

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

March 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

The month of March begins and ends with a whole lot of excitement! On the first Sunday of the month, March 6th, Lovely Lane will gather in a church conference for a congregational vote! (No, Donald Trump will not be on the ballot!) We will be voting on a proposal to raise \$900,000 over 3 years to fix the roof, to pay off the mortgage, and to make renovations to the Sanctuary, Narthex/Foyer, and Fireside. **Please plan to attend the 9:15 AM Church Conference.** There will be plenty of time to ask questions and discuss the proposal. I have been very pleased at how responsive our leadership has been to incorporating your suggestions and ideas into the proposal. This has been nearly 3 years in the making!

The last Sunday of the month, March 27th, is EASTER! Our Holy Week celebration will begin with a Palm Sunday journey through Christ's passion using scripture and song. Special services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday mark the institution of Holy Communion and Christ's crucifixion with sacrament, sermon, singing and Taizé worship. Easter morning will be greeted with a delicious Easter brunch, the sound of trumpets, an Easter play, a thundering organ, a full and talented choir, and strains of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

March is no month to sit on the bench! Come, be a part of Christ's great work of Redemption, both in the past and in our future together!

*Grace & Peace, Pastor Paul*

### LLUMC HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Palm Passion Sunday, 3/20** - 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am worship services:

The Passion in scripture and song

**Maundy Thursday, 3/24** - 7 pm worship service with Communion

**Good Friday, 3/25** - 7 pm Taizé worship service

**EASTER SUNDAY, 3/27** - 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am worship services: Our 8:00 and 10:30 am services will be traditional, with our Chancel Choir and adult bell choir providing joyous music. Our 9:15 service will feature a play entitled "Jesus Was, Jesus Is" put on by Lovely Lane's youth. All are invited to an Easter brunch from 9:00-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

## Calendar of Events — March 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>2</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>3</b> 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>4</b> 6:45 am—4:30 pm CWM Preschool Conferences 9 am ESL 6:00—8 pm "Read & Feed"	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <i>4th Sunday in Lent / Communion / One Great Hour of Sharing</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am CHURCH CONFERENCE 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>7</b> 8:30 am-5:30 pm CWM Preschool Spring Pictures 9 am ESL 6 pm Lent "John" Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 C.E. Comm.	<b>8</b> 8:30 am-5:30 pm CWM Preschool Spring Pictures 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>9</b> 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 7:15 SPPRC	<b>10</b> 7 am Leadership Brkfst (@ Panera's) 6 pm UMW mission potluck dinner 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>11</b> 9 am ESL	<b>12</b> 9 am—1:30 pm International Ladies Fellowship  <b>SET CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE GO TO SLEEP!!!</b>
<b>13</b> <i>5th Sunday in Lent / Daylight Saving Time begins</i> 9 am Chancel Choir [Sr. High Mission Trip 3/13—3/17] (NO regular Sr. High youth group mtg.)	<b>14</b> 9 am ESL 10 am Happy Endings 6 pm Lent "John" Study	<b>15</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>16</b> 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon Women's Study 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm Disciple IV	<b>17</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 6:15 pm Handbells 6:45 pm Missions 6:45 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	<b>18</b> 9 am ESL 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <i>Palm / Passion Sunday</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>21</b> 9 am ESL 6 pm Lent "John" Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>22</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>23</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	<b>24</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion	<b>25</b> <i>Good Friday</i> 9 am ESL 7:00 pm Good Friday Taizé Service	<b>26</b> 10 am Easter Egg Hunt
<b>27</b> <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> 9 am Easter Brunch (Today 8:00 & 10:30 are Traditional Worship Services & 9:15 Worship includes a Youth Easter Play)	<b>28</b> 9 am ESL 9 am Prayer Shawl 6 pm Lent "John" Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>30</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 Middle School Yth. Grp./Confirm. 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm Disciple IV 6 pm Prayer Shawl	<b>31</b> 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>ESL = English as a Second Language</b> <b>CCM = Care Center Ministry</b> <b>MHSG = Mental Health Support Group</b>	

### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering—Sunday, March 6th

Your generous gift helps families recover, communities rebuild, and hope to be restored after disaster strikes. Please give generously to this United Methodist special offering!

# Lovely Lane Worship

## Worship in March

March 6th: *4th Sunday in Lent / Holy Communion / One Great Hour of Sharing*—8:00 & 10:30 AM services (\*9:15—see below)

Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 25-32

Sermon: "The Journey Home: The Elder Son"

\*Our 9:15 service on March 6th has been designated as the time for a congregational vote on whether to move forward with a Capital Fundraising Campaign.

March 13th: *5th Sunday in Lent (& Daylight Saving Time begins)*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Sermon: "The Journey Home: When Grace Doesn't Add Up"

March 20th: *Palm / Passion Sunday*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

*The Passion in Scripture & Song*

March 24th: *Maundy Thursday / Holy Communion*—7:00 PM service

Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Sermon: "The Journey Home: When the Path Disappears"

March 25th: *Good Friday*—7:00 PM  
*Taizé worship*

March 27th: *EASTER SUNDAY*—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services (9:15—Youth Easter Play)

Scripture: Luke 23:1-49

Sermon: "The Journey Home: Looking In All the Wrong Places"

**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 Sunday worship bulletins. The last day to turn in your order is 3/20, Palm Sunday.



## PALM PASSION SUNDAY

A Service of Lessons & Hymns will be celebrated at all 3 services on Palm Passion Sunday, **March 20<sup>th</sup>**. Come journey with Jesus, from his entrance into Jerusalem and the waving of palms to his arrest and journey to the cross. Special music will include solo voice, instruments, Adult Chancel Choir, and our AcabeLLa handbell choir. Please plan to join us for this special Sunday!

## GOOD FRIDAY TAIZÉ SERVICE

On a hill in southern France, you will find a community of brothers that has opened its doors to the world as an act of hospitality since 1940. Founded by Brother Roger, an immigrant from Switzerland who felt a call to create a community, this was a place where persons could restore and refresh spiritually and physically. During WWII, the community served as a refuge for persons needing sanctuary who worked, lived and worshipped together. Today people from around the globe flock to Taizé to carry on the ecumenical worship traditions of prayer, silence, simplicity, and faithfulness. Taizé worship is contemplative, where one encounters God in silence, prayer, scripture, song (chant), icons, and the lighting of candles.

On Good Friday, **March 25<sup>th</sup>**, at 7 PM, you are invited to come and experience this powerful worship led by instrumentalists (guitar, flute & piano) and a vocal ensemble. Participating in Taizé worship is an ideal way to mark Good Friday and Christ's suffering and crucifixion.

### Presence: Worship Attendance

<u>Feb. 7</u>	<u>Feb. 10 (Ash Wed.)</u>	<u>Feb. 14</u>	<u>Feb. 21</u>	<u>Feb. 28</u>
279	158	213	250	241

## UMW ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR MARCH 2016

### MISSION POTLUCK DINNER

Lovely Lane's UMW is sponsoring a Mission Potluck Dinner on **Thurs., March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. The emphasis this year is Latin America: People and Faith. Everyone is asked to bring their own table service along with a hot dish, salad or dessert to share; beverages will be provided. Here's a chance to try out some Latin American style recipes!

Our program will focus on Guatemala as Pastor Paul tells us about his experience as part of LL's Mission Trip to Guatemala last year. Everyone is welcome to come and share good food, an interesting program and warm fellowship. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

### UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We continue to meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:15 AM in Fireside. We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. We invite you to join with us for study and fellowship. PLEASE LUG YOUR MUG FOR COFFEE TIME.

### UMW Program Books for 2016

Look for the 2016 booklets with the pink covers on the table in the narthex. We invite all women of Lovely Lane to pick up a copy. These booklets list our programs and events, and our budget for 2016 plus some information related to United Methodist Women.

### EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARCH

The East Central District United Methodist Women have invited the women of Lovely Lane to join in some interesting programs this fall:

**Tues., March 3rd:** St. Paul's UMC in Cedar Rapids -- a workshop will be held on the "The Faith Community's Response to Domestic Violence." Clergy and laity are both encouraged to attend as an opportunity to do ministry together. There are several other dates and places around the district where this workshop will be presented if March 8th is not convenient for you. Registration is required.

**Fri., March 4th:** "Church Women United's World Day of Prayer"

**Sat., March 5th:** East Central District UMW Spa Day. Treat yourself to good food, fun activities and learning how to reduce stress! The Shueyville UMC will host this event from 10 AM - 2 PM. Lunch is \$7 per person; reservations required.

**Tues., March 8th:** Iowa Conference UMW's International Ringing Bells for Women's Rights

**Tues., March 15th:** Discussion of UMW's Social Action priorities for 2016 (Maternal & Child Health; Racial & Gender Justice; Economic Inequality & Climate Justice); the Solon UMC will host this seminar, 10 AM - 12 Noon.

For more information about these events or to register and make reservations, please contact Cheryl Murphy (319-377-6205).

### *Remembering with love*

*Lavonna "Bonnie" Hamed.....2010*  
*Donna Cole.....2015*

### January Financial Totals

Cash inflow – mo. of Jan. & YTD	\$ 47,655
Budget need/month	\$ 46,863
Cash outflow – mo. of Jan. & YTD	\$ 42,062
Unpaid bills	\$ 0

## Our Ministry Teams at Work

### Trustees

- ◆ Replacing ceiling tiles and any lights still needed on 2/27/16
- ◆ Roof estimates
- ◆ Replace floor tiles in Women's restroom

### Health & Wholeness

- ◆ Heart Healthy Brunch on Sunday, 2/21, 9:00 - 10:30 AM
- ◆ Offer to provide evening meal for Ronald McDonald House
- ◆ Planning for family CPR training and an AED refresher - date TBD

## Friendly Fellowship

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Friday, March 18th, at noon for a luncheon potluck. Phil and Shirley Martin will be our host and co-hostess. Our speaker will be Robert Buckley, a local author from Marion who has written the following books (available at the CR Public Library): *Two Miles An Hour*, *The Slave Tag*, *Ophelia's Broach*, and *The Denarius*.

Please join us for good food, good fellowship, and an interesting program on Friday, March 18th!

**LOVELY LANE WILL HOLD A CHURCH CONFERENCE at 9:15 AM on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**, in the Sanctuary. This special meeting will take place instead of the 9:15 AM worship service that day.

The purpose of this Church Conference is to conduct a vote to determine whether or not the church should move forward with a three-year Capital Fundraising Campaign with a goal of \$900,000 to address the following issues, in this order:

- \*Replace, or make major repairs to, the flat roof membranes of the building, as needed
- \*Pay off the mortgage of approximately \$290,000, making Lovely Lane debt free
- \*Make improvements to the Foyer, Fireside and Sanctuary areas of the church

The campaign and work would be conducted under the following conditions:

- \*No new debt would be incurred for the project; All work will be "Pay as we go"
- \*Once the mortgage is paid, the majority of monies previously put toward mortgage payments would be paid into the Building Maintenance Fund to provide funds for future building needs
- \*Building improvements will be made under further review and planning by the Building Renewal Team with the goals of improving carpeting, furnishings, lighting and arrangement of the spaces

Although all of the church family is welcome to participate, only those who are members of LLUMC as of Sunday, March 6, 2016, are eligible to vote in the Church Conference. Members must be present to vote. There will be time for discussion, prior to the vote.

## YOGA IS COMING TO LOVELY LANE

Certified Yoga instructor and new LL member, Leslie Allred, is offering 1-hour yoga classes on Thursday evenings. Possible times include 5-6 PM or 6-7 PM. Classes are \$5 per session and 10% will be given to the church. Chair yoga and Levels 1 (standing & floor work) & 2 (more strength building) are available. Leslie will schedule times and classes based on responses. Please register your interest and availability on the STUB in worship (or call the church office @ 393-6674) and you will be contacted.

## YOUTH activities

**“READ & FEED” - Pajama Party:** We will have our 3rd “Read & Feed” for the school year on Friday, the 4th of March, 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](mailto: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!

**EASTER EGG HUNT—Sat., March 26th, 10 - 11:30 AM:** Parents will sign in with their kids for AM activities. Crafts will be provided in the Fellowship Hall for all to explore while groups are formed. Preschoolers will *hunt* first at 10:30 in the fenced playground area; Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be sent out to the hill at 10:45 followed by 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders sent out to the lawn at 11. Bring baskets!!!

### **EASTER EGG CANDY NEEDED!!!!!!**

Please bring your donations of small individually-wrapped candies, or other treasures or coins, to church by Sunday, March 20th (donations basket in the narthex). Donated goodies will be placed in plastic eggs for our March 26th Easter Egg Hunt.



Lovely Lane Youth tying the ends of a blanket to be used in LL’s Prayer Shawl Ministry

**KID’S CLUB:** Just a reminder that there will be no Wednesday night Kid’s Club on March 16th due to spring break. Kid’s Club will resume on March 23rd. The last day of Kid’s Club for the school year will April 27th.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** There will not be youth group on Sunday, March 13 th, and Wednesday, March 16th, due to spring break.

Please keep the 7 high school youth in your prayers as they travel to Benton Harbor, Michigan, March 13th-17th for mission work there.

## **Lenten Offering Opportunities**

This year Missions has selected 4 Lenten Offering giving opportunities:

**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 home repair, food & clothing distribution, hot meals, child care, and assistance to tribal programs. Our LL youth group will do a summer mission trip to Rosebud Reservation, So. Dakota.

**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, which can number over 400 per day.

**Heifer International** is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty along with 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 CR’s west side. It partners with them to work in 3 program areas: Neighborhood Building, Youth Development, and Cultivating Hope.

## Concerns & Celebrations

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

### **Prayer concerns:**

- \*Kevin Wittles' mother
- \*Friend of Sue Moss (Christina M.) with mental health issues & a victim of domestic violence – now in a Sioux City shelter
- \*Peggy Freeburg (the pastors' daughter's mother-in-law) - cancer treatment
- \*Velma Rainville - heart catheterization
- \*Benjamin Davis, Melissa & Justin's son - has been quite ill and is scheduled to have tubes put in his ears
- \*Arlene Allison – recovering from the after effects of an 'almost fall'
- \*Stephanie French (regular attender) – Grandmother, Honey, passed away
- \*Sue Moss's brother-in-law, Chris - was hospitalized, tests showed very low on iron
- \*Amber Mulnik's mom, Dawn Toney - undergoing treatment for a second round of cancer
- \*Winter illnesses & injuries

### **Joys:**

- \*Birth of Paige Daley to Cassie & Noah Daley (on 1/19)
- \*Margaret Nelson – recovering nicely from a broken wrist
- \*Great results for the sub sandwich youth fundraiser; thanks to all of the sub makers and the sub partakers!
- \*Our Ash Wednesday pancake supper and worship service were well-attended & our youth did a great job in worship!
- \*We had 11 members join LLUMC on 2/14
- \*Health & Wholeness hosted a wonderful Heart Healthy Brunch on 2/21, and lots of folks wore red

**WE DID IT!!!** Cedar Rapids has earned the greatest well-being title across the globe as a **certified BLUE Zone Community!** We could not be more proud and want YOU to celebrate this success at a family-friendly Certification Celebration. **The Celebration will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, 4:00-7 PM at the Helen Nassif YMCA** (207 7th Ave SE in CR). Be sure to wear your Blue Zone shirt that day if you have one! Watch the CR Gazette for more details.

### **Thank You Notes**

**I am so grateful** for all of your thoughts and prayers in this hard time for me and my family. I received a ton of cards, many from people I don't even know. It was such a great feeling that not only I, but my entire family, had somewhere to turn when they were feeling down. Thank you so much! Everything was very much appreciated! *Erika Serbousek*

**A sincere thank you** to my wonderful church family. Your prayers, cards, and visits meant so much. My hip is healing well. I look forward to seeing you soon. *Blessings, Kay Rath*

**Thank you** for your wonderful smiles, uplifting cards and messages, piñata-and-cake-eating fun to mark my 'Quinceanera', 15<sup>th</sup> Leap Year birthday! I had some trepidations about turning 60 but you made it the best ever! To life! To life with Christ! Bring it on! *Pastor Gayle*

**Thank you** for your generous donation (\$3,256 in 2015) to the Ecumenical Community Center. We are so grateful for your support. Not only do your gifts provide basic needs assistance thru Helping Hands Ministry, but they also help people with disabilities continue lifelong learning thru our CompuPlace ministry. *Ecumenical CC*

### **HAPPY ENDINGS**

Our book discussion group will meet on Monday, March 14th, at 10 AM in the church library. Cheryl Murphy will lead a discussion on *The Slave Tag* by Robert Buckley (Friendly Fellowship's 3/18 speaker!). April's book is *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa and in May we'll each bring a favorite book or 2 to recommend to others. June's book is *Our Souls at Night* by Ken Haruf and July's is *When Books Went to War* by Molly Guptil Manning. We'll go to Barnes & Noble in August to learn about recommended books, and then go to lunch. Contact Nancy Miller (393-6340) with questions.



# Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church  
March Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 54, No. 3  
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](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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
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