

Lovely Lane *connection* United Methodist Church

April 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

Journey to Emmaus

"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!"

– Luke 24:39 (NIV)

One of classic Easter stories is the "Journey to Emmaus" from Luke's Gospel. In the story we read about two followers of Jesus who are trying to ponder what has taken place after his death. These two go for a walk and they are in disbelief. They had truly come to love Jesus. And now, in his early 30's, he had died.

Cleopas, and an unnamed companion, walk toward Emmaus. A fellow traveler joins them. Luke tells us the stranger is Jesus, but the disciples themselves are "kept from recognizing him." Jesus asks the two, "What were you discussing?" One of them, Cleopas, responds, "Are you the only one who doesn't know what took place in Jerusalem this past week?" And they share everything that happened. Cleopas and his companion can't see past the empty tomb though, which is no sign of victory to them.

So Jesus tries to explain it all. He gives them a thorough Bible study through the law and the prophets and says, "Don't you understand this is all part of the plan we talked about?" Clearly they do not.

By now, it's late. So they offer Jesus a place to lay his head for the night and they sit down to a meal together, and their guest takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. And it's in these movements their eyes are opened.

It's when their tears give way and they look up from the table then, that they see who has been journeying with them. It is Jesus after all! The tomb, the angels, the women . . . can it really be true? It is all coming back to them now . . . they see.

Jesus shows up when we most expect it. Jesus comes to us in the sacraments and the scriptures and the fellowship of believers. Yet, Jesus also comes when we least expect it. Might we be open to the presence of Christ that can change us forever!

Easter blessings, Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	2	3 9:30 am Zoom study 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Youth Grp. 6:00 pm Confirmation 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	4 6:30 pm Church Photo Directory Team	5	6
7 Confirmation Sunday (10:30) 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 (TBD) Youth Co-op 2-5 pm Cub Scout Pack 88 Pinewood Derby	8 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Mon- day Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	9	10 9:30 am Zoom study 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Youth Grp. 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	11 7:45 am Leadership Team (offsite) 1 pm UWF Board mtg. 2 pm Elizabeth Circle (UWF) mtg.	12	13
14 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 9:45 am Infant/Tod- dler Sun. Schl. Class 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese (TBD) Youth Co-op	15 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	16 9:30 am-3:30 pm Iowa MMJ 6:30 pm SPPRC 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 Youth Leadership Training	17 9:30 am Zoom study 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Youth Grp. 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	18 6 pm Health & Whole- ness 6:30 pm Missions 7 pm Linn Co. UN Assoc. mtg.	19	20 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
21 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 (TBD) Youth Co-op	22 10 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Mon- day Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	23	24 9:30 am Zoom study 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Youth Grp. 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 7:15 pm Bell Choir	25 12 noon Friendly Fellowship 6:30 pm Rizpah Circle (UWF)	26	27 2 pm <i>Nourished</i> Nature Hike (@ Prairie Park Fishery)
28 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 (TBD) Youth Co-op	29 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	30	MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UWF = United Women in Faith	CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries		

Pastor's Study Group: A new study begins on Wednesday, April 3rd. The focus is the book, "The Gospel of Mark," by Amy-Jill Levine. Sessions will take place on Wednesday morning via Zoom at 9:30 and Wednesday evening in the library at 6:00. Everyone is welcome!

"LIVING LAST SUPPER" THANK YOU & AN INVITATION: Thank you to those who participated in the "Living Last Supper." Additional thanks to everyone who attended. We look forward to possibilities next year. It's always a good experience!

Participants in the LLS are invited to a gathering at Pines Pizza on **Sunday, April 21st, @ 6 PM**. The restaurant is located across the street from the Twin Pines Golf Course on 42nd Street. *Pastor Scott*

WORSHIP IN APRIL

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

April 14: **3rd Sunday of Easter**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Psalm 103:1-8 / Sermon: "Lessons from St. Thomas Aquinas"

Difference Makers

April 21: **4th Sunday of Easter**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Acts 5:27-32 / Sermon: "Lessons from Jan Hus" *Difference Makers*

April 28: **5th Sunday of Easter**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Psalm 119:1-8, 108-110 / Sermon: "Lessons from St. Teresa of Avila"

Difference Makers



Join community member
Betsy Baertlein as she leads us
in a Quaker style
Centering in April.

April 8th and April 22nd
7:00 PM-8:30pm
Ryan and Kristina's
3000 Carroll Drive SE
Cedar Rapids, IA

INFANT AND TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

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

NEXT CLASS:
APRIL 14TH
9:45AM-10:15AM
PRESCHOOL WING AT
LOVELY LANE

"Finding God in Everyday Moments"

As I've mentioned before in worship, I tend to be someone who gets a bit anxious. Stress has been a life-long struggle for me and getting shingles my Junior year of college was a bit of an eye opener for me. As I've gotten older, I've gotten better about handling my stress and doing more to relax. And now as a mother, I have basically surrendered to the fact that my house will never stay clean. This morning I picked up some toys in the bathroom after brushing my teeth, and 5 minutes later when I swung back through to put something where it belongs, I chuckled. All the toys I had just put away were now all over the floor once again. Cleaning as a mother to a toddler is like cleaning the floor with mud instead of soap!

In many ways, I think we could all learn a little from the littles in our midst. Audrey is so good at reminding me to take a rest, to stop what I'm doing, whether it be doing the dishes, folding some clothes, sending an email, or resting on the couch, to just take a moment to read her the book or play with the toy she brought me. Sometimes I have no choice because she'll cry and get frustrated if I don't stop chopping vegetables. Those moments will end eventually, and she won't be little like that forever, so I'm happy to stop chopping the vegetables to read "Abby's Book of Rhymes" for the 234th time or go outside and notice everything with her.

God is often working through little ones to get us to pay attention, get us to stop and rest. And God is also working through the bird that catches our attention or the license plate that says, "Sabbath" in front of us at the red light. God can speak and nudge us to take care of ourselves, but it's up to us to respond to it and actually do it. I think we all can learn to let some things go, just for a little bit, just as I have surrendered to the fact that my house will look like a toddler lives here. As my grandma always used to say, "Let Go and let God!" *Pastor Kristina*



United Women in Faith

UWF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR APRIL 2024

TO ALL CHURCH MEMBERS: We need donations to fund programs internationally and within our church. Please help! **Donations matched up to \$1,000!**

Lovely Lane’s United Women in Faith (UWFaith) has been focusing on one area of priority: climate justice and sustainability. Rizpah Circle has welcomed 3 speakers on the topic. First, was Rose Blank who shared Franciscan Theology and their views on climate justice. Second, was Susan Camp who assisted us in looking at our use of *throw-away products* in our church such as paper plates, napkins, and plastic silverware. Third, was Stephanie Heifner who, with a team, helped St. Paul’s UMC become an exemplary church for sustainability.

The UWFaith at LL has begun taking one step at a time to make our church more green. Our first action was making 50 cloth napkins that can be used by any group in the church—just wash and return. The UWFaith will be using real plates and silverware for all their events. We encourage other groups to increase your use of real plates and silverware. Every little bit helps!

BOARD MEETING: 2nd Thursday, April 11th, at 1 PM. We will continue to plan upcoming events. We could use help with ideas and planning. All are welcome! We need you!!

ELIZABETH CIRCLE: 2nd Thurs., April 11th, at 2 PM. We’ll be working on making more cloth napkins. Please let Deb Streff know if you can bring a portable sewing machine, an iron, a pair of sewing scissors, and/or a portable ironing board. Sustainability will be discussed as we work, AND we’ll enjoy coffee and snacks. Will someone bring snack? Let me know.

RIZPAH CIRCLE: Last Thursday, April 25th, at 6:30 PM. Topic: TBD.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH DAY APART (District event): Friday, April 12th, at St. Paul’s UMC. Speaker is Alice Garrick from Pakistan. RSVP to Deb Streff at 319-721-8864 **by April 8th**. We will gather at 9:30 AM with program beginning at 10:00. Salad luncheon at noon. **JOIN ME!!**

Men’s Breakfast Gathering

Next gathering is Saturday, April 20th, at 8:30 AM. Curt Pakkebier, LLUMC member, will speak about his experiences as the Boys Track and Field coach at Kennedy High School. All are welcome!

Would You Be Interested In A Day Trip via Charter Coach? If you might be, then we are interested in hearing from you. The Metro United Methodist Churches are considering putting together a day trip to an enjoyable destination. While there are many destination possibilities, we are open to your suggestions. **Any destinations you might have in mind?** If so, we can determine the level of interest to see if the support is there. Please contact Scott Seibert by April 7th (sdseibert1@aol.com or 319-393-3785). Your show of interest does not obligate you in any way. *Scott Seibert*

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings Book Club will meet on Monday, April 8th, at 10 AM in Fireside. The book we’ll discuss is *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah.

GREEN SQUARE MEALS

Six volunteers are needed for Green Square Meals! April’s date is 4/18, 3:55 pm arrival time. (Lovely Lane serves meals on the 3rd Thurs, of the mo.) Contact Carmen Johnson with any questions you have(cfjohnson0802@gmail.com; 319-651-1192).

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

FF will meet on Thurs., April 25th, at noon for a potluck lunch and program. Diana Nollen, Arts & Entertainment Writer for The Gazette, will present our program. She provides an inside look at music, theater, art, and everything entertainment, and things to do in The Corridor. Please join us for this great program, bring a dish to share, and your own table service. And, please invite a friend! *Judy McDowell (319-560-2960)*



Thank You Notes

To all my lovely friends at Lovely Lane UMC, thank you. Your card and cookies were appreciated for reaching out to me for Valentine's Day. And your prayers are always appreciated. Hearing from you always makes me smile. And your prayers are always bringing smiles. Thank you for remembering me. *In God's love, Carol Wilson*

Thank you to each and every one of you who sent cards, gave me hugs, spoke kind words, & most of all prayed for me and my family after the death of my son, Adam. I am so grateful to be here with you at Lovely Lane. *Marti Bowman*

Les, Thank you and the Missions Committee for the generous gift of school supplies. The supplies help our teachers meet the needs of our students. Thank you! *The Pierce Panther Team*

Dear Lovely Lane Members, I extend my deepest appreciation for your gifts* that make critical differences for Linn County neighbors in need. Donations like your winter gear and personal items augment financial gifts to ECCF and our Helping Hands Ministry. We assist neighbors with rent, utilities, auto gas, and ID's, accompanied by financial and life coaching, personal care items, household soaps, referrals, and information, including a variety of community resource lists. Your gifts help our neighbors to turn their luck around....

A single mom who was looking for auto gas also got encouragement, winter gear, and laundry soap. A man who took a list of staffing agencies came back right away to say he had a job! A young person who had been unhoused for years finally has stable housing. Every request here is an opportunity for our most vulnerable neighbors to review appropriate resources and options. This takes time. We're lucky to have you joining in this work. You've helped hand hope to people who need it very much. I'd be delighted to visit more with each of you to learn more about you and your concerns for neighbors in need. *Robin Switzer Brunner, C.O.O., Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF)*

[*Your gifts included at least: 23 gloves, 19 hats, 2 scarves, 1 pair of earmuffs, 9 rolls of toilet paper, 3 bath puffs, 142 toothbrushes, 169 personal care items, 8 full-size shampoos, a big toothpaste & a big bar of soap. It was hard to count, because people who were coming in as it was donated were needing some of those items before we could log the gift. Thank you to Pastor Scott and to Sue for taking time to deliver and visit!]

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). We no longer ask you to sign up for the Weds. meal.

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

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

YOUTH CO-OP

April 7, April 14, April 21 & April 28—TBD

WEDS. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

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

Dates are April 3, April 10, April 17 & April 24.

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. Each trip has 20 spots available.

The middle school trip is an introduction to help students understand the LGBTQI+ community and how our faith traditions call us to encounter ourselves and others as beloved human beings. We feel it is important to create an intentional and safe space where students can ask questions and learn with adults who can help connect the dots to how faith and identity are interrelated. We will meet with experts and queer pastors to help us understand terminology and language, and to hear about the challenges and joys of queer community experiences.

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 guide us when we encounter injustice in our world.

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

Chancel Choir Spotlight

April 7: I Know That My Redeemer Lives – Craig Courtney

How could a child sing the mighty statement of faith found in the 19th chapter of Job? This anthem, written in memory of 11-year-old Janna Miller, is imbued with the sincerity and simplicity of child-like faith. We will hear the well-known I Corinthians 13 in which we are told that our understanding will be made perfect when we see God. Listen as the choir sings this anthem and think of the child who had such wonderful faith the short time she was on earth.

April 14: Lord, Here Am I – John Ness Beck, Text by Fannie Crosby

Fannie Crosby, whose story as a blind hymnist has inspired composers worldwide, penned the text for this anthem. Never before has this particular text been set to music. It provides an answer to discipleship we all work to model on a daily basis, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I".

April 21: Concertato on All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name – Setting by Hal H. Hopson

The use of this hymn in various forms and many languages is very extensive in the number of hymnbooks in which it is found in one form or another. It ranks with the first 10 hymns in the English language. Published in over 3394 hymnals, the text by Edward Perronet, a vicar in England in the 1700's. The tune is by Oliver Holden who lived in the late 1700s to early 1800s. Our talented accompanist, Linda Bayliss, will be accompanying us on the organ.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS/SERVANTS

Go to LL's website (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.

February Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of Feb.	\$ 56,985
Cash inflow—YTD	\$130,099
Budget need/month	\$ 53,556
Cash outflow—mo. of Feb.	\$ 54,687
Cash outflow—YTD	\$102,132
Unpaid apportionments	\$ 0

Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

- *March birthdays & anniversaries for LL members
- *Celebrating 15 years on staff for Eric Wylie
- *Lifting up the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters
- *Delicious brunch by Health & Wholeness on 3/3
- *Greetings from families of nonagenarian church members
- *Bishop's Women's Retreat held at Prairiewoods
- *Lynn Heidt's dad had his 97th birthday on 3/10
- *Susan Camp's mom Esther recognized as one of *Nine Who Care* (volunteer award) at 89 years old
- *Jan Robinson & Jessica Hinke's trip to Colorado for a relative's 100th birthday
- *Sue Moss's husband partially retiring from Hy-Vee
- *Plans moving forward for an in-house church photo directory
- *University of Iowa Women's Basketball Victory in Big Ten Championship
- *Spring Break travel
- *St. Patrick's Day celebrations
- *Happy birthday to Molly Schultz
- *Celebrating the ministry of the Health & Wholeness Committee
- *Wedding congratulations for Ryan Hupp & Melissa Albers
- *Sharilyn Forcht with family celebrations, including new great grandchild
- *Children's presence in Sunday worship
- *Confirmation class visit to Mt. Zion Church on 3/24
- *Happy 10th birthday to Teri Krumm's granddaughter, Natalie
- *Harry Widmer with new great-grandchild
- *Lent Special Offering recipients
- **Living Last Supper* performances at Cottage Grove Place & at Lovely Lane
- *Good Friday worship service
- *Easter Vigil with *Nourished* Community on Sat., 3/30, @ Pastor Kristina's
- *Easter celebrations with family & friends
- *Happy 98th birthday to Corrine Davey
- *Millie Corbett celebrates family members in worship
- *Appreciation for our wonderful choir

CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to the family of Marge Morris following her death; her funeral was on 3/8
- *Sympathy to Larry Root after the passing of his wife, Mary Ann
- *Sympathy to Marti Bowman after the passing of her son, Adam
- *Sympathy to Michele Haines after the passing of her stepfather
- *Sympathy to Michele Haines & family after the passing of her uncle, Larry
- *Sympathy to Curtis & Maggie Thomas after the passing of his cousin, Charles
- *Sympathy to Diana Rettig's niece, Allison, after the passing of her husband
- *Sympathy to Travis Meiborg after the passing of friend, Char
- *Sympathy to Patty Logsdon after the passing of a childhood friend
- *Sue Moss's frnd., Katie, after passing of her husband
- *Judy McDowell celebrates the long life of Mrs. Kathleen Todd
- *Darla Reed-Tinderholt's co-worker's son passed
- *Perkins Seminary community after the passing of Rebekah Miles's husband, Len
- *Verlis Miller with hospitalization
- *Jack Murphy with ongoing health challenges
- *Regina Culbertson with ongoing health challenges
- *Carol Wilson with ongoing health concerns
- *Jeff Blank recovering after a surgical procedure
- *Bev Kadlec recovering after hospitalization
- *Heather Hingtgen's father with health challenges
- *Mike Nesslage's father with health challenges
- *Pam Nixon's cousin, Alison, with chemo treatments
- *Dulcie Lauritsen's cousin, Clark, after a motorcycle accident
- *Dan Moore's friend, Norm, having radiation therapy
- *Tariq Baloch receiving hospice care
- *Maggie Thomas's great nephew Arlo w/skiing injury
- *Pastor Kristina's mother in-law's husband Jim home recovering from heart surgery
- *Phil Martin lifts up Ruth Hess receiving hospice care
- *Darla Reed-Tinderholt's best friend's younger sister, Candy, following a heart attack
- *Misha & André in Ukraine
- *Lifting up family members we won't see at Easter
- *Time change & tax season challenges
- *Communities in the Midwest impacted by tornadoes
- *City of Baltimore following the bridge collapse
- *International concerns in Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Moscow

Remembering with love:

Scott Ernst.....2018

Richard Rainville.....2019

Mary Smith.....2020

Al Stiers.....2021

Jack Sackett.....2021



Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church

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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) Paige Gerjets Kyla Mulnik
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