

**OUR MISSION:** To celebrate the vision of God’s Good News in Jesus Christ in liturgy, learning, and life, through the revitalization of our congregation, the restoration of our building, and the strengthening of our traditions, while recognizing our unique presence and mission in Baltimore City.



**LOVELY LANE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
2200 ST. PAUL STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD 21218-5805

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**  
*THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!*

**CALENDAR**

**Every Sunday**

Worship, 11 AM  
Fellowship Hour/Guided Tour, NOON

**Every Wednesday**

Baltimore Folk Music Society, weekly dances  
Fellowship Hall, 7 PM

**Every Saturday**

Seidel Martial Arts, Gym, 8 AM

**Saturday, May 7**

Church Work Day, 9 AM - NOON  
Tour: First UMC Mechanicsburg, PA, 1:30 PM

**Friday, May, 13**

BLS Spring Musical, Fellowship Hall, 8 AM - 3 PM  
Tour: First UMC Millersburg, PA, 1 PM

**Sunday, May 15**

Pentecost

**Wednesday, May 18**

SPRC meeting, Library, 7 PM

**Saturday, May 21**

Tour: St. Mark’s, 9:30 AM

**Friday, May, 27**

BLS Spring Hoedown, Fellowship Hall, 2:30 PM

**Tuesday, May 31**

BLS HS Awards Ceremony, Fellowship Hall, 1 PM

**Friday, June 18**

Boise First UMC - Cathedral of the Rockies  
Overnight Arrival

**Sunday, June 19**

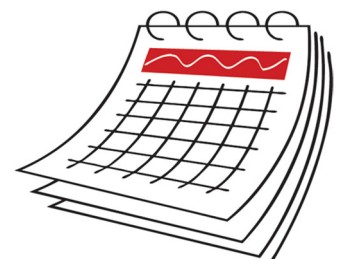
Anniversary Sunday  
Pot Luck, Fellowship Hall, 12 PM

**Monday, June 20**

Tour: Mt. Airy Senior Center 9:30 AM

**Tuesday, June 21**

Tour: Mt. Airy Senior Center 9:30 AM



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## OPEN MINDS

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### *From the Lay Leader...*

As part of our on-going commemoration of the two-hundredth year since Francis Asbury ended his long road of ministry – I recently was privileged to do kind of a unique thing. Having been invited to speak at an Asbury event in England, I got to discover Asbury’s voyage backward.

For me, it began at our Service of dedication; standing beside Asbury’s grave at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. A few days later, I was standing beside the little harbor from which Asbury boarded a boat for America. From there I got to visit the New Room in Bristol; the meeting house in which Francis answered John Wesley’s question, “Our brethren in America call aloud for help. Who are willing to go over and help them?” And I got to visit the little cottage on Newton Road where Asbury grew up, and to stand in front of the window where he describes seeing his mother stand to read her Bible.

They say that travel, in addition to exposing you to new worlds, should also give you a better appreciation for home. So for me, taking my Asbury-backwards trip, I had an opportunity to ponder what Asbury appreciated about his adopted home in America.

Throughout Asbury’s journals, there is a constant thread of misery, illness and self-doubt. To judge by his own words, Francis is having a dreadful time in the new world, and should return to England. Yet he remains in America. He throws himself into difficulty and tribulation time after time – almost like an addict who persists in his course of self-destruction. Doing something that he knows is bad for him, believing that the pain is worth it.

So what was the reward that drove Francis? What occasional high made the constant lows worth enduring?

At Methodist Church House in London, in the Mission room where missionaries received their assignments, there are large boards with the names of missionaries from the 18th and

19th centuries. In so many cases, you can see that the missionaries often lived only a short time in their far-flung appointments; sometimes only a few years. What drove them? What continues to drive the work of those who would give up the comforts of home to minister on the frontier?

Standing there in the old country, I realized what it must have been that attracted Asbury and the other missionaries to the new; it is the thrill of seeing God’s power in its most raw and primary form.

To see people who had no knowledge or love of God come to him for the first time... to see Grace rush in... to see Transformation happen before your eyes... what a thrill that must be.

Most of us live in the Old World, metaphorically speaking. We do the vital work of feeding His lambs, tending His sheep. This is good work – work that Christ himself ordered us to do in John 21:15-17. We may only ever get a glimpse into the New World. In our lifetimes, maybe we will see one or two people genuinely converted by faith. If we are very lucky, we may get to play a part in that. At least in witness if not in direct action.

We think of the world as a discovered place. But for the missionary, there is much frontier. Even here in America, there are places where we may blaze a trail for the Word. Not physical locations, but mindsets that do not know Love and Forgiveness. Hearts that have not been “strangely warmed.”

We cannot all go on the long road. But if we only read our Bible while looking out our window, we may yet appreciate where the Lord’s work needs doing at home.

Peace,  
*John Strawbridge,*  
LAY LEADER



### **A GIFT TO AFRICA UNIVERSITY**

After four years serving as Episcopal Leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, and more than thirty years serving as a Methodist pastor, Bishop Marcus Matthews is retiring this year. Rather than honoring him with a retirement gift, Bishop Matthews has requested that we make a contribution to Africa University – specifically to the campaign to fund a much-needed Athletic Center.

Africa University in Zimbabwe was founded in 1988 by an official act of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Since then it has blossomed into a continent-wide resource for much needed education opportunity. [www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu)

Each church, board, conference employee and pastor is being asked to consider supporting this important development effort. To contribute towards Lovely Lane’s gift to Africa University, please place your donation in the offering plate, or send to the church office. Be sure to note “Africa University” in the memo line or on the envelope.

# OPEN DOORS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESTORATION GIFTS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vincent Diaz Bethany United Methodist Church University of Delaware Anne Arundel Community College Arbutus United Methodist Women</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY LEADERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Tour Guides</b> May 1 Sefi Abedoh May 8 John Strawbridge May 15 Mike Rouse May 22 Lenore Baier May 29 Linda Webb</p> <p><b>Greeters</b> May 1 Dennis &amp; Angie Ferguson May 8 Aimee &amp; Ken Delaney May 15 Sharra Kelly &amp; Robert Furbay May 22 Carrie Harnick May 29 Marisa, John &amp; Daria Olszewski</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LECTIONARY READINGS</b></p> <p><b>May 1 6th Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 (UMH 791) Revelation 22:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29</p> <p><b>May 8 Ascension Sunday</b> Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 (UMH 781) Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53</p> <p><b>May 15 Pentecost</b> Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826) Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17 (25-27)</p> <p><b>May 22 Trinity Sunday</b> Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 (UMH 743) Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15</p> <p><b>May 29</b> <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 1 Kings 18:20-39 Psalm 96 Galatians 1:1-12 Luke 7:1-10</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MANNA HOUSE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>435 E 25TH STREET BALTIMORE 21218 410-889-3001</b></p> <p>The Drop-In-Center provides a morning meal from 8:30-10:15AM every day. Other services include clothing, food vouchers, warm showers, bus tokens &amp; access to case management etc. continue from 11:30AM-4PM (Mon-Fri).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Your support makes a difference!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 8</b> Flowers on the Altar are Given in Memory &amp; Honor of <b>All Mothers</b> <i>by Lenore Baier &amp; Julia Henslee</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 15</b> Flowers on the Altar are Given in Memory of <b>My Father, Robert S. Noller</b> <i>by Jackie Noller</i></p>	

## BAPTISM

Pentecost Sunday, May 15, we are blessed to participate in the baptism of Laure Cecilia Littleton in our worship service. Come and tell her parents how beautiful she is! -*Travis*

## MT. OLIVET TOUR

Sunday, May 29 at 12:30 we will have a gathering of available Tour Guides for a time of sharing and preparing. Those interested are then invited to join us at 1:00 for a tour of Mt. Olivet Cemetery. We will tour and explore, and take a few grave marker photos and rubbings for the archives.

If you haven't been there or find the idea intriguing, you need not be a tour guide to join us for the Mt. Olivet tour. Duration should not exceed 1.5 hours round trip for the Mt. Olivet tour, so we will be done by 2:30. -*Travis*

## SHELL LECTURE SERIES

The inaugural year of the Schell Lecture series continues when archeologist Kirsti Uunila will present her talk; "Beads, Bundles and Boundaries: How Ritual Objects reveal Identity and Intent." Uunila will share things she has learned from excavating nineteenth-century sites related to African-Americans in southern Maryland. "I use what I have learned from my training applied to local history and archaeology to share in local public conversations on race, social relations, and education." Uunila tells us.

Saturday, June 18 at 2:00 PM in Lovely Lane Hall. Light refreshments are served at 1:30 PM.

Admission is \$10.00/person (\$5.00/UMHS members).

## ENGLAND

Sunday June 5 at 12:30 we will enjoy photos & tales of mystery and majesty from John Strawbridge's tour of Methodist historic sights in England. Take a one hour tour of England without leaving home. -*Travis*

# THE TOWER

## MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

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## OPEN HEARTS

### Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

MOTHER CHURCH OF  
AMERICAN METHODISM



2200 Saint Paul Street  
Baltimore MD 21218-5805

**Worship 11:00 AM**

Office Hours  
Monday — Friday  
9 AM — 2 PM

Phone  
410-889-1512

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LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com

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LovelyLane.net

PASTOR  
Rev. Travis Knoll

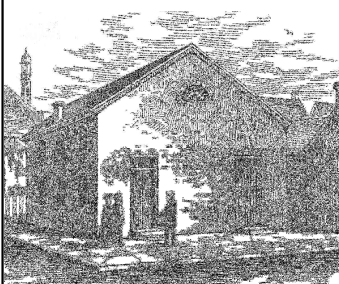
LAY LEADER  
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST  
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA  
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Lena Leone

SEXTON  
Ivan Reyes



### *To the Saints at Lovely Lane-*

As I write this, the festival of Passover is beginning. This 7 or 8 day celebration of the Exodus miracles and deliverance of Israel from Egypt often marked the beginning of a longer pilgrimage to Israel. In ancient days, when travel was slower and more dangerous, it was customary to travel to Jerusalem for Passover and stay through Shavuot (Hebrew, lit: weeks).

Shavuot is the Jewish celebration of the wheat harvest and the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai. It is also called “the feast of weeks” in English and Pentecost in ancient Greek. The grain harvest in ancient Israel was a 7 week process (literally a week of weeks) which culminated in the celebration of the wheat harvest on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Passover.

This year our calendar (Solar) and the Jewish calendar (Lunar, with leap months to synchronize with solar) are relatively far apart, so we celebrated Easter on March 27, almost a month ahead of the celebration of Passover on April 22. Because we did, our 50<sup>th</sup> day celebration that we call Pentecost will be on May 15. This coincided with the festival of Shavuot in Jerusalem following the resurrection, and thus was literally the “last chance” to speak the gospel to pilgrims from around the world visiting in Jerusalem that year. Following this festival, the pilgrims would begin the long journey home, wherever that happened to be.

Pentecost is traditionally a time for us to conclude our Easter celebration, to speak the gospel to the world in some ritualistic way, and to commit ourselves to ongoing ministry in service to the resurrected Christ. It is common for confirmands to take their vows this day, for baptisms, and membership transfers, and other public acts of witness and faith to be celebrated.

That is exactly what we get to do this year. Jackie Noller’s honorary “grand-daughter” Laure Cecilia Littleton will be baptized, and members of my family will transfer their membership to Lovely Lane and/or confirm their faith as adults this Pentecost. Our congregation will remember our own baptisms (perhaps literally, or in a more liturgical fashion) and recommit ourselves to serve the risen Lord in our own homes far from Jerusalem - “to the ends of the earth”.

The Biblical Pentecost described in Acts chapter 2 was a time when the Holy Spirit acted to infuse a diverse and international collection of people with the good news of Jesus Christ for them to take home and share with their families and communities. This May, we will worship God and ask the Spirit to once again infuse the congregation of Lovely Lane and our guests with the good news of Jesus Christ for us to take home and share with our families and communities.

We at Lovely Lane have had front row seats to other Holy Spirit movements - the Christmas Conference 230 and more years ago, the commissioning and sending of missionaries to Korea 130 or so years ago, and the planting of the KME congregation initially started in our chapel 56 years ago. In each of these moments, the Holy Spirit acted through normal people to do the extraordinary. Hearts and minds transformed. Lives rebuilt. Communities changed. Hope reborn into the lives of God’s children.

What does God have in store for us this year? Only God knows. We can but eagerly await the unveiling of God’s plans here, and celebrate the God who is the source and ground of our hope.

May God bless us all this Pentecost.

*Travis*