



Lovely Lane

United Methodist Church

September 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 64 Number 9

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

Busy Lives

"Be still, and know that I am God."

– Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

In the book, "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry," John Mark Comer, a pastor, writes that hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life. The concern is not that we have a lot to do, the concern is we have too much to do and the only way to get from one point to another is to hurry.

Comer quotes Corrie Ten Boom who said that if the "evil one cannot make us bad, this one will make us busy." There's a lot here we need to consider. Both sin and busyness have the same impact on our life. They cut us off from our connection to God, other people, and even our own soul.

Comer goes on to write in his book that hurry and love are incompatible. Many of our worst moments come when we are in a hurry. Life is hard when we are late for a meeting or we get behind on our "to do" list. When this happens, we become anxious and we bother others.

Consider the last time you were in a tight spot, how did you relate to those who are most important to you? Did you express a genuine love? Hurry and love do not mix. They are like oil and water. When the Apostle Paul writes about love in 1 Corinthians 13, he encourages "patience," not hurry. We often talk about walking with God, not running with God. When we are in a hurry, we don't love, and we don't notice the source of that love, and that is God.

I invite you this fall to slow down your schedule a bit and focus on God and the important people in your life. It might be helpful to "savor" the moment and not be so anxious to move ahead. Some reminders are to . . .

- **Engage in Contemplation.** Allow yourself to be fully present with God and others.
- **Pray.** Begin and end your day in prayer. Say "breath prayers" throughout the day.
- **Be Surprised.** Remain open to the wonders of God.
- **Help Someone.** When we assist others we experience God and we make a difference.

May you experience many blessings this fall! Grace and peace, Pastor Scott

Calendar of Events (subject to change) - September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Fall Schedule Resumes Sunday, September 13 2 Worship Services 8:30 and 10:30 am		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship In-person/livestream 12:00 pm Congolese	7 	8	9 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Bells	10 1:00 pm United Women in Faith Planning Session (Fireside Room)	11 Memorial Service Mardell Adams at 1:30 pm 	12 8:30 am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
13 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Choir 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 Children's Sunday School K-5 12:00 pm Congolese	14 10:00 am Happy Endings Book Club (Fireside Room) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	15 6:00 pm Companions in Christ (Fireside Room)	16 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Bells	17 4:00 pm Green Square Meals Downtown 6:00 pm Health & Wholeness (FH) 6:00 pm Finance (FS) 7:00 pm Ad Council (Library)	18	19
20 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Choir 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Children's Sunday School K-8 10:30 Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 Children's Sunday School K-5 12:00 pm Congolese	21 9:45 am Prayer Shawl (Fireside) 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	22 6:00 pm Companions in Christ (Fireside Room)	23 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Bells	24 12:00 pm Friendly Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm Missions (Library)	25	26
27 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Choir 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Children's Sunday School K-8 10:30 Worship In-person/livestream 10:45 Children's Sunday School K-5 12:00 pm Congolese	28 6:30 pm Scouting America #766 (Fellowship Hall)	29 6:00 pm Companions in Christ (Fireside Room)	30 9:30 am Book Study Via Zoom 12:00 pm Women's Book Study 5:15 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Book Study (Library) 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Bells	Friendly Fellowship will meet on Thursday, September 24 with a potluck lunch at noon in the fellowship hall at Lovely Lane. Stay tuned for program information. 		

Adult Sunday School Classes

Classes begin on **Sunday, September 13**, at 9:30 am (between worship services). We have two classes. The "Faith Issues" class examines and discusses current topics of the day from a faith perspective. The group meets in the library. Myrna Loehrlein is the leader. The "Faith Journeys" class meets in the first preschool room on the left in the children's wing of the building. The group takes a deeper look at the main scripture reading in worship. Pastor Scott is the leader. All are welcome to both classes!

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

September 6 *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Communion Sunday*

Pastor Scott will preach, "Our Work Matters"

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

In-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**

September 13 *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Pastor Scott will preach, "Let It Go"

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**

September 20 *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Pastor Scott will preach, "Radical Generosity"

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

In-person service at **8:30 am**, in-person & livestream service at **10:30 am**

September 27 *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Pastor Alecia will preach, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations"

Scripture: Romans 15:7 & John 1:36-39a

In-person & livestream service at **9:30 am**

LOVELY LANE YOUTH

We are starting back on **Wednesday, September 9** and will be meeting at St. Paul's for the first of the year. Families can still meet for a meal at LLUMC. At 6:00 Kim Moore and Ben Swan will be able to transport the youth, if they need a ride. The youth can then be picked up at St. Paul's at 7:30. Please let Kim Moore know if you have any questions or concerns, kimm@lovelylane.org.

Men's Breakfast



The next gathering will take place on **Saturday, September 12, at 8:30 am**. John Swanson will make a presentation focusing on a North Atlantic trip to Iceland, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and Greenland. All are welcome!

United Women in Faith are planning a Church Auction Fundraiser and we need you to make it a success! Do you have something you could donate? Maybe a homemade pie, a special talent, a gift basket, a weekend getaway, a dinner for friends, lawn care, handyman help, or another fun service or experience? The possibilities are endless! We are also looking for volunteers to help with planning, organizing, and making the auction a fun event for everyone.

Let's have some fun and raise money for our local food banks! Join our planning session:

Thursday, September 10 at 1:00 in the Fireside Room



United
Women
in Faith

Lovely Lane UMC
Sunday School
& Kids Club

SUNDAY SCHOOL
EVERY SUNDAY
10:45AM
CHILDREN AGES PRE K-5TH GRADE
***BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

***9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**
CHILDREN AGES PRE K-8TH GRADE

KIDS CLUB
FOR CHILDREN PRE-K THRU 5TH GRADE
EVERY WEDNESDAY | 6PM - 7PM WITH A FAMILY MEAL AT 5:15PM
***BEGINS SEPTEMBER 9, 2026**

QUESTIONS
 Contact Annie Walker at
anniew@lovelylane.org



Health & Wholeness
RETREAT 2026

November 7, 2026
 Registration 8:30am - 9:00am
 Program 9:00am - 1:00pm

Join us as we hear from local leaders
 regarding
The Worries That Keep Us Up At Night

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided
 If you require childcare please register by October 31, 2026

Lovely Lane United Methodist Church
 Fellowship Hall
 2424 42nd St. NE
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

Register Here
 Scholarships available



Dear Lovely Lane VBS,

Iowa MMJ is so grateful for
 your support. Your
 collection of almost \$500
 for our work of supporting immigrants
 and refugees in our churches and
 Community is so greatly
 appreciated! Thank you all so much!

Thank you!

Susie Tierney, Development Director
 Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice

† Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

The Academy offers five days to rest into God,
 listen deeply, and recover holy rhythms with
 companions on the journey. The time together
 runs from **October 18-23** at Wesley Woods Camp &
 Retreat Center in Indianola. Participants will
 gather for a monastic-patterned retreat of worship,
 teaching, silence, and community practices. More
 information is on the conference website,
www.iaumc.org. The Rev. Rose Blank is one of the
 leaders too. You can also reach her for further
 information, rose.blank3@gmail.com.



Are you interested in helping out
 in our nursery on Sunday
 mornings or Wednesday evenings?
 Please contact the church office
 for more information.

ENLARGING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

We had a vibrant group of women providing wisdom and counsel about expanding our children's ministry. We are seeking to add to the wonderful ministry already taking place. A great deal of our conversation centered around the 9:30 am hour for both children and a parent's coffee group. We are still in the planning stage.

Annie Walker, Director of Family Ministries, has posted a schedule with start dates. The two offerings on Sunday morning would not be identical, except for the Biblical story. There will be art, projects, science and singing times.



This is the planning team for enlarging the children's program. From the left, Melissa Davis, Julie Meyer, Jane Schildroth, Olivia Schneider, Lyn Lewis, Kim Moore and Annie Walker. (Not present for photo, Carla Jesse.)

The best thing you can do for this expansion is to pray and to see if you want to join this exciting ministry. **Sunday, September 13** is the kick-off for our children's ministry on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, except for the 9:30 class. The 9:30 class will begin on **Sunday, September 20**. Come and see what God is doing! Register for Sunday School at:

lovelylane.breezechms.com/form/e22935

EVERYONE'S AMPLE TABLE

We are winding up our Everyone's Ample Table (EAT) season of produce and pantries, sponsored by the Missions Committee. It has been an active summer. EAT went from an idea and planning to 4 trial pop-up pantries and donations to two other outreaches! The recipients of the produce for the pop-up pantries have been Lovely Lane Preschool, Pierce Elementary and Trinity Lane Preschool. In addition, the Lenten offering for the Hiawatha Public Library pantry moved from a monetary donation to a weekly produce gift, including the bulk of the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) share. We had the opportunity to donate produce to Green Square Meals. We are excited for our initial EAT initiative. Not only did the congregation give produce each week, but monetary donations helped us supplement our pop-up pantries. Thank you for all of the prayers, produce, delivery drivers and support.

Another arm of EAT is the Kennedy HS food pantry. This pantry is well-run. We have a box situated in the narthex to place donations. Here are three items which are desperately needed as students go back to school: deodorant/anti-perspirant, toothpaste and snacks. There is an entire list of needs located above the donation box. Please consider donating today. Our church feeds people in many ways!

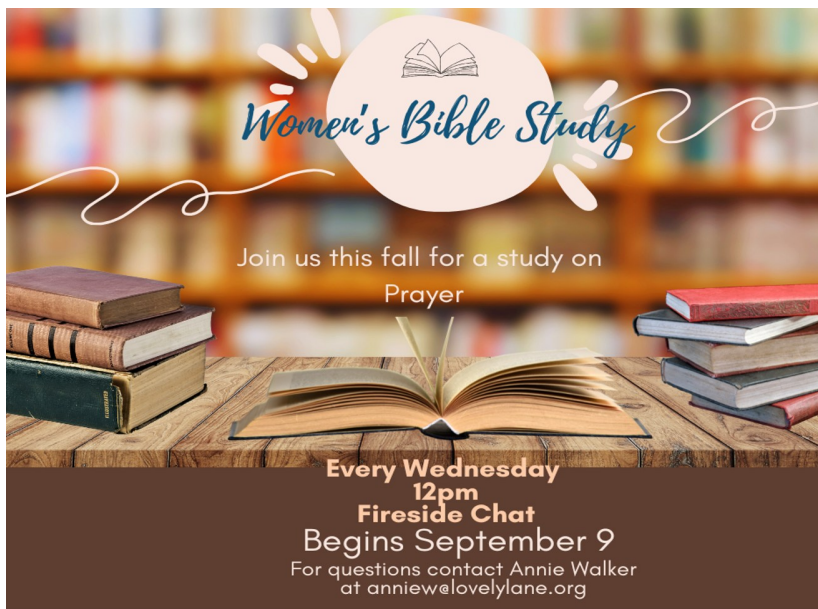
COMPANIONS IN CHRIST SMALL GROUP

Join Todd and I for a 5 week spiritual formation group, Companions in Christ. This group provides a small group resource for spiritual formation. It's designed to create a setting where participants can respond to God's call to an ever-deepening following of Christ – as an individual, as a member of a group of this church. Todd and I have led it before. Each time we have found it meaningful, and renewing. If you want to deepen your walk, come join us. If you want to see if this is for you, check out our first session on **Tuesday, September 15, from 6:00-7:30 PM**. The cost of the 5 week study is \$15. See you there. —Alecia Hilmer

Pastor Scott's Study Groups

The Wednesday Study Groups will start again on **September 9**. The morning group will continue to meet on Zoom at 9:30 am. The evening group will gather in the library at 6:00 pm.

The study book we will look at is *Jesus Is Lord: Living in the Lordship of Christ*. The author is Bishop Tom Berlin. We studied his book, *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith*, last spring. The study books will be available soon. All are welcome!



Women's Bible Study

Join us this fall for a study on
Prayer

**Every Wednesday
12pm
Fireside Chat
Begins September 9**

For questions contact Annie Walker
at anniew@lovelylane.org

Lovely Lane Chancel Choir

*After taking the summer off, the Chancel Choir will be back in rehearsal, back in the Choir Room, back into robes, and back with the music that brings scriptures, poetry, and meaningful lyrics alive. We sing every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month. The Chancel Choir is beginning rehearsal on **Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 a.m.** in the choir room. This choir is a wonderful mixture of people who share their love of singing and family.*

Do you have to be a trained singer? No.

Do you have to be able to read music? No.

Do you want to wear a "fashionable" blue robe? Well, what is your definition of "fashionable?"

All are invited and welcome to join the choir. You will find a chair ready for you. Please contact Nancy Patrick with any questions, nancyhpatrick@gmail.com.

The Lovely Lane Bell choir or "AcabeLLa" will resume rehearsals **Wednesday, September 9th at 7:15 pm**. If you are interested in ringing with the choir please contact Charlie Kucera or come to rehearsal. Looking forward to seeing you all again!

Charlie Kucera

djchkucera@aol.com



JOYS

- *Appreciation to the Cedar Rapids Community Orchestra for the music in worship on Aug. 2
- *Tammy Martin's mother, Esther, celebrating her 90th birthday
- *Marci Wittles with encouraging health news
- *Kent and Joy Jackson celebrating their 50th anniversary
- *Marla Gonzalez's great nephew with good health news and upcoming family wedding
- *Kim Moore's friend, Jean, doing well in the midst of cancer concerns
- *Marti Sparrow celebrates family members in worship
- *Appreciation to Mike Sparrow for serving as a Navy Chaplain in Bahrain
- *Congratulations to Travis Meiborg on the birth of grandson, Mac James Meiborg (and congrats to great grandmother, Cathy)
- *Pastor Alecia back in Iowa after travels from Alaska
- *Ron and Margaret Nelson's grandson, Syan, going to Norway for Folk School
- *Teri Krumm with upcoming bus trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls
- *Teri Krumm's niece and husband moving back into home in Spokane after wildfires
- *Thanks to everyone who participated in the church clean-up day
- *Back to School blessings for families, teachers, and staff
- *Eagle Scout Project with Hayden Mulnik looking for financial support
- *Hayden Mulnik with lead acting role in Finding Nemo production
- *Appreciation to Allie Schumacher for the special music in worship on Aug. 23
- *Happy 91st Birthday to Jayne Woodson
- *Happy 59th Anniversary to Dave and Nancy Wittenburg
- *Church golf outing at Lake MacBride Golf Course in Solon
- *Congratulations to Sharilyn Forcht on birth of twin great grandchildren
- *Dan Moore expressing thanks for all those who help with Green Square Meals

CONCERNS

- *Sympathy to the family of Mardell Adams after her passing, Memorial service at the church on September 11
- *Sympathy to the family of Nancy Schultz after her passing
- *Pastor Alecia and daughter, Samantha, traveled to Iowa from Alaska
- *Erika Serbousek's co-worker receiving hospice care
- *Pastor John O'Bryon's late sister-in-law's family experiencing loss
- *Ashes for Marci Wittles' mother being spread in Colorado
- *Cheryl Murphy's long-time friend receiving chemotherapy following cancer diagnosis
- *Sarah Westergren lifting up uncertainty at work
- *Friends of Rory and Karon Niebuhr in various stages of cancer. Friends are Mark, Nancy, and Sheila.
- *Kim Moore's brother, Steve, after an accident cutting trees
- *Jean Hamill with struggles managing cancer diagnosis
- *Dawn DuPont and family following the passing of her father-in-law, Paul
- *Sharon Kouba living at Country House Residence

* * *

Remembering with love:

Betty Van Fossen 2019
 Max Fitz 2021
 Jean Chelikowsky 2023

Happy Endings Book Club

We will be reading *The Girl In The Blue Beret*, by Bobbie Ann Mason, for **September 14**. This is a haunting and profoundly moving story of an American World War II pilot shot down in Occupied Europe, and his wrenching odyssey of discovery, decades later, as he uncovers the truth about those who helped him escape in 1944.





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 7/31/26	\$45,058
Cash inflow - YTD	\$377,167
Budget need/month	\$58,973
Cash outflow - month of 7/31/26	\$63,300
Cash outflow - YTD	\$372,280
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