Vision Statement
We are here to reflect God’s glory in our congregation, in our world, and in our hearts. Forgiven by Christ, we forgive. Accepted by God, we accept. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we equip, enable and inspire God’s household to servant leadership.

A NOTE FROM HOME

“I am the way, and the truth, and the Life.” ~ John 14:6a

I love labyrinths! Labyrinths are powerful ancient symbols of our journey through life. Labyrinths have been part of almost every culture and religious tradition in history. A labyrinth is not a maze with dead ends and wrong turns. It is a single path that weaves and leads to the center and from there back out again.

During Lent, Christians often walk labyrinths to mark the journey of Jesus from Life to Death to Eternal life, from Palm Sunday to the Cross/Tomb and onto Eternal Life. They walk labyrinths to pray that they will meet Jesus on life’s road, know his strength and peace and hope, not only at Easter, but all through the year.

In March I led a couple sessions for our BASE (Before and After School Enrichment) K-5th grade kids on labyrinths. I brought my hand-painted, canvas, 3-circuit labyrinth and set it up in the darkened sanctuary and lit the altar candles. I told them about labyrinths. And I was amazed and moved by the children’s reverence and their genuine desire to s-l-o-w down and be a part of something holy. Mostly, they walked with hands folded, taking in a deep breath before entering the path, bowing to the Holy One, taking a few minutes to sit quietly in the center before they made their way back to the mouth of the labyrinth, dancing, tiptoeing and smiling BIG! They had done an amazing thing! They had walked a labyrinth! They were awesome! And here’s what they said:

“I want to do this again. Tomorrow? Can I do it tomorrow? It felt good.”
“I liked this a lot. I have so many things to do, I don’t have any time to be quiet. This is good for me.”
“My heart needed this. I want to come to church but my parents say I’m too busy with tennis.”
“Do you have a Bible? Could I read it, the parts about Jesus?”
“I bring love to my family. One of my grandfathers committed suicide. I think he needed this kind of peace. This kind of walking reminds me of God’s love. God is with me always.”

Like the children, we have walked through Lent and reflected on our busyness, our noise, our racing hearts, our need for peace, our sin, our deaths, and our desire to experience Jesus and his sacrificial love. And now we have made the journey to the cross and tomb! Now we are dancing, walking on tiptoe, and smiling BIG because it didn’t end there. Jesus rose up and walked out into New Life! And he invites us to walk with him! Alleluia!

Easter Joy, Pastor Gayle
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<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**LYRA—RUSSIAN VOCAL ENSEMBLE—COMING BACK TO LL IN MAY**

On Friday, May 22nd, at 7:30 pm, the Russian vocal ensemble, LYRA, will once again grace our Sanctuary with their wonderful music. Our Chancel Choir is providing a potluck for the ensemble at 5:30 that evening in Fellowship Hall. The ticket price will be $20 per adult. Stay tuned for more information on the LYRA concert—you won’t want to miss it!
April Worship

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday—Communion Service @ 7:00 PM
Scripture: John 13:1-17
Sermon: “Ancient Words: Mortification” (or “The 18 hole, open-pit golf course”)
April 3rd: Good Friday—Choral Tenebrae Service @ 7:00 PM
Sermon: “Ancient Words: Expiation”
April 5th: Easter Sunday—8:00 & 10:30 am services—Traditional; 9:15 am service—Senior High
Youth Play: “Who Will Be His Witnesses?”
Scripture (8 & 10:30): Matt. 28:1-10
Sermon (8 & 10:30): “Ancient Words: Salvation”
Easter Brunch 9:00-10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
April 12th: 2nd Sunday of Easter / Camping Sunday—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services
Sermon: “Opening Our Eyes”
April 19th: 3rd Sunday of Easter / One Great Hour of Sharing—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:1-11
Sermon: “Being a Link”
April 26th: 4th Sunday of Easter—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services
Scripture: John 10:11-18
Sermon: “Tending the Flock”

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE
APRIL 3 @ 7 PM
At 7 PM on Good Friday, our Chancel Choir, directed by Matthew Burrier, will present Tenebrae—A Service of Darkness by Hal H. Hopson. Woven thru the musical meditations on the crucifixion of our Lord is the spoken story of Christ's self-giving love, presented by 16 readers. Don't miss it!

One Great Hour of Sharing - April 19th
When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—many watching the drama unfold on tv feel entirely helpless. How could any 1 person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is prepared to act. So don’t be fooled by the word committee. The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do; it’s something “we” do.

When You Give You Equip Christ’s Body to Serve in His Name
Because you give, the U.M. Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today. We responded:
* when tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma
* when children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS
* when a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan
And we’ll be prepared to respond when the next mass crisis occurs.
UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus’ name to those who suffer because United Methodists give thru OGHOS. In fact, it’s your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes. Not “they.” We.

CONFIRMATION: Sunday, May 3rd at 10:30 AM Worship
8th Grade Confirmation and Worship will be celebrated on May 3rd during 10:30 worship and with a New Member reception following in Fellowship Hall. At Lovely Lane, Confirmation is an 8-mo. training in the Christian faith that focuses on the study of the Apostle’s Creed. Confirmation education includes attending classes, youth group, and worship, plus field trips, a lock-in, and mission. Each youth has a faith mentor with whom they meet during the year for spiritual support and friendship. The youth study God, Jesus and his saving grace, the Holy Spirit’s power in the life of the Believer, the Wesleyan Movement, the sacraments, heaven, sin, church history, Lovely Lane’s mission, church membership, and what it means to profess Christ and live a Christian life. They conclude their studies by writing statements of faith/creeds, attending a personal interview, and leading worship on Confirmation Sunday. 2015 confirmands are: Christopher Hauser (parents-Scott & Darcy Hauser; mentor-Reece Linder); Blake Helle (ps-Joe & Becky Helle; m-Ron Nelson); Hannah Herold (ps-Matt & Janet Herold; m-Judy McDowell); Maddie LaGrange (ps-Derek LaGrange & Dee LaGrange; m-Malea Mason); Reagan Linder (ps-Jeff & Cindy Linder; m-Anne Heefner); McKenna Maus (ps-Dean & Michelle Maus, Larry & Tammy Alt; m-Cathy Weber); Collin Wheat (ps-Jess & Stephanie Wheat; m-Jim Selfridge); Nathan Wylie (ps-Eric & Krista Wylie; m-Brandon Drew).
**Easter Egg Hunt**

Sat., April 4, 10 - 11:30 AM

Parents will sign in with their kids for activities, and crafts will be provided in the Fellowship Hall while groups are formed. Preschoolers will hunt for eggs at 10:30 in the fenced playground area; K-2nd graders will be sent out at 10:45 to the hill; and 3rd-5th graders will be sent out at 11 to the lawn. Bring your own baskets!!!

**Wednesday Night Kid’s Club**

Kid’s Club “Journey Through the Bible” will continue to meet during the month of April. The last night for Kid’s Club will be Wed., April 29, with supper at 5:30 pm and then an end of the year program for family and friends. At the program, classes will share the many places they “traveled” in the Bible as they filled out passports and learned about God.

A BIG Thank You to all the parents and teachers who drove to Ridgeview Assisted Living on March 11. We had a great time visiting residents and sharing smiles!

**Middle School Youth Group**

The youth will continue to meet until Wed., May 6, when they will have a fun end of the year celebration! In the meantime, youth grades 6-8 will gather for games, Bible fun, and service on Wednesdays with supper at 5:30, ending at 7:15 pm. It’s not too late to come to youth group even if you’ve never been before!

On April 15, the youth will prepare food for the Wed. Night Family Meal. The youth have really gotten the hang of prepping a meal (and…can cut a fresh pineapple into neat and tidy, bite-sized pieces! 😊).

**Senior High Youth Group**

The high school youth will continue to meet until Sun., May 3, with a final HOORAH scheduled for that day! (More details will follow soon.) The group meets on Sundays from 6:00-7:30 pm with supper served at 6. Join us for fellowship and fun as we continue to explore how to be a follower of Christ amid this challenging world.

**SR. High Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky**

13 youth and 4 adults will be doing home repair for 2 families in the Frakes area. This work will be repairing holes in the floor and replacing flooring, sheetrock replacement on ceiling and walls, and mudding the sheetrock.

Thank you to those who have donated for the home repair projects. Thank you as well to the United Methodist Women for your generous gift to the youth mission trip.

**Spiritual Renewal Leave**

As most of you know, I serve as pastor to 2 smaller churches in Cedar Rapids (Buffalo UMC & Bertram UMC). This is a half time appointment, with the other half of my ministry serving as Lovely Lane’s Director of Youth Ministries and Kid’s Club Coordinator. In addition, I am still taking seminary courses thru the Course of Study, toward becoming an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. I’ve been doing this course work at Morningside College in Sioux City and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

Serving in 3 different ministry settings provides rewarding experiences, and it also has its challenges. My own Spiritual walk tends to be pushed aside, unfortunately, in order to provide leadership in the 3 churches. In order to step back from the demands of full time ministry, I have been granted a 1 month Spiritual Renewal Leave from the churches.

From April 7 to May 6, I will be on Spiritual Renewal Leave from all 3 churches. I’m blessed to have wonderful servants in all 3 settings who have graciously stepped up to be in leadership during my absence. Youth Group and Kid’s Club will continue, and I plan to return for the final meeting night in all 3 ministry areas, in order to help wrap up and celebrate the school year.

I will return on April 29 for the final Kid’s Club program, May 3 for the final Sr. High Youth Group, and May 6 for the final MS Youth Group.

During my leave time, I plan to work on my course work for classes in July, rest, and pray. When I return, I hope to be refreshed and ready to move forward in ministry in new and exciting ways.

Jenny Seylar
IOWA UMC SUMMER CAMPS: **BEST.WEEK.EVER.**

The 2015 camping year has finally arrived, and we are excited to tell you about the opportunities available. Camp is a life-changing experience where God speaks to youth in many different ways. Whether you choose Pictured Rocks, Okoboji, or Wesley Woods, you’re sure to have an incredible adventure while making new friends in a Christian environment.

All camp events are led by qualified staff whose primary concern is to provide a safe, Christ-filled environment for all who enter—a place where your family will be encouraged to have a personal relationship with Jesus. Camp brochures are available in the church narthex/foyer.

**CAMPERSHIPs:** To encourage more participation of LL kids and youth to attend a Christian camp, camperships are available. While we encourage the choice of a United Methodist camp, camperships may be applied to other Christian camps as well. To apply, see Mrs. G (Barb Geissinger) or contact her @ 393-6674 or christianedu@lovelylane.org.
UMW NEWS

APRIL UMW MEETING

The Lovely Lane UMW will be meeting April 9th at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall. We will be creating cards for all occasions to provide a card supply in the Narthex. Church members will then be able to purchase the cards for $1.00 each. All supplies will be furnished at the meeting for making the cards.

Come join us, and have fun getting creative for this UMW card ministry. Fonda Carris will be our Coordinator, Cindy Sale will present a meditation, and Judy McDowell will serve as our hostess.

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We will continue our study of the minor prophets. We are currently studying the book of Amos. Our group meets Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:15 AM in Fireside. We invite you to join us for study and fellowship. PLEASE LUG YOUR MUG FOR COFFEE TIME!

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT UMW SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREATS

2 Locations this year:
April 10th at Asbury UMC (350 27th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids)
April 23rd at Maquoketa UMC (1019 Wesley, Maquoketa)

Coffee/Registration 9:00 AM

The theme will be “How Is It With Your Soul?” presented by study leaders Karen Weiland and Pastor Linda Von Fumetti.

IOWA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

“WELCOMING THE STRANGER”

APRIL 11, 2015

Registration 9:00-9:30 AM

STORM LAKE UMC, STORM LAKE, IOWA

Panel presentation, breakout discussion groups. Luncheon $7.50. For more information and to make reservations, contact Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

IOWA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN’S

“MISSION U”

The theme this year is Seeking Justice and Joy -- For All, using John 15:10-11 and the theme hymn For Everyone Born - A Place at the Table by Brian Mann. Sessions will be held this summer and fall: July 19-22 and Oct. 16-18 at Iowa Valley Community College, Marshalltown, IA. The topics will be: Spiritual Growth - Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God; Social Issue - The Church and People with Disabilities; and Geographic Study - Latin America: People and Faith. Spanish, Korean, Youth and Children’s classes will be offered at Fall Mission U. Scholarships are available. For more information and registration forms, call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).
UMW Garage Sale
Saturday, April 18th
8:00 am – 12:00 noon

We need your treasures!!
Drop off your **pre-marked** items
Friday evening, April 17th,
between 5:00 – 8:00 pm ONLY!

We will have tables set up and labeled
in the Fellowship Hall.
Just place your **pre-marked** treasures
on designated tables.

Only children’s clothing accepted this year!
Looking for toys, books, furniture, linens, glassware,
kitchen items, and holiday decorations!
Sorry, we can’t take any items that won’t be
accepted by Goodwill after the sale.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!
Are you available to help with set-up Friday night
and/or with the sale Saturday morning?
Call the church office or email cbrandsale@aol.com.
Lovely Lane Green Team’s

RECYCLING EVENT

Fri., April 17, 5:00-8 PM

We are accepting:
Eye glasses, printer ink cartridges, cell phones, MP3 players, non-leaking batteries, and greeting cards—new or used (Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You or blank).

Please bring these items to recycle at the same time you bring marked items for UMW’s 4/18 Garage Sale!
**HAPPY ENDINGS**

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, April 13th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we’ll discuss is *The Things We Do For Love* by Kristin Hannah. When we meet on May 11th, come with suggestions for books that you’ve enjoyed and would recommend to the group to read. In June we will be reading *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey—the selection by the librarians of the CR, Marion and Hiawatha libraries as the Linn Area Reads for 2015.

Anyone who is interested in reading and discussing books is invited to join us.

**FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP**

FF will meet at noon on Friday, April 17th, for a luncheon potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Phil and Shirley Martin will be our host and hostess; the speaker will be Barbara Green from the Better Business Bureau who will tell us about senior scams we need to be aware of.

Come join us for some great food, fellowship, and an educational presentation.

**YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**

YFF will meet on Friday, April 10th, from 6:00 to 8 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We’ll be having pizza for dinner; each family is asked to bring a side dish to share! You are also invited to bring adult/child games to share and/or your own beverages. Nursery staff will be available.

_Hope to see you there!_

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**Feeling Down? Need Someone to Talk to?**

Come to the April meeting of the Mental Health Support Group (MHSG) on Tues., April 14th, at 6:30 PM in the Study. Ron Nelson, licensed psychologist, facilitates the group, and everything shared is kept strictly confidential.

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**Christian Education**

- Palm Sunday 9:15 (Sunday School & Kids Club): Jesus Walk prior to resurrection
- Camp Sunday - April 12th: passing out camp brochures & information
- Year-end plans - Teacher Appreciation: Gifts given to teachers during church on April 26th

**Missions**

- Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing - April 19th
- Reported $23,641 in missions giving in Rainbow Covenant Report
- Total Advent Offering Giving: $7,172
- Assisting with planning & promotion of Mental Health Forum

**Health & Wholeness**

- Usher training after Easter to include AED training
- Lovely Lane now officially a Blue Zone Church—celebration later; 2nd church in CR to complete

**Trustees**

- Some necessary patching of church driveway
- Will have a list of tools for workers to use at the church; will publish in the bulletin to see if anyone has extra of any of these tools

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**February Financial Totals**

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**Presence: Worship Attendance**

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*Remembering with love*

Dan Boonstra......2012
A Community Discussion on:

Where is Iowa’s Mental Health Care going?

Sunday, April 12th, 3:00 PM
Lovely Lane United Methodist Church

Panel Participants:
The Honorable Liz Mathis, Iowa Senate
Honorable David Heaton, Iowa Representative
Ben Rodgers, Linn County Supervisor
Kent Jackson, Unity Point Mental Health
Dan Strellner, President Abbe, Inc.

Moderated & Co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters
Concerns & Celebrations
Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts & service!

Prayer concerns:
* Death of Donna Cole - service @ LL on 4/25 @ 11 AM, followed by a luncheon
* Elizabeth Wright – her father passed away
* Lloyd & Jan Peterson – death of their nephew, Dan
* Linda Finck – recovering from surgery
* Marge Thornton – suffering with shingles
* Carol Fletcher – recovering from surgery
* Kevin Finck – recovering from surgery
* Deb Noecker – recovering from surgery
* Shirley Mickelson’s son-in-law Ted – in a serious accident
* Cecil Capper’s mother, Bessie – had a severe stroke
* Brian & Denise Carnahan – Leo Meil having cancer surgery

Celebrations:
* CWM Preschool filled to capacity for fall term
* Successful Guatemala Mission Trip
* Wednesday evening Kids Club kids delivered the prayer squares they had assembled to care center residents
* Harmony & Aaron Gearhardt welcomed a baby girl, Paisley, into the world on 3/13 (Harmony is Brenda Borden's daughter and Marge Morris's granddaughter)

Thank You Notes
Thank you for your prayers and cards during my recovery period. Jayne Woodson

Thank you for your 2014 support of our “Helping Hands Ministry” to help the needy in Linn County and our “CompuPlace” program, a unique computer learning lab for individuals with disabilities. We take care to qualify recipients and spend your contributions prudently. (2014 contributions to the ECC were in the amount of $1620.) We are grateful for your financial and other support and ask for your continued support in 2015. Ecumenical Community Center

Thank you to your confirmation class for your donation of diapers, baby items, and adult hygiene products from your baby shower for Jesus. Thanks to your gift, Waypoint has been able to make a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of individuals in the community. Your donation has made it possible for individuals and families who are homeless, living in poverty or victims of domestic violence to be able to receive the critical help they need to move forward during a difficult time. Thank you again for your generosity and support for our mission at Waypoint.

Thank you for your support in 2014. Whether you held a SERRV Sale, shopped at a SERRV Sale, purchased an item on our website, or made a donation, we truly appreciate your dedication to our mission. You’re making a real difference to the thousands of artisans and farmers we represent around the world!

Thanks to your ongoing support, Imagine No Malaria has received a Superhero Award from the Rotarians Action Group on Malaria. According to Drake Zimmerman, vice chair of the Rotarians group, “The award honors the size, breadth and ongoing dedication of The United Methodist Church’s work, in which thousands upon thousands have donated, resulting in thousands of children being alive today, thriving today, in many countries.... Solve malaria and you solve so many other problems.” United Methodist Communications

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY STATISTICS
Since she started tracking her participation in the Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2008, Pastor Gayle has the following numbers to share with us (were visits by her or Pastor Paul):
* 16 went to flood victims
* 54 went to men/boys
* 110 went to women/girls

Looking back to 2007, Pastor Gayle estimates that 51 babies/toddlers received new baby/baptism blankets. Before her participation in this ministry, Becky Wood (as Director of Health Ministries) did most of the ministry with the shawls.
Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church
2424 42nd Street NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

April Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 53, No. 4

Sunday Worship Schedule
8:00 am  Traditional
9:15 am  Traditional
10:30 am  Traditional with Choir (Blended* on 2nd & 4th Sundays)
*Blended = a mix of traditional & contemporary

EMBODYING ...
DISCERNING ...
DISCOVERING ...
THE WILL OF GOD

Find out more about us:
Website: www.lovelylane.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc
Phone: 319-393-6674

Lovely Lane Staff
Lead Pastor……………………………..Paul Wilcox
Associate Pastor………………………Gayle Wilcox
Office Manager…………………………Sue Moss
Director Children’s Weekday Min….Carolyn Barnes
Youth Director…………………………Jenny Seylar
Christian Educator……………………Barb Geissinger
Director of Music……………………Matthew Burrier
Organist………………………………Dennis Ramsey
Children’s Choirs……………………Carla Jesse
Director of Handbells………………….Gayle Wilcox
Nursery…………………………………..Shelbie Wood, McKenna Woods & Tara Weber
Wedding Coordinator…………………Becky Wood
Custodians………………Rex, Rhonda & Jessica Heasty
Audio/Visual Coordinator………………Eric Wylie
Treasurer……………………………Marcie Stumpf
Webmaster…………………………….Shelly Turner