



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**

Managing the Darkness

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” – Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV)

Advent is meant to be a time of darkness, yet we move to the bright lights as soon as possible. If you drive through a favorite neighborhood, you will likely notice some remarkable light displays. We like to have light in our life!

And yet, we miss so much when we embrace the light too early. Throughout the Gospel stories, we see Jesus immersing himself in the darkness of the world and bringing the light of God’s grace and love into the places it is needed the most.

I’m certain Jesus is present in many challenging settings today. Jesus is walking amongst the migrants at our country’s southern borders, the lost and afraid living in Ukraine, the couple who wonders if their adult child can overcome an addiction, and the person looking for a steady paycheck and job security. Our Messiah lived and served within the dark and messy moments of life.




In like manner, we can only impact our community and the world at large by living within the darkness that is present. Our common calling is to live like Jesus. We are to live with, and alongside, those who experience darkness. Together, we learn so much. Corrie ten Boom once said, “In darkness God’s truth shines most clear.” Years later, Bishop Desmond Tutu would remark, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.”

Perhaps we need to take some time this Advent season to sit with the darkness as we are able. Moving away from our comfortable confines, we might find solidarity with those who need a boost! So maybe we need to stop avoiding the darkness and those who live within it. Maybe we learn to walk and live in the darkness with Jesus, and let God do what God does best, speak order into chaos, light into darkness, and life into death.

And finally, might the darkness we embrace make the light even more beautiful!

Peace and blessings, Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — December 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1 <i>First Sunday Advent</i> 8:30 am Worship in-person 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship in-person & live-stream 10:45 am Children SS 12:00 pm Congolese | 2 8:00 am –5:30 pm CWM Christmas store (Library) 10:00-2:00 PEO Mtg (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Nourished Centering @ Kristina's | 3 8:00 am –5:30 pm CWM Christmas store (Library) 8:00 pm Band Practice (Youth Rm) | 4 8:00 am –5:30 pm CWM Christmas store (Library) 9:30 am Zoom Scripture Study 12:00 pm Women's Scripture Study (FS) 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kids Club 6:00 pm Scripture Study 7:15 pm Bell Choir | 5 8:00 am –5:30 pm CWM Christmas store (Library) | 6 8:00 am –5:30 pm CWM Christmas store (Library) | 7 9:00 am-1:00 pm Nourished @ Indian Creek Nature Center | |
| 8 <i>Second Sunday Advent Christmas Clothing Day</i> 8:30 am Worship in-person 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship In-person & live-stream 10:45 am Children Sunday School 12:00 pm Congolese | 9 9:15 am-9:45 am CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 10:30 am CWM Music Class(Fellowship Hall) 11:30 am Happy Endings Book Club (Olive Garden) 1:00 pm-1:30 pm CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Nourished Centering (@ Kristina's) | 10 9:15 am-9:45 am CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 10:00 - 11:30 am CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 1:00 pm-1:30 pm CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm CWM Music Class (Fellowship Hall) 8:00 pm Band Practice (Youth Rm) | 11 9:15 - 9:45 am CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 9:30 am Zoom Scripture Study 11:00 - 1:00 CWM Christmas Program (Sanctuary & Hall) 12:00 pm Women's Scripture Study(Library) 1:00 - 1:30 pm CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Little Learners 6:00 pm Kids Club 6:00 pm Scripture Study 6:00 pm Little Learners 7:15 pm Bell Choir | 12 7:45 am Leadership Team (offsite) 9:15 - 9:45 am CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 11:00 - 1:00 pm CWM Christmas Program (Sanctuary) 1:00 - 1:30 pm CWM Practice (Sanctuary) 1:00 pm UWF Circle (Deb Streff's) | 13 7:00 - 8:00 pm Star Gazing (at Andrew Barden's) | 14 1:30 pm Music Extravaganza (St. Paul's) 4:30 - 9:00 pm Jane Schildroth Family Dinner (Fellowship Hall) | |
| 15 <i>Third Sunday Advent Children's Christmas Pageant Fair Trade Sale</i> 8:30 am Worship in-person 8:30 am Choir 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship in-person & live-stream 10:45 am Children's Sunday School 12:00 pm Congolese | 16 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 | 17 8:00 pm Band Practice (Youth Room) | 18 9:30 am Zoom Scripture Study 12:00 pm Women's Scripture Study (Fireside) 5:15 pm Family Meal & Winter Wonderland 6:00 pm Scripture Study 7:15 pm Bell Choir | 19 3:55 - 5:00 Green Square Meals 7:00 pm - 9:15 pm Linn UNA (Choir Rm) | 20 7:00 pm Winter Solstice Gathering - Nourished (Kristina's) | 21 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) | |
| 22 <i>Fourth Sunday Advent Christmas Cantata</i> 8:30 am Worship in-person 8:30 am Choir 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship In-person & live-stream 10:45 am Children Sunday School 12:00 pm Congolese | 23 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 | 24 Christmas Eve 3:30 pm Family Worship Service 5:30 pm Worship Service 7:30 pm Worship Service | 25 Christmas Day  Church Offices Closed | 26 NO Rizpah Circle NO Friendly Fellowship Potluck | 27 | 28 | |
| 29 9:30 am Worship in-person & live-stream NO Fifth Sunday Potluck 12:00 pm Congolese | 30 10:00 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766 | 31 New Year's Eve  | If you would like to bring a Christmas poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please register the information on the clipboard in the narthex. The listing of those remembered and honored will be provided as an insert in the Christmas Eve bulletins. | | | |  |

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

December 1 *First Sunday of Advent - Communion Sunday*

In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Rome," *On the Way to Bethlehem*
Scripture: Romans 8:18-25

December 8 *Second Sunday of Advent*

In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Jerusalem," *On the Way to Bethlehem*
Scripture: Luke 1:5-17

December 15 *Third Sunday of Advent*

In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Nazareth," *On the Way to Bethlehem*
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

December 22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Kristina Roth-Klinck will preach, "Bethlehem," *On the Way to Bethlehem*
Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

December 24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services* 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 pm

December 29 *First Sunday after Christmas*

In-person & live-stream service at **9:30 am** (only one worship service)
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Growing Pains,"
Scripture: Luke:2:41-52

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next gathering will take place on **Saturday, December 21**, at **8:30 am**. The Rev. Bob Dagit, retired United Methodist pastor, and Lovely Lane member, will share a devotion. Conversation will focus on the meaning of the Christmas season. All are welcome! Contact Scott Meador with questions at: scottm@lovelylane.org



WINTER WONDERLAND AT KID'S CLUB Wednesday, December 18, 2024

5:15 pm - 7:00 pm

Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy a Christmas sing-along, led by the kids at 6:00 pm with Christmas crafts & cookie decorating following for all ages.



Christmas Clothing Sunday

On Sunday, December 8, You are invited to wear your favorite Christmas clothing to church. This might involve a favorite

sweater, an ugly sweater, tartan pants, or accessory. It's a fun way to celebrate the season!

Pastor Scott's Study Groups

During the season of Advent, the Wednesday study groups will focus on the book, *On the Way to Bethlehem*, by Rob Fuquay. The study will examine the cities that were central to the birth of Jesus. These cities include Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. The morning group will meet on Zoom at 9:30 and the evening group will gather in the library at 6:00. Books will be available in the church office. All are welcome!



STARRY NIGHTS

Have you ever noticed how light and darkness are almost always pitted against each other? We see this in the Christian scriptures throughout the season of Advent: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it." (John 1:5). Or "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." (John 8:12). And then there are those common phrases, "Light up the darkness, let your light shine." Or "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that." These phrases have created a subconscious narrative where we almost always think of light as good and darkness as bad, something evil, or unwanted. This all affects how we interact with the world around us. We might plug a nightlight in in our bedroom or have streetlights on a darker street. But this binary also causes more problematic issues such as a bias against people with darker skin colors. It also contributes to fearing the dark, thinking how dangerous it can be outside after the sun goes down.

But what if we stopped thinking about light and dark as a binary. What if we recognized that these two things need each other and actually naturally co-exist. We might take the starry night sky, for example. Without the darkness, we can't see the stars. They are there during the day, but we cannot see them because there is too much light.

Throughout the month of December, Nourished will be reimagining our understanding of darkness and the binary that exists between light and dark in series called, "Starry Nights." Pulling from a book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, we'll explore the idea that light and dark co-exist in balance, not opposition. In our Centering gatherings, we will consider how darkness can be a sacred space to connect with the divine, and we will celebrate the darkness by going star gazing and recognizing the Winter Solstice. An Advent Devotional and calendar from Nourished are forthcoming. Stay tuned to our social media for more information or contact me at kristina@lovelylane.org. Let's enjoy these starry nights together!

-Pastor Kristina Roth-Klinck

A sincere thank-you to all Lovely Laners that participated in the Bake Sale on November 24, which supported United Women in Faith. Whether you contributed your wonderful baked goods or purchased some tasty treats, we appreciated your support. We raised over \$700 to support the missions of United Women in Faith.



2024 Advent Offering Recipients

Women at the Well: Is a United Methodist congregation located within the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, in Mitchellville, Iowa. It offers ministries designed to encourage the spiritual growth of its members, assist them when they transition back into the world outside the walls and to better understand the hurts and hopes of those who reside within the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women. Lovely Lane is a committed partner supporting this ministry.

HACAP Food Reservoir: HACAP Food Reservoir leads the fight against hunger in east central Iowa by providing food access, advocacy, education, and disaster response. The Food Reservoir distributes over 10 million meals annually through partner organizations in seven counties. Food Reservoir programs include Backpack Program, Mobile Food Pantry, and Diversity Food Program. There continues to be an enormous burden on the local available Food Reservoir supplies.

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice: In the face of unprecedented need, Iowa MMJ is building on the legacy of two trusted organizations: the **American Friends Service Committee Iowa** and **Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors**. Iowa MMJ stands firmly on the belief that migration is a fundamental human right and that everyone deserves to live in safety and with dignity. Iowa MMJ is committed to providing high-quality, accessible immigration legal services throughout the state, empowering communities and supporting those in need.

Cuba Mission Trip: A small group is traveling to Havana, Cuba from January 28 – February 6, 2025. The group is accompanying a group from Plymouth Congregational Church in Des Moines. The aim is to learn about the partner relationship the Plymouth Church has with their sister congregation, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Havana. A further aim is to understand how and whether to seek a relationship with our own sister church. Members are planning to pay their own travel expenses, but any funds from the offering in excess of the amounts needed for the Ebenezer Church could be used to defray travel costs now or in the future.

HAPPY ENDINGS BOOK CLUB

The Happy Endings Book Club will meet for fellowship and cheer at the Olive Garden on **December 9, at 11:30 AM**. Hope to see you there and please bring a friend. Please RSVP to: jmcdow51@aol.com.

The Book for January is *A Table for Two* by Amor Towles. A collection of 6 stories and one novella. The stories explore themes of love, loss, identity, and fate in New York and Los Angeles.

GREEN SQUARE MEALS

Six volunteers are needed each month to help with Green Square Meals! The next date is **Thursday, December 19**, with a **3:55 pm** expected arrival time. Contact Dan Moore by phone at: (715) 432-1983 or by email at: banjobubbadad@yahoo.com if you are able to help serve. Thank you to those who have helped serve these meals!

NOURISHED BAKERY

Holiday Orders

Thursday, December 12th
Holiday Sugar Cookie Kit - \$24
Thursday, December 19th
Christmas Cookie Tray - \$25
Monday, December 23rd
Take & Bake Cinnamon Rolls \$35

Email Pastor Kristina to sign up:
kristina@lovelylane.org

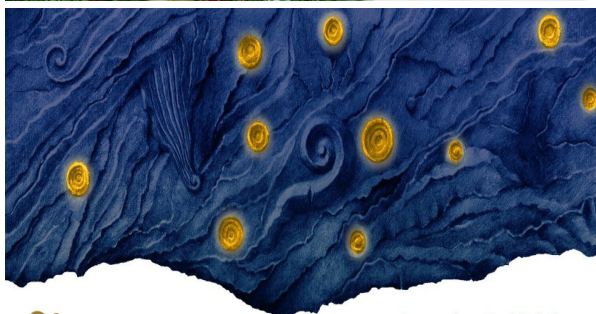


Nourished Bakery

at Nature's Noel

Saturday, December 7th
9am - 1pm
Indian Creek Nature Center
(All Gluten Free)

NOURISHED



Starry
Nights: An Advent Series
on Light and Dark

December 2nd & 9th
7pm-8:30pm
3000 Carroll Drive SE
Cedar Rapids

Our goals for next year will include rebuilding the United Women in Faith section of the



United
Women
in Faith

Lovely Lane Library. The UWF Reading Program consists of 5 categories: Leadership Development, Social Action, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, and Spiritual Growth.

The Elizabeth Circle met on November 18. We had 9 women in attendance where we had an insightful discussion about famous women in history and women who have made a difference in our lives.

This year our emphasis is on climate justice and sustainability as well as human rights and human trafficking. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, please contact Deb Streff at debstreff@gmail.com

We will surpass our goal for giving to National United Women in Faith and we will also be able to donate to church and local charities as determined by the board. Discussion to determine donations as we approach the end of our year will be finalized in December.

We will have only one meeting this month, on **Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 pm**. This meeting will be held at the home of Deb Streff, 1212 Brendel Hill Dr NW, Cedar Rapids. Enter off of E Avenue at 13th St in to the Methwick Community. Please use GPS or call for directions: (319) 721-8864.

Bring a snack to share and beverages will be provided. We will talk about some of the library books we wish to purchase to add to our library. We will also work on our plans to help with Kid's Club on Wednesday, December 18. We will prepare the meal for the kid's club and assist with activities that night. Please join us and bring a friend. All are welcome!

An Evening of Star Gazing
Friday, December 13, 2024
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Home of Andrew Barden
6075 Wells Lane, Cedar Rapids



JOYS

- *Celebrating our saints in worship
- *Halloween events with families and friends
- *Joe Helle recovering from knee surgery
- *John and Bobbie O'Bryon celebrate their 35th anniversary
- *Frances Roland attending friend, Sophia's quinceañera
- *Lovely Lane fall women's retreat
- *Katherine Plendl closing on house on Friday
- *JR Streff celebrating 45 years young!
- *Veterans Day – Thank you for your service!
- *Marla Gonzalez and 3rd grandbaby on the way!
- *The love of our church family following the election
- *Lovely Lane choir
- *Men's Breakfast with focus on understanding racism
- *Mike and Karlene Nesslage celebrate daughter, Christina's, ordination
- *Jim and Sue Moss with transition process into a new home
- *Church photo directory is coming by year's end
- *Nourished Community Board Meeting with many young adult leaders
- *Linda Bayliss celebrating two years in remission for brain cancer for grandson, Owen
- *Stewardship focus in worship
- *Thanksgiving celebrations with friends and family
- *Happy anniversary to Jerry and Virginia Weiland
- *Happy anniversary to Larry and Janice Kaberle from Independence
- *Alfred Zigbuo and family doing well in Minneapolis
- *Rita Stewart's son, Quinton, completing firefighter class
- *Birthday blessings to Patty Logsdon

*In the spirit of Christmas,
may the love of Christ and
the grace of the Lord be with
you and your family.*

CONCERNS

- *Curtis Thomas and family after passing of his aunt, Naomi
- *St. Joseph's School community after passing of young student
- *Lynn Heidt hospitalized at Unity Point St. Luke's
- *Liz Briggman's daughter, Laura, with medical testing
- *Erv Mussman's sister, Alice, receiving hospice care
- *Jayne Woodson's granddaughter, Amanda, with health concerns
- *Division in our country and moving forward post-election
- *Homeless neighbors as the weather turns cold
- *Regina Culbertson with health concerns
- *Erv Mussman following the passing of his sister Alice
- *Harrison Leske, son of Heather and Nick Leske, with health concerns
- *Deb Streff following knee surgery
- *Virginia Weiland's brother, Vance, suffering a stroke
- *Carla Jesse with family transitions
- *Maggie Thomas's great nephew, John, with health concerns
- *Nourished Community member, Damian, with work transitions
- *Kim Moore's friend's son, Payton, following an accident
- *Dale Snyder following a medical procedure
- *Pat Swartzendruber with final chemotherapy Treatment this week
- *Kathy Stepleton with surgery this week
- *Stephanie French's sister, Terry, with medical concerns
- *Pam Nixon's cousin's husband following a car accident
- *Pastor Scott and family after the passing of his Aunt Kara in Texas

Remembering with love:
Donald Caspers 2018
Vivian Johnson 2020
Neil Lawton 2022



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

Website: www.lovelylane.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc

Phone: (319) 393-6674

| Lovely Lane Monthly Financial Information | |
|--|-----------|
| Cash inflow - month of 10/31/24 | \$59,402 |
| Cash inflow - YTD | \$488,134 |
| Budget need/month | \$53,556 |
| Cash outflow - month of 10/31/24 | \$45,708 |
| Cash outflow - YTD | \$496,426 |
| Unpaid apportionments | \$0 |

PLEASE NOTE: Contributions to Lovely Lane UMC for the calendar year of 2024 must be received at the church office or postmarked by **5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 31** to be included on your 2024 giving statement for tax purposes. Online contributions must be made by this same time as well. This is in accordance with IRS guidelines. Thank you for your generous and faithful giving to Lovely Lane.

LOVELY LANE UMC STAFF

Administration & Worship

Lead Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Media & Technology
 Organist
 Chancel Choir Director
 Handbell Choir Director
 Director of Children's Choirs
 Chancel Choir Accompanist

Dr. Scott Meador
 Rev. Kristina Roth-Klinck
 Eric Wylie
 Dennis Ramsey
 Nancy Patrick
 Charlie Kucera
 Carla Jesse
 Linda Bayliss

Children & Youth

Director of Family Ministries
 Director of Youth Ministries
 Nursery Caregiver Lead
 Nursery Caregiver
 Nursery Caregiver
 Nursery Caregiver
 Director Children's Weekday Ministries (CWM)

Annie Walker
 Ryan Roth-Klinck
 Tara Neveu
 Paige Gerjets
 Hailey Ryan
 Brooke Johnson
 Dawn DuPont

Office & Facilities

Office Administrator & Finance Secretary
 Office Assistant
 Treasurer
 Membership Secretary
 Facilities Manager
 Custodians
 Website & Social Media
 Wedding Coordinator

Tammy Martin
 Marti Bowman
 Susan Kohl
 Susan Camp
 Curtis Thomas
 Rex & Rhonda Heasty
 Shelly Turner
 Becky Wood