



**Lovely Lane**  
United Methodist Church

March 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 3

## **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**

## **The Season of Lent**

*"Be still, and know that I am God"—Psalm 46:10 (NIV)*

Forty years ago Matthew Broderick spoke the iconic words, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." These words come from the popular movie, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." These words have become a bit of a mantra for many of us over the years. We realize how fast life moves.

Just think about all that's happened this year. Christmas was not that long ago. Yet, since Christmas, we have made it through the first two months of the year. The Super Bowl and the Olympics have come and gone. We will soon move into spring break and we will start thinking about summer vacations. Life moves pretty fast. And of course the need is to "slow down" a bit and consider our place in life.

During the forty day season of Lent we are called to slow down and spend time embracing the spiritual disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, study, and service. This season that began on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Maundy Thursday is a time to go deeper in our faith and help those around us. As Pope Francis once said, "During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, and receive with open hearts the love of God."

Now I don't really have anything profound to say about slowing down in the midst of our busy lives, but I might lift up a couple of thoughts. One is to simply "maximize the moment" we are in. We need to squeeze meaning out of what's right in front of us, instead of rushing past it. In the moment we might have an opportunity to deepen our faith by embracing the various disciplines, but we might also need to assist our fellow person, our neighbor. If we are moving too fast, we don't notice the needs around us.

Beyond all this, we want to "carry momentum" into our work and life. This means we need to navigate the change, challenges, and opportunities in front of us to sustain forward motion. It means we need to effectively execute the transitions we are in, much like a "race car driver" optimizes speed going around a corner to maximize velocity on the straight. As a colleague once told me, "while sustaining momentum is good, it's better to increase it." Might we keep working to slow down and maximize . . . and even thrive, in the midst of the moments we are in!

Grace and peace to each of you, Pastor Scott

## Calendar of Events (subject to change) - March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 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 2:30 pm Family Ministries at Potter's Obsession 4:00 pm Last Supper Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside Room)  6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 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	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</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 2:00 pm Youth at Super Skate 4:00 Last Supper Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Happy Endings Book Club (Fireside Room)  6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 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	<b>12</b> 1:00 pm United Women in Faith (Fireside Room)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 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 4:00 pm Last Supper Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside Room)  6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	<b>17</b>   Happy St.Patrick's Day !	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study (Fireside) 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 7:15 pm Bells  No Family Ministries or youth activities due to Spring Break	<b>19</b> 4:00 pm Green Sq. Meals 5:45 Trustees (Library) 6:00 pm Health & Wholeness (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm Finance (Fireside Room) 7:00 pm Admin Council (Library)	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Living Last Supper at Methwick	<b>21</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
<b>22</b> 8:30am Worship In-person 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese 6:30 pm Living Last Supper in Clinton	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 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	<b>26</b> 12:00 pm Friendly Fellowship Potluck Lunch (Fellowship Hall)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>Palm Sunday</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 7:00 pm Living Last Supper at LL	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	<b>31</b>				

## WORSHIP IN MARCH

- March 1**      ***Second Sunday in Lent***  
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**  
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Nicodemus at Night," *Encounters with Jesus*  
Scripture: John 3:1-17
- March 8**      ***Third Sunday in Lent***  
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**  
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Quench My Thirst," *Encounters with Jesus*  
Scripture: John 4:5-42
- March 15**     ***Fourth Sunday in Lent***  
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**  
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "But Now I See," *Encounters with Jesus*  
Scripture: John 9:1-41
- March 22**    ***Fifth Sunday in Lent***  
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**  
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Raising Lazarus," *Encounters with Jesus*  
Scripture: John 11:1-45
- March 29**    ***Palm Sunday***  
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**  
Associate Pastor Alecia Hilmer will preach.

## Listening Campaign 2.0

Last autumn, we started getting to know one another by sharing and listening to 40 different individual stories. We hope to keep this meaningful journey going for the church with Listening Campaign 2.0. Look around and determine if you would like to become better acquainted with someone in the congregation, on your committee or within your activity.

Decide if you would like to share your own story with someone from LLUMC.

Let Pastor Alecia or Jane Schildroth know of your interest and the following will happen:

Listeners will attend a 30-minute meeting to gather some tips.

- Determine what persons we might wish to interview.
- Discover ways to establish first contact
- Three simple questions that can help spark easy conversations
- Hear from people who participated last year
- Answer any questions you may have

This would entail three commitments:

- Attend the 30-minute meeting
- Plan on 45-60 minute conversation with the person being interviewed at a location of your choosing
- Participate in the summary meeting scheduled at the conclusion of the eight-week interview period

\*\*If you are being interviewed, you just need to be willing to meet and talk about your own story – how you came to LLUMC, how you spend your time now and anything else you feel comfortable sharing. That's it!



# LOVELY LANE YOUTH



Please note:

**March 18**

No Wednesday Night Youth  
(Spring Break)

**Lenten Book Study** – 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 am (on Zoom) and 6:00 pm in the library . Books are available in the church office for \$10.



### Living Last Supper Schedule for 2026

- Friday, March 20, 6:30 pm – Meth-Wick Community
- Sunday, March 22, 6:30 pm – Catholic Historical Center in Clinton
- Sunday, March 29, 7:00 pm – Lovely Lane UMC
- Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm – Lovely Lane UMC

## LOVELY LANE FAMILY EVENTS 2026

DATE	EVENT
February 15	AirFx 2:00pm - 3:30pm at 110 N 18 <sup>th</sup> Ave Hiawatha
March 1	Potter's Obsession 2:30pm - 4:30pm at 1941 51 <sup>st</sup> St NE Cedar Rapids
April 4	Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am at Lovely Lane UMC
May 3	Family Game Day 2:00pm - 4:00pm at Lovely Lane UMC
July 19 - July 23	VBS 5:15pm - 8:00pm at Lovely Lane
August 4	National Night Out 6:00pm - 7:30pm at Lovely Lane

## A WEEKEND WITH JOHN PAVLOVITZ MT. VERNON, IOWA

**FRI, APRIL 10 7:00 PM**  
MESSAGE, Q & A, BOOKSIGNING

**SAT, APRIL 11 1:30 PM**  
WORKSHOP: LIVING AN EMPATHY-CENTERED LIFE

**SUN, APRIL 12 8:30/11:00 AM**  
SUNDAY SERVICES

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF MOUNT VERNON  
304 1<sup>ST</sup> ST W  
MOUNT VERNON, IA



ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

UMCMV.COM

## 2026 LENTEN SPECIAL OFFERING RECIPIENTS

**\*Please note that any contributions to this first specific Lenten Offering will only be accepted in cash to be compliant and because of the delicate situation in Cuba at this time. A receipt for tax purposes will be provided for all cash contributions, if name is provided at the time of giving.**

**Cuba Partnership:** Last year our church established a sister arrangement with the Fraternity Baptist Church in Matanzas, Cuba. Pastor Alicita leads this small, active, mission-minded congregation that faces numerous challenges, including power outages. The church does amazing work reaching out to its neighbors. A smart part of this offering will also go to the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Havana that is seeking to make a purchase of safe housing for some its most vulnerable members. Lovely Lane stayed with Ebenezer last year.

**Contributions to the following 3 Lenten Offerings can be made with check, cash or online.**

**Matthew 25:** Is a local non-profit that exists to strengthen core urban neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids. Their focus is on fresh, healthy food; affordable, sustainable housing, and education. Projects include the state's first urban farm, school gardens, youth job training, a tool library, Groundswell "pay-it-forward" Café, and a variety of housing programs. Transform, the annual volunteer housing rehabilitation blitz, brings together more than three hundred volunteers in the final full week of June. Lovely Lane will again support and participate in the 11th annual Transform Week.

**Hiawatha Food Pantry:** The pantry located in the public library's entry vestibule, is open to all who are in need. The pantry is supported by partnerships with HACSAP, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, Feed Iowa First, and Linn County Master Gardeners, as well as food rescue partnerships with local grocery and convenience stores. Monetary donations to the Hiawatha Public Library help offset ongoing costs and maintenance needed for the long-term food pantry operation. Food insecurity continues to be a major ongoing issue in our area and beyond.

**Neighbors in Need Fund:** This is dedicated ministry resource through **Hamline UMC of St. Paul**, used to walk alongside individuals and families in seasons of crisis, embodying our call to love our neighbors in very practical ways. The fund (aka the Barnabus Fund) exists to respond quickly and compassionately when neighbors face unexpected financial hardship or systemic barriers, especially those related to poverty, displacement, and immigration. Currently, the fund is being most utilized to support immigrants and refugees within the congregation and the wider neighborhood who are experiencing acute vulnerability.



### **Happy Endings Book Club Monday, March 9 at 10:00 am Lovely Lane in the Fireside Room**

We will be discussing *Mona's Eyes* by Thomas Schlessler. Under the kind and careful tutelage of her grandfather, Mona learns the true meaning of generosity, melancholy, love, loss, and revolution. Her perspective will never be the same—nor will the reader's. *Mona's Eyes* is a heartfelt, enlightening journey across five centuries of Western art history. Please contact Judy McDowell with questions, (319) 560-2960.

### **GREEN SQUARE MEALS**

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



A huge thank you to everyone who made cookies, brought candy, helped box up the Valentine treats and deliver them to our homebound friends!

Next meeting: **Thursday, March 12, 1:00-2:30 pm.**

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



Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. The program will be a speaker on Refugee and Immigrant Services from Catherine McAuley Center. Please contact Judy McDowell with questions, (319) 560-2960.

**Women's Book Study** continues to meet at noon on Wednesdays in the Fireside Room. The book for Lenten Study will be *An Unlikely Lent*, by Rachel Billups and is available in the church office for \$10.

**Men's Breakfast Gatherings**

**Saturday, March 21**  
 Kurt Rogahn from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will speak about mental health.

**Saturday, April 18**  
 Rev. Paul Hennings, FaithLife Church in Marion, with the topic, "How our churches see some issues differently."

**Saturday, May 16**  
 Eric Wylie, staff member and owner of Wylie Creative Communications.  
 We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am. A few breakfast items and coffee will be served.  
 All are welcome!

**GARAGE SALE**

April 18, 2026  
 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Kitchenware, Books, Toys,  
 Children's Clothing,  
 Home décor, Furniture,  
 No Adult Clothing Please

Items can be dropped off at  
 the church on Friday, April 17  
 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Sponsored by  
 United Women in Faith  
 2424 42nd St NE  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

**LOVELY LANE  
 VBS 2026  
 SAVE THE DATE**

**JULY 19 - JULY 23**  
**5:15PM - 8:00PM**

MEAL 5:15PM - 6:00PM  
 PROGRAMMING 6:00PM - 8:00PM

## JOYS

- \*Congratulations to Joe Helle on his retirement!
- \*Becky Wood taking on extra duties as our new Event Coordinator at church
- \*Children showing kindness during these trying times
- \*Persons helping citizens in Minneapolis/St. Paul
- \*Happy 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary to Jim and Myrna Loehrlein
- \*Legal Observer Training in Cedar Rapids
- \*Youth fundraiser preparing subs and soup on Super Bowl Sunday
- \*Metro Orchestra Festival highlighting area youth
- \*United Women in Faith taking cookies and candies to shut-ins for Valentine's Day
- \*Children receiving scouting awards in worship, Ben Davis, Teddy Davis, Rose Mills
- \*Landen and Brinley Bentley with scouting achievements
- \*Judi Leberman's granddaughter was first female in her troop to receive Eagle Scout rank
- \*Jayne Woodson has her coat and keys back
- \*Heart Healthy Brunch from the Health and Wholeness Committee
- \*Central Furniture Rescue event at Cedar Rapids Titans football game
- \*Mark Dillman expressing appreciation for prayers for his family
- \*Busy month of youth activities and fundraisers
- \*Celebrating our nonagenarian church members (90+ in age)
- \*Thanks to Jared Walter for speaking about our Cuba Partnership
- \*Chris Johnson traveling to Mexico for vacation
- \*Jayne Woodson thankful for her family
- \*Tom Muller making the decision to retire

### *Remembering with love:*

Marge Thornton . . . . . 2018  
Karmen Shedenhelm . . . . . 2020  
Dawn Nylin . . . . . 2022  
Lucy Tabela . . . . . 2023  
Majorie Morris . . . . . 2024  
Sheila Hahn . . . . . 2025  
Bihari Richards . . . . . 2025

## CONCERNS

- \*Sympathy to the family of ReGina Culbertson after her passing
- \*Sympathy to the family of Ruth Schwiebert after her passing
- \*Les and Sherry Minor's neighbor, Steve, after an accident in his garage
- \*Karon Niebuhr's niece, Amber, struggling with personal problems
- \*Dillman family facing some difficult times
- \*Jayne Woodson needing car keys that were inside a lost coat
- \*Sympathy to friends and family of Dorris Lanning after her passing (memorial service in the spring)
- \*Sympathy to John and Bobbie O'Bryon following the passing of their niece, Jeannie
- \*David Beckner's father, DeWayne with headaches following a mild stroke
- \*Ronald McDonald House resident, Lucilla, caring for her child in the NICU
- \*Mark Dillman managing hurt with family challenges
- \*John and Bobbie O'Bryon traveling to niece's funeral in Michigan
- \*Marla Gonzalez's sister-in-law with health concerns
- \*Helen Anderson shares story of person needing to carry passport at all times
- \*Linda Bayliss lifting up our military as situation in Iran escalates
- \*Brandon Drew receiving cancer treatment and shirts for sale to raise money
- \*Sharon Kouba's brother-in-law, Joe, with health concerns
- \*Craig Martinson is home after a medical procedure
- \*Tim Muller's best friend's father with health challenges
- \*Teri Krumm's friend, Norma, following a difficult situation

**Lovely Lane will not be holding a blood drive this spring or summer. Please remember that when you give blood anywhere you can credit Lovely Lane UMC for the donation.**





# Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

Website: [www.lovelylane.org](http://www.lovelylane.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc](https://www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/lovelylaneumc](https://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 1/31/26	\$90,008
Cash inflow - YTD	\$90,008
Budget need/month	\$58,973
Cash outflow - month of 1/31/26	\$48,971
Cash outflow - YTD	\$48,971
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