer.

One: God, increase our awareness, compassion, and sensitivity so that we can embrace our siblings and cousins who wrestle with Mental Illness.

All: God, in your activity, hear our prayer.

One: Eternal Spirit of Love, Giver of life and health, we trust that in your time and way, you will dispel all confusion with your order, all fear with your peace. Through Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* Нумn 575	Come and Find the Quiet Center	BEACH SPRING
(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSI	c) verse 1	

Reflections on Mental Health

LITANY OF NAMING

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

Emily Weinig

One: On this Mental Health Sunday, we join in this Litany of Naming.

- All: As a congregation we are glad to lift up our voices and our spirits to break the silence that often happens when we are confronted with mental illness.
- One: As a faith community, we name the gifts and the often unnamed experiences which come to those who live with a mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, substance use, addiction, historic and generational trauma, racial trauma, grief and eating disorder. We name:

All: The Hope which upholds our spirit through honest sharing

- One: The Pain when people turn away because of fear
- All: The Courage to speak in a safe place the way that Jesus spoke truth with love
- One: The Strength from being with others who listen compassionately
- All: The Isolation that comes when no one knows what to say
- One: The Realization that mental illnesses and brain disorders can be managed
- All: The Exhaustion that comes with living with a mental illness as well as for those who are caregivers
- One: The Welcome of mental health as part of our church's ministry and outreach
- All: The Wisdom that comes when we become educated about mental health

- One: The Spirituality that comes when we walk alongside those who show both resilience and vulnerability in their lives affected by mental illness
- All: We receive these gifts that we have named, those which are welcomed and those that are challenges. We come before you, our God, knowing we are not alone and that You will show us a way to be and live. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

* Нумл 575	Come and Find the Quiet Center	BEACH SPRING
(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUS	IC) VERSE 2	

PREVENTING SUICIDE

Karen Holley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

- Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe
- One: God of promise and possibility, we come before you broken and breathless, thinking we are trudging through a valley of lifeless bones. We look for life amidst the bones and dust and fail to notice your breath flowing in and around us. We think we need to be perfect before we can enter the new life you have for us. We become fearful when illness in body, mind, or spirit enters into our lives or the lives of those around us. We worry that sickness of body, that mental illness, is a judgment from you. We would rather walk in a valley of bones than believe that your Love, your Spirit, claims us all—in our brokenness and our wholeness. Open us to the power of your Spirit, a power that makes us all whole: bone, sinew, and flesh filled with your breath. Let us remember that you do not leave us alone in a valley filled with dusty, dry bones; You call us into new life, again and again.
- One: Hear the Good News:

No valley is too despairing, broken, or dusty for God to enter in. No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life.

- All: Through Christ, God sees our wholeness. Through Christ, love and new life are always possible.
- One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Make all things new.
- All: We are reclaimed and remade by the Spirit of Life. In our brokenness and in our wholeness we are God's beloved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Нумп 575	Come and Find the Quiet Center	BEACH SPRING
(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSI	c) VERSE 3	

CALL TO OFFERING

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

* DOXOLOGY

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

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 & 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 490 Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant THE SERVANT SONG (SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

Nancy D. Hall

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

Nancy D. Hall

OLD HUNDREDTH

- All: We go out into the world as God's beloved people, bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet.
- One: Jesus taught us to love one another as fiercely and freely as God loves each of us, with the power that binds us together as the Body of Christ.
- All: We will embody Christ by shattering stigma and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.
- One: The Spirit fills us with the Breath of Life and urges us to imagine anew how to be Church in the world today.
- All: We will breathe deeply and move beyond what has been and what is. We will follow the Spirit and bring hope and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness. We will be the Church!

Postlude	With High Delight, Let Us Unite	Craig Stapert, organ
	setting by Michael D. Costello	

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.

The sanctuary flowers were given today by Ellen Wertman as an expression of welcome and gratitude to Rev. Jonas Zanke for his visit to Little River.

All of these resources come from an online source provided by the mental health network of the UCC: <u>www.mhn-ucc.org/mental-health-sunday</u>. 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.

* Commission

One:

Mental Health Sunday

Today we are observing Mental Health Sunday with 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. Please look on the table outside the social hall for information from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) or visit <u>NAMI.org</u>.

Knit & Crochet for Knit the Rainbow

Today and Sunday, May 26

To enable greater participation in making items for Knit the Rainbow, the Chat & Craft group will hold two "pop up" events: today and on Sunday, May 26, 9–10 A.M. and 11 A.M.-12 P.M. in the Conference Room. Knit the Rainbow is an NYC-based organization that 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 <u>chatcraft@lrucc.org</u>.

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

Chat & Craft If You Want To

Chat & Craft meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 24, and will meet at Little River in Room 8 or you may also join by Zoom: <u>bit.ly/LR-ChatCraft</u>.

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

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. The Rev. Jonas Zanke will lead us through those changes and how they inform current Protestant life in central Germany. Zoom: bit.ly/LR-Jonas.

Wednesday, April 24, 2 P.M.

Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m.



Invasive Plant Removal Work Day

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

On April 27, Rev. Jonas's final Saturday with us, the congregation is invited to enjoy dinner with him at Carrie and Bruce Douglases' house from 6 to 8 P.M. The Douglases 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.

Fair Trade Sale

Our next Fair Trade Sale will be Sunday, April 28. Look for the table outside the social hall. 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 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 <u>bit.ly/LR-AfricanAmericanMuseum</u>.

Frederick Douglass Historic Site Tour

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: <u>bit.ly/LR-DouglassTour</u>.

Saturday, April 27, 9–11:30 A.M.

Sunday, April 28, 1:45 P.M.

Sunday, April 28

Saturday, May 11

Saturday, April 27, 6–8 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

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 <u>Shelli@lrucc.org</u>. Discussions are planned through Tuesday, May 7. Join by Zoom for this important field of theology discussion sessions: <u>bit.ly/LR-QueerTheology</u>.

Yoga at LRUCC

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

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: <u>bit.ly/LR-Meditation</u>.

Monday Morning Religious Studies

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. Meet in Room 8 or join by Zoom: <u>bit.ly/LR-ReligiousStudy</u>.

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

Tuesdays, 7:30 P.M.

Mondays, 10 A.M.

Sundays, 9 A.M.

Monday, May 20, 7 P.M.

2024 Graduation Information

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

Upcoming Youth Events

- 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 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. 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.

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Sunday, April 21	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	BOSJ/Conference Room
Monday, April 22	10:00	Religious Studies (Hybrid)
	7:00	Scouts
	7:30	Open & Affirming Ministry (Online)
Tuesday, April 23	12:00	Staff Meeting
	7:30	Queer Theology Discussion (Zoom)
Wednesday, April 24	2:00	Chat & Craft If You Want To (Hybrid)
	7:00	Rev. Jonas Presentation
Thursday, April 25	3:00	Strategic Planning
	7:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 26		No LRUCC Events
Saturday, April 27	9:00	Invasive Plant Removal Work Day
	6:00	Douglas Dinner with Pastor Jonas

LITTLE RIVER EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2024

O God in Whom All Life Begins

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1992



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MUSIC: Traditional American melody; arr. Jack Schrader

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MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

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