



### 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

Email  
LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com

Website  
LovelyLane.net

PASTOR  
Rev. Debbie Scott  
revdeb8@aol.com  
301-641-4601

LAY LEADER  
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST  
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA  
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

SEXTON  
Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Lena Leone



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: For a time such as this...

It is MLK Weekend as I write this piece for our newsletter. Last weekend we hosted a wonderful meeting of the Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling Methodists. There was much tension and emotion in the room as we talked about the possibility of schism in the United Methodist Church. I wanted my front page article to be positive as we face this uncertain time for the greater church. We are called to be in prayer, there will be a joint service with Grace UMC and others, but the heart of what I was feeling is wonderfully described by an author I deeply admire, Diana Butler Bass, author of "Gratitude" and many others. Here are her words:

*A story that is mostly off the mainstream radar -- The United Methodist Church, America's largest mainline denomination, is holding a special session of their General Conference next month to finally resolve its conflicts over issues of sexual identity & Christian practice. They have three plans in front of them to decide the direction of the church for the future: ([bwcumc.org](http://bwcumc.org), go to resources and click on commission on the way forward to see these) Court documents at the Judicial Council hearing) are giving United Methodists the first peek at proposed plans to avoid a split in the second-largest Protestant denomination in the United States. In the last year, I've had a remarkable number of speaking and peaching engagements in Methodist conferences and congregations. There's been a lot of anxiety at those events.*

*And I know it has been really, really hard on my Methodist friends. For them, the political divide and a denominational divide have combined to create enormous stress (especially on clergy and other leaders). I want to encourage them this evening. I was born, baptized, and raised Methodist. It is a great tradition -- one that has gifted the world with a unique vision of spiritual experience and social justice.*

*Even though I've been an Episcopalian for some 30+ years now, I often reflect on how I'm still really Methodist. Or, perhaps, some lovely hybrid of the two. After all, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism was an Anglican priest. Wesley was concerned that Anglicanism had grown spiritually cold, and that it wasn't attentive enough to the social changes in England that were creating massive poverty.*

*Out of his passion for a heart warmed by grace and hands open toward the poor and outcast, Methodism emerged (first) as a renewal movement within Anglicanism -- it held great appeal to women and to the poor, in the colonies to those held in slavery. Traditional Anglicans didn't really like Methodism very much -- they worried about lay women taking to preaching and enslaved persons experiencing the spiritual power of liberation.*

*But people who didn't have much power in conventional church embraced Methodism's revolutionary power of heart and hands. For the first generation or two, Wesley's movement upended traditional Protestantism across the English-speaking world. But you know. Eventually even the rowdiest of spiritual movements fall to the temptations of institution. So, when I was a little girl, I was never*

(over)

(continued)

much taken by the Victorian piety or middle-class religious views that taken over the church. But whenever I heard those stories about women preaching and slaves reading the Bible and Wesley breaking Anglican rules, I loved it.

I couldn't figure how a church that began with radical rule-breaking, hearts-strangely-warmed, read-the-Bible-for-themselves mystics and social reformers, turned into 1960's Methodism. (I do know that now -- after all I do have a PhD in this stuff.) It has always seemed to me that Methodist tradition is willing to break with tradition for the sake of love and justice.

At least that's what I learned as a child. Even though they tried to teach me that Methodism was about being nice, moral, and middle class.

The real story kept sneaking through. And that real story helped to make me who I am, how I understand God, grace, and goodness. And so this is a word of encouragement from me -- a child of your church, but who walked a slightly different way: Methodists -- you are a great expression of Christian faith, of Protestant tradition. Without you, the world wouldn't be the same. You've given more than you know, witnessed more profoundly than you could have guessed, inspired little girls (like me) to pursue a life of faith with passion and power.

Let go of all that anxiety.

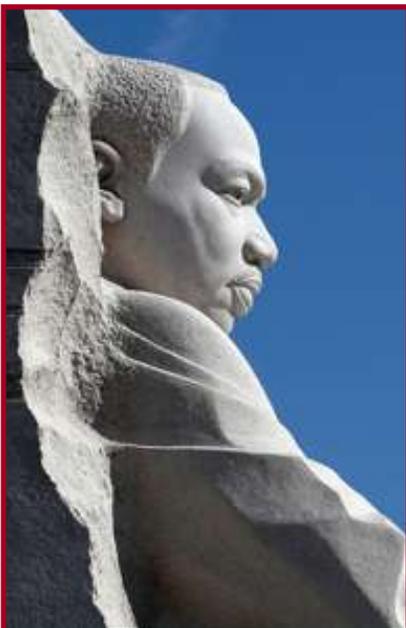
Whatever happens, it is the next chapter of your story. And I would dearly love if you recaptured some of the rowdy, radical, and revolutionary nature of your earliest years. That is needed right now. We don't need more Christians interested in preserving institutions. But we could use a lot more interested in saving the planet.

So, your wayward Episcopal daughter is praying, watching, waiting, and cheering you on. Love and love and love some more. May your hearts be strangely warmed. May your hands be open to your neighbors.

And thank you. I am deeply grateful that you gave me the gift of baptism, introduced me to the Bible, gave me hymns to sing, prompted all my first theological questions, and put the word "justice" in my vocabulary. Thank you for being you. -- Diana Butler Bass

My friends, Wesley called us to be bold and inclusive as we live out our faith. May it be so. May our delegates from around the globe, meeting in St. Louis Feb. 23-26, find a way to be true to our Wesleyan roots and truly have open doors, open hearts and open minds.

Blessings,  
Rev. Debbie Scott



## *From the Lay Leader...*

For more than one hundred years the old oak tree stood by the side of the road. Firmly rooted, and more than thirty feet around at the base, it must have seemed like it was always there. People probably gave directions using the tree as a landmark. "Go down the road until you pass the big Oak Tree then turn left..."

But this particular tree had come to have another purpose as well. Starting as early as 1762, a group of Methodists began meeting under the tree, because their expanding group had outgrown the house where they met. The tree became known as a preaching place. A praying place. A familiar place.

But trees are not as unchanging as they appear. They are always growing. Spreading their branches, extending their roots, putting out new leaves. There is only one time when a tree is not growing... and that is when it is dying. Then the bark begins to curl and fall. Branches dry and crack. There is no time in a tree's life when it just stays the same. Trees have only two ages: growing and dying.

And so it was for the old Oak Tree by the side of the road. At the end of the nineteenth century of the Christian era, the tree stopped growing and began to die. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the tree was dead. Birds no longer nested in its branches. New buds no longer marked the coming of spring.

But that didn't mean the old tree had been forgotten. A young preacher named John Goucher remembered the tree, and what it had come to mean over the years. With a little work and negotiating, he was able to take some wood from the tree. And with this wood he built a pulpit. He put the pulpit in a newly built church and it once again became a preaching place. The history of the wood connected new people to that long gone group of Methodists who used to meet under the tree.

In time, that church also stopped growing, and began to die. Once again the pulpit was moved. And even today the old wooden pulpit continues to serve as a place to read scripture and deliver prayer, now in the sanctuary of Lovely Lane. And still the story of those early Methodists, and that great Oak Tree, survives, but in a new form.

We talk about trees a lot in the Church. We talk about our churches as if they were trees. We talk about our roots, and our branches, and our fruit. We like to compare our churches to trees because God created trees, and because they seem like an image of something solid and alive.

But God created trees to be changeable, flexible, and adaptable. God gave us skills to find use even for trees that have died, turning them into homes, and furniture and pulpits, as the wood finds new purpose in a different form.

At Lovely Lane, we are greatly blessed to have a tree that is still growing, still expanding and adapting to new life. Not every congregation is so lucky. Many people struggle to find direction when their old familiar landmark is no longer there at the side of the road.

Church has only two ages: growing and dying. And when the dying starts, we don't have to cast the old wood aside, but we do have to shape it to new purpose to carry on the story of the old.

As the United Methodist Church finds its Way Forward, we cannot live under the myth of the unchanging tree. We must embrace that change is a part of God's plan, because God wants us to be growing.



**Peace,**  
*John Strawbridge,*  
**LAY LEADER**

## DOROTHY KRUG MATCHING CHALLENGE

Final Numbers are posted. Members and Friends of Dorothy Krug successfully met the \$100,000 Dorothy Krug Challenge by December 31, 2018. As of that date, the Church received \$109,883 in contributions to meet the challenge and to help restore and renovate Lovely Lane's beautiful building and grow denominational activities. Dorothy Krug also honored her pledge by gifting Lovely Lane UMC \$100,000. Our future as the Mother Church of American Methodism has stronger financial footing thanks to the generosity of all contributors... and of Dorothy Krug.

### **Krug Challenge**

Margery Bookhout - **In Memory of George Bookhout**

Warren Gould

Marian Griffin & Donna Knott - **In Honor of Laura Hulsey & Crist Hotzapple**

Dorothy Krug - 2018 Gift per Pledge

Dorothy Krug - 2019 Gift per Pledge

David & Gretchen LeKites - **In Honor of Duncan Hodge**

Virginia Myers - **In Memory of George R. White, Jr.**

Joyce Pollard

Patricia & Robert Welch - **In Honor of Dorothy Krug**

### **Restoration**

Emora & Nancy Brannan - **In Memory of Ethel L. Ankeny**

Good Shepherd UMC United Methodist Women

Marlene Henderson

Helen & Melvin Moore

Mt. Zion UMC

Rev. RB & KR Poynter

St. Andrew's United Methodist Thrift Shop



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - ADOPTED 1/20/2019

During the winter months, not only heavy snow, but also icy conditions or a power failure can cause a cancellation. This is particularly true after dark. If the weather is at all doubtful, please call before coming. We will attempt to alert you of any closings. However, sometimes that is impossible, so here are the tips you may use to prevent coming here to a closed building.

### **Tips to avoid arriving at a closed building**

**On Saturday & Sunday:** If weather conditions seem questionable, we will send out an email by 8AM and will change the message on the answering machine (410-889-1512).

**During the week:** Building closing will be linked to the Baltimore City Schools, as follows:

- If schools are closed the building is closed until further notice.
- If schools have a two-hour delayed opening so will we.
- If schools close early we will make a decision about night activities and inform you.

### **Ways in which we will try to contact you**

1. We will send out an email to all members, friends and users.
2. We will post the notice on the home page of our website <http://lovelylane.net/>
3. We will post a notice on the church's phone system.
4. If all these fail, call Rev. Deb 301-641-4601.



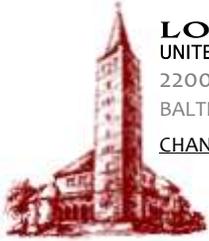


**LOVELY LANE**  
United Methodist Church

# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	28 5 PM MSA Basketball 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	29	30 5 PM MSA Basketball 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	31 5 PM MSA Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	1 5 PM MSA Basketball	2 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11 AM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 1 PM Che Yoga
3 Rev. Deb Scott - ROCK 2019 11 AM Worship Service with Dr. Emora Brannan Preaching 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	4 5 PM MSA Basketball 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	5 6:30 Building Renovation Task Force Meeting	6 5 PM MSA Basketball 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	7 5 PM MSA Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	8 Rev. Deb Scott - ROCK 2019 5 PM MSA Basketball	9 Rev. Deb Scott - ROCK 2019 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11:00 AM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 1:00 PM Che Yoga
10 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	11 5 PM MSA Basketball 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	12	13 5 PM MSA Basketball 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	14 5 PM MSA Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	15 5 PM MSA Basketball	16 8:00 AM Martial Arts Class 11:00 AM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 1:00 PM Che Yoga
17 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour 12:30 PM Church Council Meeting	18 5 PM MSA Basketball 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	19	20 5 PM MSA Basketball 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	21 5 PM MSA Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	22 5 PM MSA Basketball	23 Special Session of General Conference 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11 AM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 1 PM Che Yoga
24 Special Session of General Conference 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	25 Special Session of General Conference 5 PM MSA Basketball 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	26 Special Session of General Conference	27 5 PM MSA Basketball 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	28 5 PM MSA Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	1 5 PM MSA Basketball	2 Loyola University ASB Overnight Arrives Penn State ASB Overnight Arrives 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11 AM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 1 PM Che Yoga

**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  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**  
*THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!*

**FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**

**OPEN DOORS**

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	(Linda Webb)			
<b>Tower Lighting</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Susanna Maddox & Mike Rouse	Maria Allen & Robbie McCormick	Cathy Dryden & Dean Uhler	Jessica & Walter Williams
<b>Liturgists</b>	Dan Bailey	Carrie Harnick	Duncan Hodge	Aimee Delaney
<b>Tour Guides</b>	Craig Smith	Sefi Abedoh	Mike Rouse	John Strawbridge
<b>Fellowship Hour Hosts</b>	Dan & Sasha Bailey	The Brannan Family	Eleanor Packard	Sharra Kelly