

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

January 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

Bill Cotton is a retired pastor in our conference and still a wonderful preacher. His Epiphany message was so good that I have to share it with you:

*We are fascinated with the wise men (Mathew 2:13-23)... Seers from the East, obviously Gentiles, seem to know about the birth of a Jewish Savior; Jewish people living in Jerusalem know of no such person. The three travelers come to King Herod with an outrageous request: "Tell us where the baby born to be your successor is to be found!"*

*Kings do not like to be told that their replacement has arrived. Herod assembles the priests and holy men to discern the meaning. They tell him that the birth is rumored in Bethlehem. Herod did not care about prophecies and such niceties; but, kings are jealous of their power. Best to nip this in the bud before the story spreads. So he organized the slaughter of the innocent children. Theologian Walter Burghardt reminds us that the first martyrs, the first to die for Jesus, were innocent children, boy babies. We don't know how many died. We do know that they were killed because they looked like Jesus.*

*Each child who comes into the world looks and behaves like Jesus. They are innocent, delightful, honest, and without deceit. **And—they are at risk.***

*That is why we refer to this event in Christmastide as the Holy Innocents. These children died because they looked like Jesus. In each age, children are at risk from the powers, whether it be in Iraq, Latin America, Washington, D.C., or the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Herods of any age do not seek to destroy Christmas, but they would rid the world of Christ. And the solution to kill the Christ is to destroy the Christ-like. (Burghardt)*

*The Herods of this world hate the image of Christ in the people. In our world, the Christmas sword is seldom stained with blood. The children die in war, and from malnutrition, abuse, neglect, and loss of hope. Millions of children simply are left behind because the governments of this world do not care. (Witness our current debates over whether or not the children born here to undocumented immigrants can be citizens. Never mind that we might be sending the next Einstein away.)*

*Isaiah spoke of a little child who would lead the people. When Jesus said that we must become as little children if we are to enter the kingdom, he meant that we should put on his likeness.*

*I think the church needs to work hard at looking more like Jesus. That is the way to expose Herod: put on the holy innocence of the child. And if we do, it will put us at risk from the Herods of this world—but we will find the Christmas peace.*

*Grace and Peace for a new year! Pastor Paul*

## Calendar of Events — January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year!!!</i>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>4</b> 9 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm CE mtg.	<b>5</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>6</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>7</b> 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>8</b> 9 am ESL	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>11</b> 9 am ESL 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>13</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 7:30 pm SPPRC	<b>14</b> 7 am Leadership Brkfst (@ Panera's) 1 pm UMW mtg. 6:15 pm Handbells	<b>15</b> 9 am ESL 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Human Relations Day</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 10:15 am Confirmation field trip to Mt. Zion Church 3 pm Youth Collision Event 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>18</b> 9 am ESL 7 pm CWM Board Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10 am—5 pm JFON Office Hours 4 pm Shepherds 5 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm Women's Study 7 pm Purpose Workshop	<b>20</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>21</b> 6:15 pm Handbells 6:45 pm Trustees 6:45 pm Missions 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	<b>22</b> 9 am ESL	<b>23</b> 11 am S. Wood Baby Shower
<b>24</b> <i>Ecumenical Sunday</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 & 11:30 am New Member Class 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>25</b> 9 am Prayer Shawl 9 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>27</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>28</b> 6:15 pm Handbells	<b>29</b> 9 am ESL	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 4-6pm Confirmation: SEMP 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group			<b>ESL = English as a Second Language</b> <b>CCM = Care Center Ministry</b> <b>MHSG = Mental Health Support Group</b>			

**ACABELLA & ZAMAR RESUME!** Both adult and youth handbell choirs will regroup at the tables and begin to ring in the New Year! Zamar meets on Jan. 6 @ 4:50 PM and AcabellA on Jan. 7 @ 6:35!

# Lovely Lane Worship, et al.

## Worship in January

Jan. 3rd: *2nd Sunday After Christmas/ Holy Communion*— 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Guest speaker: Rev. Nicholas Longworth

Scripture: John 1:1-9

Sermon: "Darkness and Fear"

Jan. 10th: *1st Sunday After Epiphany*— 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Acts 8:14-17

Sermon: "Unpredictable Path"

Jan. 17th: *Human Relations Day*— 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: John 2:1-11

Sermon: "The Problem with Miracles: Miracle 1"

Jan. 24th: *Ecumenical Sunday*— 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: John 6:1-15

Sermon: "The Problem with Miracles: Miracle 4"

Jan. 31st: *4th Sunday After Epiphany*— 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: John 11:1-3, 17-27, 32-46

Sermon: "The Problem with Miracles: The Final Sign"

### Children's Sunday School lessons beginning on

Jan. 3rd will be from the New Testament with the theme "Love is...."

### Presence: Worship Attendance

Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 24	Dec. 27
255	378	262	584*	115

(\*12/24: 250 @ 5 PM, 261 @ 7 PM, & 73 @ 9 PM)

## "Nuts and Bolts for Administrative Committees" Sunday, Jan. 31st, 1:45-4:30 PM

*(Registration begins @ 1:45;  
Training is from 2:15-4:30)*

Workshops offered by the East Central District Leadership Development Team will take place on Jan. 31 at the Mt. Vernon UMC (304 1st St. SW). After worship with Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko, a keynote (*One Size Doesn't Fit All or One Style Doesn't Fit All Sizes - Church Councils that Function Well*) will be given by Rev. Dr. Jill Sanders, Field Outreach Ministry. After the address, these workshops take place: *Funding Christ's Vision Where You Live; Tips for Treasurers; Nuts, Bolts, & Wisdom (SPRC); Trustees' Responsibilities, Building Projects, & More; and Grant Writing Basics & Tips for Making Your Proposal Memorable.*

There is no cost to attend, but please register online @ <https://iaumc.brtaapp.com/login>.

### CHILDREN SINGING IN WORSHIP

Please make a note that our 9:15 and 10:30 Children's Sunday School classes will sing in worship on the following dates, in their appropriate service: February 14, March 13 & May 6.

### ECCF OFFERING—Sunday, Jan. 17th

The Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF) needs financial help to continue their ongoing ministries. The needs are great. ECCF provides below market rent to a dozen faith-based organizations including Mission of Hope, and they house the Green Square Meals Program for \$1/yr. ECCF sponsors the CompuPlace ministry which provides a place where, with the use of computers, the disabled can develop their abilities and overcome obstacles. The ECCF also sponsors Helping Hands Ministry (HHM). Imagine a myriad of medical issues, several surgeries, and then an eviction notice, or a mother and kids got away from abuse but had no place to go. This past year thru Sept., HHM has provided assistance to 300 families and distributed 2,456 bus tickets; however, they've had to turn away or refer 8,343 families. These are real life situations for real people. Let's do what we can to help!

**2016 Iowa United Methodist Camps online summer registration now open!**

Go to [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps); once there you can click on a link to open a pdf copy of the 2016 Summer Camp Catalog. Remember, camp events fill quickly—so get registered soon!

**CWM** - Lovely Lane Preschool  
Trinity Lane Preschool  
BASE (Before & After School Daycare)

## January Report

**Happy New Year to everyone!!!** It's amazing how quickly the years come and go. It seems like we just began and here we are mid-year! We are very excited to begin our new year with more fun days at preschool.

Our service project for the '15-'16 school year was collecting new books to donate to Lovely Lane for their mission *Change a Child's Story*. Preschool and BASE parents were very generous and the gifts were donated to Lovely Lane at the Christmas Program. We wish to extend a grateful Thank You to anyone who gave a donation! Beginning in January, LL volunteers will read to our 4-yr.-old classrooms and daycare students once a month.

The preschool students at Lovely Lane and Trinity Lane did an awesome job of singing for their parents and relatives at the annual Christmas program! We wish to thank Pastor Paul and Pastor Gayle for the wonderful story they shared with the children.

BASE will begin a new set of enrichments in January.

Our Lego League team represented us magnificently at the Dec. 12th tournament; the students can be proud of their accomplishment! Our team received an award for being the best *All around* team by having a good score in every category. We have **Jack Murphy and Dick Chelikowsky** to thank for this opportunity; they volunteered their time twice a week beginning in September. We're one of the only daycares to offer this chance to promote math, science and team work! Mike Wilhelm and Amy Engelmann assisted our team with their work on the *project* part of the program.

**TRIVIA—What are the Pastors up to in Jan. 2016?** Pastor Paul will once again be co-teaching Proclamation & Sharing the Faith at the School for Lay Ministry at Cornell College Jan. 9 & 10. Pastor Gayle will be experiencing a 6-Day Guided Silent Retreat Jan. 11-16 as a part of her Spiritual Development Preparation Program certification through the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

## Our Ministry Teams at Work

### Christian Education

- ◆ 2nd Semester Sunday School begins Jan. 3 with "Love is...."
- ◆ VBS dates are set & curriculum will be revealed soon
- ◆ Registration for UMC camps is open & info. is on our website

Most committees did not meet in Dec. on their monthly meeting night. All committees will meet in January!

### Friendly Fellowship

FF will meet on Friday, Jan. 15th, at 12 noon for a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall. Our co-hostesses will be Judy McDowell and Jayne Woodson. Diana Nollen, from the CR Gazette, will present the program. Diana has worked at the Gazette since 1982 and writes reviews and interviews of events and interesting people in the entertainment business. It will be an honor and a treat to have her with us! Please call Nancy Miller (393-6340) with any questions.

## Purpose Workshop

**Jan. 19, 7 PM**

LL's Health & Wholeness Committee, in partnership with the Blue Zone Project, is hosting a Purpose Workshop FREE and open to the public. In this 2-hr. event, a facilitator will guide you thru various fun and interactive activities to begin the journey to finding your individual purpose. Research shows that those who know their purpose live an average of 7 years longer! The date is Tuesday, Jan. 19th, from 7 to 9 PM in the Fellowship Hall. (There's also a morning workshop on Jan. 19th @ 11 AM in Gage Memorial Union, Coe College. Contact the Blue Zone office [[Jed.Eichhorn@healthways.com](mailto:Jed.Eichhorn@healthways.com)] to register.) Lovely Laners can sign up on the STUB Sunday AM's or contact Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

**WOMEN'S GROUPS RESUME:** The Tues. evening and Wed. noon women's groups will resume on Jan. 5 & 6. We'll be looking at Ch. 7 in our books — *Wisdom Perceives Times*.

## UMW NEWS

### UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

### UMW MEETING

We will meet on **Thursday, Jan. 14th, at 1:00 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 mission theme for 2016 is "Women at Work - Economic Justice and Empowerment." The offering this year will go to support programs that empower women to gain resources they need to earn a living wage to care for themselves and their loved ones.

Jayne Woodson will be our hostess. **We invite you to come learn about this UMW mission emphasis and share this time of fellowship with us.**

We'll also be setting up a list of volunteers to distribute books to children of JFON clients when the JFON clinics are held at Lovely Lane, normally the 3rd Tuesday of each month. All Lovely Lane women who are interested in participating should contact Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

## YOUTH activities

**KID'S CLUB:** Hope everyone had a blessed Christmas time! Thanks to those who brought books before Christmas for "Change a Child's Story"; they will be well-loved by children. Kid's Club resumes on Wednesday, Jan. 6, with the family supper at 5:30 PM and Kid's Club at 6 PM. The children will continue to explore Fruit of the Spirit.

It's not too late to start coming to Kid's Club! The kids are split into 3 classes: Preschool-Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, and Grades 3-5. Contact Jenny Seylar for more information.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Youth group resumes on Wed., Jan. 6, with the family supper at 5:30 PM and youth group at 6 PM. On Jan. 13 the youth will prepare, serve, and clean up for the family meal; more details coming in early January. Planned for 2016: exploring prayer and spiritual gifts, a lock-in, Super Bowl Subs, and much more. It's not too late to start coming to youth group!

**YOUTH GRADES 6-12: Collision Event on Sunday, Jan. 17, 3:00-7 PM:** Youth will gather at Squaw Creek Park for outdoor winter fun (including sledding if there is snow) and a service project—sandwiches for a soup kitchen and blankets for the crisis shelter. The event includes supper and concludes with a youth-centered worship experience. More details and a permission slip will be available in early January.

**COLLEGE-AGED STUDENTS & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH—Jan. 3:** Youth group starts again on Sunday, Jan. 3, and college-aged students who are in town are invited to join the hs youth. Supper will be at 6 PM at the church with a taco bar, followed by games. Spread the word, and join us for some end of the break fun!

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** On Sunday, Jan. 10, we'll continue with our regular youth group activities. Watch E-mail for a supper sign-up sheet for the New Year. Planned for 2016: a nursing home visit to play bingo, tying fleece blankets, Super Bowl Subs, and more!

### CONFIRMATION GEARS UP FOR 2016

Confirmation resumes Wed., Jan. 6, as we continue our study of Jesus – Teacher, Healer, Miracle Worker. Then on Sun., Jan. 17, we'll take a field trip to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and experience worship with that African American congregation. Anyone may join us! On Jan. 20, we'll continue our consideration of Jesus as Savior and prepare for our part in the Ash Wed. Service (Feb. 10). Then on Sunday, Jan. 31, we'll serve SEMP—Sunday Evening Meal Program @ 1st Presbyterian. Details TBA.

Keep our kids in your prayers as they grow in their faith and relationship with God in Christ.

### "CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY"

In response to the Iowa UMC's Poverty Initiative, Lovely Lane will read 2,500 hrs. and give away 2,500 books to children. We began the fun last summer and invite you to join us by reading 20-30 min. sessions (1 or more) beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> week in January. We need readers for Johnson School, Pierce Elementary School, LL Preschool, and LL's Before & After School program. Once you sign up on the bulletin STUB or contact the church office, we will contact you, set a schedule, equip you with books, and *off you'll go!* Thanks for volunteering! (Commitments can be monthly or more frequent.)



## Concerns & Celebrations

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

**Prayer concerns:**

- \*Death of Lyn Lewis's mother, Martha
- \*Kathleen Potter-Stepleton – death of her niece
- \*Hanna, Drew, & Auliver Wood – Hanna's father, Steve, passed away after a long battle with cancer. Drew is Becky & Mike Wood's son and a member here at LLUMC.
- \*Pray for Brad & Ann Jacobs whose dtr. Emma-lee, ISU freshman, was recently found dead in the street near campus. Brad teaches at Linn Mar and Ann at Center Point-Urbana.
- \*Erika Serbousek – is at home after successful brain surgery; continue to pray for her recovery
- \*Pastor Paul's mother, Betty Jo – at home after hospitalization for pneumonia
- \*Pray for the Curries' dear friend, Judy, as she deals with cancer throughout her body
- \*Pray for persons who celebrated Christmas for the 1st time after the death of a spouse or child

**Joys:**

- \*Evan Abby, Duane & Mary's son – test results for cancer came back as benign
- \*Lots of volunteers for special music in worship during Advent & on Christmas Eve!
- \*Sue Moss's niece Megan & husband in Nevada are expecting their first child in May
- \*Meaningful and well-attended UMW Advent Coffee on 12/5
- \*Enjoyable and creative AccabeLLa prelude on 12/6 (ringers processed thru the sanctuary)
- \*Wonderful Children's Christmas Program on 12/13 at 9:15 service, with 212 in attendance! A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success!! (Can be viewed on our website @ <http://www.lovelylane.org/see-the-video-of-the-llumc-childrens-christmas-program/>.)
- \*Our confirmation class collected approximately \$185 in products that were given to Way Point

<b>November financial totals</b>	
Cash inflow – mo. of Nov.	\$ 63,028
Budget need/month	\$ 46,650
Cash inflow – YTD	\$489,780
Cash outflow – mo. of Nov.	\$ 67,676
Cash outflow – YTD	\$494,977
Unpaid bills	\$ 7,734

**Thank You Notes**

- Thank you** to Pastor Paul and the youth group who stopped by the house and sang Christmas carols. What a nice ending to a long, rainy day! *Sharon Kouba*
- Thank you** for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Your gift of \$725.50 is responding quickly to meet emergency needs around the world. Thank you for joining with us to "Be Hope" to those who desperately need it.
- Thank you** for your gift to ODIM Guatemala of \$471.00. Your generosity has impacted the ability of ODIM to bless the Tz'utujil Maya families of San Juan & San Pablo La Laguna.

**HAPPY ENDINGS**

- Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, Jan. 11th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we will be discussing is: "Circling The Sun" by Paula McLain. The book to read for Feb. 8th is "Lost Lake" by Sarah Addison Allen.
- If you have any questions, please call Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

- NEW MEMBER CLASSES** will be held on Sunday, Jan. 24, @ 9:15 & 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending Lovely Lane's new member classes and HAVE NOT signed up with Pastor Gayle, please do so soon! Child Care and lunch are provided in addition to the 2 required classes! Please contact Pastor Gayle (gaylew@lovelylane.org).

*Remembering with love*

- Don Miller.....2013*
- Marg McNee.....2014*
- Sharlin Thornton.....2014*
- Ann Goodhall.....2014*
- Darwin Keegan.....2015*
- Donna Knutson.....2015*



# Lovely Lane

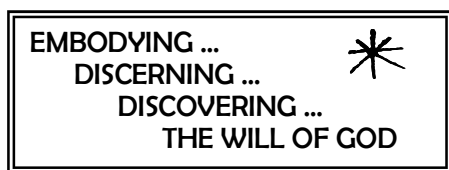
United Methodist Church  
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2424 42nd Street NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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*



### ***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, & McKenna Woods
- Wedding Coordinator.....Becky Wood
- Custodians.....Rex, Rhonda & Jessica Heasty
- Audio/Visual Coordinator.....Eric Wylie
- Treasurer.....Marcie Stumpf
- Webmaster.....Shelly Turner

