

Lovely Lane *connection* United Methodist Church

December 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.

W
+
2

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year! This is a time to gather with loved ones, exchange gifts, sing songs, watch old movies, and tell stories. Everything we do helps us get in the Christmas Spirit and allows the Christ Child to enter into our hearts once again.

As we embrace the beauty of this season though, we realize this time of year is emotionally-charged. It's possible we feel many things deeply. Sometimes we feel all these emotions at once. There are moments we feel God's presence and want to celebrate with others. There are also moments we don't express the good cheer that others do. With the challenges and conflicts in our world, and our personal lives, it's understandable we might feel a bit down.

During this month of December, the sermon series in worship aims to help us embrace and balance the varied emotions we feel. The series is titled, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" (and the outline was crafted by clergy and artists from "A Sanctified Art.") The name takes its title from a verse in the 19th Century Christmas hymn, *O Holy Night*, where we find the words, "Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til He (Jesus) appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."

What's interesting about this hymn is the varied people who came together to craft the piece. It's been said a French atheist wrote the lyrics and a Jewish composer supplied the music. An American Unitarian clergyperson translated the lyrics into English. Perhaps the hope was the gospel of Jesus would bring peace and liberation for all. In this weary world we find ways to rejoice. Thus, "a weary world rejoices."

I hope you join us for worship services this month, in-person or online. It remains a blessing to be on this journey with each of you!

Grace and peace at Advent and Christmas, Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — December 2023						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			WWG = Wednesday Women's Group CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UWF = United Women in Faith		1 1 pm Funeral (Karla Morris)	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 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 3:30 pm Youth Co-op: mtg. @ Marcus Theater to see "Elf"	4 8 am-6 pm CWM Christmas Store 12 noon PEO	5 8 am-6 pm CWM Christmas Store 3 pm Special Charge Conference via Zoom	6 8 am-6 pm CWM Christmas Store 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon WWW 5 pm Family Meal 5:30-7 pm Winter Wonderland (Kid's Club) 6 pm Youth Grp. 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	7 8 am-6 pm CWM Christmas Store 7 pm Christmas Music Extravaganza (@ St. Paul's UMC)	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 9:45 am Infant & Toddler Sunday School 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese 3 pm Movie out with church family	11 11:30 am Happy Endings lunch (@ Olive Garden) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	12	13 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon WWW 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm Youth Grp. 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	14 7:45 am Leadership Team (offsite)	15	16 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
17 3rd Sunday of Advent (Children's Christmas Program 2nd service) 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	18 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	19	20 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon WWW 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 6-8 pm Confirmation Christmas Party (@ Pastor Kristina's)	21 6:30 pm Linn Co. United Nations Assoc.	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve 9 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am In-person Worship (1 service only, in AM) 12-2 pm Congolese 3:30 pm Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day—Merry Christmas!!	26 (church & office closed)	27	28	29	30
31 First Sunday after Christmas 9:30 am In-person Worship (1 service only) 12-2 pm Congolese						

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Dec. 3: **1st Sunday of Advent**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 1:1-23 / Sermon: "We Acknowledge Our Weariness" *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

Dec. 10: **2nd Sunday of Advent**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: Luke 1:24-45 / Sermon: "We Find Joy in Connection" *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

Dec. 17: **3rd Sunday of Advent**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 1:57-66 / Sermon: "We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed" *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

Dec. 24: **4th Sunday of Advent**; in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM (one service only) / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 1:46-55 / Sermon: "We Sing Stories of Hope" *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

Dec. 24: **Christmas Eve**; services @ 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM (all in-person; 5:30 PM will be live-streamed/ Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 / Sermon: "We Make Room" *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

Dec. 31: **1st Sunday After Christmas**; in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM (one service only) / Pastor Scott

Pastor's Advent Study

The Advent Study with Pastor Scott is *An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of The Christmas Story* by Rachel Billups. The study began on Nov. 29 and continues on Wednesday mornings via Zoom at 9:30 and in-person in the library at 6 PM. There are still several books available. All are welcome!

I've thrown the word 'Hygge' around a few times, and you might be thinking, "what does that mean?" Hygge comes from Nordic countries, and it means the art of coziness and embracing the simple parts of life. Think blankets, pillows, candles, warm fires, sweaters, cozy slippers, etc. These are mere objects of Hygge that help us to embrace coziness, but true Hygge is an inward focus within. In Nordic countries, Hygge happens in the coldest and darkest parts of the year. They experience maybe 5-6 hours of sunlight during the winter, yet they are some of the happiest people on earth, and we believe that Hygge probably has something to do with that. Hygge is all about embracing coziness, living in the moment, and cultivating warmth in your heart. It's about holding on to hope in the midst of the coldest and darkest times of the year and times of our lives.

At Nourished, we're excited to release our Advent Calendar on Hygge, the Nordic culture of the art of coziness. Instead of meeting for Centering during such a busy time of the year, we are pushing out digital content. We invite you to participate with us this Advent season by intentionally practicing Hygge, to prepare our hearts for the light coming into the world, both in the coming of the Christ child and as the days grow longer. You can download our Advent Calendar at the link below. We'll also post each prompt every day on our social media. Each Friday leading up to Christmas, we'll also post reflections written by members of the community and send them out to our Nourished email list. So if you don't already like Nourished on Facebook and Instagram, be sure to follow us so you don't miss any content! Join us this Advent season in practicing Hygge!

Download our Advent Calendar here: <https://drive.google.com/.../1ZLHPqsr4WzBcuvImTam.../view...>

Stay Cozy! ~Kristina

ADVENT AND HYGGE: THE ART OF COZINESS

An Advent series on embracing the Nordic culture of Hygge. Tune into Nourished's social media this Advent for daily prompts and weekly reflections written by members of the community.



Stay Cozy!



Holiday Cookies

Cookie Assortment of:
Gingerbread
Frosted Sugar Cookie
Peppermint Mocha
Peanut Butter Cookies

Sign up by December 18th
Pick up on December 21st
4pm-6pm
At St. Paul's UMC



Scan the
QR Code
to Sign Up



Nourished Bakery

at Nature's Noel

Saturday, December 2nd
9am - 1pm
Indian Creek Nature Center
(All Gluten Free)



Chancel Choir Spotlight

Dec. 3: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"
(Lloyd Larson)

Dec. 10: Bidding - "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"; Anthem - "The Colors of Christmas" (John Rutter) - Women's Ensemble

Dec. 17: Bidding—"Come, Lord Jesus"; Anthem - "Born, Born in Bethlehem" (Douglas Wagner) - Men's Ensemble

Dec. 24: Bidding - TBD; Anthem - "Ain't that Good News" (Curry)

Christmas Eve: "A Classic Advent Flourish"

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP will NOT meet in December. See you in January!!

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Men's Breakfast Gathering – Saturday, December 16, 8:30. Church member and State Representative, Art Staed, will speak about the upcoming legislative session. All are welcome!



United
Women
in Faith

UWF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR DECEMBER '23

Lovely Lane UWF Rizpah

CHRISTMAS KID'S CLUB EVENT! THE WHOLE FAMILY IS WELCOME!

UNITED WOMEN in FAITH and YOUTH GROUP: We request your attendance to provide interactions with the children as they take part in activities and crafts.

This takes place on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall starting with a meal at 5:15.

There will be cookie decorating and other crafts. A hot chocolate bar will be available throughout the evening. Come and socialize, sing, eat cookies, and participate in activities!

PLEASE RSVP to assist us in planning enough food and enough cookies for decorating.

Also, let me know if you want to help in other ways. RSVP to debstreff@gmail.com; 319-721-8864. Deb Streff



Featuring: Christmas Cookie Decorating, Crafts, and a Sing-Along

See Annie Walker for more details: anniew@lovelylane.org

YOUTH CO-OP

Dec. 3: We will meet at the Marcus Theater (5340 Council St. NE, CR) to watch the movie *Elf*. The movie starts at 3:30; the room opens at 3 PM. There is no cost for you to see the movie, but you must register with Ryan due to limited seating available. You're responsible for buying your own snacks and drinks from concessions. (This is the last Co-op event of 2023.)

WEDS. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP (5:30 PM family meal @ LL, then 6 PM meeting @ St. Paul's)

Dec. 6: Christmas Myths-The 12 Days of Christmas
Dec. 13: Christmas Myths (Last Wednesday Night Youth of the year)

Save the dates for our summer 2024 trips! The middle school trip to Kansas City, Missouri is June 20-23. The high school trip to Memphis, Tennessee is July 13-19. Each trip has 20 spots available. Registration & more details will be shared soon.

Contact Ryan Roth-Klinck, Youth Director, with questions: (940)390-7437 or ryan@lovelylane.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & KID'S CLUB

Sunday School for children takes place during the 10:30 service after the Children's Time.

There'll be no Sunday School Dec. 24 & Dec. 31; the last Sunday School will be the Christmas program on Dec. 17 (10:30 service).

Kid's Club is on Weds. at 5:30 PM (meal followed by program @ 6 PM). There'll be no Kid's Club on Dec. 20 & 27; Dec. 13 will be the last for 2023.

We no longer ask that you sign up for the Weds. evening meal for Kid's Club.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions and/or would like to volunteer to help.

Thank you!

Annie Walker, Dir. of Family Ministries,
anniew@lovelylane.org

INFANT/TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday, December 10th

9:45am-10:15am

at Lovely Lane in the Preschool Wing

~Special Christmas Theme~



CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT SUNDAY, DEC. 10

Join others from your church family at Marcus Theaters, 5340 Council St. NE, CR, for a private movie showing of "Journey to Bethlehem" - a 2023 American Christian musical film for the whole family. The movie starts at 3:00 PM, and the cost is \$10 per person for all ages. You must register online no later than Monday, 12/4, using the link below: <https://lovelylane.breezechms.com/form/abdeg9b>.

Feel free to invite your family and friends! We hope to have a group of 45 or more!!

October Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Oct..	\$ 47,046
Cash inflow—YTD	\$487,761
Budget need/month	\$ 47,614
Cash outflow—mo. of Oct..	\$ 48,034
Cash outflow—YTD	\$507,230
Unpaid apportionments	\$ 0

Remembering with love:

Donald Caspers.....2018

Vivian Johnson.....2020

Neal Lawton.....2022

Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

- *Remembering our Saints on All Saints Sunday (11/5)
- *Nice start on 11/5 for the infant/toddler Sunday School class
- *Fall season to enjoy the outdoors
- *Election Day on 11/7; thank you to those who voted
- *Nourished Community with a great day at Taste of Cedar Rapids (Coe College)
- *Happy birthday to Rose Mills
- *Paul & Cindy Sale are new grandparents
- *Rev. Lorinda Hoover with good news after surgical procedure
- *Pam Morris is seven years cancer free—great news
- *Wonderful chancel choir retreat on 11/11
- *New member class taking place
- *Remembering our veterans on Veterans Day
- *Happy 56th Anniversary to Jerry & Virginia Weiland
- *Maggie Thomas shared good news about her brother Dan's surgery
- *Nolan Grawe & Mason Turner making college decisions for sports
- *Joan Roscovius celebrating wedding news for granddaughter, Natalie, & Derek
- *United Women in Faith bake sale on 11/19, with proceeds going to Children's Weekday Ministries for scholarships; also joy of fair trade sale on 11/19
- *Blood Drive held on 11/18 surpassed its goal
- *Jan Loftus lifting up new great granddaughter
- *Alfred Zigbuo's wife has a birthday on 11/22
- *Linda Henecke helping with confirmation; thanks to all of the mentors
- *Mason Turner accepted to Univ. of South Dakota for swimming
- *Cade Pakkebier loving job at Fareway
- *Reid Pakkebier with All Conference Recognition for football season at Central College
- *Joy of roadwork construction, thinking about all those doing that work
- *Thanksgiving celebrations with friends & family
- *Holiday travel on the roads
- *Ron & Rita Stewart celebrate baptism of granddaughter, Reese
- *Patty Logsdon celebrates her birthday & good news with legal settlement
- *Teri Krumm traveling with a vacation this week
- *Happy birthday to Nancy Wylie (Eric's mother)
- *Ron Malick shared news about generous donations to the Linn Community Food Bank

CONCERNS:

- *Marge Davis' family following her death; her funeral was at LL on 11/25
- *Jim Stucker's family following his death; there was a private burial service on 11/17
- *Sympathy to family & friends of Karla Morris (service on 12/1)
- *Sympathy to Ellen Stevens after the passing of her son
- *Sympathy to Alfred Zigbuo & family after passing of his sister-in-law
- *Shawn Stepp's Aunt Lorraine passed away (was 97)
- *Jerry & Virginia Weiland's friend Pam passed away
- *Sympathy to Clint Twedt-Ball & Courtney Ball after passing of their father, Lyle
- *Sympathy to family & friends after passing of the Rev. Jon Moss (local UM pastor)
- *Cathy Homard recovering after a surgical procedure
- *Barb Olive after a hospitalization
- *Harrison Leske had surgery on 11/7
- *Jorie Dillman had a heart procedure
- *ReGina Culbertson hospitalized, has continued health challenges
- *Shirley Martin with health concerns
- *Jack Murphy hospitalized with ongoing concerns
- *Jerry Weiland had a surgical procedure on 11/27
- *Twila Stiers receiving rehab care in Hiawatha
- *Kim Moore's brother, Steve, hospitalized
- *Maggie Thomas's brother Dan, had surgery
- *Kristina Roth-Klinck's Aunt Jill with health concerns
- *Sue Moss's brother-in-law in AZ, Steve, with continuing health concerns after brain surgery for a tumor
- *Jerry & Virginia Weiland's son in-law following surgery
- *Maggie Thomas's brother, Bob, with health concerns
- *Dave & Linda Keefe's friend, Brad, with health concerns
- *Sue Moss's college friend Katie & husband Steve; he is under palliative care
- *Disaffiliation in the Iowa Conference of the UMC at 19-20%
- *Country of Ukraine in its war with Russia
- *Sadness seeing acts of antisemitism & Islamophobia
- *Israel & Gaza with the ongoing conflict
- *All national & international concerns



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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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	Tara Neveu (lead)
	Brenda Holub,
	Paige Gerjets &
	Claire Van Erde-Wyk
Director of CWM	Dawn DuPont
(Children's Weekday Ministries)	

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