

Lovely Lane *connection* United Methodist Church

May 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**

General Conference 2024

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" – Matthew 28:19 (NRSV)

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church is currently taking place in Charlotte, North Carolina. This gathering of United Methodist leaders and delegates takes place every four years (and continues through May 3). Our denomination does not have a Pope or President who makes the decisions for our religious body. Our decision making authority is the General Conference.

As we have shared in worship services recently, a focus this year is Recognize-Revision-Removal (3 R's). There is a strong desire for many to "Recognize" regional conferences so United Methodists in different parts of the world can make decisions that fit their geographic area. Positive movement in this direction took place on April 25 as legislation passed that aims to give different geographic regions equal standing in decision-making. Annual Conferences, like the Iowa Annual Conference, will need to approve this measure with a two-thirds vote.

Another key area is "Revision" of the Social Principles. The Social Principles serve as our stated convictions on pressing social issues. The principles focus on moral witness and ethical action. A goal is to make the principles usable within all cultures. We will keep you posted on developments in this area.

A further area of note is "Removal" of harmful policies regarding homosexuality. The Book of Discipline currently bans "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from the ordained ministry and does not allow clergy to officiate at same gender weddings. These practices have been harmful to the LGBTQ+ community over the years. The General Conference voted on May 1 to overturn these bans. This is very good news to celebrate!

An additional piece of legislation I have been following involves adding new bishops in Africa where there has been significant growth. Because of church disaffiliations, our denomination has to spend 14% less than previous years. 98% of the funding for our denomination comes from the USA. This makes it hard to make these important decisions.

Let us continue to keep all parties in our thoughts and prayers! This is an interesting and exciting time to be a United Methodist! *Blessings to all, Scott*

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	MMJ = Migrant Movement for Justice UWF = United Women in Faith CWM = Children's Weekday Ministries		1 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Weds. Women's Study 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 6:15 pm Youth Grp. 7:15 pm Bell Choir	2	3	4 9 am—Noon <i>Nourished</i> @ Nature Center Plant Sale
5 Communion 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 12-2 pm Congolese NO Youth Co-op	6 10 am-1 pm PEO 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 6-7 pm CWM Family Night	7	8 9:30 am Zoom study 12 noon Weds. Women's Study 6 pm Pastor Scott's Study Group 6:15 pm Youth Grp. 7:15 pm Bell Choir	9 7:45 am Leadership Team (offsite) 12:15 pm UWF Board mtg. 2 pm Elizabeth Circle (UWF) mtg.	10	11 4-10:30 pm Youth Co-op (@ St. Mark's & Pizza Ranch)
12 Mother's Day 8:30 am In-person Worship 9 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Sunday School for adults 9:45 am Infant/Toddler Sun. Schl. Class 10:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese	13 10 am Happy Endings 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 7 pm <i>Nourished</i> Monday Centering (@ Pastor Kristina's)	14	15 9:15-10 am P.S. Grad. Practice 12 noon Weds. Women's Study 12-12:30 pm P.S. Grad. Practice 6:15 pm Youth Grp. 7:15 pm Bell Choir	16 9:15-10 am P.S. Grad. Practice 12-12:30 pm P.S. Grad. Practice 6 pm Health & Wholeness 7 pm Ad Council 7 pm Linn Co. UN Assoc. mtg.	17	18 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 2-5 pm Lucille King 100th Birthday Celebration
19 Pentecost Sunday (& Graduation 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 12-2 pm Congolese	20 10 am Prayer Shawl 11 am—1 pm P.S. Graduation 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	21 11 am—1 pm P.S. Graduation 6:30 pm SPPRC	22 12 noon Weds. Women's Study 7:15 pm Bell Choir	23 12 noon Friendly Fellowship 6:30 pm Rizpah Circle (UWF)	24 7-9 pm Mulnik set-up for party	25 9 am-12 noon Kyla Mulnik Graduation Party (brunch & coffee bar) 3-6 pm Camp wedding
26 Trinity Sunday (Memorial Day Weekend) (summer hours begin, 9:30 only) 9:30 am In-person & live-strm. worship 12-2 pm Congolese	27 (church & office closed) 6-8 pm <i>Nourished</i> Memorial Day Picnic (@ Pastor Kristina's)	28	29 12 noon Weds. Women's Study 6 pm Youth Mtg. (re KC trip)	30 6:30 pm Rizpah Circle (UWF)	31	

Pastor Scott's Study Group: The current Wednesday groups will finish their studies on May 8th. The groups will take the summer off and resume in September.

Metro UMC Circuit News

A joint worship service is planned for Sunday, July 7th, at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids. A music event is planned at Lovely Lane on August 18th. *Musical acts are welcomed for the August event!*

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 5: **Communion Sunday**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Kristina will preach / Sermon: "Uplifting and Listening to Younger Voices"

May 12: **Mother's Day**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23 / Sermon: "Love Never Fails"

May 19: **Pentecost Sunday (Graduation Sunday)**; in-person service @ 8:30 AM; in-person & live-stream service @ 10:30 AM / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 / Sermon: "Moved by the Spirit"

May 26: **Trinity Sunday (Memorial Day Weekend)**; in-person & live-stream service @ **9:30 AM (summer hours begin)** / Pastor Scott / Scripture: Joshua 4:1-9 / Sermon: "Hopeful Memory"

Photo Directory Advertising

As many of you know, pictures are currently being taken for our new photo directory. Eventually, individual and family photos will be available on our website for everyone to see. In addition to web access, we are putting together a hard-copy, old-fashioned directory. A feature we would like to have in this paper directory is a page to promote local businesses. You might like to promote your own company or organization (of all sizes). The price to advertise will be very reasonable. We are at the early stages right now. If you might be interested, or have any comments at this stage of the process, contact Kim Moore at kimmooreart@yahoo.com.

Thank you!!

Last year, I was tickled pink to come home for the day and see that all too familiar plastic up on my door handle, filled with candies and chocolates from the neighbor kids up the street. It was May Day! Growing up, my mom would help my sister and me make May Day baskets to share with the neighbors and the elderly man who lived behind us. We would use old fruit containers, plastic cups, and other recycled materials and fasten a handle on. My mom would always have us write a little note of love and encouragement. It brought great joy on the faces of those we shared them with. Until I received that basket on the door handle, it had been a long time since I have thought about May Day baskets. It seems like it's a lost art.

According to NPR, as the month of April came to an end, people would gather flowers, candies, and other tasty treats and put them in baskets to share with friends and neighbors on May 1st. It was a chance to connect with your friends and neighbors and visit. In the 19th and 20th centuries, it was a rite of spring, happening all across the nation. As we approach May 1st, I've wondered why May Day baskets ever ended? It's a chance to connect with your neighbors and share God's love with those around you. Now I hope this doesn't become a commercialized thing, but I think so much good can come if we take the time to create a small note of encouragement to send to a friend or hang a basket on our neighbor's door. May you be blessed this May, and I hope we can bring back the tradition of sharing God's love on May Day! *Pastor Kristina*





United Women in Faith

UWF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS FOR MAY 2024

FOR ALL CHURCH MEMBERS: The UWFaith is continuing to work on climate justice and sustainability. We continue to encourage all groups and members to decrease their use of paper products, bottled water, and any other one-use items. We encourage you to use real plates, silverware, cups, and glasses as well as the provided cloth napkins. We were able to match the \$1000 and now have over \$2000 in our treasury.

The United Women in Faith will be doing the worship service on June 9th when our pastors will be at the annual conference. Our topic will be showing our earth all the love that God intended us to.

BOARD MEETING: 2nd Thurs., May 9th. We'll be planning the worship service for June 9th. Our start time is usually 1 PM, but this one will start at 12:15. Bring favorite Bible verses and favorite songs on creation and earth care. Lasagna will be provided. Bring a side dish to share and your own drink. ALL ARE WELCOME! WE NEED YOU!

ELIZABETH CIRCLE: Thursday, May 9th, at 2 PM. We'll continue to discuss favorite Bible verses and songs on creation and earth care. We'll also set goals for improved climate justice and sustainability at church and home.

RIZPAH CIRCLE: Last Thursday, May 30th, from 6:30-8 PM. Topic: sharing progress for climate justice and sustainability and planning future topics for our meetings.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast gathering is Saturday, May 18th, 8:30 AM. Community member, John Swanson, will speak about his recent travels to the country of Turkey. All are welcome!

Health & Wholeness met on Thursday, April 18th, at 6pm, and cleaned and disinfected the toys in the nursery. Everyone had such a great time working on this service project, it was decided this might just become a regular project. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 16th, at 6pm. All are welcome!!

HAPPY ENDINGS

Happy Endings Book Club will meet on Monday, May 13th, at 10 AM in Fireside. The book we'll discuss is *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder*, a nonfiction history book by [David Grann](#). The book dives into a range of topics, including the history of British colonialism. Grann is a journalist who has written previous books and articles on North and South American naval and crime history.

GREEN SQUARE MEALS

Six volunteers are needed for Green Square Meals! May's date is 5/16, 3:55 pm arrival time. (Lovely Lane serves meals on the 3rd Thursday of the month.) Please contact Carmen Johnson with any questions you have (cfjohnson0802@gmail.com; 319-651-1192).

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet on May 23rd at 12 noon for a potluck lunch and program. The program will be by Pastor Scott who will give an overview of General Conference and answer questions that we have.

Please join us for this informative program. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Also, please invite a friend!

Call Judy McDowell if you have any questions, 319-560-2960. Hope to see you there!!



Nourished at The Nature Center Plant Sale

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

9AM-12PM

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER
5300 OTIS ROAD SE CEDAR RAPIDS, IA



Organizing Action:

A conversation on building movements

Monday, May 13th

7pm-8:30pm

Ryan and Kristina's

3000 Carroll Drive SE Cedar Rapids



May Treat Box

Sign up by May 14th

Pick up on May 16th

4pm-6pm at St. Paul's UMC

4 Pack of Gourmet Cupcakes: \$14
Black Forest and Lemon



4 Pack of Large Bars: \$16
Carmelita Bars and Czech Bars



You're invited to the **50th Wedding Anniversary of Carol & Dave Sundberg** on May 11, 11am-2pm, @ Noelridge Park ITC Pavilion. RSVP to 319-213-2233.

SUSAN & ART STAED INVITE YOU TO LUCILLE KING'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON MAY 18

*She's pretty special, our own Lucille C. King.
She loves everyone, and makes our hearts sing.*

*But coming soon, a very special day –
Lucille will celebrate her 100th birthday!*

*Please join us as we honor this woman of God,
Come with a hug, or even a card.*

Come, come, celebrate Lucille –

She'll turn 100, and that's for real!

You're invited to eat cake and celebrate this awesome milestone with Lucille on Sat., May 18th, 2-5 PM, at Lovely Lane UMC.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The church family is invited to celebrate the high school graduation of Kyla Mulnik with a brunch and coffee bar on **Saturday, May 25th, from 9 am - Noon** in Fellowship Hall at Lovely Lane. Kyla will graduate from Linn-Mar High School and attend Missouri State University to study early childhood education.



JOIN US FOR A

Memorial Day Picnic

Bring a dish to share!

May 27 | 6 PM Kristina and Ryan's
3000 Carroll Drive SE
Cedar Rapids



SUNDAY SCHOOL & KID'S CLUB

Sunday School for children (during the 10:30 service after Children's Time) is over until the Fall. Kid's Club and the Family Meal on Wednesdays is also over for the school year.

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

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

YOUTH CO-OP

May 5—No Youth Co-op; May 11 (Sat.)—Last Youth Co-op event of the school semester, @ St. Mark's & Pizza Ranch (4-10:30 PM).

WEDS. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

(No meal or transportation from LL in May; meet @ St. Paul's @ 6:15 PM)

Dates are May 1 (Intergenerational—Dreaming...), May 8 (Intergenerational—Stories..., & May 15 (end of the year celebration)

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

May 5: "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" (O'Hara) - This classic anthem from the 1930's uses the text to follow the life of Christ leading through the resurrection. It's a poignant anthem of Christ's journey to the cross. It touches on the birth in Bethlehem, leads to the Garden of Gethsemane and then climbs the hill of Calvary. This moving piece speaks to all who hear it.

May 12: "Pick Up a Crown" (Sorenson) - This piece starts with a slow, soulful solo with choir singing backup followed by an up-tempo groove that will keep your feet tapping. Featuring a variety of vocal textures, this contemporary spiritual will feature Mark Dillman as the soloist.

May 19: "Stand Up!" (Raney) - A rousing collection of classic gospel hymns sewn together in an enthusiastic medley. It's a bit of fun-filled nostalgia, guaranteed to back memories of hymns sung throughout a lifetime. This Sunday will be the choir's last anthem until September.

May 26: Moving to one service this Sunday, the Bell Choir will end their season also until September. At 10:30, members of the Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Music Staff personnel will have a brunch in the Fellowship Hall honoring members, their families, and remembering Marge Morris who was a choir accompanist for many years.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS/SERVANTS

Sign up as a Worship Volunteer (greeter, usher, lector, &/or communion server) on LL's website (www.lovelylane.org). You'll find sign-up links for the 8:30 and 10:30 AM services listed under *Worship Servant Signup*. Summer worship with one service @ 9:30 AM begins on 5/26. Check your calendar and choose a date(s) to serve! If you need help, call the office.

March Financial Totals

Cash inflow—mo. of March	\$ 45,926
Cash inflow—YTD	\$176,025
Budget need/month	\$ 53,556
Cash outflow—mo. of March	\$ 54,819
Cash outflow—YTD	\$156,951
Unpaid apportionments	\$ 0

Concerns & Celebrations

JOYS:

- *Celebrating our confirmation class & faith journeys
- *Jan Loftus with family celebrations
- *Dan & Kim Moore celebrating grandchild's first birthday
- *Drew family expresses appreciation for prayers over the years
- *Verlis Miller is home after hospitalization
- *Excitement for Hawkeyes women's championship basketball game
- *Center Point-Urbana senior students with trip to Chicago
- *Sue Moss is retiring from the church office in June (thanks for your service over these 14 years!)
- *JR Streff with medals from Special Olympics events
- *Celebrating confirmation class after worship on 4/7
- *Les & Sherry Minor home after time in Florida
- *Paul & Marcia Akin worshipping with us on 4/14
- *Nourished Community learning about the Quakers
- *Eclipse experience bringing people together
- *Congrats to Jason & Brittany Dyson on the baptism of Olivia Grace (4/21)
- *Thanks to Curt Pakkebie for speaking to the men's breakfast group on 4/20
- *Photos for the new church directory being taken (including of the homebound)
- *Good Nourished Board meeting
- *Rally for Peace in Green Square Park on 4/21
- *New member classes on 4/21 & 4/28
- *Nature hike with the Nourished Community
- *Happy anniversary to Dustin & Tracy Ashmore
- *Happy birthday to Landen Bentley
- *General Conference for UMC in Charlotte, NC, began on 4/23
- *Upcoming joint worship w/UMC circuit on July 7
- *Upcoming UMC circuit music event on August 18

CONCERNS:

- *Sympathy to the Kadlec family after the passing of Bev (funeral service this summer)
- *Sympathy to Marla Gonzalez after the passing of her great niece
- *Sympathy to Heather Leske after her grandmother's passing
- *Sympathy to Joan Winkowski after her sister-in-law's passing
- *Continued prayers for Marti Bowman following the death of her son, Adam
- *Tariq Baloch receiving hospice care
- *Jack Murphy with health challenges
- *Carol Wilson with health challenges
- *Sherry Minor recovering from a surgical procedure
- *Pat Swartzendruber following medical procedure
- *Pastor Kristina dealing with off & on illness
- *Don & Wanda Whitford adjusting to life at Emory Place
- *Sarah Robinson, daughter of Rose Blank, with health concerns
- *Jan Loftus' son with chemotherapy treatments
- *April Drew's mother with health matters
- *Travis Meiborg's aunt, Kay, with a health matter
- *Pam Nixon's cousin, Allison, with extra challenges
- *Teri Krumm's stepfather moving into a care facility
- *Barb Vancura's good friend with health challenges
- *Sue Shaffer's niece's husband, Russell, with thyroid cancer
- *Kim Moore's friend, Jewel, with a brain tumor
- *Debbie Hahn's friend, Julie, with reconstruction after skin cancer treatments
- *General Conference for the UMC on April 23-May 3
- *City of Baltimore after bridge collapse
- *Communities in eastern Nebraska & western Iowa after tornadoes
- *College students raising awareness about Israel-Hamas conflict
- *International community after missile strikes in Israel
- *National & international concerns

Remembering with love:

Helen Hansen.....2019
Charles Atkinson.....2020
Norma Fitz.....2022
Berta Mullin.....2022



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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