



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

April 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 4

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**

Palm/Passion Narrative

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. These words come to us from Charles Dickens' in his famous historical novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. The novel is set against the conditions that led up to the French Revolution. These famous words begin the story.

The Palm/Passion Sunday narrative could *also* be seen as the best of times and the worst of times. The Palm Sunday story begins this important week. Jesus comes into Jerusalem. The Week of Passover is about to begin. Jewish followers are about to go to the Temple and remember the freedom they were given.

Later in the week Jesus gathers with the disciples in the Upper Room for the Passover Seder meal. Jesus gives new meaning to the meal by breaking the bread and sharing the cup. It is revealed that Judas will betray Jesus. After the events in the Upper Room, the drama moves to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prays the hour might pass from him. Judas arrives in the early morning hours and betrays Jesus with a kiss.

After this, events move to the House of the High Priest, Caiaphas. Jesus is bound hand and feet by the guards. It is said that he will destroy the Temple in three days and it is claimed he believes he is the Christ, the Son of God. Some lies are told. Jesus is silent. He doesn't "come back" at these leaders with his own defense.

Moving forward Jesus is brought to the Antonia Fortress, home base for Pontius Pilate. The religious leaders did not have the power to execute him. This means that Pilate had to be involved. In front of Pilate, Jesus does not "defend" himself. He is labeled as guilty.

Eventually, Jesus carries an ugly cross to Golgotha, where he will be crucified. At Golgotha, he is tied to a post and beaten. Nails go through his hands as a crowd yells and religious leaders laugh. He will die later that day.

Throughout the Palm/Passion narrative we go from the best of times to the worst of times. We go from the joy of Palm Sunday to the difficulty of the Passion Narrative. In the midst of these times though, we journey with Jesus, and we learn about ourselves, we learn about God, and our relationship with God.

And of course, we learn what we can do. Even in the midst of the most trying of times, we can take action and we can remain hopeful. And this is the Good News. And this leads to the best of times once again. More on this with Easter Sunday. Stay tuned! Blessings, Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) - April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Health & Wholeness Committee is looking for suggestions for a theme in the next Fall Women's Retreat. Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Please contact Joy Jackson at joydjackson@gmail.com. All ideas will be considered.</p>			<p>1 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</p>	<p>2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00 pm Living Last Supper at Lovely Lane Sanctuary</p>	<p>3 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship at Lovely Lane Sanctuary</p>	<p>4 10:00-11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt Fellowship Hall and Church Lawn</p>
<p>5 <i>Easter</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:30am Worship In-person 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Easter Brunch 10:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese</p>	<p>6 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 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</p>	<p>9 11:45 am United Women in Faith Lunch at Matthew 25</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 12:30-5:30 pm Scouts (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>12 <i>Confirmation</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 Co-Op Swim at Bender Pool</p>	<p>13 10:00 Happy Endings Book Club 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 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</p>	<p>16 4:00 pm Green Square Meals Downtown 6:30 pm Missions Meeting (Library)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Garage Sale (Fellowship Hall) 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Library)</p>
<p>19 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</p>	<p>20 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>21 7:00 pm Murphy Lecture Series (Lovely Lane Sanctuary)</p>	<p>22 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 7:15 pm Bells</p>	<p>23 12:00 pm Friendly Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 5:45 pm Trustees (Library)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 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</p>	<p>27 Lovely Lane Preschool Music on the Lawn (Church Lawn, in case of rain-in the Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 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 7:15 pm Bells</p>	<p>30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Easter Brunch Sunday, April 5, 2026 9:30–10:30 am Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall All are welcome! Sponsored by the Hospitality Committee</p>	

WORSHIP IN APRIL

- April 5** ***Easter Sunday***
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Making it Real"
Scripture: John 20:1-18
- April 12** ***Confirmation Sunday***
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Alecia will preach, "Saying Yes"
Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:19-20
- April 19** ***Third Sunday of Easter***
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Going to Emmaus"
Scripture: Luke 24:13-35
- April 26** ***Fourth Sunday after Easter***
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Life Together"
Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendar for April 12! This is Confirmation Sunday, with a reception to follow. This year five students completed the Confirmation Course. Confirmation serves as a structured program that allows students to purposefully enhance their understanding of faith as young individuals within a community setting. This group of students asked thoughtful and challenging questions, while engaging in conversations about scripture and everyday issues.



Confirmands are paired up with mentors. Mentors provide the opportunity to have further discussions outside of class. The adults add their faith perspective to the mix. We have been blessed with our mentors. Linda Heneke and John O'Bryon have provided consistent leadership throughout the year. This group began with Pastor Kristina Roth-Klinck and Pastor Alecia Hilmer picked up in January. Linda and John have brought great energy and wisdom.

Confirmation Class and mentors

Ryker Fisher
Emily Mulnik
Hayden Mulnik
Sophie Schear
Tate Starmer

Matt Mulnik
Melissa Davis
Evan Kerns
Shelly Turner
Josh Mills

LOVELY LANE YOUTH

Youth Co-Op Swim Day

Please join us for swimming at Bender Pool.
Sunday, April 12, 2:00-3:30 pm
940 14th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids

The youth co-op will cover the cost of swimming. Food is not allowed. Flotation devices, tubes, noodles, etc. are not allowed.

Please bring your swim suit, a towel, a change of clothes and your friends!



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith will be meeting at Matthew 25 for lunch at **11:45 am on Thursday, April 9**. All women are welcome, please bring a friend, a family member and join us. We will enjoy fellowship and learn some more about Matthew 25 which is located at 201 3rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids. Please contact Deb Streff at (319) 721-8864 with questions.

Upcoming Events:

The garage sale is **April 18, from 8:00 am to noon**. Drop off is scheduled for Friday, April 17 from 5:00 pm to approximately 7:00 pm.

We need lots of help both Friday for setup and Saturday for sales, for take down and delivery of remaining items to Goodwill. Please text or call Deb Streff with questions and to sign up to help, (319) 721-8864. Please refer to the poster in the church narthex for information on what is accepted for donations.

Thank you to all that are willing to help!

GRAY AREA THINKING

A WORKSHOP ON INCLUSION

facilitated by Ellie Krug

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Unity Center of Cedar Rapids

379 I Blairs Ferry Rd NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RSVP Here:



This workshop is open to the public and FREE to attend. Please RSVP to reserve your spot!

This event is co-sponsored by Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist, Unity Center of Cedar Rapids, Christ Episcopal Church, St. Paul's UMC, Olivet Presbyterian Church, Prairiewoods, Lovely Lane UMC, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and the Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness and Advocacy Network

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 1ST ST W
MOUNT VERNON, IA

UMCMV.COM

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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!

KALONA FIELD TRIP

Mark your calendar for **Friday, May 8!** We will head to four spots: Golden Delights Bakery, Maple Ave Nursery, Tuscan Moon Restaurant and Stringtown Grocery. We leave the parking lot at 9:00 AM. More information to come in the May newsletter.



Happy Endings Book Club Monday, April 13, at 10:00 am Lovely Lane in the Fireside Room

This month we will discuss a book you have read recently that you enjoyed and will recommend to the group. Please contact Judy McDowell with questions (319) 560-2926.

GREEN SQUARE MEALS

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

Friendly Fellowship - Potluck Lunch
April 23, 2026 at Noon
Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall

Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Center. Program details to be announced soon. Please contact Judy McDowell with questions, (319) 560-2960.



Lovely Lane
Second Annual Murphy Lecture
Faith & Science Lecture Series

Dr. Roger Dana will be the speaker. He is an elder at First Presbyterian Church Mount Vernon, Iowa. He is also a physicist educated at University of Wisconsin Madison and Stanford University with a Ph.D. in astrophysics. His profession is at the intersection of mathematics, physics, and electronic systems.

Funding for this series comes from memorial money to remember Lovely Lane church member, Jack Murphy.

The presentation is entitled,
"From the Bell Curve to the Big Bang."

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 pm

Lovely Lane UMC
2424 42nd St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

All are welcome!

Pastor Scott's Book Study

The Wednesday study group will look at the book, *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith*, by Tom Berlin, starting **April 8**. Gatherings will take place at 9:30 on Zoom and 6:00 in-person in the library. Books are available in the church office for \$10. 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

The poster features a central orange box with white text. Surrounding the box are various colorful icons representing household items: a red umbrella, a blue camera, a green plant, a blue bird, a stack of books, a red boot, a yellow hat, a pink sewing machine, a blue bicycle, a red teapot, a blue armchair, a yellow hanger, a blue record, an orange suitcase, a red boot, a yellow guitar, a pink bra, and a blue clock.

Men's Breakfast
Gatherings

Saturday, April 18

The speaker will be the Rev. Paul Hennings, Lead Pastor at FaithLife Church in Marion. Conversation will focus on the similar and different ways our congregations approach the key issues of the day. All are welcome!

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!

JOYS

- *Happy birthday to Jaired Lyons
- *Frances Roland with Simpson Youth Academy (SYA) weekend experience
- *Congratulations to Carly Arp for Rotary scholarship and foreign experience coming up
- *LuAnn Basemann and family with new grandson, Cedar
- *Chris Johnson completing a wonderful trip to Mexico
- *Pastor Alecia and husband, Todd, returning home after vacation time
- *Curtis and Maggie Thomas's new grandson, Elliott, is home after hospital stay
- *Bidding time music opportunities are available in worship
- *Andy Craig and family celebrate March birthdays and events
- *JR Streff with great skiing experience in Colorado
- *Cathy Homard celebrates one week of retirement
- *Happy birthday to Kim Moore
- *Revs. Paul & Gayle Wilcox sharing in worship about Ministry in Minneapolis/Saint Paul
- *Hy-Vee receipts collected through the end of the month (this assists LL Preschool)
- *Brandon & Leslie Neugebauer expecting their first child this fall
- *Marci Wittles expressing thanks for prayers for her and her family
- *Frances Roland and other youth excelling at State Speech competition
- *Happy birthday to Judy McDowell
- *Jayne Woodson selling her car to church member
- *Happy 12th birthday to Natalie Krumm
- *Teri Summers lifts up the joy of time with children
- *Lynn Heidt's father celebrating his 99th birthday and Lynn celebrating good health news
- *Nancy Wittenburg sharing that her "cancer free" anniversary has passed

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.



CONCERNS

- *Military operations in Iran and surrounding areas
- *Family members stationed or living in areas with military action
- *Clergy and laity working together to support the immigrant population
- *Leslie Neugebauer's father following a medical procedure
- *Brandon Drew receiving cancer treatment
- *Sharon Kouba's brother-in-law, Bill, with medical concerns
- *City of Austin, Texas, following a mass shooting
- *LuAnn Basemann's brother-in-law is receiving hospice care
- *Joan Roscovius's children's father with stage 4 illness
- *Family members of John and Bobbie O'Bryon grieving after loss
- *Jayne Woodson giving up driving privileges and selling her car
- *Folks impacted by the fire at Green Square Meals
- *Sympathy to the family of the Iowan soldiers who died in combat
- *Marla Gonzalez's sister-in-law, Wendy, in hospice care
- *Stan Coleman with delicate health matters
- *Liz Briggman's friend, Nancy, after her grandson's sudden passing
- *Lu Serbousek's friend, Lori, receiving hospice care
- *Marla Gonzalez following a short hospital visit
- *Jan Peterson with a fracture in her back
- *Sister church in Matanzas, Cuba, facing uncertainties
- *Immigrant population and ongoing challenges
- *Military conflict in the Middle East
- *National and international concerns

Remembering with love:

Scott Ernst 2018
Richard Rainville 2019
Mary Smith 2021
Al Stiers 2023
Jack Sackett 2021
Bev Kadlec 2024
Wanda Whitford 2025



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 2/28/26	\$40,781
Cash inflow - YTD	\$130,809
Budget need/month	\$58,973
Cash outflow - month of 2/28/26	\$50,285
Cash outflow - YTD	\$99,256
Unpaid apportionments	\$0

LOVELY LANE UMC STAFF

Administration & Worship

Lead Pastor	Dr. Scott Meador
Associate Pastor	Dr. Alecia Hilmer
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	Kim Moore
Nursery Caregiver Lead	Brooke Johnson
Nursery Caregiver	Hailey Ryan
Nursery Caregiver	Carly Giddings
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
Event Coordinator	Becky Wood