

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

January 2017

## 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 has been a great preacher here among Iowa United Methodists for over 45 years. His words about Christmas point us beautifully toward the new year:*

### **“Emmanuel...God with us—still”**

I love the preposition *with*. This little word is found in our Bible as a word of hope—the definition of the relational way of life. Adam is *with* Eve in the garden; not above, not beneath, but with, along side of. Being with someone speaks of equality and protection, like saying to those in trouble, “We have your back.” Now in this season of Advent, we speak the very name Emmanuel which means *God with us*. God is not far away and distant, not high up and above us, but in Christ drawn near to be with us. Jesus’ final word to us is, “Lo, I am *with* you always.”

These days as so many ponder what is happening to our nation, know this: God is with us. From the beginning in Genesis to the end in Revelation, God is with us still. That is the Good News of Christmas. But there is more!

When you are in a relationship with someone, then you are committed. It is not enough to simply sing “Emmanuel.” We must be *with* each other for the long haul as Christ is with us.

In recent months we have heard some people publicly label, ridicule and threaten many different groups of Americans. This allowed others who wanted “change” to scapegoat the most vulnerable among us. Friends suggest that it was just political talk. We will have to wait and see.

But, in the meanwhile the only way for me to remain Christian, and to live with myself, is to seek out and provide watchful care for those who are being named for persecution. I speak of the Dreamers, people of color, people of non Christian origin, the gay community, the poor and those who depend on Social Security for survival. To these, an Advent Promise: Many of us have your back, meaning we are *with* you. *(continued on newsletter page 6)*

## Calendar of Events — January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day/ Epiphany Sunday &amp; Communion</i> 9:30 am One All-Together Service	<b>2</b> <i>(Church &amp; office closed)</i> 9:30 am Undecorating crew	<b>3</b> 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>4</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 M.S. Yth. Grp./ Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo	<b>5</b> 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 PM Missions 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>6</b> 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal 6:30 pm Rehearsal Dinner	<b>7</b> 3:30 pm Wedding (Hamer/Feltes)
<b>8</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Senior High Youth Group	<b>9</b> 9:30 am ESL 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 4:15 pm Shepherds 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>11</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 7:15 pm SPPRC	<b>12</b> 7 am Leadership Brkfst (@ Panera's) 1 pm UMW Meeting 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Senior High Youth Group	<b>16</b> 9:30 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10:30-5 pm JFON Office Hours 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>18</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 M.S. Yth. Grp./ Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm Handbells 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm Handbells 6:45 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	<b>20</b> 12 Noon Friendly Fellowship	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 2 pm Financial Peace University 6 pm Senior High Youth Group	<b>23</b> 9:30 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm CWM Board Mtg.	<b>24</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>25</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 Prayer Shawl	<b>26</b> 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9 am—1:30 pm International Ladies Fellowship
<b>29</b> <i>Healing Service</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 2 pm Financial Peace University 6 pm Senior High Youth Group	<b>30</b> 9 am Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 5:30 pm Library Team 6:45 pm Women's Study		ESL = English as a Second Language CCM = Care Center Ministry	MHSG = Mental Health Support Group	

### Remembering with love:

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

### Thought for the New Year

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” - Mark Twain

## Lovely Lane Worship, et al.

### Worship in January

Jan. 1st: *New Year's Day / Epiphany Sunday & Holy Communion*—All-Together Service @ 9:30 AM

Scripture: I Corinthians 10:16-18  
Sermon: "You Are What You Eat"

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

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-8, 10-15  
Sermon: "Who? Me?"

Jan. 15th: *2nd Sunday after Epiphany*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: John 4:27-30  
Sermon: "Hauling Living Water"

Jan. 22nd: *3rd Sunday after Epiphany*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23  
Sermon: "Affluenza"

Jan. 29th: *4th Sunday after Epiphany/Healing Service*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Matthew 9:35-38  
Sermon: "The Mission Field in Our Backyard"

### Anointing with Oil—Jan. 29th

On Sunday, January 29, you will have an opportunity to receive the anointing of oil for the healing of body, mind, spirit, and relationships at 8:00, 9:15, and 10:30 AM worship services. You may also receive anointing *on behalf of another* who is in need. More information will be given on Jan. 29th. We invite you to be in prayer for this special Sunday. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you seek health and wholeness.

Scripture strongly affirms ministries of healing for the body, mind, spirit, and relationships. The root of the word *healing* is the same as that of *salvation* and *wholeness*. All healing is of God; the Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness. Anointing is one of the healing ministries. Anointing the forehead with oil is a tangible expression of the presence of God in Christ as Healer and Helper. It's a sign act that invokes the Holy Spirit to be with the individual in a powerful way. Other acts of healing include the laying on of hands and prayer. (*Book of Worship p. 613-614*)

### Julie Meyer is Our New Director of Kid's Club!

We welcome Julie Meyer as our new Director of Kid's Club! Kid's Club is held on Wed. nights with a Family Meal from 5:30-6 PM and age-level groups for preschool through adults from 6-7:15 PM.

Julie is a member of LLUMC, is faithful in worship, and has served on our Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee as well as being involved in our Summer Sunday Missions. Julie has a call from God to minister to children and families and brings with her gifts of hospitality, organization, communication, and a passion to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Julie is employed by the Instructional Services Dept./Cedar Rapids Community School District managing instructional materials, curriculum, budgets, payroll, and contracts and comes highly recommended to us. She is excited to be part of the LL staff and we are excited to have her creative presence in our midst.

Welcome Julie!!!

### Additional Worship Volunteers Welcome for 9:15 Service

We have new friends attending our 9:15 worship! If you/your youth or child are new and would like to serve as a communion server, acolyte, usher/greeter or lector, please let us know on the STUB in worship or talk to Scott Seibert, our 9:15 Worship Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you in advance to those willing to step out in faith to serve God in this visible way!

## **UMW NEWS**

### **UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Bible Study group will resume meeting on **Tuesday, January 10th, from 9:30-11:15 AM in Fireside**. We'll continue our study of the Gospel of Mark. We have found that our studies have helped us to gain new insights and understanding of the Scriptures, continue to grow spiritually, and deepen our faith within a loving, caring fellowship. We invite anyone who is free on Tuesday mornings to join with us for fellowship and study. **We have decided to not only LUG OUR MUGS, BUT ALSO TO FILL THEM AT HOME; SO DO COME PREPARED WITH YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE IN HAND!** If you have any questions, call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

### **UMW MEETING**

We will meet on **Thursday, January 12th, at 1 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Our program led by Fonda Carris will be our annual Call to Prayer and Self-Denial—a special offering of United Methodist Women. The Mission theme for 2017 is "Maternal and Child Health." Health care for women and children has been at the heart of United Methodist Women since the organization was founded in the 1880's. Our foremothers chose to send out missionaries to initiate the work of building hospitals and clinics, and to help train women and girls to serve as doctors and nurses. This year's offering will go to support programs which advocate for the health of women and their children. **We invite you to come learn about this UMW mission emphasis and share this time of fellowship with us!**

## **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY IS COMING TO LOVELY LANE!**

*Do you: struggle with debt; live pay check to pay check; have a car payment, credit card debt, or a mortgage? Does the thought of saving for retirement or to put your kids thru college overwhelm you? Do you wish you could leave a legacy for your family, or would you just like to get ahold of your finances?*

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, there's good news: Financial Peace University (FPU) is coming back to LL! 4.5 million+ people across the nation have changed their future with FPU, and so can you! The average family saves \$2,700 and pays off \$5,300 within the first 90 days. Dave Ramsey shows why it is important for spouses to communicate and work together for financial goals, discover the baby steps to financial freedom, help children learn how to manage money, understand how generous giving can revolutionize attitudes and improve finances, business, and relationships. It's the money class that will change your life! Get it for yourself or as a gift. *Sign up today on the STUB or online @ <https://daveramsey.com/fpu/classes>.*

The 2-hour weekly classes start on Sunday, January 22, at 2 PM.

## FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Friday, Jan. 20, for a noon potluck luncheon. Keith and Fonda Carris will be our Host and Co-hostess; the program will be *Change A Child's Story*. This is a program that encourages all United Methodist churches in Iowa to read to children and give them books they can enjoy at home. FF members will read to the 4-year-olds from our preschool. The books we will give to them are already available at the church. Come join us for lunch and a chance to interact with the children.

Call Nancy Miller at 393-6340 with any questions.



## HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, Jan. 9th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we will discuss is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. The book to read for the February meeting is *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.

Come join us for a great discussion and good fellowship.

### November Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 56,932
Cash inflow—YTD	\$514,100
Budget need/month	\$ 46,863
Cash outflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 50,986
Cash outflow—YTD	\$509,558
Unpaid bills	\$ 0

### Presence: Worship Attendance

<u>12/4</u>	<u>12/11</u>	<u>12/18</u>	<u>12/24</u>	<u>12/25</u>
235	202	247	543	48

## REFRIGERATOR MONITOR(S)

Our refrigerators at LLUMC endure heavy and varied use. Often food is left unlabeled after an event. Sometimes tasty leftovers are left behind for others to enjoy, but often they are forgotten and spoil. We are looking for a volunteer(s) who might be willing to check on the refrigerator contents weekly. We'd offer you some basic training since Children's Weekday Ministries (CWM) enjoys constant use of refrigerator and freezer. Please sign the STUB in worship or call Pastor Gayle (393-6674 or [gaylew@lovelylane.org](mailto:gaylew@lovelylane.org)) if you are interested or need more information.

Thank you in advance to anyone who can lend your assistance!!

## FUNERAL LUNCHEON VOLUNTEERS— A VITAL MINISTRY!

The ministry of funeral lunches is important to our family and friends as they navigate the waters of grief and loss. Volunteers bring bars, help serve beverages at the lunches, and help with set up and clean up.

If you'd be willing to assist with funeral luncheons, please sign the STUB in worship with your name AND email, preferred task(s), and preferred month(s) and preferred day(s) of the week; otherwise, please contact Pastor Gayle @ [gaylew@lovelylane.org](mailto:gaylew@lovelylane.org).

If you'd like to JOIN the list of volunteers, we'd welcome you! If you're on the list already, you need do nothing more.

*Please know how much we need and value your support!!*

(continued from page 1—Note from Home)

And the way I read my Bible, God who is revealed in Christ Jesus also has your back.

### **Incarnation**

Precisely at the juncture where hopes and fears are joined

A crack of light appears.

The world's darkness becomes God's canvas.

Two lonely people journey in the company of strangers,

to an inhospitable place where

bureaucrats count people for tax purposes only.

During the night the census increases by one.

A child

is born among strangers and wrapped in the world's poverty.

The eternal light invades the darkness,

shines brightly in the middle of the night

To make each of us children of light.

### **JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS—MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Ann Naffier, a staff attorney for Iowa JFON who sets up office here @ LL one day a month and then helps in the evening's clinic held in our Fellowship Hall, shared this story in April 2015 at Aldersgate UMC in Des Moines. It is an illustration of just one incidence of the difference that JFON makes in the lives of the people they serve. It is entitled: *Jesse's Future*.

Jesse is a young woman from Guatemala. She came to the U.S. with her parents when she was 5 yrs. old. Eventually both her father and mother, who were legal permanent residents, applied for Jesse's residency as well. These applications can take many years to process, and by the time Jesse's residency was ready for approval, she was a senior in high school. She was a star soccer player, and was being offered multiple scholarships to area colleges. In order to pick up her residency card, she had to first travel back to her native Guatemala. She chose to put off the trip to Guatemala in order to finish high school. Unfortunately, this meant that she stayed in the U.S. until well over her 18th birthday. This is significant, because all of the time she was here after turning 18 was considered "unlawful presence", and once a person starts accruing unlawful presence, that person is placed under a 10-year bar from being able to legally immigrate to the United States. Jesse had no idea. She graduated from high school, accepted admission and scholarships to a local college, and then finally made her plans to return to Guatemala to pick up her legal permanent residency, thinking it would be just a few weeks.

When she got to Guatemala, she was informed by the consulate, that because of the unlawful presence she had accrued, she now would be stuck in Guatemala for 10 years. There was a chance she could "ask forgiveness" (request a waiver) from the 10-yr. bar, but when she submitted her first waiver request, she was denied.

Jesse's mother, Petra, came to JFON a few months after that first denial. She was extremely depressed and worried about Jesse, who in her first year in Guatemala had already been attacked twice by armed bandits in the city, and who lived by herself because she had no relatives or friends still living in Guatemala. JFON assisted Petra and Jesse file a second application for a waiver of the 10-yr. bar. These waivers are much more likely to be approved when prepared by an attorney, and happily Jesse's second waiver was approved. She will be returning within days to the United States—for the first time in 3 years. She plans to go to college, as she had so looked forward to doing 3 years ago.

## Concerns & Celebrations

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

### **Prayer concerns:**

\*The family of Bev Munnik on her death—a Celebration of Life was held @ LL on 12/10

\*Shirley Martin on the death of her sister in Memphis; her funeral was on 12/28

\*The family of Jann Townsend on her death (she drove our special needs adults to LL for Sunday worship for many years) – her funeral was on 12/7

\*Wanda & Don Whitford family – death of dtr.-in-law Mary, leaving behind 3 children - ages 14-23

\*Denise Carnahan & family - death of her stepmom, Shirley Beach (Carnahans are newer LL members)

\*Wanda Whitford—having a heart catheterization

\*Joy Jackson – recovering after surgery for a badly broken leg suffered from a fall on the ice

\*Cynthia Haring – recovering from pneumonia

\*Waylon Stepp – headaches from a dormant brain tumor

\*Kim Hammer - had emergency surgery mid-Dec.

\*Larry Wear—much better after being hospitalized with a mesenteric dissection/tear in an artery near the heart; healing was achieved with medication

\*Mike Wood – recovering from knee surgery

\*Joy Jackson's brother Steven—is in a medically induced coma after having an embolism; her mom fell & broke ribs

\*Maggie Thomas' mother, Kay—broke her hip in a fall

\*Kim Jacobson's mother, Mary – recovering from a fall; Kim's sister, Paula – surgery

\*New members Arliss (& Michael) Fisher's mother, Mildred – suffered a stroke & has dementia

\*Curt Pakkebier's father, Jay – hospitalized

\*Those grieving the loss of a loved one over the holidays

\*Families of police persons killed in the line of duty

\*Those impacted by the CR Jerime Mitchell incident

\*Those affected by the bombing of an Orthodox church in Cairo, Egypt

### **Joys:**

\*Ike Schneider was able to be out of the Ankeny rehab ctr. to spend part of Thanksgiving with family! Praise God!!

\*UMW's Advent Coffee on 12/3, was well attended, meaningful, and enjoyable

\*16 people became new LLUMC members on 12/4

\*We have 2 new volunteer drivers for LL's Operation Backpack outreach to Pierce Elementary School

\*On 12/11 12+ LL carolers and 12 youth sang at Northbrook Care Ctr., Methwick & @ some members' homes

\*Getting to be together at church Christmas AM!

### **Thank You Notes**

I was very touched to receive the beautiful prayer shawl and caring words of love and encouragement on the morning of my surgery. I did feel surrounded by your prayers and God's love. I am doing well and continue to feel your healing prayers. It is a beautiful ministry that you do. And thank you, Pastor Gayle, for bringing me the shawl and for praying with me and my family before my surgery. It meant a lot to us.

*Jan Robinson*

**Thank you** from the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF) Staff & Volunteers: We would like to take time to reflect on your donation, with much gratitude and appreciation. Because of your generosity we are able to help many clients during this Holiday Season. Thank you again for your generosity. May you have a safe and prosperous New Year.

**Thank you** for allowing me to speak on behalf of Tanager Place on Dec. 11th. Your congregation was engaging and I had a chance to visit with a couple friends from the past. Your support of Tanager children changes the course of a lifetime for some wonderful young people. Thank you!

*Blessings, Lorrie Erusha*

**Thank you** for the generous contribution (\$1,500) you have given to HACAP's Backpack Program. Your gift will help provide food to hungry children on the weekends and during school holidays. We are very fortunate to have partners like you that are committed to making a difference in lives of people! Thank you again for your generous support of Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc., and your commitment to helping people become successful to build stronger communities.

### **WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR LOVELY LANE FAMILY (joined in worship on 12/4):**

Mark & Marilyn Beebe	Carmen Johnson
Jolene Dagit (h-Bob retired UM clergy)	Travis & Jenn Osen-Foss Harry Rupe (w-Cindy was already a member)
Michael & Arliss Fisher	Sharon Vavra
Bill & Nancy Grabe	Chad & Audrey Wheeler
Bill & Gloria Jahnel	

We also look forward to several additional folks joining Lovely Lane this month who were not able to join in December.

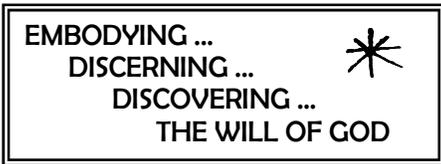


January Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 55, No. 1  
 2424 42nd Street NE  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Sunday Worship Schedule:</b>	
8:00 AM	Traditional
9:15 AM	Guitar service on 1st & 3rd Sundays; Traditional on 2nd & 4th
10:30 AM	Traditional with Choir on 1st & 3rd Sundays; Blended* on 2nd & 4th

*\*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.....Paul Wilcox
- Kid’s Club Director.....Julie Meyer
- 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,  
& Paige Gerjets
- Wedding Coordinator.....Becky Wood
- Custodians.....Rex, Rhonda & Jessica Heasty
- Audio/Visual Coordinator.....Eric Wylie
- Treasurer.....Marcie Stumpf
- Webmaster.....Shelly Turner

