

# Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

March 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.



## **A Thorny Matter**

A woman goes on a dream vacation, yet she can't let go of a work matter that is getting the best of her. A man pays off some debt, but there is still a specific burden that needs attention. A couple resolves some family issues, but a particular situation remains. There is frequently that "one thing" that gets the best of us and won't go away.

We tend to call these things "thorns." Thorns are not fun. Ever get a thorn in your finger? It is hard to get it out and it can lead to bruising or bleeding. Thorns can easily bring us down. Thorns include the difficulties just listed. Yet a complete list can include every complication under the sun, including physical ailments, sinful thoughts, and bad habits. There are always matters that push us to the limit.

The Apostle Paul once spoke about a "thorn in the flesh." Commentators have tried for years to discern the precise nature of the thorn. St. John Chrysostom (347-407 AD) said the thorn represented the "enemies of the gospel." The thorn could have been a temptation or even an individual like the Alexander the metalworker, who brought Paul "a great deal of harm." (2 Timothy 4:14, NIV)

Now we may not know much about Paul's thorn, but the apostle tells us the purpose of the thorn is to keep him humble. In 2 Corinthians 12:7 he writes, "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassing great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me."

No one likes to endure extra challenges. Paul asked the Lord to remove the source of pain. He probably thought removing the pain would make his ministry better or allow him to reach more people for Christ. Yet it appears the Lord was more concerned with building Paul's character.

Instead of taking away the issue at hand, God allowed the thorn to remain. Additionally, God gave Paul the strength to handle the situation. Strength is gained from weakness.

This is a lesson for each of us to ponder during this Lenten Season and beyond. Through struggles and temptations, we learn to rely on the Lord. We need our mighty God. This can make us a better person and disciple!

Blessings to you! Scott

*Calendar of Events (subject to change) — March 2021*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 1-3 pm —Financial Secretary 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study 6-7:30 pm Con- firmation via Zoom	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 3rd Sunday in Lent/Communion Sunday</b> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-6:15 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)	<b>8</b> 1-3 pm —Financial Secretary 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study 6-7:30 pm Con- firmation via Zoom	<b>11</b> 9:30 am—UMW Zoom meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 4th Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-6:15 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)	<b>15</b> 1-3 pm —Financial Secretary 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 5th Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-6:15 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)	<b>22</b> 1-3 pm —Financial Secretary 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study 6-7:30 pm Con- firmation via Zoom	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Palm/Passion Sunday</b> 10:30 am—Live-stream worship only (no in-person) 5-6:15 pm—Combined youth group (Zoom)	<b>29</b> 1-3 pm —Financial Secretary 7 pm—Virtual Women's Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 am & 7 pm— Online Bible Study	CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries JFON = Justice For Our Neighbors ILF = International Ladies Fellowship	UMW = United Methodist Women WOF = Women Of Faith WWW = Wednesday Women & The Word	

### UMCOR OFFERING

In addition to our Lenten offering, we are taking an offering for the folks in Texas impacted by the winter storms. Money will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) that is currently on site.

Please be sure to indicate "Texas" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

### CANDY NEEDED!!!

We are putting together Easter egg hunt kits for families to have a safe egg hunt in their own backyard. Please drop off any type of candy in the church office, Monday-Thursday during normal office hours, about 9am-12pm. Thanks! Pastor Kristina & Barb Geissinger

### SUNDAY ONLINE WORSHIP IN MARCH

[February 28: **2nd Sunday in Lent**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35 / Sermon: "The Disciple and the Uncertainty of Forgiveness," *Navigating Uncertainty*]

March 7: **3rd Sunday in Lent / Holy Communion**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: Luke 12:13-34 / Sermon: "The Large Gathering and the Uncertainty of Worry," *Navigating Uncertainty*

March 14: **4th Sunday in Lent**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 11:17-44 / Sermon: "Good Friends and the Uncertainty of Mortality," *Navigating Uncertainty*

March 21: **5th Sunday in Lent**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 19:1-10 / Sermon: "The Tax Collector and the Uncertainty of Surrender," *Navigating Uncertainty*

March 28: **Palm Sunday**—1 live-streamed service (no in-person worship) @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46 / Sermon: "Our Lord and the Uncertainty of Obedience," *Navigating Uncertainty*

### Sunday Worship at Lovely Lane

Worship services continue online thru March. We continue to follow guidance from Bishop Laurie Haller and the Linn Co. Public Health Dept. as we seek to be safe and well. Please join us on our YouTube Channel on Sundays at 10:30 am!

### Zoom Study with Pastor Scott

The Zoom Study Group with Pastor Scott began studying the book *Embracing the Uncertain* by Magrey R. deVega on Feb. 24th. This study follows the Lenten preaching series, and there are still some books available. All are welcome! Zoom sessions are Wednesdays at 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

**Have you ever been** in a hurry to get somewhere, and then suddenly you hear those dreaded sounds, sirens behind you as you were driving a tad bit too fast in your haste? Maybe you've looked all over your house, but you just can't find your car keys, or you left your phone in a hidden place, on silent and can't find it anywhere? I've certainly done these things, and it never feels good! As I'm writing this month's newsletter article, I'm sitting at the Toyota Dealership, waiting for Ryan's car to get checked out in anticipation of the diagnosis and cost of repair, something we certainly didn't anticipate this week.

These unexpected frustrations can really test our patience and certainly throw off our daily routine. I've found that when I'm sitting at a red light, a light that turns red when I'm in a hurry, what helps is turning to God in prayer. I come back to breath prayer. Breath prayer is an ancient form of prayer that is easily adaptable for whatever works for you for your situation. Simply choose one or two lines to meditate on and inhale and exhale thru them.

An example might be:

**Inhale: Be Still    Exhale: and know you are God.**

Or

**Inhale: I find rest    Exhale: in Your shelter.**

Next time you're feeling frustrated and anxious, try out breath prayer and see how God restores your soul.

Peace, Pastor Kristina

## UMW MEETING

We will meet on **Thursday, March 11th, at 9:30 AM via Zoom**. We invite you to grab a cup of coffee and join us at 9:30 as we share some fellowship, followed by a short program at 10 AM celebrating our annual call to Prayer and Self-Denial. It is especially appropriate to observe a call to Prayer and Self-Denial during this season of Lent, for

this is a time for United Methodist Women members to bow our heads to God in prayer and then rise up to act out our vision of *turning faith, hope and love into action* to help countless women, children and youth across the world. The theme for 2021 for this special program is: "She leads; Empowering Women to Make A Difference."

**We invite you to join us for fellowship and to learn about this year's UMW mission emphasis.** Please E-mail Cindy Sale at [cbrandsale@aol.com](mailto:cbrandsale@aol.com) in order to receive the link for this March 11th Zoom meeting. Thanks!

## 2021 Lenten Special Offering Recipients

Our Missions Committee picked this year's recipients for our Lenten Offering, each highlighted on 1 of 4 Sundays, as follows:

**Matthew 25** is a local non-profit that exists to strengthen core neighborhoods on CR's west side. It partners with them to work in 3 program areas: Neighborhood Building, Youth Development and Cultivating Hope. Lovely Lane will partner with Matthew 25 again this year during Transform Week in late June. (*Feb. 21, Clint Twedt-Ball, speaker*)

**JFON** is a ministry of hospitality provided by the IA Annual Conference of the UMC. It provides legal services, advocates to bring change in immigration laws and public policy, and strives to educate immigrant communities to better understand their rights and the complex immigration process. (*Feb. 28, Amy Guardado, speaker*)

**Mental Health Access Center** provides urgent, high quality crisis behavioral treatment for people 18+ years of age who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis in our community. It provides short-term assistance for individuals in crisis and then connects them to on-going recovery services. The goal is to reduce the number of unnecessary hospitalizations and arrests and create a healthier community. (*March 7, Erin Foster, speaker*)

**Waypoint's Domestic Violence Victim Services Program** (DV Program) offers free, confidential services to domestic violence victims and survivors, as well as their families. It is Cedar Rapids' largest provider of shelter for women and families with children. It also offers child care and education for children ages six weeks to 12 years old daily. (*March 14, Autumn Craft, speaker*)

You should have received a Lenten mailing containing a card for your use to give to any or all of the four recipients. Please let the church office know ([office@lovelyLane.org](mailto:office@lovelyLane.org) or 393-6674) if you still need that mailed to you. Thank you in advance for your generosity!!

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

In lieu of a Lovely Lane Easter egg hunt this year, we are putting together kits for you to have your own Easter egg hunt this year! Please sign up in the Google Form below if you would like to order a kit. It will include plastic eggs and candy for you to hide in the house or your yard for your kids to have their own egg hunt, safely and socially distanced. Kits will be available for pick-up on Saturday, March 27th from 10-11 AM or during Holy Week, March 29th-April 1st, during normal morning office hours.

If you have questions or need to make other arrangements, E-mail Pastor Kristina at [kristina@lovelylane.org](mailto:kristina@lovelylane.org).

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvIH6V19U6xCB84-PHKbTPutSRlnvbf2S8lFzchNxWV1CLA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvIH6V19U6xCB84-PHKbTPutSRlnvbf2S8lFzchNxWV1CLA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## **Children's Weekday Ministries (CWM) Job Opening**

Preschool Teacher for 3 yr. olds needed for the 2021-2022 school year  
Hours: 8am-1pm, Monday-Thursday, with class times of 9am-12pm

Qualifications: Licensed Teacher with early childhood endorsement  
and 1 yr. minimum preschool teaching experience

Pay: Part time salary

Benefits: 5 sick/vacation days

Contact: Dawn DuPont, Program Director, [ddupont@lovelylane.org](mailto:ddupont@lovelylane.org)

## **IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS LAUNCH ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

Okoboji and Wesley Woods United Methodist Camps are excited to launch their second annual campaign in preparation for offering youth programs on-site in summer 2021.

Director of Camps and Retreats, Bryan Johnson, views youth camping as a way to support youth and the future of United Methodism. "The sustainability of any church relies upon developing and growing the Christian faith in as many as possible. In that vein, Iowa United Methodist camps are proud to be places where Christ is introduced to young people."

Financial subsidy for Iowa UM Camps has come through the Iowa Apportionment System for decades until recently when changes to the apportionment system have required the camping ministry in Iowa to identify new sources of support.

While 2020 on-site summer plans altered because of COVID-19, the intention is to have normal programs offered this summer with revised protocols to allow for the safest possible environment. This year, the campaign has set a goal of \$200,000 of support.

"While some would see decreased apportionment funding as a bad thing, we see it as a tremendous opportunity to work directly with the tens of thousands of people who have had positive faith experiences at an Iowa United Methodist Camp," said Johnson. "We have an awesome opportunity to engage our alumni and supporters who understand the powerful experiences that camp provides."

For more information about the Iowa United Methodist Camps annual campaign or to register for a summer event, go to [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org), E-mail [camps@iaumc.org](mailto:camps@iaumc.org), or call 800-765-1651.

## \*\*\*\*\* WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY—NEW BOOK \*\*\*\*\*

For Lent, the women's study with Pastor Kristina is reading  
Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning To Walk In The Dark*.

The second Zoom meeting for the study is on Monday, March 1st, at 7 PM  
and continues on following Mondays at 7 PM on Zoom.

Please pick up your book in the church office if you ordered one;  
there are several extra books available if you are still interested.

Please let Pastor Kristina know at [kristina@lovelylane.org](mailto:kristina@lovelylane.org).

### \*\*\*\*\* #BeTheDifference in 2021—5 Tips to Help You Practice Resilience\* \*\*\*\*\*

Resilience was the word for 2020 because it reflects our ability to push forward in the face of adversity.  
Staying resilient will be key in 2021 as well, as we bravely face new challenges and celebrate new triumphs.  
Here are Five Tips to help you practice RESILIENCE in 2021:

Tip 1: Be open to changes and allow for flexibility

Tip 2: Keep things in perspective

Tip 3: Take care of yourself with activities you enjoy

Tip 4: Prioritize your relationships

Tip 5: Ask for help if you need it

*From your Health & Wholeness Committee [\*except from the Mental Health First Aid  
Monthly Newsletter, Issue 1, 2021]*

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Friday, July 23, 2021**

We'll be doing various service opportunities and educational trips around the city,  
as well as a fun day at Lake McBride.

**NOTE: The date change!**

Go to the following to sign up:

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

### January Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Jan.	\$ 55,817
Cash inflow—YTD	\$ 55,817
Budget need/month	\$ 45,253
Cash outflow—mo. of Jan.	\$ 50,986
Cash outflow—YTD	\$ 50,986
Unpaid apportionments (we're 2 mos. ahead)	-\$ 10,444

### Remembering with love:

*Donna Cole.....2015*

*Marge Thornton.....2018*

*Karmen Shedenhelm.....2020*

## Concerns & Celebrations

### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- \*Sympathy to Bev Kadlec & family following the passing of Gene; a memorial service will likely take place this summer
- \*A funeral service for Sally Craig (new LL member) took place in mid-Feb. in Independence; continued prayers go out to the family
- \*Sympathy to former pastor, Rev. Brian Milford, after passing of his father
- \*Craig Nixon is home following a stay in the hospital; continued prayers go out
- \*Jan Culbertson with work and health concerns; she also had a difficult road accident in mid-Feb.
- \*Nick & Shelbie Wood & family after a house fire
- \*Sue Moss with health concerns; she is better now
- \*Twila Stiers with health concerns
- \*Bill Allison (former LL member) with health concerns
- \*Don & Wanda Whitford's son, David, with heart concerns
- \*Curt & Maggie Thomas's great niece after she was missing; she is home now
- \*Jack & Cheryl Murphy's neighbor, John, getting treatment at Mayo
- \*Judy McDowell's friend's son, Kevin, following an accident
- \*Persons experiencing & impacted by COVID & anxiety in the midst of the pandemic
- \*Masks are still required at the church
- \*The Iowa Legislature is working on a bill that could impact funding for preschools, including the preschool at Lovely Lane; prayers for all involved
- \*Prayers for Texas & other southern states as they continue to recover from recent winter storms

### **Church Bulletin Bloopers**

- ! A worm welcome to all who have come today.
- ! Don't miss this Saturday's exhibit by Christian Martin Arts.
- ! If you would like to make a donation, fill out a form, enclose a check, and drip in the collection basket.
- ! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget all His benefits.
- ! Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

### **JOYS:**

- \*Patrick & Katrina Mahoney are expecting their second child in August; congratulations!
- \*Our own Eric Wylie, who's behind the camera in our live-stream service, had a 2/23 birthday - his 50<sup>th</sup>; it's also his 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working at LL as our Audio/Visual Coordinator. We thank Eric for all he's done for us before & during the pandemic; we couldn't do it without him!
- \*Pastor Kristina's cousin Merriellen is doing really well after 2/19 open heart surgery, & her new baby girl, Evelyn, was born on 2/15; baby is still in the NICU, but doing well
- \*Thank you to guest preacher, Rev. Beth Harbaugh, Women At The Well
- \*Super Bowl excitement & our youth making sub sandwiches for a Super Bowl fundraiser
- \*Valentine's & Lenten Gathering/Pick-up at the church
- \*Building renovation project at the church is moving along
- \*COVID-19 vaccine shots taking place
- \*Neighbors helping neighbors in the winter
- \*Current warmer weather
- \*Cedar Rapids School Superintendent, Noreen Bush, with a national recognition honor

### **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

- "Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more." *Author unknown*
- "God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well." *Voltaire*
- "Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a Butterfly." *Author unknown*

H.O.P.E. (by Sue Moss)

- H = Hold on to your faith
- O = Open yourself to new possibilities
- P = Pray constantly
- E = Expect good things





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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 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.....Vicki Cangemi  
Webmaster.....Shelly Turner

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