Lovely Lane
United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 64 NUMBER 11

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

Church and Politics

"You are the salt of the earth."
– Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

Election Day is almost here. This current political season has been exhausting and draining for many of us.We have been bombarded with text messages and political commercials. I think we will be happy when the last vote is cast.

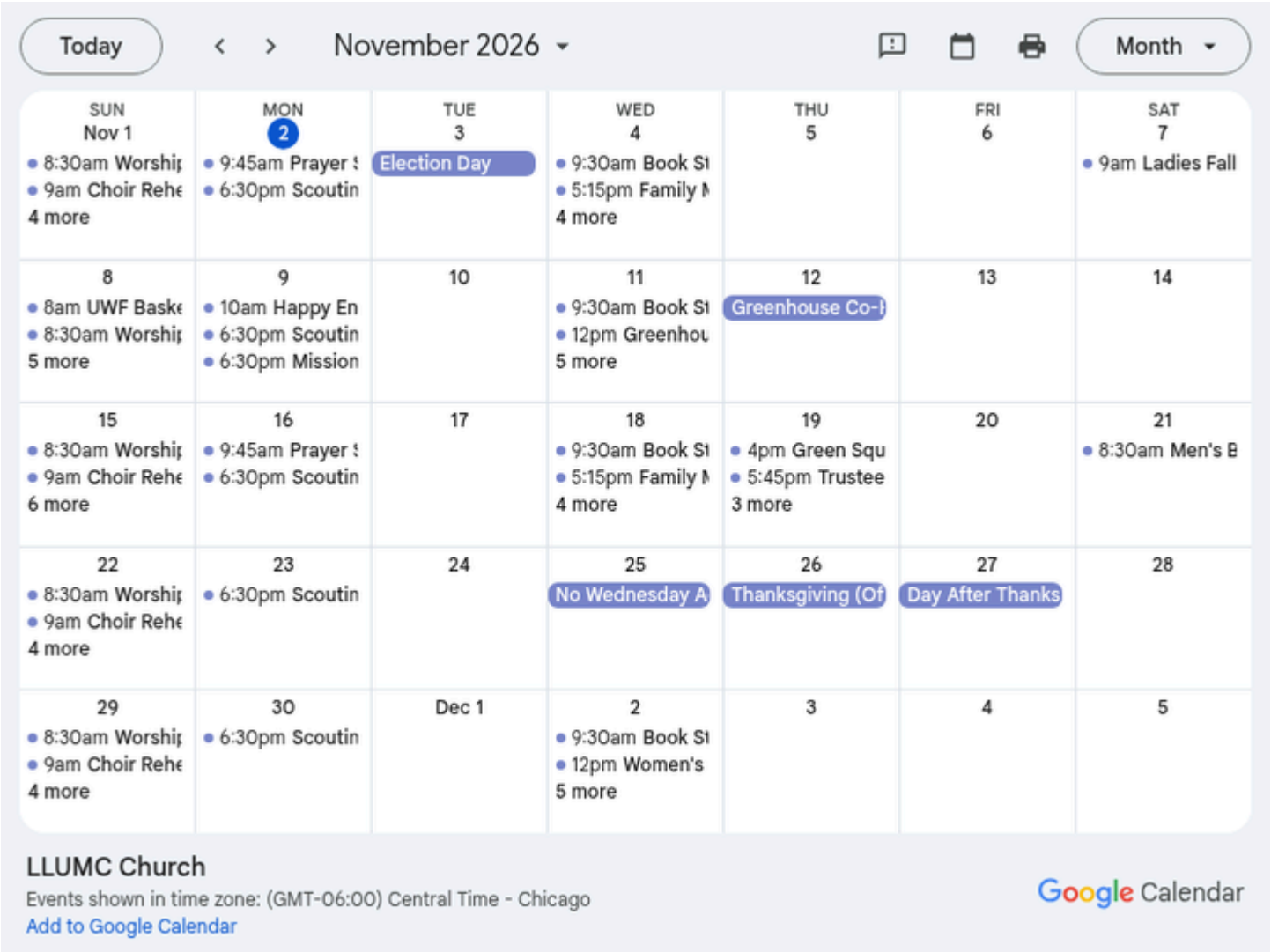
For me, this political season has been a time to contemplate the role we play in politics as Christians. As Christians, I feel we are supposed to be politically active as we are called (and this is more than showing up to vote). As United Methodist pastor, Adam Hamilton, shares in his book, *Confronting the Controversies*, we are called to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world," to reference the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. We need to work together to shape culture for the common good. As Rev. Hamilton shares in his book, culture is like wet cement. It will be shaped by something. Church folk should work together to shape culture so people love their neighbors, go the extra mile assisting those in need, reach out to those who are overlooked, and show respect to those they disagree with. We should further speak up for what we believe in and advocate for justice and peace.

Another way to say this is we should let our "religion shape our politics" instead of our politics shape our religion. This is certainly not Christian nationalism, but it is saying that as people of faith we need to make our presence known. Religious teachings can provide a moral base and ethical framework to make decisions that affect many people. It's critical we educate ourselves on the issues of the day and let our leaders know what we believe. Our Wesleyan heritage and Methodist tradition are helpful here.

Additionally, I think it's essential we have a tolerance for the religious viewpoints that surround us.Not everyone is going to see God and Jesus the way we do, and we need to understand that. A wide variety of beliefs can challenge us and push us to be our best. It's not healthy if everyone thinks and feels the same way on the issues of the day. We need to allow compromise to play out. Benjamin Franklin and others who founded our country 250 years ago often spoke about the importance of this quality.

I hope and pray for the day we come together as a nation for a common good. Might the days and weeks following Election Day be a time for each of us to see the impact we can make!

Peace and blessings, Pastor Scott



To access the Online calendar and see all details and events:
click on the this link: Lovely Lane Online Calendar
or type the following in your search bar: https://lovelylane.org/google-calendar/

Regular Sunday Schedule

8:30 am Worship in -person
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
Pre-K to 8th Grade - Education Wing
9:30 am Faith Issues Class - Library
9:30 am Faith Journeys Class - Education Wing
10:30 am Worship in-person & livestream
10:45 am Children's Sunday School
Pre-K to 5th Grade - Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm Congolese Worship Service

Regular Wednesday Night Schedule

9:30 am Book Study on Zoom
12:00 pm Women's Book Study - Fireside
5:15 pm Family Meal -Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm Kid's Club
6:00 pm Youth Group
6:00 pm Book Study - Library
7:15 pm Bells Rehearsal - Sanctuary

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 1 ***All Saints' Day***
Pastor Scott will preach, "Remember the Time"
Scripture: Luke 10:38-42
In-person service at 8:30 am, in-person & livestream service at 10:30 am

November 8 ***Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Holy Communion will be celebrated***
Pastor Scott will preach, "Paul Meets Peter,
Scripture: Galatians 2:11-21
In-person service at 8:30 am, in-person & livestream service at 10:30 am

November 15 ***Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost***
Pastor Alecia will preach, "Managing Expectations"
Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9
In-person service at 8:30 am, in-person & livestream service at 10:30 am

November 22 ***Reign of Christ Sunday***
Pastor Scott will preach, "Living for Jesus"
Scripture: Mattthew 25:31-46
In-person service at 8:30 am, in-person & livestream service at 10:30 am

November 29 ***First Sunday of Advent***
Pastor Scott will preach, "The Voice of Jesus"
In-person service at 8:30 am, in-person & livestream service at 10:30 am

Contentment

The Apostle Paul writes; *I have learned to be content in whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry of having plenty and of being in need.* (Philippians 4:11-12) In the month of November, I find this verse to be important for me to read. It grounds me. November brings Thanksgiving dinner, then a flood of shopping! I worry about not having enough, even though I have more than I need. I have found that spending time in the book of Philippians leaves me with a better understanding of contentment. When I allow the passages found in Philippians to flow throughout the days of November, I find the peace and contentment which Paul underscores in his writings. Paul's words are even more profound when I recognize they were penned when he was sitting in a prison cell waiting on word on whether or not he would be executed by the authorities in Rome. My prayer for you during this month is you will find contentment and peace as we move towards Advent. Peace. - Alecia



Men's Breakfast Gathering



The next breakfast gathering is **Saturday, November 21, at 8:30 am**.
Steve Carpenter will share about his life and lessons learned.

All Are welcome!



Special speakers for the Health & Wholeness Retreat

Bailey Heathman - Bailey works at the Riverview Center in Cedar Rapids. In her role as advocate at the center she offers free 1:1 services to survivors of sexual violence within our community. All services are 100% free and confidential. In her presentation during our fall retreat, Bailey will cover the concerns surrounding AI (artificial intelligence) both from an ethical and legal standpoint. We hope you walk away from her presentation feeling empowered and more knowledgeable about this leading edge in technology.

Margaret Nelson - Margaret is a long-time member of Lovely Lane UMC. She will present on "What's on Your Mind?" providing space to give some thought to the cascade of thoughts that go through our mind each day. These thoughts might even give us sleepless nights. During this time we will explore our thoughts, feelings and emotions and how we might direct them to improve our health and happiness. You are invited to pick up a handout on Margaret's presentation in the church office to help prepare for this discussion with personal stories by Margaret.

United Women in Faith - Fall Auction

*United Women in Faith are planning a church auction fundraiser/potluck on **Sunday, November 15**. All proceeds will be donated to HACAP to support families in need of food assistance through the holidays. **Bidding on baskets will begin on Sunday, November 8 and conclude after the potluck lunch on Sunday, November 15.** Please contact Deb Streff with questions, (319) 721-8864.*

Pastors Book Study



The next study will focus on the Advent season. The focus is the book, *Voices of Advent,* by Matthew L. Skinner. Sessions will start on **Wednesday, December 2,** at 9:30 am on Zoom and 6:00 pm in the library. Books will be available soon in the church office. All are welcome.

Women's Book Study

Starting on Wednesday, December 2, the Women's BIble Study will meet for our Advent study at noon. The book we will be using for this study is *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch* by Matt Rawle. In this study we will explore the faith themes from this Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? This study will look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. This book will be available for pick up in the church office in the month of November. Cost is $10.



2026 Advent Offering Recipients

Water@Work: Providing Clean Water in the Dominican Republic - Nearly one million people in the Dominican Republic still lack access to clean water. Contributions to this mission support the construction of locally run water distribution plants. Water is sold to community members at a minimal profit, and those profits cover plant maintenance costs and are reinvested in the communities.

HACAP Food Reservoir - leads the fight against hunger in east central Iowa by providing food access, advocacy, education, and disaster response. The Food Reservoir distributes more than 10 million meals annually through partner organizations in seven counties. Its programs include the BackPack Program, Mobile Food Pantry, and Diversity Food Program. Local Food Reservoir supplies continue to face an enormous burden.

Women at the Well - Women at the Well is a United Methodist congregation located within the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchelville, Iowa. The ministry encourages the spirtual growth of its members, assists them as they transition back into the world outside the facility, and helps others better understand the hurts and hopes of those who reside there. Lovely Lane is a committed partner in supporting this ministry.

Foundation 2: A Trusted Support When Life Gets Tough - Since its beginning in Cedar Rapids in 1970, Foundation 2 has focused on crisis prevention and intervention for people of all ages. Today, it supports people across Iowa in crisis approximately 100,000 times each year. Foundation 2 is committed to positive youth development, suicide prevention, and helping build the foundation for stronger and healthier families and safer communities for everyone.

Happy Endings Book Club

The book we will be reading **November 9** is *Death Wasn't Invited* by Carlene O'Connor. Paris, 1922. The marriage between the Auclair and Picard families is the talk of the town. June can't wait to attend the engagement party with her friends, Nate and Jack. But Nate has an ulterior motive: he's there to stop the wedding. Before he can complete his task, he's stabbed in the chest with Jack's knife. Jack is arrested, but June knows he wouldn't hurt a fly. We meet at 10:00 am in the Fireside. Hope to see you there!





If you enjoy the coffee hour at Lovely Lane please consider helping setup the coffee service on Sunday mornings. We need help on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. You need to arrive about 7:30 am to have the coffee, etc. ready by 8:15 am. This is a great ministry especially with the return of the Church School Classes at 9:30 am and fellowship at that time. Please contact Judy McDowell at jmcdow51@aol.com
Thank you!



Children's Christmas Pagent

Sunday December 20, at 9:30 am between the 2 worship services.

Rehearsal for the program will begin on Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 am.

Everyone's Ample Table (EAT)

The EAT team has met to review the first growing season since this new ministry took root (play on words intended). We appreciate that the congregation stepped up to donate produce, groceries, cash and prayers to get this concept off to a strong start. We learned some things that we need to work out with the "pop-up pantries" (scheduling, locations, timing) and we now know where we need to plug in volunteers for a smooth operation. For the coming season, you'll see reminders to "grow a row" of extra produce, set up an extra dozen eggs with your provider each week, set back some grocery dollars to shop for EAT and continue the prayers. We realize that we don't have all the answers and ideas.....but you might! Share those thoughts with any of us and/or let us know you would like to join the team.

-Dan & Kim Moore, Rick Homard, Les & Sherry Minor, Rose Blank, Pastor Alecia, Jane Schildroth

"Giving Back / Meeting A Need"

The Kennedy High School Food Pantry needs several individuals to help with the weekly distribution of goods. The pantry is open on Wednesday afternoons, from 2:40 pm to 3:20 pm. Volunteers are not required to work every week.

With Lovely Lane's and Kennedy High School's long-standing relationship, volunteering at the pantry not only enhances that bond, but meets a community need. If interested, please contact Jenny McAtee at jmcatee@crschools.

Youth Co-Op - Lovely Lane, St. Paul's, Salem, and Trinity St. James UMC
Be the Neighbor 2027
Just Announced Summer 2027 Service Learning Trip!

Join us for Be The Neighbor 2027 in Bentonville, Arkansas! This summer service trip invites students to build relationships, serve alongside local organizations, and explore what it means to love our neighbors through action.

Why Bentonville?
Located in Northwest Arkansas, Bentonville is part of one of the fastest-growing regions in the country. While major corporations have fueled tremendous economic growth, many neighbors continue to experience poverty and barriers to housing, food, and other basic needs. Local nonprofits are working every day to bridge these gaps and build a more equitable community.

What Will We Do?
During our week in Bentonville, we will learn from and work alongside the people and organizations making a difference in their community. Experiences may include:

- Supporting unhoused neighbors: Learn about housing justice and support neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- Exploring food justice: Partner with local food banks and farms to better understand food insecurity and its impact on families.
- Serving alongside local organizations: Work with community partners serving people experiencing poverty and learn about the resources that help neighbors thrive.
- Learning and reflecting: Explore how economic systems, corporate influence, and access to opportunity shape our communities.

This trip is about more than service hours. It's an opportunity to listen, learn, build relationships, and discover how we can be good neighbors wherever we are.

Interested in joining us?

The cost is $427 per person. Financial assistance may be available through your home church, so be sure to check with your church about support.

Let us know you're interested by completing this form
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWdNJqsuiAltfz7D1i1LfpH8YxKfOe45BTrn3SiFOhmUVxxQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

JOYS

*World Communion Sunday services
*Rev. Ron Carlson, Iowa Conference Treasurer, preaching in worship
*Bishop's Inspire Awards in Des Moines
*Children's Sunday School reaching new children
*Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer
*Rose Blank's children celebrating their grandmother's 100th birthday
*John and Bobbie O'Bryon celebrating 38 years since they met
*Dan Moore is home after brief hospitalization
*Mike Nesslage is recovering well after shoulder procedure
*Kathy Stepleton with successful medical procedure
*Al Adams expressing appreciation for prayers following Mardell's passing
*Wedding congratulations to Annie Walker and Ben Boyd
*Wedding congratulations to Joanne Ward and Larry Root
*Jim and Debbie Craig's son, Drew, with wedding overseas
*Happy 43rd anniversary for Kim and Dan Moore
*Happy 56th anniversary for Marilyn and Mark Beebe
*Happy 97th birthday to Don Whitford
*Marci Wittles with appreciation for prayers following infection
*New member classes starting
*Lovely Lane history story reaching UM national news
*Rev. Rose Blank helping to lead the Academy for Spiritual Formation
*Steve Carpenter's granddaughter's husband completing deployment on the USS Abraham Lincoln
*Congratulations to Victor and Katie Lewis-Silva on the birth of Alice Eleanor Silva
*Stewardship season and focus on generosity and giving
*Liz Roland following successful knee surgery
*Wedding congratulations for Jaicee Lyons and Bennett Goettsch
*Happy birthday to Renee Lyons
*Happy 30th anniversary to Darwin and Pam Moore
*Hayden Mulnik completing the first phase of his Eagle Scout church project
*Carol Crisman and others offering chili and chocolate brownies during the Trunk-or-Treat event
*Appreciation to Lyn Lewis for all she does on Wednesday nights at the church
*Norm Nielsen returning to Lovely Lane and Sunday worship
*Carly Arp returning to America after time in Japan
*Third grade students receiving Bibles
*Congratulations to Ted and Andrea Camp on the birth of Zoey Esther Camp
*Congratulations to Connor Culbertson on the completion of Army basic training
*Happy 75th birthday to Tom Muller
*Roberta Martinson playing the piano in worship
*Health and Wholeness Women's Retreat in November
*Teri Krumm receiving lunch buddy recognition with Big Brothers Big Sisters
*UWF Silent basket auction coming up

CONCERNS

*Pastor Alison Dix following the passing of her mother
*Liz Roland with medical procedure coming up
*Phil Martin's brother, Jim, with several medical issues
*Family of Steve Strong following his memorial service
*Sympathy to Dave and Linda Keefe after the passing of Dave's cousin
*Darla Reed-Tinderholt's friend, Donna, following a fall
*Eric and Marcie Stumpf's friend with prostate cancer news
*Fatou Traore following arrest by immigration officials
*Persons impacted by sexual assault case at Cornell University in New York
*Sympathy to Darla Carter after the passing of her son-in-law
*Millie Corbett living at Emory Place
*Marlo Jack's brother, Vic, with medical concerns
*Community of Bend, Oregon after the recent school shootings
*City and surrounding areas of Paris, France following violent protests and rioting
*Sympathy to Frank and Susan Camp after the passing of their sister-in-law, Georgia
*Sympathy to Darla Reed-Tinderholt after the passing of friend, Donna
*Sympathy to Joan Roscovius following the passings of her sister-in-law and brother-in-law
*Mike Nesslage appreciative of recent prayers regarding his shoulder but new concerns about a blood clot
*David Beckner's brother, Alan, following a stroke
*Families and individuals impacted by the Quaker Oats Fire
*National and international concerns

REMEMBERING WITH LOVE

Rick Taylor *2017*
Donna Lewis *2020*
Karla Morris *2023*
James Stucker *2023*

GREEN SQUARE MEALS

Six volunteers are needed each month to help with Green Square Meals! The next date is: **Thursday, November 19, with 3:55** expected arrival time. Please contact Dan Moore by phone at: (715) 432-1983 or by email at: banjobubbadad@yahoo.com if you are able to serve.

Thank you to those who have helped serve these meals!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRUNK OR TREAT WINNERS!

BEST YOUTH COSTUME –AVA MAHER – THE LORAX

BEST ADULT COSTUME – OLIVIA SCHNEIDER – JELLYFISH

FAVORITE TRUNK – UNDER THE SEA

OLIVIA SCHNEIDER, JORDAN WYLIE, & MALLORY ENGELMANN

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 9/30/26	$ 35,929
Cash inflow- YTD	$483,781
Budget need/month	$58,973
Cash outflow- month of 9/30/26	$44,717
Cash outflow- YTD	$467,594
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 Directory	Nancy Patrick
Handbell Choir Director	Charlie Kucera
Chancel Choir Accompanist	Linda Bayliss
Director of Children's Choirs	Olivia Schneider
Children's Choir Accompanist	Adam Sines

Children & Youth

Director of Family Ministries	Annie Walker
Director of Youth Ministries	Kim Moore
Nursery Caregiver Lead	Brooke Johnson
Nursery Caregiver	Hailey Ryan
Director of Children's Weekday Ministries	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