

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
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: From Sea to Shining Sea

Those were the words that the pilot used to let us know, as I flew from Baltimore to Los Angeles, that we would have a view of both coasts and everything in between.



Atlantic Coast

Just over a week ago I was at Bethany Beach for the day to turn the heat on at my sister's house. I watched the sunrise over the Atlantic. Less than a week later I was sitting on the edge of the Pacific, also watching the sunrise, with 2,782 miles in between. We have this incredible, beautiful country that is often taken for granted. Our politics take over the headlines but I am a firm believer that there is more that unites us than divides us.



Pacific Coast

I found that to be true at the meeting I had the privilege of attending of the Western Jurisdiction (WJ) of the United Methodist Church as they talked about the future of the UMC (Fresh United Methodism Summit). The sheer magnitude of the geographic area covered by this Jurisdiction is overwhelming (there are 5 Jurisdiction in the US, we are a part of the Northeast Jurisdiction), yet the connection of the UMC holds them together in powerful, unified ways. That is not true in the other jurisdictions.



The Bishops' of the WJ shared their Safe Harbor Declaration receiving a standing ovation. "We intend to provide a safe harbor for clergy under our care who may be at risk under the new provisions, prohibitions, and punishments of the revised Book of Discipline." (<http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/safe-harbor-declaration/>). A four page Theological Declaration termed a "call to action" was also enthusiastically received (<http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/western-jurisdiction-theological-declaration/>).

Other work groups shared reports that represented tireless work. We gathered in table groups the rest of the time to dream and map out a practical future for the UMC. I was exhausted by the process (the 3 hour time change did not help) but encouraged that there is at least one Jurisdiction that is living into an inclusive church, no matter what the actions of the May 2020 General Conference.

One other report shared was the proposition from the Connectional Table of the UMC, that has received buy in from the Central Conference Bishops (Africa, Korea, etc), that a Regional Conference be formed in the US that would allow us to operate as the Central Conferences do...creating our own BOD in our cultural context. This would be a huge step forward. A ray of hope to keep our denomination together.

I am mindful as I write in 80 degree southern California weather, that the first Sunday of Advent, Dec.1st, is just around the corner. Many rush to shop and get just the right gift during this season. I like to sit and watch the darkness of day get longer and longer until once again the light of Christ breaks through on Christmas Eve, a sign of hope that we all need that we may be made one, in spite of our differences.

Blessings,
Rev. Debbie Scott

There are so many great reasons to be a part of Church (and I am deliberately using the capital “C” here). For all that we give to Church we get so much in return. It’s a good deal.

I recently heard someone I was working with describe Church as “a little place to pray” and it made me realize how badly many people misunderstand what the Church is, and what part it plays in the life of Faith. People think of Church in terms of worship space and ritual. But you and I know that church is also a social center, a community resource, a source for charity and justice, and a place for counsel and comfort... among other things.

One of the “other things” that has been most important for me, is that Church has been a place of education and expanding my horizons. I have learned many things in my Church life, from history to heating systems. My work with the trustees, both in the local church and the Conference, has taught me many new skills and exposed me to many new things. Invariably, each of these new areas of knowledge has helped me understand my Faith life a little better.

Stay with me on this...

As a church trustee, I have been dealing with contracts a lot lately, and I’ve learned about “sealing the deal.” We use that expression casually in conversation, but it actually has specific legal meaning. It goes back to the days when someone with power or authority would literally put a wax seal on a deed or contract. These wax seals were made from a unique signet ring or other tool which helped to prove the identity of the signer. In modern times, we still see a seal used when a notary signs a document to prove identity. When we sell a cemetery plot at Mt. Olivet, we impress our corporate seal on the deed (bet you didn’t know Lovely lane had a corporate seal).



But a seal has a deeper meaning in the law. So much so that just putting the word “seal” next to your signature can change the meaning of the contract. One legal idea is that a seal means a contract can be done “without consideration.” In other words, the benefit of the contract doesn’t have to go both ways. Most contracts are based on “I give you this in consideration for that.” But a contract under seal doesn’t necessarily have that two-way street.

So I’ve learned a little bit about contract law that I didn’t know before. And then I began to apply this knowledge from my Church life to my Faith life.

Because, you see, we Christians are people of the New Covenant – the new contract that was struck between God and humankind through Jesus Christ.

Another term I heard in a contract negotiation recently was “skin in the game,” referring to proof that the other party was fully committed to the deal. Jesus was literally God’s “skin in the game.” God placed his own flesh and blood on Earth (Emmanuel) to show His commitment. Jesus was God’s seal. Christ was proof that this was a contract without consideration – humankind didn’t do anything to earn it. We didn’t give anything to God that God did not already have. It is a one-way deal, and we are the beneficiaries.

As we go through this time of Advent and move toward the miracle of Christmas... as we give and receive gifts... remember the gift that was given to us. Remember the contract that was made, all for our benefit. God only asks that we accept the gift. But accepting the gift means signing on for the whole deal; the transformation of our lives, the loving of our neighbors, the feeding of the lambs.

God has given us God’s seal on the deal. Let us put our skin in the game.

Merry Christmas.

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER



Restoration & National Fund Giving

As of October 2019, Lovely Lane launched a 21st century initiative to restore and rehabilitate underused spaces in the church to host more arts and neighborhood uses of our beautiful 19th century building. We are indeed grateful to the Lilly Foundation and the National Fund for Sacred Places to have awarded Lovely Lane this “once-in-a-generation” grant award opportunity to carry out this work.

All Restoration donations and National Fund for Sacred Places matching donations received after October 15, 2019, are listed below. These contributions from individual donors—and others from foundations, government agencies and corporations—will be eligible to meet the 2:1 matching requirement for the maximum capital grant award of \$250,000. We are approaching \$90,000 in matching donations and pledges received as of November 25, 2019. Your donations and pledges by year’s end to help fund an additional \$35,000 of the required match will allow us to access the first half of the \$125,000 of the National Fund grant award in early 2020 to begin Phase 1 restoration and rehabilitation work. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Pledges for donations through June 2022 are being accepted.

–Jackie Noller, Chair, LLUMC Building Task Force

For more information about the National Fund project,
please email lovelylanecenter@gmail.com or call the church at 410-889-1512.



Baltimore National Heritage Area Small Capital Grant Award

Estate of Donald Covington

Fairview UM Church United Methodist Women

Nichols-Bethel UM Church United Methodist Women

Jackie Noller - In Honor of Dorothy Krug

John and Sharon Owen

Michael Rouse

Estelle & Don Wagner - In Memory of J. Carroll & Estelle K. Tulloss

IRA Custodian of Linda Webb

Christian and Pamela Wilson

Anniversary Sunday





Church Conference



Church Conference



Western Jurisdiction Conference



National Fund for Sacred Places Training

CAMERATA BALTIMORE

You are Invited to a Musical Weekend for the Christmas Season: Dec. 14th at 7:00pm in the Chapel: The Messiah (Staged) by Camerata Baltimore, the singers for our Launch Event.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Dec. 15th at 11:00am in the Sanctuary: Lessons and Carols by the choir of Lovely Lane UMC with William Murphy at the organ.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th as we welcome the Christ Child. Musical Prelude begins at 6:45pm, service with candles begins at 7:00pm.



Poinsettias in Worship - December 22nd & Christmas Eve

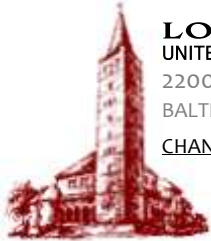


LOVELY LANE
United Methodist Church

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11 AM Worship Service 1st Sunday in Advent 12:30 PM Decorating for Advent with Light Lunch 12 PM Public Tour	2 9:30 AM Monuments to Heaven Author Group Tour 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Girls Basketball 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	3 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Girls Basketball 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	4 5 PM MSA Boys Basketball 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	5 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Boys Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	6	7 8 AM Martial Arts 9 AM Che Yoga 9 AM Church Work Day
8 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour 12:30 PM Who Are We Study #6 4:30 PM Strawbridge Shrine Candlelight Service	9 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Girls Basketball 6 PM Baltimore Tai Chi	10 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Girls Basketball 6 PM Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	11 5 PM MSA Boys Basketball 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	12 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Boys Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry Yoga for Resilience Against Injustice	13	14 8 AM Martial Arts 9 AM Che Yoga 12 PM Yoga Meet Up 1 PM Kwanzaa Event 7 PM Camerata Baltimore Messiah Performance
15 11 AM Service of Lessons & Carols 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour 12:30 PM Church Council Meeting	16 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Girls Basketball	17 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 5 PM MSA Girls Basketball	18 5 PM MSA Boys Basketball 6 PM Che Yoga 7:30 PM BFMS Dance	19 5 PM MSA Boys Basketball 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	20	21 9 AM Che Yoga
22 Poinsettias in Worship 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	23	24 6:45 PM Musical Prelude 7 PM Christmas Eve Service 	25 Christmas Office Closed	26	27	28 9 AM Che Yoga
29 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Hour 12 PM Public Tour	30	31	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 3 PM BLS Basketball Practice 6 PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	3	4 8:00 AM Martial Arts 9:00 AM 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
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DECEMBER SCHEDULE

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Altar Flowers	In Honor of December Birthdays	Happy Birthday John Strawbridge	In Memory of William J. Burgan By Dennis Nonemaker	Poinsettias are Given in Honor & Memory of Loved Ones & Friends	In Honor of the Occasion of Our 52nd Anniversary By Nancy & Dr. Emora Brannan
Greeters	Abedoh & Enos Family	Marisa, Johnny & Daria Olszewski	Cathy Dryden & Dean Uhler	Jessika & Walter Williams	Aimee Delaney
Liturgists	Jackie Noller	Dennis Ferguson	Dallas Erickson	Mike Rouse	Elizabeth Brannan
Tour Guides	Cathy Dryden	Craig Smith	Sefi Abedoh	Mike Rouse	John Strawbridge
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Laura Gamble	The Olszewski’s	Betsy Fisk	OPEN	The Brannan’s