

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

May 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.



Rejoice Always

Frantic! Frantic! Does this describe your life? Do you have a lot on your plate? Are you busy keeping up with work and family matters? We can all relate to busy schedules.

Now one obvious concern in all this busyness is that we lose sight of what is most important. When we get so caught up in everything going on, we miss out on time with those we love and we fail to embrace the celebrations in front of us. We take our eyes off the Lord.

St. Paul, in Philippians 4, gives us a formula for getting our life in order. Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:4,6 NIV)

Paul gives tremendous insight on finding peace in the midst of a hectic life. Let's consider a couple of suggestions the apostle lifts up. For starters, we look at the command to "Rejoice in the Lord always." Consider that Paul is writing from prison, essentially death row. He is in chains, waiting to find out if he will be sentenced to death. At first glance, it is amazing he can find joy.

It is obvious for Paul that joy does not mean everything is going our way. Joy comes from an inner assurance that whatever we are going through, God is with us. Happiness depends on happenings. Joy is a confidence that God is always there. I love the words of Henri Nouwen, "Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day." In choosing joy over happiness, we have the power to find something good in everything going on.

Following a call to rejoice then, Paul provides another profound insight. He writes, "Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Paul had learned the power of gratitude. When we are grateful, we gain a new outlook on life.

Matthew Henry, the famous Bible scholar, was once stopped by thieves and robbed of his purse. He wrote in his diary, "First, let me be thankful I was never robbed before; second, my life was not taken; third, they didn't take everything; fourth, it was I who was robbed and not somebody else."

Can you find ways to be grateful? Try giving thanks and expressing an attitude of gratitude. Remember to also focus on joy over happiness and count our blessings. St. Paul shows the way! *A Thousand Blessings!* Scott

Calendar of Events — May 2019 (now updated-5/6/19)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries UMW = United Methodist Women	1 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 6 pm Confirmation worship practice 6 pm Adult Explo	2 5:30 pm Yoga 6 pm Boy Scouts Merit Badge 6:30 pm AcabeLLa	3	4 8 am-5 pm Mental Health First Aid
5 <i>Confirmation Sunday & Communion</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 1:30 pm HS Yth. Grp. to Kernel's Game 6-7:15 pm Adult Explo	6 12-3pm PEO (NO Tai Chi) 6 pm Reconciling Ministry Conversation 6:30 pm CE mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	7 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 4:30 pm New Members Class 6:45 pm WOF	8 11:30 am WWW lunch (offsite) 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 6 pm M.S. Youth Group (offsite) 6 pm Adult Explo	9 7:30 am Leadership Mtg. (offsite) 1 pm UMW mtg. 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm AcabeLLa 6:30 pm Missions	10	11 1 pm Mah Jong grp.
12 <i>Mother's Day / Celebration of Women & Teacher Appreciation</i> 9 am Chancel Choir	13 10 am Happy Endings 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	14 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 4:30 pm New Members Class 6:30 pm Mental Health Support Grp 6:45 pm WOF	15 1:30 pm Staff brief prayer time	16 <i>(Friendly Fellowship's Day Trip)</i> 5:30 pm Yoga	17	18 8 am Men's Breakfast 9 am-1:30 pm ILF 10 am-4 pm Project Linus
19 <i>Graduation Sunday & belated Mother's Day Offering</i> 9 am Chancel Choir	20 5:30 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21 (UMW Bible Study lunch-offsite) 10:30 am-5 pm JFON Office Hrs. 4:30 pm New Members Class 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm WOF	22 10 am Shepherdess/ Shepherd mtg. 1:30 pm Staff mtg.	23 5:30 pm Yoga	24	25 5-8 pm Linder Graduation Party
26 <i>Memorial Day Sunday; Summer hours begin—One service @ 9:30 AM!!</i> 1-6 pm Graduation Party (Nixon relative)	27 <i>(Church & office closed for Memorial Day)</i>	28 5:30 pm "Growing Thru Grief..." Grp. 6:45 pm WOF	29 9-Noon CWM Graduation (Preschl.) 9:30 am CCM (offsite) 1:30 pm Staff brief prayer time	30 9-Noon CWM Graduation (Preschl.) 5:30 pm Yoga	31	ILF = International Ladies Fellowship WOF = Women Of Faith WWW = Wednesday Women & The Word

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Mon., May 13th, at 10 AM in the church library. We'll be celebrating the 20th anniversary of our book club! We will also be sharing, with the group, books we've read recently and think others would enjoy. This is a great time to find some good books to read!

The book to read for June 10th is "She's The Quiet One" by Michelle Campbell; Judy McDowell will lead our discussion.

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

FF will not have their usual potluck and meeting in May due to the 5/16 bus trip to Cinnamon Hills Robotic Dairy Farm. Our potlucks and programs will resume on Sept. 20th. Have a great summer!

The Men's Breakfast Group will gather on Sat., May 18th, at 8 am. Everyone is welcome!

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 5: Confirmation Sunday & Communion, 3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Jenny / Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9 / Sermon: "Planting Seeds of Hope"

May 12: Mother's Day—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 15:9-17 / Sermon: "What We Do"

May 19: Graduation Sunday—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:10-17 / Sermon: "Carry On"

May 26: Memorial Day Sunday / Summer Hours Begin!!! — One service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17 / Sermon: "As We Remember"

United Methodist Judicial Council Ruling

The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church met on April 23-26 to review action taken at the recent General Conference. The Council concluded that some parts of the Traditional Plan are unconstitutional, while the rest is constitutional. Some of the main rulings are:

- As approved in Feb., clergy who perform same-sex weddings will be required to take a one-year involuntary leave of absence without pay. If they officiate at subsequent same-sex weddings, their clergy credentials will be removed.
- Boards of Ordained Ministry will be required to examine and not recommend candidates who don't meet standards regarding human sexuality.
- An exit strategy was approved for local churches wanting to leave the denomination.

Conversations with denominational leaders are taking place in the coming months in Kansas City and Minneapolis about possible next steps for congregations not happy with the recent rulings. Also, General Conference 2020 takes place next year. Many of the rulings and matters at hand have the potential to be reviewed and voted on again.

Please remember LGBTQ+ members and friends will always be included in the full membership and life of Lovely Lane. God loves all!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

A lot has been happening over the last couple of months to continue pressing forward with the capital campaign and improvements to our church building.

But first, THANK YOU to all who have contributed to this effort! We are all truly, **Blessed to be a Blessing!**

The total amount pledged/received to date will be announced to the congregation during a worship service in May. While we have not fully met our audacious \$2.85M goal, the total is one we can be very proud of -- as it's believed to be the largest amount pledged to a project in the history of our church!

Some of you have also reached out to me to let me know that you still plan to make a gift, but have not yet done so. Please know that the right time to make a gift is whenever you are ready -- both financially and in your heart.

In March and April, the pastors and campaign leaders met with Dr. Katharine Yarnell, Director of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation (IUMF - www.iumf.org), to discuss our campaign, plans and needs. The IUMF provides a variety of financial services to Iowa United Methodist Churches and individual church members. The most eye-opening news from this meeting was learning of the ability for church members to easily give gifts of stocks and property, a process the Foundation will assist with for free! We invited Dr. Yarnell to present two workshops at Lovely Lane, which took place in early April. There, we learned about the many ways to give other than cash, as well as the giving strategies for different stages of our financial lives, and several methods to leave gifts to the church in a will. Please contact us if you'd like to learn more.

The Steering Committee has formed and began meeting in April. This team formation was a requirement of the motion passed at the Oct. 28 '18 church meeting. (Go to www.llblessing.org and search for *steering committee* to review the details of the motion passed in October). **Matt Mulnik** is leading this team, which was commissioned at a worship service in April. In a nutshell, this team is reviewing the gifts that have been pledged and provided, researching other funding, and comparing the resources to the planned work to determine the best next steps. This team will present the congregation with their findings and recommendations in the coming months, as we move forward with our architects to make improvements to our building that will enhance our mission and ministry.

There is much more to come, but Lovely Lane's future can only be described as exciting! May we continue to be **Blessed to be a Blessing** as we work to share God's love and hope with others.

Eric Wylie, Chair, Capital Campaign Fundraising Team

Life Between Sundays: Creation Care

Earth Day comes around every year on April 21st. There is always a big push intended to spark people into action. Yet, as people of God, we are called to care for creation 365 days a year out of a place of love. God calls us to love as Jesus loved: Love God, love neighbor, love the creation that is around us. We can do this best when we assess our own practices and make some changes. Plastic is one of the most harmful things for the environment, especially because it ends up on our waterways and brings harm to water life. So many of the plastic items we use were created to make life easier for us. The trouble is that these items are costly to manufacture, damage the environment, and are intended for just ONE use.

I invite you to make at least ONE change in your life that will have a positive impact on the environment. Below is list of “single use items” that you might choose from, and the alternative item to use. This is intended to be a starting place for you that will lead to the healing of our very sick planet. If we each make just ONE change, we will start to make a difference.

Single Use Items / What to Use/Do Instead

(Get in the habit of carrying these items in your car or work bag each day!)

- Plastic straws / Reusable metal or BPA free plastic straws
- Plastic water bottles / Refillable water bottle
- Disposable Coffee Cups with lids / Reusable travel mugs
- Plastic grocery sacks / Reusable cloth bags
- Plastic/styrofoam take-out containers / Glass or stainless steel container
- Plastic wrap / Waxed cloth or silicone covers
- Plastic cutlery / Metal cutlery
- Six pack soda rings / Buy pop in 2 L bottles or in boxes
- Plastic party cups & supplies / Use regular dishes & party supplies
- Single serve Keurig coffee pods / Refillable coffee pods
- Produce bags / Reusable fabric or mesh bags

There is a display in the Narthex at the church with many of these reusable items. If you would like some assistance in reducing your single-use items, there will be information coming soon to the display. Check it out regularly as it will be ever evolving. *Blessings to you, Pastor Jenny*

Growing Through Grief and Loss Group May 28th @ 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 **meets monthly at 5:30 pm** in the 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. If you’d like more information about the group, please contact Pastor Jenny at the church.

*Remembering with love:
Donna Karshner.....2016*

Presence: Worship Attendance

4/7	4/14	4/18 (M. Th.)	4/19 (Good Fr.)	4/21 (Easter)	4/28
221	240	236	79	505	232

March Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of March	\$ 44,940
Cash inflow—YTD	\$134,631
Budget need/month	\$ 49,732
Cash outflow—mo. of March	\$ 42,996
Cash outflow—YTD	\$125,764
<i>Unpaid bills</i>	<i>\$ 22,655</i>

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT SPA DAY—Sat., May 4th, @ Iowa City 1st UMC

Treat yourself to some fun, relaxation, and inspiration at our 4th Annual Women's Spa Day! We will gather at 9 AM for coffee & treats, manicures & massages, a cooking demonstration, puzzles, flower arranging, a prayer walk, spiritual collages, knitting or crocheting instruction, quilt tying, and a great lunch! We'll end at 1 PM so you'll have the rest of the day for other activities. Bring friends and have some fun! A \$10 fee will cover the catered lunch and supplies. *Contact Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).*

MAY UMW MEETING

Lovely Lane Ladies: **You are cordially invited to join us for "Coffee, Tea and Memories"**

Time: **Thursday, May 9, 1:00 PM**

Place: **Lovely Lane's Fellowship Hall**

We're celebrating United Methodist Women's 150 years in Mission AND will have some fun sharing our most memorable birthdays! Come share some yummy cupcakes and laughs as we remember those special days in our lives. Mark your calendars and then join us!

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We're currently studying the book of Acts and will meet thru **May 14th**. **May 21st** is our annual *wind-up* luncheon after which the group will break for the summer. On **Sept. 10th**, we'll resume our Tues. meetings from 9:30-11:15 AM and continue our study of the book of Acts. Please join us!

IOWA CONFERENCE UMW'S MISSION U

The summer session of Mission U is July 21-23, and the fall session is Oct. 18-20 at the Iowa Valley Community College, Marshalltown, IA. The theme is "Continuing Our Legacy: 150 Years of Serving Women, Children and Youth", using I Corinthians 13:13 (NIV): "And now these three things remain, faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." "The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve" (FWS #2241) is the theme hymn. Topics are: 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 is "Who Do You Say I Am? Meeting Jesus Through The Eyes of Mark" and the children's study is "Marked: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel." Mother/daughter or grandmother/granddaughter duos are encouraged to attend. Scholarships are available. Call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).



Belated Mother's Day Special Offering—May 19th Sleep in Heavenly Peace: Helping Children in Need Get a Better Night's Sleep

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Iowa and across the U.S., too many boys and girls go to sleep without a bed - or even a pillow. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness, their health, and their development.

That's where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. It is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. The organization has grown steadily over time, and is continually working on opening more chapters in different states to serve more people.

All supplies for building the beds come from donations from individuals, service groups, corporations, etc. We have a local chapter at 999 35th Street, Marion, where we can donate money or volunteer our time.

YOGA class on Thursdays at 5:30 PM will be starting a series in June focusing on our Chakras (energy channels). It will be a lot of fun! If you haven't been to yoga class in awhile, this would be a great place to start again! The classes are slower, focus on one area of the body at a time, making it simpler to move in between poses. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Neugebauer (allredla13@gmail.com).

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: Thanks to those who donated their time to work with the crafts, hide eggs, or donated candy and plastic eggs, for our Easter Egg Hunt! We had a great morning with the children and youth! See the pictures on LL's website.

Teacher Appreciation will be May 12th (also Mother's Day). We want to show our thanks for all those who help with Christian education at Lovely Lane. You are valuable assets!

Summer Reading is coming soon! We will begin on June 2nd during the 9:30 morning service. Children may choose to go with two adult readers for special books and activities. Readers need to sign up in the Narthex for Summer Sunday dates.

Vacation Bible School this summer will be July 14th to 18th: **ROAR - LIFE IS WILD - GOD IS GOOD.**

If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Mrs. G by email at christianedu@lovelylane.org.

Children's activities: May 12th—Children will sing and Zamar Bells will ring for Mother's Day, May 12. May 19 is the last day for Sunday School.

Kid's Club: Resumes in the Fall; date TBD.

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 May:

May 1, 5:30-8:00 pm: Grades 6-7 will meet in the Youth Room for activities. 8th Grade Confirmation will meet in the Sanctuary with parents and mentors to prepare for Confirmation Sunday.

May 5, 10:30 am service: Confirmation Sunday

May 8, 5:30-8:00 pm: Grades 6-8 will have their youth group meeting for the school year. Activity TBD.

High School Youth Group in May:

May 5, 1:30 pm: Last night of youth group for the school year. Youth Group to Kernel's Baseball game.

GRADUATION INVITATIONS

The congregation is invited to celebrate
Nathan Wylie's High School Graduation
Saturday, May 25, 1:00-4:00 PM
404 Huntington Ridge Rd. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
The Wylie Family

Graduation Party for Reagan Linder

Please join us to celebrate Regan's graduation from Kennedy High School
on Saturday, May 25, 5:00-8:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall.
The Linder Family

HELP FILL THE KENNEDY PANTRY!

Kennedy H.S. is working with HACAP to support students. You can help by donating nonperishable food items and toiletries to be placed in the tub in our church narthex. These items will be delivered to Kennedy to help students in need. The Pantry gets used all summer long. Those using the Pantry will have to fill out a brief form.

Thanks for your support and Go Cougars!

Concerns & Celebrations

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to Velma Rainville – on the passing of her husband Dick; his funeral was 4/11
- *Sympathy to Pam Nixon & family on her mother's passing 4/20
- *Sympathy to Ben Swan on the passing of his grandmother
- *Sympathy to Maggie Thomas on the passing of her uncle
- *Chris Budny – prayers for Asher family (college friend) whose daughter was killed in car accident on 4/8
- *Darla Tinderholt's neighbor's daughter passed away
- *Carol Wilson's friend with family loss
- *Cindy Rupe – recovering from knee replacement surgery
- *Ike Schneider – had gallbladder surgery
- *Lois McNiell – moved to Terrace Glenn in Marion for rehab; recovering from a medical procedure
- *Marge Morris – moved to Village Ridge Assisted Living
- *Rory Niebuhr's Aunt Jean in hospice; Aunt Sharon had surgery
- *Mari Lu Smith's brother, Gene
- *Russ & Pat Hines – grandchild with allergies
- *Marcie Baugh's niece, Dixie – health issues
- *Leslie Neugebauer's friend, who has malaria
- *Sharon Kouba's nephew, Jerry
- *Vicki Cangemi's friend, Monica, with surgery
- *Mary Vorwerk's sister-in-law, Karen, with heart surgery & neighbor, Mary, with medical concerns
- *Teresa Bailey's grandmother
- *Jan Culbertson's niece with family matters
- *Border matters with the USA & Mexico
- *Young boy who suffered a terrible fall at the Mall of America
- *People of Sri Lanka after bomb attacks

JOYS:

- *Tara Neveu (LL nursery worker) – birth of baby girl, Rosemary
- *Mary & Andy Vorwerk – birth of 1st grandchild, Mayer (boy)
- *Baptisms on 3/31 of twin babies, Reid & Keaton Starmer
- *Patrick & Katrina Mahoney – expecting a baby girl this summer
- *Marge Morris is healing well
- *Betty Van Fossen doing better
- *Isabel Drew is doing well
- *John & June Sackett celebrate daughter's birthday
- *John Roland with new job in Houston, TX
- *Thanks for prayers & support when Richard Rainville passed
- *Thanks for candy & plastic egg donations for Easter Egg Hunt
- *Flowers on 4/28 were in honor of Jan & ReGina Culbertson's 10th legal wedding anniversary (together 22 yrs.!)
- *Meaningful Holy Week services & events
- *Joyous Easter celebration, with guests from near and far!
- *LL youth did a great job at our 9:15 Easter service!

Our Ministry Teams at Work

TRUSTEES

- *Potholes—accepted Pate Asphalt bid of \$800
- *Annual/bi-annual waxing of floors—needs to be done Aug. 19-21
- *Finalizing security survey

HEALTH & WHOLENESS

- *Mental Health First Aid—May 4
- *Meal for VBS in July

MISSIONS / COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- *Getting volunteers together to work on Habitat housing project on 5/7 & 5/14
- *Kennedy Appreciation Breakfast & Thank You cards
- *Mother's Day Special Offering—"Sleep in Heavenly Peace" (beds for children in need)

THANK YOU NOTES

THANK YOU for your support of Mission Guatemala in 2018 (gift given of \$1,114)! Your generosity helps make our continued work in Guatemala possible.


THANK YOU for partnering with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). [Gift given of \$1,819.75.] Through your gifts, you are helping to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

THANK YOU for your gift received on 3/20/19 of \$1,502 to the General Board of Global Ministries through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that 100% of your contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Rev. Doug E. Williams.

THANK YOU so much for contributing 187 lbs. of food to the Linn Community Food Bank during the first quarter of 2019. We could not operate our food bank without the generous support of donors like you and your congregation.

Worship Schedule
 Sunday worship services:
 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM

EMBODYING ...
 DISCERNING ...
 DISCOVERING ...
 THE WILL OF GOD



Find out more about us:
 Website: www.lovelylane.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc
 Phone: 319-393-6674

Lovely Lane Staff

Lead Pastor.....Dr. Scott Meador
 Associate Pastor.....Rev. Jenny Seylar
 Sr. Office Manager.....Sue Moss
 Office Manager.....Marti Bowman
 Director Children’s Weekday Min.....Carolyn Barnes
 Youth Director.....Jenny Seylar
 Kid’s Club Director.....Julie Meyer
 Christian Educator..... Barb Geissinger
 Choir Director.....K. Weiler
 Organist.....Dennis Ramsey
 Children’s Choirs.....Carla Jesse
 Director of Handbells.....Charlie Kucera
 Nursery.....Shelbie Wood, Tara Neveu,
 Paige Gerjets, & Claire Van Erde-Wyk
 Wedding Coordinator.....Becky Wood
 Custodians.....Rex, Rhonda & Jessica Heasty
 Audio/Visual Coordinator.....Eric Wylie
 Treasurer.....Marcie Stumpf
 Finance Secretary.....Vicki Cangemi
 Webmaster.....Shelly Turner



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 2424 42nd Street NE
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