

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

May 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 point is this: *He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
- II Corinthians 9:6-7

I recently saw a slide presentation about the United Methodist Church in Africa. It is a church that has doubled and will double its size in just five years. It is a church that is in dire need of the most basic kinds of education. It is a church of tremendous spiritual power and tremendous physical need. I learned many things from that slide show, but the picture that has most etched itself into my memory was of an African church, taking its morning offering. The faces of the men and women as they placed their money in the offering plate were radiant with joy — like you might see on the faces of a couple cutting a wedding cake. We were told that in Africa, one of the favorite parts of the worship service was the offering, because “then they were able to return to God part of what God had given to them.” What amazing people — many of whom came to worship bare-footed because they could not afford shoes.

I wonder how many of us, if surveyed, would mark down the offering as our favorite part of the worship service? I think we both know the answer to that one. And yet, if you could have seen the joy in their faces as that plate was passed, I think you would agree that, though we have closets full of shoes and they have none, they are the rich ones.

Commitment Sunday for our Capital Campaign is coming on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our goal is to raise \$900,000 over 3 years for the roof, the mortgage, and interior renovations. I am very proud of the time and effort our leaders have given in determining these priorities and goals. It has taken 3 years to get to this point! And the planning and consultation is not complete yet. But the moment for our commitment has arrived. We will not reach this goal without everyone's strong participation, without lots of prayer, and without God's mighty hand!

I don't know about you, but after seeing that slide show, I'm going to look at the offering plate differently on Sunday morning. As it passes from person to person, I'm going to see not another duty, not another appeal, but an opportunity to know the kind of joy I saw in those African faces. It may sound strange, but giving cheerfully to God is a gracious opportunity to become not poorer but unfathomably richer.

*Grace & Peace, Pastor Paul*

## Calendar of Events — May 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <i>Confirmation Sunday / Communion</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 1:45 pm Sr. High Youth @ Kernel's game	<b>2</b> 9:30 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm C.E. Comm. 7:00 pm VBS mtg.	<b>3</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>4</b> 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon Women's Study 4:50 pm Youth Handbells rehearsal & party 5:30 M.S. Youth (offsite) 6 pm Disciple IV	<b>5</b> 5 pm Yoga 6 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>6</b> 9 am ESL 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 9 am—1:30 pm International Ladies Fellowship 4 pm Wedding
<b>8</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 9 am Chancel Choir	<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 pm Shepherds 6 pm Disciple IV (Communion w/PP) 6:30 pm MHSG 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>11</b> 12 noon Women's Study	<b>12</b> 7 am Leadership Brkfst (@ Panera's) 1 pm UMW mtg. 5 pm Yoga 6 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Handbells	<b>13</b> 9 am ESL	<b>14</b> (Sr. High Youth meet at LL @ 8:30 & then go offsite for a service project) 5 pm FIESTA
<b>15</b> <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> 9 am Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> 9:30 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> (UMW Bible Study—lunch offsite) 10 am-5 pm JFON office hours 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>18</b> 9 am CWM Pre-school Graduation 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon Women's Study 7:15 pm SPPRC	<b>19</b> 9 am CWM Pre-school Graduation 5 pm Yoga 6 pm Yoga 6:15 pm Handbells party 6:45 pm Missions 6:45 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	<b>20</b> 9 am ESL 11:30 am Friendly Fellowship (offsite—@ Kirkwood Hotel restaurant)	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday</i> 9 am Chancel Choir (final rehearsal of season)	<b>23</b> 9:30 am ESL 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 6:45 pm Women's Study	<b>25</b> 12 noon Women's Study	<b>26</b> 5 pm Yoga 6 pm Yoga	<b>27</b> 9 am ESL	<b>28</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 5-8 pm H.S. Graduation Reception (Linder)
<b>29</b> <i>Graduation Sunday</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Memorial Day—church &amp; office closed</i>	<b>31</b> 5:30 pm Library Tm. 6:45 pm Women's Study		<b>ESL = English as a Second Language</b> <b>CCM = Care Center Ministry</b> <b>MHSG = Mental Health Support Group</b>		

**CARD SHOWER FOR MARGE DAVIS:** Marge will celebrate her 80th birthday on May 11th, so we'd like to *shower* her with lots of birthday greetings and well wishes! Her address is: Marge Davis, Arbor Place/Methwick, 1224 13th St. NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405.

**MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH!** Here are some recent statistics on the nos. of Americans affected by mental illness (from NAMI—National Alliance on Mental Illness):

- ◆ 1 in 4 adults experiences mental illness in a given year; 1 in 17 live with a serious mental illness.
- ◆ Approx. 20% of youth ages 13-18 experience severe mental disorders in a given year. For ages 8-15, the estimate is 13%.
- ◆ Approx. 1.1% of American adults live with schizophrenia.
- ◆ Approx. 2.6% of American adults live with bipolar disorder.
- ◆ Approx. 6.7% of American adults live with major depression.
- ◆ Approx. 18.1% of American adults live with anxiety disorders (OCD, PTSD, panic disorder, phobias).

# Lovely Lane Worship, et al.

## Worship in May

May 1st: **Confirmation Sunday / Holy Communion**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Psalm 21

Sermon: "The High Road"

May 8th: **Mother's Day**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services / *Special Offering-Preschool Scholarships*

Scripture: Psalm 139:7-12

Sermon: "Her Search for the Holy"

May 15th: **Pentecost Sunday**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: "Dreaming a God-sized Dream"

May 22nd: **Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Psalm 127:1-2

Sermon: "Temple building"

May 29th: **Graduation Sunday**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM services

Scripture: Luke 12:42-48

Sermon: "Choosing Your Master"

## Confirmation Celebration Sunday, May 1st - 10:30 Service

On May 1st, 9 eighth graders will confirm their faith in Christ and take church membership vows. Please pray for the following who have journeyed together in holy conversation, classes, field trips, service projects, and worship experiences! It takes a village to confirm a young disciple of Jesus! Thank you, LL, for nurturing and encouraging our youth, their parents, and mentors!

### Student / Parents / Mentor

CJ Currie / Rich & Kim C. / Joe Helle

Alaina Mason / Jim & Anne M. / Cathy Weber

Emma Herold / Matt & Janet H. / Malea Mason

Maria Mooney / Chris & Linda M. / Marci Wittles

Cailie Mumby / Wayland & Rhonda M. / Amy Engelmann

Madelyn O'Brien / Matt & Tammy O. / Julie Meyers

Abby Spore / Chad & Julie S. / Anne Heefner

John Steffen / Brian & Carrie S. / Ron Nelson

Wes Turner / Brian & Shelly T. / Jacob Ciabatti

*Thanks to Brian Steffen who served as our confirmation co-leader; special thanks to formerly confirmed members/confirmation mentors Malea Mason and Jacob Ciabatti!*

## GRADUATION SUNDAY MAY 29TH

On Sunday, May 29th, we will honor our 2016 high school graduates at all 3 worship services. Please pray for these young people as they wrap up high school and prepare for their next chapter in life! Plan to be present to congratulate our seniors as they continue in their journey of faith and education.

**McKenna Woods**

**Michael Ciabatti**

**Kayleen Hammer**

**Chelsy Lesmeister**

**Reece Linder**

**Cameron Currie**

**Ben Elliott**

**Derek Girling**

**Jared Stepp**

## MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

Lovely Lane will receive a special offering on May 8th, near and dear to a Mother's heart: scholarships to preschool for 2 and 3 year olds. Every year Lovely Lane and Trinity Lane preschools extend learning, nurture, and love to the very children who most need it and can least afford it. Let's help them touch a life!

## FIESTA

Sat., May 14<sup>th</sup>

5 to 7 PM

The East Central District Hispanic Ministry is sponsoring this event at Lovely Lane in our Fellowship Hall for Spanish-speaking families in Cedar Rapids. Our hope is to form a Hispanic Faith Community in CR. We'd like to have at least 5-6 Lovely Lane families at the party to welcome visitors and to participate in the fun! There will be LOTS of activities for children: games, music, a kid's drama, food, and even a piñata! We ask that you bring a potluck dish to share. Please sign up on the STUB in Sunday worship if you'd like to attend or call in to the church office (393-6674).

Thank you for helping to start  
*a new community of faith!*

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**UMW ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT SPA DAY FOR CLERGY WOMEN**

\* On May 3rd, the East Central District UMW will thank and pamper clergy women in our district. The invitations have been sent to all clergy women in the district. The East Central District would like all women in our district to be part of this spa day. Please come and help celebrate the women in ministry with other women in our district.

\* This event will be held at St. Paul's UMC in Cedar Rapids from 10 AM - 2 PM. Please bring a salad to share for each car load. Come expecting to have a relaxing, joyful time. There will be manicures, pedicures, a play, devotions, music, belly dancing, and crafts! Let's join other United Methodist Women in thanking and honoring the clergy women in our district. For more information, contact Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

**MAY UMW MEETING**

\* Lovely Lane's United Methodist Women will meet on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This year the UMW will celebrate those "Special Moments" of our lives. Whether it's a graduation, a wedding, an anniversary, a birthday, a vacation or some other occasion, we all have had times in our lives which became those "Special Moments to Remember" - the memories of which we will always hold dear within our hearts. Please choose 1 or 2 of the those "Special Moments" of your life and bring some mementos, photos, and/or stories of that event or time to share. As we remember those precious times of our lives, we will surely share a few smiles.

\* May is also our annual Coffee, Tea, and Remembrance Service. We will take time to remember "Those Special Women" in our lives who have gone before us with a short memorial service. Coordinators are Fonda Carris and Cheryl Murphy; Kay Rath and Nancy Snyder will be our hostesses.

**UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

\* We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew and will continue to meet through May 10<sup>th</sup>. Then on **May 17<sup>th</sup>**, we will meet for our annual 'wind-up' luncheon after which the group will take a break during the summer. Beginning **September 13<sup>th</sup>**, **we will resume meeting each Tuesday morning from 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM.** We invite you to join with us next fall. PLEASE LUG YOUR MUG FOR COFFEE TIME.

**IOWA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSION U**

\* The theme this year is "A Fresh Wind Blowing--Come Soar With Us"; the theme scripture is John 3:8 and the theme hymn is "Spirit of God" #2117 in "The Faith We Sing" hymnals. Sessions will be held this summer and fall: July 17-20 and October 21-23, 2016 at Iowa Valley Community College, Marshalltown, Iowa. The topics will be: "The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift"; "Climate Justice: Call for Hope and Action"; and "Latin America: People and Faith." Spanish, Korean, Youth and Children's classes take place at Fall Mission U, and scholarships are available. For more information and registration forms, please call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

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## Our Ministry Teams at Work

### Missions

- ◆ Planning special offerings to coincide with Rainbow Covenant's criteria
- ◆ Looking to add one or two additional committee members
- ◆ Potential Special Offering for earthquake victims—Sunday, April 24th

### Health & Wholeness

- ◆ Yoga is ongoing each Thursday, 5-6 & 6-7 PM
- ◆ Women's Retreat will be Sat., Oct. 29, 8:30 AM—1:30 PM, @ Prairiewoods
- ◆ CPR & AED retraining will be after church during the summer

### Christian Education

- ◆ Planning for 2016-17 Sunday School year
- ◆ Teacher Appreciation will be May 15th
- ◆ Summer Reading (9:30—after children's sermon) begins June 5th: "Be Part of the Change" (Ghandi: "Be the change you want to see")

### SPPRC

- ◆ Pastoral evaluations due May 1st
- ◆ Staff-liaison meetings ongoing
- ◆ Staff Appreciation Brunch planned for summer (Aug. 7?)

<b>March Financial Totals</b>	
Cash inflow—mo. of March	\$ 46,953
Cash inflow—YTD	\$136,735
Budget need/month	\$ 46,863
Cash outflow—mo. of March	\$ 43,827
Cash outflow—YTD	\$134,107
<i>Unpaid bills</i>	<i>\$ 7,281</i>

<b>Presence: Worship Attendance</b>			
<u>4/3</u>	<u>4/10</u>	<u>4/17</u>	<u>4/24</u>
230	258	210	236

### FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

FF will meet on Friday, May 20th. We will go to the Class Act at the Kirkwood Hotel for lunch; our reservation is at 11:30 AM. If you want to car pool from the church, please meet there at 11 AM for a ride to Kirkwood.

The program following lunch will be a presentation and tour of the wine-making facilities at KCC. This is one of the many classes they teach. This one is for people interested in the art of making wine.

There will be an opportunity to sign up on the STUB at church on May 8th & 15th. If you have questions or want to make a reservation, call Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

### HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on May 9th at 10:00 AM in the church library. This month we will be sharing a book or two we have read. The book to read for June is "Our Souls at Night" by Ken Haruf. The book for July is "When Books Go To War" by Molly Guptil Manning. In August we'll plan to go to Barnes & Noble to hear about the newest books available and to have lunch at the Olive Garden.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Sat., May 28<sup>th</sup>,  
8:30-11:30 am**

Come for a hearty breakfast, some good fellowship, and a chance to demolish a floor! We'll be replacing ceiling tiles in the basement, repairing chairs, and removing floor tile from one of our Sunday School rooms.

Sign up on the STUB in worship or contact Pastor Paul to become one of Lovely Lane's *Few Good Men*!!

# Youth activities

With the arrival of May, the youth and Wednesday Kid's Club activities are coming to a close. Here are the dates to note:

- Last Kid's Club night- April 27
- Last Middle School Youth Group- May 4
- Last High School Youth Group- May 1

That doesn't mean that there will be no activities for children and youth. Sunday school continues through May and youth have service opportunities. Please take note of them below.

**May 1:** High School Youth Group season end—attending a Kernel's baseball game @ 1:45 pm. Contact Jenny Seylar for more details.

**May 4:** Middle School Youth Group end of the year fun night: meet at Parlor City on 42nd St. NE for supper and ice cream from 5:30-7:15 pm.

**May 14:** All Youth Grades 6-12- Kid's Against Hunger food packing. Meet at Lovely Lane at 8:30 am to travel to work sight.

**June 27-29:** Middle School Mission Trip to Mechanicsville, IA. If youth are interested in this trip, please contact Jenny Seylar.

**July 17-23:** High School Mission Trip to Tree of Life Ministry in South Dakota. If youth are interested in this trip, please contact Jenny Seylar.

**July 24-28:** Vacation Bible School for children preschool-5th grade. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to help with this fun outreach event!

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## GRADUATION PARTY FOR REECE LINDER

Please join us to celebrate Reece Linder's graduation from Kennedy High School on **Saturday, May 28th, 5-8 PM**, in the Fellowship Hall.

- The Linder family

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## GRADUATION PARTY FOR MCKENNA WOODS

McKenna VaLois Woods will be graduating from Cedar Rapids John F. Kennedy High School on May 27th. Please join us in celebrating this milestone in her life at Lovely Lane Church on **Saturday, June 4th, 2016 from 4:00 pm–7:00 pm**. Her future plans are to attend the University of Iowa and study flute performance. We hope that you can make the celebration!

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## Concerns & Celebrations

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

### **Prayer concerns:**

- \*Marge Davis & family—on her husband Gary's passing; his funeral was here at LL on 4/8
- \*The family of Don Stevens, a charter member of Lovely Lane, who passed away 4/8
- \*Becky Wood & family—death of her brother Jim; his funeral service was in Des Moines on 4/25
- \*Karmen Shedenhelm & family—her son Michael's funeral service was on 4/30
- \*Family of Jackie Schmidt, former director of LL Pre-school; her funeral was at St. James UMC on 4/19
- \*Phil Martin—death of his sister-in-law
- \*Dick Chelikowsky (& Jeanne)—having biopsy for cancer
- \*Velma Rainville—to have esophagus surgery @ U of I Hsp.
- \*Ed Bents, a regular LL attender—had lung cancer surgery; Ed is Chuck Sitter's partner (Chuck is a new LL member)
- \*Chuck Sitter—medical tests
- \*Marge Morris—had successful skin cancer surgery
- \*Curtis & Maggie Thomas—suffered a home burglary
- \*Lu Serbousek's mother, Dorothy (92)—heart attack
- \*Patty Logsdon's father—receiving therapy after a fall
- \*Dick Phillips—recovering from shoulder surgery
- \*Gwen Bray—@ her new residence (Bickford of Marion Assisted Living & Memory Care) after hospitalization
- \*Marge Morris's son, Paul—had surgery following a dog attack; he had to 'put down' his dog
- \*Richard Rainville – was hospitalized w/pneumonia
- \*Kim Currie asks for prayers for a very dear friend, Jeanie, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer
- \*Kaimee Akers' daughter, Bree – broken toes
- \*Mrs. G's (Barb Geissinger's) brother-in-law, Dusty
- \*LL confirmands & LL high school graduates as they mark significant milestones in their lives
- \*People of Japan & Ecuador dealing with aftereffects of earthquakes

### **Joys:**

- \*We had 550+ in attendance on Easter Sunday
- \*LL youth did a wonderful job with their skit at 9:15 on Easter, as did our youth and adult musicians in their respective services
- \*On Camp Sunday, 4/3, we learned about 3 United Methodist camps offering summer programs
- \**Youth Collision* event on 4/10 @ Thomas Park
- \*Biblical grape stomping by our elem. Sunday School kids
- \*Thanks to our Re-Table/Altar Guild for providing spirit-lifting visual effects
- \*Beautiful and remarkable music from our Adult Choir
- \*Yoga classes at Lovely Lane are off and running
- \*Friendly Fellowship enjoyed an interesting presentation on the Guatemala mission trip

### **Thank You Notes**

**I want to give a warm Thank You** to the Prayer Shawl Ministry, prayer chain group and Pastor Gayle for the beautiful prayer shawl and prayers on my recovery from shoulder surgery. Thank you so much! *Richard Phillips*

**How quickly life can change!** With prayers, visits, calls and the ever welcome *prayer shawl*, there has been no time for depression, only patience and prayer. I'm grateful for Lovely Lane and its great compassionate members. *Dorothy Speight*

**Thank you Lovely Lane** for the prayers and many expressions of condolence at the time of Don Stevens' death. We truly appreciate them all. *Blessings & Peace, Ellen & family*

**Thank you Lovely Lane Youth**—Kyree, Cameron, McKenna, Graham, Michael, Jacob, Reagan, Reece, Andrew & Malea, for coming to Buffalo UMC this past Sunday. We thoroughly enjoyed your play, "Jesus Was, Jesus Is." Keep up the good work! *Buffalo UMC members*

**Thank you** for your donation of \$2,950.25. Your generosity enabled Mission of Hope's 24/7 Christ-centered ministry to offer physical, emotional, and spiritual help to many in need. In 2015 God increased the places where Mission of Hope can meet broken people and assist them with a "hand-up" in life. In the fall, God provided generous financial gifts and a house in need of renovation—our shelter for women will open in March 2016. In addition, CrossRoads Mission (1006 2nd St. SW, CR) became part of our ministry footprint in December 2015.

### ***Remembering with love***

*Gladys Hograbe.....2013*

*Preston Cole.....2014*



# Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church  
May Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 54, No. 5  
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

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