



LARCHMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vision of Larchmont Church is to be a vibrant, engaging, and inclusive church that follows Jesus Christ.

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

†Please stand as you are able

Prelude *Selection from Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* Dietrich Buxtehude

Announcements and Greetings

†Passing the Peace

†Bringing in the Light of Christ

†Processional Hymn *Christ is the World's Light* No. 188

†Introit *God So Loved the World* Karle Erickson

*God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.*

†Call To Worship Jonathan Clark, Worship Leader

Leader: When the world is dark and full of hate and fear; when we cannot see God,

People: We will turn on the light.

Leader: When we cannot find our way back to love and peace,

People: We will turn on the light.

Leader: When our vision dims due to the darkness within,

People: We will turn on the light.

Leader: Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

People: The Light of the world is Jesus Christ.

Leader: Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind.

ALL: Praise God, the light of the world!

Prayer for the Day

Gracious God, who created us in God's own image, we are grateful for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing in us, and for all that you will do through us.

Open our eyes to see your presence among us, always moving in powerful ways and in all places. Challenge us to envision and become the people you created us to be. Grant us the power and the courage to come out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ, that we may serve you by serving others. Amen.

Children's Message

Liz Smith

Scripture Lesson

John 9:1-16

Worship Leader

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem

I Am the Light of the World

David L. Mennicke

I am the light of the world, who follows me will not walk in darkness.

I am the light of the world, but they will have the light of life.

Rise, Shine; for your light has come; God's glory is risen upon you.

True light that enlightens all has come into the world.?

"I am the light of the world, the light, who follows me will not walk in darkness.

I am the light of the world; but they will have the light of life."

God is the light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Walk in the light, as he is in the light.

"I am the light of the world, the light, who follows me will not walk in darkness.

I am the light of the world; but they will have the light of life."

You are the light of the world, the light that cannot be hidden.

Therefore, let your light shine to glorify your Father.

"I am the light of the world, the light, who follows me will not walk in darkness.

I am the light of the world (In thee is gladness amid all sadness);

but they will have the light of life.

Sermon

"Light of the World"

Rev. Fran Cooper

Prayer of Confession

God of light, forgive us for clinging to darkness. We choose to focus on fear and evil rather than truth and salvation. We choose to separate instead of uniting. So often, we assume our own righteousness yet are unable to recognize the true nature of Christ. We judge others for their brokenness and create distance instead of shining a light of hope into their spaces of need. Forgive us, we pray. Help us see the light. Amen.

†Hymn

Here I Am to Worship

No. 3177 (W&S)

Prayers of the People

Rev. Cooper

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrating Our Offerings

Offering Prayer (unison)

**Dear Heavenly Father, as we build for the future today,
may our gifts shine Your light and show Your way.
Help us to serve as living stones,
our work to be your vibrant home. Amen.**

Offertory *Selection from Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* Dietrich Buxtehude

†Doxology *Lenten Doxology* Words, G.W. Shepherd
TUNE: OLD 100th

*Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen*

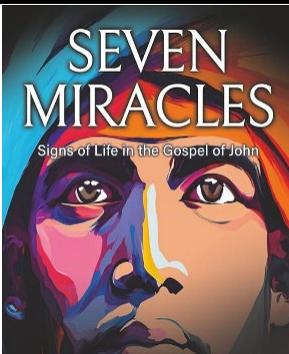
†Hymn *We Would See Jesus* (vv. 1,2,4,5) No. 256

†Benediction

†Benediction Response *What Wondrous Love* (mm 1-8) Hymn 292

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul.
What wondrous love is this, O my soul.*

†Postlude *In dir ist Freude* JS Bach



**LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES: Seven Miracles: Signs of
Life in the Gospel of John**

Jesus' miracles have meanings that extend far beyond the people they first impacted. Seven Miracles is a study for Lent that examines miracles in the Gospel of John to help us discover meaning in the miracles for our lives today.

THIS WEEK AT LARCHMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, March 22, 2026

8:15 a.m. Heavenly Grounds
8:30 a.m. Nursery
8:35 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, March 23, 2026

6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study at the Wetzel's
7:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Lenten Study (Aldersgate UMC- 5767 Sellger Dr)
6:00 p.m. Larchmont Ringers
6:00 p.m. 835LIVE Band Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Prayer Group
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Saturday, March 28, 2026

9:00 a.m. Pancakes and Egg Hunt Social
10:30 a.m. Palm Cross Crafting Party

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday
8:15 a.m. Heavenly Grounds
8:30 a.m. Nursery
8:35 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Ghent Nursing Free Store Sorting (FH)

Use this QR code to give online using your phone. →



Online Giving

LARCHMONT UMC NOTICES!

March 22, 2026

LENTEN OFFERING

During the season of Lent, you are invited to make a special offering for direct support of our 2026 Larchmont UMC mission work. Your generosity will make a big difference in the lives of people touched through these ministries: Union Mission, Winter Shelter, Hope House, El Salvador Mission Trip, James Monroe Elementary School, Ghent Nursing Home, LAUNCH downtown ministries to Park Place and Huntersville neighborhoods (summer kids camps, Peace on Earth Day), Red Cross Blood Drives, United Methodist Committee on Relief assistance (flood buckets and emergency funds for natural disasters, medical and newborn kits), ODU Wesley Foundation, and other special needs. Please use these envelopes if you can, or specify, "Lenten Offering" for online offering giving and/or on your check. Thank you for sharing in these ministries of love and caring.

Easter Egg Hunt: Candy And Small Toys Needed!

Please help with the Easter Egg Hunt for this year by contributing candy or small toy items for the easter eggs. There will be a collection container in the narthex, the office hallway, and the social hall. Thank you for supporting this special event!

Cards of Hope

This year let us donate those unused Visa, Master Card, American Express, department store and other purchased cards so we pass them on our Food Locker clients or others in our community who are in need. Please place gift cards in the box marked "Cards of Hope" provided in front of the office. Contact Jack or Sue at jackmeservey@gmail.com or suemeservey44@gmail.com with any questions.

HELP WANTED: Part-Time Children's Director

Larchmont United Methodist Church in Norfolk, VA is seeking a part-time (20 hours/week) Children's Director to provide planning, oversight, and support for all activities related to our children and their families. This will include but is not limited to, attending Sunday worship services, coordinating Children's Sunday School, organizing Special seasonal Events (such as Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter programs, and Vacation Bible School), recruiting volunteers, and publicizing all events and activities. For a complete Job Description, interested candidates should direct questions or send a resume and cover letter to Rev. Fran Cooper, francooper@vaumc.org.

Ghent Nursing Home Free Store Sorting: March 29th

We are receiving many donations for the Ghent Nursing Home Free Store that will be held on April 1st. We need help sorting and labeling items before the event. If you have time following the March 29th 10:30 service, please lend a hand. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. This is a much-loved event by our neighbor residents who often cannot leave the building. It gives them the opportunity to choose what they want. Helping us sort these items is a beautiful way to put God's love into action before these gifts reach their new homes.

Ghent Nursing Home Free Store: Mission Opportunity!

The Ghent Nursing Home "Free Store" is April 1st. The Missions Team needs volunteers to help distribute clothing and items to our neighbors who often cannot leave the facility. We will meet at the Nursing Home (corner of 38th and Llewellyn) at 1pm to lay out and organize items. The event begins at 1:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love in a tangible, practical way.

Wednesday Lenten Study and Lunch

(sponsored by Norfolk UMC consort of churches)

Join our area Methodists for five weeks of worship, food and fellowship as we journey through Lent. Each session starts at **noon**. We will rotate to area churches, and the host pastor and church are offering the worship, study, and lunch (sandwich, soup, and treat). **Wednesday, March 25, the study will be held at Aldersgate UMC (5767 Sellger Dr).** Come and do a mid-week refresh!

SPRC Staff Spotlight

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will be highlighting a member of the LUMC staff each month in 2026. Our staff is important to the ministries of our church and the committee feels we should all recognize their service.

For March, we recognize **Nate Poplin**, our **Administrative Assistant**. He's the one you see through the window after you enter LUMC from Monroe Place. Nate runs the office; provides support to Pastors and staff; answers the phone; works on special projects; coordinates requests for space use with the church calendar; and is the point of contact for those benefiting from our food pantry. All this and much more--including assembly of the bulletin you are reading this very moment. Nate is a 2025 graduate of ODU (major in Game Design) who enjoys taking care of his dogs, Chloe and Rey, video games, and with ink or pencil, drawing people.



Palm Cross-Making Party: Saturday, March 28 at 10:30am.



Operation Christmas Child: Thank You!

Samaritan's Purse thanks YOU for your hard work last year in preparing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. It is organizations like Larchmont UMC that make it possible for Samaritan's Purse to continue to reach millions with the love and hope of Jesus through these gifts. Samaritan's Purse would like to share some wonderful encouraging and uplifting stories from 2025 that keep us pressing on and keeping us excited about all that God is able to do with a simple shoe box gift.

To read some of these stories go to: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/occ-stories/>

Union Mission: Thank You!

Union Mission just received a Blast Chiller for their Men's Shelter because of your thoughtful generosity to missions. This chiller is designed to quickly reduce the core temperature of hot foods to preserve their quality, nutrition, and storage period. Thank you for caring for those less fortunate than ourselves!

Walk with Christ

The missions committee invites all to join in a "Walk with Christ" during the season of Lent. The walk can be either individually or jointly. During our walks, whether short or lengthy strolls around the neighborhood or in other areas of our vast community, it is suggested that time be spent in conversation with Jesus and those we meet during our travels. During our engaging conversations, invite people to church and present them with a traveling Jesus (you can find these in the Narthex and at the Monroe entrance). As Jesus said in Luke 10:37, ask them to "Go and do likewise." The added spiritual, emotional, and physical benefits of a "Walk with Christ" cannot be measured. Each day, we are also invited to put \$1 aside (or whatever feels uncomfortable), (Luke 21:2) and at the end of Lent donate a portion of the money to the Lenten offering for missions.

Save The Date!

VBS July 12th - 16th

Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God

Register Here! →



VBS Registration

Assisting in Worship

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
	March 22, 2026	March 29, 2026
Worship Leader	Jonathan Clark	Claudia Wade
Children's Worship	Liz Smith	Cathy Coleman
Media Tech	Sara Morris	Jeff Paiste
	Jeff Paiste	
Sound Tech	Stephen Croffie Djan	Bill Huber
Camera Tech	Clarise Hicks	Clarise Hicks
Security Trustee	Chris Calvert	
Sunday Stewards	Fred Dobbs	Robert King
	Sandra Clark	Brian Casey
Monday Counters	Nel Booker	Chris Burge
	Pris Peake	Julie Etheridge
Bus Driver	Michael King	Dave Lannetti
Ushers	Monica Levow	Brian Casey
	Ben Hatcher	Kami Lannetti
	William Lehew	Dave Lannetti
	Gary Chiaverotti	Rob Baxter

Larchmont United Methodist Church
1101 Jamestown Crescent
757-489-8168 office/ 757-489-1267 fax

Lead Pastor	Rev. Fran Cooper; pastor@larchmontumc.org
Administrative Assistant	Nate Poplin; office@larchmontumc.org
Pastor of Visitation	Dave Loughery; pov@larchmontumc.org
Music Director	Karla Robinson; music@larchmontumc.org
Organist	Will Pearson; wpearson@odu.edu
Financial Secretary	Rita Turner; giving@larchmontumc.org
Bookkeeper	Amber Pickrell, bookkeeping@larchmontumc.org
Preschool Director	Meg Ditty; lumps@larchmontumc.org
Children's Ministry Director	Cathy Hickman; education@larchmontumc.org
Youth Director	youth@larchmontumc.org
835LIVE Worship Leader	Dai Poole; worshipleader@larchmontumc.org
Digital Communications	Ron Pionk; CommunicationsSpecialistLUMC@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Robert Ragland