

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

January 2021

## 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.

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

## Sharing the Faith

The religious landscape of our country continues to evolve. In Pew Research Surveys that took place in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christian, down 12% over the past decade. At the same time, the religiously unaffiliated (the “nones”) share of the population now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009.

Reasons abound why these trends are occurring. Some people are turned off by the fighting and feuding within the walls of some denominations and congregations. Others see religious people as hypocritical and self-absorbed.

What all this means for me is the church, and other religious bodies, have to keep doing the essential work they are called to do. As Christians, we need to keep going back to the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 (CEB), “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations . . .”

Our Discipleship Pathway at Lovely Lane continues to provide guidance in the disciple-making process. We continue to focus on “Worship + 2.” We need to make a commitment to regular worship (online or in-person, when the timing is right). We also need to participate in a group that deepens our spiritual life and we need to serve others in a way that brings out our gifts and talents. As we grow as disciples, we have the capacity to impact others.

An additional consideration is the simple steps, or everyday practices, that can make a big difference:

- ◆ Mention your church in casual conversation. Talk about Lovely Lane to others. Be proud of your local church.
- ◆ Say “grace” at meals, anywhere and everywhere. Others might follow.
- ◆ Be careful with your language. Avoid saying “good luck.” Say, “peace” or “blessings.” Use words that reflect your faith.
- ◆ Do one or two random acts of kindness each week. This becomes contagious.
- ◆ Intentionally pray for a particular person, or persons, outside your normal circle.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of others and share the faith. Might we commit to some extra steps we can take in the New Year!

With Joy in 2021!  
Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) -- January 2021

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	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-7 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)	<b>4</b> 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</i> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	<b>11</b> 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Human Relations Day</i> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-6:15 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)	<b>18</b> 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-6:15 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)	<b>25</b> 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm—Online Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-6:15 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)						

**Super Bowl Youth Fundraiser**



The youth group will be having a fundraiser for the Superbowl on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>!  
Please email Pastor Kristina by Weds., February 3<sup>rd</sup>, if you'd like to sign-up  
([kristina@lovelylane.org](mailto:kristina@lovelylane.org)).

**SUB & SOUP COMBO**

Soup Choices: Chili or Chicken Noodle  
Sub Choices: Ham, Turkey, or Roast Beef  
Provolone or Cheddar Cheese  
Includes Lettuce & Tomato

Suggested Donation: \$5-10 per combo  
Combos will be available for pickup at the church on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>,  
from 2:30pm-3:30pm!



## 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.

## BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS ARE IN!

We had a great day – we registered 12 donors, with 2 deferrals, so we collected **10 donations**. Wonderful! Plus you had **1 first time donor** – love it! What a great boost right before we head into Christmas – your drive will help **40 local patients!!!**

What a way to end the year! Three successful drives this year and all of them during the pandemic. We are so, so grateful to you and your donors for sticking with us, pushing through, and going above and beyond. Over this year, you collected **45 donations** helping up to **180 patients**. WOW! Despite all odds, this was a great year. Thank you for being our champions; it makes all the difference in the world to have someone as dedicated as you in our corner. The time you have committed this year has made a difference; your unwillingness to succumb to roadblocks and challenges has made a difference. This has been one heck of a year, but your support has propelled us to the finish line and helped us end the year with a bang.

We are all set to see you again in April for your regular spring drive! I have Saturday, April 17, tentatively reserved for you which is two weeks after Easter. We don't have to decide right now, but think about it and your Spring schedule and let me know if that date will work for you!

Thank you again for your partnership. Your support has been a bright spot in this otherwise dark and challenging year. Until next year, have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year! We'll see you in 2021! *Megan Dee, Coordinator, MVRBC*

## FAITH ISSUES CLASS

This adult class meets every Sunday on Zoom at 9 AM. Just contact the church office or check out Faith Issues on the church's website to have the link sent your way.

In January, we will start the year with a discussion around questions like "*Whom do you feel grateful to in your life?*" and "*What problem did you have last year, that you may not have in 2021?*". Specific upcoming subjects are:

January 10 – A 19<sup>th</sup> century liberal theologian, class led by Jim Loehrlein

January 17, 24 & 31 – a discussion of the book White Fragility, class led by Rose Blank & Jo Hoover (see below)

We invite everyone to join the group forever or for just one week. We'd love to see you!

**FAITH ISSUES DISCUSSION OF *WHITE FRAGILITY*:** On Jan. 17, 24 and 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 9 AM, the Faith Issues Class will be discussing the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. This book, written by Robin DiAngelo, addresses an important issue of our day. DiAngelo is an author and lecturer who has also been a consultant and trainer on issues of racism and social justice for over 20 years. One of the church goals set by the Administrative Council for 2021 is to "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."

The first week, Jo Hoover will facilitate a conversation centering around our experiences with people of color. The next two weeks, Rose Blank will lead a discussion based on DiAngelo's book. Along with sharing background information on racism, DiAngelo probes some difficult areas and triggers for us as we deal with these issues surrounding race and white privilege. She also provides "Where do we go from here?" as a way to continue the conversations that move us to deeper work on the issues.

Join us during these weeks for conversation and learning that may be challenging and engaging as we move to deeper understanding and practice.

To receive the Zoom link to join us, please contact the church office or go to the Faith Issues section of the web site to sign up for the class.

## THE BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE

The backpack food program has been a collaboration between HACAP, Pierce Elementary, and Lovely Lane UMC for many years. Lovely Lane has provided leadership, financial resources, donations from local food manufacturers, and dedicated weekly volunteers who pick up, pack, and deliver food bags to Pierce students. This program is crucial for families that struggle with food scarcity.

As with many things this year, the pandemic has required us all to make adjustments. This year, in order to limit exposures and remain healthy and safe, Pierce Elementary will work directly with HACAP to supply nutritious food bags to our students.

Pierce students have been blessed to have such dedication from Lovely Lane. We hope that in the future, we can return to our volunteer partnership with Lovely Lane. *Julie Plante, Pierce El.*

### Additional Building Renovations in 2021

As the new year begins, we are leveraging the momentum gained in 2020 to complete Phase 1 of our renovation plan with the following improvements:

**Foyer, Narthex, Fireside and Sanctuary** - LED lighting, ceiling tiles, pew restoration, flooring, furnishings, paint, organ bulkhead removal with new A/V console, electrical upgrades, HVAC unit replacement, glass entry to Sanctuary and door entry to Fireside for sound reduction

**Main bathrooms** - ADA accessible, replace cast iron plumbing with plastic

**Building security** - access controls and exterior cameras

**Fellowship Hall** - general repairs, durable flooring, paint and furnishings

**HVAC replacement** - replace two failing units in basement that serve west side of building

Work is scheduled to begin in January and end in June. The cost to complete this work is nearly \$700,000 and will be paid for through fulfilled pledges to the capital campaign and a loan through the Iowa United Methodist Foundation.

Please continue to fulfill your pledge to the campaign and prayerfully consider how you can further our progress. Your kind and generous spirit is appreciated!

The Core Building team is planning an opportunity for small groups of individuals and/or families to come on site to see the completed renovation work and learn more about the upcoming renovations. Specific details will be shared soon! In the meantime, go to [www.lblessing.org](http://www.lblessing.org) for the latest information.

Blessings for a happy new year! *Amber Mulnik, Project Manager, Building Renovations*

### Women's Book Study—NEW BOOK

The women's book study with Pastor Kristina is starting a new book on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>: 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 would like to join the study, please E-mail Pastor Kristina **ASAP** at [kristina@lovelylane.org](mailto:kristina@lovelylane.org) so she can order an additional book or books.

The cost of the book is \$12.



### Thank You

**On behalf** of the Board of Directors of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, please accept our thanks for your charitable contribution of \$5,701.07 to the Disaster Recovery Fund, which was received on 12/7/2020. This generous gift will support the Derecho Recovery!

#### November Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 48,254
Cash inflow—YTD	\$477,273
Budget need/month	\$ 46,202
Cash outflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 27,881
Cash outflow—YTD	\$431,920
<i>Unpaid apportionments</i>	-\$6,884
<i>(we're one month ahead)</i>	

*Remembering with love:*

*Darwin Keegan.....2015*

*Donna Knutson.....2015*

## Concerns & Celebrations

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

- \*Sympathy to the family of Vivian Johnson
- \*Sympathy to Diane Daubenmier & family after Jim's passing
- \*Sympathy to the family of Steve Stiers (Al's son)
- \*Sympathy to Bob Smiley & family after the passing of his son, Dustin
- \*Sympathy to the family & friends of Lois McNiel on her passing
- \*Sympathy to Carla Jesse & family and April Drew & family; Carla's uncle, Julius, who is April's grandfather, passed away
- \*Lu Serbousek's good friend after her mother's passing
- \*Ron & Margaret Nelson's neighbors whose son recently passed away
- \*Barb Olive's daughter's father-in-law passed away due to COVID
- \*Chris Budny with a medical procedure
- \*Jan Robinson following a medical procedure
- \*Cynthia Haring following a medical procedure
- \*Dave & Maryann Ellis with COVID
- \*Sean & Rachel Thomas with COVID
- \*Pastor Kristina following a car accident
- \*Patty Logsdon's family with estate matters & difficult lawsuit
- \*Paul Bowker, former Lovely Lane member, dealing with cancer
- \*Sharon Vavra's son, Chad, with back surgery
- \*Liz Briggman's brother with health concerns
- \*Pastor Scott's cousin, Leslie, with COVID and other health concerns
- \*Pastor Kristina's cousin, Merriellen, who is pregnant & just learned she has an aneurysm on an aorta of her heart; prayers that she will not get worse & able to go full term, have a C section & then open heart surgery
- \*Pastor Kristina's grandmother with COVID; she's now doing better
- \*Sue Moss's sister-in-law, Connie in AZ, with COVID
- \*Lu Serbousek's nephew's fiancé, Hilary, with tumors removed from her liver
- \*City of Nashville after Christmas Day blast
- \*All those battling COVID
- \*Those experiencing loneliness and isolation
- \*Winter travel on the highways

### JOYS:

- \*Congratulations to Sean Thomas on his acceptance into medical school
- \*Joint youth group Advent study with St. Paul's UMC
- \*Returning of Angel Tree gifts and people's generosity
- \***Thanks to outgoing committee chairs:** Jeff Swartzendruber (Trustees) & Scott Hauser (SPPRC); you both did an awesome job & we thank you for your hard work & great leadership!
- \*Thanks to ALL outgoing committee members
- \*Thanks & welcome to incoming committee chairs: Jane Schildroth (SPPRC) & Mike Bailey (Trustees)
- \*Thanks & welcome to ALL new committee members for 2021
- \*Christmas decorations, holiday lights, & creative ways to celebrate the season
- \*People helping one another in the spirit of Christmas
- \*Celebrating Christmas Joy
- \*Vaccine for the coronavirus was released & is being distributed
- \*New Beginnings with 2021 coming up
- \*Stimulus package for financial aid hopefully will be approved

### **BISHOP'S EPIPHANY MESSAGE JAN. 4TH, 7 PM**

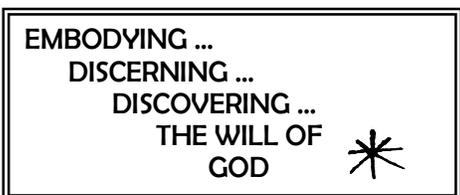
Bishop Laurie Haller invites all clergy and laypersons in the Iowa Conference to an Epiphany Address: "Watching Over One Another in Love." This event will be livestreamed on Monday, January 4th, from 7 to 8 PM, and will be recorded for future viewing. Go to the Iowa UM Church Facebook page to find the link. The address is based upon Matthew 2:1-12. Bishop Laurie intends to offer both a word of hope for the New Year and will share with you several initiatives designed to address areas of our life together as a church. Following her address, there will be a time for questions and answers using the Email address: [vision2032@iaumc.org](mailto:vision2032@iaumc.org).



**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](http://www.lovelylane.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc](http://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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