

Winter 2018

The Advent Communicator



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation

2018 ADVENT AT COLLEGIATE/WESLEY

"Do not be afraid." - The Angels

Advent 2018 Sermon Series—Angels Among Us

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.

Blue Christmas

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Nichols Chapel

How do you celebrate “the most wonderful time of the year” when the year itself has been difficult and painful? If you can relate or have compassion for those who do, plan to join this special time. Held on one of the longest nights of the year, when the darkness looms large, this service is a chance to gather with others and remind one another that the light does eventually overcome the darkness. Contact Pastor Jill at Jill@cwames.org with questions.

Christmas Eve Before You Leave

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Will the holidays take you out of town for Christmas Eve? You can still celebrate Collegiate Wesley-style with a special and interactive service for all ages. A hot chocolate bar and photo booth will follow!

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, Dec. 24

5 p.m. An interactive service that will be a time where all can participate in the story of Jesus' birth. We'll sing some favorite carols, hear the amazing story, and close in candlelight.

7 p.m. A blended-style Christmas service with a variety of carols that will close with traditional candle lighting.

11 p.m. This traditional Christmas Eve service will include reading of scripture to remind us of the great story and favorite carols for us to lift our voices together. This service will end in traditional candlelight. If you plan to attend and would like to assist in reading or song, please contact Pastor Jen (jen@cwames.org).

ADVENT EVENTS

Advent Decorating

Wednesday, Nov. 28. 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Enjoy an evening of decorating our church for the season, Wednesday, Nov. 28. We'll gather in the Sanctuary around 7 p.m. following Soup Supper. Together we'll decorate the Sanctuary and building for Advent and Christmas. All ages welcome!

Advent Workshop

Sunday, Dec. 2 2:30-5 p.m., Wesley Hall

Enjoy an afternoon making gifts (and memories!) together to prepare your hearts for Advent. There will be craft activities for the young or the young at heart to be made, so all ages are welcome. Parents, please come and assist your children in the activities and to create these fun and thoughtful crafts. Each family can make a fresh, green wreath. Truly, it is an afternoon when everyone can get involved.

Volunteers needed!

Contact Mary Buck at maryeileen51@q.com or 515-460-4571 to get involved.

Ladies and Girls Christmas Tea

Saturday, Dec. 8 10:00 a.m., Wesley Hall

Bring a friend...join friends...celebrate friends!

All women and girls are welcome to join for tea, hot chocolate, or coffee—whatever beverage you prefer. Please bring a plate of goodies to share.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 16, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

The Children's Christmas Program will be presented to the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Afterward, a Children's Christmas Party will take place during the Sunday School hour.

(Please note that there is no Sunday School on December 23 or 30.)

Bells & Brass

Friday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Enjoy the sounds of the season with the Collegiate Brass and Chancel Handbell Choir at this annual concert. Free and open to the public.

ADVENT AT A GLANCE: REFERENCE CALENDARS

Worship Services

Sunday, December 2 — First Sunday in Advent

Worship at 8:30 and 11

Sunday, December 9 — Second Sunday in Advent

Worship at 8:30 and 11

Sunday, December 16 — Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Children’s Christmas Program

11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Monday, December 17 — 7 p.m. Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 19 — 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Before You Leave

Sunday, December 23 — Fourth Sunday in Advent; 9:30—one worship service

Monday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Interactive

7 p.m. Traditional

11 p.m. Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 30 — 9:30—one worship service

Sunday	Nov. 25	12 p.m.	Sitting Together on Sunday begins
Sunday	Nov. 25	7 p.m.	Intergenerational small group: <i>The Gift of the Nutcracker</i> begins
Monday	Nov. 26	9 a.m.	Mom’s Group #dontbeafraid begins
Tuesday	Nov. 27	7 p.m.	Sermon Series small group begins
Wed.	Nov. 28	12 p.m.	Small Group #dontbeafraid begins
Wed.	Nov. 28	7 p.m.	Advent Decorating; Sanctuary
Sunday	Dec. 2	2:30-5 p.m.	Advent Workshop; Wesley Hall
Friday	Dec. 7	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Christmas Movie Fundraiser; Annex
Saturday	Dec. 8	10 a.m.	Ladies and Girls Christmas Tea; Wesley Hall
Sunday	Dec. 9	7-9 p.m.	High School Youth Christmas Party
Friday	Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.	Bells and Brass; Sanctuary
Sunday	Dec. 16	8:30 a.m.	Children’s Christmas Program; 8:30 a.m.
Monday	Dec. 17	7 p.m.	Blue Christmas; Nichols Chapel
Wed.	Dec. 19	7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Before You Leave; Sanctuary
Sunday	Dec. 23	9:30 a.m.	One worship service
Monday	Dec. 24	5 p.m.	Interactive Christmas Eve Service
Monday	Dec. 24	7 p.m.	Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Monday	Dec. 24	11 p.m.	Lessons and Carols
Sunday	Dec. 30	9:30 a.m.	One worship service

THOUGHTFUL GIVING

Alternative Gift Market December 2, 9, and 16

As Christians, we are called to care for the least of these, showing our love of Christ through our actions. An Alternative Gift is a real gift, given in honor of a friend or loved one. Just like traditional gifts, they express love and affection, celebrate occasions and show you care. Unlike traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts purchased at the Alternative Gift Market at Collegiate don't contribute to the consumer stream. They always fit and are the perfect color.

The Alternative Gift Market is a wonderful opportunity to show our Christian love and to learn about projects around the world that relieve poverty and suffering.

Thirty projects are available through our partner, Alternative Gifts International. Additionally, eight local Ames/Story County non-profit organizations will be represented. Following is a list of area efforts supported in past years:

- Bethesda Food Pantry
- Food at First
- Emergency Residence Project
- Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance
- Story County Dental Clinic
- Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa
- ACCESS
- Life to Life Global Builders (Ames HS Uganda Project)

As you decide on Christmas gifts this year, please consider supporting the Alternative Gift Market projects and give gifts with real impact.

Also at Wheatsfield Cooperative December 8 and 15

Have Yourself an Eco-Friendly Christmas

Katherine Kerns has created a display in the gathering space to give tips on enjoying a more eco-friendly Holiday Season. She is providing ideas for environmental mindfulness in shopping, gift-giving, and celebrating.

Together we can enjoy this beautiful time of year and celebrate our world that we share together.

SMALL GROUPS & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Sermon Series Small Group

Do Not Be Afraid:

Defeating Fear with Hope, Peace, Love, Joy and a Wholehearted Life

Join a group this Advent season to explore what living a wholehearted life means in this stressful season.

Monday Moms of All Ages Group (Body, Mind and Spirit)

9:00-10:30 a.m. (Yoga 9:00-9:30 a.m.)

Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 17, Gathering Space. Childcare provided.

Leaders: Lindsay Drake and Lauren Loonsfoot

Tuesday Evening 7-8 p.m.

Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18. Fireside Room.

Leader: Pastor Jill Sanders

Wednesday Daytime 12-1 p.m.

Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19. Fireside Room.

Leader: Pastor Jill Sanders

Sign up for small groups at

<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/seasonal-classes>

Advent Intergenerational Small Group:

The Gift of the Nutcracker

The Nutcracker was first performed in 1892 and quickly became a holiday tradition that continues for many families to this day.

In *The Gift of the Nutcracker*, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way: through the lens of faith. An intergenerational study (all ages are welcome!) on Sunday evenings (November 25, December 2, 9, and 16) from 5-6:30 p.m. Dinner included.



Sitting Together on Sunday

Many people struggle with sorrow and loss during the holiday season. To care for our congregation the C/W Stephen Ministers will offer “Sitting Together on Sundays” to support people who find the holidays to be sad and difficult.

This small group format, facilitated by our Stephen Ministers, will include conversation, support and holiday coping strategies, plus delicious homemade soup and bread, after the 11 a.m. services on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, and 16.

Anyone is welcome to join as we seek to warm the hearts and souls of all here.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Sunday School (9:45-10:45 a.m. Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, & 16)

Our Advent Sunday School Rotation begins on Nov. 25.

The children will learn about Advent and the Christmas story through art, science, and creative drama.

(Please note that there is no Sunday School on Sunday, December 23 or 30.)

Middle School Youth Group Party

December 12, 6-8 p.m. Middle School Youth Room

We'll have pizza, hot chocolate, a movie and a sock exchange.

High School Youth Group Party

December 9, 7-9 p.m. High School Youth Room

Bring a snack to share; we'll have cocoa, sock exchange, and a movie.

There is no middle school youth group on Dec. 19, 26 or Jan 2.

There is no high school youth group on December 16, 23 or 30.

ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Elementary Mission Trip Fundraiser—Christmas Movie

Friday, December 7th 6-8 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend this free family friendly Christmas movie in the Annex. Free popcorn for all! There will be pizza, hot chocolate and treats for purchase. Proceeds will support the 2019 Summer Elementary Mission Trip.

High School Giving Tree (November 25—December 16)

This year the Giving Tree will focus on the homeless youth in Ames. We're working with the Ames School District to provide gift cards, underwear, socks, and hats. Tags will be available starting November 25th. Items will be due to the church on Sunday, December 16. Questions? Contact Lauren Loonsfoot (lauren@cwames.org).

Christmas Offerings for Missions

This year's Christmas Special Offering will be split among the congregational mission projects where we haven't yet met our commitments.

Adult Advent devotionals are now available for all to pick up in the west hallway near the Fireside Room.
Children's devotionals will be handed out Dec. 2 during worship.

You are Welcome!

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, economic condition, or anything else which threatens to divide **God's family.**

The purpose of C/W is to build an inclusive community that invites all **people to experience God's unconditional love**, grow in faith, and serve others.

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