

The

Winter 2019

Advent **Communicator**



**Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation**

ADVENT AT A GLANCE: REFERENCE CALENDAR

Sun.	Nov. 24	12 p.m.	Small Group: <i>A Decorating ADVENTure</i> begins; Wesley Hall
Sun.	Dec. 1	8:30 & 11 a.m.	First Sunday in Advent Worship Services; Sanctuary
Sun.	Dec. 1	9:45 a.m.	Small Group Study: <i>Light of the World</i> begins; Library
Sun.	Dec. 1	5 p.m.	Intergenerational Small Group Study: <i>In Light & Darkness</i> begins; Fireside Room
Mon.	Dec. 2	9 a.m.	Mom's Group Study: <i>7 Days of Christmas</i> begins; Fireside Room
Tue.	Dec. 3	6:30 p.m.	Advent <i>Luke Gospel</i> Small Group Study with Pastor Denny begins; Fireside Room
Fri.	Dec. 6	6 p.m.	Christmas Movie Fundraiser for Elementary Mission Trip; Annex
Sun.	Dec. 8		Gift Wrapping Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip begins (morning drop off/afternoon pick up), Rm. 123
Sun.	Dec. 8	8:30 & 11 a.m.	Second Sunday in Advent Worship Services; Sanctuary
Sun.	Dec. 8	2:30-5:00 p.m.	Advent Workshop; Wesley Hall
Fri.	Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.	Bells & Brass Holiday Concert; Sanctuary
Wed.	Dec. 11	6 p.m.	Middle School Christmas Party
Sun.	Dec. 15	8:30 & 11 a.m.	Third Sunday in Advent Worship Services; Sanctuary; Children's Christmas Program at 8:30 a.m. Service Only
Sun.	Dec. 15	9:45 a.m.	Children's Christmas Party
Sun.	Dec. 15	7 p.m.	High School Youth Christmas Party
Wed.	Dec. 18	7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Before You Leave; Sanctuary
Sun.	Dec. 22	9:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday in Advent; One Worship Service
Sun.	Dec. 22	7 p.m.	Blue Christmas Service; Nichols Chapel
Tue.	Dec. 24	5 p.m.	Christmas Eve Interactive Service
Tue.	Dec. 24	7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Traditional Service
Tue.	Dec. 24	11 p.m.	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service
Sun.	Dec. 29	9:30 a.m.	One Worship Service

EXPERIENCE: 2019 ADVENT AT COLLEGIATE-WESLEY

Advent 2019 Sermon Theme—From Wilderness and Exile to Hope Sunday, Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22

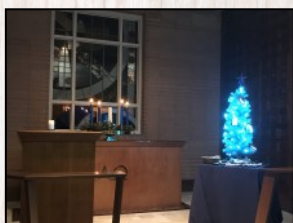
On these Sundays, we will explore the prophecies in Isaiah that point to the promise of Jesus Christ and discuss messages and themes of hope, joy, love and peace during this special season.

Christmas Eve Before You Leave Wednesday, Dec. 18, 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!



Blue Christmas Sunday, Dec. 22, 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.

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).



SERVE: 2019 SPECIAL OFFERING

ACSD School Meal Debt Payoff: Special Offering

December 8, 15, 22, 24, 25 & 29

Special Offerings will be held at the above worship services to help pay off school meal debt for the Ames Community School District (ACSD). Like 75% of school districts in the United States, ACSD has unpaid meal debt. Families' inability to pay for school meals is becoming an increasing problem. Thankfully, Iowa schools are prohibited from singling out or shaming students with unpaid accounts, and although the USDA spends more than \$24 billion each year on child nutrition programs, it prohibits schools from using federal funds to pay off meal debts. Each summer, ACSD sends uncollected school meal balances over \$100 to collections. The negative balance on school breakfast and lunch at ACSD is at **\$46,937.02** as of the date of this printing.

These are the negative balances by school.

Edwards -\$2,901.92

Fellows -\$2,795.64

Meeker -\$5,199.03

Mitchell -\$3,672.65

Sawyer -\$4,710.40

Middle School -\$11,152.17

High School -\$14,903.11

Northwood Preschool -\$1,602.10

(Meeker and Mitchell have the highest percentage of Free/Reduced students).

Advent Offering
ELIMINATE AMES LUNCH DEBT
GOAL: \$47,000!



Currently there are 575 students who pay for lunches with negative balances. Of those students, 52 receive reduced cost meals and 195 receive free meals (their negative balance is due to a la carte items such as snacks or extra milk).

Collegiate-Wesley has set a goal to **pay down 100% of this debt** over the advent season. Help us reach our goal of paying down this debt so that at a time when many hardworking families are struggling to pay for food and educational funding is hurting, keeping Ames preschool through 12th grade students fed during the school day, so that they can focus on learning, is not such a burden on our schools or families.

INVITE: ADVENT EVENTS

Advent Workshop

Sunday, Dec. 8, 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.

Bells & Brass

Friday, Dec. 13, 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.



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

The Children's Christmas Program will be presented at 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 22 or 29.)

Christmas Eve Worship Volunteers Needed

Collegiate/Wesley is a welcoming community of faith. We have many guests join us for our various Christmas Eve worship services and need quite a few people to volunteer and welcome new people into our space. Please consider [signing up here to help](#) with welcoming, ushering or operating the slides, or contact Lindsay Drake (lindsay@cwames.org) to help.



GROW: SMALL GROUP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sign up for seasonal small groups at
<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/seasonal-classes>.

A Decorating ADVENTure

Sun., Nov. 24, Dec. 1 & 15: Noon; Dec. 8: 2:30 p.m.; & Wed., Jan. 8: 7 p.m.

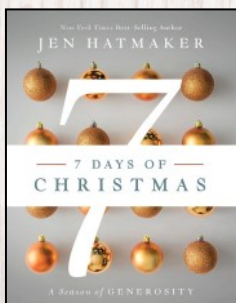
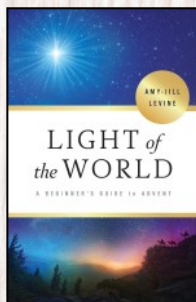
Mike King will lead this small group on an adventure to decorate the church for Advent. Each week, the group will use insights gleaned from the scripture to hold a deeper conversation about finding hope through the wilderness, while strategically building a visual representation of those discussions through our Advent season decorations. The group will start in Wesley Hall but will be decorating throughout the building for one hour on each meeting day. On January 8, the group will hold an Epiphany Party following Soup Supper; everyone is invited to the Sanctuary help take down all of the decorations that evening.



Sunday Morning: Light of the World

9:45 a.m.; Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22; Library. Leader: Lindsay Drake

As we anticipate the arrival of Jesus the Christ, you are invited to join together and explore the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus using the book, *Light of the World* by Amy-Jill Levine. This group will meet on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour beginning December 1. Books may be purchased in the office (for \$12). Please read chapter one prior to the first session. Contact Lindsay Drake (lindsay@cwames.org) with questions.



Monday Moms of All Ages Group (Body, Mind and Spirit): 7 Days of Christmas

9:00-10:30 a.m. (Yoga 9:00-9:30 a.m.); Dec 2, 9, 16; Fireside Room. Childcare provided.

Leader: Lindsay Drake

Join with other moms in a season of generosity. Using Jen Hatmaker's book, *7 Days of Christmas*, this group will explore a simpler Christmas season. Books available by contacting Lindsay Drake (lindsay@cwames.org).

GROW: SMALL GROUP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Evenings: Luke Gospel Advent Study

6:30-7:30 p.m.; Dec 3, 10, 17; Fireside Room. Childcare provided.

Leader: Pastor Denny Coon

A study using parts of the birth story according to the Gospel of Luke. Since we are familiar with these passages through Christmas carols and pageants, we might gain new meaning by digging a little deeper.

December 3 – The Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38) Gabriel visits Mary in Bethlehem

December 10 – The Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-56) Mary sings a rebellious song

December 17 – The Birth (Luke 2: 1-20) A child is born

Intergenerational Small Group: In Light and Darkness

5:00-6:30 p.m.; Dec 1, 8, 15 & 22; Fireside Room. Dinner Included & Child-care Provided. Leader: Lauren Loonsfoot

The inspiration for this study comes from the common usage of “light” and “darkness” during Advent, and from exploring how the earth experiences both the very lightest and darkest days with summer and winter solstices during Advent. Scripture focusing on God's light has led to the belief that light is the source of goodness and hope. This belief implies darkness is not wanted or needed, it is something to banish or get rid of, or

God is not even present in the dark. Through this study, we will reimagine our understanding of darkness, primarily how Christianity heavily relies on the binary construct of light as good and darkness as bad. We will examine how light and dark exist together in balance, not opposition, by considering what can light possibly mean without dark. This Advent devotional is written so children and adults of all ages can use it. Contact Lauren Loonsfoot (lauren@cwames.org) with questions.



Adult Advent devotionals will be available for all to pick up in the west hallway near the Fireside Room beginning Nov. 24.

Children's devotionals will be available starting Dec. 1 and handed out during worship.

ADVENT EVENTS



INVITE: CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Sunday School (9:45-10:45 a.m.; Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8 & 15)

Our Advent Sunday School Rotation, *A Baby is Born*, begins on Nov. 24.

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

(Please note that there is no Sunday School on Sunday, December 22 or 29.)

Preschool through Elementary Party

December 15, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Elementary Room (Rm 202)

Cookie decorating, ornament making, snacks and a movie.

Middle School Youth Group Party

December 11, 6-7:30 p.m., Middle School Youth Room

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

There is no middle school youth group on Dec. 18, 25 or Jan 1.

High School Youth Group Party

December 15, 7-8:30 p.m., High School Youth Room

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

There is no high school youth group on December 22 or 29 or January 5.



SERVE: ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

High School Giving Tree (December 1—15)



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 hygiene items. Tags will be available starting December 1. Items will be due to the church on Sunday, December 15. Contact Lauren Loonsfoot (lauren@cwames.org) with questions.



Elementary Mission Trip Fundraiser— Dinner & Christmas Movie

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



Everyone is invited to attend this family friendly Christmas movie in the Annex. Dinner will include pizza, hot chocolate, popcorn and holiday treats. Freewill offering will be collected. Proceeds will support the 2020 Summer Elementary Mission Trip.

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser (December 8, 15 and 22 , if requested)



Take the worry out of wrapping by letting the high schoolers do your gift wrapping this year and help raise funds to support their Summer 2020 Mission Trip. Drop your unwrapped gifts off in Room 123 before or after morning worship services on December 8th and 15th (and the 22nd, if requested) and pick them up later that same day. Suggested donation amounts (based on the size and complexity of

your packages) will be posted.

Advent Season Special Offering Dates

November 24: Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc.

December 1: Emergency Residence Project

SERVE: THOUGHTFUL GIVING

Alternative Gift Market

December 1, 8, and 15

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 on December 7 and 14.

Have Yourself an Eco-Friendly Christmas

Katherine Kerns has created a display in the Gathering Space Landing giving tips on enjoying a more eco-friendly Holiday Season. The display has ideas for environmental mindfulness in shopping, gift-giving, and celebrating. Together we can enjoy this beautiful time of year and preserve this world that we share together.



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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FROM WILDERNESS & EXILE TO HOPE

From Wilderness
and Exile to Hope

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