

# Lovely Lane *connection* United Methodist Church

January 2024

## 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

## Starting a New Year!

*"Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community..." Ephesians 4:29 (CEB)*

We are moving into a New Year! Believe it or not, 2024 is now upon us. There is so much to look forward to. There are also things to leave behind!

For starters, we might consider leaving behind **Spite**. Spite is a desire to hurt or offend someone. Author, Isabel Wilkerson, once said, "Spite does not pay. It goes around and misses the object that you aim and come backs and gets you." Spite is not a pleasant way to go. It can show how small we can be. With spite, we decide to make someone look bad. We use social media and whatever measures we have at our disposal. We might say we are doing something on principle, but many times it is spite. Let's consider leaving behind spite in the New Year.





















































Beyond spite, let's contemplate leaving behind **Cynicism**. A cynical person has negative opinions about other people. They believe that people only do what they do for their own self-interest. They see the cup half empty instead of seeing the cup half full. They are negative. Instead of being cynical, might we listen to others! Might we consider what others have to say to us! There might be a very good reason people do what they do. Taking the negative side on an issue is never a pretty way to go.

Finally, might we ponder leaving behind **Sarcasm**! Sarcasm is using irony to communicate the opposite of the surface meaning. The intention is often a desire to use humor to mock someone. Legendary comedian Don Rickles made a career of being sarcastic. The characters, Chandler Bing (the late Matthew Perry), on Friends, and Charlie Harper, on Two and Half Men, were known for their sarcasm. We could laugh at them, but in real life this way of life gets tired. Our aim in life should be a desire to build up others not tear them down. Might we lay aside sarcasm in the New Year!

Moving forward, there is so much good we can do. Let us build up those around us!

*Peace and blessings, Scott*

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — January 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Confirmation (No Youth Group) 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 am-4 pm Dream Conference	<b>6</b> 9 am-12 noon Dream Conf.
<b>7</b> <i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday &amp; Communion</i> 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 (NO Youth Co-op)	<b>8</b> 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Mon- day Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 am <i>Zoom study</i> 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6 pm Youth Grp. 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	<b>11</b> 7:45 am Leadership Team (offsite) 1 PM UWF Board mtg. 2 PM UWF General mtg.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1-5 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 Merit Badge
<b>14</b> 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 4-6 pm Youth Co-op (@ St. Mark's)	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	<b>16</b> 9:30 am-3:30 pm Iowa MMJ 6:30 pm SPPRC	<b>17</b> 9:30 am <i>Zoom study</i> 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	<b>18</b> 6 pm Trustees 6 pm Health & Whole- ness 7 pm Ad Council	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm Confirma- tion field trip	<b>20</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
<b>21</b> 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 4-6 pm Youth Co-op (@ St. Mark's)	<b>22</b> 10 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Mon- day Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 am <i>Zoom study</i> 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	<b>25</b> 12 noon Friendly Fellowship 6:30 pm Missions 6:30 pm Rizpah (UWF)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 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 (NO Youth Co-op)	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 am <i>Zoom study</i> 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	WWG = Wednesday Women's Group CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UWF = United Women in Faith		



























**CARD SHOWER FOR MARCIE BAUGH**



























**ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS!!**  
 If you will be away for the winter, we need your winter address and the exact dates you will be gone. We no longer have access to previous records, so it's important for us to update your information. Send the information at your earliest convenience to: [martib@lovelylane.org](mailto:martib@lovelylane.org).  
 Thanks!!!

## WORSHIP IN JANUARY (& the end of Dec.)

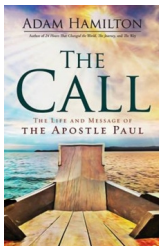
**Dec. 31: 1st Sunday After Christmas;** in-person & live-stream service @ 9:30 AM (one service only) / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 / Sermon: "Simeon and Anna"

**Jan. 7: Baptism of the Lord Sunday & Communion;** in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Mark 1:4-11 / Sermon: "That Starting Over Point"

**Jan. 14: Human Relations Day;** in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 1:43-51 / Sermon: "Come and See! Go and Do!"

**Jan. 21: 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany;** in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Rev. Katie Dawson, Assistant to the Bishop, Iowa Annual Conference

**Jan. 28: 4th Sunday after the Epiphany;** in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina



### Pastor's New Study Group

A new study with Pastor Scott starts on Weds., January 10th. Groups will gather via Zoom at 9:30 am and in the library at 6 pm. The focus is the book *The Call* by Adam Hamilton. The emphasis is the travels of the apostle, Paul. Books should be available after the New Year. All are welcome to participate!

### The Wesley Covenant Prayer

At the beginning of the new year, congregations in the Wesleyan/Methodist family renew their covenant with God using the traditional Covenant Prayer (below). John Wesley adapted this prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his parents, Samuel and Susannah, and life in the Epworth rectory. It informed his theology and preaching. He expected the people called "Methodists" to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant. The prayer describes the life of a participant with Christ in mission. The prayer helps us remember what a Jesus-way of life looks like. (Rev. Steven Manskar, *Discipleship Resources, The United Methodist Church*)

"I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

## FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet on Thursday, January 25th, at noon for a potluck lunch and program. The program will be presented by Sergeant Nathan Trimble from the Cedar Rapids Police Department. He is the head of the KP Unit and will tell us about this program, bringing some of the dogs.

The Cedar Rapids Police Department has seven K9 teams, including six narcotics dogs and a bomb/explosives dog. All the teams are assigned to the Community Services Division and are supervised by Patrol Sergeant Nathan Trimble. They are available seven days a week, providing around the clock service to the community, as a K9 team is assigned to every shift. There is one Dutch Shepherd and six Belgian Malinois on the Department. When not on-duty, the dogs live with their handlers as family pets.

Please join us for this great program. Bring a dish to share and your own table service if you can. Call Judy McDowell (319 560-2960) with any questions.

## Men's Breakfast Gathering

The next gathering is Saturday, January 20th, at 8:30 am. JR Streff is the speaker. All are welcome!



United  
Women  
in Faith

## UWF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR JANUARY '24 & BEYOND

### Lovely Lane UWF Rizpah

Rizpah, of United Women in Faith, meets on Jan. 25th, from 6:30-8 PM (& will continue to meet on the 4th Thurs. of the month). Our topic will be *Living Green*. Be ready to share one or more ideas for living green, both at home and in the church! All women are welcome. Bring a friend or neighbor! Being Methodist or attending Lovely Lane aren't requirements. Contact Deb Streff (319-721-8864) with questions.

### UWF Board & General/Circle Meetings

THE UWF board will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our first board meeting will be January 11th. All members of UWF are welcome to attend.

At 2 PM on the second Thursday of each month, there will be a general/circle meeting. The first meeting will be at 2 PM on January 11th. Remember that all women are welcome. You don't have to be Methodist or a member of Lovely Lane to participate in UWF.

### UWF Golden Valley District 2024 Soul Care Retreat

This retreat takes place Fri.-Sat., April 26-27, @ Crooked Creek Christian Camp Retreat Lodge in Washington, IA (2830 Coppock Rd.). Goals of the retreat include making space to encounter the divine because as individuals we often try to carry the weight of the world, but we need one another, just as we need God. When we take the time to slow down, reflect, and renew, we claim the joy, the hope, and the fulfillment of being in harmony with self and spirit. Retreat leaders are Mary Taeger (Conference Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator), Lynn Calvert (Conference Vice Pres.), and Doris Strait (Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator). Funding for this retreat is made possible by the Barbara Csomay Endowed Gift to Iowa United Women in Faith.

Retreat facility details: The lodge accommodates 3 persons per room with full bath in each room, all bedding and towels provided. Please bring personal care items for your individual use. Fri. evening dinner, Sat. AM breakfast, and Sat. lunch will be provided by the camp. You may bring a snack to share. Wear/bring comfortable clothing and shoes. Some outdoor activities are planned, weather permitting. Check-in time is 3 PM Fri. and check-out time is 2 PM Sat. Feel free to check out the camp website: [www.crookedcreekcamp.org](http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org).

## THANK YOU TO KEVIN CRIST

Kevin Crist served as our chairperson for the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) the last two years. We want to thank him for his service and faithfulness. Kevin did great work for us. Barb Vancura will take over as the new chairperson. Welcome and thanks, Barb. The committee oversees the pastors and the church staff.

## NOTES OF THANKS

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Four Oaks, I **extend my heartfelt gratitude** for your recent generous contribution of two gifts each for 10 children during our Holiday Project, which aims to bring joy and comfort to the children in our care at Four Oaks.

The holiday season can prove to be a challenging time for the children we serve. Many of them will spend this time apart from their families or loved ones, and your thoughtful gift plays a pivotal role in ensuring that these children can celebrate the season and create precious childhood memories to cherish for a lifetime. You are helping us provide these children with the opportunities they deserve to learn, grow, and thrive.

Your support truly makes a world of difference in the lives of children in need, especially during this holiday season. Once again, thank you for your kind-hearted gift. *Mary Beth O'Neill, President & CEO*

**Many thanks** to Pastor Scott and our Lovely Lane Family for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls over the past few months. Three of Virginia's family members have been dealing with medical issues since September, a friend passed and Jerry had his ankle surgery on November 27. We are truly blessed to belong to such a kind and caring congregation. *Blessings to you all---Jerry & Virginia Weiland*

**KID'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY:** For the first time, Kid's Club and Youth Group teamed with United Women in Faith to celebrate Christmas on Weds., Dec. 6th, from 5:30-7:30 PM. The UWF prepared the meal, staff of Kids' Club planned craft activities, and Carla Jesse and Marcie Stumpf led the joyous Christmas songs. Sixty Christmas cookies to be decorated by kids and youth were made by Heather Hingtgen, owner of [heatherscakestudio.com](http://heatherscakestudio.com). Decorating was a beautiful mess with frosting and sprinkles everywhere, but it was voted a favorite!! **THANKS TO HEATHER & THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED! IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!** *Deb Streff, UWF*

**Many thanks** from residents of the front office for all of the wonderful Christmas cards, candy, cookies, breads, Chex Mix, and other goodies. Some of us may have to go on (or back on) diets now, but we all really appreciate your expressions of gratitude and love. You are a generous and giving congregation, not just at Christmas—but throughout the entire year. *Pastor Scott, Pastor Kristina, Sue Moss & Marti Bowman*

**Many thanks as well** to all of our wonderful volunteers! We won't attempt to name them all, but they include our office volunteers, pew crew, bulletin and bulk mail assemblers, coffee makers, kitchen workers—just to name a few! Thank you for EVERYTHING you do for Lovely Lane and for its staff!!

## YOUTH CO-OP

- Jan. 7th: No Co-op
- Jan. 14th: Winter Games & Puerto Rican Epiphany, 4 to 6 pm at St. Marks United Methodist Church
- Jan. 21st: Learning about the traditions & practices of Chinese New Year from guest speaker, 4 to 6 pm @ St. Marks United Methodist Church
- Jan. 28th: No Co-op

## WEDS. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

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

- Jan. 3rd: No Youth Group
- Jan. 10th: Addressing Mental Health: You are Loved
- Jan. 17th: Addressing Mental Health: Mental Health and the Demonic
- Jan. 24th - Addressing Mental Health: FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)
- Jan. 31st: Addressing Mental Health: Stress & Burnout

*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](mailto:ryan@lovelylane.org).*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & KID'S CLUB

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

Kid's Club is on Weds. at 5:30 PM (meal followed by program @ 6 PM). 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](mailto:anniew@lovelylane.org)

## HAPPY ENDINGS



Our book discussion club, Happy Endings, will meet on Monday, January 8th, at 10:00 AM in Fireside. The book we will discuss is "Braiding Sweet Grass" by Robin Wall Kammerer.

**Everyone is welcome to join us!**

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS/SERVANTS

Go to the church's website ([www.lovelylane.org](http://www.lovelylane.org)) to sign up as a Worship Volunteer Servant: greeter, usher, lector, and/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! If you need help, call the church office and Sue or Marti can sign you up online.

## November Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 51,063
Cash inflow—YTD	\$538,494
Budget need/month	\$ 47,614
Cash outflow—mo. of Nov.	\$ 40,684
Cash outflow—YTD	\$547,838
Unpaid apportionments	\$ 0

## Our Stewardship theme this year

was "Becoming a Tremendous Church."

If you have not yet completed your commitment card, please prayerfully consider your giving level for the new year and return the card to the church office. Additional commitment cards are available in the Narthex.

## Remembering with love:

David Nicholas.....2021

Caroline Moen.....2022

## Concerns & Celebrations

### **JOYS:**

- \*Holiday gatherings & family time
- \*Celebrating our new members to the church, joined 12/3 & 12/10
- \*Successful Nourished presence & sales at Nature's Noel event
- \*Audrey Roth-Klinck feeling better after an illness
- \*Happy birthdays to Helena Turner & Cindy Turner
- \*Kid's Club et al. Winter Wonderland gathering at church on 12/6
- \*Christmas Music Extravaganza with multiple churches at St. Paul's UMC on 12/7
- \*First advent offering recipient-Hillcrest Family Services
- \*Second Infant & Toddler Sunday School class 12/10
- \*LL's Statement of Inclusion was written 20 yrs. ago
- \*Lovely Lane movie day to see "Journey to Bethlehem" as private showing in the theater
- \*Dan & Kim Moore celebrating 2<sup>nd</sup> grandbaby due on Father's Day
- \*Reid Pakkebieer
- \*College final exams
- \*Family time at the holidays
- \*Children's Christmas pageant in 2<sup>nd</sup> service 12/17
- \*Nourished with a successful sustainable wrapping paper workshop
- \*Jerry Weiland expresses appreciation for prayers re a procedure
- \*Shirley Martin back in worship after a procedure
- \*Sherry Minor back in worship after surgery
- \*Cathy Homard back in worship after a procedure
- \*Sharilyn Forcht's daughter's surgery went well
- \*Dave & Linda Keefe with their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- \*Sue & Jim Moss with their 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary (same date as Keefes')
- \*Christopher Hauser starting a teaching position in the Peace Corps
- \*College students with recent graduations
- \*Christmas celebrations with family & friends
- \*Christmas Eve worship services (3:30, 5:30 & 7:30 PM)
- \*Barb Olive is feeling better
- \*Rob Olive celebrates 25 years of service working at McGrath Chevyland
- \*Mark Dillman's father, John, joined us in worship
- \*Blessing of the livestream service each week
- \*Nancy Patrick celebrates our wonderful chancel choir

### **CONCERNS:**

- \*Memorial service for Karla Morris on 12/1
- \*Sympathy to Margaret Nelson after the passing of her cousin, Dave
- \*Jim Moss's co-worker, Todd, passed away
- \*Linda Keefe's co-worker's son with a sudden passing
- \*Mary Brabston's co-worker's grandson died after an accident
- \*Sympathy as Liz Roland's classmate's father passed
- \*Perkins seminary professor, Charles Aaron, passed
- \*Remembering Rosalynn Carter, Sandra Day O'Connor, & Henry Kissinger
- \*Wanda Whitford hospitalized after a fall
- \*ReGina Culbertson following hospitalization
- \*Jack Murphy following hospitalization
- \*Marci Wittles following hospitalization
- \*Shirley Martin recovering from surgery
- \*Jerry Weiland recovering from surgery
- \*Tariq Baloch with health challenges
- \*Carol Wishnowski recovering from Covid
- \*Payton Fuess & Jordyn Callahan's son, Granger, hospitalized
- \*Sharilyn Forcht's daughter, Cassie, following surgery
- \*Dorothy Speight's daughter, Katie, following surgery
- \*Barb Olive's mother with health concerns
- \*Nancy Hinkel's father, Tom Rimmer, with health challenges
- \*Marlo Jack's brother, Vick, hospitalized
- \*Dick Jack's brother, Duane, with health challenges
- \*Stephanie French's niece, Jenny, with personal challenges
- \*Pakkebieer family member Amy having heart surgery
- \*Judy McDowell's great nephew Owen w/ongoing health concerns
- \*Dulcie Lauritsen's cousin, Jamie, with cancer concerns
- \*Dan Moore's friend, Norm, with medical challenges
- \*Director Martin of the Riders Club with heart surgery
- \*Family emotions at the holidays
- \*Holiday travel to see loved ones
- \*Military members not able to see family this time of year
- \*Recent mass shootings in our country
- \*Israel & Palestine
- \*Christmas Eve services not able to occur in Bethlehem, Israel
- \*Ukraine
- \*Prayer that peace will roll over the world
- \*Global unrest in many settings
- \*National & international concerns





January Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 62, No. 1  
2424 42nd Street NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

***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	Tara Neveu (lead) Brenda Holub, Paige Gerjets & Claire Van Erde-Wyk
Director of CWM (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