



Agreed? Let's (Not) Shake on It.

Because we want to keep church a place where we pass the peace and not germs, the deacons made some changes when we last celebrated communion, November 1. The changes are moderate and designed to minimize unnecessary contact. And yet we are a church, after all, where the primary dynamic is to come together as a *community* of faith. It's hard to be a community if we can't find meaningful ways to acknowledge one another's presence and interact accordingly. The deacons' overriding principle is that each member and friend should feel free to greet others in a manner that is comfortable to them and their circumstances. Some will be recovering from a cold and will decline to shake hands or serve communion. (Thank you!) Others have compromised immune systems and will refuse hugs. A few will be pregnant, feeling vulnerable, or simply uncomfortable with too much personal contact. Because we want to respect everyone's needs and wishes while still being warm and friendly (and maintaining a healthy environment), please understand when someone smiles and nods instead of shaking your hand, or offers a fist bump (or elbow bump) instead of a hug. What is essential is not *how* we acknowledge one another's presence, but *that* we acknowledge one another's presence, recognizing—and honoring—Christ's presence in each.

Verne

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Next deadline: Thu. Nov. 19, 4:30

lrucc.org/Currents/Currents_Schedule.html

Remembering the Deceased

On Sunday, **November 22** we will offer prayers of thanksgiving for loved ones who have died during the past twelve months. We invite you to contribute the names of family members and close friends whose loss you mourn by contacting the church office (*office [at] lrucc [dot] org*). Please indicate your relationship to the deceased.

Ember Evening

Join us in the sanctuary on Wednesday, **November 18** at 7:30 for a time of quiet musically guided prayer. This will be an opportunity to bring into our autumn a time to prepare for Advent, before the hustle-and-bustle of holiday preparations overtakes time for respite.

Meet UCC President Black

The Rev. Geoffrey Black is the brand new General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. On **Sunday November 22** at 4:00-6:00 he will hold an open forum for UCC members and friends at Christ Congregational UCC, located at 9525 Colesville Road, Silver Spring—just inside the Beltway (I-495). You are most welcome to attend.

Harvest Hoedown

Swing your partner, of any age and stage! Or just come watch and enjoy. The Country Steppers and the Deacons' Fellowship Committee invite you to an inter-generational dinner and dance Saturday, **November 14**, 5:30-7:30. Sign up (for \$5; \$15 per family) at church, call the office, or e-mail Ginna (*ginna [at] lrucc [dot] org*).

The BEST ~~Worst~~ Pageant Ever!

At our 5:00 **Christmas Eve** service, Little River will bring to life Barbara Robinson's hilarious classic "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." If you're interested in taking part but missed the November 8 showing of the video, you are welcome to borrow the DVD anytime and return it the next Sunday for others to use.

Rehearsals will take place each Sunday after church beginning **November 15**. A light lunch will be provided. Come and be part of this fun and meaningful Christmas story! Questions? See Ginna.

Women's Book Group

Join the Book Group Sunday, **November 15** at 12:15 to discuss *Olive Kitteridge*, Elizabeth Strout's Pulitzer-Prize-winning series of interlinking stories about life in a small coastal town in Maine. Olive, a retired teacher, deplors the changes in her town and the world at large, but she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her. As the townspeople grapple with their problems, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her own life—sometimes painfully but always with ruthless honesty.

Thanksgiving Welcome

How about giving your Thanksgiving Day an international flavor? Please consider inviting a couple of students at Northern Virginia Community College who visit our Thursday Welcome Center gatherings to celebrate the holiday feast with your family and guests. Let this be your opportunity to chat with some of the delightful young adults we see every week. Interested? E-mail Lois Wyatt (*loisesl[at]verizon[dot]net*) or leave a phone message by Wednesday, **November 18**.

Walk to Help the Homeless

The Big Event for Junior and Senior PFs this month is the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon on Saturday, **November 21**. Walkers will raise funds for Thrive DC (formerly the Dinner Program for Homeless Women). To register online, have a credit card ready to pay the fee (\$15 for walkers up to age 25, \$25 if older). Visit the website (*helpthehomelessdc.org*), click Register Now > Register to Walk Today, select Thrive DC, and click "Go!" On November 21 meet at 8:00 a.m. at Dunn Loring Metro. The walk begins at 9:00. Bring money for lunch and plan to eat before returning. Walkers should arrange for rides to and from Dunn Loring. Please be sure to let Darlene (*darlene[at]lrucc[dot]org*) or Amanda (*amanda[at]lrucc[dot]org*) know you're registered.

Cook-In for Young Families

On Saturday, **November 21**, young families of Little River will gather at 5:00 in the kitchen and social hall to prepare dishes from ingredients not indigenous to this country. Bring your favorite ingredients and let's have some fun cooking while our children play before we enjoy our meal together.

If you got an e-vite, please reply. If not, please let us know if you can join us for an evening of fun, relaxation and connecting with others of similar interests in your church family. Questions? Please contact Jen Beckman (*jen[at]angryox[dot]com*), Cheryl Urban (*cheryl_urban[at]hotmail[dot]com*), or Ginna (*ginna[at]lrucc[dot]org*).

Fair Trade Festival

On **Sunday, November 22**, the Christian Social Action Committee will host a fair trade festival in collaboration with the Alexandria store of Ten Thousand Villages, one of the world's largest fair trade organizations and a founding member of the International Fair Trade Association. Through sales of unique handmade gifts, jewelry, home decor and personal accessories, Ten Thousand Villages strives to improve the livelihood of tens of thousands of disadvantaged artisans in 38 countries around the world. They do so by establishing a sustainable market that helps to provide a stable income for food, education, health care, and housing for artisans who otherwise would be unemployed or underemployed.

Also featured will be lovely soaps and sachets hand-made by The Giving Circle, a low-income women's group in Reston. Mark and Allison Prell will also be selling fair-trade coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts, and dried fruits.

Be there between 10:00 and 1:00 to browse the wide selection of items for your own use and stock up for Christmas giving. This one-day event will take the place of the SERRV sale we traditionally offer in December; however, a number of SERRV items will be available through Ten Thousand Villages. All funds from your purchases will go to support these worthy organizations.

Ushering Opportunities

Would you like to serve Little River in a fun and very helpful way? Consider ushering, either regularly (four months a year, two or three Sundays per month) or as an alternate. Interested? Contact Julie Holm (*jholm[at]dragonsholm[dot]org*). Ushers are especially needed at 11:00 worship in **December**.

Interfaith Concert

The InterFaith Conference of Greater Washington will hold its thirtieth Interfaith Concert at 7:30 Tuesday, **November 17** at Washington Hebrew Congregation, 3935 Macomb Street NW (at Massachusetts Avenue) in Washington. Outstanding choral groups, cantors, bell choirs, and dance companies from around the Washington area will represent the Conference's many faith traditions: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, and more. This concert has become a model for interfaith concerts in other cities around the country. A highlight of the evening is the recognition of the Conference's annual honoree, chosen for contributions to the Washington community. A reception will follow the concert.

General admission is \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door; reserved-section tickets are \$30 in advance. Order online at www.ifcmw.org; see details by following the links to Concerts and Upcoming Events.

Learn About Our Wider Mission

Please join the Board of Missions in welcoming Central Atlantic Conference Minister Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback on Sunday **December 6**. At 11:00 Rev. Deckenback will present a session on the importance of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), also known in the UCC as Wider Church Ministries (WCM).

What is Our Church's Wider Mission? In short, OCWM provides the structure and major programs of the United Church of Christ. It supports missionaries both at home and overseas, new church starts, the staff of the UCC's 39 conferences, and development of church school curricula, as well as support and resources to more than 6,000 UCC churches nationwide. Read more at the UCC website (www.ucc.org/wcm).

Little River supports OCWM Basic Support through the benevolences portion of our annual budget. We contributed \$63,719 to OCWM Basic Support in 2009.

Come December 6 and learn more about this vital outreach mission of the United Church of Christ.

Footsteps: Travel to Mexico

All are invited to register for the April 7-21, 2010 Footsteps trip to central Mexico, where Christianity first came to North America. The cost is a very reasonable \$1,890 per person, plus airfare to Mexico City (\$400-500). Mail your registration fee of \$100 to the church office (check payable to Little River UCC with Footsteps VIII on the memo line). Our organizer, the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, assures us that maintaining our personal safety is a primary concern. All fees will be refunded if the trip is cancelled. See the colorful travel brochure in the atrium or narthex for details.

Young Adults Bible Study

Join our young adults on the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of each month for a meal, Bible study, and fellowship at the home of Tom and Mary Johnson, 2419 Little Fox Lane, Vienna. We meet at 7:00 for supper (food is provided, just bring your appetite) and begin Bible study around 7:45, finishing around 8:30 with announcements and prayer requests. This year we are studying the book of Acts, led by Bill Sykes.

The group is growing as young adults from several churches have joined together. Welcome to everyone who is new to the group, and welcome back to those who have been coming!

Giving with Peace of Mind

Being the newest member to the Stewardship Committee, I want to share with you why I have given electronically since becoming a member of Little River UCC a few years ago. There are many benefits to this program, and I hope that you will find one of these reasons persuasive to begin or continue giving electronically for future years (or to convince your friends to try it as well!).

For starters, by giving electronically, the church can plan a consistent monthly income with contributions arriving at the same time each month. But maybe you are like me, in that remembering to bring an envelope to church each week is the one thing you would forget when you walk out the door on Sunday morning. Electronic giving makes your to-do list one item shorter!

But there are other reasons as well—such as the savings we provide the church by reducing the cost of printing envelopes, as well as the service we do to fulfill our promise of "going green" as a congregation. It's amazing how one little act can make such a big difference!

If you choose to give electronically, you can still participate in the Sunday morning offering by using a pew card to denote your giving when the offering plate is passed.

Check the information in this fall's Stewardship brochure to learn more and to sign up. If you still need more information, please send an e-mail to the Stewardship Committee ([stewardship \[at\] lruc \[dot\] org](mailto:stewardship[at]lruc[dot]org)) and we can assist you with the process.

Thank you for helping us to achieve the benefits of electronic giving—even if it is just to make your to-do list a bit shorter!

Kelly Loss
Stewardship Committee





Links: Events, People, News

- **Calendar:** Find out about church events at www.lrucc.org by clicking on About Us > Calendar, or pick up a printed copy of *Currents*.
- **Passages:** Pick up a printed copy of *Currents*, or subscribe to the e-mail edition, to share the latest celebrations and concerns in our church family—as well as the latest address, phone, and e-mail updates and changes in our church organizations.
- **UCC news:** Read the latest news from the United Church of Christ and learn about our denomination at www.lrucc.org > About Us > Our Links > The UCC
- **Currents by e-mail:** See the *Currents* web page at www.lrucc.org, > About Us > Newsletter: *Currents*, or write [webteam \[at\] lrucc.org](mailto:webteam@lrucc.org).

LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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thought, and faithful action ~

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Submissions: Include your name and phone or e-mail address (not for publication). Please submit electronically if possible (MS Word, Word Perfect, or plain text; e-mail to [currents \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:currents@lrucc.org)). Submit notices 3 weeks ahead of events if possible.