

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

December 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.



Extravagant Gifts

My favorite holiday movie is "Miracle on 34th Street." I love the older version of the film from 1947 as well as the newer one from 1994. There's something about this movie that gets me in the right mood this time of year. Most of us have a favorite holiday movie, television special, or song that gets us going as Christmas Day approaches. At the very least, we have a holiday tradition that means so much. Perhaps we have a cookie exchange with friends or we visit a favorite concert hall for a Christmas show. And of course, many of us have Christmas Eve rituals at church and home.

Holiday favorites and yearly traditions are nice. I think one reason they are precious is because they make us feel safe. Engaging in the same experiences year after year fills us with peace. With lives that are often chaotic, we need to go back to those routines that are predictable and warm. Many traditions take us back to a time and place in which life was simple and the tenderness of a parent's love was close by. Traditions also remind us of God's incredible love that comes to us in the form of Christ Jesus.

Yet, as nice as it is to experience safety, this safety is not permission to be inactive in our life as a Christian. We are meant to be safe in God's love so we can freely, and boldly, make a difference for others. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is a song about wildly, outrageous gifts. Who would imagine giving three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree? Maybe the beauty of this song is that we need to give unexpected gifts.

Remember the first Christian gift. God presented humanity a gift that was unexpected. According to Saint Luke, God gave ancient Israel a baby born in the back of an inn with two overwhelmed parents. Who expected that? The people wanted a mighty king who would unify the nation and demolish the Romans. What they received instead was a baby who would change human history. Who saw that coming? Our God is constantly surprising us.

As Christmas approaches, might we be so safe in God's love that we are free to be extravagant with our love, our time, and our energies as we reach out. Might we share the gift of Christian love with others!

Blessings to you! Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — December 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries UMW = United Methodist Women			1 9:30 am <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub prog. 6-7:30 pm Confirmation Class 6 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Bell Choir	2	3	4 9:30 am UMW Advent Coffee 2 pm Special Called Charge Conference
5 Second Sunday of Advent / Communion 8:30 am In-person Worship 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 5-7 pm Youth Group (@ Pastor K's)	6 8 am-3:30 pm CWM Preschl. Christmas Store 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	7 8 am-3:30 pm CWM Preschl. Christmas Store 6 pm Finance & Core Team	8 8 am-3:30 pm CWM PS Christmas Store 9:30 am <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub program 6 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Bell Choir	9 8 am Leadership Team (offsite) 6-7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering: "Honest Advent" (@Groundswell Café)	10	11 10 am Nourished gathering (@ Kismet Coffee & Bloom)
12 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 5-6:30 pm Youth Grp. 7 pm Candlelight Memorial Vigil <i>Remembering Our Children</i>	13 9:15-9:30 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program Practice 11:30 am Happy Endings lunch (@ Olive Garden) 6:30 pm "A Home for All" Recognition @ St. Paul's UMC 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	14 9:15-9:30 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program Practice	15 9:15-9:30 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program Practice 11 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program 9:30 am <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub program 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm Bell Choir	16 9:15-9:30 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program Practice 11 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program 6 pm Health & Wholeness 7 pm Ad Council	17 7-8:30 pm <i>Nourished</i> Fork n' Folk: Christmas Cookie Exchange (@ Pastor K's)	18 8:30 am Men's Breakfast Group 9-10 am Boy Scouts sewing workshop
19 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 5-6:30 pm Youth Grp. Christmas Party	20 9 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21 6 pm "Blue Christmas Service" (@ Groundswell Café)	22 9:30 & 10:15 am CCM	23 6-7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering: "Honest Advent" (@Groundswell Café)	24 Christmas Eve 3 pm, 5 pm & 7 pm Christmas Eve Services	25 Christmas Day
26 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:30 am In-person & online worship	27 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve—Have a Safe & Happy One	

A SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE has been called for Sat., Dec. 4, at 2 pm. District Superintendent, Dr. Moody Colorado, will preside. The conference's purpose is to approve or disapprove the plan of bankruptcy for the Boy Scouts.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Dec. 5: 2nd Sunday of Advent / Communion—in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9 / Sermon: "From Solitude to Belonging" *Journey to the Manger*
Dec. 12: 3rd Sunday of Advent—in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 2:1-13 / Sermon: "From Anger to Faith" *Journey to the Manger*
Dec. 19: 4th Sunday of Advent—in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Psalm 4 / Sermon: "From Anxiety to Peace" *Journey to the Manger*
Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Services: 3 PM Family-Friendly; 5 PM Traditional Candlelight; & 7 PM Holy Communion
Dec. 26: 1st Sunday after Christmas—in-person 10:30 AM service only / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 / Sermon: "Life Lessons"

A GATHERING OF THE LONGEST NIGHT: A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST 6PM

GROUNDSWELL CAFÉ

201 THIRD AVE SW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52404

GATHER WITH US ON THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR TO
SHARE OUR STORIES OF DARKNESS AND BE INSPIRED
THROUGH THE COMING LIGHT OF JESUS.



HONEST ADVENT:

CONVERSATIONS ON
REFUGEES AND THE
OPPRESSION OF WOMEN
WITHIN THE STORY OF
CHRISTMAS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

&

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

6PM

GROUNDSWELL CAFÉ

“All Generations Will Call Me Blessed”

I’ve been enjoying working through the Advent Devotional that we purchased for this Advent season at the church. You can pick up your copy of “God With Us” at the church in the Narthex on the welcome table. We have Advent devotionals for adults and families.

Week one opened with a reading from the Gospel of Matthew, the very beginning, which lists the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. There are 42 generations listed in this opening of Matthew from Abraham to the Messiah. The devotional invited us to reflect on where Jesus came from, the stories of those listed in the genealogy. “There’s Tamar, whose treatment by the family she married into was so unjust she restored to tricking them in order to survive. There’s Rahab, who was cast out by her own people and, in turn, betrayed them. There’s Bathsheba, who survived sexual violence and endured the loss of a child. And there’s Ruth, who left her home when it became a place of grief and famine.” There’s stories of struggle and scandal, and also stories of eventually thriving.

As we read these stories and reflect on this genealogy, we’re invited to hear our own stories within these stories of scandal, of struggle, and even in our home stories of joy. As I’ve reflected on this text and the questions the devotional invites us to think about, I’ve been thinking a lot about Mary, the mother of Jesus. In what is called the Magnificat in the Gospel of Luke, often referred as Mary’s song, Mary sings that from now on, all generations will call her blessed. While Jesus had no children that we know of, as children of God, we are all siblings of Jesus. As Mary’s song names, we are part of the genealogy of Jesus that continues. We’re part of this story, and our stories are carefully woven into the stories of struggle, of scandal, and stories of incredible joy. There are so many others who stand in solidarity with us when we go through times of grief, struggle, pain, and in moments of joy. That brings me incredible hope in this Advent season, an Advent season in a world that’s broken. Maybe it can bring you joy and hope, too. *Pastor Kristina*



BRING IN YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA for the altar any time during Advent to honor or remember a loved one. Be sure to write your name and the name of the person(s) to be commemorated on the poinsettia sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

Join us for **"Singing in the Season"** Advent Coffee

A UMW tradition to celebrate the Christmas season

Saturday, Dec. 4th, 9:30 AM

Our Entertainment this year...Charlie and Deb Kucera with Marcie Stumpf on piano
Celebrate with coffee, treats, fellowship and Christmas Carols!

Also remember that UMW Bible study will begin meeting again in February. Watch for details!

MEN'S BREAKFAST



The next Men's Breakfast gathering is on Saturday, Dec. 18th, at 8:30 AM. Art Staed, LL member, will speak about his experiences as an Iowa State Representative. All are welcome!

Join the *Nourished* Community in supporting a new local business in the New Bo District: Kismet Coffee and Bloom. We'll gather there for coffee, hot chocolate, etc., on Saturday, Dec. 11th, at 10 AM. You can also wander upstairs to make your own flower bouquet or purchased one already made. They're located at 1000 3rd St. SE, Suite 1, CR.



"Remembering Our Children"—A Candlelight Memorial Vigil

Sponsored by Cedar Memorial

Sunday, Dec. 12th, @ 7 PM

at Lovely Lane UMC

No matter the age or cause, losing a child is a life altering experience. We hope you will join us at this hour-long memorial service where each family will have an opportunity to light a candle in honor of the memory of their beloved child.

Advent Offering Recipients

LL's Missions Committee selected the following as our 2021 Advent Offering recipients: His Hands Free Clinic, Women At The Well, UMCOR for Disaster Relief, and Heifer International. More specific information is in our weekly bulletin announcements and our Advent mailing.



"God With Us" Advent

Devotionals for family and adults are available on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please be sure to pick up your **FREE** copy!

Nourished: The Missional Campus of Lovely Lane—December Events:

Honest Advent: Conversations on refugees and oppression of women within the story of Christmas

Thursday Centering, Dec. 9 & Dec. 23 @ 6pm at Groundswell Café (201 Third Ave SW)

Fork 'n' Folk "Christmas Cookie Exchange" at Pastor Kristina's House (3000 Carroll Drive SE)

Friday, Dec. 17 7pm-8:30pm; bring your favorite Christmas cookie and instrument, if you have one, for an evening of a Christmas-themed Fork 'n' Folk. **(NOTE: Not typical potluck but Cookie Exchange instead.)**

Thank You Notes

A huge Thank You for all the lovely cards and messages I have received the past 10 weeks since I fell and have been homebound with a small pelvis fracture. I am still recovering but feeling much better.

Nancy Miller

Thank you for doing what you could for Uncle Hank's (Widmer) widower's birthday. He was very surprised at all the cards he received. Thanks again to everyone that sent cards. *Paula Vogel*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

The following folk were recognized in worship on 11/28:

Teri Krumm, Kathy Meiborg, Travis Meiborg,

Mike & Karlene Nesslage, Rich & Sarah Rheinschmidt,

Jill Riker, Joan Roscovius, Steve, Deb & JR Streff.

Welcome to the Lovely Lane family, one & all!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARDS

Completed commitment cards for 2022 can be turned in to the church office. Thank you for your faithful giving to the general fund for the next calendar year!

Administrative Council 2022 Goals

1. Expand our Worship + 2 Discipleship Pathway for all church members. Extra efforts should be placed on reaching youth, millennials, and young adults.
2. Explore and develop partnerships with local churches and groups in the greater Cedar Rapids area. Look for settings in which Lovely Lane's DNA can be helpful.
3. Work with Pastor Kristina to develop the Nourished Community at Matthew 25. We are trying to reach persons who might be turned off by traditional church.
4. Address social issues that need attention. Create settings in which matters can be addressed. Consider worship focus and study groups with a call to action.
5. Support our Congolese worshipping community on Sunday morning.

Merry Christmas from the Lovely Lane Staff

Pastor Scott Meador

Pastor Kristina Roth-Klink

Sue Moss, Sr. Office Manager

Marti Bowman, Office Manager

Dawn DuPont, CWM Director

Barb Geissinger, Christian Educator

Julie Meyer, Kids Club Director

Ryan Roth-Klink, HS Youth Director

Eric Wylie, Audio/Visual Coordinator

Becky Wood, Wedding Coordinator

Dennis Ramsey, Organist

Nancy Patrick, Choir Director

Carla Jesse, Children's Choirs

Charlie Kucera, Handbells Director

Shelbie Wood, Nursery Lead

Rex & Rhonda Heasty, Custodians

Marcie Stumpf, Treasurer

Patty Logsdon, Finance Secretary

Shelly Turner, Webmaster

Youth Group: **December** Gatherings

- *Sunday, Dec. 5th: Christmas Movie Night & Dinner at Pastor Kristina's House, 5-7 PM (3000 Carroll Drive SE, CR)
- *Sunday, Dec. 12th: Liberation Conversation with The Sunrise Movement 5-6:30 PM @ church
- *Sunday, Dec. 19th: Christmas Party @ church, 5-6:30 PM
- *NO YOUTH GROUP on December 26th or January 2nd!!

For more info. about youth group, contact our youth leader, Ryan Roth-Klinck (ryan@lovelylane.org).

KidsClub on Wednesdays

KIDSClub begins every Wednesday with a family meal at 5:30 PM, followed by the program. Our theme this year is "Learning to Love Like God."

There's a registration form to fill out on the church website (www.lovelylane.org). Please fill out the form completely (it's for KidsClub & Sunday Schl.). The Sign Up Genius link is sent out weekly with the menu for the next Wednesday. We need weekly sign-ups so we know how many meals to prepare.

Masks are required for the children, assistants, and for all attending. We are monitoring the CDC's recommendations as the year progresses.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Children's classes: Our theme is *Beginning to learn more about Jesus and our faith lives*. Children gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM for music followed by a lesson from Sparkhouse.

Adult classes: Faith Issues meets in the Library and looks at contemporary topics and social issues. Myrna Loehrlein is the class leader; members alternate teaching. Faith Journey meets in Rm. 205 with Rev. Steve Pudinski. The study is *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments* by Adam Hamilton.

Staying Fit in the Winter Months

No need to hibernate in the winter; you can stay active. Though experts recommend you exercise for at least 30 mins., 5 days a week, 5-10 mins. of movement a day (or several times a day) will help with weight loss, improve your mood, and increase your heart health. Here are some winter fitness ideas. *Check with your doctor before starting any new exercise program.*

1. Set goals. Remind yourself of your goals for exercise and staying in shape. Do you want to be able to walk the dog farther? Do you want to be able to play with your grandchildren? Do you want to feel healthier? By starting with goals in mind, you are more likely to succeed.

2. Bring fitness indoors. If you can't exercise outside, there are many ways to stay active and warm. Ideas:

- * Walk laps at the mall.
- * Take a fitness class at the gym. Consider a Tai chi or yoga class.
- * Lift weights - if you don't have weights, use soup cans or water bottles.
- * Work out to a video at home; youtube.com has many short video workouts for free.
- * Walk the stairs at your house or work, take a walk during lunch break, or walk laps in your house for 5-10 mins. once a day.
- * Park further away at your work or when shopping to increase your steps.
- * Housecleaning can be very physical, esp. vacuuming or mopping. A weekly cleaning of your house can count as a workout.
- * Plan to watch your favorite show while walking on the treadmill, read while riding a stationary bike. At every commercial break, do 5 repetitions of sit to stand without using your arms, or 5-10 squats.
- * On occasional *warm* winter days, bundle up and take a walk outdoors. Sunlight and vitamin D will improve your mood!

To prevent boredom, mix it up and do something different every day of the week. The most important component of an exercise program is finding things that you enjoy. If you're having fun, you will be more likely to stick with exercise.

3. Partner up! Enlist your friends and family as exercise partners. Set a date to meet a friend at the gym or mall to walk.

4. Pencil it in & track it. Write *exercise* in your calendar so it becomes part of your daily schedule, and track it in a log or calendar. Seeing your progress is motivating. Celebrate your successes and treat yourself to a favorite coffee, etc.

Health & Wholeness Committee

Sources: 1. <https://www.kidney.org/content/6-tips-stay-fit-winter> 2. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/fitness/art-20048269>

Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

- *Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays coming up
- *Christmas Eve services will be 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 pm
- *Lord's Prayer Devotions going out via E-mail
- *Charge Conference held, goals approved for 2022
- *Celebrating new choir director, Nancy Patrick
- *Regina Culbertson doing well after health concerns
- *Fall season, changing colors of leaves, outdoor activities
- *Appreciation for Health & Wholeness's fall brunch
- *Advent & Christmas sign-up opportunities on our website (families to light candles on advent wreath)
- *Dancer's Edge Nutcracker had some of our very own youth: Lexi & Lincoln Oliver, & Leila Lahip
- *Ryan Roth-Klinck had an art show & art talk at St. Paul's UMC
- *Life, health, & family time this Thanksgiving
- *LL's fall food drive donations to Linn Comm. Food Bank & the congregation adopting 10 families for Thanksgiving from our preschool/daycare programs
- *Tom DeVries lifts up family member who celebrated 100th birthday & celebrates a new birth in family
- *Celebrating our nonagenarians in worship, 90+ yrs.
- *Patty Logsdon celebrating a birthday
- *Thanksgiving celebrations with family & friends
- *Appreciation to everyone who donated food &/or adopted a family for a Thanksgiving meal
- *Welcome to our New Members who joined LL
- *Joy of Advent season
- *Happy Anniversary to Curtis & Maggie Thomas
- *Happy Birthday to Linda Mooney
- *Celebrating our chancel choir returning with new director, Nancy Patrick
- *Cathy & Kirk Weber welcome a new grandchild

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, book discussion group, will meet for their annual lunch at 11:30 AM on Monday, Dec. 13th, @ Olive Garden. Hope to see everyone there! The book to read for January is "The Reading List" by Sara Adams.

Remembering with love:

Bev Munnik.....2016
Paul Nylin.....2017
Donald Caspers.....2018
Vivian Johnson.....2020

CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to the Oliver family on the passing of Ben's father
- *Sympathy to the Pakkebie family on the passing of Curt's father
- *Gloria Jahnel's sister lost her husband this week
- *Remembering our saints on All Saints Sunday
- *Dick & Stephanie Phillips' son w/Covid, feeling ok
- *Bev Kadlec with Covid, feeling ok
- *Eric & Marcie Stumpf with Covid, feeling ok
- *Shelly Turner's mother hospitalized in Kansas City
- *Pastor Kristina's mother in-law's husband after complications of gallbladder surgery
- *Alfred Zigbuo's wife in Liberia for a month; prayers for safe travels back home
- *Marci Wittles' sister, Lela, with health concerns
- *Lu Serbousek's cousin, Bonnie, w/health concerns
- *Les & Sherry Minor's niece, Stacy, with health concerns
- *Carla Jesse's in-laws with concerns
- *Linda Henecke's son & dtr.-in-law in Zimbabwe
- *Deb Streff's friend, Angela, during trying time
- *Ethiopia with significant internal matters
- *Astroworld tragedy in Texas
- *Persons with mental health concerns & addictions
- *Persons needing help at the holidays
- *Safe travels for everyone over the holidays
- *Ongoing pandemic
- *High profile court cases & their outcomes
- *Fairfield community after schoolteacher murder
- *Houston, TX community following concert tragedy
- *National & international concerns

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SERVANT SIGN UP

Please visit our website, www.lovelylane.org, to sign up as a Worship Volunteer Servant: greeter, usher, and/or lector. You will find the sign up link at the bottom of the first page of the website, as well as a description of each position. Please check your calendar and choose a date or dates to serve in this important ministry.

October Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Oct.	\$ 32,794
Cash inflow—YTD	\$303,107
Budget need/month	\$ 45,253
Cash outflow—mo. of Oct.	\$ 61,431
Cash outflow—YTD	\$428,854
Unpaid apportionments	-\$ 10,444 (we're 2 months ahead)



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2424 42nd Street NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

EMBODYING ...
DISCERNING ...
DISCOVERING ...
THE WILL OF
GOD



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
Director Children's Weekday Min.....Dawn DuPont
Kid's Club Director.....Julie Meyer
Christian Educator..... Barb Geissinger
High School Youth Director.....Ryan Roth-Klinck
Organist.....Dennis Ramsey
Choir Director.....Nancy Patrick
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.....Patty Logsdon
Webmaster.....Shelly Turner