

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

March 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

Praying for a Snowstorm

Today I am secretly praying for a snow storm. It's currently 68 degrees. I'm dressed in shorts, sandals, and a Hawaiian shirt! After a truly wimpy winter without a white Christmas, less than 2 inches of snow all season and the ground looking particularly non-descript and lifeless, I'm crying out to God: "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!!" There is something bewildering about 68 degree weather in late February. Yes it's nice, but it's, it's, it's....unnatural. It's a tease! Winter is just waiting for us to relax a little bit, get out our tee shirts and grills and let our guard down. Then she's going to catch us, weak and wimpy, with all our pores open and our knees bear and **whamo!** 26 below zero.

Today I am secretly praying for a snow storm. Despite all the work of it, despite all the inconvenience, I miss the snow this winter. The soft white blanket that transforms our world into a wonderland, that sets the blood of lowegians pumping harder, faster, tougher, stronger. Yes, I miss the snow that makes us slow down a bit and pay attention to our surroundings, that gives the acts of God just a moment of consideration before we whiz off to our routinely hurried and harried lives.

Today I am secretly praying for a snow storm. It's amazing what 18-24 inches of snow can do. Schools close, cars stay in garages, sleds come out, snow forts are built, parents become kids again, fires are kindled, families talk to each other, games are played, snuggling ensues, and hot chocolate is the drink of the day—with marshmallows! And generally, the world manages to go on without the benefit of our labor. A snow day is a grace day, one of the precious few times when a holiday just happens—without preparation or expectations to ruin it. A snow day is permission to relax and take life down a couple notches.

Of course, we don't have to wait for a snow storm. We could just believe the Good News instead: ***For God so loved you that He gave his only Son, so that believing in Him, you would not perish, but have eternal life*** –John 3:16 (PNW Version). Slow down a minute and let that soak in: *Your value doesn't depend on how many hours you clock in.* So give yourself a blessed break! Be good to yourself and to the ones you love. Don't wait for the snow storm Sabbath—it may never come this weird winter! But with the love of God in Christ, who needs snow?! Besides, you don't have to shovel the Gospel!!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Paul

Calendar of Events — March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ash Wednesday 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon Women's Study 4:50 pm Youth Handbells 5:30 pm Pancake Supper 6:30 pm Ash Wed. Service	2 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Handbells	3	4 9 am-1:30 pm International Ladies Fellowship
5 1st Sunday in Lent/Communion 9 am Chancel Choir 2 pm Financial Peace University 6 pm Senior High Youth Group	6 8:30 am-2:30 pm CWM Preschl. Spring Pictures 10 am-3 pm PEO Ch. II mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm C.E. mtg.	7 8:30 am-2:30 pm CWM Preschl. Spring Pictures 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:15 pm Girl Scout leaders mtg. 6:45 pm Women's Study	8 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 7:30 pm SPPRC	9 7 am Leadership Brkfst (@ Panera's) 5:30 pm Yoga 6 pm UMW Mission Potluck & Program 6:30 pm Missions 6:45 pm Handbells	10	11 SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP TONIGHT!!!
12 2nd Sunday in Lent/Daylight Saving Time begins 9 am Chancel Choir 2 pm Financial Peace University	13 10 am Happy Endings	14 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study	15 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon Women's Study NO Weds. eve. activities (Spring Break Week)	16 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm Handbells 6:45 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 12 Noon Friendly Fellowship	18 6:30-8:30 pm Game Night
19 3rd Sunday in Lent 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am New Members Class (& Luncheon) 2 pm Financial Peace University 6 pm Senior High Youth Group	20 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10:30-5 pm JFON Office Hours 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm Women's Study	22 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	23 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Handbells	24	25
26 4th Sunday in Lent/ One Great Hour of Sharing 9 am Chancel Choir 2 pm Financial Peace University 6 pm Senior High Youth Group	27 9 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	28 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	29 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 6 pm Prayer Shawl	30 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Handbells	31	ESL = English as a Second Language CCM = Care Center Ministry MHSG = Mental Health Support Group

Lent

Life has its periods of darkness as well as its times of light, therefore Lent follows Epiphany. The experience of our Lord Jesus, like our own experience of life, leads us to the inevitable coming of temptation, suffering and death. As we go through the valley of the shadow liturgically so we learn to go gracefully. We learn to walk with Jesus in the dark as well as in the light. We learn that God is the God of human frailty as well as human strength, he is the God of our desperation as well as our inspiration. *(excerpted from "Sprung time, seasons of the Christian year" written by Robert Hamerton-Kelly)*

Lovely Lane Worship, et al.

Worship in March

March 1st: **Ash Wednesday**—6:30 PM Service led by our Middle School Youth (**preceded by a Pancake Supper @ 5:30 PM**)

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: "The Right Kind of Poverty"

March 5th: **Holy Communion / 1st Sunday in Lent**—8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Services

Scripture: John 11

Sermon: "Severe Mercy"

March 12th: **2nd Sunday in Lent**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Services

Scripture: Matthew 23:13-36

Sermon: "The Assertive Christian"

March 19th: **3rd Sunday in Lent**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Mark 11:15-19

Sermon: "Hungry for Justice"

March 26th: **4th Sunday in Lent / One Great Hour of Sharing**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Matthew 18:23-35

Sermon: "The Measure You Give..."



March 1st @ 6:30 PM

Ash Wednesday is on March 1st this year and you're invited to a special youth-led service in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM. Our youth handbells, Zamar, will be playing at this service.

A **Pancake Supper** will be held at **5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall before worship, with LL men cooking and serving! Please join us to eat, then stay for the service.

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 April 9th, Palm Sunday.

Lovely Lane 2017 Lenten Offering Recipients:

Books Without Borders obtains and stores new and used books for packaging and shipping to war torn and emerging nations in the process of rebuilding. The current focus is countries in Africa where English is the official language. The goal is to foster learning and knowledge, empowering the residents of these areas. Momodu Kamara is the Founder and President of Books Without Borders.

JFON is a ministry of hospitality provided by the IA Annual Conference of the UMC. It provides legal services, advocates to bring change in immigration laws and public policy, and strives to educate immigrant communities to better understand their rights and the complex immigration process.

Four Oaks offers a variety of services to help troubled children and families be successful. Areas of focus are Behavioral Health, Education, Child Welfare, and Juvenile Justice. Their philosophy is to empower children and families to achieve stability, self-sufficiency, and permanency.

Families Helping Families focuses on improving the lives of foster children in IA. Foster children and youth, on average, move 7 times before the age of 18, usually abruptly leaving their home with very few personal belongings. Families Helping Families strives to make these transitions more bearable. At present there are nearly 1,000 children in foster care in Cedar Rapids alone.

A bulk mailing recently went out with a Lenten letter and a card listing these 4 giving opportunities. If you did not receive one, there will be extra Lenten Offering cards in the pews after Ash Wednesday.

UMW NEWS

East Central District UMW will hold a **Spiritual Growth Retreat** at the Mt. Vernon UMC on Saturday, March 25th. Cheryl Murphy should receive more information soon which she will pass on to Lovely Lane's UMW.

Iowa Conference UMW

Friday, March 3rd - World Day of Prayer at Buffalo UMC (1000 30th St. NE, CR). Fellowship time is at 9 AM followed at 9:45 by a program prepared by the women of the Philippines. Open to women and men!!!

Monday, March 6th - RACE: The Power of an Illusion at St. Paul's UMC, CR, 8:45 AM-3:45 PM. This event is sponsored by Iowa Conference UMW in cooperation with the Iowa Dept. of Human Services.

Wednesday, March 8th - International Bell Ringing for Women's Rights (a symbolic ringing of bell usually around noon to show support for women's rights)

Thursday, March 9th - UMW Mission Potluck at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12th - Intergenerational Mission Trip to Costa Rica

Monday, March 13th - RACE: The Power of an Illusion at Fort Dodge Trinity UMC

Thursday, March 23rd - 148th Anniversary of United Methodist Women

THIS EARTH HOUR, SHINE A LIGHT ON CLIMATE ACTION

On March 25th, you are invited to switch off your lights from 8:30-9:30 PM, and switch on your social power!

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement for the planet organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature. The event is held worldwide annually encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 PM **this year on March 25th**, as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.

It was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Since then, it has grown to engage more than 7000 cities and towns worldwide. Today, Earth Hour engages a massive mainstream community on a broad range of environmental issues. The one-hour event continues to remain the key driver of the now larger movements.

For more information, go to www.earthhour.org.

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

FF will meet on Fri., March 17th, at noon for a luncheon potluck. Joel Goodman will present the program and will give us interesting information on the banjo. Along with Pastor Paul, he will also play some music for us. Our Host and Hostess for the event will be Jack and Cheryl Murphy. Hope to see you there!

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, book discussion group, will meet on Monday, March 13th, in the church library. The book we're reading and will discuss is "The Tumbling Turner Sisters" by Julliette Fay. For April the book is "The Lightkeeper" by Susan Wiggs.

Come and join us for a lively discussion and good fellowship!

The UMW Mission Potluck is on Thursday, March 9th, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share; drinks will be furnished. Our program will be presented by Lisa Nelson who will tell us about her climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro. Husbands are invited also! Come join us for a fun and informative evening!!

You can sign up on the STUB at church on March 5th OR call Nancy Miller at 393-36340 to make a reservation. You won't want to miss it!!!

Remembering with love:

Donna Cole.....2015

Presence: Worship Attendance

<u>2/5</u>	<u>2/12</u>	<u>2/19</u>	<u>2/26</u>
206	230	218	239

Our Ministry Teams at Work

Health & Wholeness

- ◆ Successful Heart Healthy Brunch on 2/12
- ◆ Pursuing possible interest in Tai Chi
- ◆ Pursuing possible interest in Game Night

Hospitality

- ◆ Inquirers' Luncheon—March 19th

Trustees

- ◆ Recent repairs to boiler were \$2,500; beginning discussions on replacing
- ◆ Still working on getting bids to replace toilets
- ◆ Getting estimates to tile wall in the preschool hallway

Missions & Community Engagement

- ◆ Lenten Offering recipients are set (4)
- ◆ Working on community engagement ideas

Education

- ◆ Palm Sunday—children sing & wave palms
- ◆ Easter Egg Hunt—10-11:30 AM on April 15th
- ◆ Planning for Easter, Mother's Day (children singing), Teacher Appreciation, and Camp Sunday

BRING YOUR GAME FACE (BYGF – a.k.a.

Lovely Lane Game Night): Calling all adults, youth, & children! Bring your favorite board games, snacks, and beverages to share with Lovely Lane friends on Sat., March 18th, 6:30-8:30 PM. You can sign up on the STUB in worship or call the church office (393-6674) so we know who is coming (nursery will be provided!).

Health & Wholeness Committee

January Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Jan..	\$ 37,116
Cash inflow—YTD	\$ 37,116
Budget need/month	\$ 46,308
Cash outflow—mo. of Jan..	\$ 42,113
Cash outflow—YTD	\$ 42,113
Unpaid bills	\$ 0

YOUTH activities

A 3RD-5TH GRADE SPRING RETREAT @ PICTURED ROCKS ("*Unlikely Heroes*") is on March 11th-12th (Sat. 1 PM–Sun. 1 PM). The cost is \$50/hero (camper). Pick up a stapled packet (*with someone on the cover you may recognize*) at the Welcome Center in the narthex. Pictured Rocks United Methodist Camp & Retreat Center is located near Monticello, IA.

IOWA'S 3 UNITED METHODIST CAMPS – Pictured Rocks, Okoboji, and Wesley Woods, each offer lots of different activities, and you're sure to have *the best week ever* with their caring staff to guide you. Every camper can find something they'll enjoy; adults will want to come to camp, too! Family camps are a summer special, and retreat opportunities are available all year long.

Camperships are available for all 3 Camps. To apply, go to Lovely Lane's website (www.lovelylane.org) to download and complete a scholarship app. to turn in to the church office.

CWM- Children's Weekday Ministries

Including news from Lovely Lane Preschool, Trinity Lane Preschool,
and Before & After School Daycare



Trinity Lane Preschool is having a Family Night on March 9th; they will enjoy fellowship, a spaghetti dinner, and entertainment by Amy M. from Orchestra IA.



On April 4th Lovely Lane Preschool is planning a Family Night in the Fellowship Hall. There will be 8 different centers for students and their families to participate in; all centers are based on a Dr. Seuss book. Each child will choose a book to take home.



We have been busy with our registrations for the 2017-2018 School Year and Summer; classes are filling up quickly.

Students attending spring break at Lovely Lane Daycare will enjoy a field trip to the Sky Zone trampoline park and also go roller skating. Other activities are planned while they are in the building.



Trinity Lane Preschool made valentines for the Trinity Methodist Church shut-ins. Before & After School Daycare made valentines for CWM to use with their boxes of goodies for Lovely Lane residents.

Exciting activities ahead:

Spring pictures St. Patrick's Day Daylight Savings Time
Registration for Fall BASE Parent Conferences Spring Break
Registration for the summer program Hills Bank visits with live chicks

Concerns & Celebrations

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

Prayer concerns:

- *Kim Jacobson – on the death of her grandmother
- *Helen Anderson – knee injury
- *Jack & Cheryl Murphy – on the death of his sister in Atlanta, GA; they flew there for the funeral
- *Rae Keegan – has pleurisy
- *Ike Schneider – home after being hospitalized for cellulitis
- *Jan Peterson – was hospitalized, now at home
- *Margie Baugh – at home, recovering from pneumonia
- *Mike & Arliss Fisher's family – her mother's passing
- *Kevin Wittles' mother, Jean – has entered hospice
- *Pastors Paul & Gayle – his mother is home after being hospitalized
- *Deb Noecker's mom, Ava, has cancer
- *Pam Morris – cancer diagnosis
- *Carla Jesse & dtr. Olivia – recovering from the flu
- *Mindy Lesmeister – recovering from ulcers
- *Do Koudelka – struggling with medical issues at home
- *Denise Carnahan's father, Don, is hospitalized and growing weaker; her stepfather, Joe, is recovering from heart surgery
- *Eric Wylie's grandmother passed away; her service was on 2/22

Jays:

- *LL youth had a great time putting together the Superbowl subs; thank you for helping them raise money for their mission trip this summer!
- *Lots of good comments were received on the healing/anointing with oil service on 1/29
- *Jenna & Seth Wear have a new baby: Landen Boyse Wear born on 2/7
- *We now have communion for children & youth on the 1st Sunday of each month during Sunday School
- ***Welcome** to our new committee members and chairs, welcome *back* to returning committee members and chairs, and *thank you ALL* for serving in this way!!
- *Our new "refrigerator monitor" for our heavily-used kitchen is Mary Vorwerk – thanks, Mary!
- *Wonderful "Heart Healthy" Brunch on 2/12 – thank you, Health & Wholeness Committee; we ♥ you!
- *Ike Schneider was back in worship on 2/12!
- *Regan Linder is our new choir assistant/accompanist!
- *Men's Ensemble was awesome at the 10:30 service on 2/19!
- *Ryan Stumpf (youngest son of Eric & Marcie) had a seizure the previous Friday but was able to play his cello at 8:00 worship on 2/19!

Thank You Notes

Thank you for your kindness and support shown to our family when Mom, Bev Munnik, passed away. Mom loved her church, the pastors and the people. I can certainly understand why. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him and spread the hope of Jesus Christ to others.

Carrie Shifflett & family

The Ecumenical Community Center

Foundation shares ministries of humanitarian care and service with the surrounding neighborhoods. Your gift of \$2,415.07 to the ECCF provides basic needs assistance through Helping Hands Ministry, lifelong learning for people with disabilities through the CompuPlace ministry, and low-cost office and storage space to a dozen other non-profits. Your gift touches hearts throughout Linn Co. Thank you for your generosity, your compassion, and for joining us in service to our neighbors in need.

Pray for YOUR Confirmands!

Our 7 confirmation students—Gaby Dupont, Lindsay Lesmeister, Reid Pakkebier, Olivia Schneider, Jared Stumpf, Grace Techau, and Jacey Wall are beginning to write their personal statements of faith, their Creeds. As they continue their journey, pray that each will experience a deepening personal relationship with Christ, a growing love for the church, and a call to serve the Lord and to witness to their faith as they finish out their year of instruction. May 7th is Confirmation Sunday!

"Energy," William Blake said, "is eternal delight." But Blake was wrong; energy is a youthful, and therefore transient and corruptible, delight. Eternal delight reveals itself not when we possess energy in natural abundance, but when our energy is depleted and then mysteriously renewed by a source outside ourselves."

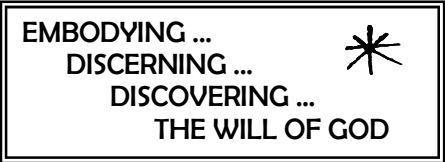
(from "Renewable energy," *Faith Matters*)

Sunday Worship Schedule:
 8:00 AM Traditional
 9:15 AM Guitar service on 1st & 3rd Sundays; Traditional on 2nd & 4th
 10:30 AM Traditional 2nd & 4th Sundays; Blended* 1st & 3rd; Choir all Sundays
 *Blended = a mix of traditional & contemporary



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 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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.....Paul Wilcox
- Kid’s Club Director.....Julie Meyer
- Christian Educator..... Barb Geissing
- Choir Director.....K. Weiler
- Choir Assistant/Accompanist.....Reagan Linder
- 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

