

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

May 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.



Wonder and Awe

Why do things happen the way they do? Whether it's the current pandemic we are in or the ordinary moments of life, we ponder why things happen the way they do.

Truth is, most theological answers leave a lot to be considered. Essentially, they come down to two all-or-nothing alternatives. The first is that God is directly involved in everything, from the creation of the world to a particular moment we are in. We might call this "predestination."

The second answer is that our Creator was only involved in the start-up of the universe. God put everything on autopilot and is now uninvolved in the world. We might call this "deism."

Reflecting on questions about things happening the way they do, I believe the best answers normally lie somewhere in the middle. This makes it hard to fully understand what God is doing, but I would like to think the Great Almighty comes down on the proper side of everything that is truly meaningful.

But in all this curiosity about things happening the way they do, maybe we are missing the boat. Perhaps our energy is better spent doing something else entirely. Maybe the essential act of faith is simply being open to what God shows us. Maybe the definitive act of faith is "wonder." In Proverbs 9:10 we read, "The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord; the knowledge of the holy one is understanding." (CEB)

I would suggest we remain open to the remarkable acts taking place around us. With an inner curiosity and sense of awe, we will see beauty in God's creation, both in nature and in our fellow person. I think of the words of St. John of Damascus in the Eighth Century, "Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth!" With the ultimate Lord of all, nothing is impossible.

I believe the foundational religious experience is not certitude, but wonder. An openness to what God shows us will certainly surprise us. It might even contradict long-held beliefs. But isn't it an uplifting way to live? Might we pray that God will continue to teach us!

May God bless you! Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — May 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 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	2
3 Good Shepherd Sunday 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	4 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	5 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	6 <i>All church events cancelled</i> 10 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	7 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	8 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	9
10 Mother's Day 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	11 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	12 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	13 <i>All church events cancelled</i> 10 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	14 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	15 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	16
17 Graduation Sunday 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	18 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	19 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	20 <i>All church events cancelled</i> 10 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	21 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	22 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	23
24 Conference-led Worship Service 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	25 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	26 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	27 <i>All church events cancelled</i> 10 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	28 <i>All church events cancelled</i>	29 <i>All church events Cancelled</i>	30
31 Pentecost Sunday 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)						

DID YOU KNOW...

...that there is a taped midweek message by Pastor Scott on Lovely Lane's Facebook page?

...that Lovely Lane is still collecting shelf-stable food for the Linn Community Food Bank? You may bring in donated items during church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 AM - 12 noon.

...that for our live-streamed online Easter service, we had **618 views**?

SUNDAY ONLINE WORSHIP IN MAY

May 3: **Good Shepherd Sunday**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Psalm 23 / Sermon: “Abundant Blessings”

May 10: **Mother’s Day**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 / Sermon: “Pursuing Greatness”

May 17: **Graduation Sunday**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 14:15-21 / Sermon: “Living the Life”

May 24: **Conference-Led Worship Service**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM

May 31: **Pentecost Sunday**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 / Sermon: “The Rush of a Mighty Wind”

Sunday Worship

Worship services will remain online throughout the month of May. We are following guidance from Bishop Laurie Haller as we seek to be safe and well. Join us on our YouTube Channel on Sundays at 10:30 am!

Pastor’s Study Group

Scott will lead a study on *ethics* on Wednesdays, May 6th and 13th. The Zoom studies will take place at 10 AM and 7 PM, with an emphasis of *everyday ethics* and *situational ethics*. On Weds., May 20th, a study on the biblical book of “James” will start. All are welcome. Contact Scott if you’re interested.

High School Graduates

High School graduates will be recognized virtually during worship on Sunday, May 17th. Graduates will also be lifted up on our church website and Facebook page during the month of May. Graduates are:

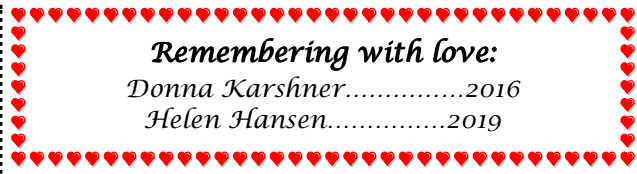
Brock Barnhart (parents: Brian & Heidi Barnhart)
CJ Currie (parents: Rich & Kim Currie)
Emma Herold (parents: Matt & Janet Herold)
Jaired Lyons (parents: Ron & Renee Lyons)
Dom Martino (parents: Mike & Teresa Bailey)
Alaina Mason (parents: Jim & Anne Mason)
Sophia Meador (parents: Scott & Heather Meador)
Maria Mooney (parents: Chris & Linda Mooney)
Madelyn O’Brien (parents: Matt & Tammy O’Brien)
Nick Olive (parents: Rob & Barb Olive)
Hannah Plehall (parents: Dave & Jennifer Plehall)
Abby Spore (parents: Chad & Julie Spore)
John Steffen (parents: Brian & Carrie Steffen)
Ashlenn Tanner (parents: Chris Tanner & Carmen Johnson)
Weston Turner (parents: Brian & Shelly Turner)
Lexi Wheeler (parents: Chad & Audrey Wheeler)

Church Confirmation Group

The Confirmation Group has completed classwork and is ready to be confirmed. We are waiting to resume in-person worship so we can formally recognize the youth. The class members are:

Joel Dillman, Silas Dillman, Jonah Dupont, Ryan Ellis, Reece Fischer, Nolan Grawe, Jayce Hingtgen, Morgan Johnson, Jared Lauritsen, Jaida Lyons, Kyla Mulnik, Cejay Mumby, Colton Mumby, Luke O’Brien, Cade Pakkebieer, and Mason Turner

March Financial Totals	
Cash inflow—mo. of March	\$ 39,998
Cash inflow—YTD	\$139,758
Budget need/month	\$ 46,202
Cash outflow—mo. of March	\$ 30,295
Cash outflow—YTD	\$136,453
Unpaid apportionments	-\$ 13,768*
<i>(*We're 2 payments ahead.)</i>	


Remembering with love:
 Donna Karshner.....2016
 Helen Hansen.....2019
Scriptures on Anxiety: Psalm 55:22, Philippians 4:6-7, and John 14:27. Look them up!

A Letter from Bishop Laurie Haller (4/27/20)

Dear Friends,

In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, I am strongly encouraging all United Methodist churches in Iowa to refrain from in-person worship until June 1, when I will reassess. I am going beyond the Governor’s recommendations despite my previously stated intention of following Governor Reynold’s guidelines around worship.

My reasoning is that our first priority as disciples of Jesus Christ is to protect those who are most vulnerable, which includes the elderly, the very young, and those with underlying health conditions. Even though we all want to return to our churches and be a part of the body of Christ in person, I believe that it is more important to assure the safety of our communities from further infections.

John Wesley’s Three General Rules included: *Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.* In the midst of our own personal desires to get back to normal, our faith requires us to seek the good of all. By practicing good judgment and common sense and out of a concern for the welfare of our neighbor, we must continue to stay the course by being diligent around social distancing and refraining from being in large groups. At the same time, there are ample opportunities to safely engage in mission and outreach in our communities.

In the Weds. April 29 edition of the **Weekly 360°**, you’ll find a process for staged re-opening of local churches entitled, “Incremental Reentry Process for the Iowa Annual Conference.” I urge the clergy and lay leadership of every local church to read through it as you ready your congregation.

This morning, Governor Kim Reynolds issued a proclamation, easing some restrictions that have been in place around the state.... Here are the highlights:

- Beginning this Friday, May 1, some businesses in 77 counties will be permitted to reopen at 50% capacity, including restaurants, fitness centers, libraries, racetracks, retail stores, and malls (food courts and common seating areas must remain closed). The other 22 counties will continue their current restrictions.
- Social, community, recreational, and leisure sporting events can open, with a limit of ten people. Other businesses will remain closed until May 15.
- Spiritual and religious gatherings will be permitted as long as they practice social distancing guidelines.

... The list of counties that will be allowed to ease prior restrictions does not include Polk County, where the Iowa Annual Conference Center is located. Because of this, we will remain closed until June 1, with staff continuing to work from home.

During the past five weeks, I have participated in a number of online worship services and have been truly blessed by your creativity, your deep desire to share Christ’s love in new ways, and your warm invitation to be a part of a faith community. Statistics are already showing strong indications of a resurgence in participation in worship and small groups.

These are not easy times. Yet the body of Christ remains strong and faithful and is making a huge difference in our state and around the world. I will keep you informed in the days ahead. May God bless you and keep you. *Bishop Laurie*

Building Renovation Update

Rejoice! Rejoice! On-site work officially started on April 22 for our church building renovation project!

The church building has experienced little activity the past two months but building renovation work "behind the scenes" has continued. I'm pleased to share that the Core Building Team at Lovely Lane approved our building partners to begin the first of many renovation projects ahead of our projected June 1 start date!

In response to the uncertainties surrounding the global Covid-19 pandemic and to be good stewards of available church financial resources, the Core Building Team has defined our renovations into a short term project scope. We are moving forward with renovations that are most urgent and that can be paid for with the money that is in the bank for the renovation project. The following renovations will take place sometime during the months of April - August 2020:

Exterior Improvements

- Parking lot - site work including regrading, pouring an all concrete lot, LED lighting and landscaping
- Siding, windows and insulation

Interior Improvements

- Heating/Cooling units (work started April 22)
- Fire protection system
- Building security system

Be sure to visit www.lblessing.org for more project updates, photos, and videos over the next several weeks and months. We also highlight updates on the church Facebook page.

Lovely Lane is *Blessed to be a Blessing! Thank you for your continued support of Lovely Lane!*

~Amber Mulnik, Project Manager

Core Building Team Members

Scott Meador - Pastor
Amber Mulnik - Project Manager
Jack Murphy - Finance
Erv Mussman - Engineering
Eric Wylie - Communications

Matthew 25 is Ramping Up for the 2020 Cultivate Hope Market Season

The Cultivate Hope Greenhouse is in full swing with plant starts and preparations for the 2020 growing season. Planning is also underway for the Market season, starting this year on May 14 and going through Oct. 8 on Thursdays, 4-7 PM, at the urban farm. One exciting change this year is that there will be a more robust market on the last Thurs. of each month, with activities and partnerships with local businesses and organizations, as well as brick oven pizza from Groundswell Café. Additionally, Cultivate Hope is bringing back Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares so the community can invest in the farm at the beginning of the year and enjoy produce all season long. *A Spring Plant Sale is on May 9, 9 AM-Noon.*

2020 Annual Conference Session to be Postponed & Held Electronically

Bishop Laurie Haller made the above decision with the full support of the Cabinet and the Annual Conference Session Planning Committee. A 1-day electronic legislative session will utilize the Zoom platform.

THANK YOU'S

We have received **MANY** written Thank You notes for the online worship services that Lovely Lane has live-streamed each Sunday at 10:30 AM since mid-March. Thanks to all who have contributed to the online services, and **special thanks** to Eric Wylie and Pastor Scott for the time-consuming work and dedication required to make all of this possible!!

A BIG Thank You to Sharon Kouba, Linda Carollo, and Susan Blum for making and supplying the church with many colorful cloth masks needed during this COVID-19 pandemic. We have had a number of individuals come to the church to pick up masks for themselves and their families, and they are very appreciative!

Blood Drive Results

(4/20/20 E-mail to Health & Wholeness Co-chairs)

Results are tallied from Saturday and they are FANTASTIC! This crisis didn't hold you back at all – you absolutely smashed through your goal! We registered 22 donors and had only one deferral (awesome!), so you collected **21 donations**. Woo-hoo! AND you had **8 first time donors** which is amazing. Sometimes it takes a crisis to get someone to start donating, but they are usually hooked from there. Congrats on smashing through your goal of 16 and collecting Lovely Lane's highest total **EVER!**

How did the drive go? Our staff didn't report any issues at all on our end, so I'm hoping it was smooth sailing! If there is anything we need to tweak for next time though, just let me know. Also let me know if you got any donor feedback (negative or positive) – we always want to make it as pleasant of an experience as possible and always strive to improve where we can! I'm so glad that all your folks were able to give one way or another! We won't worry about an overflow date then, and just focus on farther in the future.

This was quite the time to coordinate your first time and you absolutely knocked it out of the park! Thankfully, I can easily say the next drive you host should be a much simpler affair. But still, if you have any questions, concerns, or lessons learned that you'd like to share send them my way. In the past, we have alternated between holding a drive once a year and twice a year for your folks. If we do go with twice a year (and I think you totally have the donors to support that!), typically we have picked out a date in September. Let me know if you think that could work for you this year! With a group your size, two drives a year is usually perfect and April and Sept are well spaced!

Thank you so much for supporting this drive and making it happen despite all of the challenges and changes that are being thrown at us. The passion and selflessness of your donors means so much to all the patients we serve. Your drive will help us keep the blood supply stable during what is possibly the most uncertain time we have ever faced and go on to help **84 patients**. Wow!

I hope you have a wonderful spring and summer! Let us hope that there are brighter days ahead, but today give yourselves a big pat on the back – you are LIFE SAVERS!

Until next time, take care and let me know if there is anything at all you need from me!

Megan Dee, Donor Relations Consultant
Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Steve & Carla Levi
3933 Peridot Dr.
Marion, IA 52302

Berta Mullin
Keystone Cedars
6325 Rockwell Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Dawn Nylin
Hiawatha Care Center
405 N. 15th Ave.
Hiawatha, IA 52233

Do Koudelka
668 29th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Concerns & Celebrations

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to the family of Mary Smith after her passing; she had been receiving hospice care
- *Sympathy to Scott & Terrie Siebert following the passing of Terrie's mother, Mary
- *Sympathy to Dave & Linda Keefe after Dave's step-dad, Jerry, passed
- *Sympathy to the Vancura family after Cory's wife's grandfather passed due to COVID-19
- *Paul Sale's former employee's daughter, Carlene, passed due to COVID-19 complications
- *Remembering Oklahoma City bombings 25 years later
- *Dawn Nylin was hospitalized, now moving to Hiawatha Care Center
- *Dorothy Speight fell & broke both wrists, healing at home
- *Chris Tanner's daughter, Megan, hospitalized with viral meningitis
- *Steve & Jennie Mineck's daughter diagnosed with COVID-19
- *JR Grawe's father hospitalized in California
- *Alisa Oliver's sister, Angie, completed 4th chemo treatment
- *Ike Schneider's sister, Robin, after recent stroke
- *LuAnn Basemann's niece, a nurse, diagnosed with COVID-19
- *Patty Logsdon's cousin, Christy, following a stroke
- *Carla Jesse's friend, Lisa, following surgery
- *Esker's friend, Mary, admitted to Mercy Hospital
- *Blake Esker's girlfriend, Ashley, with a fever
- *Barb Olive's friend with a new baby and an ER trip
- *Margaret Nelson's high school classmate, Sandy, diagnosed with cancer
- *Lu Serbousek's friend, Patsy, hospitalized with COVID-19
- *Anne Heefner family working through some family matters
- *All persons diagnosed with COVID-19
- *Persons living in fear & trying to stay healthy
- *Doctors, nurses & other essential workers on the frontlines during the pandemic

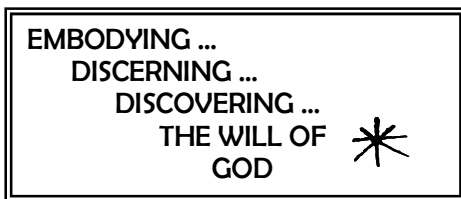
JOYS:

- *Phil & Shirley Martin celebrate the birth of their 8th great grandchild, Payton Mae
- *Happy 18th birthday to Weston Turner
- *Happy 5th Birthday to Ava, daughter of Devon Lovell
- *Happy 12th Birthday to Rosie, daughter of Jon & Dulcie Lauritsen
- *Jim & Barb Vancura celebrate their 40th anniversary
- *Congrats to Erin Camp on her engagement to boyfriend, Brice
- *New associate pastor, Kristina Roth-Klinck, & husband, Ryan, purchasing a home in CR
- *Liz Briggman's daughter, Laura, doing well after some health concerns
- *Maggie Thomas's sister, Peggy, had a benign mass removed from her abdomen
- *Jack & Cheryl Murphy's grandson in Peru is doing well
- *Mari Lu Smith's niece in Kansas City serving as foster parent
- *Don & Becky Esker's friend, Craig, improving after accident
- *High School graduates recognition coming up
- *Faster Internet service at church, helping with online worship
- *Our Lord has risen! New life that comes on Easter Sunday!
- *Thank you to everyone who assisted with our successful blood drive, and special thanks to all blood donors
- *Lovely Lane recognized by Matthew 25 as Church Partner of the Year
- *EMT workers, ER medical professionals, & support staff coming together
- *People helping others during this difficult time
- *Beautiful spring weather and hearing the birds sing
- *Last summer our church cared for Constantin, Carin & their children—a family from the Congo seeking asylum in the U.S. We've learned they are currently living in an apartment in Montreal, Quebec and doing well. Let's continue to keep them in our prayers!



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2424 42nd Street NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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
Sr. Office Manager.....Sue Moss
Office Manager.....Marti Bowman
Building Project Manager.....Amber Mulnik
Director Children's Weekday Min.....Dawn DuPont
Director of Youth Ministries.....Amy Perry
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
Wedding Coordinator.....Becky Wood
Custodians.....Rex, Rhonda & Jessica Heasty
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....Eric Wylie
Treasurer.....Marcie Stumpf
Finance Secretary.....Vicki Cangemi
Webmaster.....Shelly Turner

