

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

July 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.



Doubting God

Life happens! Whether it's a major tragedy or a series of events, life happens. Horrible things take place. Life becomes overwhelming. With a pandemic and a derecho, the last year and a half have brought enough hurdles to last a lifetime for many of us!

When this happens, we respond. Some of us run and hide. Some of us become busier than ever. Others of us become consumed with doubt. We become depressed and alone. We think there is something wrong with us. We become disappointed in ourselves. It's possible we question our faith.

The truth is . . . we all have doubts. Jesus himself had doubts. He had moments when he doubted God and God was very distant from him. In the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross, Jesus doubted. Jesus said, "My God, my God, why have you left me?" (Matthew 27:46, CEB)

Doubting is natural. I have certainly had my doubts over the years. What I have come to see though, is that doubting is good. Alfred Tennyson in his poem, "In Memorium," said, "There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds." We might say that doubt is one of the most important tools God uses to bring people to a deeper faith.

In the book, "Pilgrim's Progress," John Bunyan brings out the life of faith. Bunyan lifts up a character named Christian. Christian's journey to the Celestial City is not smooth and easy. His way is filled with discouragements and detours. He becomes bogged down in the Slough of Despond and lost in the Bypass Meadow. He spends time in the Doubting Castle as well as Vanity Fair. Bunyan is saying to us through allegory that faith is never simple and easy. This world is a dynamic environment to bring forth strong souls. God allows obstacles to strengthen us. Doubt is one of those obstacles.

Doubt is a hurdle that, when overcome with the help of others, can cause us to have a deeper, richer, more significant faith. In the struggle for meaning and purpose, we learn to doubt our doubts. Might we walk in the way of the Lord and experience God's presence and love!

Blessings to you, Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — July 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		UMW = United Methodist Women CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries CCM = Care Center Ministry		1	2	3
4 <i>4th of July Sunday</i> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 11 am—1 pm <i>Nourished</i> : Free hotdogs (@ Matt. 25)	5	6 10 am Coffee with Pastor Kristina 2 pm Louie Stolba service (@ American Legion, Marion)	7 9:30 am & 7 pm— <i>Online Bible Study</i>	8 7—9 pm Youth Movie Night (@ Pastor Kristina's)	9	10
11 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	12 <i>VBS Week</i> 10 am Happy Endings (@ Nancy Miller's) 5:30—8 pm VBS @ Hope UCC (meal @ 5:30)	13 10 am Coffee with Pastor Kristina 5:30—8 pm VBS @ Hope UCC (meal @ 5:30)	14 9:30 am & 7 pm— <i>Online Bible Study</i> 5:30—8 pm VBS @ Hope UCC (meal @ 5:30)	15 5:30—8 pm VBS @ Hope UCC (meal @ 5:30)	16	17 10:30 am Gene Kadlec service (@ Cedar Memorial)
18 10:30 am—Outdoor worship (in-person, on church lawn) & Livestream	19 <i>Youth Service Week (w/St. Paul's youth)</i> 8 am—4 pm Youth Service project	20 8 am—4 pm Youth Service project	21 8 am—4 pm Youth Service project 9:30 am & 7 pm— <i>Online Bible Study</i>	22 8 am—4 pm Youth Service project	23 8 am—4 pm Youth Service project	24
25 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person)	26 7 pm Summer Book Club with Pastor Kristina	27 10 am Coffee with Pastor Kristina	28 9:30 CCM (@ Northbrook) 9:30 am & 7 pm— <i>Online Bible Study</i>	29 2—4 pm Youth Pool Day (@ Noelridge Aquatic Center) 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> worship (@ Matt. 25)	30	31 9—11 AM <i>Nourished</i> : Creek Stomping (@ Indian Creek Nature Center) 1—4 pm RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE (reservations req.)

In-Person Worship Service

With our church under renovation, we've scheduled an outdoor worship service at 10:30 am on July 18th on the church lawn. This service will also be live-streamed.

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

Sunday, July 4th: Collaborating with Matthew 25 and the Ceramic Center, Nourished will have free hot dogs and seed bombs from 11am-1pm outside of Matthew 25. Come nourish your bodies and the earth!

Thursday, July 29th 6pm: Worship at Matthew 25.

Saturday, July 31st 9am-11am: Creek Stomping at Indian Creek Nature Center. Bring a snack to share, clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and shoes that can get wet.

For more information about the Nourished Community, email Pastor Kristina at kristina@lovelylane.org.

 facebook.com/nourishedCR

***** SUNDAY ONLINE (& IN-PERSON) WORSHIP IN JULY *****

July 4: Independence Day—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22 / Sermon: "Freedom & Responsibility"
July 11: 7th Sunday after Pentecost—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 / Sermon: "Seasons of Life"
July 18: Outdoor Worship—Held on the church lawn (& will be live-streamed) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: John 1:1-14 / Sermon: "Moving Into The Neighborhood"
July 25: 9th Sunday after Pentecost—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 6:1-21 / Sermon: "Something to Eat"

Renovation Open House—Saturday, July 31, 1-4 pm

Church family and friends are invited to an open house to experience the newly renovated space at Lovely Lane. You are welcome to come anytime between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to get a guided tour of the foyer, main bathrooms, Fellowship Hall, Fireside Room, Nave, and Sanctuary. The Core Building Renovation Team is excited to share with you all the opportunities the newly renovated spaces will provide for Lovely Lane and its ministries. **The next day, Aug. 1st, will be our FIRST in-person Sunday worship service @ 10:30 AM (also live-streamed). Reservations required.**

Zoom Study Groups with Pastor Scott

Zoom Study Groups with Pastor Scott continue this month at 9:30 AM and 7 PM. The focus is the book *Nine Essential Things I've Learned about Life* by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner. Several books are still available in the church office for \$10 each. All are welcome! It's a great book!!

Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Kristina

Join Pastor Kristina on **Tuesdays at 10 am** this summer for coffee and conversation out on the church lawn.

Bring your lawn chair, and coffee will be provided by the church!



“God Winks”

God speaks to us in mysterious ways. It might be a whisper, a sign, the song playing at just the right moment, a message from a stranger, or sometimes God can speak to us in what I call ‘God Winks.’ Squire Rushnell calls God winks reassurances from God. For me, God winks come in simple objects, something that I find repeatedly.

When I was just beginning exploring a call into ministry, I began to find pennies everywhere. In most cases, it felt like pennies were placed right in front of me at the exact right moment. After finding pennies for so long, I began to find all different kinds of loose change. Everywhere I went, I seemed to find some coins, even on international trips. For me, pennies and other coins are God winks for me. It provides assurance that God is with me, and God is consistently with me on my journey. Perhaps you have your own ‘God wink,’ a unique way that God speaks to you.

However, God winks require an action on our part. If we’re in a hurry or find ourselves in a strained relationship with God, we might miss these unexpected God winks. May we slow down to notice the things around us, the unexpected wonderings, and mysteries of God.

Just a few days ago, I took our dog Macrina for a walk to Indian Creek Nature Center. It had been a long day, and I had another meeting later that night. Hiking through the forest, I noticed a tiny little snail and goodness do they go slow! That was the reminder I needed to take some deep breaths and soak in my surroundings, letting myself be nourished in the creation all around. May you find some rest in your summer—whether it’s busy, full of vacations and work, or if it’s relaxing and stress-free. May we all find opportunity to slow down and rest, allowing God’s mysterious winks to comfort and assure you. *Kristina*



Reflections on Retirement by Revs. Paul & Gayle Wilcox

As I approach retirement, my heart is full of two things: Hope and Gratitude. Hope points me to a future only partially known: Gayle and I will move to Minnesota, near our Daughter Emily's family. We will learn to enjoy the opportunities of the "big city." We'll stay close to the Church—as "pew dwellers," at least for a while. But much of our future life is still unwritten and just a little unsettled—and unsettling! But the God who guided both of us into ministry will not fail to guide us still, so I cherish the adventure and dare to hope! I am also deeply grateful first, to our Conference for appointing me to serve such wonderful Churches for 39 years. Having served these last three years as a part of the Appointive Cabinet, I have learned how hard our Bishop, Directors, and Superintendents work and pray to support the mission and ministry of each of our Pastors and Congregations. I am also grateful for my churches: For our church at Springville, who patiently taught me how to be a Pastor; for St. Luke, Newton, who expanded my horizons and taught me to let leaders lead; for Monroe Chapel, who reconnected me to my farming roots; for Harlan UMC, who loved our children into adulthood and called my wife into ministry; for Trinity, Charles City, who filled our "empty nest" with warm friendship and laughter; for Lovely Lane, Cedar Rapids, who taught us that "all means all" including those who don't agree. I am deeply grateful for the gift that each congregation has been and continues to be to me and my family. "Connection" is our middle name in the UMC, so I look forward to the ways we will stay connected in the exciting days ahead! —*Paul Wilcox*

Ministry has been like the hot air balloon ride I took with my husband Paul on our anniversary a few years ago. As a child, the Spirit wooed me to take the ride of my life by the witness of a neighboring nun, then through a rejection from my stark conservative Baptist church and its fear of women preachers, until I met my soulmate, Paul, who introduced me to the United Methodist Church, and we took off! And what a view! The first time I set foot in the United Methodist church, I was smitten! The theology, preaching, sacraments, music, paraments, vestments, spiritual formation, mission and community was like a colorful and inviting 'welcome aboard' balloon! The Spirit fueled me onward through my theological education/experience until I was blessed to share the journey with passionate United Methodist Jesus Followers in Harlan, where I worked in Christian Education and, with fear and trembling, stepped into the pulpit as interim at Irwin-Kirkman-Defiance UMC. As Associate at Trinity, Charles City, I was honored to accompany folks in times of sorrow and joy. As Lovely Lane Associate in Cedar Rapids, I continued music, teaching, and caring ministries and was moved by the Spirit to extend welcome to ALL God's people, no exceptions. Finally, New Hope Parish (Aredale-Bristow-Dumont) was my time to fly solo and to pastor deeply faithful folk who knew how to be church. And now, it's time for a new ascent. Retirement! I am blowing into Burnsville, MN (with Paul) to our home, complete with an Asian garden and stand of pine trees, to be with our daughter and family. I look forward to meeting my soon-to-be-friends, Methodist companions, and to extend hospitality to fellow travelers on the road, like you. And who knows what else! And I am ready! —*Gayle Wilcox*

Memorial Service for Louis Stolba **Tues., July 6th, 2:00 PM** **@ the American Legion, Marion** **(Visitation @ 1:00 PM)**

Louie died on 6/26/21 at the age of 98 years and 7 months. His service at the American Legion will be officiated by Pastor Scott.

Celebration of Life for Eugene Kadlec **Sat., July 17th, 10:30 AM** **@ Cedar Memorial Chapel of Memories**

Gene died on 2/19/21 from Parkinson's disease. Due to Co-vid restrictions, his Celebration of Life will be held at Cedar Memorial, officiated by Pastor Scott.

Disaster Relief—Pictured Rocks District

Iowans are still working to overcome the natural disaster from the derecho last August. Almost a year later, we still have over 500 homes in the Cedar Rapids area that need chainsaw work and repairs. Due to a lack of insurance, or being underinsured, many of our neighbors are just not able to overcome this setback without the help of God's people.

The Pictured Rocks District (f/k/a East Central District) Disaster Coordinators are organizing a **work blitz week for July 16th-21st**. **Volunteers are needed for chainsaw work, cleanup, and rehabbing damage in homes.**

You're invited to participate either as a day worker or arrangements have been made to house overnight volunteers at St. Paul's UMC. You can come and go as it fits your schedule. Meals will be provided for overnight volunteers at a cost of \$15 per day, plus a \$10 overnight fee for the hosting church, and a one-time fee of \$10 for a special T-shirt. Overnight volunteers will be sleeping on Sunday school room floors, so you will be responsible for your own bedding, mattress, etc.

Day workers will have a one-time charge of \$10 for the T-shirt, and they are asked to bring their own lunches.

All chainsaw cutters must be UMCOR certified. We will be training and certifying for chainsaw cutting on **Friday night, July 16th, and Sunday night, July 18th**. You need only attend one training to be certified. **Training will be from 6 to 8 either night at St. Paul's UMC.** **All chainsaw cutters must provide their own personal chainsaws.**

You may bring your own tools, but our disaster trailers are stocked with all the tools you should need.

All **volunteers must fill out a registration form** on the following website: www.umcmanchester.com; just click into the link from the home page. Registration must be turned in at the time of registration as you are checking into the blitz event on your first day. Please provide one original and one copy of each registration. If you're a day worker working more than one day, you need only turn in the registration on your first day. **All day workers must be checked in to St. Paul's UMC by 8 AM.** **The work day on site will be 9 AM-4 PM.**

Send an E-mail to pastorphil@umcmanchester.com to volunteer and/or to attend a chainsaw certification.

SUMMERTIME IS SALAD TIME!!

Spaghetti/Pasta Salad

1 pound pasta (your favorite) cooked according to package directions and cooled

3/4 cup chopped red or white onion

1/2 - 3/4 cup diced or shredded carrots

1 medium/large red bell pepper; seeded and diced

1 medium/large green bell pepper; seeded and diced

1-1/2 cups chopped zucchini

1-1 1/2 cups plum tomatoes

black pepper, garlic powder, salt - per your taste

3/4 cup Italian salad dressing or more if desired

Feel free to add any other fresh vegetables: cucumbers, kolrabi, etc

Raspberry vinaigrette may also be used for the dressing

Grilled chicken can also be added to this recipe to make a complete summertime meal!

Enjoy!

From your Lovely Lane Health & Wholeness Committee

VBS 2021: "To Mars and Beyond"

July 12-15, 5:30pm-8:00pm

Meal for families & youth at 5:30pm

VBS is a collaboration between Lovely Lane and Hope UCC.

This year, it'll be at Hope!

To Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/B1ssyKZSXGNDXR2Y6>.



"TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME"

KERNELS GAME NIGHT: JULY 20

Everyone is welcome to attend a Kernels Baseball Game on Tuesday night, July 20th, as the Kernels play the Beloit Snappers. Tickets are \$15, which will cover the group rate with excess money going to missions.

Please mail your checks, made payable to the church, with "Baseball Game" as a notation in the memo line. Email Pastor Scott if you'd like to attend (scottm@lovelylane.org). Thanks!

YOUTH SERVICE WEEK!

We are partnering with St. Paul's UMC youth to put on a service week for middle and high school youth,

Monday, July 19th, 2021 – Friday, July 23, 2021

We'll be doing various service opportunities around the city, such as: Matthew 25, Prairiewoods, Indian Creek Nature Center, The African American Museum, and Catherine McAuley Center, as well as a fun day at Lake McBride.

Cost for the week: \$15

To sign up: <https://www.stpaulsumc.org/youth-week-of-service-and-learning/>

Summer Book Club Continues with Pastor Kristina

July: *Anxious People* by Frederick Backman

August: *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas

Order the book from Amazon, your local bookstore, or wherever you purchase books, read throughout the month, and join me for conversation and discussion!

Discussion Dates (at Lovely Lane):

JULY: Monday, July 26th, 7pm

AUGUST: Monday, August 30th, 7pm

Email Pastor Kristina at kristina@lovelylane.org with any questions!

Save the Date!

Fall Women's Retreat: "Strong and Courageous"

October 2, 2021

at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church



Concerns & Celebrations

PRAYER CONCERNS:

*Sympathy to Gerry Stolba & family after Louie's passing
 *Sympathy to the family of Art Roderick on his passing; he was a long-time church member
 *Sympathy to Dave & Mari Lu Smith after the passing of Mari Lu's brother, Gene
 *Sympathy for Judy McDowell's family after the passing of her Aunt Helen
 *Sympathy to family & friends of Sabrina Jackson, & her parents, following family deaths
 *Al Shaver is home after surgery
 *Kim Wilhelm's daughter was hospitalized with health concerns (Kim is our CWM office assistant)
 *Regina Culbertson's father with health concerns
 *Helen Anderson's sister, Diane, with colon cancer
 *Karon Niebuhr's brother, Brian, after surgery
 *Dave Keefe's uncle, Ernie, with health concerns
 *Patty Logsdon's neighbors, Sally and Scott Beltz; Scott is or was hospitalized
 *Continued prayers for our district superintendent, Moody Colorado, w/complications after heart surgery
 *Linn Co. Sheriff's Deputy with injuries after shooting
 *Folks impacted by recent storms in Midwest & South
 *Community of Surfside near Miami, FL, after the collapsed building
 *Holiday travel with the Fourth of July coming up; summer travel in general
 *Heatwave in parts of the country
 *National & international concerns

JOYS:

*Wedding congratulations for Carissa Serbousek & Chris Prevenas
 *Hayden Mulnik going to camp at Wesley Woods
 *Welcome to Patty Logsdon as our new Financial Secretary!
 *We also thank Vicki Cangemi for her service at Lovely Lane and wish her all the best!
 *Kim Wilhelm is one of the stars in a local play
 *Had outside worship on a gorgeous morning
 *Great worship at the Olympic South Side Theater
 *A successful Matthew 25 Transform Week
 *At Annual Conference we welcomed new clergy, congratulated those being ordained & commissioned, & thanked those retiring for their faithful ministry to the UMC!
 *As was lifted up at Annual Conference, our new district name is "Pictured Rocks" District
 *We lift up with joy Pride Month, & our love & affirmation for our LGBTQ friends within the church and our community
 *Celebrating Immigrant Heritage Month in June
 *Lifting up our fathers & the father-like on Father's Day; FD worship at Veteran's Memorial Stadium
 *Juneteenth Freedom Day on 6/19
 *Joy of home repairs completed after the derecho
 *Family time in the summer
 *Retirement celebrations for Revs. Paul & Gayle Wilcox (cards to send them are being collected in the church office)

May Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of May	\$ 43,037
Cash inflow—YTD	\$108,335
Budget need/month	\$ 45,253
Cash outflow—mo. of May	\$ 29,389
Cash outflow—YTD	\$194,616
Unpaid apportionments	-\$ 5,222
(We're one month ahead.)	

Remembering with love:

Betty Larison.....2015
Dick Chelikowsky.....2016
Sharon Mooney.....2016
Fran Fairchild.....2019

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings, the book discussion group will meet at Nancy Miller's home on Mon., July 12th, at 10 AM. The address is 2827 Glen Elm Dr. NE; phone is 393-6340.

The book we are discussing is "American Dirt" by Jeanne Cummins.

On Aug. 9th, we'll plan to meet at the church in the library. Instead of reading a book, be prepared to discuss and recommend a book or books you've been reading. This is always a fun time of sharing, and everyone should have a lot of books to recommend that they read during the pandemic.



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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
Building Project Manager.....Amber Mulnik
Director Children's Weekday Min.....Dawn DuPont
Kid's Club Director.....Julie Meyer
Christian Educator..... Barb Geissinger
High School Youth Director.....Ryan Roth-Klinck
Choir Director.....K. Weiler
Organist.....Dennis Ramsey
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