

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

February 2016

## 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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
a gentle Father and the God of all consolation,  
who comforts us in all our sorrows,  
so that we can offer others, in their sorrows,  
the consolation that we have received  
from God ourselves.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Several years ago I was invited to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting to help celebrate a church member's 25th year of sobriety. It was just a regular meeting, but I was so impressed with the openness of the sharing and the deep needs that were expressed and cared for in that small group. They all knew why they were there and their mutual struggle linked them together with a commitment that made them available to help each other any time of day or night.

Their strength came from admitting their weakness, their need, and their struggle. The church can learn a lesson from A.A. Too often, church is the last place we'd go if we don't "have it all together." Heaven forbid if we cry at church or allow others to see our pain, and so we leave, unhealed. Henri Nouwen writes:

"Why do we keep hiding our deepest feelings from each other? We suffer much, but we also have great gifts of healing for each other. The mystery is that by hiding our pain we also hide our ability to heal."

As Lent begins, I hope it will be a time for all of us to discover the strength and power we have to offer one another as wounded healers in Christ.

*Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Paul*

## Calendar of Events — February 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 9 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm CWM Board mtg.	<b>2</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>3</b> 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon Women's Study 4:50 pm Youth Bells 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm MS Youth Grp./ Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm Disciple IV	<b>4</b> 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>5</b> 9 am ESL 6:00—8 pm "Read & Feed"	<b>6</b> 6 am—10 pm Kennedy using LL parking lot for speech contest
<b>7</b> <i>Last Sunday of Epiphany / Holy Communion</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 5 pm Sr. Hi Superbowl Party (@ Ben Oliver's)	<b>8</b> 9 am ESL 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm CE mtg.	<b>9</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>10</b> <i>Ash Wed.</i> 12 noon Women's Study 5:30 pm Pancake Supper 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>11</b> 7 am Leadership Brkfst (@ Panera's) 1 pm UMW mtg. 6 pm Missions 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>12</b> 9 am ESL	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <i>1st Sunday in Lent / Valentine's Day</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 2 pm Birthday Open House for Arlene Allison (90th b-day) 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>15</b> 9 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10 am—5 pm JFON Office Hours 5 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>17</b> 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon Women's Study 4:50 pm Youth Bells 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm MS Youth Grp./ Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm Disciple IV	<b>18</b> 6:15 pm Handbells 6:45 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	<b>19</b> 6:45 am—4:30 pm CWM Preschl. Spring Conferences 9 am ESL 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	<b>20</b> 9 am—1:30 pm International Ladies Fellowship
<b>21</b> <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 9 am Heart Healthy Brunch (Wear Red!!) 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>22</b> 9 am ESL 6 pm Lent "John" Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>24</b> 12 noon Women's Study 4:50 pm Youth Bells 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm Middle School Youth Group 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm Disciple IV 6 pm Prayer Shawl	<b>25</b> 6:45 am—4:30 pm CWM Preschl. Spring Conferences 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>26</b> 9 am ESL	<b>27</b> 6 am—12 midnight Kennedy using LL parking lot for show choir event
<b>28</b> <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>29</b> 9 am ESL 9 am Prayer Shawl 6 pm Lent "John" Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts		<b>ESL = English as a Second Language</b> <b>CCM = Care Center Ministry</b> <b>MHSG = Mental Health Support Group</b>			

**BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE:** *Please join us in celebrating Arlene Allison's 90th birthday at an Open House in her honor on Sunday, Feb. 14th, 2:00 - 4 PM in the Fellowship Hall. No gifts please - cards only. Hope to see you there! Jan & Craig Windmiller*

**HEART HEALTHY BRUNCH:** On Sunday, Feb. 21st, the Health & Wholeness Committee will have their annual Heart Healthy Brunch. It will be in Fellowship Hall from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM. In recognition of February as Heart Month **we are encouraging everyone to wear red that Sunday to church.**  
Come join us for healthy food and to receive information will be available on stroke and heart disease prevention.

## Lovely Lane Worship, et al.

### Worship in February

Feb. 7: *Last Sunday of Epiphany / Holy Communion*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Luke 9: 28-36

Sermon: "Seeing for Real"

Feb. 10: *Ash Wednesday*— 6:30 PM Youth-led service (*preceded by a Pancake Supper @ 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall*)

Scripture: Psalm 32

Sermon: "The Journey Home: The Hiding Place"

Feb. 14th: *1st Sunday in Lent*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Mark 5: 21-34

Sermon: "The Journey Home: Passing Up Wrong Turns"

Feb. 21st: *2nd Sunday in Lent*— 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Luke 10: 30-37

Sermon: "The Journey Home: Traveling Together"

Feb. 28th: *3rd Sunday in Lent*— 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-24

Sermon: "The Journey Home: The Prodigal"



**Feb. 10th @ 6:30 PM**

This year Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and you're invited to a special service in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM. This will be a youth-led service: our confirmands will do a skit, Zamar will ring, and Kid's Club singers will sing! A **Pancake Supper** will be held at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall prior to worship. Please join us!

### Lenten Offering Opportunities

This year Missions has selected 4 Lenten Offering giving opportunities. There will be more information on each of these offerings in announcements made during worship. The four are:

**Tree of Life Ministry** is sponsored by the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church. It supports projects which bring assistance to some of the poorest Native Americans in our nation. Projects include repairing homes, food and clothing distribution, hot meals, child care, and assistance to tribal programs. Our youth group from Lovely Lane will be doing a mission trip to Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota this summer.

**Lighthouse Relief** is an international organization with a current main focus of providing relief to Syrian refugees arriving on the Greek Island of Lesbos. Lighthouse provides a reception camp and clinic which supplies clothing, food and shelter to the refugees, sometimes numbering over 400 per day.

**Heifer International** is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty as well as caring for the earth. Heifer provides livestock, trees and seeds plus trains the beneficiaries by teaching them skills to further lift themselves out of poverty.

**Matthew 25** is a local non-profit that exists to strengthen core neighborhoods on Cedar Rapid's west side. It partners with them to work in 3 program areas: Neighborhood Building, Youth Development, and Cultivating Hope.

Please prayerfully consider giving generously to each of these important and worthwhile causes.



## Our Ministry Teams at Work

- Trustees**
- ◆ Replacing ceiling tiles
  - ◆ Looking at roof repair options
  - ◆ Many spring projects on our radar!
- Missions**
- ◆ Lenten Offering—decided on 4 recipients
  - ◆ Rainbow Covenant
- Health & Wholeness**
- ◆ We hosted 75+ people for Blue Zone's Purpose Workshop on 1/19
  - ◆ Heart Healthy Brunch—Feb. 21st; everyone wear red
  - ◆ Plan in March to have a family CPR class & AED training

**Friendly Fellowship**

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Friday, Feb. 19th, at noon for a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. The host and co-hostess will be Jack and Cheryl Murphy; our speaker will be a representative from the Right At Home-Home Care Agency. She will be telling us how to stay safe in our homes and about services their agency provides in the community.

<b>Presence: Worship Attendance</b>				
<u>Jan. 3</u>	<u>Jan. 10</u>	<u>Jan. 17</u>	<u>Jan. 24</u>	<u>Jan. 31</u>
220	192	160	253	245

## UMW NEWS

### UMW Meeting

We will meet on **Thursday, Feb. 11th, at 1 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be putting together special treats to take out to some special people in our congregation. Please bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite homemade cookies; we will combine all of our cookies and put together packages of cookies to be delivered to some homebound members of our congregation. Even if you don't bake, come and help us decorate the cards and plates. We also need volunteers to make the deliveries; this is more enjoyable if a couple of us go out together. Cindy Sale will be our coordinator; Pat Brand and Marcie Baugh will be our hostesses as we sample the cookies before heading out to make deliveries.

### UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group resumed meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 5th, from 9:30-11:15 AM**. We have resumed our study of the Gospel of Matthew. We invite you to join us for fellowship and study. If you have questions, call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205). **PLEASE LUG YOUR MUG FOR COFFEE TIME!**

### EC DISTRICT UMW ANNUAL MEETING AT LOVELY LANE!

**Lovely Lane UMC will be hosting the East Central District's United Methodist Women's annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 17th.** Lovely Lane's UMW is beginning to make plans for hosting this large event. We know that we can't do this alone but feel we may count on help from members of our congregation. We hope that you will be willing to lend us a helping hand! Think of this as a chance to be ambassadors for Lovely Lane, offering women from other East Central District UM churches a friendly welcome and warm hospitality and showing them that we live out our mission statement.

## YOUTH activities

**“READ & FEED” - Pajama Party:** We will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> “Read & Feed” for the school year on Friday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, from 6:00 to 8 PM. We invite children from Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to participate. Bring your favorite book to share and wear your warm PJ’s (and shoes please). Please sign up with Mrs. G (christianedu@lovelyLane.org or 393-6674). Also, if you are a 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grader who’d like to be a reader/helper, let Mrs. G know ASAP!

**Middle School Youth:** Youth in grades 6-8 will be helping lead the Ash Wednesday worship service on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. They will prepare on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> during youth group time. There will be no regular youth group on Wednesday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, so families may **worship together for Ash Wednesday at 6:30 PM. A Pancake Supper will be served before the service at 5:30!** Youth group meets weekly from 6-7:15 PM with an optional family supper at 5:30 PM. All youth grades 6-8 are welcome to attend youth group, which includes games, fellowship, and faith learning.

**Subs for Service on Feb. 7th by Youth Grades 6-12:** It’s almost Super Bowl Party Time, and the youth would like to do the “cooking!” In March during spring break, the senior high youth will be going to Benton Harbor, MI and in July to the Tree of Life Ministry in South Dakota, with the junior high youth doing mission work nearby. Your order will help off-set the costs of building supplies and transportation for the youth. The cost is \$4.00 for a 6-inch sub. **Please turn in completed orders in the narthex or by mailing to the church by Feb. 2nd.**

**High School Youth:** Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to act in an Easter Skit that will be performed on Easter Sunday. Practices take place at the church starting Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 5 PM. Pastor Paul is leading this and welcomes all to participate. On Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> you’re invited to A SUPERBOWL PARTY AT BEN OLIVER’S HOUSE at 5 PM! Hope you can come; bring a snack to share!! Regular youth group meets from 6:00-7:30 PM with supper at 6:00. Join us and bring a friend!

**Wednesday Night Kid’s Club:** Kid’s Club (for preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) meets weekly at 5:30 PM for the family supper, followed by Kid’s Club at 6:00. Families are invited to come for supper and stay for adult Bible study while kids are at their Club time. There is nursery available for those children who are not 3 years of age yet. There will be no Kid’s Club on Wed., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, so that families may **worship together for Ash Wednesday at 6:30 PM. A Pancake Supper will be served @ 5:30 before the service!**

## Concerns & Celebrations

*Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts & service!*

### Prayer concerns:

- \*David Fisher (wife Heather and children Elise & Ryker) - unexpected death of his father
- \*Janice Jamison – death of her daughter-in-law (Janice is Maggie Thomas's sister-in-law)
- \*Daniel Randall (Marci Wittles' father) – home after being hospitalized
- \*Becky Rindfleisch – double carpal tunnel surgery
- \*Rev. Nick Longworth – was hospitalized with infection
- \*Kay Rath – currently at Methwick's Woodlands for rehab (Rm. #119) after surgery on broken hip
- \*Kathy Gilbert - recovering at home after surgery
- \*Jacey Wall – recovering from surgery
- \*Linda Finck – recovering from surgery (she & husband Kevin are newer LL members)
- \*Carol Wilson – seeing an orthopedist for continued foot problems
- \*Pastor Gayle – recovering from back surgery
- \*Denise Carnahan's stepmom, Shirley – recovering at home after hospitalization
- \*Marcie Baugh's niece, Darlys – late stage pancreatic cancer, has opted out of chemo or other treatment
- \*Maryann Stewart's niece, Amy in CO – knee surgery
- \*Marge Morris's daughter-in-law, Shirley Morris – surgery on broken leg
- \*All those with upper respiratory infections and/or the flu

### Joys:

- \*We had 3 wonderful Christmas Eve Services on 12/24 and the total attendance that evening was nearly 600
- \*Our guest preacher, Nicholas Longworth, and lay leaders who filled in on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> – many thanks to them, AND to those who stayed to un-decorate the church!
- \*Our Lay Leaders did a great job filling in as Liturgists on Sunday, Jan. 10th, while Pastor Paul was away teaching a class on creative sermons
- \*Our Coat Collection for youth had a good response – thanks for your donations of jackets, coats, hats, gloves, etc.; they'll help to keep many CR youth warm this winter!
- \*We had a successful "Blue Zone" Purpose Workshop on 1/19 with 70+ in attendance
- \*We had a good no. of participants in our New Member classes held 1/24
- \*So many successful surgeries and recoveries: Jacey Wall, Jacob Phillips, Gayle Wilcox, Kay Rath, & Kathy Gilbert

### **Thank You Notes**

**'My cup runneth over...'** Thank you for the cheery cards, the delicious food, the friendly visits, the sweet gifts, and the faithful prayers following my back surgery. Without your love and care I know my journey to health and wholeness would be much more difficult. Knowing that my church family is holding me in your hearts has been a tremendous healing balm for my body, my mind, and my spirit. Thank you for ministering to ME!

*~ Pastor Gayle (still on the mend)*

**Thank you** for contributing 130 lbs. of food to the Linn Community Food Bank during the fourth quarter of 2015. We could not operate our food bank without the generous support of donors like you.

**Thank you so much** for your congregation's donation of \$1190.76 in 2015. Your donation provided the equivalent of 44 nights of shelter in support of our mission to serve homeless individuals in Linn County and surrounding counties.

**We'd like to thank you** for your faithful commitment to Iowa's children by pledging the gift of books and reading in support of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church's reading initiative "Change a Child's Story."

### **HAPPY ENDINGS**

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Feb. 8th at 10 AM in the church library. The book we will read and discuss for February is *Lost Lake* by Sarah Addison Allen. The book for March is *The Slave Tag* by Robert Buckley. Robert will be our guest speaker at the Friendly Fellowship potluck on Feb. 18th. Our book for April is *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa. In May we'll each bring a favorite book or two to recommend to other club members. In June we'll read *Our Souls at Night* by Ken Haruf and in July *When Books Went to War* by Molly Guptil Manning. In August we again plan to go to Barnes & Noble to hear what new books they recommend, and we'll go to lunch as well.



# Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church  
February Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 54, No. 2  
2424 42nd Street NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## **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*



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

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



### **Find out more about us:**

Website: [www.lovelylane.org](http://www.lovelylane.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc](http://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  
Choir Director.....K. Weiler  
Organist..... Dennis Ramsey  
Children's Choirs.....Carla Jesse  
Director of Handbells.....Gayle Wilcox  
Nursery.....Shelbie Wood, Tara Weber,  
Holly Hasenbank, & Paige Gerjets  
Wedding Coordinator.....Becky Wood  
Custodians.....Rex, Rhonda & Jessica Heasty  
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....Eric Wylie  
Treasurer.....Marcie Stumpf  
Webmaster.....Shelly Turner

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