The Tower: Volume 24, Issue 2 October, 2026

The TOWER Monthly

Lovely Lane | Baltimore City Station



Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church
Mother Church of American Methodism

2200 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore MD 21218-5805

Worship
Sundays 11:00 AM

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 Am — 3:00 PM

Phone
410-889-1512

Email
admin@lovelylane.net

Website
LovelyLane.net

Pastor
Rev. Levon Sutton
revsutton@lovelylane.net

Lay Leader
John Strawbridge

Organist
Bill Scanlan Murphy

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Emora Brannan



From the Pastor's Desk: *October Pastoral Letter*

Dear Lovely Lane Family,

October has a way of inviting us to pay attention. The light changes. The air cools. Leaves begin to turn and fall. Even familiar streets look a little different. The season reminds us that change is part of life, and that growth often takes place before we can see its results.

Jesus offers a similar image in Mark 4:26–29. He speaks of someone who scatters seed, then rises and sleeps while it grows. The person tends the ground but cannot force the harvest. That is a helpful word for the church. Faithful ministry asks us to plant, nurture, and remain attentive to what God is bringing to life.

On October 1, I will defend my Doctor of Ministry project, *A Model for Enhancing Community Engagement for Historic Downtown Churches*. I am grateful to Lovely Lane for being the setting in which this work took shape. The project invited participants through six movements: story, attentiveness, presence, mutuality, public life, and commitment. Its findings point toward a deeper understanding of engagement. Community connection grows through trust, and trust grows when we show up consistently, listen with humility, and make room to receive as well as give.

We have seen this work take shape in several ways at Lovely Lane. The six-week engagement project gave participants time to listen, visit community spaces, and consider how they might build lasting relationships with our neighbors. During Lent, *The Walk* and the *Tower Daily Devotionals* invited reflection beyond Sunday worship. Baltimore Vocal Village has brought people together through music and storytelling, while our conversations with neighborhood partners have helped us hear needs and possibilities we might otherwise miss. Each offers a different point of connection. Together, they show how engagement can grow when we create space for people to participate, share their gifts, and come to know one another over time.

This kind of ministry is felt in the body as much as it is expressed in a plan. It means walking into shared spaces, sitting long enough to hear a neighbor's story, noticing who is present and who is missing, and staying close when needs cannot be met in a single encounter. Our neighbors are people with insight, gifts, and hopes of their own. Engagement begins when we meet one another with that understanding.

Lovely Lane's history gives us much to honor. The question before us is how that history will help us serve faithfully in this season. The project suggests that our witness can take shape in ordinary places and through many people, across the congregation and beyond it. It also offers a model that other historic downtown churches may adapt to their own communities. These are encouraging findings about formation and relationships; the slower work of sustaining those relationships remains ahead of us.

As the season changes, I invite us to consider what we are being called to tend. Where might we listen more carefully? With whom might we build a relationship that lasts beyond one event? What gifts might we discover if we enter our neighborhood ready to learn?

May God give us patience for what is growing, courage to step outside our familiar patterns, and love enough to remain present with one another.

Grace and peace,
Reverend Levon D. Sutton
Pastor, Lovely Lane UMC

THE TOWER MONTHLY

From the Lay Leader…

October 2026

Do no harm.

(To be continued…)

Peace,
John Strawbridge
LAY LEADER



WORK TO RESTORE, REHABILITATE AND MAINTAIN OUR 19TH CENTURY BUILDING FOR GREATER COMMUNITY USE

MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING/PAST RESTORATION WORK

The Lovely Lane Restoration Fund balances have been used since January 2026 to undertake repairs to the fallen plaster in the St. Paul Street entrance vestibule. Additional investigation continues to determine if the snow and frigid temperatures of last winter has caused additional damage to the tiled roof of that corner of the church building. A roofing contractor has completed repairs in that area of the building and the ceiling will be reinstalled after water intrusion has been determined to be corrected.

21ST CENTURY PROJECT UPDATE

Pending Capital Upgrades

The committee has contracted with Viper Air to complete the second-floor air conditioning work. This vital project will allow expanded use of the upstairs classrooms to users f or the warmer months of summer. Work has continued and is slated to be complete in early October. The two classrooms upstairs now have new HVAC systems, lighting and new acoustical ceilings in each space.

The committee continues to solicit security proposals for key-less entry and security alarm systems throughout the church.

Community Outreach

There continues to be interest in using the church's spaces for community and arts events after the church hosted several events at the end of last year. In 2026, new community groups have booked multiple months of building use for youth after-school programs.

GIFT CAMPAIGN

Please consider contributing to one of Lovely Lane's Building Funds as we approach the end of Tax Year 2026. Please follow the instructions and link given below to make donations to our Building Funds.

For more information on how your tax-deductible donations will be put to work in the Restoration Fund (escrowed balances for future restoration work) or in the 21st Century Building Fund (new capital upgrades to our 19th century building for greater community use), please contact us at lovelylanecenter@gmail.com.

BUILDING FUNDS DONOR UPDATE

The Lovely Lane congregation continues to be very grateful for the ongoing support received to 1) to assure the integrity of all past restoration to our 19th Century building built as a centennial monument to the founding of Methodism in the United States in 1784 and 2) pursue our ambitious 21ST Century Project restoration, rehabilitation and building use goals.

We have received the following donations since we published a listing in the **September 2026 Tower** edition.

The Restoration Fund – *to maintain building integrity*

Estelle Tulloss Wagner in memory of J. Carroll Tulloss and Estelle H. Tulloss

The 21st Century Building Project Fund – *to improve building for greater community use*

No new contributions

To make a new donation to either of our Building Funds,
Please send checks--payable to the church and indicating "Restoration" or "21st Century Building Project" in the memo line of the check--

Mail to: Lovely Lane United Methodist Church,
2200 St. Paul Street,
Baltimore, MD 21218

Or go to our website to donate online:
https://lovelylane.net/church-life/donations-offerings
And click on either the "Restoration Fund" or the "Rehabilitation Capital Campaign Fund" button

Scan the QR code here to navigate to the donation page

In Community

Celebration of 25 years with Bill Scanlon Murphy as Organist and Music Director at Lovely Lane
November 8, 2026

"Sing
Sing a song
Sing out loud
Sing out strong"
(Earth, Wind & Fire)

Play, play a hymn...
Play a prelude
Play a postlude

In 25 years has Bill played as many hymns as Charles Wesley wrote –6500 are recorded to be his. Perhaps Bill can estimate his math.

On November 8, 2026, join the celebration

Following worship with more hymns, a prelude and a postlude, we will share a pot luck lunch in Lovely Lane Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Bring a salad, a vegetable, or a main dish. Dessert will be provided. We expect to have visitors who have sung with Bill. There may be stories from Bill or others. Bill has been ever faithful.
He was present even during the long months of Covid.

Speak with any member of the SPRC if you have questions and the plans for the meal or otherwise.

November 8, 2026, is Homecoming Sunday. We celebrate the dedication of our current building Yes, dedicated as the debt was subscribed or completed that date. We look forward to a good time together.

Service Opportunities

Fall is here! There are continuing opportunities for service.

Perhaps you would be a scripture reader.
Perhaps you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of someone
Perhaps you would like to sponsor the light from our Tower
Perhaps you would consider hosting Fellowship Hour
Perhaps you would help on a Work Day project

We are a faith community who work together in many ways. Speak to the Pastor, John, or any member of SPRC who could help you with information about any of the areas for service.

Special dates are rapidly approaching
Church Conference October 10
Church Council October 18
All Saints' Sunday November 1
Homecoming Sunday Celebration of Bill Scanlon Murphy November 8
Advent Sunday November 29

Thank you for all your support as our church family together.
Nancy Brannan, Church Council

Progress on 2nd Floor HVAC Renovations

By Duncan Hodge, Vice Trustee



Rooftop, new HVAC outdoor units.

Dave Eggleton, Viper Air and Duncan Hodge. Photo courtesy of Jackie Noller.



Air Handlers for large and small classrooms.

In mechanical room, adjacent to small classroom.



Installing new LED lighting system, small classroom

Done Rite Electrical technicians.



New Ceiling Grid with lights, awaiting ceiling tiles

Small classroom.



Large Classroom, new HVAC diffusers and LED Lighting

Completed on schedule for Ballet After Dark's "Sewial" 10.3.26

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
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 6575

(Mailing Address Here)



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
THANK YOU FOR PROMPT DELIVERY!

CALENDAR

Fall Schedule
Worship 11:00am

Fellowship Hour/Guided Tour
Fellowship Hour: Sundays following worship

Ballet After Dark Fall After School Program
Tuesday and Thursday 3pm - 7pm; Saturdays 9am - 3pm

Baltimore Folk Music Society
Wednesday, 7 pm Weekly dances in the Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall each Wednesday of every month.

Baltimore Vocal Village
Tuesdays 7pm - 10pm

Coach Richard Basketball
Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm & Saturdays, 2pm - 5 pm, Gymnasium

Doors Open Baltimore
Saturday, October 24 - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Lovely Lane encourages our members and friends to volunteer on the first Saturday of each month to assist with service around our expansive, beautiful, and historic church.

We the following October Birthdays:



10 Dennis Ferguson

11 Diane Dongarra

12 Adrienne Sutton

18 Sarah Scribner

21 Samantha Hodge-Williams

22 Denzel Enos