

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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Website
LovelyLane.net

PASTOR
Rev. Debbie Scott
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Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Lena Leone



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: Keep the Joy Going!



Well, the gifts are opened, for many the wrapping paper is still strewn across the floor. Our stomachs are full from lots of delicious cookies, pastries, cakes, pies and holiday feasting. Our houses ring with the children's and grandchildren's exciting shrieks and screams over presents and toys galore, or like in my home, the dogs barked with delight over their Christmas treats! Our homes bear the markings of Christmas – the lights still shine, the tree is still up – and it's so hard to believe that another Christmas has come and gone – its coming seems to arrive faster and faster each year. As I walk with my dogs, I feel the crisp, cool winter breeze blow against me – it reminded me that Christmas is like that - a crisp, winter breeze, which wraps itself around us and then is gone.

While Christmas day comes and goes like the winter wind, the vestiges of Christmas are all around us still. We have new gifts – perhaps you're wearing some of them today, or we'll vacation with them later on in the year. But, perhaps for some of us our gift from Christmas is some extra weight from too many rich meals, or perhaps our gift is fatigue from entertaining neighbors, friends and family? Surely, these are not the only gifts Christmas brings us - but is there something more; something truly lasting and wonderful that begins on Christmas day and continues with us through each day of the year? What exactly has come with Christmas?

As we enter the season of Christmastide, I hope we will discover and understand that what has come with Christmas is God's gift of everlasting love. God adores us because of, and in spite of our humanity. God's adoration is demonstrated in Jesus entering human life in Bethlehem, and showing us the path to life. Jesus did this by sharing our flesh and blood, by experiencing our pain and death, and taking our human suffering on himself again and again.

The gift of Christmas is Jesus among us, as one of us, our faithful pastor and friend. His birth in Bethlehem brought life to a people feeling crushed by the cold and cruel efficiency of their Roman conquerors. His ministry brought renewal of life to the poor, sick, oppressed and possessed throughout Galilee and Judea. Even his death on the cross did not mark the end of his life-giving work - instead, God used the cross to overcome evil, to introduce the resurrection, and to free us from the fear of death. Jesus took the sin of the world on himself when he went to the cross, sacrificing himself for our forgiveness.

Advent is over. Christmas has just begun, and it will not be over until the wise men arrive from the East on January 6. We have sung the songs of Advent, now it's time to sing the songs of Christmas, to rejoice over the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Don't put Christmas away too soon – keep the joy and the song going for the whole season. We have put too much effort into getting ready to celebrate for just one day. One day cannot contain all the joy of the good news that has come to us.

Christmas Blessings,
Rev. Debbie Scott

From the Lay Leader...

Last month, I wrote about our relationship with God – the New Covenant – as a contract which God sealed with the presence of Jesus the Christ in the world.

This month, in the first month of a new year of a new decade, I want to continue that thought, and ask you to consider what it means to be in covenant with God.

We enter into this covenant by our acceptance of Jesus the Christ as our personal savior. In speaking of this, Jesus says, “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” [John 14:13-14] Too often, we think this means adding “in Jesus’ name” at the end of our prayer like “Sincerely yours.” But to really do something “in my name” means we do it as Christ. We invoke the contract... we act under the authority of Christ.

Last month, I spoke about my work on the board of trustees of Lovely Lane and on the board of trustees for the Baltimore-Washington Conference. In my service as trustee, I often have to sign a contract or do other business in the name of the church. That means I am not acting as myself, but in the name of the church. My signature is the church’s signature. My need is what the church needs. My commitment is the church’s commitment.

Think of what Jesus is saying in this light. By telling us to “ask in my name” Jesus is making us his trustees. He is telling us to be his representatives. That’s a big responsibility – a lot of trust – and it may be the opposite of how you’ve seen that relationship.

Jesus wants us to not be merely supplicants asking him for what we want, but to act as Jesus... asking for the things Jesus wants. He is entrusting us with his name to use.

Immediately before the verse quoted above, in John 14:12, Jesus says, “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.”

I quoted this verse in my November column (that’s right... I’ve sneaked a trilogy in on you) as a reminder that Jesus’ last days were spent trying to teach His followers how to live in His name, and carry on His work.

So when Jesus invites us to ask “in my name” he is still telling us how to live in his name. He doesn’t mean we need to honor him with a mention in our prayers. He is not giving us a trick to get what we want. He says, “The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.” [John 14:10b] If we ask in Jesus name, then like Jesus, it will be the Father who dwells in us doing his work.

At this time of year, we are in that journey from Bethlehem to Calvary... from manger to empty tomb. It is a story we tell every year so that we may remember the gift that we are given.

But that gift is a seal on a deal. And though God does not demand anything in return, we must acknowledge that there are two parties to any covenant. We are participants, not spectators. Our asking means we are acting. Not in our name but in the Name of Jesus the Christ. As His trustees.

Let us be worthy of that trust.

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER



Restoration & National Fund Project Giving

As of December 15, 2019, we are approaching \$95,000 in matching donations and pledges received in our current Capital Campaign to qualify for the full \$250,000 National Fund for Sacred Places (NFSP) grant award.

We extend our sincere gratitude for the generosity of our donors.

**Abendroth Family Fund IHO John M. Strawbridge, Bob & Shirley Coffman, Mt Zion Methodist Church
IRA Custodian of Virginia Myers in Memory of George R. White, Jr. and Lois Zanow, On Location Tours**

For more information about how you can help us realize the goals of the NFSP project to restore and rehabilitate our beautiful building to attract more users of our underused space, please email lovelylanecenter@gmail.com.

Celebrating Birthdays and National Fund Grant



Camerata Baltimore Messiah Performance in the Chapel

Lessons and Carols



Our Christmas Altar

We thank our members and friends for placing poinsettias on the Lovely Lane Altar, remembering the birth of the Blessed Babe of Bethlehem, and the birth of American Methodism, at the Lovely Lane Meeting House Christmas 1784.



By Sefi Abedoh:

In honor of the Lovely Lane Family

By Lenore Baier and Julia Henslee:

In honor of Blanche

In memory of Lady

By Daniel & Sasha Bailey:

In honor of Leroy Bailey and Paul Cassarino

In memory of Deborah Bailey, Marilyn Bailey and Phylis Cassarino

By Helen Boore:

In memory of Mrs. Janice C. Boore and Dr. Burwell F. Powell

By Emora & Nancy Brannan:

In honor of Our Children & Grandchildren

In memory of Our Parents

By Henry & Linda Chen:

In honor of Dr. Emora & Nancy Brannan, Rev. Nancy Nedwell, and Dee Shaw

In memory of Beth Glasgow, Adele Daly, Bob Shaw and Dick Wilson

By Susan Denny Conner & Family:

In memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. C. Sherman Denny, Jr., grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. C. Sherman Denny, Sr., and grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Rigby McDorman

By Carol Curtis:

In honor of Neill Curtis and Family & Friends

By Cathy Dryden:

In honor of Dean Uhler

In memory of Lillian and Hoke Farmer

By Ann E. Feild

In memory of Mary Purdy Hannaford

By Betsy Fisk:

In honor of my Fabulous Family

In memory of my dear husband, George

By Laura Gamble:

In memory of Morris & Louise Gamble

By Marian Munn Griffin:

In memory of Albert & Frances Munn, Dalton Munn, Albert Munn, Jr., Daisy Munn Trobaugh & Mike Griffin

By Etzie S. Heyl:

In memory of her mother, Ethel Holmes Dyer, and aunts, Martha Holmes Tracey, & Edna Holmes Brown

By Priscilla Ann Hill

In memory of my parents, Cdr. & Mrs. Howard Blum and grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Goodwin

By Joanna B. & Donald R. Kann:

**In honor of Dolores Shaw, Emora & Nancy Brannan, Lovely Lane Building Task Force Members,
Rev. Debbie Scott, Rev. Nancy Nedwell, and all Our Friends at Lovely Lane
In memory of Dr. Frederick S. & Joan M. Barkalow**

By Sharra Kelly

In honor of Mary Hines

In memory of Robert Weiblen, Kenneth Hines and Frances & Lloyd Casto

By C. William Kilmon:

**In memory of Eleanor H. Kilmon, Nadine M. Kilmon, Eleanor K. Doerr, Linton E. Kilmon, Sr. and
Linton E. Kilmon, Jr.**

By Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Kircher:

In memory of Mary R. Eliason Kircher, Henry C. Eliason & Katherine R. Eliason

By Ruth Mawokomatanda

In honor of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church

By Virginia White Green Myers

In memory of the deeply missed, George R. White Jr.

By Dennis M. Nonemaker:

**In memory of Albert E. & Mabel B. Nonemaker, Margaret E. Nonemaker, William J. Burgan and
Loved Ones**

By Eleanor M. Packard:

**In memory of John Neal Packard, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Rogers Munn Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Charles Earl Packard
and Mr. & Mrs. L. G. Yongue**

By Carole Conklin Quinan:

In memory of her parents, Alberta L. & W. LeRoy Conklin and her brother, Daniel L. Conklin

By Rev. Debbie Scott:

**In honor of her sister, Wendy Joy Scott, the Lovely Lane Staff, and the wonderful Lovely Lane
Congregation**

In memory of her parents, Gale & Marie Scott and Valerie Blane

By Dolores Shaw:

In memory of Wilton & Bobby Shaw

By Evoyne Sinclair

In honor of Mr. Stendell D. Garland and Mr. & Mrs. Donald Matthews

By Roger & Barbara Tinius:

In memory of John & Hannelore Tinius and Theodore & Clarissa Kammar

By Linda Webb:

In honor of Nancy Brannan

In memory of Mary Hanaford, and her parents, Leslie & Viola Meinders

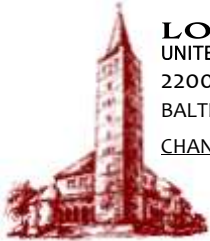
By Nicole Marie Sari White, Samantha Anne Riecord White, Phinneas George White Degre and
Kaylee Riecord White (Grandchildren):

In memory of George R. White Jr., a Living Legacy



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 11AM Worship Service 12PM Fellowship Hour 12PM Public Tour	30 Trustees Meeting TBD	31	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry University of Notre Dame Overnight Arrives	3	4 8AM Martial Arts Class 9AM Che Yoga 9AM Church Work Day
5 11AM Worship Service 12PM Fellowship Hour 12PM Public Tour 12:30PM Removing Christmas Decorations ND Overnight Departs Assumption College & UPA Overnight Arrive	6 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Baltimore Tai Chi	7 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM 21st Century Task Force Meeting	8 7:30PM BFMS Dance	9 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	10	11 8AM Martial Arts Class Assumption College & UPA Overnight Depart
12 11AM Worship Service 12PM Fellowship Hour 12PM Public Tour Who Are We Study Part II Session 1	13 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Baltimore Tai Chi	14 3PM BLS Basketball Practice	15 7:30 PM BFMS Dance 7PM Trustees Meeting	16 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	17 7AM High School Winter Show Rehearsal	18 8AM Martial Arts Class 9:30AM UMHS Board Meeting
19 11AM Worship Service 12PM Fellowship Hour 12PM Public Tour Who Are We Study Part II Session 2 12:30PM Church Council Meeting	20 8AM MLK Jr. Day of Service 6PM Baltimore Tai Chi	21 7AM High School Winter Show Rehearsal 3PM BLS Basketball Practice	22 7AM High School Winter Show Rehearsal 7:30PM BFMS Dance	23 7AM High School Winter Show Rehearsal 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	24 7AM High School Winter Show	25 8AM Martial Arts Class
26 11AM Worship Service 12PM Fellowship Hour 12PM Public Tour Who Are We Study Part II Session 3	27 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Baltimore Tai Chi	28 3PM BLS Basketball Practice	29 7:30PM BFMS Dance	30 3PM BLS Basketball Practice 6PM Grace Abounds Youth Dance Ministry	31	1 8AM Martial Arts Class 5PM Baltimore Free Farm Fancy Dinner Church Work Day February 8th

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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 Organization
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!



JANUARY SCHEDULE

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Altar Flowers	In Memory of Danny B. Curtis By Carol Curtis	OPEN	OPEN	In Honor of Neill Curtis By His Mom
Tower Lighting	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Greeters	Kristie Weimar & Brent Orr	Dallas Erickson & Tammy Herche	Linda Webb & Carrie Harnick	Elizabeth Brannan
Liturgists	Walter Williams	Duncan Hodge	Laura Gamble	Sefi Abedoh/ Lee Enos
Tour Guides	Mike Rouse	John Strawbridge	Lenore Baier	Carol Curtis
Fellowship Hour Hosts	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN