

Lovely Lane *network* United Methodist Church

March 2023

Vision **Statement**

"Lovely Lane is a dynamic faith community that seeks to welcome all people, nurture one another in the faith, and reach out in ministry and service." This vision connects with our Discipleship Pathway, Worship + 2. We encourage all persons to be active in worship and participate in two groups in the church: one group is focused on study and the other group is focused on service.

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+
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Learning to Live Inside Out

Saint Augustine, the Fourth Century Bishop of Hippo, wrote in his book, *Confessions*, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Over the centuries these words have described the human condition. Many of us have restless hearts. We are spiritually hungry and we have a need for something more. We want to understand God completely. The hard truth, though, is that we will never fully understand God. The great theologian, Paul Tillich, warned against understanding God completely. Tillich said God does not exist in the way we exist or a tree exists. God is not a being among beings. God, Tillich said, is the being, the "Ground of all Being."

So we have a restless heart and, if Tillich is right, God remains a bit elusive and hard to fully understand. I happen to think that's good. If we feel we fully understand God, then we lose our awe for God. We need to continue on our spiritual journey.

During this Lenten season of forty days and forty nights, we spend time contemplating the nature of our restless heart. We spend time pondering "who we are" and "whose we are." We engage in the spiritual disciplines like meditation, prayer, and study that bring us closer to God. We will never arrive, but we continue on the journey.

During Lent, we go "inside." Yet, the call is to also go "outside." We need to put our faith into action. In James 2:17 we read, "Faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity." (CEB) This ongoing balance is critical and worth constant conversation.

I invite you to join us in worship this month as we continue on this Lenten journey. Our sermon series is entitled, "Learning to Live Inside Out." We will look at this call to go inside so we can go outside. I look forward to seeing you in church coming up!

Peace, Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	CCM = Care Center Ministry CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries LLS = Living Last Supper	MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UWF = United Women in Faith (f/k/a UMW)	1 9:30 am Zoom study 5:30 pm Family Meal 5:30 pm LL Yth. Grp. 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	2 3 pm Hospitality mtg.	3	4
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese 3-4:30 pm Youth Co-op: "Collage..." @ LL 4-6 pm Family Mins. Event (@ Spare Time) 4 pm Living Last Supper (LLS) grp.	6 6:30 pm Women's Study Group 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	7	8 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Women's Study Group 5:30 pm Family Meal 5:30 pm LL Yth. Grp. 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	9 7:45 am Leadership Team (offsite) 6:30 pm UWF Mission Dinner	10	11
12 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese 2-5 pm Youth Co-op: go to soccer game 4 pm Living Last Supper (LLS) grp.	13 10 am Happy Endings 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> : Centering Monday (@ Pastor Kristina's) 6:30 pm Women's Study Group 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	14	15 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Women's Study Group 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	16 6 pm Health & Wholeness 6 pm Trustees 7 pm Ad Council 7-9 pm Linn Co. United Nations grp.	17 6-8 pm <i>Nourished</i> : St. Patrick's Gathering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	18 8:30 am Men's Breakfast Grp. 9 am-1 pm Greeting Card Class
19 4th Sunday in Lent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese 5-7 pm Youth Co-op: Dinner @ Taj Mahal 4 pm LLS grp.	20 6:30 pm Women's Study Group 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	21	22 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Women's Study Group 5:30 pm Family Meal 5:30 pm LL Yth. Grp. 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	23 12 noon Friendly Fellowship	24	25 10:00-11:30 AM Women's Tea
26 5th Sunday in Lent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12 noon Confirmation field trip to Congolese worship 12-2 pm Congolese (NO Youth Co-op) 4 pm LLS grp.	27 9 am Prayer Shawl 6 pm <i>Nourished</i> : Centering Monday (@ Pastor Kristina's) 6:30 pm Women's Study Group 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	28	29 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Women's Study Group 5:30 pm Family Meal 5:30 pm LL Yth. Grp. 6 pm Kids Club 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	30	31	

WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 5: **2nd Sunday in Lent**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 3:1-17 / Sermon: "Go From Your Country" *Learning to Live Inside Out*

March 12: **3rd Sunday in Lent**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 4:5-42 / Sermon: "Give Me Water" *Learning to Live Inside Out*

March 19: **4th Sunday in Lent**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: John 9:1-41 / Sermon: "In the Presence" *Learning to Live Inside Out*

March 26: **5th Sunday in Lent**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 11:1-45 / Sermon: "We Could Stand" *Learning to Live Inside Out*

Pastor's Study Groups

A new study with Pastor Scott begins on Wednesday, March 1st with AM sessions via Zoom at 9:30 and in-person sessions in the Library at 6 PM. The study has a Lenten focus and is entitled "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws" by Adam Hamilton. Books are available to pick up in the church office and the donation amount is \$10 per book.

Women's Study Groups Starting

The Wednesday noon group will begin on March 8th in Fireside. The cost of the book ("I'm Waiting, God – Finding Blessing in God's Delays") is \$11.50 each, and books are available to pick up in the church office. The Monday evening group, meeting at 6:30 PM in Fireside, will start on March 6th. The cost of the book ("Acts - Awakening to God in Everyday Life") is \$11 each, and books are available to pick up in the church office.

If you have not signed up yet and would like to, please contact Annie Walker, facilitator of the groups, (anniew@lovelylane.org) AND/OR Sue Moss in the office (suem@lovelylane.org).

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the season of Lent, this period of 40 days and 40 nights. Right, it's the journey to the cross. It's a solemn season. We just celebrated the birth of Christ, and now our attention turns to his death by crucifixion. We recognize the grief of this season, sit in it, and then of course on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the life and resurrection of Jesus! Full victory over sin and death.

For many, they take up a spiritual discipline or give something up for Lent. For so many people, they choose to give up food for Lent. Some give up sugar, coffee, alcohol, potato chips, chocolate, ice cream, etc. But for me, I choose to take up something. In some past sermons here at Lovely Lane, I've named that I have a past of an eating disorder. In many instances, an eating disorder is a long term thing. It's mental, and you can be triggered. I check in on myself regularly or, if I'm triggered, work through it. For me, and maybe for you, I choose not to give up food, because it does not bring me closer to God. In general I don't fast from food because my mind goes to, *Oh, I'm not eating any calories!* instead of, *While not eating, I'll pray and grow closer to God.* Giving up something for Lent isn't a diet fad. It's not an opportunity to lose X no. of pounds.

When giving up something for Lent as a spiritual discipline, might we ask ourselves that question, *Am I giving up this item as a small sacrifice to remind myself of how Jesus suffered or am I giving up this item to lose x number of pounds during these 40 days and 40 nights?* If your answer is yes to the second question, might you consider taking on something for Lent. Maybe you take on a new devotion, a prayer practice, forest bathing, putting down your phone during a family dinner, etc.

Whatever it might be, I pray this season of Lent brings you closer to the creator, and may it be a reminder to you that you are beloved, beautiful, and a child of God. *Peace, Pastor Kristina*

Family ministries at

SPARE TIME!

Bowling

Laser Tag



Arcade Games

Sunday, March 5th
4pm-6pm
Spare Time
4601 First Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Scan the QR code
to register
or email
Annie Walker at
anniew@lovelylane.org



WOMEN'S TEA

On Sat., **March 25th**, Health & Wholeness will host a Women's Tea **from 10:00 until 11:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be assorted treats available along with a selection of teas (& coffee, hot chocolate). Please bring a favorite tea cup (saucer opt.) and be ready to share a story at your table about the cup, the person to whom it once belonged, or a favorite memory of sharing a hot beverage with someone. Nursery care will be provided. Feel free to bring a friend!



Men's Breakfast Gathering

The next monthly gathering is on Saturday, March 18th, @ 8:30 AM. Speaker or topic of discussion TBD. All are welcome!

Remembering with love:

Marge Thornton.....2018
Karmen Shedenhelm.....2020
Dawn Nylin.....2022



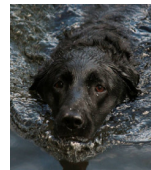
GREETING CARD CLASS

March 18, 2023
9am - 1pm
Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall

*Please bring your own adhesive
*Class is \$20 for 6 cards (financial assistance is available)

Please RSVP to Annie Walker (anniew@lovelylane.org)
by March 11, 2023

A DEVOTION IN GRATITUDE



A recent story on the radio was about a woman trying to save her dog who had fallen into an icy lake. Every time the dog tried to get out, the ice broke and the pooch was back in frigid water again. In her love for the dog, she carefully slid out over the frozen water to help but fell in herself and was in the same predicament along with her still struggling dog. Then her husband reminded her that the water was not so deep and she could just stand up.

Sometimes the people we help have gotten into trouble helping their loved ones. Let us encourage others to stand on the solid ground that is God.



United
Women
in Faith

UWF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR MARCH 2023

MISSION DINNER

Lovely Lane's United Women in Faith are hosting a Mission Dinner. We will do the cooking so just come and bring a friend to share this meal with us. Our speaker will be Deb Streff and our topic will be about Social Injustice. Since Social Injustice affects us all, this will be a timely discussion. Please come and join us for the dinner and to share in this timely discussion. It will be held **Thursday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

TUESDAY MORNING UWF BIBLE STUDY

We have made the difficult decision to disband this group at the present time. Thank you to all who have participated in the past and we hope that it was meaningful to you.

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARCH

Friday, March 2nd: "World Day of Prayer"

Tuesday, March 8th: Iowa Conference UMW's International Ringing Bells for Women's Rights

For more information contact Cheryl Murphy (377-6205).

Happy Endings, book discussion group, will meet on Monday, March 13th, at 10 AM in Fireside. The book we'll discuss is *The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham. The book to read for April is *River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shear. The book for May is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. **Happy Reading!**

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP: The Friendly Fellowship Potluck Group will meet on Thursday, March 23rd, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. (Please note that this is the 4th Thursday of the month.) Bring a dish to share and table service; coffee and water will be provided. The program will be a presentation by Phil and Shirley Martin on their trip to Antarctica. We look forward to seeing everyone! Please contact Nancy Miller (319-393-6340) with any questions.

Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for participating in our Angel Tag holiday program. You truly helped to bless many children (and families) this holiday season. Please know that we are incredibly grateful for you here at Tanager as well. Thanks again!

We extend heartfelt gratitude for your generous 2022 donations totaling \$750.00 to ECCF and our ministries. Your kindness and compassion make a real difference in the lives of people in critical need. We couldn't do this work without people like you who care so deeply. *Robin Switzer Brunner for the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation*

Thank you for your generous support (total of \$2,524) over the past year. It is because of donors like you that we are able to help those in need. Your compassionate support truly makes a difference! *women At The Well, Mitchellville, IA*

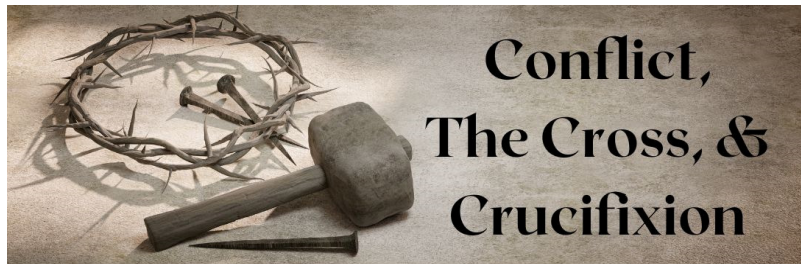
YOUTH GROUP IN MARCH

- *3/1: Wednesday Evening Youth Group, 5:30-6:45 PM (**NOTE NEW TIME:** Grab your dinner from the LL Fellowship Hall & come down to the Youth Room!!)
- *3/5: Youth Co-op, 3-4:30 PM @ Lovely Lane, "Collage as a Spiritual Practice" with Stephanie Heifner
- *3/8: Weds. Eve. Youth Group @ LL, 5:30-6:45 PM
- *3/12: Youth Co-op, 2-5 PM, Iowa Raptors Soccer Game, \$7.50 per ticket, Email or text Ryan to reserve a ticket!
- *3/19: Join a Sunday Morning Worship Service! LL will take an offering for the youth mission trips during the 8:30 & 10:30 AM services
- *3/19: Youth Co-op, 5-7 PM, Dinner at Taj Mahal with special guests: Margaret Nelson & Zaa (an Afghan refugee)
- *3/22: Weds. Eve. Youth Group @ LL, 5:30-6:45 PM
- *3/26: NO Youth Co-op
- *3/29: Weds. Eve. Youth Group @ LL, 5:30-6:45 PM

Questions? Contact Ryan Roth-Klinck,
Youth Director, (940)390-7437 or
ryan@lovelylane.org.

PLAN NOW TO GIVE BLOOD AT LOVELY LANE'S NEXT BLOOD

DRIVE on Saturday, April 15th, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM. ImPact Life Blood Center will bring their mobile unit /bus to our parking lot for that time period. Stay tuned for more information when the date gets closer. In a no. of weeks, you'll be able to sign up through the blood center's website or by calling or E-mailing Sue in the church office (319-393-6674, suem@lovelylane.org). If you have given blood at a previous blood drive held at Lovely Lane, you can expect a phone call or E-mail from a LL Health & Wholeness member inviting to donate again. **Please plan for it now if you can!**



Conflict, The Cross, & Crucifixion

Join the Nourished community this Lenten series as we explore conflict, crucifixion, and justice within the stories of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Conversations will take place during Centering, our retreat like worship gathering that happens on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 6pm, and wrapping up at our Easter Vigil Gathering.

Centering- Monday, March 13th 6pm

Centering- Monday, March 27th 6pm

Easter Vigil- Saturday, April 8th 7pm

All at Pastor Kristina's House



NOURISHED

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

BRING YOUR OWN
BEVERAGE AND A DISH TO
SHARE FOR A NIGHT OF
FOOD AND ART!

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH
6PM-8PM

3000 CARROLL DRIVE SE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52403



NOURISHED

Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

- *Welcoming our online worship crowd
- *Celebrating Children's Weekday Ministries (CWM)
- *Sledding & Pizza Party on 2/5 after 10:30 worship
- *Praise for the Metro Orchestra Festival
- **Nourished* Community making an impact w/others
- *Happy Birthday to Linda Henecke
- *Audrey Roth-Klinck feeling better after sickness
- *Celebrating the ministry of Marcie Stumpf; thanks for her years as LL's Treasurer
- *Lenten devotions coming next month
- *Wearing sports clothing to worship on Super Bowl Sunday
- *Doug Williams, missionary to Argentina, spoke to Missions Committee on 2/9
- *Youth sub & soup fundraiser for mission trips
- *Boy Scouts *God & Me* curriculum w/Pastor Scott
- *Valentine's Day
- *Super Bowl
- *Fellowship & Fun
- *Pastor Scott's courage to wear bright colored striped socks in worship
- *Giving thanks for first responders & state troopers
- *Good-bye to Bev Kadlec who is moving to Texas
- *Appreciation to Rev. Paul Witmer for leading Women At The Well & for preaching @ LL
- *Generous UMCOR offering for earthquake relief in Turkey & Syria
- *Parent's Night Out event at the church went well
- *Confirmation class visiting St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- *Baseball umpire, Cody Oakes, spoke to men's grp.
- *Installation service for Iowa Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
- *Celebrating Black History Month
- *Congratulations to Pastor Kristina on her approval for ordination in the UMC
- *Pastor Tyler Walker, Palo UMC, & other seminary students studying in Italy
- *Clint Twedt-Ball speaking in worship about Matthew 25, a LL Lenten special offering
- *Living Last Supper group is gathering again; performances will be on April 2 & 6

STAFF NEWS: We welcome Susan Kohl to our church staff as our new treasurer. We will recognize her in worship on Sunday, March 5th. Susan (Susie) comes to us from Shueyville UMC. We also want to express great thanks for Marcie Stumpf for serving as our treasurer the last 9 years. Her service to the church has been a blessing!

CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to Sharon Vavra & family on the passing of her brother, Rick Sampson
- *Sympathy to Jayne Woodson after passing of her friend, Linda Lindsay
- *Maggie Thomas's friend, Wendy—passing of her dtr.
- *Regina Culbertson following hospitalization
- *Marla Gonzalez with ongoing cancer challenges
- *Jon & Dulcie Lauritsen & family after a house fire
- *Rita Stewart & Renee Lyons' mother, Maxine, with health challenges
- *Rick & Cathy Homard's brother, Tim, recovering from head injury; also friend Mary Beth to undergo chemo treatment
- *Duane & Mary Abbey's daughter, Kerin Miller, diagnosed with cancer
- *Helen Anderson's sister, Diane, with chemotherapy treatments
- *Ron & Margaret Nelson's good friend, Bill, with health challenges
- *Barb Waterhouse-Miller's friend Janet following a heart attack
- *Cindy & Paul Sale's friends Bonnie, John, and Kathy with cancer concerns/treatments
- *Sue Moss's friend Katie—husband starting dialysis
- *Patty Logsdon's friend Erin with health challenges
- *Marla Gonzalez's coworker Sandy whose niece Cheyenne has health challenges
- *Joan Winkowski's friend Tariq doing better
- *Family of Devonna Walker (here in CR)
- *Benton Community High School student, Tatum, diagnosed with leukemia
- *Prayers for children experiencing bullying
- *Local schools with challenges & decisions to make
- *Offenders receiving pastoral care @ women's prison
- *President Jimmy Carter receiving hospice care
- *East Palestine, Ohio, after train derailment
- *International relations with China, Russia, & others
- *Turkey & Syria following earthquakes
- *Country of Ukraine one year after invasion began
- *COVID-19 & other world matters

Let the Pilgrimage Begin! Join us for the 2023 Wesley Pilgrimage in England July 10-20. Explore historic sites while walking in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley. This 10-day event, cosponsored by The Upper Room, is led by Rev. Steven Manskar, former director of Wesleyan Leadership at Discipleship Ministries, and Dr. Paul Chilcote, Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies professor at Ashland Theological Seminary. Visit www.umcdiscipleship.org/events/wesley-pilgrimage-2023.



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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

Facebook: 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	Susan Kohl
Financial Secretary	Tammy Martin
Membership Secretary	Susan Camp
Website & Social Media	Shelly Turner
Facilities Manager	Curtis Thomas
Custodians	Rex & Rhonda Heasty
Wedding Coordinator	Becky Wood