



KEEP SAYING *YES*

MARCH 8TH, 2026

NEWSLETTER N⁰-1

Providing for Today and What's Ahead

When something good needs to happen, **LOVERS LANE HAS ALWAYS SHOWN UP.**

It's our DNA. What started in a living room has grown into a church where people from all walks of life can find hope, healing, and a place to belong. Over the years, each generation has built on what came before, creating spaces and ministries that continue to shape lives across our community and beyond.



Today, we're still living that out. Our campus is active every day of the week. Meals are shared. Recovery finds hope. Children and students are learning what it means to follow Jesus. Music fills our spaces. People are showing up and getting connected in ways that matter.

But it's becoming more difficult to move as freely as we need to.

Not because the heart isn't there, but because **WE'RE CARRYING MORE THAN WE WERE MEANT TO.** The weight of debt and the growing demands of our facilities are limiting how quickly and fully we can respond to what's ahead. When something good needs to happen, we want to be ready to **say yes** without hesitation.

That's where **Made for More** comes in.

Made for More is how we take care of what we owe, strengthen our campus, and create spaces where people can belong and grow. It's about freeing up resources so more of what we give goes directly into ministry, into people, and into the work God is already doing around us.

This isn't just about buildings. It's about what happens inside them, and how we are sent out from them. It's about creating room for **MORE** people to experience community, to grow in their faith, and to discover who God **MADE** them to be.

Because that's who we are.

And this is how we **KEEP SAYING YES** to what God has in front of us.

Join us!

**VISION AWARENESS
LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH
12:15pm @ Watson Hall**

Celebrate Lovers Lane's past, present, and future. Stay after worship to share a meal, connect, and learn more about **Made for More** and how you can be part of what's ahead.

**NO FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS
WILL BE MADE AT THIS EVENT.**



Our Campaign Leadership Team

Made for More is led by a team of staff and lay leaders who care deeply about this church. Each team plays a specific role in helping us stay organized, connected, and focused throughout the campaign.

CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS

Pastor Kay Eck, Brenda Baker, and Melissa Stallings are the campaign coordinators, helping keep everything moving, connecting teams, staff, and our consultant, and supporting volunteers along the way.

CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS

Joe & Paula Cuadrado, Kathy & Greg Gordon, and Beth & Chuck Thoele serve as lay leaders of the campaign, guiding the overall effort and keeping the congregation informed as we move forward.

CELEBRATION TEAM

April Mihelich and Pastor Rocio Bamihe lead a team that plans gatherings to bring our church family together throughout the campaign.

FAMILY TEAM

Elliott Gonzalez, Mackenzie Johnson, Emily & Jesse Fry, and April Mihelich lead a team that engages children, students, and young adults, helping every generation have a way to say yes to what's ahead.

COMMITMENT TEAM

Jimmy Emery and Sharma Castillo lead a team that connects with households and receives commitment responses.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Manny Muñoz and Jeff Jones lead a team that shares the story of **Made for More**, helping our church stay informed, connected, and moving forward together.

FOLLOW-UP TEAM

Pastor Eddie Rester and Denise Startz lead a team that supports the church throughout the giving season and helps new members find their place in the campaign.

HOME HOSTS

Pastor Eddie Rester leads a team that hosts gatherings in homes to create space for deeper connection and conversation.

MAILING TEAM

Addison Portele leads the team coordinating materials and mailings that keep everyone informed and engaged.

MEET OUR CONSULTANT

Kurt Appel brings more than 20 years of experience guiding churches through capital campaigns, along with over 30 years in pastoral ministry as an ordained United Methodist elder. With a background in both church leadership and development, he helps congregations move forward with clarity, alignment, and a strong sense of purpose.

Kurt serves as a Group Vice President with DickersonBakker and has worked with churches of all sizes across the country. He is known for helping churches not only reach their



SAY “YES!”

Over 100 leaders across our church have already said yes, stepping forward to guide the work of Made for More.

...n and where God is leading us next.
...throughout the campaign.

MINISTRY IMPACT TEAM

Pastor Allie Shulman, Pastor Charles Robinson, and Paul Ditto lead a team that connects the campaign to the everyday ministry and mission of the church.

SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM

Pastor Donna Whitehead, Pastor Joy Gonzalez, and Pastor Ngoni Mukarakate lead a team focused on prayer, grounding this season spiritually.

VISION AWARENESS TEAM

Pastor Kay Eck, Pastor DeDe Jones, and Pastor Uwezo Mwanjala lead a team that shares the vision and invites the church into this journey together.

Together, they're helping us look back with gratitude, stay grounded in what's happening now, and move toward what's ahead.

They can't do it alone.

This is a church-wide effort, and there's a place for you in it. In the weeks ahead, you'll be invited to take part in simple, meaningful ways. Through your time, your prayers, your generosity, and your presence, each of us helps carry this forward.

When everyone shows up, something unique happens here.

People from different backgrounds and life experiences step in, side by side. You may find yourself serving with someone you've never met, or reconnecting with someone you haven't seen in years. The work is shared, the load is lighter, and along the way we become more connected as a church family.

Lovers Lane is a place where people show up for each other. Where we stand on tiptoes, not sit back, in an expectant faith that God will be doing even more.

So when the invitation comes, we hope you'll **keep saying yes**. This is how we move forward together and keep becoming who we were made to be.

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...financial goals, but also grow in unity and deepen their understanding of generosity and stewardship. His approach is both practical and pastoral, shaped by decades of experience in the local church.

He holds degrees from Louisiana Tech University, Perkins School of Theology at SMU, and Columbia Theological Seminary. Kurt and his wife, Claudia, live in Louisiana and have three children and three grandchildren.



Rev. Dr. Kurt Appel

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Lovers Lane's Prayer Vigil

SATURDAY, APRIL 18th 🕒 7:00am to 7:00pm

As we step into this season together, we are starting with prayer. On Saturday, April 18, our church will be open for a **12-hour prayer vigil**, and you are invited to come for an hour, find a quiet space, and spend time with God, praying for our church, our community, and what is ahead.

NEVER BEEN TO A PRAYER VIGIL? This is a simple place to begin. There will be guides available to help you get started, or you can sit in silence and

pray in your own way. It's a time to slow down, listen, and be grounded in God's presence.

As we take care of what we owe, strengthen our campus, and create spaces where people can belong and grow, we want to stay grounded in prayer and attentive to where God is leading us. If you are not able to be there in person, we invite you to set aside time that day to pray wherever you are.

Ministry Impact Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 26th 🕒 During Worship

You are invited to take part in Ministry Impact Sunday on April 26. This is an opportunity to see more clearly how ministry happens across Lovers Lane and how it connects to what we are doing in **Made for More**.

Throughout the morning, you'll be able to explore the ways our church is living out its mission every day, especially through our work in **missions, families, and worship**. From serving our neighbors through efforts like Everybody's Christmas, Honduras Mission Trip, and Christ Foundry, to investing in the next generation through KIDS, Students, Young Adults, and Austin's Allies, to gathering in worship

across Traditional, Thrive, Crosswalk, and African Fellowship. This is a chance to see the full picture of what God is doing here.

Want to see why Made for More matters right now? Come to campaign events and the need will be made clear!



Lovers Lane KIDS



Eddie's First Sunday
April 27, 2025



Eddie & Audra Rester
Sue & Karl VonBieberstein

A Message From Our Pastor

GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW AT LOVERS LANE.

We can sense it in growing worship, deeper engagement in ministry, and new groups forming as people seek to know Jesus more. What we are experiencing is not accidental. It is a sign that God is not finished with us.

The **Made for More** campaign is our response to this moment.

This is not simply about finances or facilities. It is about making sure we are ready to keep saying yes to what God has in front of us. As we take care of what we owe and strengthen the spaces where ministry happens, we free up more of our time, energy, and resources for what matters most: feeding the hungry, expanding outreach, nurturing disciples, and offering hope through recovery and community.

In the weeks ahead, you will hear more about this in worship, gatherings, and conversations across our church.

For now, I want to invite you into two simple next steps.

GET INVOLVED. **Made for More** will take all of us. When you are invited to serve, say yes. Your participation matters, and it helps bring this next chapter to life. If you would like to find a place to serve, you can reach out to Addison Portele at aportele@lhumc.org.

PREPARE YOUR HEART IN PRAYER. This is a spiritual journey before anything else. Begin praying now for the future of Lovers Lane, for the lives that will be changed, and for how God may be calling you to take part.

God has used Lovers Lane for more than 80 years to transform lives and communities. I believe we are only beginning to see what God will do next.

We are made for more.

Grace,

Eddie Rester
Lead Pastor

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KEEP SAYING YES

Upcoming EVENTS:

Sunday, April 12th
Made for More Kick Off &
Vision Awareness Luncheon

Saturday, April 18th
Prayer Vigil
7:00am-7:00pm

Sunday, April 19th
Family Ministry Celebration

...and more to come!



Confirmation



Everybody's Christmas



Amahl & The Night Visitors

Lovers Lane UMC
9200 Inwood Rd
Dallas, Texas 97220