



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

May 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 5

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**

Beauty of Diversity

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female. – Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

The poet, Maya Angelou, once said, “We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry.” These powerful words speak about the importance of differences. And while we know that diversity is something to celebrate, it is not easy. Because we are wired for familiarity, diversity requires effort. The pursuit of this quality forces us to work harder, it challenges our assumptions, and it make us question ourselves.

Understanding all this, I learned a lot at a recent workshop our church helped to sponsor. The workshop was entitled, “Gray Area Thinking.” The presenter was Ellie Klug, who transitioned from a heterosexual Christian white male to a Buddhist transgender female. In her words, she moved from one of “us” to one of “them.” She now better understands what discrimination and “otherness” feel like.

One of the large takeaways for me was the truth that while most of us have good hearts and we want to do the right thing, we don’t always know what the right thing is or we are afraid to take risks as we interact with persons who are “different” than us. To move to a better place in our understanding of others, Ellie presented three hallmarks of gray area thinking. These hallmarks are a toolset to exercise our empathetic hearts and move away from a black and white mindset of “good vs. bad,” “gay vs. straight,” or “rich vs. poor.”

The first hallmark is an “awareness of human vulnerability (or suffering).” At a basic level we need to have a day-to-day awareness of the presence of those who might be different than us and we need a sensitivity to the struggles these individuals might have. This is a starting point.

A second hallmark is “risk taking to soften or lessen another’s vulnerability (or suffering).” If we see a stranger sobbing on a park bench, we take time to help a fellow human being. We offer dignity to that person. We make an effort to make a difference.

A third hallmark is “to act with compassion and kindness.” We go the extra mile to assist this person. It means we move outside our comfort zone. Consider the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. The unlikely Samaritan goes out of his way to assist the person in need. A general way to put all this together is to focus on ARC (Awareness, Risk-taking, Compassion).

I hope each of us keeps working to do the right thing. I know I have work to do on my end. We continue on the journey! Blessings, Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) - May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>On April 19th, we celebrated the ministry of Susan Camp. Susan recently stepped down as our Membership Secretary at church. She did super work for us over the years. Becky Wood is now taking on the membership duties. Great thanks and appreciation to Susan!</p>					<p>1 <i>Happy May Day</i></p> 	<p>2</p>
<p>3 8:30am Worship In-person 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese</p>	<p>4 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Bells</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:00 am Kalona Trip</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 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>11 10:00 Happy Endings Book Club 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>12 6:00 pm Children's Council (Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>13 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 7:15 pm Bells</p>	<p>14 11:45 am United Women in Faith (Fireside Room)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>17 <i>Graduation Sunday</i> 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>18 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>19 9:00 am Preschool Graduation 12:00 pm Graduation Reception</p>	<p>20 9:00 am Preschool Graduation 12:00 Graduation Reception 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 2:00 pm Caregivers FS 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Bells</p>	<p>21 4:00 pm Green Square Meals Downtown 6:00 pm Health & Wholeness (FH) 6:00 pm Finance FS 7:00 pm Ad Council (Library)</p>	<p>Friendly Fellowship will NOT meet in May, because of the Memorial Day Weekend.</p>	
<p>24 9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese</p>	<p>25 <i>Memorial Day</i></p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Bells</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 <i>Fifth Sunday Potluck</i> 9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese</p>	<p>Happy Endings Book Club will meet May 11 at 10:00 am at Lovely Lane in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing the book, <i>Brooklyn, which is a 2009 historical fiction novel written by Colm Tóibín. The novel follows Eilis on a journey as she fights homesickness and confronts the vast differences between Brooklyn and her rural Irish</i></p>					

High School Graduation Sunday

We will recognize our graduates on **May 17, at 10:30 am**. Graduates should send 4-5 photos to Shelly Turner to prepare for the celebration in worship. Email address is shelly@turnermktng.com.
Congratulations to all!

WORSHIP IN MAY

- May 3** ***Fifth Sunday of Easter***
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "God's Word for All People"
Scripture: John 14:1-14
- May 10** ***Mother's Day***
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "A Love Like No Other"
Scripture: Hosea 11:1-11
- May 17** ***Graduation Sunday***
In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Standing Firm"
Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- May 24** ***Pentecost Sunday***
Summer hours begin, in-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "Living in the Power of the Spirit"
Scripture: Acts 2:1-21
- May 31** ***Trinity Sunday***
In-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**
Pastor Alecia Hilmer will preach, "Radical Reliance"
Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

A Trip to Kalona - Come spend a few hours in Kalona, Iowa on **Friday, May 8**. Join us for all or some of our time together.

Here is the schedule:

9:00 am Departure from church

10:00 am Golden Delights Bakery
2289 Johnson-Washington Rd SW

10:45 am Maple Ave. Nursery
1069 Maple Ave.

12:15 pm Tuscan Moon Restaurant
203 5th Street

1:30-ish pm Stringtown Grocery
2254 540th Street, Frytown

We will leave promptly at **9:00 AM**. Two things to think about before we go. Bring cash or a check for Amish and Mennonite stores. The restaurant takes credit cards. Before you fill up your car with people, you might want to consider how many plants you are purchasing! For lunch reservations, there is a sign-up in the narthex or contact Pastor Alecia at Alecia@lovelylane.org. We have a few seniors that would enjoy going but need a ride. If you have space available, please let us know.



United Women in Faith

A big thank you to everyone involved in this year's church sale. Because of your generous donations, we had tables and tables of treasures available for eager shoppers.

An additional thank you for adjusting your schedules when severe weather interfered with the Friday set-up.

Finally, thanks to all the volunteers that helped with set-up, working the sale, packing up and taking unsold items to be donated. The Youth Co-op group was a huge help with set-up and clean up too!

Everyone's efforts helped to make this sale a huge success for United Women in Faith. THANK YOU!

Please join us for the United Women in Faith meeting on **Thursday, May 14, at 11:45 am** in the Fireside Room for a planning session.

Men's Breakfast

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




Matthew 25 Transform Week –

This year, Matthew 25 will host the 11th Annual Transform Week, **June 22-26**. Thanks to an amazing number of volunteers,

we continue the commitment to quality affordable housing and strong neighborhood building. Lovely Lane will again have a team taking on one or more projects during the week. You can sign up for half days, full days, multiple days or all week. It is a very rewarding feeling to see a project completed for someone truly deserving! Serving as a Transform Week volunteer is also a great way to become better acquainted with fellow members of Lovely Lane. There is a registration deadline, **Friday, June 5**, this year, so early sign up is strongly encouraged. The number of volunteers will again be capped at 150 per day. To register go to [Volunteer](#). When registering please indicate you are a volunteer with the Lovely Lane Group. When committing to a project it is very helpful for us to know how many volunteers we have and what skills they do possess. This is all covered during the sign up process. Please contact Les Minor with any questions lminor@imonmail.com or (319) 310-1945.

A Note from Chancel Choir

We are nearing the end of the 2025-2026 Chancel Choir Season. Here's a little synopsis of our year. 

Season 1: BEGINNING - First rehearsal begins after Labor Day in September.

Season 2: ADVENT begins and music is chosen telling the story from Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary to the birth in Bethlehem. This season ends after the choir **sings for Christmas Eve**.

Season 3: EPIPHANY acts as a transition in the church calendar, shifting focus from the birth of Jesus to his baptism and ministry. General music is used.

Season 4: LENTEN Music moves into telling the story leading into the joy of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and the death on the cross before the Resurrection.

Season 5: ENDING uses General anthems and moves quickly to singing our final anthem and benediction song to say, "Goodbye" until September.

Season 6: Summer moves to rest our voices and as a director, I read through and choose music for the coming year.

The Chancel Choir 2025-2026 consisted of 15 singers, Linda, our accompanist, and the director. We sang over 30 separate choral pieces, attended a Choir Retreat, filed music, shared joys and concerns, and came together as a family of God. See you in September!

-Nancy Patrick, Choir Director

THE FAILED RETIREMENT - On Confirmation Sunday I preached from the text in Deuteronomy 30 to "Choose Life." Lovely Lane UMC wasn't part of my retirement plans, but Todd and I found life here. After 40 years in ministry, with 24 years at one church, I anticipated a very different retirement. I had a very good run with churches and people I loved, so this role was not on my radar. If you will allow me to reflect on the first four months of my time here, I am first and foremost surprised at the deep joy of serving at Lovely Lane. I should have known from the first call from Pastor Scott throwing out the suggestion that God's Spirit was at work in this appointment. Apparently, my call to ministry missed the retirement memo.

Here are the top 10 things that have brought a smile to my face:

10. This church approaches Worship +2 with the utmost dedication and commitment. Shockingly so.
9. Sunday coffee with real creamer!
8. The on-going commitment of ushers, greeters, lectors and servers to provide incredible hospitality.
7. Wednesday night meals. I don't believe I need to say any more about that!
6. The inspiring folks involved in all aspects of our music ministry. The excellence found here lifts our souls.
5. Conversations with children and youth provide new insights into God with their explorations of faith. We are blessed by our teachers!
4. A bean-bag filled Confirmation room filled with good conversations, energy and exploration.
3. A skilled tech team keeps worship running seamlessly, led by a patient tech leader who helps whenever I lose connection on my laptop.
2. The boundless compassion, commitment and drive of each team and ministry to offer grace, kindness and mercy to all we meet.
1. A staff with a steadfast focus of serving God, loving like Jesus, while following the Spirit and has a wicked sense of humor.
- .5 The grace for anyone I missed!
0. A church that lives what it believes by doing justice, being kind and loving God. Thanks for the welcome! - Pastor Alecia

GRIEFSHARE

Individuals who have lost a loved one are invited to participate in GriefShare, a structured 13-week small group program facilitated by Pastor Alecia and Jane Schildroth, a recent graduate from School for Lay Ministry.

GriefShare groups are formed around compassionate discussion, Biblical teaching and encouragement. Everyone's journey of grief is unique. While no two grief journeys are the same, GriefShare, provides helpful guides and wisdom for people in the context of a small group. Consider if this group is right for you or for someone you know who is experiencing grief. This group will begin in mid-August. The cost will be \$20.

PREPARING FOR THE END OF LIFE

Coping with the death of a loved one often means navigating powerful emotions of grief, as well as managing practical details—especially when the loss involves a family member. Thinking through decisions and options prior to a death helps immensely. For individuals or couples, this allows you to express your wishes, choices and attend to some legal matters and decisions in advance. Conversely, if your family circumstances include responsibility for elderly parents, this resource will provide guidance on formulating relevant questions to ensure their preferences are respected. When making arrangements for households with minor children, distinct factors must be taken into account. We will meet in Fireside for a two-hour workshop *Preparing for the End of Life* on **Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30 pm.**



Trinity Lane Staff
left to right
 Staci - 2's Associate
 Vicki - Office Assistant
 Faith - 4's Associate
 Bonnie - 3's Associate
 Angie - 4's Lead Teacher
 Shelley - 3's Lead Teacher
 Lisa - Site Director
 Megan- 2's Lead Teacher

**Happy Teacher
 Appreciation Week**

**Monday, May 4, to
 Friday, May 8, 2026**



Lovely Lane Preschool Teaching Staff
left to right

- Brenda - 4's Lead Teacher
- Yasavi - 4's Associate
- Julie - 2's Lead Teacher
- Jodie - 2's Associate
- Amy - 3's Associate
- Monica - 3's Lead Teacher



Lovely Lane Preschool Support Staff
left to right

- Sneha - 4's Preschool Wraparound Care Supervisor
- Madi - Office Assistant
- Vaheeda - 4's Preschool Wraparound Care

JOYS

- *Happy 100th birthday to Corrine Davey
- *Happy birthday to Joni Sackett
- *Tammy Martin returning from a wonderful vacation to the East coast
- *Heidi Smith lifting up a friend and mentor finishing cancer treatments
- *Mark Dillman with appreciation for prayers during a difficult family time
- *Dan and Kim Moore celebrating grandchild's third birthday
- *Kim Moore's friend, Jackie, completing chemotherapy treatments
- *Green Square Meals back to normal operations
- *Celebrating our confirmation class and appreciation to mentors and families
- *Welcoming back former church members, Tom and Sarah Foster
- *Happy birthday to Scott Hauser
- *Lynn Heidt celebrating last day of physical therapy after long journey
- *Joan Roscovius with an upcoming family wedding and news she will become a great grandmother
- *Tom Muller with a successful cataract eye procedure
- *Morgan Stumpf playing the piano and organ in our worship services
- *New member classes coming up
- *Spending time with young grandchildren
- *Happy Birthday to Brooklyn Crandall
- *Happy Birthday to Landen Bentley

Summer Special Music –Would you like to share your musical talents with your Lovely Lane family? We are looking for musicians to provide special music for our summer worship services. If you are interested, please contact Marcie Stumpf at marcies@lovelylane.org and let her know what you are planning to do and dates that will work for you.



Fifth Sunday Potluck May 31 following 9:30 worship. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. This is a great time for fellowship as we head into Summer. Drinks will be provided.

CONCERNS

- *Sympathy to Dick and Marlo Jack after the passing of Marlo's brother, Bill
- *Michael Fisher's brother-in-law receiving hospice care
- *Judi Leberman with a back procedure this week
- *Annie Walker's son, Brooks, hospitalized at St. Luke's Hospital
- *Sympathy to the family of Stan Coleman after his passing.
- *Sympathy to Chris and Rita McCord after the passing of Chris's mother
- *Rachel Worley lifting up friends struggling to conceive
- *Lisa Pakkebie's father undergoing chemotherapy treatments
- *Dan Moore's friend, Christine, with chemotherapy treatments
- *Tammy Martin's mother, Esther, following an automobile accident
- *Michael Fisher and family following the passing of his brother-in-law
- *Kent Jackson hospitalized in town
- *Marci Wittles recovering from a surgical procedure
- *Rick Homard sharing health concerns for family members and work colleague with a stroke
- *Bobbie O'Bryon is not feeling well
- *John O'Bryon's sister, Judy, and family, grieving the loss of a daughter
- *Karon Niebuhr with health concerns
- *Lu Serbousek's friend's family after passing of good friend, Lori
- *Rory and Karon Niebuhr's friends, Mark and Nancy, with health concerns
- *Linda Carollo receiving successful treatment for breast cancer
- *Duane Abbey recovering after a medical procedure

Remembering with love:

Helen Hansen 2019
Charles Atkinson 2020
Norma Fitz 2022
Berta Mullin 2022



Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church

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 Facebook: www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc
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Lovely Lane
Monthly Financial Information

Cash inflow - month of 3/31/26	\$65,277
Cash inflow - YTD	\$196,087
Budget need/month	\$58,973
Cash outflow - month of 3/31/26	\$51,888
Cash outflow - YTD	\$151,072
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