

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

March 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.



## The Lenten Season

We don't know what we don't know. With more than a decade's worth of research, David Dunning, a psychologist at Cornell University, has demonstrated that humans find it "intrinsically difficult to get a sense of what we don't know." Whether an individual lacks competence in logical reasoning, emotional intelligence, or the capacity to make people laugh, the person still tends to rate his or her skills in that area as above average.

Dr. Dunning's research points us to the realization that we have strengths and weaknesses. One of the keys in life is to discern what these strengths and weaknesses are. I know I am always impressed with individuals who have a good self-awareness about their unique blessings as well as their shortcomings.

When it comes to the Christian life, we all have much to learn. As children of God, we are on a constant journey. We never arrive. This is why the Lenten season is so important. This is a time to realize how much we need to strengthen our relationship with Christ Jesus and gain further clarity on the specific areas in which we can shine for the Lord.

We are in the early stages of the Lenten season. As always, I encourage you to take on a new spiritual discipline like meditation, study, prayer, or fasting. At the same time, I challenge you to move away from practices and habits that tear you away from God and Christ Jesus.

At Lovely Lane, we have opportunities to strengthen your walk with the Lord and gain a deeper understanding about your place in this world. We have copies of the devotional, *Renewed by Living Water*, available in the narthex. The Iowa Annual Conference is also sharing daily devotions written by local pastors and laity. You can sign up by going to the website, [iaumc.org](http://iaumc.org).

Additionally, area United Methodist Churches are hosting Lenten Lunches and Programs on Wednesdays at noon. Our church hosts the first lunch, March 4. The lunches are a time to connect with others and ponder the depth of your spiritual life.

Finally, please join us for Worship Services this season. The Lenten preaching series will focus on the "Last Words" of Jesus from the cross.

May God richly bless you! *Scott*

Calendar of Events — March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 1st Sunday in Lent &amp; Communion</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 1-5 Boy Scouts merit badge 4 pm <i>Living Last Supper</i> practice 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	<b>2</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm CE mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF	<b>4</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 12 noon Lenten Series Program & Lunch @ LL 1:30 pm Staff mtg. 2 pm WWW 4:45 pm Zamar bells 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm Kid's Club / M.S. Youth 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	<b>5</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 5 pm Yoga	<b>6</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs.	<b>7</b>
<b>8 2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 4 pm <i>Living Last Supper</i> practice 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	<b>9</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 8:30 am-5 pm CWM PS Spring pics. 10 am Happy Endings 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 8:30 am-2:30 pm CWM PS Spring pics. 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF	<b>11</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 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 / Confirm. 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	<b>12</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs. 7:30 am Leadership Team (@ Panera's) 5 pm Yoga 6 pm UMW mission potluck dinner	<b>13</b> 7 am-5 pm CWM PS 4's Spring Confs.	<b>14</b>
<b>15 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 4 pm <i>Living Last Supper</i> practice 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	<b>16</b> 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6 pm Adult Explo 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>17 Happy St. Patrick's Day</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 6:45 pm WOF	<b>18</b> 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 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	<b>19</b> 5 pm Yoga 5:45 pm Trustees 6 pm Committees 7 pm Ad Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8 am Men's Breakfast 9 am-1:30 pm ILF 10 am 4 pm Project Linus
<b>22 4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9 am Chancel Choir 4 pm <i>Living Last Supper</i> practice 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	<b>23</b> 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6 pm Adult Explo 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10:30 am-5 pm JFON Office Hours 5-8 pm JFON Clinic 6:45 pm WOF	<b>25</b> 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 / Confirm. 7:15 pm AcabeLLa	<b>26</b> 5 pm Yoga	<b>27</b> 7 pm Friendly Fellowship Program (with treats)	<b>28</b> 8:30 am-2 pm ECD UMW event @ LL 10 am Gospel Choir practice
<b>29 5th Sunday in Lent</b> (NO Chancel Choir) 4 pm <i>Living Last Supper</i> practice 6 pm Adult Explo 6 pm H.S. Youth	<b>30</b> 9 am Prayer Shawl 5:15 pm Tai Chi 6 pm Adult Explo 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 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	

## HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, book discussion group, will meet on Mon., March 9th, at 10 AM in the church library. We'll be discussing the book *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes. The book to read for April 13th is *The Day the World Came to To Town: 9/11 in Gander Newfoundland*. In May we'll have our annual discussion about books we've read and would like to share about with other readers. Come join us for good discussions and fellowship!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday, March 21st, at 8 AM. Phil Martin from Lovely Lane will speak about his recent trip to Antarctica. Please join us, *and bring a friend or two!*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP IN MARCH

**March 1: 1st Sunday in Lent & Communion Sunday**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 23:26-43/ Sermon: "Needing Forgiveness" *Last Words, Part 1*

**March 8: 2nd Sunday in Lent**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 23:32-43 / Sermon: "Mercy to All" *Last Words, Part 2*

**March 15: 3rd Sunday in Lent**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 19:17-27 / Sermon: "Just Like Family" *Last Words, Part 3*

**March 22: 4th Sunday in Lent**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Mark 15:21-32 / Sermon: "Always There" *Last Words, Part 4*

**March 29: 5th Sunday in Lent**—3 services @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 19:28-37 / Sermon: "The Least of These" *Last Words, Part 5*

**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVANT SIGN-UPS ARE AVAILABLE AT SIGNUP.COM.** You can gain access through Lovely Lane's website ([www.lovelylane.org](http://www.lovelylane.org)); just click on the link. Please sign up for the date(s) that work for you – for 8:00, 9:15, and/or 10:30 AM worship. *Thank you for your willingness to serve!*

## 2020 Lenten Offering Recipients

**Tanager Place LGBTQ Youth Center** provides a safe and confidential environment for LGBTQ youth, families, and allies. Diverse programs at the center include support groups, special art offerings, mentoring program, Pride Café, community service, health initiative classes, parent workshops, financial literacy, tutoring, and career exploration.

**Matthew 25** is a local non-profit that exists to strengthen core neighborhoods on Cedar Rapids' west side. It partners with them to work in three program areas: Neighborhood Building, Youth Development and Cultivating Hope. Lovely Lane will partner with Matthew 25 again this year during Transform Week which is June 22-26.

**Mission Of Hope** is celebrating 17 years of ministry in Cedar Rapids. The Free Meal Program and Food Pantry provide hot, homemade meals or a box of staple groceries to help those needing food support for themselves and their families. MOH also provides free donated clothing and other faith and support services to those in need due to homelessness, loss of income, or recent incarceration.

**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; it 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.

## Building Renovations Update

A building renovations update was provided to the congregation on Sunday, March 1st, from Amber Mulnik, project manager. To hear the presentation and view the slides, go to [www.llblessing.org](http://www.llblessing.org).

Renovations are planned to start Monday, June 8th, and end by mid-November. The first phase of work includes the parking lot, parking lot lighting, building security, siding, windows and insulation, fire protection, main bathrooms, and HVAC. Interior updates will be in the Narthex and Sanctuary areas.

The congregation has been very supportive of the project, having given more than \$673,000 and pledged \$1.3 million. The anticipated expenses for phase one improvements are \$1.7 million.

The Administrative Council will hold a Church Charge Conference on March 19th to review and discuss the final budget and financing plan and approve the renovation scope and project to move forward.

A Giving Commitment Day and Groundbreaking event will be held on Sunday, May 17. More information will be shared soon.

If you have questions or need more information about giving to the project or renovation details, please contact Amber ([amberm@lovelylane.org](mailto:amberm@lovelylane.org)). Amber Mulnik, Project Manager, Building Renovations

**Blessed**  
to be a **Blessing**  
— Reflecting God's Light —

**FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP**

Friendly Fellowship will not meet on our regular Friday but will be sponsoring a special evening activity on March 27th at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary. On the 27th we will be have a presentation by the Eric Engelmann family about their Around-The-World trip last year. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your whole family for an entertaining evening. Following the presentation we will have cookies and lemonade in the Fellowship Hall. *Be sure to sign up on the STUB in March or call Nancy Miller at 393-6340 if you have questions or would like to sign up.*

**Living Last Supper Performances**

Come and join us for *Living Last Supper* performances this year! The dates are April 2nd at Cottage Grove Place and April 3rd at Meth-Wick (6:30 PM both nights). The church performance is on Thursday, April 9th (7 PM). The production brings to life Leonardo da Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper."

**January Financial Totals**

Cash inflow—mo. of Jan.	\$ 58,714
Cash inflow—YTD	\$ 58,714
Budget need/month	\$ 46,202
Cash outflow—mo. of Jan.	\$ 57,884
Cash outflow—YTD	\$ 57,884
Unpaid Apportionments	-\$ 13,768 (2 payments ahead)

**Lenten Luncheon Series @ Noon**

- March 4 Lovely Lane UMC
- March 11 Asbury UMC
- March 18 St. Mark's UMC
- March 25 Salem UMC
- April 1 Trinity-St. James UMC
- April 8 Sharon UMC

**Presence: Worship Attendance**

2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23	2/26 (Ash Wed.)
244	232	235	221	176

**Remembering with love:**

Marge Thornton.....2018  
 Donna Cole.....2015

**Your Shoe Box Gifts Travel to the Ends of the Earth!**

Dear friends at Lovely Lane UMC,

God is good! I recently learned some statistics about the success of Operation Christmas Child 2019.

There were 10,569,405 shoe box gifts collected. Shoe boxes were packed by individuals and families in 10 countries: Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Shoe box gifts collected in 2019 will be distributed to 118 countries and territories, including 27 hard-to-reach countries not named for security reasons. 4.3 Million children are enrolled in The Greatest Journey gospel study program and 2.2 Million reported decisions for Jesus Christ.

Many children around the world have never heard the Gospel message of eternal life in Jesus Christ. They live in hard-to-reach, impoverished communities where parents struggle to provide the basics. Rarely, if ever, do the children receive a present that's just for them. They received shoe boxes full of special gifts. And, for the first time, these children heard that God loves them. This has resulted in evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication across the world! Starting churches where there are none.

I'm so proud of the wonderful work of this program and proud to be a part of it. Please know your help has made a difference... a 10 MILLION children, difference. Thank you, Lovely Lane, for being a part of this!

*Your friend in Christ. Regina Culbertson*

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**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)**

**UMW ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR MARCH 2020**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 9-11 AM**

**@ Buffalo UMC (1000 30th St. NE)**

*Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk!* Come and enjoy music and information about Zimbabwe. Pastries and beverages available 9-9:30 AM. SERRV items will be available to purchase. The women of Zimbabwe are seeking love, peace and reconciliation within their country. They need our support.

**IOWA CONFERENCE UMW'S INTERNATIONAL  
RINGING BELLS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

**LOVELY LANE'S UMW MISSION POTLUCK DINNER**

Lovely Lane's UMW is sponsoring a Mission Potluck Dinner on **Thursday, March 12, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. Our program this year will be on JFON (Justice For Our Neighbors). Amy Guardado, one of the local volunteer coordinators for the Lovely Lane JFON clinic, will speak about this mission program which helps so many people. Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this interesting program about this clinic which meets monthly at Lovely Lane.

**UMW TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

We continue to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:15 AM in Fireside. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Romans. We invite you to join with us for study and fellowship. We have decided to not only LUG OUR MUGS, BUT TO FILL THEM AT HOME; SO, COME PREPARED WITH YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE IN HAND. Call Cheryl Murphy (377-6205) with questions.

**UMW Program Books for 2020**

Look for the 2020 booklets with the bright yellow covers in the rack on the wall in the narthex. We invite all women of Lovely Lane to pick up a copy. These booklets list our programs and events, plus our budget for 2020 and some information related to United Methodist Women.

**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT UMW SPIRITUAL GROWTH DAY  
SATURDAY, MARCH 28 (9 AM – 1 PM)  
@ Lovely Lane United Methodist Church**

This year Lovely Lane will be hosting a very special Day Apart. Pastor Jenny Seylar will be leading this Amazing Day of Discovery and Spiritual Re-Juvenation for Women and Youth!! A salad luncheon will be served; each carload is to bring a salad to share. Bring the kids (age 8 & up) for a day of fun and learning together (childcare available upon request). Pastor Jenny, a trained Mission U leader, has planned a very special day. The day will be an interactive study: *Who Do You Say I Am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark*. There will be role playing—sharing—singing—praying—laughing together! This will be a special day for all, especially the women and youth at Lovely Lane who came to know Pastor Jenny when she was here. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this special program. Please contact Cheryl Murphy (377-6205) to make your reservations.

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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** meets on Weds., March 11 & 25, @ 6 PM. Confirmation Sunday is April 19, 10:30 service.

\***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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

This summer's **VBS dates** are July 15-18 (Weds.-Sat.). We'll gather at 5:30 PM W-F for a family meal, when class sessions will be from 6-8 PM. Saturday we'll meet from 9-11 AM. Our theme is "To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Powers Can Take You" (from Cokesbury).

## Adult Explo Classes - Sunday & Monday Evenings

The *Living the Questions* study continues on Sun. and Mon. in the Library at 6 PM. Choose the best night for you!

## 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** gather with Amy Perry in the Youth Room.

**(Confirmation Class** will gather with Pastor Scott on Wednesday, March 11 & 25, 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](mailto:juliem@lovelylane.org) or 393-6674.

## Wednesday Women & the Word (WWW)

**WWW Bible study** for Lent is *Entering the Passion of Jesus* from Amy-Jill Levine.

**Johnson STEAM Academy's  
GOSPEL CHOIR to sing  
at Lovely Lane on Sunday,  
March 29, at our 10:30 service**



! These 2nd-5th graders from the Wellington Heights neighborhood perform at St. Paul's UMC, local nursing homes, and special events throughout Cedar Rapids. Come and enjoy their music and see members of our own Youth Sunday School and Chancel Choirs sing with the Gospel Choir!

## Concerns & Celebrations

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

- \*Sympathy to Curtis Thomas after the passing of his boss, Tony
- \*Kent & Joy Jackson with family loss
- \*Barb Geissinger's friends with loss
- \*Mari Lu Smith with friends experiencing loss
- \*Sue Moss's friend Lori & all others struggling with grief
- \*Death of Rev. Lawan Andimi, executed in Nigeria by terrorists
- \*Rachel Wylie's friend with loss of her pet
- \*Esther Noack recovering from surgery
- \*Alisa Oliver recovering after hospitalization
- \*Donna Houts recovering from surgery
- \*ReGina Culbertson and healing for her foot
- \*Dave Keefe recovering from knee surgery (other knee)
- \*Chris Budny with a medical procedure & a badly-sprained ankle
- \*Jean Bunney with severe back pains
- \*Alisa Oliver's sister, Angie, starting chemotherapy for cancer
- \*Millie Corbett's son-in-law Mike, with hip surgery
- \*Carol Guge's brother Jim who had a stroke
- \*Stephanie French's son, Troy
- \*Jessica Hinke's family members
- \*Jayne Woodson's granddaughter hospitalized
- \*Lyn Lewis's friend with father in hospice
- \*Marti Bowman's friend's fiancée who had a kidney removed
- \*Micayla Mahoney's friend
- \*Rita McCord's friend's new granddaughter
- \*Dana Renken lifting up Pastor Daniel with health concerns
- \*Helen Anderson lifts up April, young woman who is homeless
- \*Pastor Lee lifting up women seeking parole
- \*Environmental concerns and global warming
- \*Methodist leaders doing mission work in Asia
- \*Families dealing with the coronavirus
- \*Winter travels

### JOYS:

- \*Good health reports for Carly Pulju & for Isabelle Drew
- \*Happy 96<sup>th</sup> birthday to Marcie Baugh
- \*Children singing in worship
- \*We have a new Trinity Lane Preschool Director
- \*Rev. Lee Schott and the Women At The Well ministry
- \*Marci Wittles' sister with good health news
- \*Youth making sub sandwiches to raise money for mission trip
- \*Iowa Caucus participation
- \*Sue Moss is recovering from a serious infection
- \*Ruth Schweibert welcomes a new great-granddaughter
- \*Jayne Woodson celebrates a new great granddaughter
- \*Cathy Weber celebrates a new grandchild
- \*Nice Heart Healthy Brunch
- \*Julie Schmickley with healing after eye procedure
- \*Tom DeVriese with healing after nose procedure
- \*Barb Olive with good news following oral surgery
- \*Ike Schneider continues to thrive
- \*Harry Rupe shares story of recovery after car accident
- \*Isaac Schneider & his successful Lego League Team
- \*All who wore their new church t-shirts to worship
- \*Celebrating miracles happening all the time

## Ministry Team(s) @ Work

### MISSIONS/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- \*Take 10 Reading Program at Pierce—details to follow. Info. & Special Offering in early May.
- \*Getting plans in place for Kennedy Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8.
- \*Finalizing t-shirt sales & distribution.

### HEALTH & WHOLENESS

- \*Planned Kid's Club meal for March 11
- \*Blood Drive is set for April 18, in the AM
- \*Women's Retreat will be on Oct. 10 or 17

### THANK YOU NOTES

Since we (UMW) cancelled our Feb. 13th meeting due to the frigid weather, I would like to say **A BIG THANK YOU** to all the bakers who made and brought cookies to church on Saturday, Feb. 16, and to the children and leaders of Children's Weekday Ministries who made Valentine Cards. I also want to give special thanks to our UMW members who put together boxes of cookies and took our Valentine gifts out to members of our congregation who are currently shut-ins. I know that the delicious cookies, nice cards and the visits were well received.  
*Sincerely, Cheryl Murphy*

Ryan & I **Thank You** all for your thoughtful wedding cards and wishes. We feel so loved by all of you! Thank you! *Kristina & Ryan Roth-Klinck*

**Thank you!** As I recover from the fall I took over my dishwasher door, your prayers, cards and visits have meant so much to me. I have felt very loved and encouraged by my church family! *Blessings to all, Jan Peterson*

Dear Members of Prayer Shawl Ministry—  
**Thank You** so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. The prayers accompanying the shawl are so meaningful. Knowing of your prayers on my behalf touched my heart.  
*Many thanks, Darla Carter*



