

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

January 2019

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.

2019
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

A Brand New Year

"I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5, NIV)

Many of you remember the comic strip, "Calvin and Hobbes." In one strip, Calvin and Hobbes are discussing the New Year. Calvin says, "I'm getting disillusioned with these New Years. They don't seem very new at all. Each New Year is just like the old year. Here another year has gone by and everything's still the same. There's still pollution and war and stupidity and greed. Things haven't changed. I say what kind of future is this? I thought things were supposed to improve. I thought the future was supposed to be better." Hobbes replies with his sharp insight, "The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present."

The New Year is a tremendous time to pause and reflect. We savor successes and lament over struggles we were not able to overcome. Through it all we ponder a new beginning. We have high hopes the New Year will be different. Yet as Hobbes says, we keep turning the future into the present.

Truth is, God wants our lives to be meaningful and significant. Our mighty Creator wants us to make a difference in everything we do. That's why there are some things we need to recognize as we move into 2019.

First of all, God loves doing a new thing. We read in Isaiah 43:19a, "See, I am doing a new thing!" Prayerfully consider something new you can do this year. Allow yourself to dream big. Paint a picture of what you want.

Secondly, consider one or two things you can do now. It's hard to do everything at once. Ponder one or two actions you can take. Build momentum.

Third, continually check-in with others who support you. As you check-in, reflect on your progress. Are you moving forward? What barriers need to be moved? Keep working to move forward. Never give up. Make every day count!

Embrace something new this year. See that life is good! God is good!

A Thousand Blessings to each of You! Scott

Calendar of Events — January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:45 pm WOF	2 9:30 am CCM (offsite) NO Weds eve. activities	3 5:30 pm Yoga	4	5
6 Epiphany Sunday & Communion 9 am Chancel Choir 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo 6-7:45 pm H.S. Youth Group	7 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm CE mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	8 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:30 pm Stride Grp. 6:30 pm Mental Health Support Grp. 6:45 pm WOF	9 9:30 am Mom's Club 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 4:45 pm Zamar Handbells 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo	10 7 am Leadership Mtg. (@ Panera's) 1:00 pm UMW mtg. 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm AcabeLLa Handbells	11	12 8 am-4 pm Boy Scouts Jr. Leadership Training 9 am-1:30 pm ILF
13 Baptism of the Lord Sunday 9 am Chancel Choir 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo 6-7:45 pm H.S. Youth Group	14 10 am Happy Endings 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	15 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10:30 am-5 pm JFON Office Hrs. 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm WOF	16 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff prayer time 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo	17 4 pm Hospitality 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm Handbells 6:45 pm Trustees 7 pm Committee Meetings 7:50 pm Ad Council	18 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	19 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
20 9 am Chancel Choir 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo 6-7:45 pm H.S. Youth Group	21 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	22 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 5:30 pm Growing Through Grief & Loss Group 6:45 pm WOF	23 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo	24 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Missions	25	26
27 9 am Chancel Choir 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo 6-7:45 pm H.S. Youth Group	28 9:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	29 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 5:30 pm Library mtg. 6:45 pm WOF	30 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff prayer time 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo	31 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm Handbells	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

TWO ADULT EXPLO CLASSES BEING OFFERED

Adult Explo now has 2 meeting options: Sun. nights & Wed. nights. Participants can choose which night works best for them. Classes start at 6 PM on Sun., Jan. 6, and Weds., Jan. 9. The new study is focused on the book *When Christians Get It Wrong* by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome! Please contact Pastor Scott (393-6674 or scottm@lovelylane.org) for more information.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on Saturday, Jan. 19, at 8:30 AM, in Fellowship Hall. Jason Kline, principal at Kennedy High School, will be the speaker.

"Living Last Supper"

Lovely Lane men are welcome to participate in the "Living Last Supper" coming up. Performances will occur around Holy Week in the spring. Practices will likely take place weekly, beginning in late January. See Pastor Scott for more info.

Lovely Lane Worship, et al.



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Jan. 6th: Epiphany of the Lord Sunday & Communion—3 services: 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "Star in the East"

Jan. 13th: Baptism of the Lord Sunday—3 services: 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Jenny

Scripture: Luke 3:15-22

Sermon: "Beloved"

Jan. 20th: 3 services: 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott

Scripture: Romans 10:1-15

Sermon: "Making Disciples"—*How Do You W + ??, Part 1*

Jan. 27th: 3 services: 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott

Scripture: Luke 6:12-26

Sermon: "With Me"—*How Do You W + ??, Part 2*

Commission on a Way Forward & General Conference Special Session

The Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will be held Feb. 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO where hundreds of delegates from around the world will gather to receive and act upon a report* from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops.

They'll seek a way forward on the issues surrounding LBGTQ persons. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

The Iowa Annual Conference will be represented by elected Clergy and Lay delegates who will vote on a series of measures that hope to unite faithful United Methodists who differ on these issues, but agree on our mission as a denomination.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The General Conference 2020 will take place May 5-15, 2020, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN.

[*go to www.iaumc.org, click on "FINDING A WAY FORWARD", then click on "read or download the report"]

LIFE BETWEEN SUNDAYS: THE BLANK CANVAS OF 2019



As a new year dawns, I find I am looking at it with expectation and joy! The year has yet to unfold, and with it, all the opportunities that it holds. As a very UNprofessional artist, I see 2019 as a blank canvas waiting to be painted on. Next to the canvas is a box of paints in every hue imaginable, and a cup of paint brushes in a variety of sizes and textures. Each day I have the opportunity to pick up a brush and choose a paint color to brush across the canvas all of my hopes, dreams, sorrows and joys for the day. This blank canvas will evolve each day as I serve in ministry, grow in my faith, and live each day to its fullest.

I invite each of you to start 2019 with your blank canvas. As you do, see ways to use your gifts to glorify God, and then discover the rich painting of your life that will burst forth. Some days will be painted with bright and engaging colors, while others will be more subdued or dark and dreary. However you paint your days, be confident in the promise that Christ is in each brush stroke, painting the days with you. You do not go into 2019 on your own. You have Jesus Christ the Savior, the one whose birth we just celebrated, to be a part of every day and night with you, through highs and lows, and all those experiences in between.

With anticipation and joy, I am looking forward to painting the canvas of ministry at Lovely Lane UMC with the colors of youth ministry, Bible study, women's groups, care and grief ministries, and worship. I am confident that the painting that will be created will evoke emotions of all kinds, and will draw us all closer to Christ and to one another.

Have a Blessed Start to 2019, Pastor Jenny

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: A BIG THANKS to all who helped with the Dec. 16 Children's Christmas Program, especially Carla Jesse, who led the music for *"Sharing the Light of Christ."* The children did a great job singing, reading and acting out our Christmas story, and seemed to have fun doing it!

We start off 2019 by studying the New Testament beginning with the book of Matthew and *House on the Rock*. The children will enjoy the lessons of Story & Games, Art, Cooking, and Science for each biblical topic. We have wonderful, caring teachers who share the stories and activities.

The children will sing on Palm Sunday and Mother's Day, so mark those dates on your calendars. Our last Sunday School date is May 19.

Over the summer we will continue to have children's special reading during worship beginning on June 2nd. I'll be looking for volunteer readers; take time now to think about how you can help!

Thank you and may God Bless you in 2019! Mrs. G (Barb)

Kid's Club: All Preschool-5th graders are invited to attend Kid's Club! A family meal takes place at 5:30 PM with Kid's Club starting at 6 PM. NO Kid's Club on Jan. 2nd.

Contact Mrs. G (Barb) at christianedu@lovelylane.org or 393-6674 with questions about Sunday School; contact Julie Meyer at juliem@lovelylane.org or 393-6674 with questions on Kid's Club.

Middle School Youth Group (gr. 6-8): Meets on Weds. nights, as does Confirmation Class.

January Schedule for M.S. is:

Jan. 2 No Youth Group or Confirmation.

Jan. 9 5:30-7:15 pm; Grades 6-7 will meet in the Youth Rm. for activities about caring for the earth; Confirmation class will meet in Fireside Room.

Jan. 16 5:30-7:15 pm; ALL Youth will meet in the Youth Rm. for activities about caring for the earth.

Jan. 23 5:30-7:15 pm; Grades 6-7 will meet in the Youth Room for activities about caring for the earth; Confirmation class will meet in Fireside Room.

Jan. 30 5:30-7:15 pm; ALL Youth will meet for a MISSION NIGHT in the Youth Room.

Youth will sell subs on Jan. 13, 20 & 27 before and after worship services OR you can sell directly to those you know. (See page 6 of the newsletter for more information.) [See page 6 for Summer 2019 M.S. Mission Trip information.]

High School Youth Group (gr. 9-12): Meets on Sunday nights.

January Schedule for H.S. is:

Jan. 6 6:00-7:45 pm; Worship and Small Group NIGHT-What will be different in 2019? Pizza for supper—Bring \$2-3; 2019 Service Trip INFO.

Jan. 13 6:00-7:45 pm; Game NIGHT! BFD—Breakfast For Dinner.

Jan. 20 6:00-7:45 pm; Conversation about the Commission on a Way Forward (AKA the UMC and the General Conference in Feb. about LGBTQ language in the Book of Discipline.) Pizza for supper—Bring \$2-3.

Jan. 27 6:00-7:45 pm; Continued conversation about the Commission on a Way Forward and what it means to the LGBTQ community locally and abroad. Pizza for supper—Bring \$2-3.

Youth will sell subs on Jan. 13, 20 & 27 before and after worship services OR you can sell directly to those you know. (See page 6 of the newsletter for more information.) [See page 6 for Summer 2019 H.S. Mission Trip information.]

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group will resume meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 8th, from 9:30-11:15 AM in Fireside**. We'll continue our study of the Gospel of John. We've found that our studies help us gain new insights and understanding of the Scriptures, help us to grow spiritually, and deepen our faith within a loving, caring fellowship. We invite anyone who is free Tuesday mornings to join with us for fellowship and study. **We've decided to not only lug our mugs, but to fill them at home; so, bring your favorite beverage along.** Please call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205) with any questions.

UMW MEETING IN JANUARY: PRAYER & SELFLESSNESS

We will meet on **Thursday, Jan. 10th, at 1 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be led by Pastor Jenny and will focus on living a life of Prayer and Selflessness. The group will look at how we live out our faith in ways that put others first. We hope you will join us as we look for hands-on ways to pray and live a life of compassion and selflessness. We will collect a special offering for the mission work of UMW.

In 2019 United Methodist Women is celebrating 150 years in Mission to the world. For 150 years, United Methodist Women and their foremothers have put faith, hope and love into action by advocating for women, children and youth around the world. The goal this year is to continue to nurture a thriving generation of children and youth around the world. This year our giving through Prayer and Self-Denial offerings will go to support programming that will promote the well-being and equal opportunities for children and youth in need.

We invite you to bring a friend and come learn about UMW mission, and to share this time of fellowship with us. Jayne Woodson will be our hostess.

Growing Through Grief and Loss Group



Does grief tend to permeate your life? Do many days leave you feeling blue? Have you lost a significant loved one? Have there been other losses in your life that weigh you down? Would it be helpful to gather with others who have experienced loss?

Starting Jan. 22nd, Pastor Jenny will lead a group for those who are experiencing loss and/or grief called Growing Through Grief and Loss. The group will meet monthly at 5:30 PM in Fireside Room to share with one another about our grief. Each time the group gathers, Pastor Jenny will share tangible ways to address grief, AND the group will have time for open sharing.

If you'd like more information about the group, please contact Pastor Jenny at the church.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Gary & Pam Moen
718 Deer Run Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Jane Nicholas
2229 Bever Ave. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Remembering with love:

*Darwin Keegan.....2015
Donna Knutson.....2015*

Presence: Worship Attendance

12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23	12/24	12/30
270	242	349	198	554	126

Nov. Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 40,026
Cash inflow—YTD	\$473,485
Budget need/month	\$ 47,794
Cash outflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 38,867
Cash outflow—YTD	\$490,526
Unpaid bills	\$ 22,917



HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, Jan. 14th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we will discuss is *In Pieces* by Sally Fields. The following month, we will meet on Monday, Feb. 11th, and will discuss *Someone Knows My Name* by Lawrence Hill.

Please call Nancy Miller at 393-6340 if you have any questions or concerns.

SUMMER 2019 YOUTH MISSION TRIPS

Summer 2019 M.S. Mission Trip for Youth Grades 6-8: Matthew 25 Transform Week

When: June 24-28, 2019 What & Where: Cedar Rapids Matthew 25 Ministry Hub

Whom: Youth Grades 6-8 (current) Cost: TBD

Fundraisers: Youth will do a variety of fundraisers to off-set the costs.

For more information, go to the event website at: hub25.org or contact Pastor Jenny at the church.



Summer 2019 Mission Trip for Youth Grades 8-12

When: July 7-14, 2018 (leaving after church) What & Where: Do 2 days of service work in southwestern Iowa, and then attend Youth 2019 in Kansas City, MO

Whom: Youth grades 8-12 (current) Cost: \$475

Fundraisers: Youth will do a variety of fundraisers to off-set the costs.

For more information, go to the event website at: <http://youth2019.com>.

At Youth 2019, thousands gather for 4 days of discipleship, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and life-changing fun! Expect inspiration, support, and challenges to grow authentically as a world-changing disciple of Jesus Christ. The YOUTH Event is the National Gathering for United Methodist Youth in 2019 and traces its roots all the way back to the first YOUTH event of 1988.

For more information or to sign up for this event, contact Pastor Jenny.

**Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser:
Subs for Service**



The youth will be selling subs to raise money for their summer service trips. (See article above for information about summer youth trips.) Subs will be for sale on Jan. 13, 20, and 27 before and after worship services OR you can buy directly from the youth you know. Cost for a 6-inch (approx.) sub is \$6.00 each. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin announcements.

Concerns & Celebrations

Prayer concerns:

- *Family of Rev. Don Caspers—his funeral was at LL on 12/21; he served at Lovely Lane UMC from 1963-1971
- *Joel & Marilyn Goodman and family—death of his sister, Judy
- *Carol Schmidt & family—death of her son at age 41
- *Dave & Linda Keefe—death of his friend, Marvin
- *Velma & Richard Rainville—death of her brother-in-law
- *Patty Logsdon—death of her cousin's husband, Lonnie
- *Jerry & Virginia Weiland—death of their friend, Pat
- *Sue Moss's husband Jim—sudden death of a co-worker
- *Kennedy H.S. students & staff—death of a teacher, Rick Nees
- *Remembering former U.S. President George H.W. Bush
- *Donna Lewis—recovering from a broken collar bone due to a fall
- *Carolyn Barnes & all those dealing with respiratory ailments
- *Stephanie French's mom—had foot surgery
- *Ron Nelson—lifting up John with leukemia
- *Marilyn Beebe's friend—has cancer
- *Pat Brand's son, Jay—return of cancer
- *Jessica Schenk's father-in-law & other family members – health
- *Maggie Thomas's friend, Sue—worsening cancer
- *Pastor Jenny's friend, Francis Sundberg—entered hospice
- *Marci Wittles' father, Dan Randall—in St. Luke's with pneumonia
- *Kay Oloff—health concerns
- *Krista Wylie's co-worker, Amy, & family
- *Linda Keefe's friend—hospitalized
- *Vicki Cangemi's friend, Monica
- *Rita McCord's neighbor, Elliott
- *Jared Stumpf's teacher
- *Persons experiencing loss or loneliness, all those hospitalized over the holidays, and those travelling over the holidays

Joys:

- *Nonagenarian (90+) members honored on 12/2: Charles Atkinson, Marcie Baugh, Millie Corbett, Kim Dao, Ruth Exline, Elsie Mae Hall, Helen Hansen, Do Koudelka, Berta Mullin, Arlene Oliver, Lloyd Peterson, John Sackett, Janell Smiley, Lou & Gerry Stolba, & Betty Van Fossen
- *Confirmation class's awesome field trip to a Coralville synagogue
- *Sue Moss, Office Manager, celebrates **awesome** office volunteers
- *Our beautiful Retable (thanks to our ReTable ladies!)
- *Our organist, Dennis Ramsey, for sharing his musical gifts
- *Nathan Wylie—writing a brass quintet piece for spring contest
- *Wonderful Children's Christmas Program on 12/16 (9:15 service)
- *Meaningful Blue Christmas Grief Gathering on 12/16
- *MS Youth caroling @ a nearby senior community on 12/12
- *Christmas & holiday time spent with family & friends
- *Callie Seylar (Pastor Jenny's dtr.)—new teaching job in Des Moines
- *Installation of new projector in our Sanctuary
- *Wonderful worship on Christmas Eve & UMW's Christmas events
- *John Hill had a successful ear procedure
- *Bob Tribuno had a successful procedure
- *Bill & Cheryl Mead celebrated their 50th anniversary

THANK YOU NOTES

THANK YOU to everyone from the UMW for their contributions and purchases at the November bake sale. We raised \$633 which was donated to the Trinity Lane playground equipment fund.

THANK YOU so much to the Prayer Shawl Ladies for the Prayer Shawl. What a special gift of love. I get cool in the evenings so I am sure it will get a lot of use. You are doing such a special mission. *You are Blessed,*
Donna Lewis

THANK YOU on behalf of the Lexington East Board of Directors for your generous offering of rooms for our morning coffees and "rained out" potluck. We continue to appreciate your hospitality and look forward to 2019!

THANK YOU so much, Lovely Lane staff, for letting Mom's Club CR North use the wonderful church space for our Trunk or Treat events. It was a perfect night! Everyone had such a great time and we very much appreciate the use of the space! Thank you again for being so awesome to work with on this.

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Friday, Jan. 18th, at noon for a luncheon potluck. Our program will be presented by Jim Robinson and is titled "A Missionary Kid's Life Growing Up in the Belgian Congo." This promises to be an interesting and educational presentation. Jerry and Virginia Weiland will host.

SAVE THE DATE!!! On THURSDAY, MAY 16TH, 2019, WE WILL BE SPONSORING A BUS TRIP TO DONAHUE, IA TO THE CINNAMON RIDGE FARM. It is a tour of their Robotic Dairy Barn, lunch, and their farm store. A surprise visit will be included on the way home. Cost will be between \$64 and \$72 depending on how many we have signed up to go. Further info. will be available as we get closer to May. For further information or to sign up, please contact Nancy Miller at 393-6340.

