



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

January 2025

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 63, Number 1

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**

Listening to Children in the New Year

"I am about to do a new thing"– Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)

During the last Sunday of the year, December 29, I had the privilege to spend time with some of our young people during the "Children's Time" in worship. I spoke to the children about the New Year to come. In particular, the students helped me put together a list of things to do in 2025. The list was terrific. The list is below . . .

1. Be a good friend
2. Try "new" things
3. Help others
4. Pray!
5. Get more active in the church

I am continually amazed at the wisdom of our young disciples. They have deep thoughts and they make us ponder the important matters in life. Our students shed light on new possibilities in a world that is often struggling and broken. Children demonstrate God's grace and promise to redeem and restore all things. Blaise Pascal once noted, "Wisdom leads us back to childhood."

Truth is, the Bible has always lifted up children. Children are celebrated in the Old Testament in stories involving Isaac, Ishmael, Samuel, and David, to name a few. In the New Testament, both the gospel writers and Paul in his letters to the early church, bring out an understanding of the kingdom, or kin-dom, of God. Young students play a central role in the understanding of the kingdom. In numerous passages, children are lifted up as role models who demonstrate the characteristics that are valued in the kingdom. The trust, vulnerability, humility and directness of children are to be displayed by adults too.

Personally, I have learned a lot from my daughters, Emma and Sophia, over the years. They are not young children anymore, but I continue to value the lessons they taught me over time. And yes, they still teach me so much today.

Might we take time to listen and learn from the children around us! At the same time, might we seek to be a bit more like them as they help us become a bit more like God! I really appreciate this list from our children and will focus on this list in the year to come. New Year's blessings, Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) — January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day <i>Church office closed</i> 	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Worship in- person 9:00 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	6 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	7	8 9:30 am Zoom Scripture Study 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kids Club 6:00 pm Scripture Study 7:15 pm Bell Choir	9 7:45 am Leadership Team (Offsite) 1:00 pm Elizabeth Circle (Library)	10	11
12 8:30 am Worship in- person 9:00 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	13 10:00 am Happy Endings Book Club (FS) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	14	15 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	16 3:55 - 5:00 Green Square Meals	17	18 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
19 8:30 am Worship in- person 9:00 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	20 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	21	22 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	23 12:00 pm Friendly Fellowship Pot Luck (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm Rizpah Circle (Fireside)	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship in- person 9:00 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	27 10:00 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 766	28	29 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	30	31	FS = Fireside Rm FH = Fellowship Hall SS = Sunday School



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

- January 5** ***Epiphany Sunday - Communion Sunday***
In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Persia," *On the Way to Bethlehem*
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
- January 12** ***Baptism of the Lord***
In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Claimed and Called"
Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- January 19** ***Human Relations Day - Martin Luther King Jr. Day***
In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Kristina Roth-Klinck will preach
- January 26** **Third Sunday after the Epiphany**
In-person worship at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Let's Go!"
Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next breakfast gathering will be **Saturday, January 18, at 8:30 am**. The speaker will be Greg Edwards, CEO of WatchPoint. He will speak about security and AI. All are welcome! Contact Scott Meador with questions at: scottm@lovelylane.org

PASTOR SCOTT'S STUDY GROUPS

"Bible Stories for Grown-Ups" by Josh Scott, will be the first book for Pastor Scott's study groups this year. The morning group will meet on Zoom at 9:30 and the evening group will gather in the library at 6:00, starting on **Wednesday, January 8**. Books will be available in the church office, \$10. All are welcome!

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Friendly Fellowship will meet at noon on January 23, 2025 in the fellowship hall at Lovely Lane for a potluck lunch.

Erin Foster from the Linn County Mental Health Access Center will speak. She will share about the center and some changes that are coming up in 2025. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Hope to see you there and as always, please invite a friend. Please contact Judy McDowell with questions at: (319) 560-2960.



Beannacht /Blessing

By John O'Donohue

*On the day when
The weight deadens
On your shoulders
And you stumble,
May the clay dance
To balance you.*

*And when your eyes
Freeze behind
The grey window
And the ghost of loss
Gets in to you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green,
And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you
A meadow of delight.*

*When the canvas frays
In the currach of thought
And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.*

*May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.*

*And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.*

Submitted by Kristina-Roth Klinck

GREEN SQUARE MEALS

Six volunteers are needed each month to help with Green Square Meals! The next date is **Thursday, January 16**, with a **3:55 pm** expected arrival time. Contact Dan Moore by phone at: (715) 432-1983 or by email at: banjobubbabadad@yahoo.com if you are able to help serve. Thank you to those who have helped serve these meals!

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Matthew 20:28 *"just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."* **Jesus is calling the disciples and all who are in Christ to follow the same path to greatness: humble, sacrificial service to each other.**

For serving as an usher, greeter or lector at Lovely Lane, we thank you for your service to God, to our church and to each other. As we look ahead to 2025, please consider signing up to serve in the coming months.

If you do not use a computer, please call the office at (319) 393-6674 to be added to the schedule. If you would like to sign up online, please use the following link, <https://signup.com/go/JbYeHcd> to sign up for services at 8:30 and 10:30. You can also sign up thru Lovely Lane's website: www.lovelylane.org to be a greeter, usher, lector, and/or communion server on one or more Sundays. Under the "Worship" tab choose "Worship Servants," then click on the blue box with the service time indicated. Please contact the church office should you need assistance with signing up online. Again, thank you to our Worship Servants!

Kennedy Food Pantry Wish List

- Ramen Noodles
- Fruit roll ups and fruit snacks
- Toothpaste
- Aluminum baking dishes, muffin & cake pans
- Cake mixes
- popcorn
- chips
- Cheez-its, snack crackers
- Tuna
- Canned pasta

Collection tubs are located at the left entrance to the sanctuary at Lovely Lane.
Thank you for your donations!

CUBA PARTNERSHIP TRIP

A small group of Lovely Laners will travel to Havana, Cuba, with a small group from the Plymouth Congregational Church in Des Moines. The trip will take place from January 28 to February 6. The aim is to learn about Cuban history and culture and develop a relationship with a potential sister church in the city. The group will collect donations of personal items to share with the folks in Cuba ahead of time. A full list is coming that will include aspirin, ibuprofen, vitamins, and Tums.

HAPPY ENDINGS BOOK CLUB

The Happy Endings Book Club will meet on January 13 in Fireside at 10:00 am. The Book for January is *A Table for Two* by Amor Towles. A collection of six stories and one novella. The stories explore themes of love, loss, identity, and fate in New York and Los Angeles.



Family Ministries News

Children's Sunday School will resume on January 5

Kid's Club will resume on Wednesday, January 8

Women's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 15 at noon In Fireside

Remembering with love:

David Nicholas 2021
Travis Spear 2022
Carolyn Moen 2022
Rae Keegan 2024

The New Lovely Lane Photo Directories are in!

One complimentary directory for each household. Please stop in to pick up your directory or contact the church office to make other arrangements (319) 393-6674.

Our goals for 2025 will include rebuilding the United Women in Faith section of the Lovely Lane Library. Including books from each category of the UW of Faith Reading Program: Leadership Development, Social Action, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, and Spiritual Growth. We will also continue our emphasis on climate justice and sustainability as well as human trafficking. United Women in Faith will be providing the Fair Trade coffee for the church. Enjoy!



United
Women
in Faith

January Meetings - these will be work sessions. We will be identifying books to purchase for the church library.

- Elizabeth Circle - January 9, (2nd Thursday) 1:00 pm in the church library
- Rizpah Circle - January 23, (4th Thursday), at 6:30 pm in Fireside

2025 Meetings will typically be the 2nd Thursday and usually at 1:00 pm for the Elizabeth Circle and the 4th Thursday in the evenings at 6:30 pm for the Rizpah Circle. In November there will be just one meeting on November 20th and in December there will be NO meetings, but we will assist with the Kids' Club Christmas Party. Date TBD.

Please join us and invite a friend! Did you know United Women in Faith is open to all denominations? Some of our members attend other churches in the area. All are welcome!

2024 Accomplishments:

- Baked and delivered Valentine's cookies to 15 homes of people who cannot get out to attend church. This is a wonderful time to connect with these folks.
- Hosted a speaker about living our lives more green
- Made cloth napkins for use by all groups in the church
- Hosted a Banned Books event for the community
- Hosted Domestic Violence Event open to the community
- Led worship service on June 9, while Pastors were at Annual Conference
- Garage Sale raised more than \$1,000
- Bake Sale raised more than \$700
- Held two Fair Trade Sales
- Provided Wednesday family meal and cookie decorating activity for Kids' Club Winter Wonderland
- Contributed monetary donations to District UW of Faith missions and to Lovely Lane Children's Weekday Ministries



Attention Snowbirds!

If you will be away for the winter, please let the church office know your winter address and the dates you will be away. This is important so you continue to receive important information and news from Lovely Lane. Church phone: (319) 393-6674 and email: office@lovelylane.org Thank you and have a great winter!

JOYS

- *Online access process is beginning for church membership
- *Welcoming our new members to the church
- *Nourished Community Starry Nights focus for Advent
- *Joe Helle expresses thanks for prayers following knee procedure
- *Happy Anniversary to Mike and Becky Wood
- *Mike and Becky Wood happily adjusting to life in California
- *Nice response with gifts from the angel tree
- *Christmas Clothing Sunday with fun holiday attire
- *Chris Ackman speaking about HACAP mission offering
- *Thanks to Denise Lawton, Lu Serbousek, and Barb Oldenburg for assisting with CWM Christmas Store
- *American Legion Speech Contest coming up
- *Christopher Hauser arrived home after time in the Peace Corps
- *Nourished Community Successful day at Nature's Noel
- *United Women in Faith gathering coming up
- *Fair Trade Sales Day on December 15
- *Wonderful Children's Christmas program
- *Les and Sherry Minor's grandson is home after studying in Italy
- *Curtis and Maggie Thomas moving into a new home
- *Wedding congratulations to Debbie Hahn and Dave Beckner
- *Nourished "Starry Nights" and winter solstice events
- *Susie Tierney speaking about Migrant Movement for Justice
- *Appreciation for those working in snow removal
- *Winter solstice
- *Volunteers with Nourished
- *Curtis and Maggie Thomas moved into new house
- *Dave and Linda Keefe celebrating 56 years of marriage
- *Jim and Sue Moss celebrating 24 years of marriage
- *Moss family soon moving into new house
- *Directories are here
- *Christmas choir cantata
- *Celebrating the wisdom of children
- *Thanks to Marcie and Morgan Stumpf for playing the piano in worship
- *Pastor Kristina spending time with relatives in Texas
- *Generosity to those in need

CONCERNS

- *Sympathy to the local Catholic community following the passing of Fr. Dennis Conway
- *John Roland's uncle, Tommy, needing heart assistance
- *Sympathy to friends of former church member, Jay Andrews, following his passing
- *Maggie Thomas's great nephew, John, with health concerns
- *Sympathy to Darla Reed-Tinderholt and classmates following the passing of friend, Beth
- *Pastor Kristina's cousin, Michelle, with the grieving process after passing of her husband

(cont. . .)

- *Carol Strong, as husband, Steve, receives memory care assistance
- *Pam Nixon's cousin, Kim, and husband, John, as he recovers from a vehicle accident
- *Cheryl Murphy's neighbor, Kevin, with health concerns
- *Sympathy to the Terrace Glen Village after passing of resident, Jean Duncan
- *Sympathy to Stuart and Sue Rogers following the passing of Stuart's daughter
- *Sympathy to Jan Peterson after the passing of her brother, Harley
- *Sympathy to Frank and Susan Camp after the passing of Frank's aunt, Nancy
- *Remembering the life and social action work of Dorothy Higdon
- *Pam Nixon's cousin's husband, John, with surgeries after a car accident
- *Pastor Kristina's neighbor Janice, following the passing of her son
- *Darla Carter's friend, Leon, with cancer
- *Bobbie O'Bryon's friend, Rachel, following a seizure
- *Unrest in Syria and hope for democracy
- *Pam Nixon's cousin's husband following a car accident and surgery
- *Darla Reed-Tinderholt's friend, Andrea, with health concerns
- *Mary Vorwerk's sister-in-law with a cancer diagnosis
- *Regina Culberton hospitalized at Mercy Hospital
- *Prayer request for Sue Moss' brother in-law John with upcoming bladder cancer surgery
- *Dave Keefe's 94 year old mother with health concerns
- *Stephanie French's sister post-surgery
- *Nancy Patrick's great-nephew Dylan recovery from accident and surgery
- *Joan Roscovius daughter and grandson traveling to New York
- *Ron Malick recovering from knee procedure
- *Remembering the long and meaningful life of President Jimmy Carter
- *Sharon Kouba's brother-in-law, Joe, following a medical concern
- *Lynn Heidt moving to a rehabilitation center in Ankeny
- *Marti Bowman's sister, Anna, following surgery and hospitalization
- *Sue Moss's brother-in-law, John, with cancer surgery
- *Ron Malick recovering from knee surgery
- *Pam Nixon's cousin's husband with an upcoming surgery
- *Lu Serbousek's oldest sister hospitalized
- *Kim Moore's friend, Sherry, with grandbaby to come facing challenges
- *Families impacted by the Azerbaijan Airlines flight crash



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

Website: www.lovelylane.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc
Phone: (319) 393-6674
2424 42nd Street NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

Lovely Lane Monthly Financial Information

Cash inflow - month of 11/30/24	\$28,734
Cash inflow - YTD	\$516,868
Budget need/month	\$53,556
Cash outflow - month of 11/30/24	\$43,498
Cash outflow - YTD	\$539,925
Unpaid apportionments	\$0

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 Caregiver Lead	Tara Neveu
Nursery Caregiver	Paige Gerjets
Nursery Caregiver	Hailey Ryan
Nursery Caregiver	Brooke Johnson
Director Children's Weekday Ministries (CWM)	Dawn DuPont

Office & Facilities

Office Administrator & Finance Secretary	Tammy Martin
Office Assistant	Marti Bowman
Treasurer	Susan Kohl
Membership Secretary	Susan Camp
Facilities Manager	Curtis Thomas
Custodians	Rex & Rhonda Heasty
Website & Social Media	Shelly Turner
Wedding Coordinator	Becky Wood