



April 2019 Newsletter
Lakeville United Church of Christ
1 Precinct Street - Lakeville, Massachusetts 02347
(508) 947-4979 - admin@lakevilleucc.net
www.lakevilleucc.net
The Reverend Greta MacRae, Pastor

“You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?”
Galatians 5:7

The apostle Paul was fond of depicting the Christian life as a race. It makes me wonder if he was an athlete before he had that conversion experience on the road to Damascus. Using someone cutting in on a run to explain the loss of concentration during a race is an interesting idea. “Eyes on the prize”, athletes sometimes say, tapping into the center of your being to come up with a last blast of energy to finish the race, or as long distance runner Steve Prefontaine once said, “I don’t run a race to see who wins. I run a race to see who has the most guts.”

It takes guts to be a Christian. It takes concentration to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. The season of Lent is a good time to reframe and refocus, to ask our selves who has cut in on our race, who has interrupted our run with something distracting enough to throw off our gait and rattle our run.

Have you ever been able to hold to a spiritual practice? Once in a great while I can get through an Advent or Lent hanging on for dear life to a practice I am endeavoring to follow. The times I have been successful I have had a



spiritual partner, perhaps someone to read everyday through the season to center my prayers. It's funny, when I think about it I used to have better runs when I had a running partner too.

Life in a congregation can be like running with a team. The encouragement from others who run a similar race is uplifting. Perhaps worship can be likened to team meetings where athletes share tips on everything from how to lace sneakers for better performance to what to eat before a race, and in a congregation or on a running team we can also help each other learn how to reframe after a loss. Here, in the very middle of Lent, let's reset our concentration and glide through to Easter with our minds set on Christ.

May the peace of Christ make us joyful as we run.

Greta



Board of Diaconate

This is a reminder of the remaining Lenten activities:

- April 14 - Palm Sunday Service
- April 18 - Maundy Thursday – Supper and Communion
- April 19 - Good Friday Vigil
- On a Saturday - Church & Family Life's Easter Egg Hunt
- April 21 - Easter Sunrise at 6 a.m.
 - Breakfast at LUCC following the first service
 - 10 a.m. service at LUCC



Easter flowers with dedications orders and dedications were taken on March 17, 24, & 31. We are assuming that the prices will remain the same from the Apponequet Boosters.

Anyone wishing to give the Easter Sunrise Service bulletins, there are forms for this, too. They are \$10.

Thank you floral givers, greeters, Organist Brad, Choir, and for holding our congregation in your prayers.

Blessings,

The Deacons

Bob & Nancy Oldfield, Scott Holmes, Sue Norton, Sue Stiller, Corine Darling, Loretta Baldwin, Kena Gallagher, Johnna Rowley, Bonnie Sparrow, Christine Ward, & Nancy LaFave

From the Trustees

With signs that Spring has finally arrived, we'd like to remind everyone that the Spring Church Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 13 starting at 8am. Bring your rake, hand tools, wheel barrow, garden shears and a smile and come help beautify our beautiful church grounds.

At the same time, a small crew will be organizing and cleaning up the church kitchen. If you are interested in being part of the kitchen clean-up crew, please get in touch with Leslie Metzler 508-947-1376 or email lesliemetz2@hotmail.com.

Lines in the parking lot are due to be painted this Spring. Notice will be given as soon as the work is scheduled.



Congratulations to Gage Ramsden who will be celebrating his Boy Scout Court of Honor ceremony in Fellowship Hall on the afternoon of April 28th.



From Women's Fellowship

Gifts and jewelry needed for 2019 Women's Fellowship Christmas Fair. As you are doing your Spring Cleaning, sprucing up your house and clearing out things that no longer "spark Joy" in you, please think of the Christmas Fair. The Treasures Table is looking for not only Christmas decorations, but also general decorations, Knick knacks and jewelry that would make lovely gifts. If you are downsizing or clearing out a loved one's home and are looking for a new home for those special decorative plates and lovingly cared for collection of items that would make nice gifts, please think of the Christmas Fair. Contact Leslie Metzler 508-947-1376 or lesliemetz2@hotmail.com to donate jewelry and other items for the Treasures Table.

Reap As You Sew – "RAYS" Craft Group

RAYS meets every month to produce hand-made items for the Christmas Fair. Our next gathering will be Wednesday, April 24th, 6:30pm at Leslie Metzler's. Leslie's dining room was pretty darn full for the March gathering! It's a fun group of creative women and new members and ideas are always welcome. If you'd like to join us or find out more, contact Leslie 508-947-1376 or email lesliemetz2@hotmail.com.



Social Outreach Committee

Members of the Social Outreach Committee meets twice a month as we welcome people who are interested in Outreach activities. All are welcome. We are meeting next on March 31st after Service and April 4th at 7PM in Fellowship Hall.

In early February, LUCC remembered baby Madison Gallagher, the daughter of Kena and David Gallagher, by blessing 311 handmade blankets and quilts made by the Knotty Hookers in the community and talented people who crochet, knit and sew. The blankets were delivered by Kim and Scott Mulgrew to Hasbro Children's Hospital in Rhode Island.

The congregation at LUCC provided support for the medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic in March by Ann Marie Baldwin, a Nurse Practitioner. Many medical supplies were purchased through Anne Marie's Amazon medical list and the supplies will be brought with her on the trip.

At Easter in prior years, LUCC congregation has generously donated to support mission work in the local community and international needs. This year, the LUCC Easter Donation will support the local Soup Man (<https://supportthesoupman.org>) The Soup Man, Mr. Peter Kelleher, started serving soup to the homeless in 2017, a year after his son Travis died. He then provided care packets within backpacks including gloves, hats, toiletries, hand warmers and more. In Nov. 2018, he offered the first portable shower and today he is using donated funds toward the purchase of another portable shower. Additionally, the Easter Donation will support two children in the Ukraine who live in orphanages today to attend a mission camp with John Kinsley and Straight-Ahead Ministries. These two programs are very important and service to help people in need.



The Confirmation Class, along with the Social Outreach Committee, is running the Operation Christmas Child outreach project. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 157 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received. During the month of March, we invite you to bring in Hygiene Items and put them in the basket on the altar.



Are you interested in cleaning out your closets and donating your gently-used clothing, accessories, shoes, purses, etc. and household linens (bed/bath/kitchen/drapes). Pack your donated goods in a 33-gallon black trash bag and bring them to Lakeville United Church of Christ on Saturday, March 30th, between 7AM-12 Noon. Strive to fill the bag to a 30 lb. weight. You will receive a tax receipt for your donation. LUCC will bring the bags to Savers in New Bedford. Savers will only take clothing, accessories, shoes, purses, etc. and household linens, bed/bath/kitchen/drapes, please do not pack other items in the bag.

For questions, call 774-259-1320.

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Music Committee

Happy Spring to all!

The music committee is without a chairperson, and also is short a member. If anyone is interested in being on the committee, please see Greta or myself for more information.

The music committee/choir members have been gathering to rehearse and sing on the first two Sundays of each month at 9:00. The choir will normally sing at least one of those Sundays in church. Anyone interested in singing please come!! We will be working on material for Lent and Easter and also Mother's Day.

The committee/choir members have discussed possibilities for concert material and ideas about the concert in general. We will have a joint meeting with Social Outreach to conglomerate ideas in the very near future. The Soup and Song is slated for Saturday May 4th.

Anyone that has ideas for summer music in church please contact a choir member, myself or Greta. I will be on vacation starting first Sunday in June until the end of August.

Peace and Love to all,
Brad Bates
LUCC Music Director



From Church and Family Life



Easter Party



The Church and Family Life Committee will be sponsoring our Annual Easter Party and Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th. The party starts at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It is open to all children up through the third grade. The children will have the opportunity to participate in egg coloring, an “egg” (candy) hunt, a short story time with Rev. Greta and a visit from the Easter Bunny. We will also have some refreshments for the children. Children should try and remember to bring their own basket for the egg hunt.



April Birthdays

- 2 Ann Marie LaFave
- 2 Bob Joyal
- 3 Janet Macuch
- 7 Ken Ketler
- 7 Toby Baird
- 10 Maureen Baird
- 11 Kathleen Barrack
- 12 Adriana LaFave
- 15 Laura Ramsden
- 15 Brianne Horton
- 20 Paul McMeekin
- 20 Minnie Wambolt
- 21 Callie Nee
- 23 Matt McMeekin
- 25 Gage Ramsden
- 29 Sofia Abraham



April Anniversaries

- 20 Gary & Laura Hermanson
- 18 John & Judy Economos





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