

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

October 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.



Making Decisions

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” – Proverbs 3:5 (CEB)

Eleanor Roosevelt once remarked that “one’s philosophy is expressed in the choices one makes. In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves . . . and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.”

We make choices, or decisions, all the time. Life involves commitments. Some of these are made on a daily basis. We decide what to wear, what to eat, and how we spend our free time. Other decisions are larger in scope. At times we might ponder a new career path or how to respond to the actions of a family member. We tend to put more thought and consideration into these larger choices.

Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in his book, *Ethics*, that decision-making comes down to the will of God in the moment and the needs of our neighbor. I think that’s a pretty good approach to take. Looking at the will of God, we focus on the actions of Jesus. Jesus provides a picture of God. Jesus was always looking beyond himself and he had a heart for those who were often overlooked in society. In Mark 1:40-45 Jesus heals, and touches, the person with leprosy who comes to him. In John 4, Jesus reaches out to the Samaritan Woman at the Well and speaks about the importance of living water.

This month Pastor Kristina and I will focus on the decision-making process in our worship services. We will put forth a preaching series entitled, “Making Decisions.” On October 4, Kristina will talk about the decision to care for the natural world and the animal world. A blessing of pets will take place after worship in our church parking lot.

On October 11, I will lift up the choice we make to forgive another person. This decision can be challenging, but there is much to consider as we reflect on scripture. Our emphasis on October 18 will be the decision to financially give to the church. This will be our Stewardship Sunday. The aim is always the tithe or to make strides in that direction.

Finally, on October 25, Kristina and I will preach a tag-team sermon about the decision to cast a vote. With a general election coming up, as well as state and local decisions, the need is present to make our vote count.

We look forward to worshipping with you this month!

Blessings to you! Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries JFON = Justice For Our Neighbors ILF = International Ladies Fellowship	UMW = United Methodist Women WOF = Women Of Faith WWW = Wednesday Women & The Word	1	2	3
4 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 12 pm—Blessing of the Pets 12 pm—HS Youth 4-5:30 pm—MS Youth	5 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	6	7 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study 5:45 pm Weds. Night Meal/Kids Club	8	9	10
11 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 4-5:30 pm—MS Youth 6-7:30 pm—HS Youth	12 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	13 <i>Transform Week (10/13-17)</i>	14 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study 6-7:15 pm—Confirmation	15	16	17
18 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 2 pm Charge Conference 4-5:30 pm—MS Youth 6-7:30 pm—HS Youth	19 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	20	21 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study 5:45 pm Weds. Night Meal/Kids Club	22	23	24
25 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 4-5:30 pm—MS Youth 6-7:30 pm—HS Youth	26 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	27	28 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study 6-7:15 pm—Confirmation	29	30	31

Wednesday Night Meals

The next dates for meals will be October 7th and 21st. We will gather in our church parking lot. A time for devotions and music will start at 5:45 pm. A boxed meal will be available to eat at 6 pm. All are welcome!

Stewardship Sunday is October 18

In preparation for October 18th, you are invited to spend time in the church sanctuary to pray, reflect, and walk the labyrinth during the week of Oct. 12-16. More information will be coming!

Charge Conference is October 18

Our annual gathering is October 18th at 2 pm. The Rev. Sherrie Ilg will oversee the time together. This is a time to look back on the previous year and look ahead to a new year of ministry.

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COMING!

Virtual Sunday School for all ages is in the works.
Please stay tuned for more details!

SUNDAY ONLINE WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Oct. 4: ***World Communion Sunday**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31b / Sermon: "Making Decisions...to Care" / *Blessing of the Pets @ 12 PM (*Please have bread & juice ready.)*

Oct. 11: **19th Sunday After Pentecost**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 18:10-20 / Sermon: "Making Decisions...to Forgive"

Oct. 18: **Stewardship Sunday**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: 1 Peter 4:1-11 / Sermon: "Making Decisions...to Share"

Oct. 25: **21st Sunday After Pentecost**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastors Scott & Kristina / Scripture: Titus 3:1-11 / Sermon: "Making Decisions...to Vote"

Sunday Worship at Lovely Lane

Worship services will remain online at least thru the end of October. We continue to follow guidance from Bishop Laurie Haller and the Linn County Public Health Dept. as we seek to be safe and well. Please join us on our YouTube Channel on Sundays at 10:30 am!

Grief Group is Coming

Sue Lovik will lead a new grief group at the church. Please let Sue know if you might be interested in participating. You can contact Sue at sue.lovik@hotmail.com. You can also reach out to the church office (393-6674).

Zoom Study with Pastor Scott

A new study begins this month that focuses on the Gospel of Mark. Zoom sessions are on Wednesdays at 9:30 am and 7 pm. Please let Scott know if you'd like to be added to the E-mail list for the Zoom link.

From Our New Associate Pastor, Rev. Kristina Roth-Klinck

My position here at Lovely Lane is split halftime with Matthew 25, where I serve as a spiritual cultivator, planting a diverse progressive community of faith. Matthew 25 is a non-profit organization on the west side of the Cedar River that does work primarily in the Taylor and Northwest neighborhoods. We see the potential in the neighborhood and the gifts, skills, and talents of each person who lives there. Matthew 25 does work in the areas of food, education, and housing, what we see as building blocks for a healthy neighborhood. Part of that work in housing includes a week called "Transform Week" which happens every summer.

This year because of the Pandemic, Transform Week was postponed to August with an additional week of October 13-17. Transform Week is a week of completing projects on homes and neighborhood buildings to help make these areas healthier, safer, and more attractive. You don't have to have many skills to help with Transform Week. While we do appreciate volunteers with knowledge of power tools and general construction, we welcome gardening, painting, hauling out debris, etc. There is usually some task that you can handle. Whether you can only assist for part of a day or the entire week, we'll work you in!

If you are looking for a way to give back to the community, we invite you to consider signing up for a portion or all of Transform Week. If you have any questions, comments, or wish to sign up for Transform Week, please contact Pastor Kristina at kristina@lovelylane.org or Scott Seibert at sdseibert1@aol.org.

Blessings, Pastor Kristina

Panel Discussion: The theological roots of racism & colonialism (part of the UMC's *Dismantling Racism* Series)

Jesus calls his followers to love their neighbor. So why have Christians found ways to refuse their neighbors not just love but basic dignity?

"We know better," said the Rev. Mai-Anh Le Tran of United Methodist Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. "Why don't we act or live differently? It strikes me as that we are still befuddled by our human fallibility."

For an hour, she and two other theologians wrestled with why racism remains prevalent in the U.S., where Christianity is the dominant faith. They spoke as part of The United Methodist Church's fourth online panel held to discuss eradicating racial injustice.

The 9/16 panel discussion came a day after Barna released new research showing an increasing percentage of practicing Christians say they are "unmotivated" or "not at all motivated" to address racial injustice. Barna found that percentage grew from 17% in 2019 to 30% this year, even after the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor and the shooting of Jacob Blake drew international attention, and news spread that COVID-19 is disproportionately killing ethnic minorities, including children. The survey also found that nearly 1 in 5 practicing Christians say that race is "not at all" a problem in the U.S. Erin Hawkins, the panel's moderator, pointed to research by PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute) that specifically focused on white Christians in the U.S.

"White Christians are consistently more likely than whites who are religiously unaffiliated to deny the existence of structural racism," wrote Robert P. Jones, PRRI's founder, for NBC News. Such data didn't surprise the theologians on the panel.

"There is an assumption that somehow racism as systems of behavior, beliefs, values, actions, practices or policies are done by so-called bad people...that we are somehow immune to that," said Tran, author of "Reset the Heart: Unlearning Violence, Relearning Hope" (Abingdon Press, 2017).

However, she said, that fails to take into account how race still organizes American thinking whether people realize it or not.

"Racism as a system is not something we are purposefully doing against somebody," said the ordained elder and professor. "It's our assumption that this is how the world is."

The Rev. Edgardo Colón-Emeric, who serves on The United Methodist Church's Faith and Order Committee, said the disconnect "is an example of how the power of sin continues to be at work."

But he added that it is the legacy of the church's history and the fact that many Americans don't know the basics of their own history.

Colón-Emeric pointed to the background he chose for the video conference—a picture of the island of Vieques, which is part of the U.S. today because of conquest during the 1898 Spanish-American War.

"Nobody migrated anywhere. It was conquered as part of war," said Colón-Emeric, whose mother hails from the Puerto Rican island. "I'm glad the Methodist Church is on the island, but there is also the history of how it came to be on the island."

For many, it's hard to separate the act of spreading the Gospel from the act of conquering a people.

However, the theologians urged listeners to look differently at the Christian commission, which is also The United Methodist Church's mission statement "to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

The Rev. Willie James Jennings, professor at Yale Divinity School and ordained Baptist minister, acknowledged that many white people feel like they are under attack in this moment when there is so much discussion of racism and colonialism.

However, he added that the effort to dismantle racism is not about diminishing white people so much as reminding them that they aren't the center of the universe.

"So many people, especially Christians, have formed a world in which everything revolves around them," said Jennings, who recently published "After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging."

"So many Christians struggle mightily with this moment, struggle mightily with thinking about racial problems in the world and thinking seriously about the diversity that is God's creation. The reason is they have to wrestle with a reality in which they aren't at the center."

He said Christians have also gotten into the habit of reading the Bible as if it's first—their book and their story. The theologians suggested one way to address racism is for Christians to look at Scripture with fresh eyes, reach out to others and look beyond the anxieties of these times.

"You are inside God's story, and it's important to center yourself in that story," Jennings said. "You calibrate what you are doing by that story and no other."

Virtual Women's Retreat

The Health & Wholeness Committee is putting together
a Virtual Women's Retreat over Zoom,

Saturday, November 14th

9 am - 2:30 pm

Worship, yoga, keynote, crafts and music, meditation,
spiritual direction, hiking, and more!

The cost will be \$20 with scholarships available if needed.

Contact Pastor Kristina at kristina@lovelylane.org

or the church office to sign up.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



The Youth Group will be walking to end hunger on
Sunday, October 11th, during Youth Group.

To sponsor us, you can donate here:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/cedarrapidsia/LovelyLane>

OR by check, made payable to CWS/CROP to:

Al Fletcher, Crop Walk Treasurer

c/o First Lutheran Church

1000 3rd Ave SE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Please write Lovely Lane Youth Group in the memo line.

WOMEN'S ZOOM BOOK STUDY



Books are in for the women's book study with Pastor Kristina. Please stop by the church office the week of Sept. 28th before the first book study on Monday, Oct. 5th, at 7 pm over Zoom. E-mail Pastor Kristina (kristina@lovelylane.org) if you are unable to pick up your copy and need to make other arrangements. Thanks!

BLESSING OF THE PETS—OCT. 4TH



On Sunday, October 4th, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis and creation care in our worship service. Following the service, at 12 noon, you're invited to bring your pets (of all kinds) to the church for a blessing of the pets outside following the online worship service.

Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers, and caring thoughts regarding my September illness. All the cards and other forms of communication were really appreciated. Lovely Lane is just the BEST church family!! Blessings to all—Virginia Weiland

August Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Aug.	\$ 34,704
Cash inflow—YTD	\$353,725
Budget need/month	\$ 46,202
Cash outflow—mo. of Aug.	\$ 37,602
Cash outflow—YTD	\$306,706
<i>Unpaid apportionments</i>	\$ 0

Remembering with love:

Don Kouba.....2015
Icyle Logan.....2015
Marjorie Deal.....2017
Gwen Bray.....2019

Concerns & Celebrations

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to Dorris Lanning & family after Dean's passing (funeral service on our website)
- *Virginia Weiland doing better after health challenges
- *Barb Olive with a medical test
- *Marti Bowman meeting with a medical specialist
- *Britt Shaver following a medical concern
- *Leisa Rosche healing from a medical procedure
- *Marti Bowman's dtr., Tori, with 9/16 hip surgery
- *Al Stiers' son, Steven, with personal concerns
- *Rob & Barb Olive's nephew in the National Guard deployed to Kosovo
- *Craig Erie, son of Wayne & Cathy Erie, is a firefighter who went to serve in California
- *Patty Logsdon's sister & family following Hurricane Sally in Mississippi
- *Marci Wittles' sister-in-law, Stacey, with Stage 4 lung cancer
- *Jessica Hinke shares concern about student she coaches, Abbi, with health concerns
- *Disruptions in Patrick & Katrina Mahoney's neighborhood
- *Communities cleaning up following the derecho/Hurricane Laura in the south / Tropical Storm Sally in the Gulf of Mexico
- *Western states with extensive wildfires
- *Conversations about race and class and equality
- *Remembering the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- *Harper, Wilkins Elementary student, after hit by car
- *Community of Louisville, Kentucky with unrest following Breonna Taylor decision
- *School communities with back-to-school matters

JOYS:

- *Wedding congratulations to Kelsey Whitford & Kaleb Howey, married at Mt. Vernon UMC
- *Thanks to Craig Nixon for his extra work removing trees on our church lawn
- *Pastor Kristina preaching at Trinity-St. James UMC on 9/27
- *Ice Cream Social welcome for Pastor Kristina & Ryan
- *Hattie, daughter of Eric Engelmann's friend, is doing better after an accident
- *In-person (& live-streamed) outside worship service on 9/20; Lovely Laners who attended getting to see each other again
- *September special offering for the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation's disaster recovery fund for our local community
- *Confirmation Class joining the church
- *Start up of fall ministries at church
- *Wednesday night meals & Kids Club have begun
- *Church youth group meetings have begun
- *Start of preschool at Lovely Lane on Sept. 14th; groups meet in 2 rooms
- *Work continues on church building
- *Lovely Lane will participate in Matthew 25 Transform week in our community, Oct. 13-18
- *Kennedy High School food pantry collections on our church lawn
- *Labor Day reflections and family time
- *Rehab work assisting others following the derecho
- *The season of autumn has begun

ROTARY INVOCATION-September 21, 2020 (by Pastor Scott)

As we all know, 2020 is a year we will never forget. With the pandemic, derecho, conversations about race and class, as well as a Presidential election, there is so much going on. And with the news of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's recent passing, we take time to celebrate her life, *but* we also ponder the political implications. It is easy to experience stress in all this. Some stress, of course, can be good. We all need it to work. Stress can keep our antenna strong and increase our wisdom. The concern is the amount of stress. Increased stress causes worry and this leads to anxiety.

We tend to dislike and avoid anxiety. Some of us get overinvolved in current events as a way of coping. Others of us ignore what's going on and pretend that nothing is happening. We avoid talking about the matter and tune it out. In all this, we need to remember it is within our power to be our own self during a time of anxiety. As long as we're breathing, we are alive. This gives us hope. I think of words from **Theodore Roosevelt** who once said, "Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are."

To carry forward as anxious individuals, we need to be flexible in our response to what is going on. It's helpful to make adjustments in our schedules. We also need to remember how we have coped with a situation in the past.

Chances are, we have gone through these times before. Additionally, we need to be mindful of others. We are connected to those around us. How can we help others and allow others to help us? Beyond all this, take time to meditate, eat well, and get a good night's sleep.

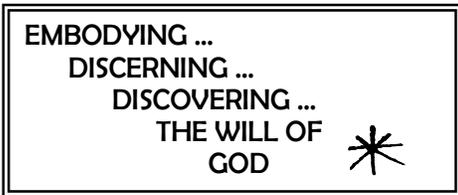
We can make the most of these difficult times. A bit of self-awareness can be useful!



Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church

October Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 58, No. 10
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
Associate Pastor.....Rev. Kristina Roth-Klinck
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
High School Youth Director.....Ryan Roth-Klinck
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

