

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

January 2015

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

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." *John 1:4-5*

Marguerite Gode wrote a poem that describes this time of year all too well:

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Tis the day after Christmas, and inside and out,
The holiday carnage lies scattered about.
And Ma with a wet towel atop her head
and aspirin tablets has crawled into bed.
The kiddies, God bless 'em, are raising a din,
With thundering drums and shrill trumpets of tin.
While Pa, like a schoolboy, forgetting his years,
Is all tangled up in the bicycle gears.
Old Duffer, the dachshund, delightfully smug,
Lies gnawing a carcass upon the new rug.
And Muffet, the kitten despaired of a lap,
On the dining room table is taking her nap.
Plaid neckties and pink socks and what-nots galore
Await their exchange at the five-and-ten store.
While tidbits and knick-knacks of left-over sweets
Must furnish the menu for future-day eats.
Tis the day after Christmas, and once every year
Folks willingly pay for their holiday cheer.
With toothaches from candy and headaches from bills,
They call up the doctor and order more pills.

After all of the hub-bub of Christmas is over and with a certain relief we look for things to go back to normal. It's nice to know that there's a promise to Christmas that lasts beyond the broken toys and the aches of back, tooth, and head. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Whatever darkness may come your way this year, remember that the light shines on. Let us walk in that light; live and love in that light; and never forget that single flame of hope that has brought us thus far and carries us into a future, confident and unafraid. May your New Year be bright with the light of Christ.
Pastor Paul

Calendar of Events— January 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			CCM = Care Center Ministry ESL = English as a Second Language MHSG = Mental Health Support Grp.	1 <i>New Year's Day / church & office closed</i>	2	3
4 <i>Epiphany Sunday / Communion</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Undecorate the church	5 9 am ESL 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 6:30 pm Education 6:45 pm Boy Scouts	6 9:30 UMW Bible Study 11:35 am Kennedy Lunch 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	7 9:30 am CCM (offsite) Noon Women's Study Group 5:00 pm Kids Bell Choir 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm M.S. Yth. Grp. 6 pm Adult Explo	8 7 am Leadership Breakfast (@ Panera's) 1 pm UMW meeting 5:30 pm SOS Bible Study 6:30pm Handbells	9 9 am ESL	10 9 am—12:30 pm International Ladies Fellowship
11 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	12 9 am ESL 10 am Happy Endings 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 6:15 pm Boy Scouts	13 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 11:35 am Kennedy Lunch 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	14 Noon Women's Study Group 5:00 pm Kids Bell Choir 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm M.S. Yth. Grp. 6 pm Adult Explo 7:30 pm SPPRC	15 5:30 pm SOS Bible Study 6:15pm Handbells 6:45 pm Missions 6:45 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	16 9 am ESL 12 noon Friendly Fellowship 5 pm Confirmation Lock-in	17 (9 am—Lock-in ends)
18 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	19 9 am ESL 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 7 pm CWM Board mtg.	20 9:30 UMW Bible Study 10:00 am—5 pm JFON Office Hours 11:35 am Kennedy Lunch 5 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	21 9:30 am CCM (offsite) Noon Women's Study Group 5:00 pm Kids Bell Choir 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm M.S. Yth. Grp. 6 pm Adult Explo	22 5:30 pm SOS Bible Study 6:30pm Handbells	23 9 am ESL	24
25 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	26 9 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 9 am ESL 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 6 pm Library Team 6:45 pm Boy Scouts	27 9:30 UMW Bible Study 11:35 am Kennedy Lunch 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	28 Noon Women's Study Group 5:00 pm Kids Bell Choir 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm M.S. Yth. Grp. 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm Prayer Shawl	29 5:30 pm SOS Bible Study 6:30pm Handbells	30 9 am ESL	31

Lovely Lane Worship, et al.



Worship in January

Jan. 4: *Epiphany Sunday / Holy Communion*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "Wise Men Still Seek Him"

Jan. 11: *First Sunday after Epiphany*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "Holy Water Everywhere"

Jan. 18: *Ecumenical Sunday/Pulpit Exchange*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Pastor Michael Metz preaching

Jan. 25: *Third Sunday after Epiphany / Special Offering: District Hispanic Ministry*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5,10

Sermon: "A children's story grows up"

FAITH ISSUES CLASS JANUARY SCHEDULE

On Jan. 11, 18 & 25 Ron Nelson and Jim Loehrlein will be teaching the class on the subject of "Evolutionary Christianity."

Please feel free to join us in the Library (and bring along your coffee if you wish!).

HELP UNDECORATE THE CHURCH SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH

You are invited to stay after our 3rd service on Sunday, Jan. 4th, to help take down Christmas decorations. Pizza and beverages will be provided for all who stay and help.

*Many hands make light work—
hope you can stay to help!*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group will resume meeting on **Tuesday, January 6th, from 9:30 - 11:15 AM** in Fireside. We will begin a study of the intriguing book of Daniel which has been described as symbolic, visionary, prophetic literature with its historical narrative and apocalyptic material.

We invite you to join us for fellowship and study. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205). PLEASE LUG YOUR MUG FOR COFFEE TIME.

UMW MEETING

We will meet on **Thursday, January 8th, at 1 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Our program, led by Fonda Carris, will be our annual Call to Prayer and Self-Denial special offering of United Methodist Women. The 2015 theme for this offering is "A Gesture of Gratitude." For over 125 years, deaconesses and other missionaries have been in mission service in many places. United Methodist Women carry a responsibility to undergird the active and retired missionary personnel services and needs; this includes personnel pensions, health insurance, the Brooks-Howell Home retirement and health care facility, communications and service resources. This year's offering will go to support all of these programs. Jayne Woodson will give our meditation and act as our hostess. **We invite you to come learn about this UMW mission emphasis and share this time of fellowship with us.**

JANUARY YOUTH NEWS

Senior High Youth Group

Youth group resumes (after the Christmas break) on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 6:00-7:30 pm, and we will be looking ahead to what 2015 will bring the Lovely Lane Youth group. The group meets on Sun. evenings and is open to all youth grades 9-12. Join us and bring a friend!

Junior High Youth Group

Youth group resumes (after the Christmas break) on Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 5:30-7:15 pm. Come and share your holiday stories and what you're looking forward to in 2015. The group meets on Wed. evenings, with supper at 5:30 pm. This group is open to all youth in grades 6-8. Join us and bring a friend!

Date to Remember: Jan. 28- the youth will prepare and serve the family meal on Wed. evening.

Kid's Club

Kid's Club meets on Wed. evenings with a family meal at 5:30 followed by group time 6:00-7:15 pm. It's not too late to join this fun faith formation time as they journey thru the Bible. Kid's Club resumes after Christmas break, on Jan. 7.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Mrs. G (Barb Geisinger): January 4, 2015, will begin the new year for Sunday School classes along with a change in curriculum for 9:15 students. Both Sunday School groups (9:15 & 10:45) will now receive the same lessons using Sparkhouse curriculum and materials. Yes, there will still be science, art, cooking, stories and games as before and both groups will continue to begin with music. I'm looking forward to worshipping with LL's children and helping them learn more about Jesus and the Bible!

Youth activities

Save the Date for the Senior High Summer Mission Trip!

It's not too early to be making plans for the summer of 2015. The dates have been set for the summer mission trip; it will be the week of June 13-20. The group will travel to the Henderson Settlement which is in southern Kentucky in one of the poorest areas in the country. Youth and leaders will be assigned a home to work on repairs. They will get to know the family and build relationships while also building and repairing the home. For more information about the Henderson Settlement, visit <http://www.hendersonsettlement.com/workcamp.php>.

We will need one adult for every 5 youth attending this mission trip, so parents and other adults that wish to go should contact Jenny Seylar. This trip is open to all current 9th-12th graders AND those youth currently in 8th grade.

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL—Children's

Council has plans for a family sledding outing after church. Soon? Depends—when weather forecasts look good for adequate snow, we will send an E-mail and post on Facebook so you can bring snow gear and a board game to share as you warm up with hot chocolate. Watch for more information to come. Also, save the date for a Family Fun Night on Feb. 14 at the Stoney Pointe YMCA. You can celebrate Valentine's Day with your family doing something great for your heart! Watch for more information and sign up.

Bishop Trimble's Statement on President Obama's Executive Action on Immigration (11/24/14)

President Barack Obama announced executive action to remedy protracted inaction on immigration reform on Thursday night, November 20. This good news was indeed a word of Mercy pointing toward a focus on hope and not fear.

In our President's words, "Mass deportation is impossible and contrary to our character." President Obama echoed scripture that is foundational to our call for comprehensive Immigration Reform. - "You must not mistreat or oppress foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 22:21)

In recent years millions of people have said that our immigration system is broken and that our economy suffers because we keep millions of undocumented immigrants living in the shadows.

The President rightly identified the need to support families, while deporting only those who would do harm - "felons not families".

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has supported the call for Immigration Reform and encouraged local communities to participate in ministries of mercy and justice.

Critics attack the President's executive action, suggesting that the work of reform is the responsibility of Congress. Nevertheless, the question remains unanswered as to why the House of Representatives will not act on a Senate-approved bill.

We know that immigrants in our communities are ready to embrace a path to citizenship. They want to come out of the shadows that often permit men, women, and children to be taken advantage of. Our United Methodist churches can help by simply being welcoming congregations and by supporting expanded legal support through Justice for Our Neighbors.

Good news for possibly five million undocumented immigrants can be good news for the entire country. Full reform of current immigration policies invites us to be messengers of hope rather than prisoners of fear.

Bishop Julius C. Trimble

Small Group News



HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, Jan. 12th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we will be discussing is *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Please bring your ideas of the books we would like to read in the next few months to our January meeting.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Friday, Jan. 16, at noon for a potluck luncheon. The program will be presented by Pastors Paul and Gayle; it will be a musical presentation. The host and co-hostess will be Joel and Marilyn Goodman. Please plan to attend and enjoy wonderful food and an equally wonderful program.

If you have any questions, call Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

Presence: Worship Attendance

<u>12/7</u>	<u>12/14</u>	<u>12/21</u>	<u>12/24</u>	<u>12/28</u>
310	352	306	514	138

Our Ministry Teams at Work

Christian Education

- ◆ Dec. 10th—Wed. Kids Club Birthday Party for Jesus
- ◆ Dec. 14th—"The Gift of Jesus" Christmas Program
- ◆ VBS curriculum narrowed to Mt. Everest for 2015

Health & Wholeness

- ◆ Continue with Blue Zone project

November financial totals

Cash inflow, Nov. 2014: \$48,813
 Cash outflow (paid bills), Nov. 2014: \$50,466
 Cash inflow, Jan.–Nov. 2014: \$496,299
 Cash outflow (paid bills), Jan.–Nov. 2014: \$498,882
 Unpaid bills, Jan.–Nov. 2014: \$15,005

YEAR-END FINANCE REPORT: All bills have been paid and all apportionments have been sent in! In addition, we have the amount of \$12,074.54 left over to start the New Year! While our goal is to carry over at least \$20,000 into the New Year, we are grateful to be only \$8,000 short of that goal. Thank you for your generous support and especially for many of you who gave even beyond your pledge this year. Your faithful stewardship has made our ministry together possible. To God be the glory!

Remembering with love...

Marg McNe...2014
Sharlin Thornton.....2014
Ann Goodhall.....2014
Don Miller.....2013
Lyle Johnson.....2012

Concerns & Celebrations

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

Prayer concerns:

*Death of Phyllis Plunge—her funeral was @ LL on 12/4; please keep her son Charles and the rest of her family in your prayers

*Kay Schmickley (attends Tue. AM Bible Study) – death of her husband, James

*Death of Mindy Lesmeister's mom, Peggy

*Death of Sue Moss's mother-in-law, Martha, in Arizona

*Darwin Keegan—hospitalization

*Donna Knutson – is under hospice care

*Patty Logsdon's stepsister, Kelly – dealing with side effects of chemo

*Ms. Donna's brother, David—hospitalized with an aortic aneurysm (Donna teaches in our 4-yr-old classroom)

*Ms. Donna's niece, JoAnn—possible cornea transplant

*Andy Vorwerk's sister, Jan—brain surgery on 12/18 at the U of I Hospitals & Clinics

*Michelle Hotchkiss's son, Tyler

*St. Jame's UMC – suffered fire damage

*Those who have lost loved ones during the Christmas season

*Those who are alone and/or lonely during the holidays

Celebrations:

*New members who joined Lovely Lane on Dec. 7 & Dec. 14

*Kids Club had a great program for kids and their parents followed by a birthday party for Jesus on 12/10

*Terrific Children's Christmas Program during 9:15 service on Sunday, 12/14

*All of the Angel Tree tags were taken by our congregation

*All of the special music in our 3 Christmas Eve services

*Great total worship attendance on Christmas Eve

Thank You Notes

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to the Lovely Lane members who so faithfully create Prayer shawls for this ministry: Arlene Allison, Susan Blum, Carol Guge, Linda Carollo, Cathy Carter, Cheryl Collins, Debbie Craig, Elsie Mae Hall, Carla Jesse, Sherry Johnson, Linda Jones, Linda Keefe, Rae Keegan, Do Koudelka, Patty Logsdon, Donna Rayl, Diana Rettig, Carolyn Selfridge, Sara Showman, Bev Speer, Carrie Steffen, Geri Stolba, Marcie Stumpf, Christy Sundberg, Maggie Thomas, Marge Thornton, Nancy Miller and Carol Wilson. These ladies knit, crochet and quilt Prayer shawls and baby blankets for our pastors to give to members who are ill. They provide their own materials. Thank you everyone for your participation in this ministry. If anyone else is interested in joining in this ministry, the day time group meets the fourth Monday of the month at 9 AM and the evening group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 PM. For additional information, please contact Kathy or Sharon. [Kathy Gilbert, Chair, Evening Group, [319 389-6473](tel:3193896473) or Sharon Kouba, Chair, Morning Group, [319 393-0156](tel:3193930156)]

Our church family has meant so much to us during this very difficult time. We are so appreciative of the visits from our pastors and the prayers, love, and support from all of you. Lovely Lane was so important to Ron. A most sincere thank you to all of you. Kay Rath & family

Thank You for your generous and increased contribution to the 42nd annual Cedar Rapids/ Marion CROP Hunger Walk! *Ellen Fisher, Walk Treasurer*



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church
January Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 53, No. 1
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*

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Permit No. 196