

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

April 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.



The Glory of Easter

Bishop William R. Cannon was fond of declaring that our faith is based on three historical events . . . a manger crib, an old rugged cross, and an empty tomb. On Easter Sunday, we declare the good news of the empty tomb. In 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 we read, "Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain." (NRSV)

These words from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians are the earliest biblical reference to Jesus's resurrection and the good news of the empty tomb. Paul wrote this letter from the Asian city of Ephesus around 54 or 55 A.D. Mark's Gospel, the first gospel written, will not come together until 70 A.D. or so. Paul is giving us the straightforward truth, taught to him by the early leaders in the church.

This truth of the resurrection is powerful and impressive. Paul makes it clear that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then preaching is profitless. If Jesus did not come back to life, then our witness is worthless.

Fortunately for us, the eternal truth is that Jesus did rise from the dead. With this good news, we know that our efforts to proclaim the gospel are profitable and worthwhile, meaningful and significant!

A story is told of a foreign gentleman who embraced the Christian faith. This individual was asked why he came to say "yes" to the Risen Lord! The man replied, "It's like this. If you are walking along and come to a fork in the road and two people are there, and one is alive and one is not, which person are you going to take directions from?"

That really is what it comes down to. We have the right and freedom to choose how we live. But with pride and honor I choose to follow the one who lives and reigns forever and ever.

On Easter Sunday, we are given the opportunity to choose our Risen Savior and embrace the new opportunities and possibilities that come with a faith life! Might Easter be a special time for each of us!

A Thousand Blessings! Scott

Calendar of Events — April 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | 1 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm CE mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 2 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF | 3 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 9:30 am Mom's Club 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff brief prayer time 4:45 pm Zamar 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo | 4 5:30 pm Yoga | 5 5 pm AcabeLLa | 6 (Rain date for yard fertilization) 12:30-5:30 pm Boy Scouts event 5:30-9 pm IUMF Presentation on Finances |
| 7 5th Sunday in Lent & Communion 9 am Chancel Choir 11:45 am IUMF Presentation on Tax Savvy Giving 4 pm Living Last Supper practice 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo 6-7:45 pm HS Yth. Grp. | 8 10 am Happy Endings 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 9 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 4 pm Hospitality 5:30 pm CWM Preschl. Family Night 6:30 pm Mental Health Support Grp. 6:45 pm WOF | 10 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 4:45 pm Zamar 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo | 11 1 pm UMW mtg. 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm AcabeLLa 6:30 pm "The Living Last Supper" (@ Methwick) | 12 | 13 8 am Men's Breakfast 10 am-4 pm Project Linus |
| 14 Palm/ Passion Sunday 9 am Chancel Choir 4 pm Living Last Supper practice 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo 6-7:45 pm H.S. Youth Group | 15 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 16 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF 7 pm SPPRC | 17 12 noon WWW 12:15 pm Lenten Luncheon & Worship 1:30 pm Staff brief prayer time 4:45 pm Zamar 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo | 18 Maundy Thursday 7:30 am Leadership Mtg. (offsite) 5:30 pm Yoga 7 pm "The Living Last Supper" | 19 Good Friday 7 pm A Service of Shadow, Stone, and Sorrow | 20 10 am-Noon Easter Egg Hunt |
| 21 EASTER SUNDAY (choir sings in all services) 8:00 & 10:30 am Traditional Services 8:15-10:30 am Easter Brunch 9:15 am Youth-led Service | 22 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (other troop) | 23 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10:30 am-5 pm JFON Office Hrs. 1:30 pm PEO Grp. 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 5:30 pm Library Tm. 6:45 pm WOF | 24 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 4:45 pm Zamar 5:30 pm Family Meal 6-7:15 pm Kid's Club & M.S. Youth Group/Confirmation 6 pm Adult Explo | 25 5:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm AcabeLLa 6:45 pm Trustees 7 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council | 26 12 noon Friendly Fellowship | 27 9 am-12 pm Blood Drive 9 am-1:30 pm ILF |
| 28 2nd Sunday of Easter & Celebrating Earth Day 9 am Chancel Choir 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo 6-7:45 pm HS Yth. Grp. | 29 9:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 30 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 5:30 pm "Growing Thru Grief..." Grp. 6:45 pm WOF | 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 | | |

"Living Last Supper" performances
at the MethWick Community
@ 7:00 pm at Lovely Lane UMC.
and friends to attend this special event



are on Thurs., April 11, @ 6:30 pm
and on **April 18 (Maundy Thursday)**
We hope you invite your family
that you won't want to miss!!!!



WORSHIP IN APRIL

April 7th: **5th Sunday in Lent & Holy Communion**, 3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 15:1-8 / Sermon: "True Vine," *Knowing God*, Part 5

April 14th: **Palm/Passion Sunday**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 14:1-7 / Sermon: "Way, Truth, and Life," *Knowing God*, Part 6

April 18th: **Maundy Thursday**—7:00 PM / "Living Last Supper" Presentation (based on da Vinci's painting, *The Last Supper*)

April 19th: **Good Friday**—7 PM / A Service of Shadow, Stone, and Sorrow / Pastor Jenny / Scripture: Luke 23:32-43

April 20th: **Easter Egg Hunt** @ 10 AM—Noon / *Children should bring their own baskets if possible!*

April 21st: **EASTER SUNDAY**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 (Youth-led) & 10:30 AM with special music at each service / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 20:1-18 / Sermon: "A New Day"

Please join us for an Easter Brunch in the Fellowship Hall from 8:15-10:30 AM!!!

April 28th: **2nd Sunday of Easter & Celebrating Earth Day**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Jenny / Scripture: John 21:1-14 / Sermon: "Breakfast on the Beach"

2019 Lenten Luncheon Series

Facing the Cross with Courage

Continuing through the season of Lent, the community is invited to come and reflect on the theme of the courage of Jesus Christ in the face of betrayal and death. Each 12:10 pm service is followed by a light lunch. A freewill offering (\$5 is suggested) is used to cover the meal cost. Remaining dates are:

- April 3rd @ Asbury UMC
- April 10th @ Trinity-St. James UMC
- April 17th @ **Lovely Lane UMC**

2019 LENTEN OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Lovely Lane's Missions Team has picked these four organizations to receive this year's Lenten Offering:

Matthew 25 is a local non-profit that exists to strengthen core neighborhoods on Cedar Rapids' west side. M25 partners with the west side to work in 3 program areas: Neighborhood Building, Youth Development, and Cultivating Hope. Our 6th-8th grade youth group will be involved in a mission trip this summer helping M25 during Transform Week, June 24-28.

Restoring Vision provides reading to people in underdeveloped and impoverished countries. Vision is one of our most important senses. It impacts one's ability to interact with the environment and other people. By providing a simple pair of reading glasses, we can immediately and positively impact a person's life, the well-being of one's family and community.

Heifer International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty as well as 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.

Trinity Lane Preschool is mid-way through its first year of operation in the new St. Ludmila's Church location. There are still many needs to be addressed in the new space, including tuition scholarship assistance for lower income families.

The Men's Breakfast group will gather on Saturday, April 13, at 8 am. Father Ken Glaser from St. Ludmila Catholic Church will be the speaker. Everyone is welcome!

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on April 8th at 10:00 AM in the church library. The book we will be discussing is *The Gypsy Madonna* by Santa Montefiore. At our May 13th meeting we will be doing our annual sharing of information about books we have recently read. The book to read for June 10th is: *She Was the Quiet One*, by Michelle Campbell. Anyone is welcome to come join us.

Between Sundays: The Life in a Seed

It's amazing that a tiny seed, when placed in the dark soil, becomes a thriving plant. We do this simple task with a measure of trust, and it makes all the difference. Every seed is different...different sizes, shapes, and fruit that is produced. In the spring, the displays pop up in stores with all sorts of vegetables, flowers, and plants containing colorful pictures of the final product. The packets are important and not to be discarded because the directions on the back tell of the appropriate depth and spacing for the seeds. The DNA contained in each type of seed requires different directions that are critical to the plant germinating.

The Gospel of John talks about this life after death: "Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12: 23-24, CEB) "The Human One" had to die in order for God to allow us to have eternal life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, that happens as God plants seeds in our lives. Growing our own faith requires us to plant seeds. The seeds and directions for germination are contained in the text of the Bible. To disregard the guidance and inspiration in the Bible means we miss out on the ways in which we are called to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. It's not enough to read the Bible. Our lives as a follower require more from us. Our faith grows when we allow our old habits to die in the "soil" so that God can sprout new habits in us.

As Holy week approaches, I invite you to examine your life. What habits in you must die so that God can germinate new ones in your life? How hard is it for you to let go of the old habits? Why are you clinging so tightly to those things when they prevent you from getting closer to God? Add into your daily practice this prayer: *God of Life, You have placed all we need for life in the shell of a tiny seed. You have also placed all we need for eternal life in the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus. Thank you for the gift of life on this earth and in the life to come. Amen. Blessings to you, Pastor Jenny*

Growing Through Grief and Loss Group April 30th @ 5:30 PM



Pastor Jenny will continue leading a group for those who are experiencing loss and/or grief called Growing Through Grief and Loss. The group **meet monthly at 5:30 PM** in Fireside Room in order to share with one another about our grief. Feel free to come as you are able. Each time the group gathers, Pastor Jenny will share tangible ways to address grief, AND the group will have time for open sharing.

Does grief permeate your days? 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? If you would like more information about the group, please contact Pastor Jenny at the church.

A Healthy & Productive Aging Workshop is on April 5th, 8:30 AM-Noon, at Kirkwood Community College. At this FREE event, speakers will cover topics including exercise, nutrition, fall risk reduction, and home modifications. Display tables will have information on risk factor reduction for heart disease, osteoporosis, depression, and more. A registration form will be placed in the narthex. Contact Maggie Thomas (maggie.thomas@kirkwood.edu) for more info.

Remembering with love:

Henry Hall.....2015

Gary Davis.....2016

Presence: Worship Attendance

| | | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 3/3 | 3/10 | 3/17 | 3/24 | 3/31 |
| 226 | 204 | 216 | 223 | 240 |

February Financial Totals

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Cash inflow—mo. of Feb. | \$ 42,169 |
| Cash inflow—YTD | \$ 89,691 |
| Budget need/month | \$ 49,732 |
| Cash outflow—mo. of Feb. | \$ 41,269 |
| Cash outflow—YTD | \$ 82,769 |
| <i>Unpaid bills</i> | <i>\$ 15,103</i> |

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

APRIL UMW MEETING

Lovely Lane UMW will be meeting April 11th at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be writing notes and sending Easter greetings to members of our congregation who are shut in. **Come join us, and write some notes to some special Lovely Lane members.** June Sackett will be our hostess.

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We will continue our study of the book of Acts. We meet Tuesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:15 AM, in Fireside. We invite you to join us for study and fellowship. **We have decided to not only LUG OUR MUGS, BUT ALSO TO FILL THEM AT HOME; SO, COME PREPARED WITH YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE IN HAND.** Call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205) with any questions.

IOWA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Saturday, April 6, 2019, @ Collegiate UMC, Ames
Lait Day with Bishop Laurie Haller

IOWA CONFERENCE OF THE UMW'S MISSION U

Sessions will be held this summer and fall: July 21-23 or Oct. (exact dates not yet known) at Iowa Valley Community College, Marshalltown, Iowa. The topics will be: Spiritual Growth - "Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship"; Social Issue - "What About Our Money? A Faith Response"; and Geographic study - "Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission." The Youth study will be "Who Do You Say That I Am? Meeting Jesus Through The Eyes of Mark" and the Children's study will be "Marked: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel." We encourage mother/daughter or grandmother/granddaughter for the children's study. Scholarships are available. For more info. and registration forms, call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Fri., April 26th, at noon for our potluck lunch. (Please note that this is a week later than usual because of the Easter activities that weekend.) Our program will be presented by a speaker from the Czech-Slovak Museum. Co-hostesses for the event are Sharon Kouba and Nickie Waddell.

Lovely Lane UMC Blood Drive Saturday, April 27th, 9 am – 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall

Did you know? Every blood donation helps up to 4 people right here in our own community. 1 in 7 patients will need a blood transfusion and there is no substitute for donated blood when it's needed.

Donating blood is free, easy, and fast! (The whole process takes 1 hr., donating only takes 10 mins.) There is an urgent need for blood right now, and there's no better way to give back to your community than to give a part of yourself to a patient in need. Remember that there needs to be 56 days between donations for whole blood. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office (393-6674).

All donors will receive a voucher for a special baseball cap or tie-dye t-shirt!

Thank you from your Health & Wholeness Committee!!!

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 & 10:30 curriculum for April is *Palm Sunday and Easter*; and May will be *Psalm 23, The Lord is my Shepherd*.

Children's activities: We're collecting wrapped candy (small enough to fit in an egg) for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 20th @ Lovely Lane, 10 AM to Noon. Preschl.-5th grade children are invited. Bring a basket! April 4th—Children will lead a procession of palms and sing in the 9:15 & 10:30 services. May 12th—Children will sing for Mother's Day. May 19th is the last day for Sunday School.

Kid's Club: All Preschl.-5th graders are invited to attend Kid's Club! A family meal is at 5:30 PM with Kid's Club starting at 6 PM.

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 & Confirmation in April/May:

April 3, 5:30-8 pm: Grades 6-7 will meet in the Youth Rm. for activities learning about the I AM sayings of Jesus, and 8th Grade Confirmation will meet for class in Fireside.

April 10, 5:30-8 pm: Grades 6-7 will meet in the Youth Rm. for activities learning about the I AM sayings of Jesus, and 8th Grade Confirmation will meet for class in Fireside.

April 17, 5:30-7:30 pm: Grades 6-8 will meet in the Youth Room to fill Easter Eggs. Then there will be an Easter Worship Practice in the sanctuary.

April 21, Easter Sunday: Lead worship at the 9:15 am service; arrive at 8:45 am.

April 24, 4:45-7:15 pm: Grades 6-8 will prepare the supper for Wed. night ministries. At 6:15 pm, the 8th graders will meet with Pastor Jenny and Joe Helle for confirmation interviews, one youth at a time.

May 1, 5:30-8:00 pm: Grades 6-7 will meet in the Youth Rm. for activities learning about the I AM sayings of Jesus, and 8th Grade Confirmation will meet in the Sanctuary with parents and mentors to prepare for Confirmation Sunday on May 5th.

May 8, 5:30-7:15 pm: Last Middle School Youth Group! Supper and outdoor games.

Save the Date! May 5- Confirmation Sunday, 10:30 am Worship Service

May 5- Last High School Youth Group for the school year

May 8- Last Middle School Youth Group for the school year

High School Youth Group in April/May:

April 7, 6:00-7:45 pm: Pizza for supper-Bring \$2-3. Plan the Easter Service.

April 14, 6:00-7:45 pm: Game NIGHT! BFD-Breakfast For Dinner.

April 21, Easter Sunday: Lead worship at the 9:15 am service; arrive at 8:45 am. No Youth Group at 6 pm.

April 28, 6:00-7:45 pm: Pizza for supper-Bring \$2-3. What's Next??

May 5, 6:00-7:45 pm: Last Youth Group of the School Year. Activity TBD!

Summer 2019 Middle School Mission Trip for Youth Grades 6-8: Matthew 25 Transform Week



When: June 24-28, 2019

What & Where: Cedar Rapids' Matthew 25 Ministry Hub; staying offsite-at Mt. Vernon UMC, Mt. Vernon.

Whom: Youth Grades 6-8 (current) AND Adults and high school youth who wish to work with the youth (only MS youth will be staying in Mt. Vernon)

Cost: \$75

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.

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR SUMMER READING
TO BEGIN ON JUNE 2ND. STAY TUNED FOR
FURTHER DETAILS!!

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Donna Lewis
6325 Rockwell Dr. NE, Apt. 201
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Concerns & Celebrations

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Amber Mulnik—death of her 92 yr.-old grandfather
- *Wear & Starmer families—grieving after family loss
- *Krista Wylie's friends, Scott & Sue—grieving
- *Richard & Velma Rainville—both hospitalized; he's w/hospice
- *Lois McNiel—hospitalized but is out of ICU
- *Carol Wilson—recovering from successful lung surgery
- *Jayne Woodson—recovering from foot surgery
- *Donna Houts—dealing with knee problems
- *Patty Logsdon—for family matters to be resolved fairly
- *MariLu Smith's brother, Gene—battling cancer
- *Maryann Ellis' mother—health concerns
- *April Drew's father, Darrell—receiving rehab after a stroke
- *Dana Renken's uncle, Ron—undergoing rehab
- *Millie Corbett's daughter, Sandy—recovering from surgery
- *Vicki Cangemi—friend Sam recovering from a heart attack
- *Linda Carollo—has a friend in hospice
- *Ron Nelson—has a friend w/leukemia & frds. needing prayer
- *Jim & Myrna Loehrlein's exchange student's dtr. passing
- *Rachel Wylie's friend—has cancer
- *Maryann Stewart's sister & husband—had a house robbery
- *Decision & effects of the UM Special General Conference
- *Resident of Hawthorne Hills Apts.—experienced a fire
- *New Zealand citizens, and those of the Muslim faith, following 2 mosque shootings (50+ killed); for victims, families, & friends
- *Severe flooding in the Midwest & Alabama tornados

JOYS:

- *Steve Mooney turns 80 on April 7th; **let's shower him with b-day cards sent to 1230 English Lane NE #102, CR 52402**
- *Betty Van Fossen—has completed chemotherapy
- *Carly Pulju's procedure went well; thanks for prayers!
- *Marge Morris has moved into Village Ridge Assisted Living
- *Pastor Jenny—approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry for Associate Membership
- *Birthdays—Olivia Schneider is 16; Madeline Hinke is 1
- *Gene & Bev Kadlec—celebrated a new grandchild (Emerson)
- *Evan & Julie Hupp—celebrated son's new job
- *Joan & Guy Locke—their daughter, Tabitha, is doing well
- *Pam Morris's sister—with new health treatments
- *Renewed commitments to LLUMC post-General Conference
- *UMW Potluck & Program celebrated 150 yrs. in mission
- *AcabeLLa had a great debut in worship on Sunday, 3/17!
- *Health & Wholeness provided a meal on 3/19 for St. Luke's Ronald McDonald House; thanks to all who helped!
- *Local car dealership assisting families w/flooding problems
- *Signs of the spring season that are all around us!

Our Ministry Teams at Work

TRUSTEES

- *Fixing the potholes (bids being gathered)
- *Roof leaks, being addressed
- *Safety & security audit being done

HEALTH & WHOLENESS

- *Blood Drive: April 27, 9 am-12 Noon
- *Mental Health First Aid: May 4, 8 am-5 pm

THANK YOU NOTES

THE POWER OF PRAYER has helped me greatly through the lengthy healing of a broken ankle. Thanks, Lovely Lane!
Dorothy Speight

MANY THANK YOUS to my church family for all the prayers, get well cards, hospital visits, email messages, phone calls, etc., regarding my illness and hospitalization in January. I truly believe it was the power of prayer that I was able to come home from St. Luke's and continue to gain strength. Thank you all so much again.
Jerry Weiland

THANK YOU for thinking of me since I broke my ankle. I am doing well. I appreciated the cards, phone calls, food and all the prayers for healing. Hopefully I will be more mobile in a few weeks. *Love to all, Judy McDowell*

THANK YOU for the cupcakes and well-wishes for my birthday, and to celebrate my Associate Membership. *Pastor Jenny*

Our **Labyrinth** is here (a Memorial gift) and is up in the downstairs Youth Room



during the season of Lent. Why not take a few moments during Lent to take a prayer walk?!

