



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

June 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 6

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.

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+
2

Connecting with the Living God

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, on his law he meditates day and night.”

– Psalm 1:2 (NIV)

A strong prayer life is important. In many ways the heart of God is an open wound of love. God aches that we are not closer and longs for our presence. God wants us to come home and be the persons we were created to be. Through prayer we have the capacity to connect with our inner selves and discern God’s vision for us and those we connect with.

Realizing the importance of prayer, Richard Foster, in his book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*, describes the spiritual life by addressing the various experiences of prayer.

He mentions three main parts: moving inward, moving upward, and moving outward. Simple prayer is a basic example of moving inward. Simple prayer is simply the desire to want to pray. Our motives might not be right, but we should come to God as a child.


The Prayer of Adoration and Unceasing Prayer are examples of moving upward. In adoration, we focus on nothing but God’s goodness. Our only desire is to cherish God. An example of prayers without ceasing is breath prayers (simple, short prayers of petition). These prayers have the capacity to move from our mind into our heart and ultimately affect our whole body.

Moving outward is Foster’s third movement in prayer. Intercessory prayer is an example. This prayer involves a simple shift from our concerns to the concerns of others. We see the need to assist those around us. We realize how much others need the presence of God in their life.

As it is with most things that are important, we have to work at developing a strong pattern of prayer. It doesn’t just happen. Like a musician or athlete who puts in hours of practice, we need to do the same with prayer. I am constantly working to develop my prayer life. Sometimes I like the direction I am going. Other times I realize how much progress I need to make.

An image I have started to reflect on for prayer is a “sponge.” Therese DesCamp, a spiritual director who works with the Center for Action and Contemplation, writes that a sponge gathers up water and then releases it. A sponge does not hold on to the water. In prayer life, DesCamp writes that we fill ourselves up with the grace and love of God, then we let that grace and love leak out into a dry and dusty world. I really like that image. Might we keep working on our prayer lives this summer. Blessings, Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) - June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside)	2 <i>Election Day</i>	3	4	5 10:30 am Memorial Service Ike Scheider	6 1:30 - 3:00 pm Spring Tea by Caregivers
7 9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese	8 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	9	10	11 6:30 pm Missions (Library) 5:45 pm Trustees (Fellowship Hall)	12	13 8:30-10:00 "Choose Joy" by United Women in Faith (Fellowship Hall) 10:00 am Nourished Picnic (Noelridge Park)
14 <i>Flag Day</i>  9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 am Book Study (Library) 12:00 pm Congolese	15 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	16	17 6:00 pm Women's Book Study Dinner at Zeppelin's	18 4:00 pm Green Square Meals	19	20
21 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 am Book Study (Library) 12:00 pm Congolese	22 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	23 6:30 pm End of Life Worshop (Fireside)	24	25	26	27 11:00 am - 6:00pm CR Pride Fest Newbo Area Downtown CR
28 9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 am Book Study (Library) 12:00 pm Congolese	29	30	SEND OFF for the Youth Trip as they head to Columbia, MO Sunday, June 14 More details to be announced soon!			

Summer Sunday Study

Are you interested in joining a community of learners during the summer? A study group called, "**Women Speak of God**", will be offered on six Sundays this summer, after worship. This will be a study and discussion of women who were influential in the history of Christianity.

Sundays: June 14, 21, 28 and July 12, 19, 26

10:45- 11:45 am (right after church)

\$10, to cover materials

Meeting in the church library

Facilitated by Marcie Stumpf and Carol Crisman

Sign up in the narthex or in the office by **Monday, June 8**. Even though these are stories about women, the study group is not just for women. We are inviting anyone who wants to participate in learning and lively discussion to join us! (There will be snacks!)

WORSHIP IN JUNE

- June 7** **Second Sunday after Pentecost**
In-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**
Pastor Alecia Hilmer will preach, "Disruptive Grace,"
Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
- June 14** **Third Sunday after Pentecost - Annual Conference Sunday**
In-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**
Jane Schildroth will preach
- June 21** **Father's Day**
In-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**
Pastor Scott Meador will preach, "A Father's Love"
Scripture: Luke 15:11-32
- June 28** **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
In-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**
Rev. Paul Witmer, Women at the Well UMC, will preach

A FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

I often describe Lovely Lane UMC as a healthy church. At a recent leadership meeting, I was asked what I meant by that statement. Let me offer three responses:

The congregation takes Worship +2 seriously. The commitment is evident not only in strong participation within the life of the church, but in transformation. While it is easier to count bodies in seats over hearts and lives changed, there is a palpable desire to deepen in our discipleship. In Lovely Lane I see a high commitment to Biblical and theological study. There is a desire for information, as well as transformation within the heart and mind.

Next, the laity in the congregation is highly engaged. The leadership of the church appears to be representative of the congregation itself. From someone new to the church, I see good collaboration between teams, leaders, and staff. I perceive that there is a desire by staff and leadership to understand what the church body thinks when decisions need to be made that impact us all.

In my first months serving at Lovely Lane, I have run into a strong sense of desiring more community within the body. Of course that can take shape a number of ways, both within our walls and outside our building in our ministry engagements. This is a welcoming congregation.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve at the church. Thank you for the opportunity.—Pastor Alecia

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.



EVERYONE'S AMPLE TABLE (EAT)

We feed people. It's in our DNA. Did you realize that in the past year, we have served meals at Green Square Park, provided a Lenten offering to the Hiawatha Library Food Pantry, supported the Kennedy High School Pantry, and enjoyed Wednesday night meals? Lovely Lane meets people where they are and helps address food insecurity in our neighborhood.

Under the Missions Committee, a new group, Everyone's Ample Table (EAT), formed to help us better understand the needs of our neighbors and expand our table. 1 in 10 adults suffers from food insecurity in Linn County. We may even find needs close to home at Lovely Lane Preschool, Trinity Lane Preschool, and Pierce Elementary. On **Sunday, June 7**, join us in worship to hear more and see how you might get involved! Team members include Rose Blank, Les and Sherry Minor, Dan and Kim Moore, Terry Siebert, Jane Schildroth, and Alecia Hilmer.



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.

Happy Endings Book Club

We will meet on **July 13 at**

10:00 am in the Fireside Room and will be discussing *As Long As the Lemon Tree Grows* by Zoulfa

Katouh. This book is love letter to Syria and its people, *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow* is a speculative novel set amid the Syrian Revolution, burning with the fires of hope, love, and possibility. Perfect for fans of *The Book Thief* and *Salt to the Sea*.



JOIN US FOR A

Joint WORSHIP SERVICE

CEDAR RAPIDS METRO CIRCUIT

 **SUNDAY**
JULY 5, 2026

 **9:30**
AM

 **HOSTED AT**
ST. PAUL'S
Cedar Rapids, IA

Stronger Together. Worshiping as One.
A morning of united praise, fellowship, and God's Word.





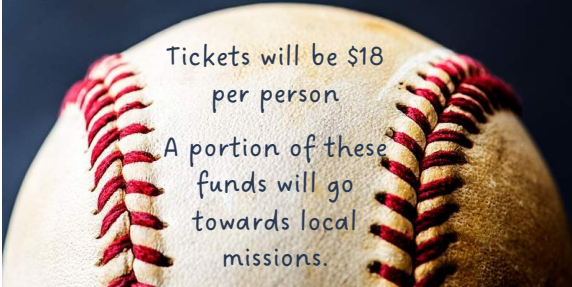



UNITED IN FAITH • TOGETHER IN WORSHIP • SHARING GOD'S LOVE

PREPARING FOR THE END OF LIFE

On **Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30**, consider joining us for 2-hour workshop on *Preparing for the End of Life*, with Jane Schildroth and Alecia Hilmer. Coping with the death of a loved one often means navigating powerful emotions of grief, alongside managing practical matters, especially when the loss involves a family member. Thinking through and communicating decisions helps loved ones immensely. This will be a practical workshop, with topics such as the first 24 hours, funeral homes and expectations, important documents and other information. Todd Hilmer and Josh Mills will join us that evening to discuss banking and wealth management considerations. Please join us for this informative workshop. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Alecia.

Save the date!
Kernal's Baseball Outing
Friday, July 10, 7:30 pm



Tickets will be \$18 per person

A portion of these funds will go towards local missions.

Annual Conference

is the yearly gathering of United Methodist leaders in Iowa. The event will take place in West Des Moines from **June 11-14**.

Joining our pastors, Scott Meador and Alecia Hilmer, Denise Lawton & Tammy Martin will serve as lay delegates. Jane Schildroth will lead worship on Sunday, June 14.



**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





Join Us...
**Saturday Morning
June 13**

Lovely Lane Fellowship Hall
8:30 a.m. breakfast
9:00 a.m. workshop

In this interactive workshop learn how to welcome JOY into your life. The session will include laughter yoga, singing and other fun and creative ways to experience JOY today and into the future.

Bring a friend to join in the fun!

Lovely Lane United Women in Faith

Cedar Rapids Pride Fest



The CR Pride Fest will take place on **Saturday, June 27, starting at 11:00 am**. Our church will have a booth there again this year. This is always a nice event in the NewBo area. If you would like to assist with this event please contact:

Olivia Schneider
Olivias@lovelylane.org

Pastor Scott Meador
scottm@lovelylane.org

Or

Pastor Alecia Hilmer
alecia@lovelylane.org

Women's Book Study – will be meeting for dinner **on June 17 at 6:00 pm** at Zepplin's. All are welcome, even if you have not regularly attended the book study. Please RSVP to Annie Walker, by **June 10**, anniew@lovelylane.org

The Women's Book Study group is reading the book, "City of Girls," by Elizabeth Gilbert. We will be meeting on **July 8, at noon** at Scooter's on Edgewood Rd.

All are welcome!

Nourished Picnic

Feeling unsettled about current events? Are you looking for some chill folks to hang out with? Nourished is hosting a picnic at Noelridge Park so we can gather together and meet friends!

When: Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am

Where: Noelridge Park ITC Pavilion
(next to the playground)

What to Bring:

- * Snacks to share
- * Outdoor games to play

We hope to see you there!



JOYS

- *Kid's Club completing another good year, thanks to the leaders
- *Appreciation to those who oversaw the kitchen for the Wednesday night meals
- *Appreciation that Duane Abbey is home after having double bypass surgery
- *Denny Fitz celebrating a gathering with college friends
- *Marci Wittles thanks everyone for prayers following her medical concerns
- *Happy birthday to Chris Johnson
- *Russ and Sharon Smith enjoying the return to church after time down south
- *Judi Leberman with a nice recovery from back surgery
- *Appreciation to teachers on all levels as the school year ends
- *Iowa Public Television showing the musical, "Suffs"
- *Rick and Cathy Homard returning from long camping trip to celebrate their 40th anniversary
- *JR Streff completing time as "professor" at Coe College
- *Kim Moore's friend, Jean, with encouraging news about her health
- *Congratulations to our high school and college graduates
- *High school graduates receiving the Kadlec Scholarship – Carly Giddings Arp, Ava Kerns, Isaac Schneider
- *Thanks to Shelly Turner for putting together the graduation video
- *David Keefe completing an Honor Flight experience
- *Cathy Meiborg's youngest grandson graduating from Jefferson HS
- *Welcoming Statement on the back of the bulletin crafted in 2003
- *Morgan and Ryan Stumpf with new work experiences coming up
- *Rev. Rose Blank officiating at a wedding
- *Steve and Leah Nelson, Rev. Paul and Marcia Akin, joining us for worship
- *Brooke Arp celebrating daughter, Carly's, graduation and parents in worship
- *Appreciation for Morgan Stumpf playing the piano in worship
- *Verlis and Nancy Miller saying "hi" to all. Nancy is living at Terrace Glenn.

CONCERNS

- *Kim Moore's friend, Jean, with news of a cancer diagnosis
- *Phil Martin's brother, Jim, with an infection
- *Tammy Martin's mother, Esther, recovering at Hiawatha Care Center
- *Carol Wishnowski's son, Steve, with health concerns
- *Shirley Mickelson hospitalized at Mercy Care Center
- *Rory Niebuhr with health concerns regarding his back
- *Rick and Cathy Homard's daughter, Becky, with emergency appendix procedure
- *Marcie Baugh fell, moving to assisted living center in Johnston
- *Sympathy to the family of Steve Whitford after his sudden passing
- *Kent Jackson recovering at home after hospitalization
- *Linda Carollo with chemotherapy treatments coming up
- *Partner church in Matanzas, Cuba, facing uncertainties

Remembering with love:

Louis Stolba 2021
Do Koudelka 2023
Robert Tribuno 2025

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.



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

Website: www.lovelylane.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lovelylaneumc

Instagram: www.instagram.com/lovelylaneumc

Phone: (319) 393-6674

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Lovely Lane Monthly Financial Information

Cash inflow - month of 4/30/26	\$60,258
Cash inflow - YTD	\$261,712
Budget need/month	\$58,973
Cash outflow - month of 4/30/26	\$62,598
Cash outflow - YTD	\$227,659
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
Facilities Manager	Curtis Thomas
Custodians	Rex & Rhonda Heasty
Website & Social Media	Shelly Turner
Event Coordinator & Membership Secretary	Becky Wood