

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

Phone
410-889-1512

Email
LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com

Website
LovelyLane.net

PASTOR
Rev. Debbie Scott
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LAY LEADER
John Strawbridge

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PASTOR EMERITA
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

SEXTON
Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Lena Leone



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



Dear Friends, I'm a sucker for a good dog story. As most of you know I have two pups, Mollie and Gigi. They are the youngest dogs I have had for quite a while. I work with a rescue group in New Jersey, the Delaware Valley Bichon Rescue. For many years I took the Seniors that no one else wanted; the 13 year old, the bonded 10 year old pair, the list goes on. I allowed these older dogs to have a place to live out their years after giving so much love to others. It's one of the ways I hope I make a difference in our crazy world. This note that appeared on facebook really touched my heart.

Georgea Thomas, September 3

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her. - Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letterbox at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet.

I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page were the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help & I recognized her right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love. - Love, God

"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind, and the third is to be kind." God is with us always. We each can do a little something to make this world a better place. Random acts of kindness can transform someone's life. I invite you to look for the opportunities that surround us...there are so many.



Grace and Peace,
Rev. Debbie Scott

From the Lay Leader...

I have a bad habit. When I watch the news on TV, I can't watch just one station at a time. I keep switching among three (or more) different channels to find the stories I'm interested in, and to see how different networks might cover the same story. It's a frustrating way to watch – even to myself. And sometimes I end up feeling like I know less at the end than I did before I began.

The confusion comes because different reports can take the same story, video or quote, and show it to mean very different things. Facts, it turns out, are not just the facts. How you interpret the story can change everything.

This is an important idea for Christians to grasp. We reply on reporting that is two thousand years old, and passed down through many mouths and pens. In our current age we hear very different interpretations of scripture, and hear scripture used to support opposing ideas.

Take, for example, one of Jesus's most well-known quotes: "No one comes to the Father except by me." [John 14:6] This is reported to have been said at a confusing time. Jesus was speaking with his disciples on the night of his betrayal and capture just before the crucifixion. Because it comes in the context of Jesus telling his disciples that he would soon leave them, this quote is often interpreted to mean that nobody gets into heaven unless they believe in Jesus.

But a fuller reading of events suggests that this is not the whole story. In fact, Jesus was trying to get the disciples to understand how they could not go where he was going, and how they should continue on in this world. He concluded by saying, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." [John 14:12]

Jesus was not telling his followers how to die, but rather how they must live... and continue doing the work he had been doing. His quote is a caution against listening to false interpretations. He was exhorting his disciples to listen only to him, and not to lose their way listening to other earthly teachers.

Jesus was not only teaching his followers; He was preparing them to be teachers themselves. To be the ones who spread His word and built His church. He knew that his new ministers would be nervous and unsure of the way. So he made the task simple; "No one comes to the Father except by me." This is how Jesus meant for us to bring seekers to God—though Jesus's words only. Not through our self-serving interpretations of them. It's what John Wesley called "Scriptural Holiness".

Throughout this passage, Jesus makes the point that God is in him and he is in God. Moreover, he says, "... you are in me and I am in you." [John 14:20] John Wesley, in his sermon "On Grieving the Holy Spirit" says, "This likeness to God, this conformity of our will and affections to his will, is, properly speaking, holiness..."

For United Methodist, and really for any Christian, it is vitally important that Jesus is our way, and that our way is Jesus. We must not be confused by different voices. Even our own voices we put aside in order to do the work of bringing others to God.

Do as I do here; let Jesus have the last word. From earlier in the same event [John 13:34-35]: "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."

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER



ADVENT DECORATING - DEC. 1ST

We will be decorating the Church, following worship, for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, December 1st. Light lunch will be provided. Many hands make light work!

HOMECOMING NOV. 3RD

We will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, November 3rd in worship with John Strawbridge preaching and a potluck luncheon to follow. Please contact Nancy Brannan or Sarah Scribner to indicate whether you will be bringing a main dish, side, salad or dessert. Come celebrate with us on this 132nd Anniversary of the dedication of our building.

**Our Church Conference will be held after
the Homecoming Potluck Luncheon at 2pm
at Old Otterbein UMC**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESTORATION AWARD

On October 1, 2019, Lovely Lane United Methodist Church received a national award. The Lily Endowment has awarded Lovely Lane Church participation in the 2019 National Fund for Sacred Places (National Fund) to receive up to \$250,000 in a capital grant as well as a planning grant, training and technical assistance. With this announcement, Lovely Lane becomes the first house of worship in Maryland to receive this award designation and one of only 50 historic community-serving congregations nationwide to participate in the program since 2016.

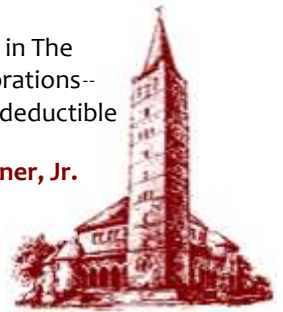
Please see the one-page insert in this edition of The Tower for details of the award and the scope of the proposed project. Rev. Deb, Mike Rouse & I will travel to Chicago Nov. 19 – 21 for the required training to participate in this award.

The restoration of our sanctuary was a great success. With this award, we have another opportunity to open our beautiful building to greater sustained use. Thank you, members and Friends of Lovely Lane, for your past and future generosity to make our historic building vital to all! - **Jackie Noller, Building Task Force Chair**

RESTORATION GIVING

All Restoration donations and National Fund donations after October 1, 2019, will be listed together in The Tower. These contributions—and others raised from foundations, government agencies and corporations-- will be eligible to meet the 2:1 match required by the National Fund program. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Joanna & Donald Kann, IMO Dr. Richard King and IMO Joseph Werner, Jr.
Lovely Lane Building Restoration Task Force members
M-D Strategic Consulting, Inc. staff
Baltimore Community Foundation - IMO Morris L. Gamble**



Poinsettias for 2019

Once more the Lovely Lane altar will be decorated with the traditional Christmas poinsettias. The cost of the plant will be \$9.00. Donations of less than the cost of a single plant are also welcome, as several of these together will make it possible to purchase additional plants to beautify the Church. The cost, like any other gift to the Church, is fully tax-deductible.

Memorial and Honorary listings will be printed in both the Christmas bulletin and the January newsletter. The poinsettias decorate the altar on Sunday, December 22 & Christmas Eve. We invite you to place your order using this form, by calling the church office (410-889-1512) or sending an e-mail to LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com.

To meet the florist schedule & publication deadlines, please have all requests to the church office by:

Friday, December 6th

Poinsettias for the Lovely Lane Christmas Altar

I would like to donate _____ poinsettias @ \$9 per plant.

I would like to contribute \$ _____ toward the purchase of additional plants.

In Honor Memory of _____

In Honor Memory of _____

In Honor Memory of _____

Note any additional names on back of form

Signed: _____ Phone: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____





We celebrate the announcement of the National Trust Grant for Sacred Spaces with Maryland Strategic & our Study Team!



Our thanks to Rabbi Joanne Y. Heiligman for her wonderful exhibit in the Brannan Chapel!





LOVELY LANE

United Methodist Church

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour 12:30 PM "Who Are We" Study	28 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi 6 PM Grant Launch Event	29 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	30 6 PM Che Yoga 7 PM OGCA Meeting 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	31 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	1 2 PM BLS Middle School Dance	2 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Che Yoga
3 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Homecoming Potluck Luncheon 12 PM Public Tour 2 PM Church Conference (at Old Otterbein UMC)	4 11 AM BLS College Information Session 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	5 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	6 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	7 Cherry Hill High School East Overnight Arrives 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	8 Lewisburg UMC & Middlesex County College Democracy House Overnight Arrive	9 Cherry Hill School East Overnight Departs 8 AM Martial Arts Class
10 Lewisburg UMC & Middlesex County College Democracy House Overnight Depart 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM Public Tour 12:30 PM "Who Are We" Study	11 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	12 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	13 11 AM BLS Staff Thanksgiving Dinner 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	14 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	15	16 8 AM Martial Arts Class 9 AM Che Yoga 6 PM Unity Fellowship Masquerade Ball
17 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour 12:15 PM "Who Are We" Study	18 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	19 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	20 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	21 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	22 Penn State Overnight Arrives	23 8 AM Martial Arts Class
24 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour 12:30 PM "Who Are We" Study	25 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	26 Penn State Overnight Departs 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	27 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 9 AM Che Yoga 1 PM Souldier Yoga Workshop

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
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 BALTIMORE, MD 21218-5805
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!



NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Altar Flowers	In Celebration of Homecoming	In Honor of Our Choir By Lenore Baier	In Honor of November Birthdays	In Memory of Gale & Marie Scott By Rev. Deb Scott
Tower Lighting	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Greeters	Dennis & Angie Ferguson	Susanna Maddox & Mike Rouse	Susan Preston & Craig Smith	Jackie Noller & Betsy Fisk
Liturgists	Carrie Harnick	Cathy Dryden	Jessika Williams	John Hutchinson
Tour Guides	Linda Webb	Eleanor Packard	Lee Enos	Sarah Scribner
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Homecoming Potluck	Linda Webb	OPEN	Jessika & Walter Williams