

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

December 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 Lion and the Lamb

I have always been intrigued with “oxymorons.” Oxymorons are figures of speech that combine normally contradictory terms such as “good grief,” “small crowd,” “original copy,” and “clearly confused.”

Many of these oxymorons are found in the midst of the Christmas season. During this time of year we talk about “Christmas shopping” and “silent night.” Christmas is really about giving, not shopping. Our culture gets confused with this part. In regards to silent night, Christmas is anything but silent. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are often some of the busiest and loudest days of the year with all the church services and family activities taking place!

Now it's a final oxymoron I want to reflect on. This final consideration is Jesus the Lion and Jesus the Lamb. Is Jesus a mighty, powerful lion, or a kind, sacrificial lamb? The answer is that Jesus is both.

As Jesus the Lion, there is an untamed, wild, and reckless side to Jesus. There is a wild side to the calling and ministry of our Lord. Throughout his work on earth, Jesus beckons his followers to leave their families and friends and confront the leaders of the day, whether they are religious or political. There is a wild side to Jesus. Jesus is the lion.

At the same time, Jesus the Lamb, is an appropriate title and understanding for our Lord. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, “Don't resist violence! If you are slapped on one cheek, turn the other too. If you are ordered to court, and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat too.” (Matthew 5:39-40, The Living Bible)

There is a soft, suffering servant side to Jesus as well. This side is seen as he surrenders his own life to save others and brings new life and new beginnings to all. Jesus is sacrificial in all he does.

As Christmas approaches, I encourage you to consider the oxymorons that surround you. However, it's one, Jesus the Lion and Jesus the Lamb, that deserves special attention. Might this understanding of Jesus impact your faith journey! Might it bring out a bit of Lion and Lamb in each of you!

With Joy at Christmas! Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) -- December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7 pm—"Incarnation" Study via Zoom	2 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study 6:-7:15 pm Con- firmation via Zoom	3	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 4-5:30 pm—MS Youth 6-7:30 pm—HS Youth	7 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	8 7 pm—"Incarnation" Study via Zoom	9 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	10	11	12
13 Third Sunday of Advent 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 4-5:30 pm—MS Youth 6-7:30 pm—HS Youth	14 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	15 7 pm—"Incarnation" Study via Zoom	16 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Con- firmation via Zoom	17	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 4-5:30 pm—MS Youth 6-7:30 pm—HS Youth	21 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	22 2:30—6 pm BLOOD DRIVE IN OUR PARKING LOT (with mobile unit) 7 pm—"Incarnation" Study via Zoom	23 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	25 Christmas Day—church & office closed	26
27 First Sunday after Christmas 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	28	29 7 pm—"Incarnation" Study via Zoom	30	31	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 = Wednes- day Women & The Word

2020 ADVENT OFFERING

Lovely Lane's Missions Committee selected the following as 2020 Advent Offering recipients:

Women At The Well is a United Methodist congregation located within the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, in Mitchellville, IA. It offers ministries to encourage spiritual growth, and assist with transition back into the world. LLUMC has committed to be a Partner Organization supporting this ministry.

Argentina 47 supports the Rev. Doug Williams, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, and pastor relating to the IA Annual Conference. He serves as pastor and promoter of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina. Commissioned in 2015, Doug is pastor of the Mendoza and San Juan Churches in Argentina, a school chaplain, and mission host.

HACAP Food Reservoir is a member of Feeding America, and leads the fight against hunger in E. Central IA by providing food access, advocacy, education, and disaster response. The Food Reservoir programs include: BackPack Program, Mobile Food Pantry, and Senior Totes. The Aug. 10 derecho put an enormous burden on the local Food Reservoir.

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters. When responding to a disaster, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, and community collaboration to churches and partners. During the hurricane season of 2020 our southern states have been especially hard hit.

LOVELY LANE UMC 2021 GOALS

(approved by Ad Council and shared during LL's 10/18/20 Charge Conference)

- 1) Remain a church focused on mission and outreach to others. We are in the midst of a pandemic and a building project. We don't want to lose focus on the need to lift up those around us. Emphasis needs to be placed on special offerings and outreach efforts. We plan at least 3 distinct outreach activities.
- 2) Address important social issues that need attention. The church needs to create settings in which matters like racism, white supremacy, LGBTQ acceptance, and the welcoming of refugees and immigrants can be talked about and learning and action can take place. Settings will include a preaching series and study groups with a call to action.
- 3) Continue to expand our W+2 Discipleship Pathway for all church members. We need to strive to reach out and expand our membership. Extra efforts should be placed on reaching youth, millennials, and young adults.
- 4) Continue to navigate the best path forward for our church through the continuing changes in the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.
- 5) Support our Congolese worshipping community on Sunday morning.

30 Pjs for 30 Tots

A month ago, Katie Wilford, HS math teacher in Victor, IA, heard a radio report that children who enter homeless shelters sleep with the clothes on their backs, and that pajamas are always a highly sought-after item. Inspired to make a difference in the life of a homeless child, she called the homeless shelters in Iowa City and CR to inquire about other items in need. **The shelters need children's pajamas, underwear, socks, hats, mittens, coats, and boots.** In lieu of gifts for her 30th birthday, Katie wants to collect "30 sets" (1 set = pjs, underwear, socks, hat, mittens, coat, boots) to donate to 30 children currently experiencing homelessness in eastern Iowa.

If you'd like to donate, please drop off gently used or new items to HLV HS in Victor, IA, arrange for pick-up by E-mailing 30pjsfor30tots@gmail.com, or donate via Venmo at Katie-Wilford-1 or PayPal at [paypal.me/katieirene1212](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/katieirene1212). This project runs until 12/12/20, Katie's birthday.

Katie could also coordinate a pick-up date/time at our church in the coming weeks. Monetary donations are also highly appreciated; all cash donations will be spent in local thrift shops to purchase gently used items for homeless children.

Here is the link to Katie's Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/katieirene1212/posts/10222107102160776>.

BLOOD DRIVE

Lovely Lane Holiday Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 22nd

2:30 pm – 6:00 pm

MVRBC Donor Bus- Parking Lot

Sign up online at www.bloodcenter.org or with Sue Moss at suem@lovelylane.org or Lisa Taylor at lisataylor52402@gmail.com

APPOINTMENTS AND MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

Give the Gift of Life!

Blood donations remain a critical part of our community's health and well-being. Please donate this holiday season to make sure that local hospitals have the resources they need to make it through the tough times ahead. Your donation matters!



TOGETHER WE CHANGE THE WORLD

BECAUSE THEY NEED ME. I GIVE

CARD

All donors will earn a GIFT CARD OR long-sleeved T-SHIRT!

ZOOM ADVENT STUDY

Retired UMC pastor, the Rev. Steve Pudinski, will lead a new 5-week study, (via Zoom) beginning on **Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 PM.** The topic will be Adam Hamilton's book - *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas.*

Please contact the church office at 319-393-6674 to sign up and to arrange to pick up your study book. Thanks!

Women's Book Study—NEW BOOK

The women's book study with Pastor Kristina is starting a new book on Jan. 4th: Kate Bowler's *Everything Happens For A Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved.* The study meets Monday evenings at 7 PM over Zoom!

If you'd like to join the study, please E-mail Pastor Kristina at kristina@lovelylane.org by Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, to order books. The cost of the book is \$12.19.



Thank You

Thank you all so much for the prayers, phone calls and cards we received regarding our daughter, son-in-law, grandson and granddaughter, who all were positive for COVID-19 in early November and have all recovered. We appreciate all your concern in these trying times. Blessings to all of you. *Jerry & Virginia Weiland*

October Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Oct.	\$ 30,768
Cash inflow—YTD	\$429,019
Budget need/month	\$ 46,202
Cash outflow—mo. of Oct.	\$ 61,799
Cash outflow—YTD	\$404,039
Unpaid apportionments (we're 2 months ahead!)	\$ -13,768

Remembering with love:

Bev Munnik.....2016
Paul Nylin.....2017
Donald Caspers.....2018

Concerns & Celebrations

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to the family of Vivian Johnson who passed away on 12/1
- *Sympathy to the family of Donna Lewis (funeral service was Nov. 19)
- *Sympathy to the family of Kim Dao (pronounced "Dow"); the church sponsored him & his family in 1980. They came to the U.S. from Vietnam. His funeral service was on 11/28 at Cedar Memorial.
- *Sympathy to Kent & Joy Jackson following the passing of Joy's mother
- *Steve Pudinski with dental implant surgery coming up
- *Al Shaver with cellulitis in both legs
- *Gary Wilkerson with health concerns
- *Chris Budny having surgery on 12/15
- *Sophia Meador, & other college students, w/COVID
- *Madison Esker with semester finals in vet school
- *Marc Wittles remembering her father, Dan Randall
- *Deb Kucera's father with health concerns
- *Jan Peterson's daughter, Krista, has COVID; she works at a care center in Minnesota
- *Jerry & Virginia Weiland's daughter, Connie, & family with COVID
- *Liz Briggman's brother, Robin, with liver damage
- *Sharon Kouba's sister, Jeannie, is back in the hospital
- *Patty Logsdon's sister & family impacted by Hurricane Zeta
- *Barb Olive's mother hospitalized
- *Pastor Kristina's 90-yr.-old grandmother, Arlene, who lives in a care center in Eagle Grove, IA, tested positive for COVID & is very weak
- *April Drew's grandpa, Julius, hospitalized with COVID
- *Don & Wanda Whitford's granddaughter, Brandy, with a collapsed lung
- *Jenny Schear's niece, Jasmine, & new baby, Jazlyn, with health struggles
- *Suzanne Carter's uncle with health concerns
- *Liz Briggman's daughter's significant other, Martin, with road travel
- *Lu Serbousek's friend following the loss of nephew to COVID
- *Lu's future son-in-law, Chris, currently has COVID
- *Patty Logsdon's best friend, & her husband, in Illinois have COVID
- *Marc Wittles' friend, SanDee, with COVID
- *Patty Logsdon's former co-worker's daughter with COVID

(Continued in next column)

PRAYER CONCERNS continued

- *Health-care workers helping those with COVID
- *All persons impacted by the coronavirus (please make good decisions)
- *School leaders, teachers, students, & families during this pandemic time
- *Farmers completing field work during harvest
- *Thanksgiving family time and travel
- *Worship will remain online throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons

JOYS:

- *Wedding congratulations to Troy Neagle & Hope Smiley
- *Happy 30th Birthday to Ryan Roth-Klinck
- *Happy birthday to Nancy Wylie (Eric's mother)
- *Pastor Kristina approved to join the Board for the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County
- *Third Grade Students who received Bibles: Jackson Carter, Hayden Mulnik, Charley Perry, Elizabeth Roland
- *Congratulations to church member, Art Staed, on his reelection to the Iowa House of Representatives
- *Congratulations to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their Presidential election
- *Political campaigns & ads that came to an end
- *Remembering our saints on All Saints Day
- *Church youth group doing service work in the community
- *High school students with their achievements
- *Building project progress (please see video on our website & Facebook page)
- *Wonderful virtual women's retreat
- *Small group from Lovely Lane working on home rehab in the area
- *People helping others for Thanksgiving
- *Family time at Thanksgiving
- *Advent activities & study groups at the church

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE LOVELY

LANE STAFF: Pastor Scott, Pastor Kristina,

Sue Moss, Marti Bowman, Dawn DuPont,

K. Weiler, Carla Jesse, Charlie Kucera,

Dennis Ramsey, Barb Geissinger, Julie Meyer,

Ryan Roth-Klinck, Amber Mulnik,

Eric Wylie, Shelly Turner, Marcie Stumpf,

Vicki Cangemi, Rex & Rhonda Heasty,

Becky Wood, Shelbie Wood,

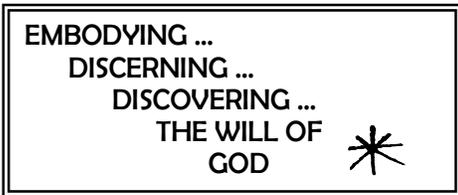
Tara Neveu, and Paige Gerjets



Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church

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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
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
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

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