

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

July 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.



Overcoming Polarization

Recent news stories have focused on rising inflation, the January 6th hearings, and the Supreme Court overturning Roe vs. Wade. These stories are all worth our careful focus and attention. These stories have further brought out the rising polarization that dominates the political and church landscapes. We divide ourselves based on class, political beliefs, and theological perspectives. It is hard to find middle ground.

As we know, polarization has been around a long time. The Corinthian Church was deeply divided in the First-Century world. The Apostle Paul was heavily involved in efforts to bring harmony and peace. Problems included claims of spiritual superiority and sexual misbehavior. When Paul writes that “the greatest of these is love” in 1 Corinthians 13:13, he is not writing about love between two people. He is writing about the love that needs to be present so people can get along and work together.

It also needs to be said that polarization and conflict are not necessarily the same thing. As Holly Taylor Coolman, a theology professor at Providence College, has shared in numerous articles, conflict can be resolved satisfactorily if it's done the right way. Polarization means that two sides face each other with no other options. Each side increasingly turns inward demanding a deeper commitment.

While I certainly don't have answers to the struggles in our world today, I would like to offer two related thoughts. For starters, we need to “become comfortable with being uncomfortable.” We tend to spend significant amounts of time with people who look, act, and think like us. We would better ourselves if we could get outside our normal circles. This will allow us to listen to what others have to say. And of course, we need to listen to understand and not simply respond.

Secondly, we need to “find common ground.” In our United Methodist Church, I have differences of opinion with many of my colleagues on the issues of the day, but I also realize we have so much in common too. Might we lift up our common bonds as a starting point!

I hope and pray we can move forward as a people. God works through us to make a difference in the lives of others. Might we put our best foot forward!

Blessings to you, Scott

| Calendar of Events (subject to change) — July 2022 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries | MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UMW = United Methodist Women | | 1 | 2 1-3 pm <i>Nourished</i> Creek Stomping (@ Indian Crk. Nat. Ctr.) |
| 3 9:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 12-2pm Congolese 1-4 pm VBS decorating | 4 Happy Fourth of July! 6-10 pm <i>Nourished</i> 4th of July Fork 'n' Folk (@ Pastor K's) | 5 10 am Youth Grp. (tour @ Dan & Debby's Ice Cream in Ely) | 6 6:30 pm VBS mtg. | 7 | 8 | 9 3 pm VBS Decorating |
| 10 9:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 12-2pm Congolese 2 pm Lovely Laners attending Kernels game (incl. Youth Group) | 11 10 am Happy Endings 5:30 pm VBS meal 6-8 pm VBS program | 12 5:30 pm VBS meal 6-8 pm VBS program | 13 5:30 pm VBS meal 6-8 pm VBS program | 14 8 am Leadership Team (offsite) 5:30 pm VBS meal 6-8 pm VBS program 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering (@ Groundswell Café) | 15 12:30-5pm <i>Nourished</i> 8 Front Doors Trng. (@ Groundswell Café) 5:30 pm VBS meal 6-8 pm VBS program | 16 8:30 am-12:30 pm <i>Nourished</i> 8 Front Doors Training (@ Groundswell Café) |
| 17 9:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 12-2pm Congolese | 18 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 19 10 am—4 pm Iowa MMJ | 20 6:30-8:30 pm Youth Grp. (Swimming Party @ Noelridge Aquatic Center) | 21 | 22 | 23 10 am <i>Nourished</i> Brunch Bunch @ La Casita Breakfast Café |
| 24 9:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 12-2pm Congolese | 25 9 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 26 | 27 | 28 3 pm Wedding blessing 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering (@ Groundswell Café) 4-8 pm <i>Nourished</i> @ Mega Market (@ Cultivate Hope Urban Farm) | 29 | 30 |
| 31 9:30 am In-person & Live-stream worship 12-2pm Congolese | | | | | | |



FOURTH OF JULY

Fork 'n' Folk

Join us for a special evening of Fork 'n' Folk on Fourth of July. Bring a dish to share, your instruments, and a lawn chair. At dusk, we'll pack up and head across the street for fireworks at The Cedar Rapids Country Club!

3000 Carroll Drive SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
6pm - 10pm



VBS 2022!
Discovery on Adventure Island
July 11-15, 5:30–8 pm
Meal for families & youth at 5:30 pm,
VBS program at 6 pm
VBS is a collaboration between Lovely Lane
and Hope UCC. This year, it'll be held
at Lovely Lane UMC!
To Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/XF4hUa1R7p9gPCwp6>



WORSHIP IN JULY

- July 3: **4th Sunday after Pentecost / Communion;** in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 / Sermon: "Heading Out" *On the Road Again*
- July 10: **5th Sunday after Pentecost;** in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 / Sermon: "Being a Good Neighbor" *On the Road Again*
- July 17: **6th Sunday after Pentecost;** in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 / Sermon: "A Rest Stop" *On the Road Again*
- July 24: **7th Sunday after Pentecost;** in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: Acts 8:26-40 / Sermon: "Is Accepted Enough?"
- July 31: **8th Sunday after Pentecost;** in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Hosea 11:1-11 / Sermon: "Never Give Up"



WHO?

- People who wish they knew more of their neighbors.
- Neighborhood associations who long for a more connected neighborhood.
- Organizations who want to form authentic relationships in the community they are located in.

WHEN & WHERE?

Friday afternoon (July 15) 12:30 - 5pm
 Saturday morning (July 16) 8:30am -12:30pm
 Matthew 25 (201 3rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids)

REGISTER

This is a free event hosted by Nourished.
 Register at
nourishedcr.org/8-front-doors-workshop/



Preparing, Preparing, Preparing!

As I work on this newsletter article for July, we are just five weeks away from the due date of our sweet baby girl. Some of you have asked if we're ready, and my answer is always mostly, "No!" There is still artwork to be hung on the walls in the nursery, lamps to purchase, bottles to wash, and those last spaces that need some nesting love. Our attention will likely turn this month to reading up on caring for a newborn and what to expect. In so many ways we are ready, but in other ways, we are not. Are we ever ready for something new and challenging, something we've never done before?

I remember my first year of teaching. I had this four-year degree in elementary education, spent the summer getting my classroom ready, lesson plans put together, things cut and laminated, names written throughout the room, but I never felt ready. It wasn't until the first day of school when the 8:30am bell rang for the first time did I finally take a deep breath. I was as ready as I'll ever be. In so many ways we cannot ever fully prepare for the unknown. Only God knows what's behind the corner and how each day unfolds. Sure, there are things that we must do to prepare as it takes action on our part, but I think one of the sure ways that we might get ready for something new, challenging, and exciting is to lay it before God and put our trust and faith in God.

Sure, there are still things to do to get ready for Audrey's arrival, but in all honesty, everything we'd need for the first few weeks, we already have.

If you're facing a new challenge or a new experience ahead, there are likely ways in which you are preparing. When you reach the moment you've been working towards, you'll have prepared as much as you can, and God will take care of the rest. *Peace, Pastor Kristina*



UPCOMING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOVELY LANE

Our church was officially organized on Sept. 4, 1962. This fall we will celebrate our 60th anniversary as a congregation. This is an exciting time. In preparation for this anniversary, a planning team has been meeting to put some events together. More information is coming, but we want to share some news at this time. During each Sunday in September a moment will take place early in the service in which we will recognize a part of church life. Moments will emphasize our early history, mission activity, previous pastors, and future steps. A special day of celebration is planned for **September 18** in which some of our pastors will be back. Please mark your calendars now. Again, more information is coming!

Thank You Note

Thank you all for pouring out love on Ryan and I and our sweet girl Audrey Louise, who we will meet very soon! We are excited and nervous for this exciting time in our lives, and we appreciate each of your generosity in gifts and well wishes. We know Audrey has lots of people who love her already!
Love, Pastor Kristina & Ryan

FRIENDSHIP FORCE UPDATE by Margaret Nelson

We have received word that the 2 men from Afghanistan may be arriving next week. We have a 2-bedroom apartment available for them in July. Friendship Force CR/IC has taken up the responsibility for furnishings and household goods; I'll keep you updated if we need to help. Following is a list for Lovely Lane to help them get settled. People may go together to purchase---please list all names on the sign-up sheet so they may contact each other:

- 2 folding lawn chairs for a small deck
- Coat hangers (approximately 40)
- Flashlight
- 2 plastic file boxes --about 10X15 inches (to organize bills and papers)--plastic, with handle, hanging files and folders
- Electric hot pot for making tea
- 2 umbrellas
- Desk supplies: tape, scissor, paper, pens, pencils, envelopes, ruler, calendar, stapler
- Rolls of quarters (for washer and dryer)--give to office--unlimited supply for now

Both Friendship Force and Lovely Lane are asking for bikes. Call Margaret Nelson, (319) 210-8572, for info. on the status: 2 men's bikes in good condition (also helmets, lights for bikes, & baskets).

There is a tub, with a sign-up sheet, in the narthex labeled "Afghanistan box" for donations. ***We'd like to have these delivered to the church by Sunday, July 10th.***

Nourished: The Missional Campus of Lovely Lane—Upcoming Events

***Thursday Centering: Pacifism, Patriotism, and the Filthy Rotten System**

July 14th & July 28th, 6pm at Groundswell Café (201 Third Ave SW)

***8 Front Doors Project**

Fri., July 15th, 12:30pm-5pm & Sat., July 16th, 8:30am-12:30pm at Matthew 25

Contact Pastor Kristina to signup: kristina@lovelylane.org

***Fourth of July Fork 'n' Folk**

Monday, July 4th, 6pm-10pm at Kristina's House (3000 Carroll Dr. SE, CR):

Bring a dish to share, a lawn chair, and your favorite instrument, if you have one,
for an evening of good food and good music. Around dusk, we'll pack up and walk
across the street to watch fireworks at The Cedar Rapids Country Club.

***Brunch Bunch**

Saturday, July 23rd, 10am at La Casita Breakfast Café

***Mega Market at Cultivate Hope Urban Farm**

Thursday, July 28th, 4pm-8pm (437 G Ave NW, CR)

Nourished will be selling Gluten Free bakery items this summer at Matthew 25's Mega
Market, the last Thursday of the month throughout the summer. Come out to support
Nourished, our missional campus!

For more information about the Nourished Community or to sign up to receive its weekly email,

E-mail Pastor Kristina at kristina@lovelylane.org.



facebook.com/NourishedCR



Use your phone to scan the QR Code
to give to Nourished

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2022

This year, as I look forward to the 4th of July, I'm feeling so much more aware of what the true meaning of the day should be. The war in Ukraine has made us feel so much more vulnerable to losing independence, the January 6th Insurrection has also opened our eyes to that possibility. We will still gather with friends and family, eat fun food, light a sparkler with the kids and toast our Freedom - but this year I vow to go a little deeper and send up a prayer of appreciation for all the liberties that we have and pledge to do what I can to protect the privileges that are threatened. *(from Health & Wholeness Committee)*

May Financial Totals

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Cash inflow—mo. of May | \$ 44,216 |
| Cash inflow—YTD | \$244,698 |
| Budget need/month | \$ 50,132 |
| Cash outflow—mo. of May | \$ 40,250 |
| Cash outflow—YTD | \$224,233 |
| Unpaid apportionments | \$ 0 |

Church Day at the Kernels Game. All are welcome to gather for the Kernels Baseball Game on Sunday, July 10, at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$15.00 (with \$4.00 going to the Ecumenical Community Center). Please contact Pastor Scott ASAP, if you are interested (scottm@lovelylane.org)!

Youth Group: July Gatherings

7/5: 10-11:30 AM, Tour at Dan & Debby's Ice Cream

7/10: Slideshow presentation & speakers in 9:30 AM worship

7/10: 2 PM, Kernels Game, cost is \$15 (please let Ryan know by 7/3)

7/13: 4-6:30 PM, Youth Group serves dinner for Vacation Bible School

7/20: 6:30-8:30 PM, Swimming party at Noelridge Park

[8/1: Youth Council Applications are due—see below.]

Join Youth Council! This upcoming fall we will start something new called Youth Council!

Would you like to have input in what we do during youth group? Do you want to have a leadership role in the church? Are you wanting more opportunities to eat snacks, laugh, and have fun? Then the youth council is the group is for you!

Youth council is made up of a majority of youth and a couple of adults. This group will work together to plan out our youth events and function as the voice of the youth group to the church. Youth council will meet at least six times throughout the school year on Sundays.

Apply by August 1, 2022 to be on the Youth Council!



Date: August 8-12th

Time: 9 am-3 pm

**Location & host: St. Paul's UMC,
Cedar Rapids**

Sign up here: [https://](https://www.stpaulsumc.org/peace-camp)

www.stpaulsumc.org/peace-camp

Peace Camp, brought to you by Advocates for Growing Peace and Advocates for Social Justice, will provide a space for completed K-5th grade students to explore their own identities and the identities of other students. In addition, we aim to work with students to understand race, racism, and how together we can recognize and challenge racist practices. Using literacy-based strategies and hands-on activities, kids will be engaged in a number of learning experiences related to promoting anti-racism. Curriculum adapted from WE ARE in North Carolina.

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group, will meet on Monday, July 11th, at 10 AM in the church library. The book we will be discussing is "Moment of Lift" by Melinda Gates. The book to read for August 8th is "The Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger.

July Special Offering

During July we will take a special offering for students in need at Kennedy HS and Pierce Elementary. The monetary donations will go toward school supplies for these students. The primary supplies include: backpacks, notebooks, binders, folders, pens, pencils, pencil cases/boxes, erasers, markers, highlighters, crayons, colored pencils, glue, and scissors. The goal is for all students to have necessary supplies at the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year. The school supplies will be distributed to the students by counselors and teachers. Your support makes a difference to every student who receives these supplies (one less thing to worry about!). *Thanks in advance for the difference you make in the lives of these young people!*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SERVANT SIGN UP

Please visit the church's website (www.lovelylane.org) to sign up as a Worship Volunteer Servant: greeter, usher, lector, &/or communion server. You will find the sign-up link for the 9:30 AM summer service listed in the website under "Worship Servant Signup." Please check your calendar and choose a date(s) to serve in this important ministry! Thank you in advance for dates you can help!

Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

- *Annual Conference in West Des Moines went well
- *Charles Crawley preached in worship on 6/5
- *Faith Issues Class is meeting during the summer
- *Local graduation celebrations
- *Pride month in June
- *Summertime is here
- *Baby shower for Pastor Kristina & her husband Ryan; they thank all of you for pouring out your love upon them!
- *Jerry Weiland turns 75; Happy Birthday!
- *Wanda Whitford lifts up the joy of family, birthdays, & Father's Day!
- *Father's Day celebrations with family members
- *Juneteenth celebrations & remembrances
- *Youth had a great mission/service trip to Wichita
- *Wedding congrats to Morgan Krumm & Richard Poulson
- *Rose Blank officiated at the wedding of her daughter, Sarah, & new husband, Gabe
- *Congratulations to Alex Hume after receiving his Eagle Scout Award
- *Helen Anderson celebrates her sister, Sally, visiting
- *Four-year-old who fell & is doing well
- *Thanks to everyone who helped rehab homes with Transform Week at Matthew 25
- *Confirmation celebration for Leila Lahip
- *Welcome to new members, Dustin & Tracy Ashmore, & children, Archer & Piper
- *Through Friendship Force, we are receiving Afghanistan refugees soon

CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to Charlie & Deb Kucera after the passing of her father
- *Debbie Hahn lifts up prayers after loss of a friend
- *Cedar Rapids community & family after the passing of former Washington High School's coach & teacher, Frank Howell
- *Jeannie Chelikowsky awaiting news from medical tests
- *Jeff Swartzendruber following hip surgery
- *Lyn Lewis's husband following cancer treatment
- *Phil Martin's brother home from the hospital after health concerns
- *Diana Rettig's niece with health concerns
- *Joan Roscovius's friend, Tarak, with cancer
- *Homeless community & those without A/C as temperatures rise across the country this week
- *Rising inflation & price of gas
- *Safe summer travel
- *Continued prayers for community in Uvalde, Texas
- *Shooting at Cornerstone Church in Ames
- *Mass shootings across the country
- *COVID-19 pandemic
- *Country of Ukraine
- *Additional world concerns

Remembering with love:

Fran Fairchild.....2019

Steve Mooney.....2021

(June 25, 2022) WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church says the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn Roe v. Wade has denied the sacred worth of women who face “**the tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion.**”

In a statement released by COB President Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, the bishops said the decision serves to create a further divide between persons of privilege who have the means to seek necessary health care and those who lack this privilege due to their current economic condition, their disproportionately affected lives, or the color of their skin. Bishop Bickerton noted that the overturning of Roe v. Wade is a call for the church to rise above the fray to offer words of support and hope in the midst of emptiness and despair and to advocate for women who are unjustly affected and unfairly harmed.

“I call all United Methodists to a time of deep reflection, prayer, and mobilization as we continue the struggle to stand in the gap with intercession, advocacy, support, and grace for such a time as this,” said Bishop Bickerton. “In the midst of our diversity of opinion, may we be one in our response to those who are broken and to world that is divided.”



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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
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 & Brenda Holub
Wedding Coordinator.....Becky Wood
Facilities Manager.....Curtis Thomas
Custodians.....Rex & Rhonda Heasty
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....Eric Wylie
Treasurer.....Marcie Stumpf
Finance Secretary.....Patty Logsdon
Webmaster.....Shelly Turner