



Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church

December 2025

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 63, Number 12

Driven or Called?

“God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship . . .” – 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV)

Driven or called? Which way do you lean? Folks who are driven tend to find gratification through accomplishments and achievements. Driven individuals are always looking for “more” and they are often busy and competitive. Those who are driven are easily consumed with symbols of success.

Called individuals, on the other hand, know who they are and their identity is not the same as “what they do.” A called person has a strong sense of purpose and self-awareness. A called person tends to be calm in times of crisis, and they are proactive, not reactive. Someone who is called sees their life as an opportunity to glorify God.

Biblically speaking, King Saul is the epitome of a driven person and John the Baptist is a good example of a person who is called. King Saul was the first king of Israel and he went to great extremes to keep his power. His life was often filled with fear and jealousy. He worked hard to maintain control over ancient Israel. Saul became jealous of David after the young shepherd boy took down the mighty Goliath.





As a person who understood his calling, John the Baptist was a First Century prophet who knew what he was on earth to do. He knew he was called to prepare the way for the Christ Child to come into the world. His life was purpose-based and characterized by a commitment to his divine mission. He never wanted the spotlight. He made sure his work set the stage for Jesus. And when Jesus came into the world, he took a backseat.

During this Advent Season, we are looking at this one who had a divine calling. We are looking at John the Baptist. Some of the Wednesday study groups are focusing on a book by Adam Hamilton, entitled, “Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist.” Additionally, the sermon series in worship, “Preparing the Way,” will correspond with the chapters in the book. We will look at John’s parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, John’s birth, his ministry and work, and the legacy he left behind.

I look forward to being on this Advent journey with each of you. John has so much to teach us as we embrace our calling to serve God and others! Blessings, Pastor Scott

I hope each of you can join us on **Sunday, December 21**, as we say **Good-Bye** to Pastor Kristina, Ryan Audrey, and Philip. We will have a celebration time between services at 9:30. Personally, it has been a privilege and blessing to serve alongside Pastor Kristina. She has made Lovely Lane a better church and she has made me a better pastor. We all wish her and her family the best! - *Scott*

Calendar of Events (subject to change) - December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:45 Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	2	3 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study (Fireside) 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kids Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Bells	4 6:00 - 8:30 pm First Aid Training (Fellowship Hall)	5	6 1:00 - 4:00 pm Private Reservation (Fellowship Hall)
7 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 am Worship In-person 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 Children SS 12:00 pm Congolese	8 11:30 am Happy Endings Book Club (Bistro at Blooms) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	9 7:00 pm Christmas with Bonhoeffer (Sanctuary)	10 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study (Fireside) 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kids Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Bells	11	12	13 1:30-3:30 pm Christmas Music Extravaganza (St. Paul's UMC) 1:00-4:30 pm Scouting America (Fellowship Hall)
14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30am Worship In-person 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 Children SS 12:00 pm Congolese	15 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	16	17 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study (Fireside) 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kids Club Winter Wonderland 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 Youth Group 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Bells	18	19	20 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 am Worship In-person 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 Children SS 12:00 pm Congolese	22 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	23 6:30 pm SPPRC (Library)	24 <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services</i> 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 pm 	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26	27 10:00 am - 4:30 pm Private Reservation (Fellowship Hall)
28 9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese	29 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	30	31 			

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**

Peace To You

With the itinerant system in the United Methodist Church, pastors tend to move throughout their career to different churches that can use their gifts. As a pastor's kid in the UMC, we moved a lot, and I will say it was always hard. Change has always been a hard thing for me to navigate. My mom and I were recently reminiscing when I was ten years old and cried when I came home from school to find the living room furniture had been rearranged. Even now, many years later, change is still hard. I became emotional as we started packing up our stuff last month to sell our house, and while it was a relief that our house sold, I still let some tears out while signing our contract.

As my family approaches saying, "Goodbye" as we prepare for our reappointment, we are reflecting on everything these last five and a half years, and we are grateful. We arrived in Cedar Rapids at a hard time, when we were still in the height of the pandemic, and then the derecho hit us, damaging our new home. This could have turned into a hard appointment as it started at a rough time, but you showed up to help us create a more permanent tarp job as we awaited the repair of our roof and helped us clean up our yard. We celebrated together with the birth of our daughter, Audrey and now the birth of our son, Philip. You loved on us so much that we had so much baby stuff covered for our children that we spent very little. We celebrated the life and ministry of Nourished together, and many of you have served on its leadership board, helped in the bakery, or gave of your time and money. We celebrated my ordination together, and I will be forever grateful for the shoulders to cry on in that hard year of deferment. You've provided a space for me as a new clergyperson to explore my gifts, become a better preacher, and work on my growing edges.

And now as we near the culmination of our time together, we just want to say, "Thank You!" Thank you for loving on us and sending us off with so much warmth in our hearts. It's not a 'goodbye,' but a 'see you later!' (As the second movie "Wicked: For Good" has come out, I feel such a connection to the song by the same name and its words share my feelings well:

*I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason,
Bringing something we must learn, and we are led,
To those who help us most to grow, if we let them,
And we help them in return.
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true,
But I know I'm who I am today because I knew you...
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you, I have been changed for good.*

*It well may be that we will never meet again in this lifetime,
So let me say before we part,
So much of you is made of what I learned from you,
You'll be with me, like a handprint on my heart...
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
Because I knew you, I have been changed for good.*

With much love to you all!

Pastor Kristina, Ryan, Audrey, and Philip Roth-Klinck

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

December 7 *Second Sunday of Advent*

In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Preparing the Way: Expect Grace!"
Scripture: Luke 1:57-66

December 14 *Third Sunday of Advent*

In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Kristina Roth-Klinck will preach, "Preparing the Way: Repent & Receive!"
Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

December 21 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & live-stream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Preparing the Way: Go, Tell It!"
Scripture: John 1:1-13

December 24 *Christmas Eve*

Family Friendly Candlelight Service 3:30, in-person with Pastor Kristina
Candlelight Service 5:30, in-person and live-stream with Pastor Scott
Candlelight Service 7:30, in-person with Pastor Scott

December 28 *First Sunday after Christmas*

In-person & live-stream service at **9:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Out of Egypt"
Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23



Youth Summer Service Trip Informational Meeting

December 14, 2025 5:00–6:00 pm

Use this link to join us:

<https://meet.google.com/uce-eovc-kga>

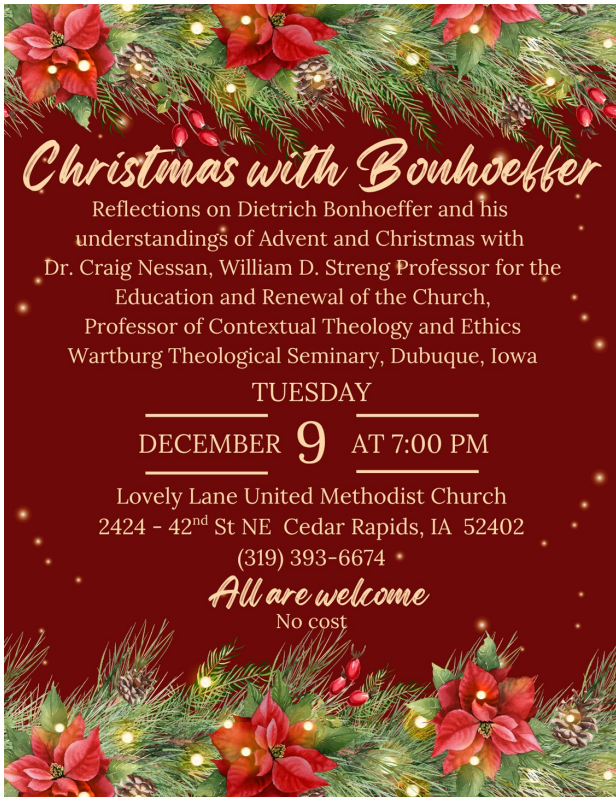
Study groups with Pastor Scott continue to meet on Wednesdays. The morning group meets on Zoom at 9:30 am. The evening group meets in the library at 6:00 pm. The Advent Study will start on **December 3**. The book, "Prepare the Way for the Lord," by Adam Hamilton, is available in the church office, \$10.

Kids Club Winter Wonderland Wednesday, December 17



The Children's Christmas Program will be held during 10:30 worship service on **Sunday, December 21**

United Women in Faith will provide the family meal and cookies for everyone to decorate. We will also have a hot cocoa bar and crafts and will have the kids lead a sing-a-long of Christmas carols. All are welcome!



Christmas with Bonhoeffer

Reflections on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his understandings of Advent and Christmas with Dr. Craig Nesson, William D. Steng Professor for the Education and Renewal of the Church, Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 9 AT 7:00 PM

Lovely Lane United Methodist Church
2424 - 42nd St NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
(319) 393-6674

All are welcome
No cost



Men's Breakfast

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
8:30 AM
LOVELY LANE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

The special speaker will be
John Payan,
Head Men's Basketball Coach,
Coe College

A LIGHT BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Christmas Extravaganza



The Cedar Rapids Metro Circuit invite you to a joyful celebration of the season

Saturday, December 13, 1:30-3:30 PM
St. Paul's UMC
1340 3rd Ave SE Cedar Rapids

Let's come together to celebrate the joy of Christmas with music, laughter, and community.

Children's Weekday Ministries Fundraisers

Save money going out to eat, shopping, entertaining kids, shipping gifts for Christmas and more by using coupons! CWM is selling the *Savearound* coupon books with 50% of proceeds benefiting Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare. If you are interested, please stop in the church office or preschool office to purchase one in person or order online.

<https://www.sapaynow.com/180493>

Our outreach preschool, Trinity Lane, is selling pasta kits from Marion based Pasta of the Prairie. You can order online at: <https://www.pastaoftheprairie.com/shop> and select Trinity Lane Preschool as the fundraiser. Purchase pasta and donate it to a food bank and you've helped two missions at once! Thank you for your support.



United
Women
in Faith

On **Wednesday, December 17**, we will be assisting with the Kid's Club Christmas Event. Our responsibilities include preparing the meal to be served at 5:00 pm for about 50 people. We are supplying Sloppy Joes and buns.

Additional items needed include: fruit, vegetables, salads or side dishes of your choice, 2 gallons of milk, and desserts.

Please call or text Deb Streff at (319) 721-8864 to let her know what you plan to bring or for more information. And of course, we will also need help to set up, some servers, and help with cleanup. Please arrive between 5:00 and 5:15 with food and to set up.

* * *

Our Garage Sale will be held this spring. Date and more information coming soon.



The Happy Endings Book Club
Monday, December 8, 11:30 am
We will meet for some holiday cheer,
fellowship, and lunch at
Bistro at Blooms
1440 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion
Please plan on joining us!

Judy McDowell (319) 560-2960

During the recent loss of my mother, I have been deeply touched by the outpouring of love and support from so many of you, my Lovely Lane family. Thank you for your heartfelt cards, thoughtful phone calls, and prayers. Your kindness and compassion have provided great comfort during this difficult time, and I am truly grateful for each expression of sympathy and support.

Please know that your caring gestures have meant so much to me and my family. Thank you again for standing with me as I grieve and remember my mother.—With love, Judy McDowell

2025 Advent Offering Recipients



Waypoint: Waypoint's Domestic Violence Victim Services Program (DV Program) offers free, confidential services to domestic violence victims and survivors, as well as their families. Waypoint is Cedar Rapids' largest provider of shelter for women and families with children. It also offers daily childcare and education for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age.

National Alliance on Mental Illness: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. Most of NAMI's funding comes from individual contributions.

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 committed to being an ongoing supporting partner of this ministry.

Fire and Fragrance: This mission is part of the "Youth with a Mission" family. Currently, Ellen Stines, a former member of Lovely Lane is serving in her fourth year as a full-time missionary with them in South Africa. Ministries include evangelism, discipleship of women in a rehab center, worship and prayer, and promoting events helping to spread the body of Christ across South Africa. All financial support comes from churches, friends, and family.



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

Website: www.lovelylane.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc

Instagram: www.instagram.com/lovelylaneumc

Phone: (319) 393-6674

2424 42nd Street NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Lovely Lane Monthly Financial Information

Cash inflow - month of 10/31/25	\$56,080.38
Cash inflow - YTD	\$538,894.74
Budget need/month	\$56,735.00
Cash outflow - month of 10/31/25	\$49,755.95
Cash outflow - YTD	\$503,067.19
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
Pianist	Marcie Stumpf
Chancel Choir Director	Nancy Patrick
Handbell Choir Director	Charlie Kucera
Chancel Choir Accompanist	Linda Bayliss
Director of Children's Choirs	Olivia Schneider

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	Sarah Alterbal
Treasurer	Susan Kohl
Membership Secretary	Susan Camp
Facilities Manager	Curtis Thomas
Custodians	Rex & Rhonda Heasty
Website & Social Media	Shelly Turner
Wedding Coordinator	Becky Wood