Lovely Lane connection United Methodist Church

March 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

Working Together

"We know that God works all things together for good."

- Romans 8:28 (CEB)

I recently watched a special on Netflix entitled, "The Greatest Night in Pop." The special was terrific. Maybe some of you have seen it? The special is focused on the behind-the-scenes action as the song, "We are the World," was recorded in 1985. The song was produced by Quincy Jones and written by Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson. The motivation was to raise money for famine relief efforts in Ethiopia.

The special showed some of the events that took place behind the scenes. Without sharing too much, we see the strong role that Stevie Wonder played bringing everyone together. He even helped a shy Bob Dylan understand what his part should sound like.

A further highlight was a handwritten note that was placed on the front door. The note said, "Check your ego at the door." With a group that included Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, and Diana Ross, there were some strong personalities present.

As much as anything though, I thought it was wonderful to see different people working together for a common good. With our world polarized today and the strong comments that some share on social media, this is hard. But there's always hope.

Other than recording a hit song, one hope for any group of people is to turn to the writings of St. Augustine, the fifth century philosopher. Augustine provides a wonderful model on coming together with his words, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love." Basically, he is saying that all parties need to find common ground. The parties need to establish what is essential and agree on the basics. From here, all parties need to realize that some things are non-essential, so we can allow some freedom. That's good. With everything though, we need to work together in love. We need to have each other's backs.

These timeless words are not easy to follow, but they provide a nice path to move forward. Might we consider these thoughts today!

Peace and blessings, Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — March 2024								
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
		MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UWF = United Women in Faith	WWG = Wednesday Women's Group CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries		1	2 1-2 pm <i>Nourished</i> book discussion (@ Lion Bridge)		
3 3rd Sunday in Lent & Communion 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 pm Living Last Supper (LLS) practice 4-6 pm Youth Co-op: Improv Show	4 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	5 6:30 pm SPPRC	9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Women's Study for Lent 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Youth Grp. 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	7 8 am4 pm Conference Elders Event 6:30 pm Church Directory Team	8	9		
10 4th Sunday in Lent 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 9:45 am Infant/Toddler Sunday Schl. Class 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese NO Youth Co-op	11 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 7 pm Nourished Monday Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	12	9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Women's Study for Lent 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	14 7:45 am Leadership Team (offsite) 1 pm UWF Board mtg. 2 pm UWF Circle mtg.	15	16 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 1-2 pm Nourished book discussion (@ Lion Bridge)		
17 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 12-2 pm Congolese [Time TBD] Youth Co-op	18 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	19	9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Women's Study for Lent 5:30 pm Family Meal 6 pm Kid's Club 6 pm Youth Grp. 6:15 pm Confirmation (@ Prairiewoods) 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	21 6 pm Trustees 6 pm Health & Wholeness 6:30 pm Rizpah (UWF) 7 pm Ad Council 7 pm Linn Co. UN Assoc. mtg.	7-8:30 pm <i>Nourished</i> Art for Peace (@ Pastor Kristina's)	23		
24 Palm/Pas- sion/Sunday 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 10:30 am Confirmation field trip (Mt. Zion) 12-2 pm Congolese [Time TBD] Youth Co- op: Tanager Place visit 7 pm "Living Last Supper" Presentation	25 10 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 7 pm Nourished Monday Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	26	9:30 am Zoom study 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	28 Maundy Thursday 12 noon Friendly Fellowship 7 pm "Living Last Supper" presentation	29 Good Friday 7 pm Good Friday Worship	30 10 am Easter Egg Hunt 7-9 pm <i>Nourished</i> Easter Vigil (@ Pastor Kristina's)		
31 Easter Sunday with Brunch 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					Easter Egg Hunt Sat., March 30 10 am			

WORSHIP IN MARCH (& 1st Sunday of April)

March 3: 3rd Sunday in Lent & Communion; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Mark 15:31-39 / Sermon: "My God, My God" Seven Words March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent (& Daylight Saving Time begins); in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina / Scripture: John 19:23-27 / Sermon: "Woman, Here Is Your Son" Seven Words

March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 19:28-30 / Sermon: "I am Thirsty" Seven Words

March 24: **Palm/Passion Sunday;** in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Luke 23:44-49 / Sermon: "Into Your Hands" **Seven Words**

March 24: "Living Last Supper" Presentation; 7 PM

March 28: Maundy Thursday, "Living Last Supper" Presentation; 7 PM

March 29: Good Friday Worship; 7 PM

March 31: **Easter Sunday;** in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: John 20:1-18 / Sermon: "Return, Remember, and Report"

April 7: **Confirmation Sunday;** in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina will preach

"Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!"

A few weeks ago I went into Barnes & Noble to purchase a book I've been wanting. Not finding it, I walked up to an employee and asked, "Do you have the book "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!" by Kate Bowler?" He raised his eyebrows at me, probably wondering if a title like that is even a book! He looked it up on the computer, and took me to it. I was excited to pick it up. Kate Bowler is one of my favorite theologians, writers, and soul persons. She writes about the hard stuff that none of us want to talk about. She uses words to describe our feelings in powerful ways—ways I've never found from many other authors. She always hits me deep in my soul. So her book "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day" acknowledges the ups, downs, and everything in-between. It acknowledges that yes, sometimes our life is wonderful and our day is absolutely tersometimes our life is wonderful and our day is absolutely terrific, and sometimes, it's absolutely horrible and getting out of bed in the AM feels like an accomplish that deserves a medal. Our culture is one that thrives on toxic positivity. Yes, trying to be happy when you're really not takes a toll on your mental health. Kate tries to provide an alternative to toxic positivity in her books. She's trying to "find better language than forced positivity to express our hopes and our anxieties."

So here's a blessing when you are overwhelmed and stressed.

No matter how much planning,
Anticipating, making lists,
there are always daily fires.
When is the appointment?
There's been a delay at the Pharmacy,
The pickup line, the checkout counter.
Who needs to pick up groceries again?
Pack, bathe, rummage, drive, launder, call. (cont'd.)

(continued...)

Somewhere at the center of me is this love that whirs.
It ticks like an atomic clock.
I will love them all hours and my days.
Every calendar page can be told as a story,
Thousands of dates and times,
That I love them, show up for them,
Care for them.

But Lord, somewhere at the center of me
Is an alarm bell, ringing.
This rare and precious life you give,
All my hours and my days,
Are being carefully placed into boxes
And packed away by this schedule,
These errands,
These acts of good, good service.

These acts of good, good service.

No matter how much forethought,
Working ahead, "life hacking,"
I will never finish it all.

So give me a fresh sense of urgency.
When is the sunrise?
Read me a poem.
Who here has an amazingly
Embarrassing story?

There will need to be a delay At the pharmacy, the pickup line, And the checkout counter. You are giving me back this day.

(Kate Bowler, "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day," Page 133) Peace, Pastor Kristina

"Living Last Supper"

The "Living Last Supper" brings Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting to life. The production includes drama, music, and holy communion. Performances will take place at the church on March 24 and 28 at 7 PM. A performance is also scheduled for Cottage Grove Place on March 22. All are welcome!



UWF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR MARCH 2024 Lovely Lane UWF Rizpah

THANK YOU TO ALL THE WOMEN WHO DONATED COOKIES FOR OUR LOVELY LANE FRIENDS WHO AREN'T ABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY. We made 15 boxes of Valentine's treats and delivered to 15 different homes. I don't know how long it took others to deliver, but it took me almost 2 hours to deliver to 3 homes in Methwick. However, I had wonderful conversations and met 2 new people. We also had enough cookies to provide snacks for the preschool and after school programs, AND enough to put out on Sunday! THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED! BOARD MEETING: 2nd Thursday of the month at 1 PM, March 14th. ALL United Women in Faith are welcome to attend this meeting! WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A SECRETARY for our board. Please call Deb if you want more information.

CIRCLE MEETING: 2nd Thursday of the month at 2 PM, March 14th. ALL United Women in Faith are welcome to attend. This meeting will act as a planning meeting for the year – to plan events and purpose for the circle! WE WILL FINALIZE PLEDGES at this time. REMEMBER WE HAVE A DONOR WHO WILL MATCH UP TO \$1000.00 in donations!!

RIZPAH CIRCLE: This month we meet on March 21st, at 6:30 PM (due to Maundy Thursday being on March 28th). This group focuses on social concerns and issues. In March, our speaker will be Stephanie Heifner on the topic of making ourselves more green. We will finalize pledges at this time. If you need a babysitter or more info. on any meetings, please call Deb at 319-721-8864.

PLEASE COME TO ONE OR ALL OF OUR MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES.

In Christian Faith, Deb Streff,

UWF President, Lovely Lane UMC

Men's Breakfast Gathering

The next gathering will be Saturday, March 16, at 8:30 am. Community member, Chris Scaffidi, will speak about his faith journey and work with The Pacific Institute.



GREEN SQUARE MEALS

We need Green Square Meals volunteers! The next date is March 21st, 3:55 pm—arrival time. (We serve meals on the 3rd Thurs, of every mo.) 6 volunteers are needed. Contact Carmen Johnson with any questions you have (cfjohnson0802@gmail.com; 319-651-1192).

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

FF meets on March 28 at noon for a potluck lunch and program. The program is Sergeant Nathan Trimble, head of the K9 Unit from the CR Police Dept. He'll tell us about this program, bringing some of the dogs.

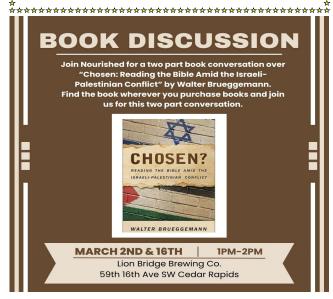
The CR Police Dept. has 7 K9 teams, including 6 narcotics dogs and a bomb/explosives dog. All of the teams are assigned to the Community Services Division and are supervised by Sergeant Trimble. They're available 7 days a week, providing around the clock service to the community. There are 1 Dutch Shepherd and 6 Belgian Malinois in the department. When not on duty, the dogs live with their handlers as family pets.

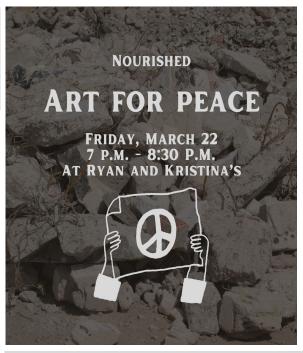
Join us for a great program, bring a dish to share, your table service, and invite a friend! (Judy McDowell, 319-560-2960)

HAPPY ENDINGS BOOK CLUB

Happy Endings will meet on Mon., March 11th, at 10 AM in Fireside. The book we'll discuss is *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.

The book explores the secrets and struggles of a diverse community in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in 1972. The title refers to the grocery store where the characters meet and the values that sustain them in dark times.





Lent and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Centering:

Monday, March 11th 7pm-8:30pm Monday, March 25th 7pm-8:30pm Easter Vigil:

Saturday, March 30th 7pm-9pm
Each at Pastor Kristina's



NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

Plans are in place to put together a new church photo directory. Photos will take place during the latter part of April. We're looking to do the directory in-house. More information is coming!

INFANT AND TODDLER INDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS DESIGNED FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES. THIS TIME FOR PARENTS ND LITTLE ONES WILL INCLUDE A TODDLER CUSED BIBLE STORY, MUSIC, AND SENSORY EXPLORATION CENTERS



NEXT CLASS: MARCH IOTH 9:45AM-10:15AM PRESCHOOL WING AT



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. meal for Kid's Club. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions and/or would like to volunteer to help. Thank you!

Annie Walker, Dir. of Family Ministries, anniew@lovelulane.ora

YOUTH CO-OP

3/3: Improv Show with Living Improverty, 4-6 PM @ St. Paul's

3/10: NO Co-op

3/17: Learning About Saints & Finding Saints in

3/24: Visit to Tanager Place

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

3/6, 3/20 & 3/27 (3/13 falls during Spring Break): The Lovely Lane & St. Paul's combined Weds. night youth group will talk about Happiness throughout the season of Lent.

Summer 2024 trips: The middle school trip to Kansas City, MO is June 20-23. The high school trip to Memphis, TN is July 13-19. The high school trip will focus on those building relationships with our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We'll also consider how our faith traditions can help quide us when we encounter injustice in our world. Each trip has 20 spots available.

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

Chancel Choir Spotlight

March 3: "Come Home" (Page & Shafferman) The quiet strains of "Just As I Am" open this gospel hymn medley. Verses of "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" and "Jesus is Tenderly Calling" unfold, signaling the believer's response to Christ's call: "O Lamb of God I come!"

March 10: "In the Name of the Lord" (Gaither, Mc-Hugh, Patty, & McDonald) People gather on the streets to see the carpenter from Galilee. They see in His eyes the hearts of all men, the strength, power, and hope in the name of the During Lord. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

March 17: "Above the Hills of Time" (Irish Traditional Medley) The text is by Thomas Tiplady, (b. 1882, d. 1967), who wrote this well-known Lenten text. It is combined with the beloved Londonderry Air, "O Danny Boy".

March 24: Palm Sunday - Bell Choir

March 28: Maundy Thursday - Chancel Choir Quartet - "Follow Me!" (South Carolina Spiritual, arr. Carter)

March 31: Easter Sunday - " Alleluia! He is Alive!(Poorman & Galliford) The tomb is empty. They knew Him as a man but now see Him as the King of Kings, the Son of God.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS/SERVANTS

Go to LL'swebsite (www.lovelylane.org) to sign up as a Worship Volunteer Servant (greeter, usher, lector, &/or communion server). You'll find sign-up links for the 8:30 and 10:30 AM services listed under Worship Servant Signup. Check your calendar and choose a date(s) to serve! If you need help, call the office and Sue or Marti can sign you up online.

January Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Jan.	\$ 73,114
Cash inflow—YTD	\$ 73,114
Budget need/month	\$ 53,556
Cash outflow—mo. of Jan.	\$ 47,445
Cash outflow—YTD	\$ 47,445
Unpaid apportionments	\$ 0

Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

- *Thanks to Pastor Kristina for playing piano while Dennis was away (2/4)
- *Wonderful choir anthem in worship
- *Happy 55th anniversary to Jim & Myrna Loehrlein
- *Teri Krumm celebrates her daughter's birthday
- *Dick Harmon with organ performance for the public
- *Appreciation to all those who clean public restrooms
- *Joy of driving when stoplights are all green
- *Super Bowl Sunday subs & soup from the youth group (2/11)
- *Sports clothes worn in worship reflecting favorite schools & teams
- *Pastor Kristina preaching at Hope UMC in Marshalltown promoting Nourished
- *Welcome back to organist/pianist Dennis Ramsey
- *Dave Keefe feeling better after health challenges
- *Sue Moss's brother-in-law Steve in AZ doing better
- *Health & Wholeness sponsoring a brunch on 3/3
 *Visitors in worship
- *Visitors in worship
- *Travis Meiborg's brother inducted into basketball hall of fame at his school
- *Caitlin Clark breaking women's most points record *Sporting events in general
- *Celebrating our nonagenarian church members, 90+ in age (2/25)
- *Lifting up Marcie Baugh & Lucille King reaching 100 in age
- *Jessica Hinke's stepmother's mother celebrating her 100th birthday
- *Happy birthday to Travis Meiborg!
- *Cathy Meiborg safely home after a trip to Florida
- *Pastor Kristina's father, Jim Roth, with a poetry presentation
- *Nourished Community with study focus on Israel & Palestine conflict
- *High school students with achievements in academics, arts, & athletics
- *Celebrating ways to display "outlandish generosity" to others

Remembering with love:

Marge Thornton......2018

Karmen Shedenhelm.....2020

Dawn Nylin.....2022

Mike Shaffer.....2023

Lucy Tabelisma......2023

Esther Noack......2023

CONCERNS:

- *Nancy Hinkel & Reva Rimmer as they grieve the loss of Nancy's father / Reva's husband, Tom Rimmer
- *Sympathy to Cathy Homard & family on the passing of her mother
- *Sympathy to Jim & Barb Vancura after passing of Barb's uncle, Walter
- *Sympathy to Barb Olive after the passing of her Aunt Sharon
- *McGrath family after passing of Mary Kay McGrath *Jane Schildroth reflecting on the passing of her mentor, Carol
- *Sympathy to Jan Peterson & her friend whose daughter, Mary Beth Spencer Payne, died at 53 of ALS
- *Chris Tanner, Carmen Johnson's partner, hospitalized
- *ReGina Culbertson with ongoing health concerns
- *Jack Murphy with ongoing health concerns
- *Dennis Ramsey, our organist/pianist, recovering from a broken ankle
- *Teri Krumm with Covid challenges
- *Don & Wanda Whitford adjusting to life at Emery Place
- *Madison Esker as she moves into her career as a veterinarian
- *Heather Hingtgen's father, Ray, with health matters
- *Jan Loftus' son with health issues
- *Rose Blank's daughter, Sarah, with health concerns & testing
- *Mari Lu Smith's aunt, Sister Lucille, after a fall
- *Judy McDowell's great nephew, Owen, with continuing health concerns
- *Pastor Scott's Aunt Kara with health challenges
- *Colin's great uncle, Jesse, following a heart attack
- *Jan Culbertson's co-worker, Lou, with a delicate family matter
- *Marla Gonzalez's friend Nicole with an upcoming surgery
- *Teri Krumm's friend Pam with alcoholism challenges
- *Restaurant Week; chefs and restaurant workers under stress
- *All those who struggle with anxiety and depression
- *Shooting at the Kansas City Chief's Super Bowl Parade
- *Community in Oklahoma after nonbinary student passed away
- *State of Alabama after IVF ruling
- *National & international concerns

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March Monthly Newsletter, Vol. 62, No. 3 2424 42nd Street NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

United Methodist Church

Find out more about us:

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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

Dawn DuPont Director of CWM

(Children's Weekday Ministries)

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Wedding Coordinator Becky Wood