

# THE TOWER MONTHLY

LOVELY LANE | BALTIMORE CITY STATION

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September 2019



## 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  
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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: We Are Called! (Find on YouTube, by David Hass)

I'm writing as I prepare for a two week beach vacation, a time for rest, renewal, reading, golf and wave watching. I try to keep it very simple. We all need time to rest, to step away from our daily routine.

I write as the headlines have flashed before us of three mass shootings in less than a week in three different US cities: Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton. Before this goes to press, unfortunately, there may be more mass shootings. The week before these headlines, we were dealing with a verbal attack on our hometown of Baltimore. I don't know how to rest from the headlines. Each day seems worse than the day before. As many have said, we are fighting for the soul of our democracy.

As I was trying to make sense out of this chaos, I was struck by a powerful statement put out by the clergy of the Washington Cathedral. It helped me put into context the dark period we find ourselves in as a nation. In part it said:

*As Americans, we have had such moments before, and as a people we have acted. Events of the last week call to mind a similarly dark period in our history:*

*"Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness. ... You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency?"*

*That was U.S. Army attorney Joseph Welch on June 9, 1954, when he confronted Senator Joseph McCarthy before a live television audience, effectively ending McCarthy's notorious hold on the nation. Until then, under the guise of ridding the country of Communist infiltration, McCarthy had free rein to say and do whatever he wished. With unbridled speech, he stoked the fears of an anxious nation with lies; destroyed the careers of countless Americans; and bullied into submissive silence anyone who dared criticize him.*

*In retrospect, it's clear that Welch's question was directed less toward McCarthy and more to the nation as a whole. Had Americans had enough? Where was our sense of decency?*

*We have come to accept a level of insult and abuse in political discourse that violates each person's sacred identity as a child of God. ... Violent words lead to violent actions. When does silence become complicity? What will it take for us all to say, with one voice, that we have had enough? ....*

*We must boldly stand witness against the bigotry, hatred, intolerance, and xenophobia that is hurled at us, especially when it comes from the highest offices of this nation. We must say that this will not be tolerated. To stay silent in the face of such rhetoric is for us to tacitly condone the violence of these words. We are compelled to take every opportunity to oppose the indecency and dehumanization that is racism, whether it comes to us through words or actions.*

We can't rest from the headlines! The question remains, what are we, as people of faith to do? We can pray for the victims of violence and their families. But our thoughts and prayers are no longer enough. We must actively resist hate. We cannot continue to be numb to violence. The rest of the world can see clearly what is happening, and name it. We pray that our country can open its eyes to the evils of white nationalism and gun worship before more lives are taken. It's the decent thing to do. We are called to this ministry of peace and hope. May God be with us.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Debbie Scott

Did you go to the beach this summer?

Summer vacations can take many forms, from cruises to theme parks. But there's nothing so iconic... nothing that says "summer vacation" so much as a sandy beach and rolling surf. People go to beaches in every country and have gone to beaches throughout every age of history.

We are drawn to beaches as a kind of spiritual experience. To sit on the shore and gaze out at the ocean... turning your back on the world you know and imagining what lies out there. Going to the beach brings us peace. As long as you don't think about the sharks. And the riptides. And the jelly fish, the sunburn and the possibility of drowning. In fact, the beach is quite a dangerous place. That's why there are lifeguards.

For all these reasons, a trip to the beach is very much like a spiritual retreat... very much like going to church. When we go to church, we think of it as a special place. A place removed from our everyday. A place we only go on special days... days off from work. The church is a place where we feel removed from the busy, dirty, crowded world in which we live.

Church is a place where we gaze out into the depths, and wonder about the great mystery of things we cannot see. Where we wonder about what lies on the far shore.

And just like the beach, it is a very dangerous place. A place where the mysterious meets the real world. The shore. The coast. The place where surf pounds up against rocks, and unpredictable turns of wind and tide threaten to pull us out of our depth.

Whatever fear we may have of the deep blue ocean; it is right up where the sea meets the land that things get the most turbulent. The sea and the land don't mix easily, and there are all kinds of rough surf, jagged reefs and strange creatures where they come together.



And it is where our faith life and our "real life" meet, that other dangers lurk. Most of us feel pretty good about our faith when we talk about the deep questions. Salvation, eternal life, loving our neighbor... these don't cause us any problem when we look at them from afar. We can think about them and wonder about them and admire their beauty like a colorful sunset as long as they are out of reach.

But when these things get close to home, the low swell rises up to become a crashing wave, and we begin to realize we could get hurt. Because these mysteries of faith don't always flow smoothly when they come up against the unyielding rock of our everyday life.

If our church is like the beach, then we can hear the surf pounding against the rocks. Just outside the walls of our sanctuary, there are homeless people sleeping. There are people with addictions trying to get fixed. The great mystery makes us want to help these people as Christ directed. But at the same time we want to protect the safety of our church, our congregation and our neighborhood. One voice tells us to reach out, another voice tells us to push away.

This column is not a call to take some theoretical moral high road. It is a reminder that a vacation, a Sabbath day, is temporary, and that truly living a Christian life is means living in that dangerous surf where direction is not always clear, and we can easily get hurt. We cannot stay on the beach forever, and we cannot only gaze out at the deep. Christ, who frequently met his disciples on the shore, calls us to plunge in. To get our feet wet. To risk getting in over our heads.

Thank God we have a lifeguard looking over us.

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



## CALLING ALL LOVELY LANE TOUR GUIDES & FRIENDS

Doors Open Baltimore will take place on Saturday, October 5th. Among other sites, it is a unique opportunity for us to showcase the architecture of Lovely Lane to our community. We need volunteers to conduct tours from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please let us know if you are available to help. In between the tours, we will have small projects available for Church Work Day.

**Doors Open: Saturday, October 5, 10 AM - 4 PM**



A great deal of work has been done around our building this summer. Thanks to all who helped with the August work day. To spruce up and address the high humidity, the gym was painted by an outside contractor with a special mold resistant paint and fans are being added.



At the same time, the Baltimore Washington Conference has invested close to \$200,000 to update the Museum by installing new air conditioning and climate control (humidity) to protect the extensive collection housed there. We hope to have it reopened by Sept 1st. Many thanks to Duncan Hodge for coordinating both of these needed projects. He wears his hard hat well.



## Building Restoration & Rehabilitation Update

In February 2019, the LLUMC Building Renovation Task Force (BRTF) published findings from its Building Needs Assessment (BNA) study, “Preservation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. The goal of this study was to identify priorities and cost estimates for restoration work going forward, as evidenced in the task force’s case statement:

***“This historic Methodist congregation wishes to share its underused space with community partners. We have a 19th century architectural gem of a church building that needs 21st century capacities to better share its underused space in an historic site important to neighborhood identity and revitalization.”***



By October 1, 2019, Lovely Lane will learn if it is selected as a participant in the National Fund (National Fund) for Sacred Places. This participation would include a \$250,000 bricks and mortar matching grant to begin to implement Phase 1 of 2 phases of BNA Study recommendations to include **restoration** work (Brannan Chapel windows and electrical capacity) and **rehabilitation** efforts (additional restrooms, ADA access to front of church, air conditioning of Fellowship Hall). The estimated costs to implement all of the BNA Study recommendations is \$2,200,000.

Due to rigorous matching requirements and completion dates of the pending National Fund grant, the BRTF received Trustees approval to hire MD-Strategic Consulting, Inc.--a regional business development and public affairs consulting firm--to develop a customized capital campaign plan for fundraising readiness by Fall 2019 to actively seek government, foundation, corporate and key individual funds outside of the congregation to match the National Fund grant, if awarded.

It has been a busy summer reaching out to community organizations and stakeholders about the future of our building. The feedback about our plans to develop underused space into the Lovely Lane Arts and Neighborhood Center has been resoundingly supportive. Stay tuned for a grant award update by the end of September.

–Jackie Noller, Chair, LLUMC Building Task Force



### To Mayor Young:

Dear Mayor Young,

Our Lovely Lane United Methodist congregation held you and our City in prayer during our worship on July 28, 2019. We especially are concerned to uphold Congressman Cummings in continued prayer.

All cities have many issues which leaders face. We pray that God will strengthen and guide you in all the ways you go each day as you seek to work for positive changes in Baltimore.

In Christian love,  
Nancy Brannan  
Chair, Church Council  
Lovely Lane United Methodist Church

### Letters to Show Support for Our Leaders

At the Lovely Lane Church Council meeting on July 28, 2019, it was requested that I send notes to show support for Congressman Elijah Cummings and to Mayor Bernard “Jack” Young on behalf of the congregation, following the comments about the Congressman and Baltimore City. The notes were written on Lovely Lane stationary, so that the church was recognizable immediately.

– Nancy Brannan, Church Council Chair

### To Congressman Cummings:

Dear Congressman Cummings,

Our Lovely Lane United Methodist congregation held you in prayer during our July 28, 2019, worship. We continue to hold you and all Baltimore City in our prayers.

Certainly, we are aware you have faced numerous troubling days. Our Church Council respects your civility and the call for it in others.

May God strengthen you for the ways you are called to go to meet your responsibilities. May you feel supported by the prayers of those concerned for you and our country.

In Christian love,  
Nancy Brannan  
Chair, Church Council  
Lovely Lane United Methodist Church

**ANNUAL MEETING  
THE UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM  
Cokesbury Memorial United Methodist Church  
1302 Cokesbury Rd., Abingdon, MD 21009  
(off Rt. 7 -- Philadelphia Rd)**

The years 2019-2020 mark the 235th Anniversary of the founding at the Christmas Conference of Cokesbury College, the first Methodist college on the American continent. This site is a fully designated United Methodist Heritage Landmark under the care of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.

Events of the Day: Beginning at 10 A.M.  
Worship: Led by Rev. Sarah Elliott, Host Pastor  
Business Meeting

**Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President,  
Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC**

Dr. McAllister-Wilson will address both the Heritage of Higher Education  
and the Present State of the Church.

Followed by a delightful Lunch prepared by our Host Church at a cost of just \$8.00 per person  
**(Make your reservations NOW)** and a brief conducted tour of the original site adjacent to the church.

Directions to Cokesbury Memorial Church:

Exit 4 from Interstate 95; go south on State Rte 24 one mile; then northeast on State Rte 7 for 2 miles;  
turn right onto Cokesbury Rd. and go one block.

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**RESERVATION FORM**

I / We wish to make \_\_\_\_ number of reservations for the Annual Meeting (Oct. 5, 2019) at a cost of \$8.00 per person.

**Please indicate:** Payment by check is enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I / We will pay by cash or check at the door

**DEADLINE for reservations are Monday, Sept. 30 - when we must submit a final count to Cokesbury Memorial UMC.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please fill out this form and return to:**

**United Methodist Historical Society  
2200 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218**



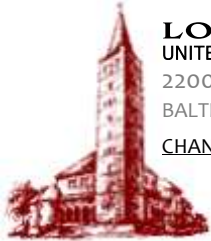


**LOVELY LANE**  
United Methodist Church

# September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship Service 11 AM Lemonade on the Portico 11 AM Public Tour	2	3 6 PM Building Task Force Meeting	4 7 AM BLS Theme Assembly 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	5 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	6	7 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Che Yoga 9 AM Church Work Day
8 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	9 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	10	11 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	12 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	13	14 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Che Yoga
15 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour (OPEN) 12 PM Public Tour 12:30 PM Church Council Meeting	16 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	17	18 9 AM Mosaic Crab Feast 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	19 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	20	21 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Che Yoga
22 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	23 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	24	25 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	26 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	27	28 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Che Yoga
29 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	30 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	1	2 7:30 PM BFMS Dance 6 PM Che Yoga	3 9 AM Harford Community College Tour 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	4	5 8 AM Martial Arts 9 AM Che Yoga 10 AM Doors Open Baltimore 10 AM UMHS/CAH Annual Mtg @ Cokesbury Memorial UMC 11 AM First UMC (Millersville, PA)

**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!*



**SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE**

**OPEN DOORS**

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	In Honor of a Belated Happy Birthday for Rev. Deb Scott now that she’s back	In Honor of the Birthdays of Emora & Patrick Brannan By Nancy Brannan & Family	In Honor & Memory of Raymond I. Lucas By Lenore, Roberta, & Anne	In Honor of Students returning to School By Linda Webb	In Honor of Jackie Noller, with thanks for all you do, & her God-daughter, Julia Ewers, for their shared Birthday
<b>Greeters</b>	Jackie Noller & Betsy Fisk	Marisa, Johnny & Daria Olszewski	Cathy Dryden & Dean Uhler	Kristie Weimar & Brent Orr	Aimee Delaney
<b>Liturgists</b>	Duncan Hodge	Jeanni Galloway	Jackie Noller	Jessika Williams	Dennis Ferguson
<b>Tour Guides</b>	Lee Enos	Sarah Scribner	Cathy Dryden	Craig Smith	Sefi Abedoh
<b>Fellowship Hour Hosts</b>	Lemonade on the Portico	Nancy Brannan	<b>OPEN</b>	Duncan Hodge & Maxine Stitzer	Betsy Fisk & Shirley Reckley