



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

February 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 2

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**

Three Simple Rules

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition . . ." – Philippians 2:3 (NIV)

Like many of you I have been following the events in Minneapolis and St. Paul in recent weeks. It has been heartbreaking to learn about the deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. I can't imagine how difficult it must be for the friends and family of these two individuals. Thoughts and prayers go out at this trying time.

Prayers also go out to the immigrants and refugees who are living in fear in the Twin Cities. Lovely Lane has a long history of supporting folks who are looking for better opportunities in our country. We hope these folks carry forward seeking the possibilities our nation provides.

And yes, we pray for all those who have been in Minneapolis protesting and seeking changes that will assist those in need. Religious leaders from a number of different faith traditions have come alongside individuals who have a heart for justice and peace. In the midst of extremely cold temperatures folks have been calling for change and shown a willingness to be arrested.


Reflecting on all this I keep coming back to "Three Simple Rules." The rules come to us from John Wesley and his work with the people called Methodists in the 1700's. Focusing on Philippians 2:1-13, Wesley wrote that we need to "Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God (or Attend to the Ordinances of God). These rules were meant to be simple and practical guidelines for faithful living in the Eighteenth Century. They still resonate today.

For starters, we need to "do no harm." Our actions and words should not harm others. We don't want to hurt those around us. The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church released a statement recently condemning the violence in Minnesota. They wrote, "We detest the inhumane evil actions that are perpetuated by governmental authorities." The message is to do no harm.

Furthermore, we are to "do good and stay in love with God." Doing good means we act in an upstanding way with a desire to lift up those around us. We are to build up others. And, of course, we never want to lose our love for God. Our actions should move us closer to God. We want to keep the faith!

During these challenging times we might seek a bit more than three simple rules, but it's an important start as we seek guidance and perspective. Take good care! Peace,
Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) - February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 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	2 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside Room) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	3 6:30 to 7:30 pm Prayer Vigil (Sanctuary Lovely Lane)	4 Souper Sunday <i>Orders Due</i> 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kids Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group Bowling at Spare Time 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Bells	5	6	7 10:30am -12:00pm Souper Sunday Prep (Kitchen)
8 Sports Clothing & Souper Sunday 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 5:00 pm Youth Big Game Party at (St. Paul's UMC)	9 10:00 am Happy Endings Book Club (Fireside Room) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	10	11 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kids Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group Bowling at Spare Time 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Bells	12 12:00 - 5:00 pm Clergy Ethics Training (Sanctuary) 1:00 pm United Women in Faith Valentine Boxes Assembly and Delivery (Fellowship Hall)	13	14 
15 Pick up Lent in a Bag 8:30-10:30am Heart Healthy Brunch 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 2:00 pm Families at AirFx	16 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside Room) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	17	18 6:00 pm Pancake Supper (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)	19 4:00 pm Green Sq. Meals 6:00 pm Health & Wholeness (FH) 6:00 pm Finance (Fireside Room) 7:00 pm Admin Council (Library)	20	21 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) <div style="background-color: #d4edda; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb;"> Charlie Kucera will share about the board game he created, "Captains and Companies." We will enjoy coffee and a few breakfast items. All are welcome! </div>
22 Nonagenarian Sunday 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 3:00 pm Youth Service Project (St. Paul's UMC)	23 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	24	25 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	26 12:00 pm Friendly Fellowship Potluck Lunch (Fellowship Hall)	27	28 <div style="background-color: #dc3545; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 2px solid white;"> <p style="margin: 0;">Save the date!</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Vacation Bible School</p> <p style="margin: 0;">July 19 - July 23, 2026</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Theme:</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Snowball Mountain</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Challenge</p> </div>

United Women in Faith – Valentines Day Boxes – Please join us on **Thursday, February 12 at 1:00 pm** to box up cookies, candies, snacks and cards and then deliver to our friends who cannot make it to church regularly. Please bring 1-2 dozen Valentine's cookies, candies, or snacks to share. We welcome anyone to donate cookies and candies. We will need 5-7 drivers to deliver and visit with each of our friends. You can make it a family affair if you would like, you are welcome to bring your husband and/or your kids. Looking forward to seeing you on the 12th! Please call or text Deb Streff with questions. (319) 721-8864.



WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

- February 1** **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "What God Wants from Us"
Scripture: Micah 6:1-8
- February 8** **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Salt and Light"
Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20
- February 15** **Transfiguration Sunday**
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Alecia Hilmer will preach, "Continental Divide"
Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9
- February 18** **Ash Wednesday Worship**
In-person service & livestream at **7:00 pm**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Ashes to Ashes"
Scripture: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- February 22** **First Sunday in Lent**
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Water into Wine," *Encounters with Jesus*
Scripture: John 2:1-11

Lent is the 40 days before Easter where we seek to journey with Jesus. As we reflect on Jesus' life, ministry and death, the invitation is for us to look at our own lives and draw closer to God. *Lent in a Bag* provides us with symbols, scripture and reflective questions for a weekly devotional in our homes. During difficult times, it becomes crucial to rely on spiritual practices and reflections.

Beginning **Sunday, February 15**, each household may pick up a bag at the church. In your bag, you will find various items and readings:

- A 12 X 12 sheet to serve as your altar mat
- A printed guide for the weekly reflection devotions
- A flameless votive candle
- Assorted items which will be placed on or around the altar mat on specific weeks

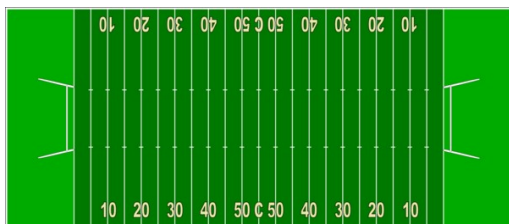
You will want to have a Bible, pen and perhaps a small journal available. This will allow you to read the assigned passage from your own Bible during the devotional. The scriptures will follow the Lenten sermon series. We have modification packets for children, youth and those wanting deeper study.

We are inviting all our households to join in this Lenten journey. Imagine how this will deepen our conversations at home and with our church community.

This is brought to you by United Women of Faith.



LOVELY LANE YOUTH



Come for the food and fun at our Big Game Party on **February 8** at St. Paul's UMC, from 5:00 pm to the end of the game. We will have the game on, play games, and enjoy food throughout the night. Students are welcome to come and go as schedules allow. We will provide food from *Raising Cane's*. Please bring a side or snack to share and friends and family.

* * * * *

**Service Project:
No Sew Blankets
for Animals.**



Location:
St. Paul's UMC
Time: 3:00 - 4:30

Join us on **Sunday, February 22** as we make no-sew fleece blankets to donate to a local animal shelter. This is a hands-on service project that helps keep animals warm and cared for. Please bring a willingness to serve and your friends.

**Family Fun at AirFX Trampoline Park
Sunday, February 15, 2026
2:00 - 3:00 pm**

1100 N 18th Ave, Hiawatha
Please join Lovely Lane at the trampoline park for an afternoon of family fun!

For questions, please contact Annie Walker
anniew@lovelylane.org

Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone for all their prayers and support. I feel very blessed to say I am now cancer free! I appreciate all of you so much!

- Marci Wittles



Sports Clothing Sunday



On **Super Bowl Sunday, February 8**, you are invited to wear your favorite sports clothing to worship. You might wear clothing that supports your local high school, college, or pro team.

Pastor's Study Group

The study groups with Pastor Scott will focus on the book, *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, during the Lenten season. The Wednesday classes will take place at 9:30 (on Zoom) and 6:00 pm in the library and start on **February 25**.

Lovely Lane Youth Group

FUNDRAISER

SOUPER SUNDAY

Subs and soup to go on Sunday, February 8
Place orders by Wednesday, February 4.
Order online with QR code below.



Funds raised will go towards our Summer 2026 Service Learning Trip to Columbia, MO, focusing on Disability Inclusion and Advocacy.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
(715) 432-1982
kimm@lovelylane.org



Prayer Vigil For Current Times

You are warmly invited to join us for a Prayer Vigil – a sacred time to gather in unity, lift our hearts to God, and intercede for our community, our nation, and the world. **Tuesday, February 3, 6:30 to 7:30 pm** in the sanctuary at Lovely Lane.

This will be an evening of worship, scripture reading, and heartfelt prayer. Let us come together in faith, believing that our prayers can bring light into the darkest places. "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." – Matthew 18:20. You will want to bring your Bible, along with a pen. We look forward to praying alongside you.

LISTENING CAMPAIGN 2.0

We are excited to offer the Listening Campaign 2.0! This was so successful last year that it is making its return with a few modifications. Jane Schildroth will serve as the point person. It was such a powerful experience last year, she said, "It enriched our connections with each other." Jane served as one of the interviewers.

The Listening Campaign 2.0 consists of people who enjoy interviewing others. The purpose is to deepen our connection with others in the church body. If you are interested in learning more, there will be a 20 minute training session in early March. If you want to serve as an interviewer, you will be asked to meet with 4-6 individuals for an hour over the course of a couple of months. On the other hand, you might want to be interviewed. If you would like to do either of these roles, contact Jane Schildroth or Alecia Hilmer. In Jane's experience, she said after one meeting, "I may have seen this person for the last 6 years, but after the conversation, I feel like I've known them all along!"

Lovely Lane Preschool Spotlight

This month we want to highlight our volunteer Denise Lawton. Denise is a member of Lovely Lane Church and volunteers at the preschool every Monday. She helps weekly with teacher prep work, bulletin boards and organizing the lending library we have in the hall for our families. She has also helped with our annual Christmas store and Christmas program receptions. Lastly, Denise plays a key part in us participating in the Hy-Vee "Cash for Students" program by counting up all the Hy-Vee receipts from the collection boxes in the narthex and preschool vestibule.

When I asked Denise what her favorite part of volunteering at preschool was she said "I love the people. I love the staff and greeting kids when they walk by." The staff feel the same about her. Miss Brenda, our 4's teacher says "Denise is so helpful with preparing activities for the preschool classroom. She is always here on Mondays rain or shine and has a smile. She is such a blessing!"

We consider Denise a part of our staff at Lovely Lane Preschool and Childcare and are so thankful for all that she does for our program.

*Dawn Dupont
Children's Weekday Ministries Director*





In January, the United Women in Faith presented a program on Meditation on January 24. Andrew Barton shared a form of meditation called Visio Divina, which centered on seeing and expressing different ideas on what you “see.” Also, how we can feel and see in different situations.

Margaret Nelson shared nine different ways to quiet our minds and become mentally strong. She shared this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“Sow a thought and you reap an action;
Sow an act and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit and reap a character;
Sow a character and you reap a destiny;”

Church Wide Garage Sale – Start cleaning out your closets, basements, garages and box up your things to bring to the church on **Friday evening, April 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm**. United Women in Faith will be hosting a garage sale the following morning, **Saturday, April 18, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**. Proceeds will go towards missions and the summer youth trip. What to donate for the sale: kitchen items, home décor, books, toys, furniture, children’s clothing and sporting goods. What NOT to donate for the sale: adult clothing, tube TV’s, large appliances and mattresses. Many volunteers (men, women, and youth) will be needed to set up, to help at the sale and for takedown and delivery of unsold items to charity. Please contact Deb Streff (319) 721-8864 or debstreff@gmail.com.

**Friendly Fellowship - Potluck Lunch
February 26, 2026 at Noon
Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall**



For our Program we are excited to have C. J. Flynn to provide an overview of AI (Artificial Intelligence) for Senior Citizens. He will provide a handout, so bring your questions. C. J. serves as a continuing education instructor at Kirkwood Community College and frequently teaches technology classes at local senior centers, focusing on community education and digital confidence. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Please contact Judy McDowell (319) 560-2960 for more information.

Nonagenarian Sunday

We will honor age 90+ church members on **February 22, at 10:30** worship service.



**Heart Healthy Brunch
Sunday, February 15, 2026
8:30 - 10:30 am**

Please join Health & Wholeness for our **Annual Brunch**
Serving: **Quiche, Muffins, Fruit, Egg Casseroles, Yogurt, Pumpkin Bars, Cinnamon Rolls and More!**

Fellowship Hall at Lovely Lane



The Happy Endings Book Club

will meet at **10:00 am on February 9** at Lovely Lane in the Fireside Room We will be

discussing *The Photograph* by Penelope Lively.

The novel opens with a snapshot: Kath, before her death, at an unknown gathering, holding hands with a man who is not her husband. The photograph is in an envelope marked "DON'T OPEN - DESTROY." But Kath's husband does not heed the warning, embarking on a journey of discovery that reveals a tight web of secrets: within marriages, between sisters, and at the heart of an affair. Kath, with her mesmerizing looks and casual ways, moves like a ghost through the memories of everyone who knew her - and a portrait emerges of a woman whose life cannot be understood without plumbing the emotional depths of the people she touched.

(This is an older book, published in 2003.)

JOYS

- *Welcoming Pastor Alecia Hilmer and husband, Todd, to Lovely Lane
- *Curtis and Maggie Thomas with family visiting in worship
- *Travis Meiborg celebrating family time over the holidays
- *Joan Roscovius lifting up friend, Pauline, in worship
- *New persons added to committee rosters in the New Year
- *Happy 66th anniversary to Phil and Shirley Martin
- *Melissa Beastrom with successful surgery for cancer
- *LuAnn Basemann expresses thanks for prayers for her sister
- *Happy 102nd birthday to Marcie Baugh
- *Nice choir retreat
- *Duane and Mary Abbey celebrate birth of new grandchild
- *Janice Jamison with news that Ellie had a good health report
- *Happy anniversary to Steve and Mary Odegaard
- *Celebrating the ministry of Dennis Ramsey on January 25
- *Celebrating the music ministry of organist Dennis Ramsey
- *Chris Johnson celebrates one year at Lovely Lane
- *Curtis and Maggie Thomas rejoicing in new grandchild, Elliott
- *Emmett Mills selling pancake meal tickets for Scouts


Remembering with love:	
Dan Randall	2019
Gene Kadlec	2021
Sally Craig	2021
Kae Schmickley	2022
Kay Rath	2023
Eddie Anderson, Jr.	2023
Rev. Thomas Rimmer	2024
Mary Root	2024

Lovely Lane Name Tags
History, Process and Information
 Please watch your February bulletins for an insert

CONCERNS

- *Darla Reed-Tinderholt's brother-in-law following a heart attack
- *Melissa Beastrom with lung cancer surgery
- *Janice Jamison with family friend's 2-year-old child suffering a stroke
- *Sympathy to Joan Roscovius after passing of her friend, Linda
- *Craig Martinson with delayed surgical procedure
- *Sister church in Matanzas, Cuba, navigating current events
- *Darla Reed-Tinderholt's son, Levi, recovering after surgery
- *Mike Nesslage's father in Ohio with heart concerns
- *Carla Jesse's cousin, Max, and his wife with health challenges
- *Dr. Mary Anne Nelson with difficult health news
- *Kim Moore's friend, Jackie, with cancer diagnosis
- *Sister church in Matanzas, Cuba, facing challenges
- *Marci Wittles recovering from successful surgery
- *Alex Niebuhr and family as they await arrival of his girlfriend from China
- *Lynn Heidt's father is hospitalized, and a good friend is ill with the flu
- *Sean and Rachel Thomas with challenges as they await the birth of a child
- *Andrii and Misha, church friends facing challenges in Ukraine
- *Barb Vancura's friend, Annie, following the passing of her mother, Beth
- *Dave and Mari Lu Smith with a family loss on Dave's side of the family
- *Sympathy to the family of Ruth Schwiebert (memorial service Friday 1/30 at Murdoch in Marion, 10:30)
- *Sympathy to the family of Regina Culbertson (memorial service 1/31 at Lovely Lane, 1:30)
- *Sympathy to the family and friends of Judy and Jessica Fisher following a car accident
- *Cheryl Murphy's grandson, Teddy, handling depression
- *Liz Briggman's neighbor, Larry, receiving medical care

REMEMBER!
 When you give blood you can credit Lovely Lane UMC for the donation.





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 12/31/25	\$47,909
Cash inflow - YTD	\$642,970
Budget need/month	\$56,735
Cash outflow - month of 12/31/25	\$61,295
Cash outflow - YTD	\$609,186
Unpaid apportionments	\$0

LOVELY LANE UMC STAFF

Administration & Worship

Lead Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Media & Technology

Pianist

Chancel Choir Director

Handbell Choir Director

Chancel Choir Accompanist

Director of Children's Choirs

Dr. Scott Meador

Dr. Alecia Hilmer

Eric Wylie

Marcie Stumpf

Nancy Patrick

Charlie Kucera

Linda Bayliss

Olivia Schneider

Children & Youth

Director of Family Ministries

Director of Youth Ministries

Nursery Caregiver Lead

Nursery Caregiver

Nursery Caregiver

Director Children's Weekday Ministries (CWM)

Annie Walker

Kim Moore

Brooke Johnson

Hailey Ryan

Carly Giddings

Dawn DuPont

Office & Facilities

Office Administrator & Finance Secretary

Office Assistant

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Facilities Manager

Custodians

Website & Social Media

Event Coordinator

Tammy Martin

Sarah Alterbal

Susan Kohl

Susan Camp

Curtis Thomas

Rex & Rhonda Heasty

Shelly Turner

Becky Wood