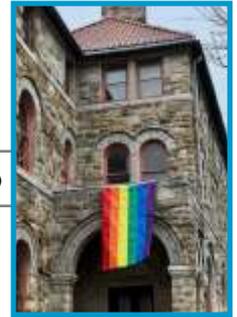


THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

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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

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410-889-1512

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: The Songs of Our Faith

I have recently become familiar with this wonderful story by Gale Gibson.

Of all the African tribes still around today, the Himba tribe is one of the few that counts the birth date of the children not from the day they are born nor conceived but the day the mother decides to have the child.

When a Himba woman decides to have a child, she goes off and sits under a tree, by herself, and she listens until she can hear the song of the child who wants to come. And after she's heard the song of this child, she comes back to the man who will be the child's father, and teaches him the song. When they physically conceive the child, they sing the song of the child as a way of inviting the child.

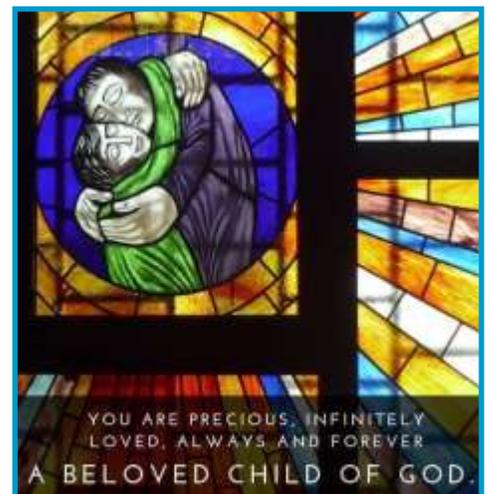
When she becomes pregnant, the mother teaches that child's song to the midwives and the old women of the village, so that when the child is born, the old women and the people gather around and sing the child's song to welcome him/her. As the child grows up, the other villagers are taught the child's song. If the child falls, or gets hurt, someone picks them up and sings their song to them. Or maybe when the child does something wonderful, or goes through the rites of puberty, then as a way of honoring this person, the people of the village sing their song.

In the Himba tribe there is one other occasion when the "child song" is sung to the Himba tribesperson. If a Himba tribesman or tribeswoman commits a crime or something that is against the Himba social norms, the villagers call them into the center of the village and the community forms a circle around them. Then they sing their birth song to them.

The Himba views correction not as a punishment, but as love and remembrance of identity. For when you recognize your own song, you have no desire or need to do anything that would hurt another.

In marriage, the songs are sung, together. And finally, when the Himba tribesman/tribeswoman is lying in their bed, ready to die, all the villagers that know the song come and sing - for the last time, that person's song.

(continued)



(continued - The Songs of Our Faith)

What is your song if you had one? As you know, I'm a musical pastor, I love the old and new songs of our faith. As we move through the season of Lent many songs come to mind: The Old Rugged Cross, Were You There, Tell Me the Stories of Jesus. Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection, is not the same if we don't sing, with organ and trumpet in full voice, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.

I wonder, what is the song of our United Methodist Church post Special General Conference? Blest Be the Tie that Binds, They'll Know We Are Christian's By Our Love don't quite ring true for me anymore. There has been so much turmoil, tears, hurt, pain and disappointment. Perhaps we need to take a page out of David's Hymnal, the Book of Psalms; Sing A New Song Unto the Lord (Psalm 96:1). I believe God is calling us to a new song that will be inclusive of all. May we learn and sing that song that is coming to us, if we would just listen...we need to find a tree to sit under until it comes. May it be So!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Debbie Scott



St. Patrick's Day Celebration



St. Patrick's Day Celebration



St. Patrick's Day Celebration



AED Training with Elizabeth Brannan



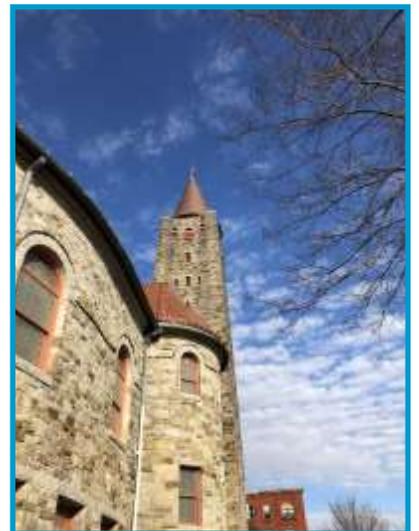
AED Training with Elizabeth Brannan



AED Training with Elizabeth Brannan



Reconciling Methodists meeting with Bishop LaTrelle Easterling after the Special Session of General Conference



View from 22nd & Lovegrove St.

From the Lay Leader...

Easter is coming. It is a joyous day. A miraculous day. It is a day which seems to define us as Christians. So naturally, I don't want to talk about Easter.

Christians talk about Easter too much. Easter is all sunrise and Good News. Of course people want to focus on that. But Easter is the faith equivalent of the Bonus Round. The free gift. In popular culture the term "Easter Egg" has come to mean a hidden surprise; an unexpected extra. And that's appropriate because Easter was never part of the deal. It is the great gift that God gave us for signing on to the New Covenant. All we were promised was redemption from sin. God threw in resurrection and eternal life as a signing bonus.

But if we want to understand our lives as Christians, we need to think about Good Friday. The day Jesus was sacrificed.

The lives of the faithful in the Old Testament revolved around sacrifice. Right from the beginning, from the story of Cain and Able in Genesis, the people's relationship with God was all about not only making sacrifices often enough and big enough, but in making the right kind of sacrifice.

In Exodus, it is the sacrifice of the spring lamb which spares the first-born sons of the Israelites and leads to their freedom.

But in the New Testament, also known as the New Covenant, God's own first-born son is sacrificed. That lamb-of-God was so perfect that he was meant to be the final sacrifice. Christ's death on Good Friday sealed the deal. In exchange for His Son's life, God took away our sin forever and ever. It is this day that draws the hard line between the relationship that was, and the relationship that is. The end of Old Covenant and the start of the New Covenant.

So what does this mean for us who have signed onto the Christian New Deal? How is living different for us?



The Old Covenant was marked by rules. According to Exodus 34:27-29: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.' Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments." And those rules were clear. "Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not murder. Thou shalt not have other Gods."

These and many other rules we remember made clear all the things God's people were not to do. But Jesus, in the New Covenant, not only changed the rulebook, but changed how we play the game. Instead of telling us what not to do, Christ used his time on earth to tell us what we were to do.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all..."

"Feed my lambs."

"A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

So why did God change the deal so profoundly? Why offer us a New Deal at all?

Perhaps God knew that humanity could not move forward by living a life of restriction. You cannot advance if all you see is what you cannot do. If God wanted his people to go forward, he needed to give us a doctrine of forward-looking.

So this Easter, do celebrate. Do be thankful. But also do remember the Covenant that was made between you and God on Good Friday. God sacrificed his very self, so that you could be freed from "Do not."

Therefore go...

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER



RESTORATION GIVING



**Anna K. Frost Residuary Trust
Melanie Marisol Gallardo
Lovely Lane Gift Shop**

Palm Sunday - April 14th:

Palm Sunday is a Christian celebration that commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four Gospels. In many Christian denominations, worship services on Palm Sunday include a procession of the faithful.

**We will gather on the East Portico for the Blessing of the Palms at 10:30 AM.
We will have our regular service at 11:00 AM.**



Maundy Thursday - April 18th:

Also known as Holy Thursday, Covenant Thursday, Great and Holy Thursday, Sheer Thursday, and Thursday of Mysteries, among other names. It is the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the foot washing (Maundy) and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the gospels.

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM for a pot luck supper and a service around tables as we celebrate the last supper.



Good Friday - April 19th:

A high holy day commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday, and may coincide with the Jewish observance of Passover. It is also known as Holy Friday, Great Friday, and Black Friday.

The date of Good Friday varies from one year to the next on both the Gregorian and Julian calendars. Eastern and Western Christianity disagree over the computation of the date of Easter and therefore of Good Friday.

We will gather in the Sanctuary at 12 PM for a service. Plans have not yet been confirmed if there will be a joint service with St. Mark's that evening.



Easter Sunday - April 21st:

Easter also called **Pascha** (Greek, Latin) or **Resurrection Sunday** is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent (or Great Lent), a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

In Western Christianity, Eastertide, or the Easter Season, begins on Easter Sunday and lasts seven weeks, ending with the coming of the fiftieth day, Pentecost Sunday. In Eastern Christianity, the season of Pascha begins on Pascha and ends with the coming of the fortieth day, the Feast of the Ascension. Easter and the holidays that are related to it are *moveable feasts* which do not fall on a fixed date in the Gregorian or Julian calendars which follow only the cycle of the sun; rather, its date is determined on a lunisolar calendar similar to the Hebrew calendar. The First Council of Nicaea (325) established two rules, independence of the Jewish calendar and worldwide uniformity, which were the only rules for Easter explicitly laid down by the council. No details for the computation were specified; these were worked out in practice, a process that took centuries and generated a number of controversies. It has come to be the first Sunday after the ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or soonest after 21 March, but calculations vary.

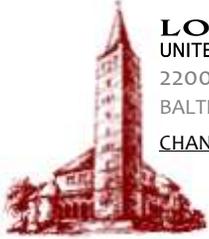
Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. Easter customs vary across the Christian world, and include sunrise services, exclaiming the Paschal greeting and decorating Easter eggs (symbols of the empty tomb). The Easter lily, a symbol of the resurrection, traditionally decorates the chancel area of churches on this day. Additional customs that have become associated with Easter and are observed by both Christians and some non-Christians include egg hunting, the Easter Bunny, and Easter parades. There are also various traditional Easter foods that vary regionally.

**We will gather for a Sunrise Service in the Chapel at 6:30 AM.
We will also celebrate a full festive service at 11:00AM in the sanctuary.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour Lent Discussion 12 PM Public Tour	1 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	2 1 PM BLS Lower School Talent Show 6:30 PM Ending Human Trafficking Forum	3 12 PM Che Yoga 1:30 PM Mercy Ridge Retirement Community Tour 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	4 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	5 Hopeland UMC Overnight Arrives	6 University of DE ASB Group #1 & #2 Departs 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Church Work Day 10:30 AM St. Luke's UMC Tour 11 AM Che Yoga
7 Hopeland UMC Overnight Departs 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour & Lent Discussion 12:00 PM Public Tour 12:00 PM Trinity UMC	8 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	9	10 12 PM Che Yoga 6:00 PM Trustees Meeting 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	11 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	12	13 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11 AM Che Yoga
14 10:30 AM The Blessing of the Palms 11 AM Palm Sunday Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour & Lent Discussion 12 PM Public Tour	15 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	16	17 12 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	18 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner & Service	19 12 PM Good Friday Service	20 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11 AM Che Yoga 1:30 PM United Methodist Women Tour
21 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service in the Chapel 11 AM Easter Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	22 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	23	24 12 PM Che Yoga 7 PM OGCA Meeting 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	25 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	26	27 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11 AM Che Yoga
28 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Grace UMC (PA) Tour 12 PM Public Tour	29 6:30 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	30	1 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	2 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	3	4 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Church Work Day

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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THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!

APRIL SCHEDULE

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Altar Flowers	IMO Our Parents, Irene & Dan Lichtenstein, & Mary & Harry Hodge, with Love, By Duncan & Maxine	In Memory of Daniel B. Curtis III By Carol Curtis	Easter Flowers	Easter Flowers
Tower Lighting				
Greeters	Jessika & Walter Williams	Susan Preston & Craig Smith	Linda Webb & Carrie Harnick	Elizabeth Brannan
Liturgists	Brent Orr	Eleanor Packard	Kristie Weimar	Jeanni Galloway
Tour Guides	Sarah Scribner	Cathy Dryden	Craig Smith	Sefi Abedoh
Fellowship Hour Hosts		The Brannan Family	Jessica & Walter Williams	Mike Rouse & Susanna Maddox