Welcome!

We are glad you are 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. That same call led us in 2001 to become open to and affirming of LGBTQ+ folks, including full access to the rites of ordination and marriage. Today, we build on our heritage of proclaiming God’s radically inclusive love to our congregation, neighborhood, and world by nurturing individual and congregational spirituality, serving our community, and advocating for all God’s creatures and creation. We’d love to have you join us in these sacred tasks! You may make your presence known by emailing us at office@lrucc.org. Welcome!

Worship and Meeting Changes in Response to Coronavirus

Little River is currently evaluating plans to reopen but will continue to worship and hold meetings online until further notice. Since these will be different experiences than what we usually do, expect to see some changes. We’ll try to keep as much continuity as possible, recognizing that online worship and meetings require adjustments from in-person worship. This is hard on all of us, but please do offer and receive as much patience, grace, and forgiveness as possible right now. God is with us, even when we cannot all be together!

Service Credits

The liturgy for today is adapted from Teaching the Teacher: An Intergenerational Liturgy focusing on Faith Formation, Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost year B written by the Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor, Eden Theological Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri. Today’s hymns are used with permission, reprinted under Onelicense.net A-715105.

Communications at Little River UCC

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, Current Tidings, and online Currents 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 to give us your contact information.

Staff and Partners

Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr., Interim Senior Pastor  (619) 948-1777| pastorart@lrucc.org
Rev. Alexis Kassim, Associate Pastor  (571) 217-8326 | alexis@lrucc.org
Craig Stapert, Director of Music  craig@lrucc.org
Ashton Streavig, Children and Youth Choir Director  ashton@lrucc.org
Kathy Heyman, Office Administrator  kathy@lrucc.org
Michelle Conerly, Communications Coordinator  michellec@lrucc.org
John Davis, Sexton/First Friday Coordinator  john@lrucc.org
Yris Saenz, Liana Berbichavili, Child Care Providers  office@lrucc.org

Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor
SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Wilbur Held
Jessica Sammis Nilles, cello

Welcome & Announcements
Rev. Alexis Kassim

CALL TO WORSHIP
Drew Nettinga

One: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

One: Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God’s ways?

All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

One: Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

One: Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

HYMN
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
AZMON

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC INSERT)

INVOCATION
Drew Nettinga

Rabbi, Teacher Jesus, you who taught thousands
and yet were willing to learn from the least of these,
We confess that we pretend to know when in truth we still wonder.
Forgive our pretense, that we may open ourselves
to unexpected teachers, to fresh ideas,
to one another, and to you.
Vulnerable Christ, you who lived in generous love,
we confess that we have closed ourselves off,
that we have seen so much suffering that we stop looking
rather than see and respond to those in need.
Forgive our neglect that we may care for one another
and follow in the example you set for us.
In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE
Alexis Kassim

Please type your words of peace in the chat box. We will not unmute at this time.
Anthem

*Chiatae per la Lettera B*

Giovanni Battista Vitali

Jessica Sammis Nilles, cello, and Charlie Nilles, bass

Prayer for Illumination

Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.

Oh, Holy God, help us to see Your Light in the lives of your people.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit and renew us again.
Give us strength and courage; deepen our resolve to embrace Your Way and do Your Will.
Remind us again that your Word is true and your mercy endures forever.
We bow humbly before You with holy praise and thanksgiving.
You have called us out of the world so we can be lights in and to the world.
Deepen our faith and correct our ways as we follow Jesus on the path to new life.
Amen.

Scriptures

Psalm 146  Mark 7:24-37  
Drew Nettinga

Sermon

BE OPENED  
Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.

Mission Moment

Drew Nettinga

Call to Offering

You can give your offering to Little River UCC by mailing a check to the church, or by visiting the [Donate Online] page on our website. Thank you.

Gratitude for Our Gifts

Drew Nettinga

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Prayers of the People

Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.

Lord’s Prayer

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

ALEXIS KASSIM

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

*Have your own bread and juice, or whatever elements you would like, ready to share in communion together.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Thank you, God, for this feast of life.*

*We are fed by your love and strengthened by your life.*

*Send us forth into this world to live your way and share your joy,*

*Understanding that we are now commissioned to:*

*Feed as we have been fed,*

*Forgive as we have been forgiven,*

*Love as we have been loved,*

*Again and again and again.*

*In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

HYMN

*Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC INSERT)

BENEDICTION

*Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.*

*Let us go forth thankful that we have come.*

*Let us go forth renewed in God’s abiding love.*

*And let us go forth rejoicing in the Good News of Jesus Christ,*

*Whose love will never let us go into the world unafraid, unashamed,*

*And unapologetic. Indeed, let us go into the world audacious, bodacious,*

*And courageous in Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

*Chaconne*

*Louis Couperin*

TODAY

**Coffee Hour**

11:00 am

All are welcome to stay on the worship service Zoom for 30 minutes of small group conversations after the service has concluded.

**Intentional Interim Task Force Meeting**

11:30 am

Members of the task force will continue their discussions planning the intentional interim work.
Return to In-Person Worship “Trial Run” to begin September 12th!
We are excited to start welcoming members and friends back to the sanctuary for in-person worship for a trial run for 3 Sundays: September 12, 19, and 26th. After the trial run, we will assess how we did and announce next steps. Worship will continue to be offered online via Zoom during this time. Those who would like to attend in-person are asked to RSVP by using this [sign-up genius link](#) or by calling the church office. RSVPing will help us plan for seating and social distancing. Please keep in mind that no childcare will be offered, masks are required for everyone at all times, and there will be no congregational singing or in-person coffee hour. Coffee hour socializing will continue to occur online via Zoom. More details will be shared this coming Sunday and via email to those who RSVP. Thank you for your patience and support!

9/11 Memorial Event
Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 is the 20th commemoration of that horribly tragic day when aircraft were used as weapons in our nation. Pastor Art will lead a brief service at the cross to remember the loss of life and the impact that day had and continues to have on our nation. Come and share your sacred expression of faith and remembrance. All are invited. No sign ups needed. Masks are required. Please invite others to join us. For questions, please email office@lrucc.org.

Late Summer Clean Up at LRUCC
Everyone is welcome to the Late Summer Clean Up Day at LRUCC on Saturday, September 11 (rain date: Saturday, September 18.) All projects are outdoors. Come help clear leaves from around the church and the storm drains; remove weeds; and trim overgrown shrubs and trees. LRUCC provides tarps for removing leaves and some outdoor tools, but participants are encouraged to bring rakes, tree trimmers, loppers and other gardening tools. Please bring work gloves. Participants are expected to maintain social distance. Family groups are encouraged; there will be outdoor tasks suitable for all ages. The church building will be open for use of the restrooms; masks are required to enter the church building. Please reach out to Bill Huddleston at 703-434-9780, or John Davis at [john@lrucc.org](mailto:john@lrucc.org) for more information.

PYF Movie Night
Youth grades 6-12 are invited to Movie Night at Little River on Friday, September 17, 7:30-9:45 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and water bottles. Weather permitting, we will be outside. If necessary, we'll move indoors. Either way it will be on a big screen. Popcorn and popsicles provided. Masks required. RSVP to [ce@lrucc.org](mailto:ce@lrucc.org).

Sacred Listening Circle
Join us for the final Sacred Listening Circle held in person on September 19. All are welcome to join. Please sign up in advance using the signup genius link:

COVID Vaccination Clinic
Annandale United Methodist Mission Center and the Fairfax County Health Department are hosting free COVID vaccination clinics on Thursdays from 4pm to 7pm. These clinics are open to both adults and
Volunteers Needed to Teach Church School  
**Sundays**

Email Emily Makos at ejmingus@gmail.com if you would be willing to teach Church School this year.

Volunteer for New Worship Media Team  
**Sundays**

If you are interested in helping our staff run Sunday service via Zoom and have a passion for media and technology, volunteer for the new Worship Media Team by emailing office@lrucc.org.

Volunteers Needed To Help with Worship Service  
**Sundays**

The Board of Deacons invites members and friends of the congregation to assist in leading worship by volunteering to be a greeter, liturgist, or prayer person on Sunday mornings during our Zoom service.

Sign up to volunteer here!

Meditation Group Meeting  
**Sundays at 9:00 am**

The Little River Meditation Group will meet every Sunday via Zoom Video Conferencing during this time of social distancing. All are welcome to join in at 9:00 am as the group explores meditation as a contemplative practice that helps to quiet the mind. Meetings will end at 9:50 am, just in time for participants to make it to the online worship services. Below is the information to join the meeting.

Questions? Contact Sallyanne Harper at Saharper1@verizon.net. Join in here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/152414500?pwd=U0huVmJURFp5cDAxN2JFV3Z1VFFLQT09

Meeting ID: 152 414 500
Passcode: 015001

MORE CHURCH NEWS

CE Wants Your Input

As we approach the start of another program year, the Board of Christian Education would like your input on the types of adult education you would like to see and be comfortable attending if COVID protocols allow. Please email CE chair, Emily Makos, at ejmingus@gmail.com to provide your input or fill out the survey in Current Tidings.

Flower Donation

Have you noticed the beautiful flowers during the recorded sermons in the sanctuary for virtual worship services? If you would like to give flowers on the Sunday of your choice on a first-come basis you may email office@lrucc.org. Please include in your email address, the date you would like to give flowers, and a dedication (in honor, in celebration or in memory) you would like to have listed in the bulletin. If you would like a certain type of flower, you can contact Ms. Ruth Duncan at 703-944-4874. The flowers typically cost between $75 and $100; the amount of your check is at your discretion. Please make a check payable to Little River United Church of Christ, and designate “Flower Fund” on the memo line and mail the check to Little River Church, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003.
Food Pantry Drop-offs
Little River is still collecting donations of non-perishable food items, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products for neighbors in need across Northern Virginia. **Items especially needed are:** fruit cups or canned fruit, peanut butter, canned vegetables, tomato sauce, dry pasta, dish soap, diapers, dry beans, rice, Maseca (corn) flour, powder milk. Donations can be dropped by the front door of the church on **Wednesdays before 5:00pm**. If you would like to arrange a different drop-off time, please contact the church office at office@lrucc.org so that a staff person can be onsite to receive the items. Please be mindful of expiration dates. Items may stay in the food pantry for extended time until donated. Thank you for your continued support and faithful giving during these challenging times!

**Events of the Week of September 5, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 5</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Meditation Group Meeting - via Zoom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sunday Worship - via Zoom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Intentional Interim Team</td>
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<td>Monday, September 6</td>
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<td>Church Office is Closed in observance of Labor Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Boy Scouts Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday, September 7</td>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>Office Staff Meeting – via Zoom</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Deacons Meeting - via Zoom</td>
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<td>Wednesday, September 8</td>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>Greenspring Program - Hunters Crossing Craft Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>Worship Committee Meeting - via Zoom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Church Council Meeting - via Zoom</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 9</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 10</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>No LRUCC Sponsored Events</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 11</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>LRUCC Clean-Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>9/11 Memorial Service - Cross area on LRUCC grounds</td>
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O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!

2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life, and health, and peace.

3. My loveliest Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

4. Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839
1. Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
   we respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.

2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiration, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
   let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
   help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
   that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.

May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
   all God's people, young and old.

Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
   make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,

Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end,
   blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.
   messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber