



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



OPEN HEARTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: GOD IS NOT DONE, WE PERSIST

Dear Friends in Christ,

I woke up just churning about the legislation that is to come before the Special General Conference this morning. I went to my computer and just started reading through many of the posts about the work to be completed in the next two days that will forever change who we are as United Methodists. This is one of the first I read. It is from the Executive Director of Reconciling Ministries, Jan Lawrence, a member of Foundry UMC in DC:

Yesterday (2/24) was hard. We saw the realities of a Church that is divided over whether or not God's beloved LGBTQ people should be able to participate fully in the life and ministries of the Church. The first vote on prioritizing the order in which we would perfect the plans did not go the way we had hoped.

And yet, General Conference is far from over. While we may have an uphill climb, we do not lose hope. In and outside of General Conference, we continue to push as a movement toward the kin-dom of God, where LGBTQ people are seated at the place of honor that our God has already set for us. As some very wise people have said time and again: "God is not finished with The United Methodist Church yet." God is not done. So, neither should we be done.

We Hyun Chang said: What is at stake is not just the church's position on human sexuality. It is the very DNA of the UM identity and Wesleyan vision for a just and peaceful world as a kin-dom of God at stake!

God is not done. How easy is it for us to throw up our arms in frustration when we feel hurt, pain and exclusion for many of our brothers and sisters. In 1954, I was baptized a Methodist in Plainview, Long Island, NY at a church that had been closed, which my parents helped reopen. I was confirmed April 30, 1967 in Doylestown UM in Doylestown, PA the year before we became United Methodists. My parents served in every role within the local church and many in the Annual Conference. I was ordained at the National Cathedral in 1980 as part of the Baltimore Washington Conference and I have served as a pastor in this denomination for almost forty years. Methodism is in my DNA.



Like many of you, I have a heart and passion for justice. What does God require of us, Micah 6:8, "To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God." I keep repeating that as I take a deep breath. Are you breathing? God is not Done! There is room for the Spirit to move! God give me patience, but I want it now!

(over)

(continued)

I'm writing this for our monthly Tower newsletter as I listen to debate on the floor of General Conference. I honestly don't know what the United Methodist Church will look like when we come together for worship on Sunday, March 3rd. What I do know is that Lovely Lane, the Mother Church of Methodism, will be the same. The same group of loving, faithful followers of Christ who calls us to a mission and ministry of love. We shall be known by our love, not our politics. My prayer is that love will prevail.

The last email I looked at this morning was this prayer by Anne Fraley, an Episcopal Rector. She invites us to pray:

I know these things to be true.

The sun dances and rainbows shine through pearls of water.

The coos of infants elicit contented sighs and gut-deep gladness.

Music stirs and tempers within the beats of its own rhythm.

The earth is rich with nourishment and holds sacred story with gentleness.

Hearts break and find renewal in healing.

Love sustains, encourages, emboldens, and makes us silly.

Divinity is everlasting.

Comfort is found in meatloaf & mashed potatoes. Or maybe sweet potato fries.

We sag and thrive, ponder and muddle through confusion.

We persist.

**May we find comfort as we persist together as UNITED METHODISTS,
followers of Christ in our unique Wesleyan tradition.**

**Grace and Peace,
Rev. Debbie Scott**



Special Session of General Conference



From the Lay Leader...

The storm is coming.

As I write this, the blowhards on every TV channel, radio station and news website are blasting dire warnings about the forecast. Snow! Ice! Freezing rain! Sleet! A couple years ago they ran out of ways to scare us and they had to invent new and more frightening kinds of weather. And so “Freezing Fog” and “Thundersnow” were born.

I don’t know what this storm will amount to yet. But I know that being afraid won’t help.

In Matthew 14, the disciples of Jesus find themselves facing a dangerous storm. But it’s not the waves that frighten them. After all, some of them were experienced fishermen and surely they had faced rough seas before. What scares them, according to the scriptural account, is the ghostly figure that comes at them, emerging out of the storm.

But then the figure speaks saying, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replies, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

Jesus does. Peter gets out of the boat and begins to walk across the water. But becoming aware of the wind he is again afraid and begins to sink. Jesus takes his hand and lifts him up. In one of the most famous quotes of the Bible, Jesus says, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

This is a familiar story. And most people recognize it as a lesson that faith will keep us safe.

As usual, most people are wrong.

There are two mistakes people often make about this story. The first is the lesson. If you ask what we learn from this, most people will say, “You have to get out of the boat.” That’s a nice thought. A call to action would be a good lesson. But it is not the lesson of this story.

The lesson is: You have to go to Jesus when He calls you. Peter was safe in the boat, and he was safe walking toward Jesus. He only began to fail when he looked away, and began paying attention to the wind and the noise of the storm. But when he listened to Jesus’ voice, and as long as he followed Christ’s calling, Peter was safe.

The other common misunderstanding about this story is that Jesus calmed the storm. Indeed, the storm died down after Jesus arrived, and there is another story where Jesus does calm the storm (but only reluctantly and somewhat grudgingly).

In fact, the important image in this story is that Jesus walked through the storm. And that he calls Peter to step into it, too.

We find safety in Jesus, but not because he makes things easy for us. Not because he makes our problems go away. Christ protects us because he walks with us. We are free from fear when we follow him, rather than make our own way, even when he leads us into frightening situations.

And so the storm may be coming. Our denomination was born out of a brutal war, and it has been buffeted by winds regularly ever since. But it is in this turbulence that we should be expecting to find Jesus, because he may be coming to us through the gale.

We may even find that it is Jesus himself that we are afraid of, because we do not recognize him. We do not see him for who he is in the confusion of the situation.

Jesus is calling us to follow him. Not merely to dip our toes in, but to leave our safe boat and go to him in the midst of the waves. We should not fear, but should be looking for the opportunity to minister to those who are afraid.

Don’t listen to the wind, or you may not hear Jesus speaking to you.

Peace,
John Strawbridge,
LAY LEADER

RESTORATION GIVING

Daniel Fisher
Roger and Elizabeth Katzenberg
Mary and Joseph Schrufer
Miller/Sears Family Fund



Special Session of General Conference Discussion - Grace UMC 2/24

LENTEN STUDY



I would like us to look at something out of the box to help us as we journey through Lent this year. Many of us grew up with devotionals prepared by church members that were read each day, perhaps you had a book study. I have found a study, if you sign up on line, that will send an email into your in-box for the 40 days of Lent. There will be an opportunity to participate in an on-line discussion each week but more important I'd like us to sit around a table during coffee hour to discuss face to face what we have read during the previous week (many folks have a hard time getting to church early). It seems in these politically charged times (in our UMC, our nation & the world) this might be just what we need.

[US, THEM, AND THE END OF VIOLENCE: A LENTEN JOURNEY](https://www.theseventhstory.com/a-lenten-journey)

Join bestselling author Brian McLaren and Irish storyteller Gareth Higgins for a seven week journey into creativity, community, and the common good. It's free, it starts on March 5th, and all you need to do is sign up. Copy this into your browser to sign up: <https://www.theseventhstory.com/a-lenten-journey>

"We're living in a time of great upheaval, anxiety, and challenge; as well as great possibility, and even hope. We're following the traditions of authentic spirituality to embrace Lent as a season for going deeper amidst the swirl of life. The best way to respond to something bad is to do something better, so we're taking a journey together for the 40 days of Lent, seeking ancient wisdom about a better story: moving from oppositional energy to creative hope, from fear to faith, from distraction to contemplation, from individualism to the common good.

We're inviting you into conversations about what we call the Seventh Story: transcending domination, revenge, isolation, purification, victimization and accumulation narratives with a new story of reconciliation - humans with each other, with the ecosystem, and with Love itself.

What exactly are we doing? It's simple: a daily email and a weekly conversation. You'll get a short daily email for reflection for every day of Lent, and be invited to a live conversation each week for seven weeks. You'll get to hear conversation with Brian McLaren, Gareth Higgins, and friends from the world of creativity, community, and the common good - and you can participate in the conversations, too! Can't make the live conversations? Don't worry - they'll be recorded and available to watch at any point during Lent."

Lets give it a try, if you don't have email let me know and we can get info to you one way or another.

Thanks,
Rev. Deb

FROM MANNA HOUSE

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you."

"Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.



These words from John 21:15 remind us that we serve Christ by serving those whom he loves. Each year, Lovely Lane members give to Manna House – the food ministry that we helped to form fifty years ago. The following is part of a letter we recently received from Manna House:

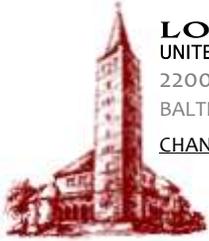
"Thank you for your generous support over the past year. It is because of donors like you that we are able to help the poorest among us. Manna House provided hot breakfasts to 70,609 men, women and children in fiscal year 2018. With heartfelt thanks, we look forward to you continued support next year and sharing the organization's success with you in the future."

LOVELY LANE UMC

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>24 Special Session of General Conference 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour</p>	<p>25 Special Session of General Conference 5 PM MSA Basketball 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi</p>	<p>26 Special Session of General Conference</p>	<p>27 12 PM Che Yoga 5 PM MSA Basketball 7:30 PM BFMS Dance</p>	<p>28 5 PM MSA Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry</p>	<p>1 5 PM MSA Basketball</p>	<p>2 9 AM Church Work Day Penn State, Georgetown University ASB Overnight Arrives 8 AM Martial Arts Class 11 AM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 1:00 PM Che Yoga</p>
<p>3 Loyola University ASB Overnight Arrives 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour</p>	<p>4 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service  12 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance</p>	<p>7 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Penn State, Georgetown & Loyola ASB Overnight Depart University of Vermont ASB Overnight Arrives 8 AM Martial Arts Class 10 AM Trinity UMC Tour</p>
<p>10 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour Lent Discussion 12 PM Public Tour</p>	<p>11 7 AM BLS High School Winter Show Rehearsal 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi</p>	<p>12 7 AM BLS High School Winter Show Rehearsal 6:30 PM Building Task Force Meeting</p>	<p>13 7 AM BLS High School Winter Show Rehearsal 12 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance</p>	<p>14 7 AM BLS High School Winter Show Rehearsal 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry</p>	<p>15 7 AM BLS High School Winter Show</p>	<p>16 Messiah & UMCP ASB Overnight Arrives University of VT ASB Overnight Departs 8 AM Martial Arts Class 10 AM La Plata UMC Tour</p>
<p>17 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Public Tour 12 PM St. Patrick's Day Potluck Lunch, Lent Discussion 12:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>18 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 12 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance</p>	<p>21 Messiah ASB Overnight Departs 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 UMCP ASB Overnight Departs 8 AM Martial Arts Class 10 AM Catonsville UMC Tour 11 AM Pisgah UMC Tour</p>
<p>24 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour Lent Discussion 12 PM Public Tour</p>	<p>25 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 12 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance</p>	<p>28 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 University of DE ASB Group #1 Arrives University of DE ASB Group #2 Arrives 8 AM Martial Arts Class</p>
<p>31 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour Lent Discussion 12 PM Public Tour</p>						

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

Non-profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Baltimore, MD
 Permit No. 6575

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!

MARCH SCHEDULE

OPEN DOORS

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Altar Flowers	IMO Virginia Lucas By her Daughters, Lenore & Roberta IHO March Birthdays	In Memory of Louis Coleman By Laura & Jack Coleman	To the Glory of God & In Memory & Honor of the Lovely Lane Family of Worshipers By the Brannans	In Honor of the Celebration of Marriage of Meghan & Martin Enos	With Best Wishes on the Announcement of the Engagement of Lee Enos
Tower Lighting	(OPEN)	In Honor of Nancy Brannan By Laura Coleman	(OPEN)	(OPEN)	(OPEN)
Greeters	Abedoh & Enos Family	Aimee & Ken Delaney	Marisa, Johnny & Daria Olszewski	Carol Curtis & John Hutchinson	Nancy & Emora Brannan
Liturgists	Lee Enos	Carol Curtis	Walter Williams	Jessika Williams	Nancy Brannan
Tour Guides	Eleanor Packard	Carol Curtis	Linda Webb	Lenore Baier	Lee Enos
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Sefi Abedoh & Family	Linda Webb, Carrie Harnick & Jeanni Galloway	Shirley Reckley & Betsy Fisk	Sharra Kelly	(OPEN)