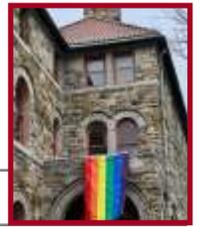


THE TOWER MONTHLY

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 Online 11:00 AM

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
10 AM — 4 PM

Phone
410-889-1512

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LovelyLane.BCS@gmail.com

Website
LovelyLane.net

PASTOR
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revdeb8@aol.com
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LAY LEADER
John Strawbridge

ORGANIST
Bill Scanlan Murphy

PASTOR EMERITA
Rev. Nancy Nedwell

SEXTON
Ivan Reyes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Shanna Webb



From the Pastor's Desk: Who Are We As the Church?

As I drove home from worship yesterday (6/21), I was surprised to see the crossing guard outside my neighborhood Catholic Church. I have not seen cars in the parking lot of this church since March 13th, the same day Lovely Lane closed its' doors per instructions due to COVID-19. There are many across the country who have been clamoring for their church doors to open.

I am grateful that the members and friends of Lovely Lane are taking a much more cautious approach. Even though our doors may be closed, the ministry of Lovely Lane continues. Please stay tuned as we consider a gentle re-entry, safe for all. In the meantime, folks are enjoying our live stream worship services. My thanks to our organist and music director Bill, the Choir (Madelyn, Scott and Tod), our lay leader John, Kristie and Brent or Jessika and Walter who have been our tech teams. We have worked so well together and are blessed by your support as we worship together.

You will see photos of some of the activities that have gone on while our church has been closed. Below is a great description of our church that I have borrowed from another pastor (Rev. D. Gregory Smith) shared in his recent sermon. May you be blessed as you stay healthy, Rev. Deb

If you believe that as a Christian, you are able to ignore the pain and suffering of others, this is not the church for you.

If you believe that oppressed people have no right to feel oppressed, then this is not the church for you.

If you believe that Christianity is about spreading pain and exerting power, this is not the church for you.

If you believe that we struggle and try to live the teachings of Jesus Christ affirming the dignity of all human beings, this is definitely the church for you.

If you believe that helping to ease the world's pain is important, this is the church for you.

If you believe that you can be taught by the experience and pain of other human beings, this is the church for you.

If you believe that love will always win, this is the church for you.

If you are wrestling with your faith and have all these belief challenges, but seek the Way of Love and the love of God- WELCOME!

This is absolutely the place for you!

From the Lay Leader...

Most of you who know me know that I used to work in the production crew for a network TV show. As proof, I have shelf full of DVDs with every episode from all seven seasons. All these years later, do you know how many times I've watched those DVDs?

Not ever. Not even once.

Why should that be? I put years of my life and lots of work into those shows. And it's well regarded work that I am proud of. You might think I'd want to revel in that. But ultimately, there's no reason to watch them because I know them too well. Not only do I know how every story will end, but I know each beginning and middle. I know what each character is going to say, what each set is going to look like and what plot twists are planned.

I'm choosing to share this with you because of one of the oldest debates in history of faith – not just Christian faith but almost any religious belief. That is the debate between “free will” and “pre-destination.” The argument over whether everything is a part of God's plan or whether we get to choose our own fates. This is such a lasting and divisive issue that most serious scholars would scoff at me for even bringing it up in this short format.

But I wanted to share the DVD story with you so you can understand why, for me, this centuries-long discussion is a “no-brainer.” My belief system begins with the idea that God is far more complicated and smarter than I am. So if even I would get bored watching TV shows that I helped create, I can't imagine any idea of God in which God would create a world only to have it play out predictably according to an unchangeable script.

The only view of God that makes any sense to me is one in which God created humankind and breathed into us the Holy breath so that we might be self-determining and even willful. Robots wouldn't need

forgiveness. Puppets don't need salvation.

And I wanted to share all that complicated background with you because there is one simple message that I want to present to you in these complicated times. That I want you to think on over these summer months.

Our choices matter.

Our choices matter because our ability to choose is a gift from God. Perhaps the first gift, and perhaps the greatest gift.

God has given us many gifts – from life in the Garden of Eden to Christ's sacrifice upon the cross. But if we know nothing else about God, we know that God is omnipotent and all-powerful. So, for God to give up some of that power... that's a very big thing. And because it granted, I think we take it for granted.

The past few months have drawn a bold line under our ability to make our own choices. These times have challenged us to realize in very stark ways that the choices we supposedly make for ourselves end up having a very big impact on other people.

I could go on for another page listing all the choices we are having to make for ourselves, and all the ways in which these choices effect other people... our brothers and sisters. But I think I prefer to follow God's intent and let you make that list for yourself.

But I do challenge you to think on how *precious* it is to have the right – the ability – to make choices. And also, to think on what a responsibility it is. That it is literally a bit of God's power that God has given over to us. To you. Do not waste the gift.

And may God choose to bless you this summer.

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER



Join us for our Live-Stream Worship

Every Sunday during this time of social-distancing,
we are posting a live-stream of Sunday Worship
at Lovely Lane to our FaceBook page:

www.FaceBook.com/LovelyLaneChurch

Or

<http://lovelylane.net/>
(Just Click On The Video)

The video will remain available for one week
and be replaced by a new service each Sunday.



RESTORATION AND NATIONAL FUND GIVING

Our plans moved closer to reality in May 2020 to undertake Phase 1 of our capital project to upgrade underused space in our building to create the **Lovely Lane Arts & Neighborhood Center!** Due to some important grant awards from the State of Maryland, we have reached the 70% level of meeting the 2:1 (\$500,000) match requirement of the National Fund for Sacred Places (NFSP) grant award. Our funding gap to complete the match is now estimated at \$155,000. Reaching this full match combined with the NFSP full capital grant award of \$250,000 will afford us a full \$750,000 to undertake Phase 1 construction later in 2020. We have many anticipated sources of funds in the donor/grant pipeline to complete this match during the summer of 2020 to advance our project.

We have received commitments for funding from the following donors since the donor listing in June 2020 Tower:

Capital Bond Initiative, Maryland State General Assembly
Warren Gould
Marguerite M. Greenman IMO Dorothy Krug
Sally J. Knapp IMO Dorothy Krug
William L. Motley, Jr.
Maryland Historic Trust
Jackie Noller IMO Dorothy Krug
Elizabeth Strawbridge
James N. Strawbridge IHO John Strawbridge
Ruth Thompson, IMO Dorothy Krug
Linda Webb, IMO Dorothy Krug
Virginia Weiss, IMO Dorothy Krug

Thank you to all individuals, foundations, and government agencies who have made this threshold goal a near reality. We are grateful for this support. If you need additional information about our project and ways to help support the upgrade of our beautiful historic building, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at lovelyLANECenter@gmail.com or by phone at 410-889-1519.



Wedding of Sasha and Demitri on June 6th at Lovely Lane UMC

“No Justice, No Peace”



If you see something, say something. For four years, I commuted from Baltimore to Arlington, VA, for work. If you are familiar with public transportation, you have seen the phrase "If You See Something, Say Something" advertised on the trains, subways, and busses. This phrase was designed to encourage us to report suspicious activity to the authorities to protect our family, neighbors, and community. After the Immersion Walk yesterday, I have a new understanding of that phrase.

As I walked with fellow members of Lovely Lane UMC and individuals I had met for the first time, I noticed the drastic change in how the neighborhoods near Lovely Lane looked compared to the communities near St. Matthew's church. I looked at the trash and abandoned buildings and said to myself, maybe we just don't take care of our properties. However, I learned that this is not the case. Many of the people in those communities do not own the homes they live in, which means they have no control over how their neighborhoods are maintained.

Now, the phrase, if you see something, say something means we have to make the "norm" strange again. We have to **open our eyes** and stop accepting how it's always been and **say something** to the people who can help change it. -Shanna Webb



St. Matthew's New Life UMC

I have just learned that Dorothy Krug went home to the Lord on Wednesday, June 10th. She was 99 years old. I certainly feel that my life is richer for having known her. She has been completely dedicated to Lovely Lane and its ministry all her life. I understand that a memorial service will be held at a later date. Her remaining family includes five cousins. Eleanor

I am so very sorry to hear this. She and I go back to my birth at Lovely Lane. Dorothy, my Grandmom, and mom were all raised at Lovely Lane. She was so good to the church and took an active role in the leadership of the church. I know she will be missed by all. Rest in peace, Dorothy. Jack

Dorothy had a clear vision of how investing wisely could improve one's future, whether personal or institutional, like the church. She alone, when asked to and did increase her tithing support to the church in 2017, came up with the \$100,000 Krug Challenge for 2018. The congregation successfully met her challenge. Her wise counsel, and unerring sense of putting funds aside for the future, has made a huge difference in providing a more solid financial footing for Lovely Lane going forward. Jackie



Dorothy's death made me remember and appreciate all the strong, independent women of her generation. I had the privilege to meet and come to know through Lovely Lane: Delores Shaw, Elizabeth Kennedy, Ester Hughes, Marye McCarthy, Mary Hannaford, Bea Batters, Shirley Jones, Alice Sugars, Beth Glasgow, Carolyn Gibson. I am sure there are others. But Dorothy exemplified what they all shared to various degrees. An unsentimental but fierce loyalty to her community and church and the ability to speak the unvarnished truth to improve both. We are stronger for having had her witness. Susan

Dorothy was one of the most supportive women of our church. She would always greet you with a smile and a wonderful conversation. She would take time to talk with my children and recognize any of their accomplishments. She was a great lady and one I hold close to my heart. You also brought up some wonderful women of the church. It would be wonderful some time to have a remembrance of all these great women that have supported Lovely Lane for so many years. Thank you again for your wonderful comment. Jack and Marlene

I consider it a great privilege to have known and spent time with Dorothy. She was such a strong, true "gentlewoman" in the best sense of the word. Even in her later years, she had an amazingly good and accurate memory, a fantastic knowledge, understanding and broad appreciation of past and current world affairs, and one of the most incisive minds of anyone I've known. Always loving and caring, she would never fail to ask how Samantha was doing and mention remembering her as a bright, clever young woman. Dorothy, thank you for all you've given to us in many ways. May you rest in peace. Duncan

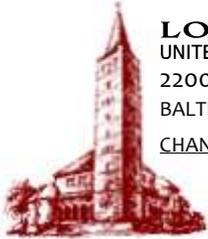
Thanks to you all for the news, photos, and comments. I went on many of the Goucher trips with Mrs. Curtis. When Dorothy retired, the trips stopped. Carol

Thank you for letting us know, Eleanor. I am glad I got to meet her several times. What a blessing she was to our church! Jeanni

We read it in the paper this morning. What wonderful bus trips she planned for so many years at Lovely Lane. She was devoted to her church and to Goucher. Nancy

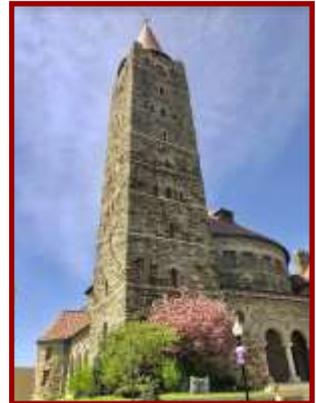
I first met Dorothy Krug as a member of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City. Her obituary lists organizations she supported in the City. Linda

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.

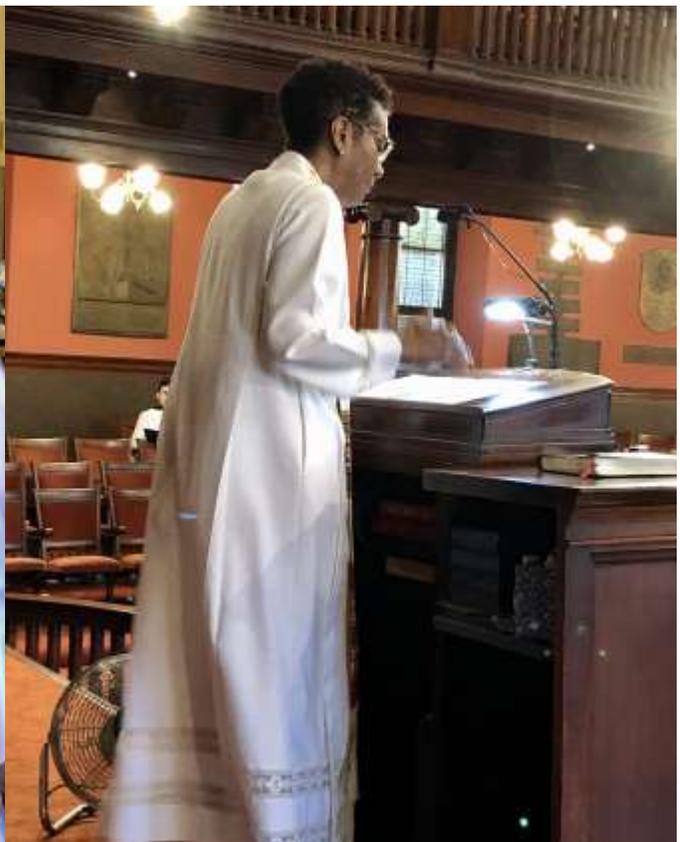


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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!



Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett, Baltimore Metropolitan District Superintendent, preaching “No Justice, No Peace” on June 7th.