

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

January 2022

## 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*

## **Listening to Others**

Ernest Hemingway once said, "When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen." Regrettably, our society has become increasingly distracted, inclined to multitask, and not willing to give full attention to the matter at hand. We have not become good listeners. And our deep polarization only adds to the concern. A Brown University study showed that polarization among Americans has worsened faster than residents of other prominent democracies. (January 21, 2020)

Listening is essential for us to communicate with others. On the surface it seems easy, but the discipline requires focus and intentionality. We are able to hear sounds, but listening demands discipline. In James 1:19 we read, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." (NIV)

How many times have we spoken harshly about someone before we actually heard them tell their story or share their perspective? I know my hand is raised! It's critical we deeply consider the words of others. Faithful listening can dramatically change the way we perceive a person or situation.

Now listening also means paying attention not only to the verbal, but the non-verbal as well. We can learn a lot about someone in the way they express themselves and provide, or do not provide, eye contact. What is not said, too, is sometimes just as important as the words that are spoken.

Jesus picked up on the nonverbal signs of others (think of Caiaphas and Pilate), but he also simply took time to take in the words of those he encountered. Lengthy conversations are found in John 3 and 4. In these chapters, Jesus takes time to listen to Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well. He listens to understand, help, assist, and express a love for his neighbor. By listening, he is able to plant seeds that will change lives. As Jesus listens, we need to listen. Jesus tells us, "He who has ears, let him hear." (Matthew 11:15)

As we move into this New Year of 2022, might we make an extra commitment to listen better, verbally and non-verbally! What a meaningful way to be a loving person! Blessings to each of you! *Scott*

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries UMW = United Methodist Women			<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>
<b>2</b> <i>Epiphany / Communion</i> 10:30 am In-person worship	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 am <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirmation Class	<b>6</b> 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:45-5:15 pm Boy Scouts event
<b>9</b> <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 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.	<b>10</b> 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 am <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>13</b> 8 am Leadership Team (offsite) 1 pm <i>UMW Zoom mtg.</i> 6-7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering (@ Groundswell Café) 6:30 pm Missions	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast Group 2:00-3:30 pm Youth Grp. sled-ding @ church
<b>16</b> <i>Human Relations Day</i> 8:30 am In-person Worship 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>18</b> 10 am-4 pm Iowa MMJ (fka JFON) Atty. office hrs. 6:30-8 pm SPPRC	<b>19</b> 9:30 am <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirmation Class	<b>20</b> 5:45 pm Trustees 6 pm Health & Wholeness 7 pm Ad Council 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30 am In-person Worship 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 & 10:15 am CCM 9:30 am <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>27</b> 6-7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering (@ Groundswell Café)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 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.	<b>31</b> 10 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Boy Scouts					

**Nourished: The Missional Campus of Lovely Lane—January Events:**

***Starting the New Year: Who are we now? Who do we want to become?***

Thursday Centering, January 13th, 6 pm at Groundswell Café (201 Third Ave SW)

***Debunking Terrible Theology***

Thursday Centering, January 27th, 6 pm at Groundswell Café (201 Third Ave SW)

**NO Fork 'n' Folk this month!**

For more information about the Nourished Community, email Pastor Kristina at [kristina@lovelylane.org](mailto:kristina@lovelylane.org).

 [facebook.com/nourishedCR](https://facebook.com/nourishedCR)

## SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Jan. 2: **Epiphany / Communion**—in-person 10:30 AM service only / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 / Sermon: “Beginning Where We Left Off”

Jan. 9: **Baptism of the Lord**—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 / Sermon: “Going Deep and Wide”

Jan. 16: **Human Relations Day**—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12 / Sermon: “Celebrating Dr. King”

Jan. 23: **3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 4:14-21 / Sermon: “Here We Go”

Jan. 30: **4th Sunday after the Epiphany**—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 / Sermon: “Paul, Say What?”

PASTOR SCOTT’S STUDY GROUPS will resume on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM (via Zoom) and 6:00 PM (in-person). We are continuing our study on “Living the Questions.”

### New Facilities Manager Position

We are happy to announce that Curtis Thomas has joined our staff. He will serve as our new Facilities Manager. He will make sure our physical building is in working order. The position is part-time, 6-8 hours per week. Curtis has been a member of Lovely Lane since 1986. His wife is Maggie. He has four adult children and five grandchildren. We are thrilled he is with us!

### Who are we now? Who do we want to become?

While visiting family in Texas after Christmas, I’ve been working on my ordination paperwork in preparation for the January 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. There’s so much to submit for ordination: Bible studies to write, sermons to send in, lots of questions about theology, doctrine, and personal discipline. In taking a break to write this newsletter article, I’m reflecting upon all that has happened since I first said “yes” to God’s call into ministry back in 2015. And yes, it does take that long to be ordained! It’s a long-disciplined process.

The start of the new year is a great time to reflect upon the discipline of call and the ways in which God moves in our lives. So often we only think about the concept of “call” when thinking about those who are called to be pastors or ministers out working in the world. However, God can call each one of us, and God’s calling might look like serving in the church, but it might also be switching your job or beginning to be more aware of your Carbon footprint. I always appreciate that quote from Frederick Buechner, an ordained Presbyterian Priest. “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” I like this quote as we think about discernment and God’s call in each of our lives. We can identify where our deep gladness is and the world’s deep hunger. That’s often the places where God calls us, and it looks differently for each one of us.

Nourished, the missional campus of Lovely Lane, is exploring these topics of conversation at our January 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday Centering at 6pm at Groundswell Café. We’ll be answering these questions, “Who are we now? Who do we want to become?” Join us for this conversation as we start the new year, 2022!

Peace, Pastor Kristina

## Thank You Notes

A very “belated thank you” to all at Lovely Lane for the very lovely rose. Makes reaching 90 years seem a little “rosier.” Bless you all, Pat Brand

Dear Friends in Mission, Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift\* to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be—*Thank you!* Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, *you* are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms—sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors. (\*total gift amount of \$1,975.00)

### 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.

### MEN’S BREAKFAST



The next gathering is on Saturday, Jan. 15th, at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Treats will be ready! Our speaker will be Alfred Zigbuo, sharing about his journey to America and call to ministry. Please plan to join us!

**Friendly Fellowship** will not meet for the next few months due to the continued problems with the Corona virus. In the meantime, feel free to check with each other by phone, E-mail, or regular mail. We will be soooooo happy when we can finally get together again in person at the church!! Take good care!!!!

### Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice

(f/k/a Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors, or JFON)

Our top 3 moments from 2021: 1) Iowa MMJ exists! Thank you for your support (and patience) as we transitioned, launched and continue to evolve! 2) We served over 500 new clients! This is in addition to folks we’ve been working with for years. 3) Training leaders for an Iowa-based immigrants’ rights movement! We’re honored to train and equip leaders to build a more welcoming and inclu-sive Iowa. It was good to be able to gather in-person this summer for an organizer training in Des Moines! Stay tuned for more from this group of motivated leaders!

## UMW News

Ladies, you should be receiving your pledge letter in the mail soon.  
Please make out your pledge to Lovely Lane UMW and mail to treasurer:  
Cindy Sale  
3316 Riverbend Dr. NE  
CR, IA 52411

**Our plan for this month is to meet virtually on Zoom for our next general meeting on Thursday, Jan. 13th, at 1:00 PM.** We have a great afternoon planned with a fun video and pledge service. Please make sure we have your email address for your participation; send it to [cbrandsale@aol.com](mailto:cbrandsale@aol.com) to receive your meeting invite.

Watch the weekly bulletin announcements and monthly newsletters for updates on future monthly meetings. We hope to be meeting in person again soon!

## Post Holiday Blues

The 3rd Monday of January is “Blue Monday” - the most depressing day of the year. Post holiday blues include fatigue, loneliness, financial stress, anxiety, and low mood. Try this recipe to make this New Year of 2022 a positive one from the start. You need:

1 Bottle of Exercise—Get into the sunshine and get active exercise, including exercising the funny bone.

5-6 Doses of Positivity throughout the day—Read your Bible and read for pleasure. Try something new, be selfless, and focus on your strengths.

1 Cup of Connecting Time—Connect with people. Keep track of gratitudes and achievements.

3 Plates of Healthy Meals—Eat properly!

1 Dose of Sleepiness—Sleep fosters mental health and promotes resilience.

Enter this new year of 2022 ready to make changes. Try to get motivated to kick start the Best Year to come!

References: 1) *The Wellness Recipe* by Archana Raghaven; 2) *Merry & Bright* by Diane Bohn

## Health & Wholeness Committee

### November Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 56,004
Cash inflow—YTD	\$359,111
Budget need/month	\$ 45,253
Cash outflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 38,680
Cash outflow—YTD	\$467,533
Unpaid apportionments	-\$ 5,222 (we're 1 month ahead)

**SAVEAROUND COUPON BOOKS FOR SALE!** You can still purchase one for \$20 per booklet from the CWM office or from the church office. It contains over \$5K in savings from 193 different businesses! Proceeds go to Lovely Lane and Trinity Lane Preschools. Make your check payable to Lovely Lane Preschool. Thanks!

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



If the CR School District cancels classes due to inclement weather, LL church activities/events will also be canceled that day. You can call the church with specific questions. If Sunday AM worship is canceled, look for the notice that should be posted on KCRG-TV (ch. 9) and KGAN-TV (ch. 2).

We will also attempt to post a notice on our website when activities are canceled or postponed.

## Super Bowl Youth Fundraiser



The youth group will be having a fundraiser for the Superbowl, Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>! Please sign up at the link below by Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to order a sub or subs. Email Pastor Kristina with any questions: [kristina@lovelylane.org](mailto:kristina@lovelylane.org).

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

Suggested Donation: \$5-10 per sub

Subs will be available for pickup at the church after each service on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Please indicate which service you would like to pick up your subs at.

SignUp Link: <https://forms.gle/8UbLMxNXn8WHAFuWA>

## Youth Group: January Gatherings

This month, since it will be cold, we will be doing a series where we explore faith and themes of faith through various TV shows and episodes. Expect hilarious episodes, fun conversations, and of course, tasty snacks!

(1/2, 1/16 & 1/23 - **No** Youth Group)  
1/9 - TV Talks Series  
1/15 (Sat.) Sledding @ church, 2-3:30 PM  
1/30 - TV Talks Series & Parent Meeting

For more information about Lovely Lane's youth group, contact our youth leader, Ryan Roth-Klinck ([ryan@lovelylane.org](mailto:ryan@lovelylane.org)). Thanks!

## 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](http://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 Journeys is starting a new study on the book, "The Lord's Prayer," by Adam Hamilton. The Rev. Steve Pudinski leads this class that meets in Rm. 205 (1<sup>st</sup> room on the left in the education part of the bldg.).

## Concerns & Celebrations

### JOYS:

- \*UMW's Advent Coffee; Charlie & Deb Kucera provided wonderful music
- \*Joy of local craft fairs & community shopping to support our local economy
- \*New church website is up; many thanks to Shelly Turner for creating & managing it, & handling our social media
- \*Alfred lifted up a joy that his wife made the travels back home safely after being overseas
- \*Joy of the holiday season; neighbors helping neighbors
- \*Thanks to Greg Blum as he learns how to operate the sound booth
- \*The ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- \*Congratulations to Andy & Mary Vorwerk on new grandchild, Carl (parents are son, Nick, & wife, Katie)
- \*Verlis & Nancy Miller welcome new great grandson, Benson Riley Bumsted
- \*Leyla Grawe with encouraging health news
- \*Dave & Linda Keefe celebrate 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary
- \*Wayne & Catherine Erie celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- \*Sue & Jim Moss celebrate 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary
- \*Frank & Susan Camp celebrate 45th anniversary
- \*Family gatherings at Christmas
- \*People assisting others during the holidays
- \*Blessings in the New Year! Fresh starts & new beginnings!
- \*Appreciation to those who plow snow

### HAPPY ENDINGS

- Happy Endings, the book discussion group will meet on Monday, Jan. 10th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we are reading is *The Reading List* by Sara Adams. We will select the books to read for the next couple of meetings in January. Stay warm!!

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SERVANT SIGN UP

Please visit our website, [www.lovelylane.org](http://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(s) to serve in this important ministry.

### CONCERNS:

- \*Sympathy to Bob Smiley after the passing of his mother, Janell (LL member); service was Dec. 23
- \*Benser family during a time of grieving
- \*Sympathy to Brock & Rachel Worley after the passing of Rachel's grandmother
- \*Rev. Jill Sanders & family after the passing of her father
- \*The family & friends of Larry Clore & wife, Sharon, after his passing; they have many friends at LL & this community
- \*Sympathy to our Superintendent, Rev. Moody Colorado, following the passing of his mother
- \*Sympathy to Sue & Jim Moss on the passing of their new puppy
- \*Remembering the life of Desmond Tutu
- \*Kathryn Potter-Stepleton hospitalized
- \*Craig Nixon recovering well after procedure
- \*Maryann Stewart after breaking her wrist
- \*Randy Benser with health concerns
- \*Linda Mooney's daughter, Joni, hospitalized
- \*Jayne Woodson's daughter's work building with many folks impacted by Covid
- \*Pam Nixon's father, Marvin, after a fall
- \*Dennis Ramsey's father, Richard, after hospitalization
- \*Sharon Kouba's great niece hospitalized with health concerns
- \*Helen Anderson's grandson, Jeffrey, after an accident
- \*Taryn, Lu Serbousek's friend, with health concern
- \*Carla Jesse's friend's daughter with transplant
- \*Sharon Vavra's family impacted by recent tornadoes
- \*Jan Culbertson's friend with challenges
- \*Oakland County community in Michigan after the school shooting this past week & all that has transpired there
- \*Communities in western Iowa impacted by recent tornadoes
- \*Ongoing prayers for persons recovering from tornadoes in Kentucky and Western Iowa
- \*State of Colorado following wildfires
- \*The COVID pandemic & the new Omicron variant
- \*Hospital staffs spread thin during the pandemic

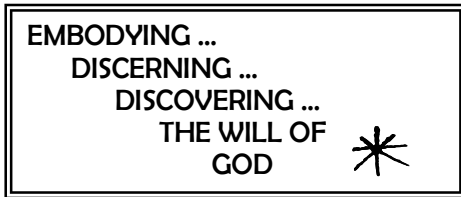
*Remembering with love:*

*David Nicholas.....2021*



January Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 60, No. 1  
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  
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  
Facilities Manager.....Curtis Thomas  
Custodians.....Rex, Rhonda & Jessica Heasty  
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....Eric Wylie  
Treasurer.....Marcie Stumpf  
Finance Secretary.....Patty Logsdon  
Webmaster.....Shelly Turner