

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

December 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.



## Celebrating the Season

The month of December is paradoxical. There's no other way to say it. From one perspective, this month is sacred. Our Western culture is more religious this time of year. We have extra worship services, festivals, rituals, and traditions to honor. These events help us understand our identity and collective stories as people of God.

From a completely different perspective though, this month promotes commercialism and greed on large levels. Whether it's Black Friday sales or end of the year markdowns, there is so much to purchase that supposedly will make our lives, and the lives of others, so much better. A stranger from the outside might think it is our civic responsibility to spend money so we can have the latest and greatest, or at the least, the best gift available to give to someone else.

Now I think it's wonderful we can maximize all this month has to offer. Like many of you, I enjoy following the sales and purchasing something new for myself or someone close to me. But, of course, there has to be a balance. And if we are not balanced, our human condition is often exposed. I think it's fair to say that we want to lean more on giving to others than spending for ourselves. It was Anne Frank who said, "No one has ever become poor by giving."

So maybe the challenge for each of us this month is to consider what we can do to get outside our comfort zone and help someone else. We have special advent offering recipients you can support at church. You can take a tag off the angel tree and purchase a gift for a child from a family in need, too. You can also support many of the ministry organizations in our local community. Additionally, a pleasant conversation with a lonely neighbor can go a long way.

This month, I encourage you to live it up to the fullest, but go the extra mile assisting others. As we celebrate God giving us the greatest gift, Jesus, might we prayerfully consider the gifts we can offer others.

*Advent and Christmas blessings to each of you! Scott*

*Calendar of Events (subject to change) — December 2022*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries	MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UWF = United Women in Faith (f/k/a UMW)	<b>1</b> 8 am-3:30 pm CWM Preschool Christmas Store 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	<b>2</b> 8 am-3:30 pm CWM Preschool Christmas Store	<b>3</b> 9 am-1 pm <i>Nourished</i> at Nature's Noel (Indian Creek Nature Center)
<b>4 Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese 4-5:30 pm Youth Co-op (@ LL)	<b>5</b> 7:30 am <i>Nourished</i> Nature Hiike (@ Indian Creek Nature Ctr.) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	<b>6</b> 6 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	<b>7</b> 9:30 am <i>Zoom study</i> 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm LL Youth Grp. 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>8</b> 8 am Leadership Team (offsite) 6:30-9:15pm Linn Co. United Nations Assoc.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9 am Scouts BSA Troop 766 9:30 am UWF Advent Coffee & Brunch
<b>11 Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages <b>10:30 am In-person &amp; live-strm. worship; CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DURING THIS SERVICE</b> 12-2 pm Congolese 2-3:30 pm Youth Co-Op (@ Indigo River & Co.)	<b>12</b> 7:30 am <i>Nourished</i> Nature Hiike (@ Indian Creek Nature Ctr.) 9:15 am CWM Preschl. Practice for Christmas Program 11:30 am Happy Endings lunch (offsite) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	<b>13</b> 9:15 am CWM Preschl. Practice for Christmas Program	<b>14</b> 9:15 am CWM Preschl. Practice for Christmas Program 11 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program 9:30 am <i>Zoom study</i> 5:30 pm Family Meal 5:30-7:30 pm LL Youth Grp. 6 pm WINTER WONDERLAND 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>15</b> 9:15 am CWM Preschl. Practice for Christmas Program 11 am CWM Preschl. Christmas Program 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> Thursday Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast Grp.
<b>18 Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages 9:40-10:15 am Confirmation Mentoring 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese 2-4 pm Youth Co-Op Christmas Party (@ Ryan R-K's house)	<b>19</b> 7:30 am <i>Nourished</i> Nature Hiike (@ Indian Creek Nature Ctr.) 9 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 am <i>Zoom study</i> 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 6:30 pm <i>Nourished</i> Longest Night Gathering (@ Pastor Kristina's) 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 3:30 pm Worship 5:30 pm Worship 7:30 pm Worship
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 9:30 am In-person Worship (one service only on this date; no Sunday School) 12-2 pm Congolese	<b>26 Church &amp; office closed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 am CCM 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 10 am-5 pm Jesse Family Christmas

**Happy Endings**, book discussion group, will meet at Olive Garden for lunch on Dec. 12th, at 11:30 AM. The book we will read for January 9th is "Lucy By the Sea" by Elizabeth Strout. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Miller @ 319-393-6340.

## WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

**Dec. 4: *Second Sunday of Advent***; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 / Sermon: "God Meets Us in Our Fear" *From Generation to Generation*

**Dec. 11: *Third Sunday of Advent***; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 / Sermon: "We Can Choose a Better Way" *From Generation to Generation* / **10:30 service will feature our Children's Christmas Pageant**

**Dec. 18: *Fourth Sunday of Advent***; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 1:39-45, 56-58 / Sermon: "We See God in Each Other" *From Generation to Generation*

**Dec. 24: *CHRISTMAS EVE***; In-person services @ 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM, & 7:30 PM; Pastor Kristina preaching at 3:30 & Pastor Scott preaching at 5:30 & 7:30 / Scripture: Luke 2:1-10 / Sermon: "We Tell This Story"

**Dec. 25: *CHRISTMAS DAY***; ONE in-person service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Kristina preaching

**Jan. 1: *NEW YEAR'S DAY***; ONE in-person service @ 9:30 AM / Pastor Scott preaching

**BRING IN YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA** for the altar anytime 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.

### Hygge: The Art of Coziness

I love snuggling up to the fire around this time of year, wrapped in a cozy blanket with a cup of steaming tea or hot chocolate. Maybe it's because I'm cold a lot or maybe it's because it's in my blood. My great grandfather Harold Lunde immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s from Norway. He was a painter and was invited to paint at the New York State Fair. In Nordic culture and many Danish countries, there is something called *hygge* (pronounced "hoo-ga"). Even as part Norwegian, I hadn't heard of this term before. It wasn't until a congregant right here at Lovely Lane shared an article with me about *hygge*. You're probably wondering what is *hygge*, and how does it relate to Advent?

The term *hygge* is a Danish word that simply means enjoying the simple things of life. It's sometimes translated as 'the art of coziness.' While there are many elements that can contribute to a feeling of coziness, *hygge* is more of an inner/social state. The fire in the fireplace, the blankets, the warm cup of hot chocolate, the twinkling of the Christmas lights, the wool sweater, etc. are reflections of what *hygge* really is. It takes an inner state, a change or a way of being, to find comfort in those things in particular.

Quite like here in the Midwest, in many Nordic countries, the season of *hygge* occurs during the darkest and coldest months. It can certainly contribute to seasonal depression for many folks, me included. Jonas Ellison, a contributor to the Salt Project's, "Advent and Hygge: The Art of Coziness," writes, "The darker it is outside, the brighter the light can shine inside. In this regard, darkness isn't an enemy of the joy and light that comes from *hygge*; rather it's a comfortable blanket that enfolds it." I really like that connection to Advent and the lighting of the Advent candles, especially in a season of incredible stress and consumerism. If we can cultivate a sense of *hygge* in our home, that feeling of comfort, safety, and peace, it can be another way that the light coming into the world can shine in our own home and in our hearts.

If you would like to purchase the Advent Devotional mentioned in this article, head to: <https://www.saltproject.org/advent-and-hygge/advent-family-devotionals>. Pastor Kristina

# Nourished December Events

## Checking In With The Woman: An Advent Series

Thursday, December 1st 6pm  
AND  
Thursday, December 15th 6pm  
@Pastor Kristina's  
3000 Carroll Drive SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

## Longest Night Gathering

Wednesday, December 21st 6:30pm  
@Pastor Kristina's  
3000 Carroll Drive SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

## Nourished Bakery @ Nature's Noel

Saturday, December 3rd 9am-1pm  
Indian Creek Nature Center  
5300 Otis Road SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



## Weekly Nature Hikes

Mondays at 8am  
Indian Creek Nature Center  
5300 Otis Road SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



NOURISHED



## Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast gathering is on Saturday, Dec. 17th, at 8:30 AM. Phil Martin will speak about some of his travels around the world. All are welcome!

## Remembering with love:

Paul Nylin.....2017  
Don Caspers.....2018  
Vivian Johnson.....2020

## Oct. Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Oct.	\$ 41,116
Cash inflow—YTD	\$460,409
Budget need/month	\$ 50,132
Cash outflow—mo. of Oct.	\$ 50,265
Cash outflow—YTD	\$444,315
Unpaid apportionments	\$ 0

Join us for  
**“The Advent Wreath in Song”**  
**Advent Coffee & Brunch**

A Lovely Lane tradition to celebrate  
the Christmas season



**Saturday, December 10th**  
**9:30 AM**

Program this year: “The Advent Wreath in Song”  
by Charlie and Deb Kucera, accompanied by Marcie Stumpf

**Brunch served with coffee, sweet treats,  
fellowship and Christmas Carols!!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



*from the Lovely Lane Staff:*

*Pastor Scott Meador  
Pastor Kristina Roth-Klinck  
Eric Wylie  
Dennis Ramsey  
Nancy Patrick  
Charlie Kucera  
Carla Jesse  
Linda Bayliss  
Annie Walker  
Ryan Roth-Klinck*

*Dawn DuPont  
Sue Moss  
Marti Bowman  
Marcie Stumpf  
Tammy Martin  
Shelly Turner  
Curtis Thomas  
Rex & Rhonda Heasty  
Becky Wood  
Shelbie Wood  
Brenda Holub*





## WINTER WONDERLAND DECEMBER 14, 2022

Come and enjoy a hot chocolate bar, crafts, games, and cookies!



**When:** 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
**Where:** Lovely Lane UMC - Fellowship Hall

Please bring a **dozen** of your favorite holiday treat to share.  
Please bring your own plate to assemble cookies to take home.

RSVP to Annie Walker by December 11th  
([anniew@lovelylane.org](mailto:anniew@lovelylane.org))



### YOUTH GROUP IN DECEMBER

Dec. 4th - Youth Co-Op at Lovely Lane,  
4-5:30pm

Dec. 7th - Weds. Night Youth Group, 6-  
7:15pm

Dec. 11th - Youth Co-Op at Indigo River  
& Co. (Czech Village), 2-3:30pm

Dec. 14th - Weds. Night Youth Group,  
5:30-7:30pm

Dec. 18th - Youth Co-Op Christmas  
Party @ Ryan Roth-Klinck's House,  
2-4pm

Questions about Youth Group? Contact  
Ryan Roth-Klinck, Youth Director,  
at (940)390-7437  
or [ryan@lovelylane.org](mailto:ryan@lovelylane.org).

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SERVANT SIGN UP

Go to the church's website ([www.lovelylane.org](http://www.lovelylane.org)) to sign up as a Worship Volunteer Servant: greeter, usher, lector, &/or communion server. You'll find sign-up links for the 8:30 and 10:30 AM services listed in the website under *Worship Servant Signup*. Please check your calendar and choose a date(s) to serve!

### BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

*Though the blood center's bus broke down on the way to LL on 11/12, everything turned out fine! Thirteen donors successfully donated at their SW center: 12 whole blood donors and 1 double red for a total of **14 units collected!** Megan Dee, our ImpactLife consultant, writes:*

"A giant THANK YOU to Sue for taking my salvage plan in stride on Saturday morning and calling all the scheduled donors to let them know about the change. As I suspected, everyone came through in a big way and traveled the extra miles to come and donate at the center. Altogether, these donations will help up to 56 local patients and become the centerpiece of a lot of Thanksgiving celebrations.

This was an unorthodox day, but still a great one thanks to your dedication and to that of our donors. Congratulations and thank you!!!"

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the November bake sale. Thanks to bakers, buyers, and those who donated to the sale, United Women in Faith raised \$575. This year all proceeds will help provide scholarships to Lovely Lane preschool families that need tuition assistance. Thanks again Lovely Lane for being such a mission-oriented congregation!

## Concerns & Celebrations

### **JOYS:**

- \*Remembering our saints on All Saints Sunday
- \*Welcoming new UMC bishop to Iowa, Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
- \*Wedding congratulations to Couwett Holm & Paul Dow
- \*Election day—prayers for peace & harmony
- \*Marci Wittles' brother, Scott—good health news
- \*Happy Birthday to Rose Mills!
- \*United Women in Faith raised \$900 for missions
- \*Alfred Zigbuo's father-in-law is doing better after health struggles
- \*Successful Lovely Lane Blood Drive on 11/12
- \*Celebrating the joy of our Wednesday night programming
- \*Great conversations at *Nourished*
- \*Jerry & Virginia Weiland celebrating 55 years of marriage
- \*Bennet Schultz celebrating a birthday
- \*Veterans Day- celebrating our Vets
- \*Thanksgiving celebrations with family & friends
- \*Stewardship campaign & receiving of 2023 commitment cards
- \*Ryan Roth-Klinck receiving church blessing as a clergy candidate
- \*Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service on 11/21 at First Lutheran
- \*David Dix & Thiara Smith appreciate warm welcome from Lovely Lane
- \*Rituals & stories during the Advent season
- \*Ellen Stines speaking in 11/27 worship about her ministry: Youth With a Mission
- \**Nourished* with a bakery presence at the Nature Cntr. on 12/3
- \*Eric Wylie celebrates his mother's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday
- \*Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Mike & Becky Wood
- \*David & Linda Keefe express thanks for prayers, following a family funeral
- \*Patty Logsdon remembers her grandfather on his birthday
- \*References to God statement listed in our bulletin
- \*New internal security system starting 11/28

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:**

Amanda Bentley, Anne Craig, David Dix & Thiara Smith, Denny & Linda Fitz, Marla Gonzalez, Terry & Kathy Hartgrave, Linda Henecke, Neil & Denise Lawton, Heather Leske, Patrick Mahoney, Tammy Martin, Ryan Roth-Klinck, and Dave & Nancy Wittenburg

### **CONCERNS:**

- \*Sympathy to Carmen Johnson & family after passing of her father, Mel
- \*Sympathy to Justin & Melissa Davis after passing of cousin, Dan
- \*Sympathy to Dave & Linda Keefe after passing of cousin, Brenda
- \*Annie Walker's husband's grandfather Frank passed away
- \*April Drew's family after passing of cousin, Jeremy
- \*Sympathy to the family of Dr. James Renz after his sudden passing
- \*Neil Lawton with difficult health news
- \*Carol Wilson with health concerns
- \*Marla Gonzalez with breast cancer concerns
- \*Rory Niebuhr is recovering at home following a procedure
- \*Anita DeVries with health concerns
- \*Barb Olive following a brief hospitalization
- \*Tariq Baloch with health struggles
- \*Troy French adjusting to life in a group home setting
- \*Stephanie French's mother Eva with health concerns
- \*Teri Krumm's mother following a stroke
- \*Sharon Vavra's son following back surgery
- \*Ron Malek's cousin w/upcoming chemo treatments
- \*Tracy Ashmore's grandfather with health concerns
- \*Dorris Lanning's son in-law Richard with a surgical procedure
- \*Barb Vancura's cousin Susie with cancer
- \*Marci Wittles' family members with health concerns
- \*Sue Moss's family friend, Nate, hospitalized with colon cancer
- \*Pastor Scott's HS basketball coach, Dave Dillon, with cancer
- \*Darcy Hauser's co-worker's grandson, Mason, with health concerns
- \*Lyn Lewis's co-worker, Kristen, w/cancer concerns
- \*Linn-Mar teacher, Mrs. Hankemeier, with cancer concerns
- \*All persons with are struggling with illness
- \*Those recovering from Hurricane Nicole
- \*Safe travels in winter weather
- \*Prayers for those without shelter as weather gets cold
- \*Families in Marshalltown after deaths of teenagers
- \*LGBTQ community in Colorado Springs after mass shooting
- \*Family from Echo Hill Elementary experiencing a sudden loss
- \*Countries of Ukraine & Iran
- \*National & international concerns



December Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 60, No. 12  
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](http://www.lovelylane.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc](https://www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc)

Phone: 319-393-6674

**LOVELY LANE UMC STAFF**

**Administration & Worship**

Lead Pastor	Dr. Scott Meador
Associate Pastor	Rev. Kristina Roth-Klinck
Director of Media & Technology	Eric Wylie
Organist	Dennis Ramsey
Chancel Choir Director	Nancy Patrick
Handbell Choir Director	Charlie Kucera
Director of Children's Choirs	Carla Jesse
Chancel Choir Accompanist	Linda Bayliss

**Children & Youth**

Director of Family Ministries	Annie Walker
Director of Youth Ministries	Ryan Roth-Klinck
Nursery Caregivers	Shelbie Wood
	Brenda Holub
Director of Children's Weekday Ministries	Dawn DuPont

**Office & Facilities**

Sr. Office Manager	Sue Moss
Office Manager	Marti Bowman
Treasurer	Marcie Stumpf
Financial Secretary	Tammy Martin
Website & Social Media	Shelly Turner
Facilities Manager	Curtis Thomas
Custodians	Rex Heasty
	Rhonda Heasty
Wedding Coordinator	Becky Wood