

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

February 2018

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

But now thus says the Lord:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.
- Isaiah 43:1-2

Last summer Gayle and I became Mariners. I'm not talking baseball fans. We bought a pair of kayaks with a long, graceful paddle for each of us. We sailed down the Wapsi and the Cedar River and navigated Palo and McBride. Paddling down rain-swollen rivers can be a bit unnerving. The first time you have no idea what's coming around the next bend. Tree stumps, boulders, sandbars, and swift and rocky currents can surprise you. The power of the river current can sometimes work with you and sometimes against you. God's promise through Isaiah that "the rivers ... shall not overwhelm you," is certainly not wasted on us!

Since our announcement last month that Gayle and I will be leaving Lovely Lane this coming July, I think both Lovely Laners and the Wilcoxes have felt like we're on a river journey together! We don't know exactly where the next 5 months will take us! The flow of time and powerful currents of mixed feelings make every future twist and turn into a drama of fear and faith.

But I take courage in Isaiah's promise. Even in the midst of flow and change, there is one unchanging presence. For the kayak, it is its keel—the long, straight central fin that keeps it going, tracking in a straight line. For us, it is our gracious God, who has redeemed us, called us by name, and accompanies us on our journey together these next 5 months and far beyond! There is still significant ministry for us in these remaining weeks and days, and there is One who will bless and keep us tracking straight and true, no matter what may await us around the next bend.

With Love & Deep Gratitude, Pastors Gayle & Paul

Calendar of Events — February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm AcabeLLa 7 pm Special Ad Council Mtg.	2	3 10-Noon Jessica H. Baby Shower
4 Communion 9 am Choir (NO Sr. Hi Youth Grp.—SuperBowl Sunday)	5 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Christian Education mtg.	6 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF	7 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon WWW 4:50 pm Zamar 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm MS Youth 6 pm Adult Explo	8 7 am Leadership Brkfst. (@ Panera's) 1:00 pm UMW mtg. 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm Missions 6:45 pm AcabeLLa	9	10 9 am-1:30 pm ILF
11 Transfiguration Sunday 9-10:30 am Heart Healthy Brunch 9 am Choir 6 pm Sr. High Youth	12 10 am Happy Endings 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	13 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:30 pm Mental Health Support Grp. 6:45 pm WOF	14 Ash Weds. (& Valentine's Day) 12 noon WWW 5:30 pm Pancake Supper 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service led by youth	15 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm AcabeLLa 6:45 pm Trustees 7 pm Committee Meetings 7:50 pm Ad Council	16 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	17 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
18 1st Sunday in Lent 9 am Choir 9:15 & 11:45 am New Member Classes 6 pm Sr. High Youth	19 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	20 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10:30 am -5 pm JFON Office Hours 6:45 pm WOF	21 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 12 noon WWW 4:50 pm Zamar 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm MS Yth./Confirm. 6 pm Adult Explo	22 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm AcabeLLa	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9 am Choir 3:15 pm Confirm.: meet @ LL (serving SEMP meal @ 1st Pres.) 6 pm Sr. High Yth.	26 9 am Prayer Shawl 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	27 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF	28 12 noon WWW 4:50 pm Zamar 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm MS Youth 6 pm Adult Explo	CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries UMW = United Methodist Women	ILF = International Ladies Fellowship WOF = Women Of Faith WWW = Wednesday Women & the Word	

*****PASTORAL TRANSITION ANNOUNCEMENT*****

On Sunday, Jan. 21st, it was announced to the Lovely Lane congregation that Bishop Laurie Haller has appointed Pastor Paul to be the Superintendent of the Northeast District. He succeeds Rev. Jackie Bradford who has served the district since 2011.

Pastor Paul assumes his new position on July 1st in Cedar Falls.

As background, the Iowa Annual Conference has eight districts, each led by a Superintendent who works directly with the Bishop to appoint clergy to local congregations. The superintendents are the chief strategists for the districts, developing programs of mission and ministry that extend the witness of Christ into the world. In addition, the superintendents offer guidance and administrative supervision.

Paul and Gayle will relocate to the Cedar Falls area this summer. Pastor Gayle's future ministry plans are being prayerfully considered.

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) will provide additional details on the transition process, including opportunities to provide your thoughts on the next pastor and associate. In the meantime, please keep Paul and Gayle in your prayers as they prepare for the next chapter in their ministry.

To hear the message from Jan. 21st worship about the transition, visit www.lovelylane.org/sermons/.

In His Service, Matt Mulnik, Chairman, SPPRC

Lovely Lane Worship, et al.

Worship in February

Feb. 4th: **Communion**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM

Scripture: Luke 2:22-35

Sermon: "The Great Divide"

Feb. 11th: **Transfiguration Sunday**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Services

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

Sermon: "Catching a Glimpse of Glory"

Feb. 14th: **Ash Wednesday**—5:30 PM Pancake

Supper; 6:30 PM Youth-led Worship

Scripture: Jonah 3:6-10, 4:1-4

Sermon: "Jonah and Justice"

Feb. 18th: **1st Sunday in Lent**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Services

Scripture: Luke 4:1-14

Sermon: "Dancing with the Devil"

Feb. 25th: **2nd Sunday in Lent**—8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Services

Scripture: Mark 11:15-18

Sermon: "Making Room"



February 14th @ 6:30 PM

Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 14th this year and you are 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! In honor of Valentine's Day, there will be plenty of red pancake toppings (if not some *heart-shaped* pancakes!). Please join us for supper and then stay for the service.

HEART HEALTHY BRUNCH: Come to church hungry on **Feb. 11th** and sample some tasty treats! We'll serve from 9 to 10:30 AM. *Health & wholeness*

Lovely Lane 2018 Lenten Offering Recipients

Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is a ministry of hospitality provided by the Iowa 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.

Africa University is the first and only fully-accredited institution of higher learning established on the African continent by action of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church and is a consequence of the growth of United Methodism in Africa. The university's goal is to foster intellectual, moral, ethical and spiritual growth in its students.

The Abbe Center for Community Mental Health serves the mental health needs of low income people in the Linn County area. It has a variety of programs including outreach to the homeless and the chronically mentally ill. It has served the area for over 40 years.

Trinity Lane Playground Equipment is needed @ at our outpost preschool's new site, St. Ludmila's Catholic School, where they will be moving this June. We need to develop an outdoor playground for preschoolers in this new location, including a fence and several new pieces of equipment. Some older equipment will also need to be removed.

A bulk mailing has gone out or will be going out soon with a Lenten letter and a card listing these four giving opportunities. If you did not receive one, there will be extra Lenten Offering cards in the pews after Ash Wednesday.

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events for Children of Lovely Lane:

February 14 th	Ash Wednesday - Pancake Supper and special service
March 25 th	Palm Sunday - all kids will sing in 9:15 & 10:30 services
March 31 st	Easter Egg Hunt
April 22 nd	"Music Machine" - children's musical presentation

Sunday School: Children's classes are held during our 9:15 and 10:30 AM services. Middle Schoolers and Adults meet only at 9:15.



J.A.M. (Jesus And Me) Lovely Lane UMC Wednesday Night Kid's Club

Children preschool—5th grade are invited to **Kid's Club** on Wed. evenings. Children learn about God's love for them and about the Bible, and have fun experiences with friends! Each Wed., we start off with supper at 5:30 PM (\$2 donation suggested). At 5:55, we share joys, concerns and announcements; then, the children go to their age level groups from 6:10-7:15. There's special music time every week for each class. Kids are invited to invite friends!

Age Levels Grps.: 3-4 year olds, K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade, & 4th-5th grade. **Please contact Julie Meyer (juliem@lovelylane.org; 393-6674) for more info.; registration forms are available @ church.**

Senior High Youth Group meets on Sunday nights at 6 PM. Dinner is at 6:00; the program is from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Middle School Youth meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Youth Room. Come at 5:30 for dinner, and then stay for the program from 6:00 to 7:15 PM.

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UNITED METHODIST CAMP NEWS



All of the Pictured Rocks staff are excited to be hosting our [2nd Annual Spring Retreats](#) for youth in grades 3-8!

3rd-5th grade	March 10-11	1 PM—1PM	Cost: \$50
6th-8th grade	April 6-8	7PM—1 PM	Cost: \$75

Don't let your kids miss out on this great opportunity for **awesome faith, fun & fellowship!** Register by E-mailing picturedrocks.camp@iaumc.org. For more information, please go to www.picturedrocks.org or call 319-465-4194.

Blessings, Gabe - Camp Director

United Methodist Women News

UMW MEETING

We will meet on **Thursday, February 8th, at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. We will be putting together special treats to take to some special people in our congregation. Please bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite homemade cookies. We will combine all of our cookies and put together plates of cookies to be delivered to some homebound Lovely Lane members. Even if you do not bake cookies, do come and help decorate the cards and plates! We'll also need volunteers to help deliver the cookies; two women can perhaps go out together to make deliveries. We will get the names of the people to deliver cookies to from the Shepherd's list in the church office. Cindy Sale will be our coordinator; we need volunteers for hostesses. The hostesses will mainly just have to make coffee as we *sample* some of the cookies as our treat before heading out to make the deliveries.

As our **January 11th** meeting on Prayer & Self-Denial had to be cancelled due to adverse weather, we will take an offering for this year's Prayer & Self-denial at our **February 8th** meeting. This year's offering will go to support programs which offer educational opportunities to the under-served and marginalized.

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group resumed meeting on **Tues., Jan. 9th, from 9:30-11:15 AM in Fireside**. Weather permitting, we'll continue to meet on Tuesday mornings. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke. We've 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, please call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

UMW SAVE THE DATES

Clint is coming back.... Be sure to put **March 8th** on your calendar!
Clint Twedt-Ball will be our speaker at the evening Mission Potluck.
He's excited to give us updates on Matthew 25 and enjoy our great food!
More details to follow next month!

AND

The next UMW Garage Sale is scheduled for **April 21st**.
Start saving your "treasures" to donate to the church sale!!

*Also, be sure to pick up this year's bright green booklet showing **2018 Lovely Lane UMW programs and events**; copies are available in the narthex!*

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, Feb. 12th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we will be reading is *Endurance* by Scott Kelly. Judy McDowell will lead the discussion. The book to read for March 12th is *The Gentleman From Moscow* by Amor Towles. Mary Abbey will lead that discussion.

Anyone is welcome to join us for a good discussion and fellowship!

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Friday, Feb. 16th, at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a luncheon potluck. Jayne Woodson and Judy McDowell will serve as hostesses, and the program will be presented by Lisa Nelson. Lisa walked across Scotland last September and will tell us all about her adventure!!

In March we'll have Robert Buckley, author from Marion, with us again. He was at our meeting several years ago. This time he'll talk about the latest book he has written, *I'm Lost Again!* People may want to read the book prior to our March meeting; it is available at the CR Library.

ADULT EXPLO will begin its Lenten Study on Wed., Feb. 7, continuing thru March 28th. We'll be using James Harnish's book *Easter Earthquake: How Resurrection Shakes Our World*. Adult Explo meets Weds. 6-7:15 PM in Fireside or the Narthex. Sign up on the STUB or contact the church office! (Books are \$10 ea.)

Remembering with love:
Karen Warner.....2015

Our Ministry Teams at Work

Missions & Community Outreach

- ◆ Lenten Offering recipients chosen
- ◆ New Trinity Lane Preschool site @ St. Ludmila's—help in the move & preparation during May & June
- ◆ Planning for 2018, including getting more involved with Matthew 25—helping on their work projects

Health & Wholeness

- ◆ First Aid kits & AED electrodes were replaced
- ◆ Feb. 11th—Heart Healthy Brunch
- ◆ March 14th—providing a meal to Ronald McDonald @ St. Luke's

Hospitality

- ◆ Filled visitor's packets with candy
- ◆ Planning for Inquirer's Class lunch on 2/18

Trustees

- ◆ Main bathroom plumbing issues
- ◆ Spring projects—potholes, rotting siding, replace retaining wall on south side

Presence: Worship Attendance

1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
220	227	230	217

December Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Dec.	\$ 51,645
Cash inflow—YTD	\$533,305
Budget need/month	\$ 46,308
Cash outflow—mo. of Dec.	\$ 37,327
Cash outflow—YTD	\$538,145
Unpaid bills	\$ 0

UPCOMING FAITH ISSUES TOPICS

- *Feb. 4th & 18th: Weird church: welcome to the new forms of church in the 21st century, led by Ron Nelson
 - *Feb. 11th: TBD
 - *Feb. 25th & March 4th: Eastern Spirituality, led by Jim Loehrlein
 - *March 11th-25th: Prayer, led by Cheryl Murphy
- Faith Issues Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:15 AM in Room 105. Feel free to join us!!!

Concerns & Celebrations

Prayer concerns:

- *Dawn Nylin & family – on the death of her husband Paul; a Celebration of Life was held 1/13 at LLUMC
- *Carmen Johnson – on the death of her mother; Pastor Paul officiated her service on 1/2 in West Branch
- *Margaret Nelson & family – on the death of her sister, Diane, from Stage 4 pancreatic cancer
- *Curtis Thomas & family — on the death of his father, Orville, on 1/23
- *Richard & Velma Rainville's great niece & family — grieving death of newborn w/severe health problems
- *Don Sparrow – in MICU after a fall and injury to his head, being relocated in hospital or to rehab. ctr.
- *Kent Jackson – hospitalized
- *Chuck Sitter – was hospitalized for multiple issues
- *Kevin Wittles – collapsed disc in neck
- *Helen Anderson – recovering from a broken ankle
- *Marcie Baugh — surgery on the sacroiliac joint
- *Do Koudelka — bad upper respiratory infection
- *Barb Mussman's dad, Virgil Gordon — had hip replacement surgery 1/30; both her parents are relocating to a nursing home for a time
- *Kent Jackson's mother, Neia — had hip surgery
- *Regina Culbertson's dad, Dan Tanksley — recovering from bypass surgery
- *Influenza epidemic; prayers for no more loss of life

Joys:

- *Rev. Arnette Pint – preacher of the day on 1/7 and new LLUMC member!
- *Church activities are back on their regular schedules
- *New member Pam Moore — successful cardioversion for heart arrhythmia; we pray for cont'd. healing
- *Martin Wissenberg shared info. in 1/14 worship on Riders Club (they manage adult transportation)
- *Trinity Lane Preschl. has found a home at St. Ludmila's Catholic Church! Their recently closed parochial school will provide excellent facilities for our outpost preschl. They're as excited to have their school filled with children as we are to find a new home! Praise God!
- *We made huge progress on the mortgage at the end of 2017, lowering it by \$30,000!
- *Curtis & Maggie Thomas's daughter, Katrina - passed her licensure exams in Physical Therapy
- *Erv & Barb Mussman's twin grandsons born 1/20

Thank You Notes

Many thanks to all for your participation in the Celebration of Life for Paul Nylin by your cards, visits, donations of food, work and memorial donations, and thoughts and prayers. You are loved and appreciated. *Dawn Nylin*

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl and all of the care shown during the passing of my step-father. It has brought great comfort during this time! *Blessings, Becky Helle*

Thank you for the outpouring of love and support during my mom's recent illness and passing. A special thank you to Pastor Paul for his presence with my mom and family on the day she passed as well as performing her funeral. I'd also like to thank Pastor Gayle and the prayer shawl ministry for the beautiful shawl that provided additional warmth at mom's graveside service in the frigid temps. *Carmen Johnson & family*

Thank you for your donation of \$120 on Dec. 5th to Willis Dady Homeless Services. We are so fortunate to have people like you thinking of our clients. This season is a time of renewal for our shelter and our clients. We are humbled by the donations that we receive during the holiday season, which often sustain us into the summer months. In addition to the operational gifts we have received which sustain our daily services, our cup is overflowing with gratitude for this community's generosity towards our future stability. As of mid-November our capital campaign goal of \$3 million has been met. This major undertaking will allow us to provide a safer, more accessible building for our clients. With our pledge campaign complete, the next hurdle is the construction of a new and renovated facility. Again, thank you for this generous gift. We so appreciate your support, and the opportunity to speak to your congregation. It was lovely! *Phoebe Trepp, Executive Director*

Thank you so much for contributing 291 lbs. of food to the Linn Community Food Bank during the fourth quarter of 2017. Your total 2017 contributions were 804 lbs. of food. We couldn't operate our food bank without the generous support of our donors. *Christy Rezin, LCFB Correspondence Secretary*

