Lovely Lane *network*

United Methodist Church

April 2022

<u>Vision</u> 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 Future of our Denomination

As Holy Week and Easter approach, I realize that church life might look different next year. As some of you know, our denomination, The United Methodist Church, has been discerning its future for a long time. Our denomination goes back to the life and teachings of John and Charles Wesley in the 1700's and was put together in its present form in 1968. We don't know what the next few years will look like.

At issue is the gulf between progressive and traditionalists over LGBTQ rights, in particular the ordination of LGBTQ clergy and a clergy person's authority to marry same-gender couples. Our denomination has always been made up of followers with different theological perspectives. The United Methodist Church was formed with a "big tent" mentality that embraces everyone, but it appears this arrangement will not hold.

Following news that our denomination's General Conference, our governing body, will not meet again until 2024, a group has emerged that is looking to begin a new denomination, the Global Methodist Church, on May 1. The Global Methodist Church is seen as a more conservative alternative to the mainline United Methodist Church. This new denomination will have guidelines that are restrictive in regards to LGBTQ rights. Some churches in the Iowa Annual Conference may choose to join this new denomination.

At Lovely Lane, our leadership remains committed to The United Methodist Church and the Iowa Annual Conference. We are not looking to make a change. We also remain committed to a theology that embraces everyone. As our welcoming statement affirms, our church "welcomes, accepts and affirms all people . . ."

In fact, as a congregation, we are looking forward to the future with great excitement and enthusiasm. In our 60th year as a congregation, we are looking ahead to the next sixty years. Plans are in place for Lovely Lane to take a survey that will help us decide future actions as a church. More information on this survey is located inside this newsletter.

As more information comes along that pertains to our denomination, I will share with each of you. In the meantime, let us keep our denomination, and our local congregation, in our thoughts and prayers! God is good all the time!

Grace and faith to each of you, Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — Apríl 2022								
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
		MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice	CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries	UMW = United Methodist Women	1	2 1-4:30 pm Mah Jongg group		
3 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir practice 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 12 pm Confirmation field trip 4 pm Living Last Supper practice 5-6:30 pm Youth Grp.	4 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	5 9:30 am UMW Bible Study	6 9:30 am Online Bible Study 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirma- tion Class 7:15 pm Bell Choir	7 6:30 pm <i>Nourished</i> Book Study (@ NewBo City Market)	8	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast Group 9 AM-12:30 PM Blood Drive 1-3 pm <i>Nourished</i> Forest Therapy (@ Indian Creek Nature Center)		
10 Palm Sunday 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir practice 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 7 pm Living Last Supper Performance 5-6:30 pm Youth Grp.	11 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	12 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 12:30-5 pm Clergy Cluster Group 6:30 pm SPPRC	1.3 9:30 am <i>Online</i> <i>Bible Study</i> 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirma- tion Class 6-7:15 pm Youth Grp. 7:15 pm Bell Choir	14 Maundy Thuryday 8 am Leadership Team (offsite) 6 pm Nourished Maundy Thurs. Feast (@ Groundswell Café) 7 pm Living Last Supper Performance	15 Good Fríday 7 pm GF Worship Service	16 9-10 AM Easter Egg Hunt		
17 EASTER 8:30 am In-person Worship 9:30-10:30 am Easter Brunch 9:30 am Sunday Schl. 10:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship	18 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	19 9:30 am UMW Bible Study 10 am-4 pm Iowa MMJ (fka JFON) Atty. office hrs.	20 9:30 am Online Bible Study 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirma- tion Class 7:15 pm Bell Choir	21 1 pm UMW mtg. 6 pm Health & Wholeness 6:30 pm Missions	22 6-8 pm <i>Nourished</i> Fork n' Folk (@ Pastor Kristina's)	23 10 am Dawn Nylin memorial service		
24 Confirma- tion Sunday 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.	25 9 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	26 9:30 am UMW Bible Study	27 9:30 am CCM 9:30 am Online Bible Study 5:30 pm Family meal 6 pm KidsClub 6 pm Bible Study 6-7:15 pm Confirma- tion Class 6-7:15 pm Youth Grp. 7:15 pm Bell Choir	28 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering (@Groundswell Café)	29	30 8:30 AM-Noon Women's Spring Mini Retreat		

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

Our Lenten series: Sabbath as Resistance

**Maundy Thursday* Centering: Feasting on the Sabbath, April 14th, 6 pm, @ Groundswell Café (201 Third Ave. SW). Bring a dish to share; the homeless community has been invited, so each person bring enough for 10 extra. *Easter Vigil Gathering, Saturday, April 16th, 7 pm-8:30 pm, at Groundswell Café (201 Third Ave SW)

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Opportunities for rest and renewal during Lent

*Forest Bathing with Emmy Sautter, April 9th, 1 pm-3 pm, at Indian Creek Nature Center (5300 Otis Rd. SE, CR) Sign Up Here: <u>https://forms.gle/cWemijMMoBMhV4w16</u>

*Fork 'n' Folk: Friday, April 22nd, 6 pm-8 pm, Fork n' Folk at Pastor Kristina's House (3000 Carroll Dr. SE CR): Bring a dish to share and your favorite instrument, if you have one, for an evening of good food and good music.

*Art as a Spiritual Practice: Thursday Centering, April 28th, 6 pm at Groundswell Café (201 Third Ave. SW)

For more information about the Nourished Community or to sign up to receive its weekly email, email Pastor Kristina at <u>kristina@lovelylane.org</u> facebook.com/NourishedCR

WORSHIP IN APRIL (with Holy Week Schedule)

<u>April 3</u>: *Fifth Sunday in Lent / Communion*—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 12:1-8 / Sermon: "We Are Fragile"

<u>April 10</u>: **Palm/Passion Sunday**—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 / Sermon: "You are a Group Project" *Living Last Supper* performance @ 7 PM

April 14: Maundy Thursday—Living Last Supper performance @ 7 PM

April 15: Good Friday—Worship service @ 7 PM

<u>April 17</u>: *Easter Sunday*—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 20:1-18 / Sermon: "Wonder and Amazement"

<u>April 24</u>: **Confirmation Sunday**—in-person @ 8:30, in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM Pastor Kristina / Scripture: John 20:19-31 / Sermon: "Living Authentically in a World of Doubt"

Pastor's Study Group

Pastor Scott started a new Wednesday Study Group on March 30th at 9:30 AM on Zoom and 6 PM in person. The focus is *Eclipsing Empire*; we'll look at the Apostle Paul and the Roman Empire. All are welcome!

Big News at Matthew 25 Means Great News for Cedar Rapids

Matthew 25's Cultivate Hope Corner Store is expected to open on April 6th! The long-awaited not-for-profit grocery store will be located at 604 Ellis Blvd. NW. The store will provide food staples, dry goods, and special emphasis on fresh/local produce. In fact, a selection of free produce will be made available for those on a tighter budget. Prices for food are expected to be at or below typical grocery store prices. Also, the Corner Store is planning to offer fresh, ready to eat meals. All are welcome at CR's newest grocery store. For more information, please contact Scott Seibert, a Corner Store Ambassador and member at Lovely Lane.

"What does it mean to be Easter People?"

It's hard to imagine that we're already coming up to April, isn't it? We're just a few short days away from celebrating Easter Sunday together. I remember getting an Easter bonnet when I was growing up that matched my dress for the occasion. We'd get together with family for a big meal, go for a hike, and enjoy the time with our church family in worship together. But we can't get to Easter Sunday without Good Friday, a time of great mourning and grief.

When I did my level 1 of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education), we had to read a book about images for Jesus. There were several images that I related with, and one of those was the image of Jesus as a midwife. Midwife means "with woman." Midwives were with the woman during pregnancy, birth, and after delivery. Midwives would provide pastoral care for the woman during the pregnancy, offering care when the labor got painful. The midwife would ask the mother to name the child upon delivery. Quite like the formula, "Lazarus, come forth!" the midwife would call the baby, and the baby would stop struggling and live.

After Jesus was resurrected, he appeared before Mary in the garden. She had mistaken him as a gardener. Even though she was in the presence of the very one she mourned, she didn't recognize it was Jesus until he called her by name. What is it about hearing a familiar voice or our name being spoken out loud by someone else that feels so comforting? Jesus said, "Mary," and she responded with a phrase that means "my dearest teacher." How wonderful this image is for us to see someone so comforted in so much grief.

As we think about what it means to be Easter people, perhaps we can also hear Jesus gently calling us by our name, calling us forth to stop struggling and live. And Easter isn't just this one day, this year on Sunday, April 17th, but all year. As Jesus calls us by name, how are we calling out the names of others, bringing life to those who feel lonely and forgotten? After all, Easter isn't just a day to be celebrated one day a year, but each and every day.

May you put your own name into this sentence, hearing Jesus' still small voice: "______, come forth and live!" Blessings and peace be with you, Pastor Kristina

LENT & HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS: Some of our church members will contribute daily devotions during the period of time from April 4-15. The final week will cover Holy Week. Devotions will come to each of you via email in the mornings. The writings follow devotions that our pastors put together in recent months. We are hopeful we can continue to do this from time to time. It's possible our church will put together an all-church devotional during Lent next year. Lovely Lane has done this in the past. Daily devotions are enhancement to our spiritual lives and help us grow in our faith. If you're interested in writing a devotion in the future, please let Pastor Scott know!

CONGREGATION ASSESSMENT TOOL (CAT): A team has been formed that will oversee a church survey called "Congregation Assessment Tool." This assessment tool, also known as CAT, will help us understand our church better and provide information that can help us further our mission as a congregation in the years to come. We are putting this assessment together in our 60th year as a congregation. As we celebrate sixty years, we look ahead to the next sixty years. We can keep doing what we are doing and hope for the best or we can use critical information to make sound decisions for the years to come. Every person connected to Lovely Lane will be invited to complete the assessment. CAT will help our leadership team understand areas of satisfaction and energy, discern success factors for improving congregational culture, pinpoint our strengths, and discover areas we want to go as a church in the future. More info. is coming on this end. Please stay tuned!

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or water with you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Children's classes: Beginning March 6th, children will leave during 10:30 worship, after the Time for Young Disciples, and gather in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme is Beginning to learn more about Jesus and our faith lives. 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. For *Faith Journeys*, Pastor Scott is leading a Lenten study on the scripture readings we are focusing on in worship. The class meets in Room 205, the first room on the left in the education part of the building. All are welcome!

Thank You Notes

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your recent contribution of \$2,044.86 to Heifer International. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. For more than 75 years, people of faith have generously given time, talent and treasure to serve God's children who struggle with hunger and poverty. Thanks to you, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children... dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away... you are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation. Thank you for your faithful support of our mission.

We received your organization's contribution of \$2,173.59 to Women At The Well UMC. We are humbled by the generous support of organizations like yours who give to keep this ministry going. We are a mission congregation. The women inside the prison will never be able to fund the costs of this ministry. With less than 25% of our annual budget being supported by various grants, many of which are diminishing during these difficult economic times, we depend on organizations like yours to make this ministry possible. Thank you so very much!

Exercise for More of God

I Exercise in order to steward the earthly tent God has given you. Keeping our hearts and our bodies strong will enable us to keep going, even as we age. Just as God gives us money to use wisely, relationships to invest in diligently, and time to use efficiently, so he gives us a body to steward well. We honor our Creator when we care for the bodies entrusted to us through exercise and eating nutritious food.

Π "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Shine on... move today so you can move tomorrow!

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Health & Wholeness Committee . . .

February Financial Totals

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Cash inflow—mo. of Feb.	\$ 43,209
Cash inflow—YTD	\$116,213
Budget need/month	\$ 50,132
Cash outflow—mo. of Feb.	\$ 42,684
Cash outflow—YTD	\$ 94,964
Unpaid apportionments	\$0

VOLUNTEER FOR JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT JA is a nationwide, volunteer led, school based pro-

gram. JA's goal is to provide opportunities for educators and students to experience real-world, interactive lessons from the volunteer's perspective. Your experi-

ences, coupled with the JA curriculum, opens a stu-

dent's eyes to see themselves beyond school. Visit

their website to learn more: JAEasternIowa.org.

Book Study: "Do Nothing" by Celeste Headlee

Do Nothing

Thursday,

April 7th

6:30pm



Celeste Headlee

Purchase wherever you purchase books,

read throughout this series- Sabbath as Resistance, and join us for conversation! NOURISHED





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WOMEN'S SPRING MINI RETREAT Renew! Restore! Refresh!



Saturday, April 30th 8:30 AM—12 Noon

Ladies, it's time to get together with friends **in person** at a fun event! After a light breakfast, you will enjoy singing, themed readings, small group discussion, making your own hand sugar scrub, walking the labyrinth, coloring sheets, tea & tunes, communion, and more! There will be goodie bags containing a variety of items for all attending!

The registration fee is only \$10 and the deadline to register is 4/24. You can register on Sundays on the back of the bulletin STUB starting April 10th; otherwise, please contact Sue in the church office (suem@lovelylane.org or 319-393-6674) or Joy Jackson (joydjackson@gmail.com).

Mother's Day is coming up in May. What better gift to give her (and/or yourself!) than a morning off to Renew! Restore! Refresh!???

Presented by your Health & Wholeness Committee

Youth Group: April Gatherings

In April, we will do a series on Sunday evenings (4/3, 4/10 & 4/24), 5-6:30 PM, to help prepare us for our summer trip. It is entitled "What does it mean to be a GOOD NEIGHBOR?" While it is not required for youth to come to these to go on the trip, it's highly recommended because we'll be learning some key concepts that we'll consider during the trip.

TV Talks will happen again on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month (4/13 & 4/27) after the KidsClub dinner.

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book group, will meet Monday, April 11th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we'll discuss is *Apples Never Fall* by Lianne Moriarty. At our May 9th meeting, we'll discuss books we've each read that the group could choose for the future. If you're interested in reading and good fellowship, please join us!

MEN'S BREAKFAST Our next Men's Breakfast gathering will be **Sat., April 9**, at 8:30 AM (a week earlier than normal as Holy Week is the following week). The Rev. Gary Connors-Boe, a retired Lutheran pastor, will speak to us about the historical Jesus. Everyone is welcome!

DO YOU LOVE TO COOK? CWM (Children's Weekday Ministries) is looking for a summer cook to provide breakfast and lunch to approx. 50 children. The position would be for 10 weeks, June 6-Aug. 11; it is flexible on being Monday-Thursday or Monday-Friday. Please contact Dawn DuPont @ 393-8189. 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 (<u>www.lovelylane.org</u>). Please fill out the form completely (it's for KidsClub & Sunday Schl.). The SignUp 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 currently optional for the children, assistants, and for all attending. We are monitoring the CDC's recommendations as the year progresses.

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Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

*Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper & worship service on 3/2

*Nancy Miller celebrates being back in worship

*Ron & Rita Stewart have a new grandchild, Poppy *Pastor Kristina & husband, Ryan, celebrate *reveal* news that their new baby is a girl

*Pastor Kristina & husband, Ryan, attended friend's wedding in Texas

*Happy 18th Birthday, Jay Lauritsen!

*Happy 4th Birthday, Madeline Hinke!

*Hartzler family with possible move coming up

*Work day on 3/12 cleaning Sunday School rooms

*Fair Trade & Eco Friendly sale on 3/20

*Friendship Force supporting refugee families *Spring Break family time & travel

*Steve & Lea Nelson's grandson won the National Wrestling Competition

*Barbara Vancura's daughter Alison's birthday 3/20 *The Congolese worship community was with us on 3/20, offering their musical gifts for both services *60th Anniversary celebration at Lovely Lane UMC this year, & we will do the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) as part of this 60th anniversary

celebration

*Spring is upon us & we give thanks that many people could take a spring break vacation

*Recent Prayer Vigil at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for Ukraine & the world

*March Madness Basketball

*Possibility that daylight savings could become permanent

*Connor Culbertson celebrates his 15th birthday

*Judy McDowell's friend, Kathleen, celebrating her 100th birthday

*Sue Moss's stepson, Jacob, with his 28th birthday *Simpson College Concert Choir concert on 3/25

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SERVANT SIGN UP

- Please visit our website (<u>www.lovelylane.org</u>) to sign
- up as a Worship Volunteer Servant: greeter, usher,
- and/or lector. You will find the sign up link for both
- the 8:30 and 10:30 AM service listed in the website
- under "Worship Servant Signup." Please check your
- calendar and choose a date(s) to serve in this im-
- portant ministry! Thank you!

CONCERNS:

*Sympathy to family and friends of Dawn Nylin after her passing in early March; her funeral is on 4/23 *Sympathy to the Lauritsen family after the passing

of Versa's brother-in-law

*Barbara Vancura's neighbor's son died @ 26 yrs. old *Sympathy to Sue's friend, Cathy from Independence, on the passing of her mother

*Prayers for the family of Rev. Melisa Bracht-Wagner who died this month after a long battle of cancer; Rev. Melisa organized the flood recovery in 2008 out of Marion UMC

*Continued prayers for the family of the teens who were injured or killed in the fatal drive-by shooting outside of a Des Moines High School this month *Pastor Scott remembers his mother's passing 20 years ago

*Dennis Ramsey with health concerns

*Marti Bowman's son, Adam, recovering from hip replacement surgery on 3/23

*Maggie Thomas's sister, Deb, with health concerns *Nancy Patrick's sister, Sandy, & husband, Lamar, with health concerns

*Marci Wittles' sister, Lela, with cancer spreading *Sue Moss's stepdaughter, Ashley, with mild Covid

*Frank & Susan Camp's sister-in-law, Georgia, with health concerns

*Alfred Zigbuo's sister-in-law with illness

*Jim & Barb Vancura's friend, Gary, w/a brain tumor *Frances Rollins' friend with surgery

*Teri Krumm's friend's new baby w/health challenges *Ron & Margaret Nelson's friends, Andre & Misha, in Ukraine

*Communities in Iowa impacted by recent storms *United Meth. General Conference moved to 2024

*Country & people Ukraine during the war *Continued prayers during the ongoing pandemic

*Individuals & families who suffer with mental health issues &/or addiction

Remembering with love:

Kemembering with love Gary Davis......2016 Don Stevens......2016 Scott Ernst......2018 Richard Rainville....2019 Mary Smith......2020 Al Stiers......2021 Jack Sackett......2021



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Find out more about us:

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