

The

May, 2020 Vol. 39 Issue 5

# Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church  
and Wesley Foundation

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## Bulletin and Weekly Email Announcement Deadlines:

Send Bulletin submissions to [mail@cwames.org](mailto:mail@cwames.org) by NOON on Wednesdays. Type *Bulletin* in the subject line.

Send Weekly Email submissions to [mail@cwames.org](mailto:mail@cwames.org) by NOON on Wednesdays. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

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**Front Cover:** We captured this beautiful tree in full bloom on April 30, 2020.

## About *The Communicator* and deadline submission dates —

The *Communicator* is a monthly publication of Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation. The goal of *The Communicator* is to inform and involve people in the life and work of the church. To submit articles, please email them to [mail@cwames.org](mailto:mail@cwames.org) **and put** “*Communicator*” in the subject line. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 515-292-6936.

June Communicator Deadline: May 20, 2020

# A Letter from Pastor Denny

by Pastor Denny Coon

As a child I remember spring cleaning in our household as an unsettling experience. My mother morphed into a cleaning machine that was unmatched by any human made **appliance**. **Spider webs did not have a chance with Mom's** rag covered broom. Furniture was moved into the center so base boards could be cleaned by hand with hot water and soap. Linoleum floors were scrubbed while the carpet was vacuumed twice. Storm windows were washed and removed so the regular windows could be cleaned. The most disturbing part of her cleaning was the rearranging of furniture. The rooms were never the same as before this frenzied spring ritual.



The current situation in our country feels like the furniture has been rearranged. Our lives are different from before the COVID-19 outbreak. Is there a potential for transformation from this situation?

**Brene' Brown captures the possibility: "We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, disconnection, confusion, hate and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment, one that fits all of humanity and nature".**

Jesus states in Matthew 9: 17 that we should not put new wine into old wineskins. With the fermentation of the new wine, the old skins will burst. New wineskins are needed just as the gospel of Jesus Christ needs to be manifested in us. These changed hearts result in new relationships, shared resources and just structures. May Collegiate/Wesley UMC be a part of the new garment of mercy and peace in the post-coronavirus world.

Pastor Denny Coon



The view from  
**Denny's office.**

(flowers blooming in  
the courtyard)

# Wesley Center Updates

March brought some big changes for our students and the rest of the country and world. As students began to realize that they would not be returning after spring break, and then the rest of the semester, we've jumped into adapting to this new reality for ourselves and our students.

Here are some of the realities we're facing:

Many students plans and expectations have changed dramatically. We have students who were brought home early from their study abroad trips; students whose study abroad trips were cancelled; students whose internships were cancelled; students who will not get to participate in commencement; students whose post graduation jobs have been postponed or cancelled.

All students are adapting to new educational environments, whether that's online at home, or still here in Ames; they're adapting to new ways of learning and completing their studies and adjusting the timelines and goals.

Students don't have the same access to their school-based support systems, social connections and routines. While these may seem like inconveniences, many students are experiencing a lot of disorientation, frustration and difficulty keeping up with everything going on.

Not all students have a safe place to go. We know some students have chosen to stay in Ames rather than return to their families of origin; some were not welcome to come home; some fear putting family members at home at risk, some had jobs that they relied on that they couldn't leave or quit.

All of this while also dealing with the stress, fear and uncertainty throughout society right now.

So we seek to continue to be as responsive and available to students and their needs at a distance. We imagine that our approach will need to continue to evolve, but for now, Wesley Center staff are:

checking in weekly with every active Wesley student (right now, just over 50)

continuing to host and support small groups via online platforms (all 3 groups continue to meet online)

providing weekly opportunities for any Wesley student to join a zoom call to check in with other students, pray for each other and have some fun.

During this time it's critical for us to continue to provide community, connection, support and spaces to lean into our spiritual disciplines to ground us in our faith. The Wesley Center is committed to doing that in whatever form or venue we need to.

Because one of our major events at the end of the semester is usually providing a hot breakfast and finals care packages, we will be mailing care packages to students instead. We are hoping to include a \$10 Amazon giftcard for every student. Normally the majority of our finals care packages come from donations, so in these times we're inviting you to partner with us by purchasing giftcards for our students. You can purchase a giftcard through Amazon and have it sent to [jen@cwames.org](mailto:jen@cwames.org). If you'd rather make a donation via our website you can do that [HERE](#).

In each email to our students, we close with this, and many students have shared how it gives them hope, helps them stay focused and connected and we hope that it gives you a bit of that too:

Don't forget:

- Conversations will not be cancelled.
- Relationships will not be cancelled.
- Love will not be cancelled.
- Songs will not be cancelled.
- Reading will not be cancelled.
- Self-care will not be cancelled.
- Hope will not be cancelled.

May we lean into the good stuff that remains.

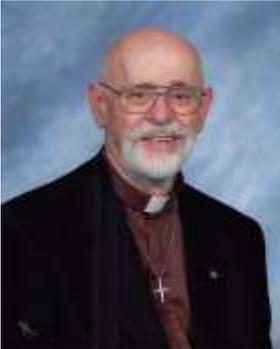
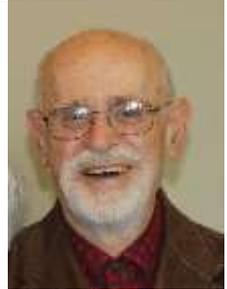
## In Loving Memory of Rev. Bob Farr

Rev. Robert G. Farr

June 25, 1924 – April 25, 2020

Well done good and faithful servant!

Enter in the joy of the Lord!



# Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot: Director of Children, Youth & Families

## Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in placing eggs at your home and those who took the time to go see the Easter eggs! It was a fun way to interact with one another during this time! You can still view the digital egg hunt here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cVlmsVC2Ls&t=12s>



## Earth Day Kits

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Earth day/week event! We're so thankful that you took the time to come pick up a kit and help pick up trash to keep our world clean. While everyday is Earth day, we loved being able to see the pictures you shared and the work that you did. There are so many ways to help take care of our Earth, share your ideas with [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org). If you'd still like to pick up an Earth day kit or have one delivered let Lauren Loonsfoot ([lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org)) know. We have some left over and we'd hate for them to just sit in the office. Keep up the great work!

## Sunday School

On April 19th we started a 12 week session on Creation. We are learning about creation care, environmentalism, conservation and so much more. You can view our Sunday School lessons anytime on our youtube channel: [Collegiate Wesley Youtube](#)

Kids Quest is a short mid-week video with activities that comes out on Wednesdays and can also be viewed on our youtube channel.



### Families Group video!

We have missed our monthly activities and we miss you! While we aren't able to see you in person, we'd like to put together a video of your family saying hi to other families and show us something you're doing at home together. Maybe it's planting a garden, or putting together puzzles or baking. Take a short video saying hi and showing us the activity. I'll put it together and send it out to our families group email. This way all of our children can say "hi" to each other! Please send to Lauren Loonsfoot by May 15th at noon.



### High School Seniors!

We want to celebrate YOU! Your hard work has not gone unnoticed and we are SO proud of you! Please send me a picture ([lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org)) and a few sentences about what is next for you and a favorite memory from high school or church. Please send by May 20th.

# Adult Discipleship

by Lindsay Drake: Director of Adult Discipleship

## Collegiate/Wesley Cares

Your Reaching and Receiving Cluster has been dreaming up ways to say to our community and essential workers that Collegiate/Wesley Cares. During this time of social distancing, each person will be encouraged to reach out to people to thank them and say that we care about them. A flyer has been created for you to use, as well as a hashtag to share on social media.

Each week, you will see a new opportunity to connect with your community. Look for information in the weekly emails. If you have ideas for who we can thank or connect with, please send them to Lindsay ([lindsay@cwames.org](mailto:lindsay@cwames.org)). Reaching and Receiving hopes that you have fun with the activity and that you share what you're doing with us. Take a picture and share it on social media, or email the pictures to Lindsay. Don't forget to use the hashtag #cwcares. This is a fun way to say thank you together while being apart!

## CW Cares Flyer

## General Conference Updates

Hello Church. Lindsay here, your friendly Lay General Conference Delegate. I wanted to bring you an update on how the Covid-19 pandemic has currently impacted the 3 major conferences scheduled for the summer. General Conference, which was originally scheduled to be held in Minneapolis from May 5-15, has been postponed until 2021. Currently, the dates are tentatively set for Aug 31-Sept 10, 2021. Jurisdictional Conferences, which are held 2 months following General Conference, are also postponed until after GC is held in 2021. The Iowa Annual Conference is postponed with a date yet to be determined for 2020.

What does all of this mean? What are the implications of postponing these conferences? The major implications facing the postponement of GC are budgetary AND the fact that we must live under the Traditional Plan for yet another year. We are yet to hear how these 2 very important issues will be handled in the time between now and next summer. Postponing Jurisdictional Conferences also means that our current assignment of bishops will most likely stay the same. I have not heard what the plan is for the bishops in our jurisdiction who were planning to retire in 2020. We are awaiting this information.

There is a lot of unknown at this time. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I am doing my best to stay on top of all of the information coming in regarding the UMC and the business that is currently on hold. I ask that you join me in praying for those most deeply affected by the changes, including our LGBTQIA+ siblings and clergy allies, as we face yet another year under the horrific Traditional Plan. I give thanks to God every day that I get to be a part of Collegiate/Wesley, where you have clearly stated that there is no room for anything in which **we are separated from God's abundant love and grace. Keep being the church!** Keep taking care of one another. We are in this together, and together we can do hard things.

# Finance Committee Update

Greetings Church Friends!

I hope you are doing well with our world of social distancing and doing your best to stay both safe and healthy! As the Finance Chair of CUMC/WF, I am reaching out to you regarding two ongoing giving options since you cannot physically bring your financial gifts to the church at the present time.

You can give via our online giving. There are a couple ways to access this:

1. Navigate to [www.cwames.org](http://www.cwames.org). You may receive a pop-up reminding you about digital worship. Click on the link ([www.cwames.org/worship/digital](http://www.cwames.org/worship/digital)). Scroll to the **bottom and click on the blue “Offering” button. This will take you to the online giving portal.**
2. If you navigate to [www.cwames.org](http://www.cwames.org) and there is no pop-up, simply click the **“Give” header in the menu. You will be directed to the online giving portal.**

Our online giving is layered with encryption, similar to your online banking. This method is as secure as if you did a bill pay from your bank.

**If you would like to get online giving set up but aren’t comfortable doing it yourself,** please let me know. I would be happy to work with you; feel free to reach out to me at [finance@cwames.org](mailto:finance@cwames.org).

We are still able to accept your paper check, too. (Our mailing address is: Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation, 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010.) Janelle is in the office and the USPS delivers every day. We can receive your check and deliver deposits to the bank drive-up.

I know many of you are regular givers via the Sunday offering. I hope this helps with any confusion regarding giving. Your continued financial support keeps CUMC/WF moving forward!!

Be well, my friends!! **I can’t wait to see you again** - hopefully soon!!

Jason Janssen  
Finance Chair

# Sending to Serve

## COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants

At the beginning of April, a COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants was initiated. Thanks to United Way of Story County for convening a group of partners (AMOS Ames Institutions, ARIA, ASIP) to provide our immigrant neighbors with emergency assistance. The COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants is now accepting tax-deductible donations. As of April 21, individuals and institutions have donated over \$30,000 to the fund, and 14 households in need have received funds, primarily for rent assistance. The initial maximum distribution is \$300 per applicant. As of now, 53 applicants are being reviewed. Those requesting funds complete an application that is reviewed by a group representing the above partners.

Applicants at this time have represented Latino, Sudanese, Asian members of our community.

If applicants agree they are also automatically connected to Ames Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance for additional support. They are also advised of other resources that may be of assistance.

Ongoing donations are appreciated and the need is great. Checks should be made out to St. Cecilia Church. Please note COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Immigrants in the memo. St Cecilia Church will automatically send contributors a letter of confirmation of giving for tax deduction purposes.

Checks can be mailed to:

St. Cecilia Church

Attn: COVID-19 Fund for Immigrants

2900 Hoover Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50010

If you know of an immigrant to refer, applications can be found on St. Cecilia's website <https://www.stceciliaparish.org/covid-19-fund-do-you-need-assistance-can-you-help/>

**FOOD DRIVE**

**Where:** Ames Middle School  
**Date:** Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5  
**Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**List of Items:**  
**Food Items (See also List)**  
Canned soups, soups, pasta sauce  
Canned fruit (canned in heavy syrup)  
Canned chicken or tuna  
Canned meats (corned beef, chili, etc.)  
Canned milk  
Cereal  
Canned soups/sandwiches  
Pasta sauce  
Nuts and nut butter (Peanut butter)  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Pancakes/waffles/syrup  
Frozen meals (frozen pizza)  
Frozen butter & oil  
Spices/condiments

**Non-Food Items:**  
Toiletries  
Diapers (size 4-12) & pull-ups & wipes  
Household cleaning products  
Laundry detergent  
Baby wipes (unscented)  
Baby formula  
Toilet paper, paper towels  
Paper plates  
Paper towels & cloth napkins

# Volunteer Opportunities



## Clothing That Works

CTW is closed to clients and donations right now.

New hours once CTW is open again:

Wednesdays, 2-5pm

First Saturday of the month, 9am-Noon

## Sign up to Help with Food at First

YES!! Food at First is open for business every day.

All dinners are now Grab-N-Go. Only volunteers are allowed inside the building. FAF needs more volunteers.

Collegiate/Wesley continues to volunteer on the 4th & 5th Friday every month. Our next dates to volunteer: May 22 and May 29.

To help prep and serve the meal, sign up for a two hour shift at (2:30-5:00 pm or 5:15-6:30 pm) on the 4th & 5th Fridays. [Click here to sign-up to volunteer.](#)



# A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

Psalm 139:12

**“even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you”**

As I write this, the Coronavirus continues to roam around the world, death and illness have afflicted many, and we in Iowa find our movements and business restricted. Even if we are not suffering personally from COVID 19, we are joined in a world of suffering, in a community that experiences the vulnerability of our lives on the planet. Perhaps for we who walk in faith, the awakening of tenderness and fragility – the way we see it; the way we know it now – gives us an opportunity to widen the window of resiliency. We look to new ways of reaching out and being with each other and our community, say through Zoom and forms of social media or through helping out with food drops or making masks for our medical personnel, our neighbors, ourselves. I have been watching the worship services posted for Collegiate/Wesley Foundation, and I am so impressed with the creativity, love, insight and commitment of the leadership team and everyone who gathers, even **electronically, to celebrate this connection of community.** **“You are never alone”** it says in Joshua 1:9, and surely the witness of the Collegiate/Wesley Foundation assures you of this is real and tangible ways.



In the line of the Psalm that I began with, the writer remarks on the way that God sees light and dark with the same lens. In the light, there is always shadow. In the dark, there is something waiting to be revealed; the dark is not empty. Oftentimes through human history, when to be in the darkness left people vulnerable to wild animals or thieves or even scary thoughts – the latter of which sometimes still happens for people today – darkness took on an ominous imagery. It became associated with fear, pain or treachery. But the Psalmist is saying something else: the light may give us insight and clarity, but the darkness gives us resiliency and also reminds us again of the full circle of life: there are things revealed and there are things hidden; there are things to be known and there are things we must take on faith.

In this season, I suggest we are in both light and dark. We may see things that were previously hidden to us, like our fragility or our strength. And we may live with a hiddenness for awhile as we do not know what comes next or what lives in the shadows -- that rather than being scary is just what we need. Conception takes place in the darkness of the womb. Light is revealed at the right time.

For we who are walking on a spiritual journey we walk in both light and dark, and whatever feelings accompany those experiences, we reach deeply into our shared life to understand we are not alone. We have each other. And we have the One who has created us all and the universe spinning with its stars.

Peace and grace, Mary

# Leadership Workshop Update

## Collegiate/Wesley UMC Leadership Attributes

This past January, thirty-five Collegiate/Wesley UMC members gathered to discuss and define leadership in the church. Three questions were presented: What are attributes of effective church leadership? How do effective leaders facilitate disagreement while maintaining a relationship? and Why do you feel called to be a leader at Collegiate/Wesley UMC?

Two hundred seventy-eight responses were recorded that evening as participants, using the World Café model, gathered in groups of four, occasionally shifting to new groups to discuss responses to the questions. These responses were then grouped together into like categories. Another sifting process occurred to get to the fifteen attributes listed below.

Realizing we are not all perfect, the hope is to begin to live into these expectations in our councils and clusters. There will be growth areas as we discern how these **attributes fit in with the uniqueness of Jesus' gospel message.**

1. Displays awareness/knowledge of the organization, structure, and purpose of the church.
2. Demonstrates flexibility, organization, and ability to delegate responsibilities, tasks, and jobs.
3. Humbly exhibits empathy, sensitivity, compassion, grace, patience, and affiliation.
4. Listens and communicates effectively.
5. Incorporates visionary, innovative, and forward thinking. Imagines in terms of the big picture, while maintaining focus on the purpose.
6. Inclusively and effectively recruits to encourage participation.
7. Manifests integrity, reliability, trustworthiness, and honesty.
8. Builds consensus and is able to ask/answer difficult questions, seek input, draw out differing viewpoints, and act as a liaison between staff and congregation.
9. Develops ground rules that reflect ideas of all participants.
10. Assumes good intentions.
11. Demonstrates and shows willingness to agree to disagree.
12. Affirms relationships and embraces the willingness to maintain a relationship in spite of differing ideas.
13. Seeks common ground and encourages compromise.
14. Seeks understanding.
15. Realizing none of us is perfect, feels called to serve God with commitment, fellowship, loyalty, and respect for the community.

# Prayers

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

- That the true meaning of Easter this year in our uncharted course will begin to heal the nation and the world.
- We thank the church staff for carrying on in these weird times!
- Blessings on all the people who are extending gestures of kindness to neighbors across the street, across the state, across the country.
- Floramay Miller offers prayers of thanks that her femur is healing this time.
- Joshua Dobbs is celebrating his 44th birthday (on April 15).
- Avis Schroder is celebrating her 5th birthday (on April 24).
- JoAnn Barten is giving thanks for an Easter card sent to her kids by another church member.
- For all the helpers, big and small!
- **Cathy Halverson is offering thanks for the sale of Greg's mother's home. She has moved to Ames and is thankful to longer be a home owner.**

## Prayers of Concern

- For Annie Arbuckle and family on the passing of her mother, Marilyn.
- For LeAnn Meehan and a favorable response to a new medicine.
- For those missing their families with the virus separation and for those who have lost family during this time.
- For healing for Pastor Denny.
- For those sick from Covid-19, that they find healing.
- For those caring for the sick.
- For those without income and having hard times due to the changes in our world right now. For those who feel alone, depressed, or shut in.
- For Rosalie Amos and family on the loss of her sister.
- For Suzanne Buchele, sister-in-law of Marybeth Buchele, who has early signs of macular degeneration.
- For Paul Lundy's niece, a health professional with Covid-19.
- For everyone at home and those facing abuse there.
- For Larry and Sandy Stevenson's daughter, for safety as she drives home from Florida.
- For Brenda Allen's brother and family in Connecticut, following a job loss and search for a new one.
- Praying that all friends and family are doing well.
- For the family of Pat Sander, sister of Jim Herriott, who passed away on March 30.
- Prayers for safety for all, especially for those working on the front lines of this pandemic.
- For Owen Kolstad and family on the loss of his mother, Barbara Kolstad.
- For Jim Sharp, father of Jill Strawhacker, recovering from surgery at home.
- For Kris Meinhard and family on the loss of her brother-in-law.
- Stephani Scherbart request prayers for her nephew Aaron and his coworkers at the Tyson plant in Perry.

- Prayers for family and friends of Thomas Mikelson, cousin of LaRue Clark.
- For Helen Farr and family, on the loss of Bob.
- **For Sandy Stevenson's Aunt Billie and family as she has moved into hospice.**
- For Emily Drapal Tanko, having surgery to repair bones and a plate put in her wrist due to a fall.
- For Elaine Johnson and family, on the loss of John.



**We 're enjoying the opportunity to worship digitally with you!**

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

Here's what you need to know:

- You can "tune in" on our [Facebook page](#) at 10:00am to watch live. There are opportunities for you to comment and interact in real time with each other.
- You can also go to our Facebook page anytime after that to view the video.
- We will also be uploading the video to our website [www.cwames.org](http://www.cwames.org) as well as our [YouTube channel](#).
- Whichever way you worship, we would love for you to fill out the [check in form](#) on our website so we can do our best to stay connected.
- To view a tutorial on how to connect on Sunday mornings you can view that here: [Digital Worship Tutorial](#)
- Check the weekly email for the digital bulletin and notes about anything you may need to "bring" with you to worship.



## You are Welcome Here!

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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