

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

January 2020

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.



Which Way to Go?

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing." Doing the right thing is always the way to go, but it's never easy. Life involves choices. From the moment we wake in the morning until we go to bed at night, we make choices. Hopefully, we make choices that move us in the direction of God's will for us.

Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." In James 1:5 we read, "If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God." (NIV) We have numerous options, but our Lord's way is always the way to go.

In his wonderful book, *Three Simple Rules*, Bishop Rueben Job says three simple rules can guide our daily actions and possibly change the world. These rules are "do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God." A closer examination of these rules can move us to make the right choices on a daily basis.

"Do no harm" means that we need to avoid harming others. We need to avoid physical harm, but we also need to avoid harm with the words we speak. Gossip, slander, and manipulation are never helpful in our relationship with others.

"Doing good" is a universal command. It is a proactive way of living. It is a way of life in which we do not wait to be asked to help. We go and assist others. A desire to do good always comes in response to God's invitation to follow Jesus.

"Staying in love with God" includes a focus on the spiritual disciplines like meditation, prayer, study, and journaling. Living in the presence of our Lord is to live from the inside out. As we focus on our inner life, loving acts of peace and reconciliation have the potential to come out.

Life is a constant journey for all of us. By focusing on these simple rules in the New Year, the hope is the right choices will emerge. Let us seek to go God's way on a regular basis!

May God bless each of you! Happy 2020! *Scott*

Calendar of Events — January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	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	1 New Year's Day <i>(church & office closed)</i>	2 5:30 pm Yoga	3	4 9 am-1:30 pm ILF
5 Epiphany Sunday & Holy Communion 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm H.S. Youth	6 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm CE mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	7 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6-8pm Boy Scouts Merit Badge 6:45 pm WOF	8 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 4:45 pm Zamar bells 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kid's Club / M.S. Youth / Confirmation 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	9 7:30 am Leadership Team (@ Panera's) 1 pm UMW meeting 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm Missions	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	13 10 am Happy Endings 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6 pm Adult Explo 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	14 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:30 pm Mental Health Support Grp. 6:45 pm WOF	15 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff brief prayer time 4:45 pm Zamar bells 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kid's Club / M.S. Youth 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	16 5:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Trustees 7 pm Committees 7:50 pm Ad Council	17 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	18 8 am Men's Breakfast 10 am-4 pm Project Linus
19 Human Relations Day 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	20 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6 pm Adult Explo 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10:30 am-5 pm JFON Office Hours 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm WOF	22 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 4:45 pm Zamar bells 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kid's Club / M.S. Youth / Confirmation 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	23 5:30 pm Yoga	24	25
26 9 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	27 9 am Prayer Shawl 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6 pm Adult Explo 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	28 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF	29 9:30 am Care Center Ministry (offsite) 12 noon WWW 1:30 pm Staff brief prayer time 4:45 pm Zamar bells 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kid's Club / M.S. Youth 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	30 5:30 pm Yoga	31	

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Jan. 13th at 10 AM in the church library. The book we'll read for January is *The Library Book* by Susan Orleans. We'll select books for the next few months at our January meeting, so come with suggestions for books you think the group would enjoy reading. Contact Nancy Miller (393-6340) with any questions.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast is on Sat., Jan. 18th, at 8 AM. Pastor Scott will lead a presentation on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the church's opposition to Nazi Germany. Please join us!

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

FF will meet on Friday, Jan. 17th, at noon in the Fellowship Hall for our luncheon potluck. Our speaker will be Lisa Nelson, Jayne Woodson's daughter, who will present a program on her hike from Rome to Assisi, Italy. Lisa always gives an interesting and entertaining program. Jayne Woodson is the hostess. If you can't attend the potluck, come to the presentation at 12:30 in the library.



SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Jan. 5: Epiphany of the Lord & Holy Communion—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matt. 2:1-12 / Sermon: "Follow the Star"

Jan. 12: Baptism of the Lord—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Rev. Rose Blank / Scripture: Matt. 3:13-17 / Sermon: "Remembering and Rejoicing"
(Pastor Scott is teaching at the School for Lay Ministry, Cornell College)

Jan. 19: Human Relations Day—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: I Cor. 1:1-9 / Sermon: Lessons from Dr. King

Jan. 26: 3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23 / Sermon: "And So It Begins"



NEW ADULT EXPLO STUDY

Pastor Scott will lead a new study entitled *Living the Questions*. This study focuses on some of the bigger questions we ask on our faith journey. Sessions will take place Sundays and Mondays at 6:00 PM in the church library, starting on January 12th and 13th. Please choose the night that works best. All are welcome!

New Associate Pastor Starting July 1, 2020: Kristina Roth

I am so looking forward to joining Lovely Lane UMC this July as an Associate Pastor, sharing my time at Matthew 25. I'm looking forward to learning more about each of you and growing in ministry together. I am from Iowa, raised as a Pastor's Kid. My father is a Pastor in the Iowa Conference. I attended Simpson College, graduating in 2014 with a degree in Elementary Education. While I was at Simpson, I was the intern of Worship, leading the praise band, and later became President of Religious Life Community. While I was serving in that role, I was on the presidential and chaplain search committees at Simpson. After graduation, I began my teaching career, teaching third grade for three years in the Fairfield Community School District. My sister and I shared an apartment in Mount Pleasant, IA, attending Mount Pleasant FUMC. There I started and led the praise band and was the Lay Leader. It was at that church when I answered my call into ministry and began the candidacy process in the UMC.

In the Fall of 2017, I began my studies at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, TX where I met my soon-to-be husband. While I've been in Dallas, I have been living in one of the intentional living communities under The Missional Wisdom Foundation. With my housemates, we do ministry with our homeless neighbors, opening up our home for a community meal every Wednesday night. I am currently in my last year of seminary and am on staff at White Rock United Methodist Church and Missional Wisdom Foundation. Both the church and the foundation explore and experiment alternative forms of Christian community. I'm on leadership at our missional campus which launched a dinner church in October of 2018.

Ryan and I get married January 18, 2020, in Dallas. We are looking forward to starting our life together and the new experiences before us. Ryan graduated from Perkins in May 2018, and currently works for Missional Wisdom Foundation and Neighboring Movement. He trains churches in asset-based community development, is a certified spiritual director, and is on staff for a spiritual direction training program. Ryan and I enjoy hiking, reading, being creative, playing music, and cooking up tasty gluten-free treats in our kitchen. We are continually in prayer for Lovely Lane and our transition into ministry with all of you. *Kristina Roth*

Winter Preparedness Tips from Pastor Cati Newman*

Winter storms can include high winds, snow, rain, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and more. This is a good time to take a few minutes and get prepared for winter weather. Here is a list of tips:

For your Home: 1) Have a plan for how you will keep warm if the power is off for an extended time. DO NOT use the oven or a gas-powered source inside your home. 2) Have fresh batteries, flashlights, or candles in a convenient place. 3) Have some food that does not need to be cooked or heated to eat. 4) Have some water stored in a convenient place. The suggested amount is one gallon per person/animal, per day. 5) Block drafts by rolling up towels and blankets and placing them in front of doors/windows.

For your Vehicle: 1) Keep the gas tank at least half-full all the time. 2) Have an emergency kit in your vehicle that includes extra warm clothing, water, and packaged snacks. 3) If you get stuck or stranded, STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE. You will stay warmer out of the wind and will be easier to find. 4) Let someone know where you are headed, check in with family/friends while traveling long distances.

Other: 1) Check on your neighbors during and after winter storms. 2) Be practical about the amount of time you spend outdoors, be prepared. *“It’s not the weather that will hurt you...it’s not being prepared for the weather.”*

For more winter preparedness tips, visit The Red Cross website, ready.gov.

(*IAUMC Disaster Response Coordinator)

DIRECTORY CHANGES

James & Jean Bunney
6113 Greenbriar Ln. SW, Unit A
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Brent & Jessica Schenk
1631 Isabella Pkwy.
Chaska, MN 55318-3214

Jeff & Chris Budny
7713 Thorndale Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Justin & Melissa Davis
175 N. 17th Ave.
Hiawatha, IA 52233

Mitchell Symmonds
P. O. Box 11414
Cedar Rapids, IA 52410-1414

Bill & Gloria Jahnel
(snowbirds 12/1/19-4/30/20)
4833 E. Forge Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85206

Welcome to the Newest Members of Our Lovely Lane Family

(joined 11/17/19)

LuAnn Basemann
Jan Booth
Mary Brabston
James & Jean Bunney
Darlene Carlson
Nick & Jane Groves
Christian & Tiffany Gustafson
Michael Litscher
Ron & Renee Lyons
Cherie Morse
Denis & Penny Sailer
Keith & Julie Schmickley
Al & Britt Shaver
Chris Tanner

Remembering with love:

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

Presence: Worship Attendance

12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/24 (Christmas Eve)	12/29
261	277	303	245	504	126

November Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 38,465
Cash inflow—YTD	\$480,420
Budget need/month	\$ 49,732
Cash outflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 44,799
Cash outflow—YTD	\$473,035
*Unpaid apportionments	\$ 22,806 (*pd. in Dec.)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group will resume meeting on **Tuesday, January 7th, from 9:30-11:15 AM in Fireside**. We will continue our study of Paul's letter to the Romans. We have 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 MEETING

We will meet on **Thurs., Jan. 9th, at 1 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. This year's Prayer and Self-Denial program is entitled *We Rise: Meeting God's Call To Transform Communities*. This program is meant to shine a light on the many way United Methodist Women have changed the lives of women, children and youth on the margins thru our gifts to A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. Our offerings this year will support the work of our National Missions like the 90+ community centers located in neighborhoods across our country and internationally, especially through our Regional Missionaries working around the globe. Our gifts provide educational development opportunities to marginalized women, children and youth through projects that include child development, afterschool programs, GED and ESL classes, job readiness, life skills, scholarships, and microenterprise projects. Cheryl Murphy will lead our program, and Jayne Woodson will be our hostess. **We invite you to come learn about this UMW mission emphasis and share this time of fellowship with us.**

LOVELY LANE UMC 2020 GOALS

- 1) Continue to remain a mission driven church as we continue with the building project and Capital Campaign. The updates to the church will help us in the future to remain current and inviting. However, our church is always called to be in mission to others, and we don't want to lose sight of this reality. Offerings and outreach efforts need to remain a priority.
- 2) Continue and expand our W+2 Discipleship Pathway for all church members. As we research what staffing model will work best for the future, we also want to look for ways to encourage our congregation to step up into leadership roles. Strive to reach out and expand our membership.
- 3) Continue our relationship with Kennedy High School and Pierce Elementary students and teachers. Identify "Points of Contacts" for both schools to provide a single contact for the schools to help coordinate all our efforts.
- 4) Continue to remain a welcoming church for everyone! Continue to navigate the best path for our church through the continuing changes in the General Conference.
- 5) Continue to expand communications by improving our current methods and researching new and different tools, such as electronic signs and new social media platforms.
- 6) Continue to support our Congolese worshipers and encourage sharing with our congregation.

Sunday School & Weekday Studies For All Ages

GOD IS GOOD! **Learn from the Bible Stories—Find out at Children's Sunday School!**

9:15 AM Sunday School—Classes for the following are available:

***Elementary** children PreK to 5th grade are using a multi-age format as we gather for music in Room 100. The Children's Sunday School will be studying in the New Testament for the rest of the school year.

***Middle School** youth meet in the Youth Room (106) and use *Submerge* from *Deep Blue* – a Bible centered approach for preteens to be Creative, Connect with God, and Dive Deep!

***Confirmation Class** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 8 & Jan. 22, @ 6 PM.

***High School** age youth may be Sunday School volunteer helpers!

• **Adult Class / Faith Issues** meets in the Library

• **Adult Class / Faith Journeys** meets in Room 205

10:45 AM Sunday School: Classes for children (PreK – 5th grade) are located in the Fellowship Hall. The Children's Sunday School will be studying in the New Testament for the rest of the school year. Children are dismissed from the Sanctuary after the "Time for Young Disciples" and may be picked up after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 2019 Children's Christmas program. We appreciate your time and talents!

Adult Explo Classes - Sunday & Monday Evenings

ADULT EXPLO continues to meet with Pastor Scott on Sunday and Monday nights at 6 PM in the Library. See page 3 of this newsletter for information on the new class starting in January.

Wednesday Night Kid's Club & More

I am Fearfully & Wonderfully made! The schedule for Lovely Lane UMC's Weds. Night Kid's Club is:

5:30 PM Family meal served

6:00 PM Kids go to their classrooms. Middle Schoolers will gather with Amy Perry in the Youth Room.

(Confirmation Class will gather with Pastor Scott on Wednesday, Jan. 8 & Jan. 22, at 6 PM.)

6:05—6:20 PM 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade go to music

6:55—7:15 PM Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st grade go to music

7:15 PM Kids head home

Come and learn how we are fearfully and wonderfully made. For more information, please contact Julie Meyer at juliem@lovelylane.org or 393-6674.

Wednesday Women & the Word (WWW)

WWW Bible Study meets at Noon on Weds. in the Library. We're starting a new study in January—stay tuned!

Is the Prayer Shawl Ministry for you? Last year we talked about "How do you W + 2?" We all have the opportunity to worship, but how can we select two ministries to help out Lovely Lane? Do you crochet, knit, quilt, or know how to work with fleece? If so, the Prayer Shawl Ministry may be for you! This ministry provides various types of prayer shawls that the minister may take to individuals who are sick, lost a loved one, etc. We make baby crib covers to give to each new baby, and we also make pocket prayer shawls. Shawls will be displayed in the narthex Sunday AM's beginning in January. If you need one, they're free; just please sign the clipboard indicating you took one.

This group meets the 4th Monday of each month from 9-10 AM. If you're interested or would like more information, contact Sharon Kouba (319-393-0156 or sdkouba@gmail.com). Feel free to drop in to see what we do. All are welcome!

Concerns & Celebrations

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to Susan Blum on the passing of her mother
- *Sympathy to Denise Carnahan after the passing of her father
- *Sympathy to Carla Jesse on the passing of her cousin
- *Sympathy to April Drew after the passing of her aunt
- *Sympathy to Jeff Linder's co-worker after daughter's passing
- *Sister Betty from Prairiewoods passed—spiritual leader for many
- *Jim Bunney is recovering from surgery
- *Jayne Woodson is recovering from surgery
- *Carly Pulju is recovering from surgery
- *Barb Olive is recovering from surgery
- *Do Koudelka following surgery
- *Jan Peterson is at Hiawatha Care Center recovering from surgery
- *Darla Carter hospitalized at Mercy Hospital
- *Kaylee Hammer hospitalized in Ia. City after a medical procedure
- *Norm Stepleton after a fall
- *Lee Stepp with health concerns
- *Jan Robinson's son, Glenn, with life transition
- *Stephanie French's sister, Terry, with medical appointment
- *Don & Wanda Whitford lift up family in Arizona with difficulties
- *Vicki Cangemi's friend, Lindsay, after accident
- *Cindy Rupe's best friend, Marty, diagnosed with breast cancer
- *Trinity Lane Preschool needing a new site director
- *Shooting at naval station in Florida
- *Our country going thru an impeachment / division in our country
- *Prayers for those experiencing loss this time of year

JOYS:

- *Baptism of Eleanor Mae Mahoney, Patrick & Katrina M.'s dtr.
- *Baptism of Preslie Jade Daley, daughter of Noah & Cassie Daley
- *Barb Olive is Smile Program recipient & has good health news
- *ReGina Culbertson doing better after health concern
- *Tracy Christensen celebrates upcoming grandchild
- *Joan Locke lifting up her daughter & grandchild
- *Rhonda Mumby's nephew-in-law, Eric
- *Dave & Linda Keefe's 51st wedding anniversary
- *Erika Serbousek with good health check-up
- *Jared Stumpf with good musical comedy performance
- *Congratulations to Evan Hupp on his retirement
- *Alex Niebuhr is working in the Brooklyn, IA area
- *Brian Turner's father is doing better
- *Celebrating our new associate pastor, Kristina Roth, starting in July of 2020 / video presentation she shared with congregation
- *Wonderful music in worship from our Congolese community
- *Celebrating our nonagenarian church members (90+in age)
- *Nice UMW Advent Coffee
- *Wonderful Children's Christmas Program on 12/15 (9:15 service)
- *Time with families & friends over the holidays
- *Wonderful Christmas Eve Services

Ministry Teams @ Work

No Committees met in December.

THANK YOU NOTES

LL congregation: Thank you for your gifts that help people get back on track to success. I deeply appreciate your devotion to welcoming struggling individuals and families needing support, encouragement, and the Good News. Thank you for exploring poverty's puzzles and for continuing these conversations. May you find peace and joy each day, and new ways to share the light of Christ's abundant love. *Robin Switzer Brunner, COO, Ecumenical Community Center (♫ Helping Hands)*

Merry Christmas from Zimbabwe! Lining the streets on the outskirts of Mutare centre are rows of stone sculptures fashioned in typical Shona style. The most beautiful creatively depict family ties and bonds. At this time of year, there are small nativity sets with figures to recreate a scene in a stable—a baby in a box, a mother and father and collection of animals—a family! An ordinary family, yet a family different from and more complete than any other. Jesus gave his followers a new definition of *family*, and living in Zimbabwe for the past 25 yrs. has really helped us to appreciate that. Our church brings together people in our community and works to build and grow a family. Africa Univ. prides itself on bringing many nationalities together, creating a Pan-African family. We work in mission with a family that extends to different continents. And all made possible thru our shared relationship to the child in a manger—Jesus. This Christmas season, Larry and I are thankful for all the family we've come to know thru living here, and we wish each one of you a very special time with family—wherever you are and with whomever you celebrate, creating memories that will bring you joy throughout the year to come.

Larry & Jane Kies, Africa University

