



**LITTLE  
RIVER**   
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**January 28, 2024**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

8410 Little River Turnpike  
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(703) 978-3060 ~ [office@lrucc.org](mailto:office@lrucc.org)  
[www.lrucc.org](http://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.–12:00 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](mailto:currents@lrucc.org) or call the church office at 703-978-3060 to give us your contact information.

**We are also online!** We have a Facebook page ([Facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://Facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist)) and an Instagram account ([Instagram.com/littleriverucc/](https://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://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  
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

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[jay@lrucc.org](mailto:jay@lrucc.org)  
[office@lrucc.org](mailto:office@lrucc.org)

The Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

\* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

PRELUDE                      *Prelude and Fugue in E minor*, BWV 533                      Craig Stapert, organ  
by J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS                      Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

INTROIT                      *Now the Silence*                      Handbell Choir  
arr. Cathy Moglebust

CALL TO WORSHIP                      Nancy D. Hall

One: Come, all who are poor in spirit;  
come, all who mourn;  
come, all who are meek;  
come, all who hunger and thirst after justice.

**All: Come, all who would be merciful;  
come, all who would be pure in heart;  
come, all who would be peacemakers.**

One: Let us come together—  
the weak and the simple,  
the powerless and the foolish.

**All: Let us confess that the source of our life is God in Christ Jesus.  
Let us worship the God of every blessing.**

\* HYMN                      *Let Us with a Joyful Mind*                      INNOCENTS  
(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

INVOCATION                      Nancy D. Hall

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 turn to one another and share the peace of Christ.*

ANTHEM                      *When We Are Living*                      Handbell Choir  
arr. Kevin McChesney

TIME WITH CHILDREN                      Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION                      Nancy D. Hall

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      1 Corinthians 8:1–13                      Nancy D. Hall

SERMON

*Hungry*

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

\* HYMN

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

CHEREPONI

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

CALL TO OFFERING

Nancy D. Hall

*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](http://www.lrucc.org). You may also mail a check to the church.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Nancy D. Hall

\* 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 are welcome to come to the floor microphone to speak. 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 our senior minister at [Shelli@lrucc.org](mailto: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 PEOPLE & JESUS' PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

**Our Creator who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Realm come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Reign, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

\* HYMN 494

*They'll Know We Are Christians*

ST. BRENDAN'S

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

POSTLUDE

*Prelude in Classic Style*  
by Gordon Young

Craig Stapert, organ

*The flowers in the sanctuary were given today by the Gottfried Family in memory of their mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, Mae Louise Vogt Gottfried*

Portions of the liturgy are adapted from Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, eds., *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated* (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012); *The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd ed.* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013); Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, *The Lives We Actually Have* (2023). Music used with permission, reprinted and streamed under Onelicense A-715105.

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### **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.

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**Today, Sunday January 28**

### **Call for a Congregational Meeting**

Members are called to a Congregational Meeting today, January 28, 2024, in the sanctuary following the worship service. The business of the meeting will include:

- Acceptance of the 2023 Annual Report
- Election of officers and members of boards and committees
- Approval of the 2024 operating budget
- Acceptance of the Endowment Committee’s recommended 2024 funds distribution
- Proposed relationship with the Fredericksburg UCC
- Other business as may be appropriate

Rich Dodenhoff, Church Clerk

**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](mailto:office@lrucc.org).

### **Youth Group**

**Today, January 28, 11:30 A.M.**

Youth are invited to gather for fun and service today in Room 7. This gathering is conveniently timed to keep youth busy and having fun while their parents attend the annual meeting. We will begin at about 11:30 A.M. (or whenever choir practice ends) and end at 1 P.M. (or whenever the annual meeting ends). We will brainstorm future youth group ideas, play some games, eat some snacks, and work on cleaning out and organizing the LRUCC food pantry as our service project.

### **Children and Youth Musical**

**Sunday, March 10**

Join Ashton Streavig in Room 7 for rehearsal today to prepare a musical for worship on Sunday, March 10. *Storms* by Mark Burrows tells the story of a group of children who wonder if they have what it takes to weather storms in their lives. Through heartfelt songs, authentic dialogue, and a healthy dose of humor, the children unpack the Bible narrative of Jesus calming the storm, realizing that no matter what happens in life, Jesus is in the boat with them. They are even empowered to follow Jesus' example by being there for others during their storms. All children/youth are welcome to be a part of the musical. Email Ashton at [ashton@lrucc.org](mailto:ashton@lrucc.org) with any questions, more information and rehearsal schedule.

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### **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 QR 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!

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### **THIS WEEK AND BEYOND**

### **Open and Affirming Ministry**

**Monday, January 29, 7:30 P.M.**

We are re-energizing our Open and Affirming Ministry at Little River! If you'd like to learn more about our commitment to being ONA, please check out our 2001 statement here: [bit.ly/LR-Statement](http://bit.ly/LR-Statement). If you'd like to learn more about what the UCC is doing regarding ONA ministry, please subscribe to emails of the ONA Coalition here: [bit.ly/LR-Coalition](http://bit.ly/LR-Coalition). The ministry team will be meeting every fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. on Zoom ([bit.ly/LR-ONAmeeeting](http://bit.ly/LR-ONAmeeeting)), and all are welcome. In January, we will meet on the fifth Monday: January 29, at 7:30 P.M., on Zoom. Please mark your calendars and join us if you're able.

### **Yoga at LRUCC**

**February 3, 8:30 A.M.**

Yoga classes led by Abigail Freeman are offered every first and third Saturday at 8:30 A.M. 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!

**AARP Speaker Program****Tuesday, February 6, 10:30 A.M.–noon**

Little River folks are invited to attend a program presented by AARP volunteer Suba Saty on how to “Protect Yourself from Fraud and Identity Theft” on Tuesday, February 6, here at Little River Church. The program is free to attend.

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**ONGOING PROGRAMS****Meditation Group Meeting****Sundays, 9 A.M.**

The Little River Meditation Group meets every Sunday in Room 8 and via Zoom. All are welcome as the group explores meditation as a contemplative practice that helps quiet the mind. Meetings end at 9:45 A.M. so participants can make it to worship. Questions? Contact Carolyn Yocom. Zoom: [bit.ly/LR-Meditation](https://bit.ly/LR-Meditation).

**Monday Morning Religious Studies****Mondays, 10 A.M.**

The Monday Morning Religious Studies Class welcomes you to join its viewing and discussion of “The Fall of the Pagans and the Origins of Medieval Christianity,” with lecturer Kenneth W. Hart. For more information and to receive the PDF course materials, contact Joanne Zellers. Please join us in Room 8 or participate virtually using Zoom: [bit.ly/LR-ReligiousStudy](https://bit.ly/LR-ReligiousStudy).

**Tuesday Discussions: Introducing Womanist Theology****Tuesdays, 7:30 P.M.**

This year, Pastor Shelli is introducing our congregation to contemporary theologies that are (or should be) moving and shaking the church. Currently we are exploring womanist theology—a tradition that draws on black women’s experiences and perspectives to challenge and expand on black and feminist theologies. You don’t have to be a woman or person of color to learn about this vibrant and important school of thought. Please join us every Tuesday in January at 7:30 P.M. on Zoom! Sign up here: [bit.ly/LR-WT-Signup](https://bit.ly/LR-WT-Signup).

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### **Possible LRUCC Civil Rights Trip**

As part of our anti-racism ministry we are trying to gauge whether there is sufficient interest to develop a civil rights tour for Little River. Some of our members have gone on civil rights tours in the south, and spoken about how moving the experience has been for them. There are various places to see in a variety of cities including Memphis (MLK's final days, civil rights museum, etc.), Birmingham (16th Street Baptist Church, site of the bombing of young girls), Selma (Edmund Pettus Bridge), Montgomery (Dexter Avenue Church, Rosa Parks Museum), and many more. We are considering two options calendar-wise for the trip: shortly after Fairfax County Schools get out for the summer (mid-June) or in the fall, likely in early October when Fairfax County schools have a few days off.

The cost and itinerary are unknown right now, but we'd like to know if this is something you or your family might be interested in. No commitment is necessary at this point, and if finances may be a barrier to participation, please let Shelli know, as grants may be available. Participants not needing grant assistance would pay their own way. If you might be interested, please email [antiracism@lrucc.org](mailto:antiracism@lrucc.org) and let us know whether you prefer the June or October dates.

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### **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.

#### **Children's Book Donations**

The sheriff's office gives books to children on family visits to incarcerated relatives. Each child gets to choose a book to take home. If you have books for the children, please leave them at the church in the box near the door to the fellowship hall. BOSJ delivers them to the sheriff's office periodically.



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**EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28, 2024**

Sunday, January 28	9:00	Meditation Group Meeting
	10:00	Sunday Worship Service (Hybrid)
	10:00	Nursery & Church School
	11:00	Coffee Hour
	11:15	Congregational (Annual Meeting)
	11:15	Children/Youth Musical Rehearsal
	11:30	Youth Group
Monday, January 29	10:00	Religious Studies Class
	7:00	Scouts
Tuesday, January 30	12:00	Office Staff Meeting
	7:30	Womanist Theology Discussion
Wednesday, January 31	7:30	BOSJ Meeting
Thursday, February 1	3:00	Strategic Planning Committee
	7:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 2		No LRUCC Activities
Saturday, February 3	8:30	Yoga Class

# Let Us with a Joyful Mind

John Milton, 1624

Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993



1 Let us with a joy - ful mind praise our God for - ev - er kind,  
2 New-made earth was filled with light through God's all com - mand - ing might,  
3 Daz - zling bright the sun o - beys God who shines with bright - er rays,  
4 Stars and moon that span - gle night all de - pend on heav - en's light,

*Refrain*



Rich with mer - cies that en - dure, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

5 Crea - tures of the sea and land  
all are fed by God's own hand,  
Rich with mer - cies that en - dure,  
ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

6 There - fore with a joy - ful mind,  
praise our God for - ev - er kind,  
Rich with mer - cies that en - dure  
ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

*As a youth of fifteen, John Milton composed a lengthy, elaborate paraphrase of Psalm 136 from which these lines have been selected. Milton, an English Puritan and Congregationalist, is best known for Paradise Lost.*

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.  
The Parish Choir, 1850

# Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994

*Refrain*  
*Unison*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

*Last time, end*

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their  
 2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and  
 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should  
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show - ing our faith by our  
 5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.  
 race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.  
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.  
 deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.  
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

*to Refrain*

*This African folk melody was presented to the Church at Chereponi, Northern Ghana, by Ghanaian musicologist, A. A. Mensah, when United Church of Christ missionaries, Al and Sue Krass were serving there. Like Tom Colvin, a Scottish missionary in neighboring Tamale, Al Krass was encouraging the making of hymns to indigenous melodies. Tom Colvin wrote these words to this adapted form of the melody in dedication to the Church at Chereponi.*

Tune: CHEREPONI Irr. with refrain  
 Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969  
 Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982

# 494 They'll Know We Are Christians

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

*Unison* Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
4. All praise to our God, from whom all things come,

Am Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

*Refrain* C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

ST. BRENDAN'S  
76.76.86 w. refrain

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