

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

March 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

"Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." - John 12:24

We live in a most holy climate! Every year during the season of Lent, it seems as if Nature itself wears the drab trappings of repentance and self-denial. I look out the window and see brown grass, bare trees, cold and lifeless fields—waiting, waiting, waiting for the warmth of the sun to return, for a spark of life to be given, for resurrection! It seems that Iowa waits with us in the last weary days of Lent, yearning for new life.

I guess waiting is part of what Lent is about. Waiting is kind of like death — only without the permanent side effects. I think of all those millions of seeds buried just below the surface of the ground ready to explode into spring! I think of Jesus' lifeless body buried in the cold tomb waiting for the touch of the living God. In God's time, it will all take place. But for now...we wait.

As I look out my window again, I take comfort in the realization that the new life I long for is already there—in seed. The victory has already been won in Christ and our deepest longings and love have and will be met in God's own marvelous time. Satisfaction guaranteed! And so we wait with confident patience!

#311 from our hymnal says it all so beautifully:

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

Waiting in, with, and for Him,

Pastor Paul

P. S. How Amazing! #311 is the only Easter hymn in a minor key. That captures "waiting" pretty well!

Calendar of Events— March 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	2 9 am ESL 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 6:15 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Education	3 (NO UMW Bible Study) 11:35 am Kennedy Lunch 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	4 9:30 am CCM (offsite) Noon Women's Study Group 5 pm Kids Bell Choir 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm M.S. Yth. Grp. 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo 7:30 pm Missions	5 5:30 pm SOS Bible Study 6:30pm Handbells 7 pm Parish Development—District	6 9 am ESL	7 9 am—12:30 pm International Ladies Fellowship
8 <i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	9 9-noon CWM Preschl. Pictures 9 am ESL 10 am Happy Endings 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 6:45 pm Boy Scouts	10 9-noon CWM Preschl. Pictures 9:30 UMW Bible Study 11:35 am Kennedy Lunch 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	11 Noon Women's Study Group 5 pm Kids Bell Choir 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm M.S. Yth. Grp. 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo 7:30 pm SPPRC	12 7 am Leadership Breakfast (@ Panera's) 7-3 pm CWM Preschl. Spring Confs. 5:30 pm SOS Bible Study 6 pm UMW Mission Potluck 6:30pm Handbells	13 7-3 pm CWM Preschl. Spring Confs. 9 am ESL 6 pm Young Family Fellowship (Mission Team leaves for Guatemala)	14 6 am-10 pm Kenn. HS State Speech Contest overflow parking @ LL
15 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	16 9 am ESL 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 6:15 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm CWM Board	17 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 11:35 am Kennedy Lunch 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	18 9:30 am CCM (offsite) Noon Women's Study Group 5 pm Kids Bell Choir 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm M.S. Yth. Grp. 6 pm Adult Explo	19 (NO SOS Bible Study) 6:15pm Handbells 6:45 pm Missions 6:45 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i> 9 am ESL 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	21
22 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sunday School 2 pm BSA Trp. 766 High Adventure Mtg. (NO Youth Group)	23 9 am ESL (Mission Tm. returns from Guatemala)	24 9:30 UMW Bible Study 10:00 am—5 pm JFON Office Hours 5 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	25 Noon Women's Study Group (NO Wed. night Youth/Kids activities) 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm Prayer Shawl	26 5:30 pm SOS Bible Study 6:30pm Handbells	27 9 am ESL	28 11 am-3 pm Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Holy Week Walk/Drama 10:45 am Sunday School 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	30 9 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 9 am ESL 12:30 pm CWM Preschl. Staff mtg. 6:45 pm Boy Scouts	31 9:30 UMW Bible Study 5:30 pm Library Team 6:45 pm Women's Study Group	CCM = Care Center Ministry ESL = English as a Second Language MHSG = Mental Health Support Grp.			

SAVE THE DATE to mark on your calendar: The Health & Wholeness Committee is planning an afternoon outing in Amana (a play and dinner) for our Women's Retreat this year. The date is October 11th—on a Sunday afternoon, and the play at the Old Creamery Theater is *The Church Basement Ladies in: The Last (Potluck) Supper*. Following the play, around 2 PM, we will eat at one of the Amana restaurants.

Details will be forthcoming but mark your calendars now and plan for an afternoon of fun and fellowship with other Lovely Lane women. If you have questions, contact Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

Lovely Lane Worship, et al.

Worship in March

March 1: *Holy Communion/ 2nd Sunday of Lent*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

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

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Prevenience"

March 8: *3rd Sunday of Lent*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Scripture: Psalm 51

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Repentance"

March 15: *4th Sunday of Lent / One Great Hour of Sharing*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Confession"

March 22: *5th Sunday of Lent*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Scripture: John 8:1-11

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Grace"

March 29: *Palm/Passion Sunday*—8, 9:15 & 10:30 am services

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Atonement"

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Matthew 25 Ministry Hub is a local nonprofit in CR that exists to strengthen core neighborhoods on CR's west side. It partners with others to work in 3 program areas: Neighborhood Building, Youth Empowerment, and Cultivate Hope.

Willis Dady Emergency Shelter in CR provides services to both prevent homelessness for those at risk of becoming homeless and rehouse those who currently find themselves homeless.

Henderson Settlement, Red Bird Mission is comprised of 1,600 acres in Frakes, Kentucky, offering various services to the local community including a food pantry, transitional housing, youth ministries, child and senior daycare, fellowship lunch, and more. Our youth will attend a work camp there this summer.

ODIM-Guatemala operates 2 medical clinics, a dental clinic, programs to fight infant malnutrition and diabetes, health education seminars, as well as student scholarship and learning reinforcement programs in the communities of San Pablo and San Juan on Lake Atitlan. ODIM (*O-deem* in Spanish) welcomes medical, dental and construction teams from other countries and invests in the lives of 44 local staff who make a difference in the community year-round. Eight Lovely Laners will be working thru ODIM in Guatemala 3/13-23 (see below).

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 2: Maundy Thursday—Communion Service @ 7 PM

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Mortification"

April 3: Good Friday—Choral Tenebrae Service @ 7 PM

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Expiation"

April 5: Easter Sunday

8 & 10:30 Scripture: Matt. 28:1-10;

Sermon: Ancient Words: "Salvation"

9:15 Scripture: Matt. 27:62-66, 28:1-15; Senior High Youth Play: "Who Will Be His Witnesses?"

Guatemala Mission Team 3/13-23: Our adult mission to San Pablo La Laguna, Guatemala, departs on 3/13 to discover a rich and vibrant culture among the Mayan peoples of Lake Atitlan. Working thru ODIM-Guatemala, our team will tour their dental and medical clinics, meet some of the Tzu'tujil students they sponsor, and help to construct homes for the poorest families living in San Juan and San Pablo. We'll also tour the great market of Chichicastenango and fly to the Yucatan rain forest to view the extraordinary ruins of the ancient Mayan city of Tikal. Pastors Paul and Gayle will lead the team and ask for prayers for all participants. You can expect a complete report upon their return! Other team members: Brandon Drew, Vicki Eaton, Cindy Greenfield, Barb Waterhouse Miller, DeeAnn Shields, & Michael Wilhelm.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE—APRIL 3 @ 7 PM

This year on Good Friday our Chancel Choir, directed by Matthew Burrier, will present *Tenebrae - A Service of Darkness* by Hal H. Hopson. Woven through 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 this powerful presentation!

CWM - Children's Weekday

Ministries (Lovely Lane Preschool, Trinity Lane Preschool, and Before & After School Daycare)



Before and After School Daycare students really enjoyed sledding on the last Wed. early dismissal. Students brought their sleds from home and had a great time. Sometimes you might see our four year old preschool class on the small hill by the church using sleds.

The Lovely Lane Preschool is planning a Family Night for April 21st in fellowship hall. There will be 8 different centers for students and their families to participate in. All centers are based on a story book by Lois Ehlert; each child will choose a book to take home.



Our Before & After School Program is beginning their last set of enrichment activities for this school year. Interest is always very high for these special classes.

We have been busy with our registrations for the 2015-2016 School Year. It doesn't seem like it could possibly be that time of year yet, but classes are filling quickly. Next year we'll be expanding our four year old program to include an afternoon session. We are so pleased to have it almost full as well.



It's time to send in our application for QRS - Level 5. We will turn in an application for Lovely Lane and one for Trinity Lane. The Lovely Lane application includes both the preschool and the daycare programs. QRS stands for Quality Rating System—an initiative sponsored by the state of Iowa to encourage programs to build the quality of care they offer. Level 5 is the highest level.

Exciting activities ahead: Toothfairy visit, Spring pictures, Parent conferences, Spring Break, and Summer Program Registration.

Youth activities

Sunday School Holy Week Drama on Palm Sunday

A special service of Lovely Lane talents will be shared on Palm Sunday, 3/29, during the 9:15 church service. Pre-K to Adult Sunday School classes will provide a glimpse of what happened in and around Jerusalem during Jesus' last days of life.

We will gather in the Sanctuary for instructions and divide into small groups that will then be led to the dramatic presentations throughout the Church. You will see, feel, and experience dramatizations of a Baptism, Triumphant Entry, The Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.

Easter Egg Hunt

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

Parents will sign in with their kids for AM activities. Crafts will be provided in Fellowship Hall for all to explore while groups are formed. Preschoolers will *hunt* first at 10:30 in the fenced playground area; Kindergarten-2nd graders will be sent out to the hill at 10:45 followed by 3rd-5th graders sent out to the lawn at 11. Bring baskets!

KENNEDY LUNCH WRAPS UP ITS MINISTRY

Because of changes to Kennedy H.S.'s lunch period, our Kennedy lunch program at Lovely Lane has run its course. Having fed up to 350 students on a Tuesday, Kennedy Lunch touched a great many students for 10+ years! Our outreach to Kennedy students has not ended, however; we plan to join with First UMC of Marion and St. Paul's UMC to host regular city-wide youth gatherings and combine our efforts to reach unchurched students from every quarter of the metro-area. Please pray for this new ministry; we'll keep you updated!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR MARCH 2015

UMW MISSION POTLUCK DINNER

A Mission Potluck Dinner and Program sponsored by Lovely Lane's UMW will be held on March 12th at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. Judy McDowell will present a program about the Roma of Europe, a mission emphasis for United Methodist Women this year. Outside of Europe, many have a romantic notion of the Roma. Literature, music, and film conjure images of mysterious fortune-tellers, vibrant vagabonds or spirited musicians, but in Europe negative misconceptions abound. Thru a DVD entitled "The Roma History, Culture and Faith", we'll get a glimpse of their history which shows a close-knit family life and joyful faith.

Everyone is welcome to come and share some good food and warm fellowship. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service and join with us as we learn more about the Roma people.

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We continue to meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:15 usually in fireside. We will begin a study of the Minor Prophets. James Harnish, the author of "God Isn't Finished With Us Yet....Major Promises from the Minor Prophets" calls them the Maytag repairmen of the Scriptures. Harnish goes on to say that from these forgotten prophets, we hear poetry that can lift us out of discouragement and into hope. In their struggle with oppression, injustice, political corruption, military power, and personal morality, we find renewed strength for the struggles that confront men and women who seek God's justice in every age as we listen to hear what they have to say to us today.

PLEASE LUG YOUR MUG FOR COFFEE TIME!

LOVELY LANE UMW'S PROGRAM BOOKS FOR 2015

Look for and pick up the new 2015 booklets with the bright yellow covers on tables in the narthex. These booklets list our programs and events for 2015 plus the budget and other information related to United Methodist Women.

IOWA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

March 8, 2015 will be the international day for championing women's equality. Celebrate this day by ringing any and all bells.

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSION EVENTS COMING IN MARCH

March 10th: The District's first Social Action meeting of the year. It will be held from 10 AM - Noon at Marion First UMC. This is a good time to learn about the issues the UMW will be focusing on this year.

March 24th: The District's first informal "let's get to know each other" meeting at Prairie Chapel UMC. This is from 10 AM - Noon and will be a chance to ask questions and find out more about United Methodist Women, our missions and projects.

Small Group News, et al.

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, March 9, at 10:00 AM in the church library. The book we will be discussing is *The Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meisser. For April the book to read is *The Things We Do For Love* by Kristen Hannah. The book discussion leader for March is Mary Abbey. In May members of the group will all have a chance to recommend a book or two that they have enjoyed reading.

Come join us for good fellowship and discussion!

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet at noon for a luncheon potluck on Fri., March 20th. Our program will be presented by Nicky Stan-sell, Public Education Manager from the CR Fire Department. The host and hostess for March are Keith and Fonda Carris. This should be a very educational and worthwhile program for everyone. If you have questions, call Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

An Open Invitation to Christ Episcopal's Labyrinth & Taizé Service

The Labyrinth "Walking to the Cross" will be available in their hall/undercroft from 3/22-4/5, with self-guided booklets available. The Labyrinth will be open M-F, 9-3:30 and during weekend services. A Taizé music service at the Labyrinth is on 3/30 at 7 PM. Christ Church is located at 220 40th St. NE, CR.

January financial totals

Cash inflow, Jan. 2015: \$40,645
 Budget Need, Jan. 2015: \$46,650
 Cash outflow (paid bills), Jan. 2015: \$44,117
 Unpaid bills: \$0

Our Ministry Teams at Work

Christian Education

- ◆ Easter Egg Hunt—collect candy, coins, trinkets
- ◆ Summer Reading—10:45 only; volunteers; to include Pen Pals
- ◆ VBS—recruiting; committee to begin planning

Ad Council

- ◆ Considering bids from architects for building improvements to be addressed by capital campaign

Trustees

- ◆ Awareness of the facility
- ◆ Finding the gifts and talents in our committee
- ◆ Feedback from tour; what needs to be done?

Green Team

- ◆ Walk thru planned for next mtg. to check for recycling opportunities
- ◆ Recycling event in conjunction with UMW garage sale on April 18th
- ◆ Rain Garden workday—May 22nd

Health & Wholeness

- ◆ Blue Zone: continue activities; recipes; have 77 pledges so far—will be a Blue Zone Institution
- ◆ Women's Day Out—Oct. 11th

SPPRC

- ◆ Working on pulpit fill
- ◆ Reworked the wedding fees

Lovely Lane UMW

- ◆ Thursday, Feb. 12th, we put together plates/bags of homemade cookies and delivered them to 26 LL members who are homebound or shut-in

Remembering with love

Lavonna "Bonnie" Hamed.....2010

Presence: Worship Attendance

2/1 2/8 2/15 2/18 (Ash Wed.) 2/22

*0 260 281 168 200

(*all services cancelled due to bad snowstorm)

Concerns & Celebrations

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

Prayer concerns:

- *Leonard Warner & family – on Karen's death; a celebration of life was held @ LL on 2/21
- *Sharon Kouba & family – death of her brother, Irving
- *Eric & Josie Heskje – death of his mother, Eleanor
- *Melissa Davis (new LL member) – death of her grandma, Wilma Puffett
- *Sharon Mooney – was hospitalized
- *Anne Heefner's dtr.-in-law (Duane's dtr.), Kristy – recovering after hospitalization
- *Michael Wright's sister Donna – recovering from heart surgery
- *Rae Keegan – recovering from pneumonia
- *Diana Rettig – recovering after hospitalization
- *Gwen Bray – was hospitalized
- *June Sackett – recovering from a mini-stroke
- *Jayne Woodson – was hospitalized
- *Carol Fletcher – trip to the ER
- *Marge Davis – recovering from a fall
- *Frank Camp's mother, Evelyn – health issues
- *Patty Logsdon's aunt, Nancy – hospitalized
- *Traveling mercies
- *Shelley Bumpus – her niece
- *Sue Moss's bro.-in-law Chris (w/Down's Syndrome) – pray he adjusts well in his new group home
- *Those affected by the Taiwan plane crash, New York train accident, Syrian rocket attacks, & the measles outbreak

Celebrations:

- *New baby born to Megan & Nick Schmitt
- *John & Nancy Hinkel – new baby granddaughter
- *We had a one-minute sermon on 2/15
- *Great LL youth Super Sub fundraiser
- *February was Black History Month
- *Used recycled bulletins on 2/15 (from 2/1-snowed out)
- *Great Ash Wednesday pancake supper followed by meaningful worship led by Lovely Lane youth
- *Lenten daily devotionals were well received
- *Good response to Tenebrae service readers request and to join Adult Explo Class in its Revelation study
- *Members of LL's Trustees who are stepping up to help with various church projects and issues

Thank You Notes

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawls you gave my mother and I. We can feel the blessings and prayers every time we put them around us. What a wonderful church family and thank you to the prayer shawl committee. What beautiful work. *Marge Deal & Stephanie Phillips*

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards, prayed for us, brought food to the house, sent an e-mail or called after Sharon's brother, Irving, passed away. Your many acts of kindness were really appreciated. *Sharon & Don Kouba*

Thanks for partnering with Helping Hands Ministry to serve the needy in our community. Your donation is very much appreciated.

UMW Garage Sale **Sat., April 18, 8 am-Noon**

We need your treasures!

Drop off your pre-marked items
Friday evening, April 17th,
between 5 & 8 PM ONLY!

We'll 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, glassware,
linens, kitchen items, & 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 or
with the sale Saturday morning? Call the
church office or email cbrandsale@aol.com.

EASTER FLOWERS: If you'd like to order a lily or tulip for the altar on Easter Sunday in honor of or in memory of a loved one, look for the insert in upcoming bulletins. The last day to turn in your order is 3/29, Palm Sunday.



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*

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

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