

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

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Rev. Nancy Nedwell

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From the Pastor's Desk: A NEW YEAR, A NEW ME

Friends, I trust you have journeyed through the expectation of Advent to arrive at the glory of Christmas Eve as we once again welcome Emmanuel, God with us. Many have not been able to gather with family and friends for this special season as we are being safe. Following our elected officials' directives and hoping that the emergency approved vaccines will slowly make us all feel a semblance of "normal" as we finally seize control over this pandemic. Maybe we will be able to gather for Easter, but I get ahead of the story.

As I write, the Electoral College has voted to confirm Joe Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice President. I pray for a smooth transition of power that our country's norms and values will be restored. I have been doing a lot of thinking about what that will look like. How do we unify such differing political perspectives? How do we begin to trust each other and have faith that we will come together for the greater good?

Remember the song, "let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me"? Change begins with us – not the others. The following piece reminds us of the work that each of us needs to be about!

Christmas Shopping

I am flat broke from overspending at Christmas time. But I need to go shopping again soon because I am completely out of *self-respect*. I've said things I wish I could take back, and I am not feeling too good about myself.

I also want to exchange a carton of *self-righteousness* for an equal amount of *humility*. I hear that it is less expensive and wears well, and while I'm at it, I'm going to check on *tolerance* and see if there is any available in my size.

I must remember to try to match my *patience* with the little I have left. My neighbor is loaded with it, and it looks awfully good on her. I was told the same department has a repair shop for mending *integrity*. Mine has become frayed around the edges from too much compromising. If I don't get it refurbished soon, there won't be any left.

I almost forgot the most important thing of all – *compassion*. If I see some – no matter what the color, size, or shape – I'm going to stock up heavily regardless of the price. I have run out of it so many times, and I always feel ashamed when it happens. I don't know why it has taken me so long to get around to shopping for these items. They don't cost nearly as much as some of the frivolous things I bought at Christmas time. And I'll get a lot more satisfaction from them.

Yes, I'm going shopping today, and I can leave my checkbook and credit cards at home! The things I'm looking for have no price-tags. What a joy!

Perhaps, once we embrace the ideals of this shopping list we might want to share it with a few friends, the House of Representatives and the Senate. This is a new day and a new year. May we remember the over 300,000 who have been lost to Covid-19 and begin changes in our lives to honor them. May it be so!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Debbie Scott



From the Lay Leader...

There are words that I have heard on almost every tongue recently. In one phrasing or another, they sound like this; “Let’s hope that this year is different from last year.”

If God has a sense of humor – and I am certain that God does – then God must laugh at our human-sized notions of a “New Year.” Human years are arbitrary and fleeting. The universe has no notion of the beginning and end of our calendar. It changes slowly, over the course of millennia. And it changes rapidly, moment by moment.

So in this moment, when we yearn for change, let me sing the unpopular praises of sameness.

For this purpose, I recommend to you the Book of Hebrews. Here I find an old favorite verse, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (13:8) Hebrews is full of words of comfort about things unchanging.

“Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.”

“...be content with what you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’”

“...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...”

“Let mutual love continue.”

Yet Hebrews is not a book of biblical “comfort food.” It doesn’t say to us, “Sit back. Relax – everything is going to be alright.” Very much the opposite, this epistle of unknown authorship makes constancy out to be an effort of will. It speaks to people in the midst of much change and uncertainty and reminds us that change and uncertainty themselves have been constant since the ages of the prophets. It reminds us that Jesus the Christ was himself an agent of change

in the world. The bringer of the New Testament... the New Covenant.

In words both forthright and insistent, this letter originally penned to Jewish Christians urges its readers to let go of traditions and well-trodden pathways. At the same time, we are instructed, reminded and even scolded to keep up the work of sameness.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

All the works and words of humankind are ephemera. Our plans, our institutions... even our calendars... they are shadows – changing with the passing of the sun. Only God, as incarnate in Christ Jesus, is eternal.

“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.” (11:3)

The coming year may be different. It almost certainly will be. As last year was different from the one before. And this era different from the last, and the next. Let us not be distracted by the dancing light and the sounds of wind and waves as the days pass us by. Let us rejoice in that which is unchanging. Let us synchronize ourselves to Christ. Live by the calendar in which the universe can be created in seven days, but one life is eternal.

“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.” (10:14)

Happy New Year. Happy yesterday and today and forever.

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER

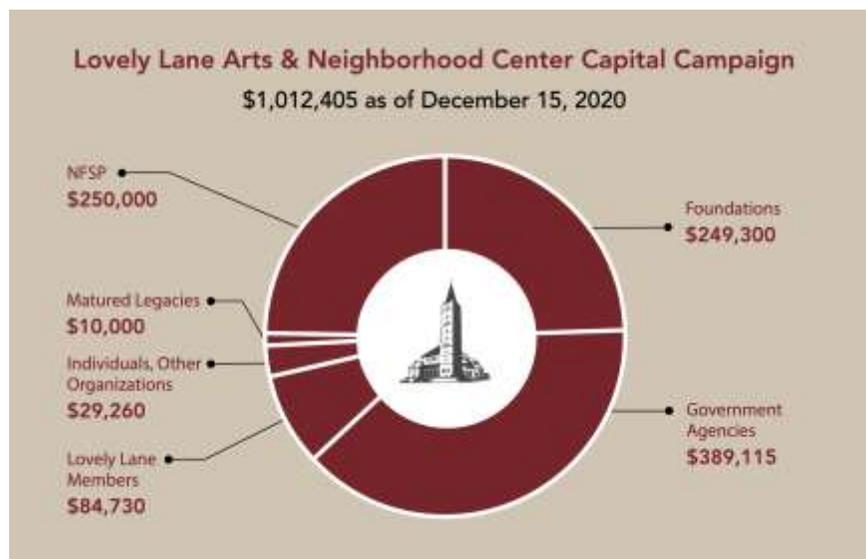


RESTORATION AND NATIONAL FUND FOR SACRED PLACES (NFSP) GIVING

As announced in our December 2020 “Building Hope” digital newsletter, the congregation of Lovely Lane has good news to share. (Please see <http://lovelylane.net/home/building-project-newsletter> for the fully illustrated newsletter.) In 2020, we made significant progress to realize our vision to better share our space with the surrounding community with the creation of the Lovely Lane Arts & Neighborhood Center (LLA&NC) within the walls of our historic building.

First, we successfully reached our 2:1 required match to receive a major grant. Second, we selected a contractor to build a new access ramp and install new public bathrooms on the church’s first floor.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS: Funds committed through November 2020 to create the LLA&NC exceeded over \$1 million, including the full \$250,000 grant award from the National Fund for Sacred Places (NFSP). These funds represent over 80% of estimated funds needed to complete Phase 1 of the building project: new access ramp, new restrooms, Chapel historic window restoration, and air conditioning/electric/safety systems in Fellowship Hall.



CONTRACTOR SELECTION: LL21CC members have selected the Plano-Coudon Construction firm of Baltimore to build the new ramp and restrooms. The firm has significant work experience in restoring historic buildings in the region.

The ramp will allow members and visitors to access the front door of the church office entrance from Saint Paul Street to then access the sanctuary via the Mary Goucher Room. Four new restrooms between the church office and Fellowship Hall will accommodate a greater number of groups using the building once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Details of the design of the ramp and restrooms are available for your review by contacting lovelylanecenter@gmail.com.

CONSTRUCTION APPROVALS PENDING: State of Maryland approval (received) and Baltimore City permit approval (pending) will allow us to begin construction. The Maryland Historical Trust’s preservation easement process is nearing completion; final conveyance is required as work proceeds to receive final State grant disbursements.

NEW FUNDING: We continue to seek matching funding from donors to reach our Phase 1 construction cost goal of \$1.3 million. Future contributions will be doubled because of additional 1:1 matching requirements of our grant allocation from the Central Baltimore Partnership.

We have received the following donations since we published a listing in the December 2020 Tower edition. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Barbara Broome
Robert & Shirley Coffman
Cathy Dryden
Laura L. Gamble
Michael & Donna Knott
IRA of Virginia Meyers

*Help us realize the goals of our project to restore and rehabilitate our beautiful building for greater community use by sending a donation to
Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, 2200 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218.
Please go to our website to donate online: www.lovelylane.net/donation.*

Our Christmas Altar & Hymnals for the Sanctuary

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 Dan & Lenore Baier :

In honor of Jane Henslee & Lorrie Henslee (poinsettias)

In memory of Tommy (poinsettias)

By Helen & Melvin Boore:

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

By Emora & Nancy Brannan:

In memory of our parents, Dolores Shaw, & Dorothy Krug (poinsettias)

In honor of Rev. Deb Scott (books)

By Carol Curtis:

In memory of Daniel B. Curtis Jr. (poinsettias)

In honor of F. O'Neill Curtis III (poinsettias)

In honor of Rev. Nancy Nedwell (books)

By Cathy Dryden:

In honor of Dean Uhler & Muggs (poinsettias)

In memory of Hattie Farmer Dryden, Frank P. Dunnington Jr., & Thomas Elliott Dryden (poinsettias)

By Ann E. Field

In memory of Mary Purdy Hannaford (poinsettias/books)

By Betsy Fisk:

In honor of my Fabulous Family (poinsettias/books)

In memory of my dear husband, George (poinsettias/books)

By Marian Munn Griffin:

In memory of Frances & Albert Munn Sr., Dalton Munn, Albert Munn, Jr., Daisy Munn Trobaugh & Mike Griffin (poinsettias)

By Carolyn Harnick

In memory of Donna L. Harnick (books)

In honor of Jacquelyn M. Harnick (books)

By Priscilla Ann Hill

In memory Cdr. & Mrs. Howard E. Blune, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Goodwin, & Dolores Shaw (poinsettias)

By Duncan Hodge

In honor of Keith Simmer, Evoyne Sinclair, & Robert Furbay (books)

In memory of Mary & Harry Hodge, parents of Duncan (books)

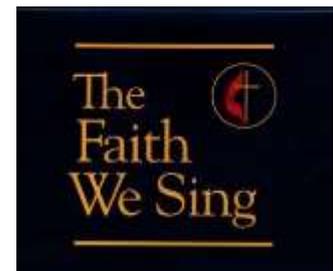
By David & Judy Hughes

In memory of Esther, John, and Raymond L. Hughes Jr. (poinsettias)

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. (poinsettias)

In memory of the L.E. Kilmon Family (books)



By Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Kircher:

In memory of Mary R. Eliason Kircher, Henry C. Eliason & Katherine R. Eliason & Carl J. Kircher (poinsettias)

By Donna Knott

In memory of Don & Alberta Conklin (poinsettias/books)

By Lovely Lane

In honor of all the front line workers and our faithful congregation who support us in many ways

In memory of Dorothy Krug, Dolores Shaw, & all lost to COVID-19 (poinsettias)

By Jackie Noller

In memory of Robert & Twyla Noller, parents of Jackie Noller (poinsettias)

By Dennis M. Nonemaker:

In memory of Albert E. & Mabel B. Nonemaker, Margaret E. Nonemaker, & William J. Burgan (poinsettias)

In honor of Jameson V. Woke & Gwendolyn R. Woke (books)

By Brent Orr

In honor of Carolyn Weimar & Wanda Orr (poinsettias)

In memory of Donald Orr & Ron Weimar (poinsettias)

In honor of Charles Jennings "CJ" Bridges, Sydney Miller "Millie" Bridges, Alexander Burke, Sarah Burke, Kristin Orr Bridges, Cameron Bridges, Carolyn Weimar, Wanda Orr, & Kristie & Brent Orr (books)

In memory of Donald Orr & Ron Weimar (books)

By Eleanor M. Packard:

In memory of John Neal Packard, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Rogers Munn, Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Packard I, & Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Yongue (poinsettias)

In honor of my children, Laura, Amy, Meg, and Johnny (books)

In memory of John Neal Packard (books)

By Carole Conklin Quinan:

In memory of her parents, Alberta L. & W. LeRoy Conklin (poinsettias)

In memory of Daniel L. Conklin (poinsettias)

In memory of Don D. Conklin (poinsettias)

By Michael Rouse

In memory of George & Agnes Hayden, Grandparents of Michael Rouse (poinsettias)

In memory of Vernon & Ruth Depsey, Great Uncle & Aunt of Michael Rouse (poinsettias)

In honor of Rev. Debbie Scott (books)

In honor of Rev. Nancy Nedwell (books)

By Bernice von Saleski

In memory of my husband, Rainer von Saleski (poinsettias)

In memory of my parents, Vernon and Alma Warner (poinsettias)

In memory of Rainer's parents, Ebba and Lothar von Saleski (poinsettias)

By Rev. Debbie Scott:

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

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

By Charlotte Shrewsbury

In memory of the Wilton Shaw Family & Msg. William R. Shrewsburg (poinsettias)

In honor of the Dundalk Chapter Sweet Adelines (books)

In memory of Pat & Fred King (books)

By John Strawbridge

In honor of Elizabeth, Fuller, & Patricia Strawbridge (poinsettias/books)

By Roger & Barbara Tinius:

In memory of John & Hannelore Tinius and Theodore & Clarissa Kammar (poinsettias)

By Linda Webb:

In honor of Lovely Lane Staff and Choir (poinsettias)

In memory of Mary Hannaford (books)

In honor of Nancy Brannan (books)

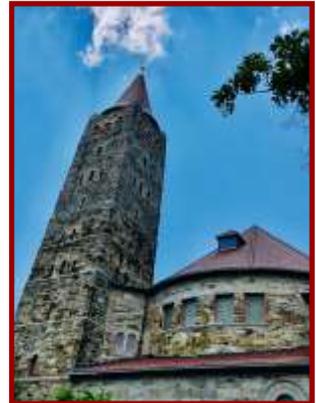


OUR MISSION: To celebrate the vision of God's Good News in Jesus Christ in liturgy, learning, and life, through the revitalization of our congregation, the restoration of our building, and the strengthening of our traditions, while recognizing our unique presence and mission in Baltimore City.



LOVELY LANE
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