

The

September, 2020 Vol. 39 Issue 9

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation



Top row and center left photo: Preparing and distributing 200 meals during the Drive-By Lunch on August 16.

Center right photo and bottom row: VBS tie dying on August 9.

Contact Us

Phone: 515-292-6936

Email: mail@cwames.org

For more information, please visit our website: cwames.org

Facebook: facebook.com/cwames

Weekly Email Announcement Deadlines:

Send Weekly Email submissions to mail@cwames.org by NOON on Wednesdays. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

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Cover Picture: Taken early morning of August 27, 2020

Back Cover: A beautiful summer sunrise at Collegiate/Wesley

Photos taken by Doug Warren

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 and put “*Communicator*” in the subject line. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 515-292-6936.

October Communicator Deadline: September 20, 2020

A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

What a month we had in August! I hope by the time you are reading this your power is back, your internet is back and the debris in your yard is picked up and removed. Many of our friends and family across Iowa have suffered greatly. I am glad to share that our Disaster Coordinator with the Iowa Annual Conference has reported that UMCOR is already here in our state (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and there also have been teams from different churches traveling to the worse hit areas to help remove trees and deliver food and resources. We are indeed a good and necessary connectional community.



As we look ahead, you will know from the church-wide email that was sent out on August 19, that we do not expect to return to in person worship in the sanctuary until sometime in 2021. This decision came with a lot of thought, study and after surveying the congregation regarding its overall feeling regarding the safety protocols needed to be ready to reopen. We look forward to using our time this fall to continue digital worship Sunday morning at 10, beginning Sunday School September 13 and

resuming a full menu of learning and conversational groups. In addition, we will offer Morning Watch on September 6th and 20th and October 4th and 18th at 8:15am. These will be socially distanced in-person gatherings in The Meadow, the stretch of lawn east of the Annex and behind the utility building in the parking lot. These services will be simple, something like you might have experienced at camp and will last no more than 30 minutes. On the first Sundays of the month we will offer communion that is prepackaged in individual servings. We request that you wear a mask except when taking the communion elements.



Shall we gather in the meadow?

I continue to feel blessed and honored to be among you, to meet so many of you whether through Zoom meetings or sitting distanced

on the lawn or on the back deck of the parsonage. I see how deep your faith is and how you take seriously the way God has called you. I am heartened by the fully inclusive nature of your sense of community, that all means all here at Collegiate/Wesley Foundation. As we go forward into the fall, I am excited by the way we will be in ministry together and how we will dream a dream of the church that is continuing to grow and serve and the way we will imagine ourselves into the future after we emerge from this pandemic.

May you feel loved and held by the grace of God in the days ahead.

Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot: Director of Children, Youth & Families

Sunday School for Children and Youth

Sundays 9:00 am Children's Sunday School

Preschool through 5th Grade on Zoom Starting September 20!

The format will loosely follow this schedule: 9:00-9:10 Music/9:10-9:20 Bible Story and Reflection/9:20-9:45 Activity/Craft/Game. An email will be sent each week with items needed for the lesson and activity sheets will be mailed weekly. Sign-up here: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/children-and-youth-sunday-school/children-sunday-school-2020-2021>



Sundays 11:00 am Youth Sunday School (Middle School and High School combined)

A time for middle school and high school students to connect, discuss the scripture of the week, and how we can connect it to our lives. Sign-up here: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/children-and-youth-sunday-school/2020-2021-youth-sunday-school-middle-and-high-school>

Youth Group

Starting Sunday, September 13th on Sunday evening via Zoom, Middle School youth will gather from 6:30-7:15. High School youth group will start at 7:30. There will be a few in person opportunities available as well, likely once a month to start. Picture hula hoops, (yes I have lots!) in the back lawn, spaced out for charades and other games. These gatherings will be socially distanced and masks will be required. Of course this is up to the comfort of each individual family if their youth will attend.



Rally Sunday

Let's start this year's fall programming off with a drive through celebration! New and fun ways to kick off Sunday School, Youth Groups and Small Groups. Swing by the church on September 13th from 2-3pm. Pick up Sunday School supplies, books for small groups, enjoy some games and activities from your car. Participate in a sign decorating contest. Decorate a sign before you come, with the theme of starting something new. It could be the general idea of new, or something you as a household or individual are going to start new. We hope that you will come kick-off the year with us in a new way!

Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped make, pack and distribute meals on Sunday, August 16th. We made 200 meals! We gave out meals to those that drove by during the event as well as made some personal deliveries to folks in the community, including drop offs to Bridges (formerly known at the Emergency Residence Project) and the Rosedale Youth Shelter.



Thank you to all who helped a neighbor clean up after the storm. Thank you to those who helped cut branches for church members. Thank you to those who moved debris for others. We appreciate you and your helping hands! Thank you to those who dropped off treats, meals or water to those in need. Thank you to those who prayed! Seeing the church in action during a time of need was powerful and moving! We are so thankful for this community of faith.

Children, Youth & Family Information

Backpack Blessing Sunday, September 6th



Backpack Blessings

Sunday September 6th 10:00 am
During digital worship.
Have your backpack, briefcase, crossing guard vest, laptop or other item that represents this years school year with you.

The graphic features a dark blue background with a large white circle on the right. Inside the circle are icons for a backpack, a laptop, a stack of books, and a briefcase. The text is in white and orange.

Confirmation

We invite you to celebrate the five youth that will be confirmed in September. You will get to witness the service digitally on September 13th during digital worship. Help us in congratulating Autumn Rettig, Benjamin Drake, Elle Ellingson, John Shriver and Jordan Kain on their completion of confirmation! These youth had an extra long confirmation, they were originally supposed to be confirmed in May. They have been wonderful students and have done a great job learning about the United Methodist Church, Collegiate Wesley and themselves as participants in this community of faith. Congratulations Autumn, Ben, Elle, John and Jordan!



School Age Parents Social Hour

This is a school year unlike any other. This is an opportunity to connect with other parents and share how you are doing. A safe space to feel supported, find encouragement and to take a moment of quiet to **reflect and find balance in our busy lives.** We'll gather once a month starting at **8:00 pm on Friday, September 11th.** To be on the email list for the link let Lauren Loonsfoot know (lauren@cwames.org)





Join an Adult Sunday School or Small Group this fall!

This year, like every year, Collegiate/Wesley is offering a robust adult program. There are still adult Sunday school classes, but this year, because of the flexibility that online groups provide, not all groups will be meeting on Sunday morning. There are also various midweek opportunities, as well. Make sure to check out the website for all of the details for your favorite old or new classes.

All class information can be found at <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups>

Builder's Class

Do you miss watching CBS Sunday Morning? Has something you heard on NPR caught your attention? Builders class uses these platforms and others to explore current issues and how they connect to our faith. We will be meeting through zoom on the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month at 7pm. Come join us.

Faith Journeys

Faith Journeys is a Bible study designed to encourage us as we seek God's will. We look at how our own little faith journeys relate to the big faith journey of God's people in the Bible and history. Last March the class started "meeting" via e-mail. For each lesson there is an e-mail containing an introduction to a Bible passage and questions to ponder. We have two to three days to share our responses.

You are welcome to join us. If you would like to "visit" the class or see a sample lesson, please contact Mary Jean Baker at bakerallan14@gmail.com.

Forum

Forum Sunday school class will not meet until in-person worship resumes at Collegiate United Methodist Church and Westley Foundation. Since Forum relies on guest speakers for its programming, we are unable to do a Zoom or other type of virtual gathering. I look forward to resuming our class when we are safely able to do so. Questions? Contact Tim Garner at timgarner@mediacombb.net or by phone at 515-233-4977.

Keeping the Conversation Going – New this fall!

All are welcome to join with the preaching pastor following the live stream of our weekly digital worship opportunity to dig deeper into the sermon and worship themes. The only prep is worship! Join together weekly at 11:00 via Zoom for an engaging discussion. Sign up on our website.

Spiritual formation

This Adult Sunday School class is for persons interested in deepening their personal and communal spiritual life. This class explores various topics throughout the school year and meets via Zoom. Visit the website for date and time information.

M&M

This Adult Sunday School Class explores timely news from a faith perspective using Faithlink materials from the United Methodist Publishing House. This group meets on Sunday mornings @9:00 via zoom. Sign up online.

Roundtable

Roundtable, a progressive group of CUMC/WF members, meets once a month to discuss various books on theology and topics relevant for today's church. This year we will begin with "American's Original Sin" by Jim Wallis on Thursday, Sept. 10 at noon. We will read the Introduction and first two chapters for discussion by Zoom. For more information and to get on the email list, contact Bev Kruempel at kruempel@msn.com.



Adult Discipleship

How to be Anti-Racist Book and Action Group

We know that reading books is only one small portion of Antiracism work. Having conversation and a community to discuss and process the information and action is **extremely important though**. This group will read Ibram X. Kendi's book **How to be Antiracist** and will discuss/plan tangible actions we can take as individuals in our community. This group will meet every other week, starting Thursday, September 24th at 8:00 pm via zoom. To sign-up for the group click on the link below.

<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups/how-to-be-antiracist-book-and-action-group>



Amplify Media

Collegiate/Wesley has a subscription to Amplify Media for all to use! This resource is a video streaming service which includes videos from popular Abingdon Press studies, along with other resources you would find on Cokesbury.com. There are devotional videos, children and youth resources, and various other videos for you to stream from home. Log in today using the link and access code below. Questions on how you can use this at home or for your small group, contact Lindsay Drake (lindsay@cwames.org).

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify>. Access Code: CLXSBH

Collegiate/Wesley Re-Opening Tactical Team

At the end of July, the Collegiate Wesley Re-Opening Tactical Team analyzed the results of the CW community survey. Two-thirds of the 197 respondents consider themselves or someone in their family unit to be in the high risk category to contract COVID-19. Sixty-seven percent of respondents answered that a necessary criterion for returning to in-person worship was a vaccine or treatment. A decline in infection rates for two weeks in Ames and Story County, is a necessary criterion for 54% of respondents. The Team also considered the unknown effect of the return of Iowa State students and the resumption **of classes on August 17 and the state of Iowa's current status as a COVID-19 area of concern**. Based on this data the team made the following recommendation to Church Council, which was unanimously approved:

Collegiate Wesley will not resume in-person in-building worship until 2021 when the safety of all can be largely assured.

This means that we will not be holding worship services in the building. Non-worship activities will be considered on an individual basis. For example, Adventures Preschool will resume later this month. Wesley Center activities will be moved to the Annex.

It also opens the door to worship opportunities that are outside the church building. Pastor Mary and the Worship Team will be offering four such opportunities. Morning Watch services will be held at 8:15 AM on Sept ember 6 and 20 and October 4 and 18. The service will be in the Meadow (the lawn just east of the Annex and west of the garage). These 30 minute services will consist of meditative music (no singing), devotional and prayer. People are asked to bring their own lawn chair, to wear a mask, and to maintain social distancing. Communion will be offered on the first Sundays of the month using prepackaged elements.

The Re-Opening Tactical Team is continuing to monitor the situation in Ames and Story County. We are also reviewing survey data and exploring ways to maintain our community connections. If you have suggestions or concerns about reopening contact Jane Jacobson (janej4831@gmail.com) or 515-450-1593.

Collegiate/Wesley Leadership

Collegiate/Wesley Leadership Information

Have you ever wondered how the Councils, Committees, Clusters, and Boards of Collegiate/Wesley work together as we strive to live into our Purpose and Picture? What about the roles of each of those groups? Maybe who is currently serving in all the lay leadership roles at the Church?

The answers to these questions – as well as much more information – can be found on the Collegiate/Wesley **website** (<https://cwames.org/>). **Hover over the tab labeled “Leadership” and click on the “Collegiate/Wesley Leadership” choice. The information is password protected; simply type johnwesley into the space provided and click on the yellow “SUBMIT” button. These pages of the website includes a list of all the leadership groups, each of the group’s responsibilities, the current members of the group, an email address if you would like to send a question or comment to a particular group, and Agendas and Minutes from meetings.**

New to this section is an updated document approved by Church Council entitled *CUMC-WF Leadership Structure Document*. This document includes great detail on the organizational structure, describes the Nominations process, and lists the positions that fill each Council. The final page of the document includes information about how the structure document was developed by the Future Church Team.

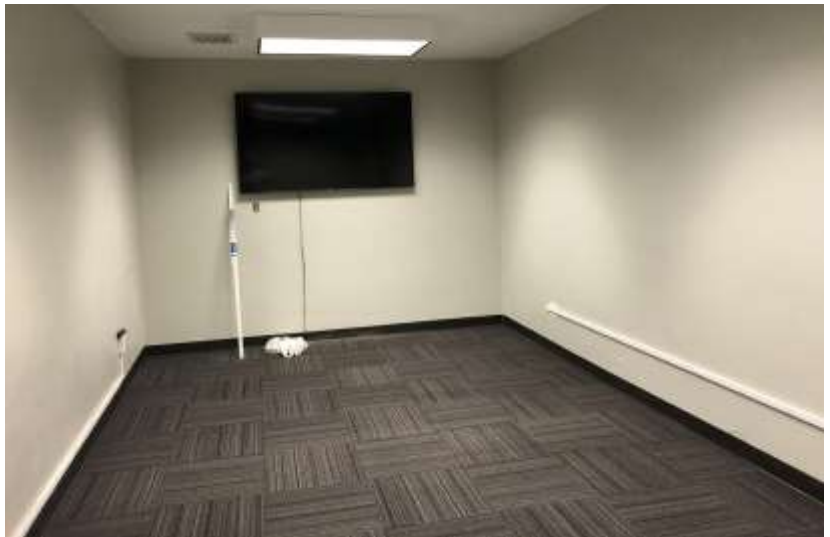
We hope you enjoy this resource!

Endowment Board—Spotlight on Grants

In 2019 the Endowment Board granted funds to reimagine the computer workroom near the west entrance welcome site. The room had outlived its initial purpose and the space is prime real estate. While we have been away, Building Superintendent Doug Warren gutted the space and is now transforming it.

He and Lindsay Drake envision it to be a place for small group meetings or other gatherings for a limited number of people. Doug has already painted the walls, installed new floor covering and mounted a new flat screen. New furniture will be in place when the building reopens.

The Endowment Board is pleased to support this project to enhance the ministry and experience of the Collegiate Wesley community.



COLLEGIATE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND WESLEY FOUNDATION

Sending to Serve

Derecho Storm Relief Help

Our neighbors in Cedar Rapids are working on recovery and rebuild and one of the organizations helping with that is Matthew 25. You can view their website here <https://www.hub25.org> and also see more details below about their efforts.



On August 10, 2020, a strong derecho with 130+ mph winds swept through eastern Iowa, leaving destruction throughout Cedar Rapids and neighboring communities. Since this disaster, Matthew 25 has been working with the city and other nonprofits to deliver resources. Matthew 25 is offering, Free Home Repairs (Homes damaged by the derecho may be eligible for free repairs by Matthew 25 volunteers and partners). They have a Generator Program and offer Free Produce to the community.

Volunteer Opportunities: If you'd like to help with derecho recovery, please check our [Facebook page](#) for our current volunteer opportunities. If you're available between August 31 – September 4, consider signing up for our [Transform Week](#) when we will be doing a blitz of derecho home repair projects.



Donations: If you would like to make a donation to aid us in our disaster recovery efforts, you can do so on our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or by sending a check to: Matthew 25, 201 3rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

If you have any questions please contact Lauren Loonsfoot (lauren@cwames.org)

Reggie's Sleepout Ames

Support our team for Reggie's Sleepout!

WHEN: Friday, Sept. 4 - Sunday, Sept. 13
Participants should sleepout at least one night but are allowed to do more!

WHERE: Your place! Sleepout in your backyard, your basement, your kitchen, your closet. Be creative: as long as you are out of your comfort zone and staying safe, then it works.

WHY: To raise awareness and money to address the critical problem of youth homelessness in Central Iowa. All proceeds benefit Iowa Homeless Youth Centers. Iowa Homeless Youth Centers is a community-based organization of YSS (based in Ames, Iowa).

To register to participate in the sleepout you can email Lauren Loonsfoot (lauren@cwames.org) or sign-up here: <http://impact.yss.org/goto/cwames>

To donate to our team go here: <http://impact.yss.org/goto/cwames>



Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing That Works

CTW will be open Wednesdays, 2-5 pm, and the first Saturday of the month, 9am-Noon. No one under age 16 will be allowed in the building. All shoppers must wear a mask (one will be provided, if necessary), and use hand sanitizer before shopping. Temperatures will be taken and health questions asked. Only 2 shoppers will be allowed at a time.

Clean, usable adult clothing donations are also being accepted at that time (at Clothing That Works, NOT inside the church building).



Sign up to Help with Food at First

YES!! Food at First is open for business every day. All dinners are 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 date to volunteer: Sept. 25th.

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

Please follow the link to participate in the poll:
<https://doodle.com/poll/bbq7z2spfp49xpvi>

Notes of Thanks



Thank you so much for cards and best wishes. It made my 90th birthday extra special! ~ Gwen Wells

Thank you so much for lovely birthday cards and notes. They are very much appreciated. ~Marilyn Loupee

Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- That all family members have recovered from Covid-19. ~Jane Woline
- For the hardworking 5th Friday crew at Food at First on July 31: Dee Dreeszen, Dean Phillips, Mary Ann and Paul Lundy, Amanda and Abe Winters, Marybeth Buchele, Lynell Dougherty, Marjy Howe, & Betty and Tom Barton.
- I love watching church. ~ Avis Schroder
- I pray for wisdom in leaders of our country. ~ LaRue Clark
- Prayers of safety for students returning to classes.
- Prayers for schools, students, teachers and workers in our schools.
- Prayers for local and federal leaders to guide and support us.
- Prayers for healthcare and essential workers.
- Prayers for us to be stewards of the guidelines the medical experts & CDC have laid out for us.
- Prayers for our world that has been changed, that we will, through faith, compassion, and deliberate care for all of us, find our way forward to our new lives. We are existing distantly but together. ~ Shaela Holtman
- For the teachers going back to school soon and trying to figure out their new normal. ~ Ashley & Kaci Mahannah
- For help with storm clean up - team of Lauren Loonsfoot family and Jill Brand family. ~Betty Barton
- For the safety of my daughter Susan in Coralville when a large tree fell on her home. The tree has been removed but she is still without electricity. ~LaRue Clark
- **In celebrating John Patrick's 15th birthday on August 24.** ~Eryn Shriver
- To all who reached out and helped us while we were without power for a week. ~Megan and Steven Schroder
- To those who reached out and offered help following the storm. ~LaRue Clark



Prayers of Concern:

- For my brother and family in CT, as he is still looking for a job. ~Brenda Allen
- For Jane Herbold and family, as Jane has entered hospice.
- We pray that You will lead us through this pandemic to a better world." ~ Eldon Weber
- Stay healthy. Amen. ~ Clara Schroder
- For those suffering losses of all kinds. ~Dean and Carol Phillips
- For those affected by last Monday's storm. Please give each one strength and courage, and help them feel the love and support of others. ~LaRue Clark
- For my August 24th hip replacement surgery in Iowa City. ~Deanna Jordan
- Prayers for guidance during the pandemic. ~Eldon Weber
- For Teresa Gibson, who has tested positive for Covid-19.
- For Gerry Kennedy as he recovers from surgery and begins chemotherapy to manage intestinal lymphoma. At this point, we believe that, though the next months may be challenging, the prognosis is good. We are thankful to have a diagnosis finally, and to have the care of skilled, talented, compassionate medical professionals. ~Jane Kennedy

Covid-19 Emergency Fund

COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants

Thanks to all who have supported our immigrant neighbors. Here are some of their stories in their own words.

“Before I’m working at a local restaurant but because of the COVID 19 our work was close due to the safety of the public now I’m a single mom with a 4 kids I don’t have any income to pay my billings in very had for me to find I really appreciate your helps I’m so thankful. God bless you all.” [sic]

“I used to work at a local restaurant but now I do not have a job due to the COVID-19 crisis, my wife used to work at the hotels but she lost her job as well.”

At this time total donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund have been over \$118,300 and allocations have been \$101,850.

The need continues and has now been impacted with the derecho that our community experienced August 10. Some of our immigrant neighbors are back to work on a very limited basis and others are still not able to find any work.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to St. Cecilia, 2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010 with COVID-19 Immigrant Fund in the memo line. This fund is overseen by the COVID-19 Emergency Fund group of partners.

Digital Worship at Collegiate/Wesley



Here’s what you need to know:

You can “tune in” on our [Facebook page](#) at 10:00 am to watch live.

You can also view worship anytime on our [Youtube channel](#) or [Digital Worship Page](#)

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](#)

Wesley Alumni Update

Hello from the strangest school year start we've ever seen (if you've seen stranger, I'd love to hear about it)! Even in the midst of uncertainty, the Wesley Center continues to be a presence of hope, love and inclusiveness at ISU. Your support is more vital than ever as we continue to find new ways to support, care for and help students grow in their faith.



So what does the Wesley Center look like in the midst of a pandemic? Last semester we made sure that our small groups could continue to meet together digitally to provide support, community and spiritual growth. After speaking with our students over the summer, it was clear that they were missing being together in person. Our priority is to work together to do no harm, to our students, to the ISU community, to Ames and to the most vulnerable affected by this virus. Thankfully, we have found that we can provide a safe, hospitable place for students to gather while **protecting others**. If you joined us for our last Alumni Reunion, you'll remember the space in the Annex Auditorium that we used for lunch. This year the Wesley Center will be operating out of this space 4 nights a week to allow small groups, studying, social connection for students and access to pastoral care. We are excited about our temporary location and believe that our protocols will enable us to keep everyone as safe as possible.

As always, we are thankful for your support through your prayers, gifts and witness to the importance of **campus ministry at ISU**. If you have questions about what we're up to or want to chat about ways you can support Wesley, please do not hesitate to contact me and set up a virtual meeting (technology has truly opened up some new doors for us). I will be praying for all of you as you continue to navigate this new normal with faith, grace and joy.

Peace,
Jen Hibben
Campus Pastor



Digital Reunion

October 18th 1pm via zoom

- Join us for conversation
- A presentation about what Wesley is up to
- Hear from current Wesley students
- Connect with others who were involved with Wesley during your tenure

The Annex Auditorium
reimagined as
The Wesley Center



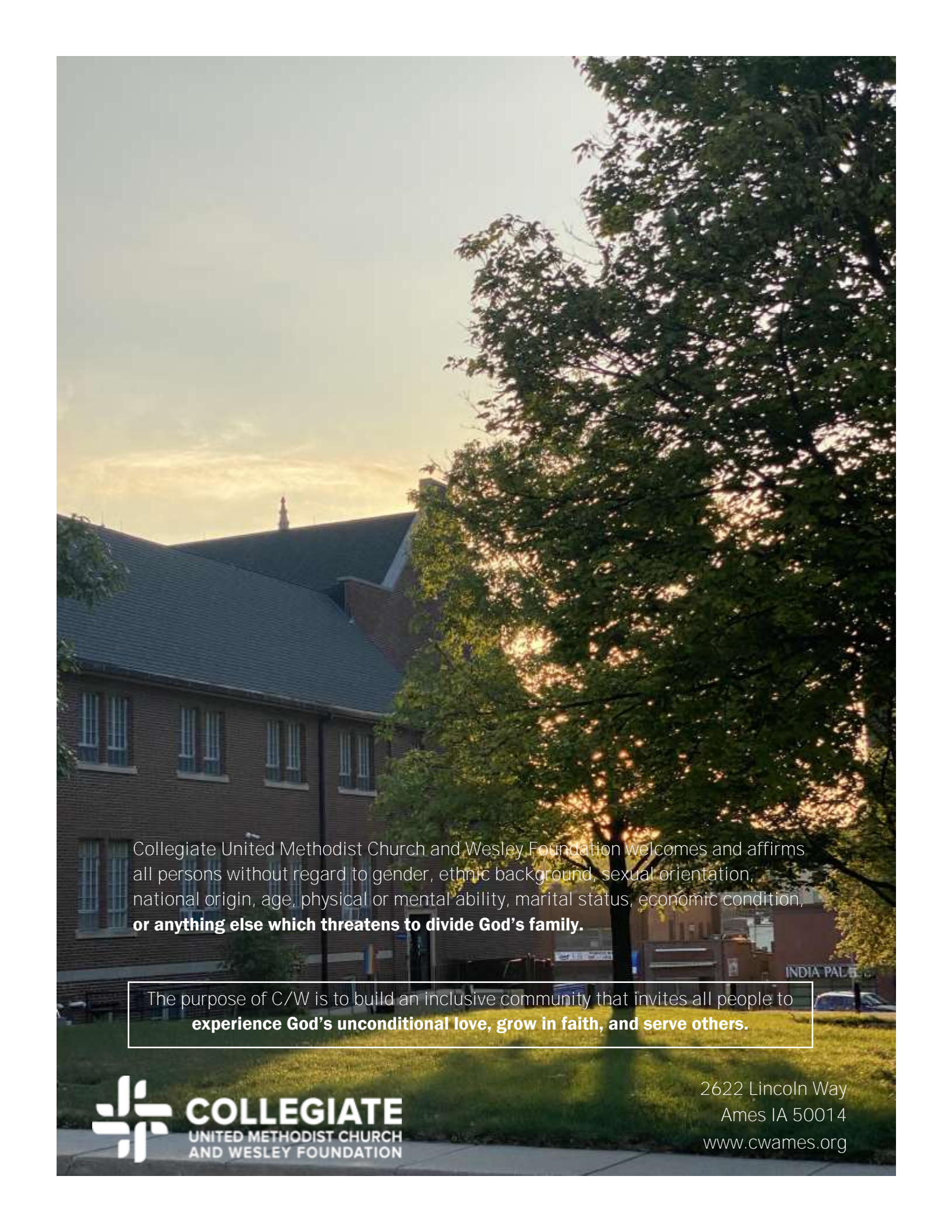
WESLEY CENTER

THE
PROGRESSIVE
INCLUSIVE
CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT IOWA STATE

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**
ALL belong
**ALL ARE
LOVED**

ALL means ALL
LEARN MORE
and connect with us on our
website: isuwesley.com





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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