**Welcome!**

We are glad you are 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. 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**

We are excited to start welcoming members and friends back to the sanctuary for in-person worship. Remember for in-person service to observe social distancing and masks are required for everyone at all times. There will be no congregational singing or in-person coffee hour. Coffee hour socializing will continue to occur online via Zoom. Worship will also continue to be offered online via Zoom.

**NOTE:** Children’s Sunday School is now being offered outside on the back patio for children from kindergarten through fifth grade during the 10 am worship service. Be sure to dress your children for the weather—it can get chilly in the shade. Please check with an usher for the location of the class if the weather is not conducive to be held outdoors.

**Service Credits**

The liturgy for today is adapted from Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012* and the United Church of Christ Book of Worship. 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
Craig Stapert, Director of Music and Communications  
e craig@lrucc.org
Ashton Streavig, Children and Youth Choir Director  
ashton@lrucc.org
Kathy Heyman, Office Administrator  
kathy@lrucc.org
John Davis, Sexton/First Friday Coordinator  
john@lrucc.org
Yris Saenz, Liana Berbichasvili, Child Care Providers  
office@lrucc.org
Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor
SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude
Toccata and Fugue in d minor
J. S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements
The Rev. Drew Nettinga

Call to Worship
The Rev. Drew Nettinga

One:  Hear, O people of God: our God is one.
Hear the commandments of our God.

All:  First, love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

One:  Hear, O people of God: our God is one.
Recite the commandments to your children and hold them in your hearts.

All:  Second, love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these calls to love. Amen.

Hymn
I Greet You, Sure Redeemer
Toulon
(See back of bulletin for music insert)

Invocation
The Rev. Drew Nettinga

O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love, we thank you for your love that never lets us go. Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space with these your people – our neighbors – to worship you. We do not come merely to open the doors of the church, but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another. As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love – to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body. We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied to a single garment of destiny. We pray for those elected officials who serve all citizens that they may be guided not by ego, politics, or money, but by compassion for all people. Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation to follow the path of love. Amen.

Passing of the Peace
The Rev. Drew Nettinga

In Person: Please remain seated and wave or offer a peace sign
Online: Please type your words of peace in the chat box. We will not unmute at this time.

Anthem
God Is Our Refuge and Strength
Sanctuary Choir
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Holy God, you are God alone and there is no other god but you. You shine your light on all your people so we can beam your goodness. Give us courage to live faithfully and to do your will. Help us to love others as you love us. Lift our spirit so we can bring hope to those we meet. Come now, O God, and let us know your presence in the world. Extend your mercy so we can forgive those who would harm us. Thank you for the gift of Christ and the visitation of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1:1–18

SERMON

“Accompanied by Unexpected Love”

MISSION MOMENT

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

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

THANKSGIVINGS & CONCERNS

If you have a prayer concern or thanksgiving to celebrate, we encourage you to share with the congregation at this time. Those worshiping in person are welcome to come to the floor microphone one at a time and share. Those worshiping on Zoom are welcome to type their prayer in the chat box for a deacon to share in the service on your behalf. Please add your name to the prayer request so we will know whom the request is coming from.

If you do not wish to share your prayer concern with the congregation, you may always email Pastor Art at pastorart@lrucc.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE 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.

HYMN 65  A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  EIN FESTE BURG
(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC INSERT)

BENEDICTION

THE REV. DAWN JEFFERSON
Go forth, following as the Holy Spirit leads you, moving in love and compassion,
pursuing justice and mercy, and trusting in the God of peace. For the Source of all life
and love is as close as your very breath. Breathe deeply. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE  Ein’ feste Burg  MICHAEL BEDFORD

Today’s sanctuary flowers are given by Jan and Dave Curtis in thanksgiving for the Stewardship Committee and all
who support Little River’s ministries by making a pledge of financial support.

TODAY

Coffee Hour and Fellowship  11:00 a.m.
All are welcome to stay on worship service Zoom and in the Sanctuary to share thoughts,
reflections, and fellowship.

Today’s Guest Preacher

We welcome back our recent seminarian, the Rev. Dawn Jefferson, who is now a recent
graduate of Yale Divinity School, having earned a M.Div. and completed ordination in the
UCC through the New Haven Conference. She accepted her first call to ministry as the
Minister for Mission and Justice at Hope UCC in Alexandria. She is a native New Yorker
from Westchester County whose 20-year career as an educator included living in Annandale
for over a decade, having taught and been an administrator at The Potomac School in
McLean. Her work in education has been focused on building community, promoting
diversity and equity, cultivating leadership, and developing stronger advising programs.
In seminary, Dawn researched the practical theology of dementia, considering the intentional ministry we offer to older adults and the people who care for them in order to investigate intersections of pastoral care ministry and end-of-life theology. At YDS, Dawn was a member of the Andover Newton Theological Seminary community where she served with the student steering committee and belonged to Yale Black Seminarians and DivOut. Dawn served as the Sabbatical Pastor of Trinitarian Congregational Church (TriCon) of Concord, MA, this past summer. She enjoys singing and worship, poetry, drama, and film. In her spare time, she is passionate about exploring technologies that connect communities, researching electric vehicles, and visiting national parks. Dawn lives with her wife, Marquita, in Alexandria, VA.

“Forward with Faith” 2022 Stewardship Campaign

We still need your Help - Today is the deadline for submitting a pledge for the formal part of our campaign. Online materials: https://bit.ly/LR-Stewardship

Pledging is easy:

- You can complete and submit an “Online Pledge Form” and submit it online
- You can download and complete a 2022 Pledge Form and email it to Stewardship@lrucc.org.
- You can mail a completed Pledge Form to the church office: Attn: 2022 Stewardship Campaign, Little River UCC, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annadale, VA 22003.

Good News: We offer our sincere thanks to the LRUCC Members and Friends who have already made a pledge. We are getting new pledges every day and we are well past the 50% mark for both 2022 Stewardship Pledges and for the number of pledges we hope to receive.

However, we still need your help. We would like to raise between $535,000 and $575,000 for 2022. Our goal for reporting purposes is $560,000. Pledges fund the Church Operations Budget. We use these funds to support our Church Ministries, Programs, Benevolences, our Staff salaries and benefits, also for the maintenance of our Building and Grounds.

We will likely be hiring a new Settled Pastor in 2022, and will need funds to achieve our emerging goals and visions for the future. We would also like to be able to give a cost of living raise to our pastor and staff and to have money to put in reserves for the Building Contingency Fund, so that we are ready for emergency or necessary repairs. We would like to continue to enhance our hybrid services to ensure we can extend our reach to members and friends both in person and living around the globe.

LRUCC Stewardship Committee: Bruce Summers, Doreen Manchester, Adam Honeysett, Jenny Planert, and Ruth Duncan
Neighbors in Need
Each year Little River participates in five special offerings with the broader United Church of Christ. We invite you to support the Neighbors in Need offering through November 14 with a gift online, in worship during the offering, or by mail to the church office. Please indicate “Neighbors in Need” in the memo if you send a check.

In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND - EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Church Office Closed for Cleaning November 1 & 2
The Church office will be closed for carpet cleaning on Monday, November 1, and Tuesday, November 2. Church staff will be working remotely and available to answer phone calls and emails. Volunteers are needed after worship service today to move office furniture to the atrium. The church office will reopen on Wednesday, November 3.

Remembering Loved Ones Recently Deceased November 7
On November 7, we will offer prayers of thanksgiving for loved ones who have died during the past 12 months. We invite you to contribute the names of family members and close friends whose loss you mourn. Please email office@lrucc.org or call the church office at 703-978-3060 with the name of the individual and your relationship to that person.
Information will be collected through noon on Wednesday, November 3.

LRUCC Book Group Sunday, November 14 - 12 p.m.
The last book for 2021 is The Yellow House. This book tells the story of one family, their yellow shotgun house, and their corner of New Orleans, America’s most mythological and deeply divided city—over the course of the twentieth century. Location TBA.

To those interested in participating in next year’s book group, please submit your ideas for next year’s reads! Tell us in 2 or 3 paragraphs (preferably your own words) about a book you are recommending to the group for 2022. Please give the title, the author, and what type of book (fiction, non-fiction and a sub-category is also helpful—mystery, memoir, etc.). Also if possible, when it was published and if it is available in paperback or ebook as well. Please send nominations to Jean Wheelock by November 7 at wheelocks@verizon.net.
Meditation Group Meeting  
Sundays at 9:00 am

The Little River Meditation Group meets 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://bit.ly/LR-Meditation (Zoom Meeting ID: 152 414 500; Passcode: 015001)

Upcoming Memorial Services

Memorial Service for Bill Hartzler  
Saturday, November 6 – 11:30 a.m.

Memorial Service for Donald Wallace  
Sunday, November 7 – 2:00 p.m.

Both services will be held at Little River UCC with in person services and available on Zoom.

Upcoming Pilgrim Youth Fellowship (PYF) Events

PYF Movie Night  
Friday, November 5

The next PYF movie night is Friday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m. Youth grades 6-12 are invited to bring lawn chairs and suppers or snacks and watch Instant Family (PG-13). This movie is a humorous and poignant look at what it means to be a family. Weather permitting, we'll meet on the patio. For more information, contact Sarah Wilbur at dhakamedic@hotmail.com

PYF Book Club  
Sunday, November 14 - 9:30 a.m.

The PYF Book Club is open to youth in grades 6-12. Please wear a mask and bring a water bottle. RSVPs recommended but not required. RSVP and/or submit book recommendations to Sarah Wilbur at dhakamedic@hotmail.com.

Helping Hands Needed - Being in Service

Food Pantry Drop-offs

Little River continues 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 5:00 pm.** If you would like to arrange a different drop-off time, please contact the church office at office@lrucc.org. 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!
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 or technology, volunteer for the new Worship Media Team by emailing office@lrucc.org.

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Front Door Greeters  Sundays
The sign up sheet for Front Door Greeters for Sunday worship services is located on the bulletin board in the atrium. Please sign up for a Sunday. Arrive at 9:20 with a smile on your face and greet the people coming for the service. There are no meetings, just a smile is needed! For questions or more information contact Bunny Jones, 703-218-9888 or mkbjones@cox.net.

Volunteers Needed To Help with Worship Service  Sundays
The Board of Deacons invites members and friends to assist in leading worship by volunteering to be a greeter, liturgist, usher, or Thanksgiving and Concerns reporter and/or note taker during Sunday worship services. Sign up here! (bit.ly/LR-WorshipVol)

MORE CHURCH NEWS

Flower Donation
Have you noticed the beautiful flowers in the sanctuary? If you would like to give flowers on the Sunday of your choice on a first-come basis, email office@lrucc.org. Please include 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 $75–$100; the amount of your check is at your discretion. Make your check payable to Little River UCC and designate “Flower Fund” on the memo line and mail the check to the church.

Seeking Input for Senior Pastor Search Committee
An important next step in the process of calling a Senior Pastor for Little River is to establish the actual search committee. After consulting with some of the participants in previous search processes and taking the lessons learned from their experience, the Intentional Interim Team would like to invite members of the congregation to put forward names of possible search committee members—these are suggestions. Our search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation. Previous search committee members shared that the process can be spiritually and personally meaningful as well as just plain fun.
The Intentional Interim Team would like to have the search committee announced by mid December and ready to start in the beginning of January. We have been advised that a deliberate and well organized process can be expected to take approximately one year from start to installation of the new Senior Pastor. Our desire is to have a diverse and cohesive team of 7 to 9 people that represent the entire spectrum of our congregation. Characteristics of team members might include but not be limited to:

- Articulate and able to communicate
- Write clearly and edit succinctly
- Builds consensus, adapts and is flexible
- Good listening skills
- Organized
- A sense of humor
- Knowledgeable of the history and policies of LRUCC and the wider UCC
- Visionary and ready to help build the future of Little River UCC

Please help us come up with a dynamic team ready to move Little River into the next phase of our journey. Submit suggestions, either yourself or other members of the congregation, by dropping names into the suggestion box located in the atrium or completing this Google form (https://bit.ly/LR-Search). Your thoughtful suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to talk to any member of the Intentional Interim Team:

Moderator Karen Kleiber: moderator@lrucc.org
Clark Beil: clark.beil@montgomerycountymd.gov
Drew Nettinga: dnettinga@gmail.com
Janet Parsons Mackey: j.parsmack@gmail.com

Pastor Art Cribbs: pastor@lrucc.org
Dan Jimenez: dandanj@cox.net
Gail Perry: gperry1971@gmail.com

_Events of the Week of October 31, 2021_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 31</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Meditation Group Meeting - via Zoom</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Coffee Hour – via Zoom and in Sanctuary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Bell Choir</td>
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<td>Monday, November 1</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Boy Scouts Meeting</td>
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<td>Church Office Closed-Carpet Cleaning</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 2</td>
<td>12:00</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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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 3</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Christian Education Board via Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 4</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 5</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>William “Bill” Hartzler’s Memorial</td>
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I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

Anon., from Strasbourg Psalter, trans. Elizabeth L. Smith; alt.

TOULON from Psalm 124 in the Genevan Psalter

I greet you, sure Redeemer, with my heart, glad for the saving mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotence.

You are the source of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotence.

You are the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance.

You have the true and perfect gentleness, no harshness have you seen.

Our hope is all in you and you alone; we trust the promise.

love that you impart. who pain did undergo for my poor sake;

tent in every place; so rule in us and our whole being sway.

and our strength receive. sustain us by your faith and by your pow’r;

and no bitterness. grant us the grace that flows in you so free;

that your word makes known. O dear Redeemer, make us calm and sure.

I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.

Shine on us with the light of your pure day.

and give us strength in every trying hour.

that we may dwell in perfect unity.

that in your strength we evermore endure.
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
   our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
   For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe, with craft and pow’r to save,
   pow’r to save, victorious o’er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
   but there is one who takes our side, the one of God’s own choosing.
   You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he with mighty pow’r to save, victorious o’er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.

3. And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
   we will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.
   The powers of darkness grim, we tremble not for them; their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure: One little word shall fell them.

4. God’s word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
   The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through Christ, who with us sideth.
   they may kill, God’s truth abideth still, God’s reign endures forever.

WORDS: Martin Luther, c. 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981, 1990
MUSIC: Martin Luther, c. 1529; harm. from The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930

EIN FESTE BURG
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Adapt. © 1981, 1990, Ruth Duck