

The

November, 2020 Vol. 39 Issue 11

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation





Contact Us

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/cwames](https://www.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 pictures: Both were taken on a cool, crisp October morning.

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.

December Communicator Deadline: November 20, 2020

A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

“The depths of God are joy, beauty, resurrection, life. Resurrection answers crucifixion; life answers death.” Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

So many of us love the fall because as the trees turn glorious colors here in the Midwest, and then let go to tumble toward the earth, we are both reminded of loss and beauty, the passage of time and the way the earth and our lives live in a cycle of life and loss, death and resurrection. It is poignant for us. The air is crisp and clear. The sense of beauty is all around us. And yet we can feel the passage of time, remember those no longer here with us, imagine what another year will bring in hoped for joy and possible tears. It is a time for us to reflect on what the year has brought and to imagine what the year ahead might look like. We have suffered in this time of COVID, but we look toward the time when we can gather again in person, move freely and continue the walk of faith with strength and courage.



The journey forward into 2021 poses challenges for us; it asks us not to resume what was but to create what is newly possible. It involves us in a conversation with each other around the church that we are building now, having experienced one of the worse public health crises in the modern age. It asks of us **imagination, commitment, delight in possibility and a deep awareness of God’s presence with us as we go forward.**

You may already have received a letter from our Director of Generosity, David Orth, detailing the many ways Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation have been reaching out to the community and to the world, as well as reaching in through study groups, gatherings and worship to live out the life of faith and love here in Ames. Our ministry commitments have not stopped because of COVID. We have created a new world of digitally accessed worship. We have delivered meals and resources to people affected by the Derecho. We have resourced children and youth with kits for activities and Zoom learning and fellowship. We began a Morning Watch service in The Meadow at our church which will resume in the Spring. We have delivered communion to dozens of households. We have continued to support advocacy programs for the LBGTOIA community, immigrants and many others. The list goes on and you can read more in the letter from David.

Here in the community of faith we take moments in the fall to look back at what we have accomplished **and to pave the way forward, to begin “bringing in the sheaves,” to quote a line from an old hymn that was once sung in agricultural communities across the United States. “Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness. Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve; waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping. We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.” We shall come rejoicing. In all that we have experienced this last year, in the losses and the gains, in the time before COVID, in the time of COVID and in the time after COVID, we shall come rejoicing because we know we are a part of God’s great project.** Thank you, each one of you, for the ways you give of your time, your talents, your witness and your gifts to Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation. Indeed, we shall come rejoicing.

Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot: Director of Children, Youth & Families

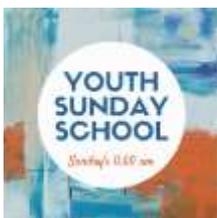
Children:

Sunday School: Sundays at 9:00 am!
Children's Sunday School Preschool-5th Grade on Zoom. 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, and activity sheets will be mailed weekly. To register click [here](#).



November Readings: On Wednesdays we will post a reading by a special guest on our Collegiate Wesley families group Facebook page (CW Ames Families Group)! We hope you can tune in sometime during the week to hear a special book by a special guest!

Youth:



Youth Sunday School: Sunday mornings at 11:00 am. A group for middle school and high school students to connect with the scripture for that Sunday.

Middle School Youth Group Sundays at 6:00 pm

High School Youth Group Sundays at 7:00 pm

Contact Lauren Loonsfoot for more details: lauren@cwames.org



Families: Parent's Social November

This year is unlike any other. Join us for a time 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. To sign-up for the group you can go [here](#).

What are you thankful for?

We're creating a collage and we need your help! Send an email of what you are thankful for to Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org to help make our collage come to life.

Advent Workshop

The Advent Workshop has been an important part of many families' holiday celebrations. This year, due to COVID-19, we will be doing it in a different way. We will be providing several different crafts as kits that can be done at home with scissors and glue.

To reserve your kit please go to <https://forms.gle/Cb8L6NidRaWBkV9t5>



Grateful For You!



This November, Reaching and Receiving is sponsoring a letter writing campaign to say how grateful we are for each other. Sign up for receive 10 names to write postcards to. (Want to write more? Great! Just let us know.) Simply pick up your postcards, write your message of gratefulness, drop them off at the church, and we will drop them in the mail for you. Thank you for making this season of thankfulness a bright one.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Bkd75KFy4cZ2qBjJ6>

Pick up post card packets on Sunday, November 8th. (Can't make it? We can drop it off for you.) Drop off cards on Sunday, November 15th.

(Pick up and drop off schedule will be sent to you the first week of November.) Spread joy!

Thanksgiving Digital Social

Join this special Thanksgiving Digital Social on November 25th. Bring your favorite thanksgiving memory AND what you are grateful for this year. This social will include a special time of celebrating all that we have to be grateful for. We will laugh, share, and pray together. You won't want to miss it! All ages are welcome. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtc-2vqjliE9elMuz4Plp-cMFsRlyB5bdo>



Join an Adult Sunday School Class!

Collegiate/Wesley offers a robust Adult Sunday School program. You are welcome to join any group at any time! For group information or to sign up, visit our website. <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-adult-sunday-school-classes>



Yard Signs

As a way to bear witness to our beliefs, we are selling yard signs for you to display at home and give to your friends. Signs can be picked up from the church. Please call the church office first to set up at time with Janelle. Church office number: 515-292-6936.

Each sign costs \$10. You can purchase them online at <http://cwames.org/shop/> and will be available for no contact pick up at the church.

WWW.CWAMES.ORG

Sending to Serve

As a congregation, we have many wonderful missional groups that we are committed to supporting financially. Listed below are the six organizations that we have set goals for missional giving for 2020. You are able to make donations online (or by a check sent to the church office) specifically to a certain mission or to general mission giving.

When you make a donation to the Emergency Residence Project, you are feeding and sheltering a family in our community. When you make a donation to Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, you are helping pay rent for someone who may have lost their job to COVID-19. When you make a donation to Katherine Parker you help support her work in Nepal with community development and the healthcare system. When you make a donation to Women at the Well, you are donating to help women who are leaving prison have a community that can help support them through reentry. When you make a donation to AMOS, you are helping support affordable housing in Ames through the housing trust fund. When you make a donation to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), you are helping a family repair their home after a hurricane. Your support makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming special offerings:

November 1st: Women at the Well

November 22nd: AMOS

November 29th: December 27 Advent Offering: Food at First

Mission Giving (as of September 1st)

Emergency Residence Project

2020 Goal \$7,000

Total YTD donated \$4,117

Amount to reach 2020 goal \$2,883

Katherine Parker

2020 Goal \$3,000

Total YTD \$1,809

Amount to reach 2020 goal \$1,191

AMOS

2020 Goal \$1,000

Total YTD donated \$960

Amount to reach 2020 goal \$40

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance

2020 Goal \$6,500

Total YTD donated \$2,655

Amount to reach 2020 goal \$3,845

Women at the Well

2020 Goal \$2,000

Total YTD \$167

Amount to reach 2020 goal \$1,833

UMCOR

Total YTD donated \$3,285

November hands on activity:

Letter writing to Women at the Iowa Correctional Institution in Mitchellville, Iowa

Letter Writing: This effort comes to us from Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners. A great way to help the women feel connected and cared for by those on the outside:

If you'd like to write an encouraging word to the women, the warden has given permission for those to be sent in and posted on the wall in the dining room. Please keep your comments generic so all the women can see that we're thinking about them. This was made possible due to Christy Lockheart's efforts. Notes can be sent to the Warden or to Christy. Christy's address is Christy Lockheart, 3910 University #4, DM, 50312.

Or you can send them via e-mail and she will print them out and deliver them:

christy.m.lockheart@gmail.com.

*The prison address (for the Warden) is
420 Mill St. SW, Mitchellville, IA 50169*



Sending to Serve

Wesley:

We want to support our Wesley students with finals week care packages! Your support is so helpful! You can make a donation for this semester's care package on the [Collegiate Wesley Giving Page](#) or you can make a donation on Venmo. Our Venmo handle is @Wesley-Center; thank you for your support for our Wesley students during finals!



The COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants

The COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants was formed to assist our immigrant and refugee neighbors who were particularly vulnerable when the COVID crisis hit Iowa. These families were ineligible for unemployment benefits or the CARES Act. They had little employment security and were particularly susceptible to the virus.

Since April, this Emergency Fund has made 361 grants for utilities and rent bills, an amount of \$134,570. Thanks to those of you who have contributed. CUMC/WF is a sponsor of this fund. One recipient said, **"The greatest benefit was payment of our rent ... they helped us so that we would have somewhere to live."**

The fund continues to help families who are still unemployed, underemployed or threatened with eviction. However, more contributions are needed. Please consider giving. Send to St. Cecilia Church, Attn. COVID -19 Fund for Immigrants, 2900 Hoover Ave., Ames, IA 50010.

Church/Charge Conference

All Church Conference/Charge Conference November 19th at 6 pm

Our annual Charge Conference will be a Church Conference this year. All present who are members will have voice and vote. We will begin at 6 pm via ZOOM, led by our District Superintendent Heecheon Jeon. A link for the Zoom session will be available a few days before the meeting and available from the church office. We will begin with worship and then move into breakout groups. During worship we will be joined by four other area United Methodist Churches and our business meeting and discussion will be led by Presiding Elder Mike Carey of Nevada UMC. Our discussion will include: what are the core values of our mission and ministry; how has/does COVID 19 affect our ministry; what areas of ministry can be created or changed to be more relevant to a new generation; why does our church have a future in next generations to come. We will also complete certain business items such as approving the list of leadership for 2021. We hope you will join us for this engaging night of ministry. All are welcome!

News from the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Update:

You may remember that we outsourced our financial recordkeeping in December 2019. We have had more than ten months to utilize some volunteers and to evaluate the effectiveness of that decision. During this time, we have streamlined some of our processes. Jason Janssen, the Finance Committee Chair, has devoted significant hours to ensuring the internal needs of Collegiate/Wesley and our donors were being met while we worked with the CPA firm to provide specific services. It has become clear that we need to make changes to our approach.

To that end, the SPRC has approved hiring Jason to provide the same services the CPA firm was performing for the same amount of money we are currently paying. This change will allow us to have someone familiar with our structure/practices/members perform the bookkeeping/recordkeeping. The SPRC, in consultation with a subteam of the Finance Committee, feels it will be more efficient to have these duties performed internally with this new quarter-time position. This will not affect our budget except for the additional payroll taxes.

Jason has a degree in Business Management and is familiar with our accounting system, budget, and accounts. He will start in his new role December 1, 2020. He will provide councils, committees, and clusters with the necessary information for year-end spending and monitoring the budget, as well as creating a budget for 2021. Jason will no longer serve as the Church Council Vice Chair or the Finance Committee Chair.

We are excited about this opportunity to professionally utilize Jason's talents. Join me in welcoming Jason officially to the Collegiate/Wesley team!

Darra Johnson
Chair
Staff Parish Relations Committee

New Office Policy on Sharing Contact Information

Operational Policy on Personal Information Sharing by the Church Office

After a lengthy conversation at Church Council, effective immediately the Church Office will no longer give out the addresses or phone numbers of people in our data base. The issues regarding privacy vs. the ability to reach out and communicate with others will be taken up by a small task force which will write an overall church policy that will be reviewed and then voted on by the Church Council. Please realize that Janelle in the office can no longer give out phone numbers and addresses. Thank you for your sensitivity to this policy.

Blended Giving: The Best of Both Worlds

by David Orth, Director of Generosity

You can help Collegiate/Wesley both today and tomorrow by combining a current gift with one for the future. This type of giving is called blended giving; it allows you to make a bigger difference than you thought possible. Making a blended gift is easier than you might think. Choose a gift that works today and combine it with one for the future.

Make an Impact Today:

- Cash or check
- Stock or appreciated assets
- IRA charitable rollover
- Donor advised fund

Make a Difference Tomorrow:

- Gift in your will or living trust
- Life income gifts
- Life insurance policies
- Retirement plan assets
- Bank or brokerage accounts

Blended giving helps Collegiate/Wesley plan for the future with confidence while meeting our need today and ensures we can continue to live into our Purpose: ...to build an inclusive community that invites all people to experience God's unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others.

Questions about blended giving? Contact David Orth, Director of Generosity, at david@cwames.org or 515-451-6033.

Finance Update

by Jason Janssen, Finance Chair

Happy Fall!!! And thank you! Your financial generosity keeps us going so we can continue to do good **things in the community and the world despite all the current roadblocks to "business as usual"**. Our staff has been working hard behind the scenes to keep our digital worship, Sunday School and Small Groups going strong this fall!!!

Ongoing giving is very important to our ministries. At this point, we are running approximately 15% behind budget for revenues. Your continued monthly giving remains important as C/W staff and laypersons working together have found alternative ways of keeping our many ministries on track. We typically run on the short side after the summer months and as always, we need your fall gifts to keep us moving forward.

We are pleased to report that our expenses are running below budget at this point as well. Of course, this has a lot to do with our building being closed. Financial reports are available at www.cwames.org under the Leadership tab.

Did you know that you can access your online giving to CUMC/WF? You can access your records by logging in at planningcenter.com.

Thanks again for your continued generosity! If you have any questions, please reach out to me. I am best reached via email at finance@cwames.org.

Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing That Works

CTW is open every Wednesday, 2-5pm. It will also be open on Saturday, November 7th, 9am-noon.

Donations will be accepted during their open hours.



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.

To help prep and serve the meal, sign up for a two hour shift at (2:30-5:00 pm or 5:00-7:00 pm) on the 4th & 5th Fridays. **Our next date to volunteer: November 27.**

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

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](#)

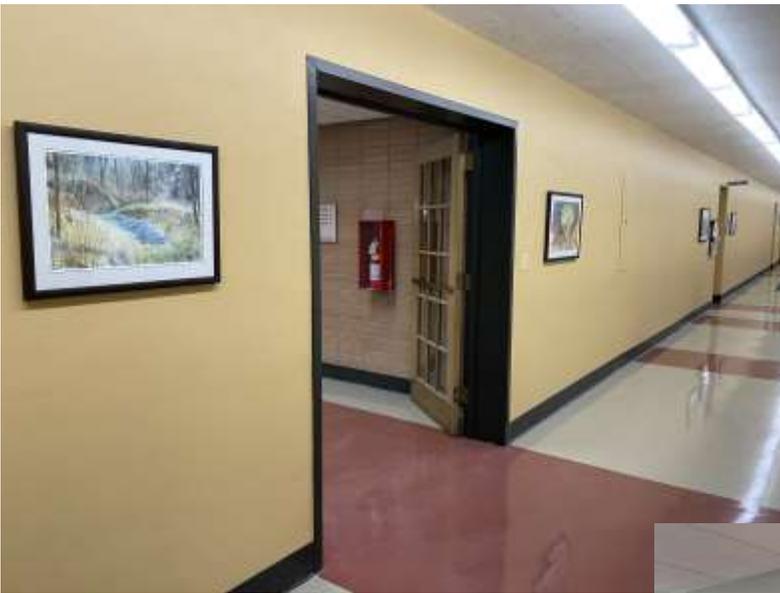
Whichever way you worship, we would love for you to fill out the [check in form](#) on our website so we can do our best to stay connected.

To view a tutorial on how to connect on Sunday mornings you can view that here: [Digital Worship Tutorial](#)

Trustees/Building

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Another month, another update to reveal! With so many updated spaces, it's hard to pick just one! This month's focus is on a paint and design change on the main level.



The main hallways received fresh paint on the walls and the ceilings were painted white. The artwork in the office hallway was cleaned and reframed. Gone is the brown paint (which Pastor Mary told me is on the low end of her paint color list).

In the west entry, walls were repaired and received a fresh coat of pale gray paint. We added graphics on the walls to show visitors what we believe and who we are.



The final touch was accent lighting that makes the graphics more visible when the hallway is dark. While this was a much smaller project, it does make the entrance a lot more welcoming and helps identify us.

Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for the 20 people who braved the chilly weather to attend last Sunday's Morning Watch service.
- for the beautiful weather we've experienced this week.
- for Sam (Fisher) as his ministry moves forward. ~Gerry and Jane Kennedy
- I am grateful that my new grandson Aidan is out of the NICU. He and his mom are doing great. I am blessed. ~Megan Fairall
- I am grateful that my son and daughter-in-law are visiting from California. I pray for safe travels when they head home. ~LaRue Clark
- Wishing Jackie Manatt a happy birthday on October 21. She is at Northridge Village (3300 George W.



Carver Ave., Ames, IA 50010) after a recent stay in the hospital. ~Barbara Munson

- for the health of pastors harmed by the UMC. ~Kris Meinhard
- for the hardworking crew on Food at First on October 23: Dee Dreeszen, Dean Phillips, Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Thrivignya Yedlapali, Tom & Betty Barton, Marjy Howe, Amanda & Amelia Winters, Janelle Keltgen & John Lauridsen, and Lori Schippers & Max Morris.
- for the prayers, cards and **meals to help us during Jeannie's recovery from her fall. Her greatest need for recovery is healing for a broken wrist and getting the cast removed, which may be 3 to 6 months.** ~Eldon and Jeannie Weber
- for my aunt who has cancer. ~Janell Eby

Prayers of Concern:

- for Helen Farr, as she continues to recover from a Covid-19 infection.
- for Gerry Kennedy, who is in treatment for lymphoma.
- for my friend's mother, Barbara Russell. ~Darra Johnson
 - for Helen Farr, as she continues her recovery from Covid-19.
 - for everyone's health. ~Clara Schroder
 - for my sister-in-law, Beth, who has cancer, and for all of her family. ~LaRue Clark
 - that C/W will dream big and think about the future that we envisioned 20 years ago. We need to live out the statement that teams worked so hard to accomplish. It's not enough just to publish it; we must live it! ~Barbara Munson
 - for Gerry (and Jane) Kennedy, as they continue navigating the treatment process following Gerry's lymphoma diagnosis.
 - for the Gladbrook Chapel UMC, who lost their church building in a fire this week. ~Mike Parsons
 - for Brenda Allen and family on the loss of her uncle, Larry Erickson.
 - for Patty Coon as she recovers from a planned surgical procedure.
 - for my cousin, who lost an arm this week as treatment for sarcoma of the connective tissue. ~Paul Lundy
 - for Jim Sharp, father of Jill Strawhacker, hospitalized in Des Moines with pneumonia.
 - for Ruth Phillips, grandmother of Jill Strawhacker, who has been moved to serenity Hospice House in Oskaloosa.

Alumni Reunion

Although it looked different than years past (what hasn't?) the Wesley Center still hosted an opportunity for alumni to gather, share memories and hear about what's currently happening with the progressive, inclusive campus ministry. We were honored to have special guests Rev. Gary and Gillian Putnam join us and share a bit about their impactful tenure with the Wesley Foundation. It's hard for us to imagine the great impact that the Wesley Center continues to have throughout the world as students go out into the world and be the church, but we get a beautiful glimpse when we're able to gather together in this way. We hope those of you who are alumni will look forward to our next gathering (hopefully in person).

Fall Retreat

One thing we all look forward to is fall retreat. It's a chance to spend time away from campus connecting with God, other Wesley students and creation. This year to keep everyone safe, we moved our retreat outside to Ledges State Park for camping. 31 students signed up to join us to focus on spirituality in nature. We did spiritual practices among the trees and on hikes. We made fire to stay warm and made s'mores. We talked and laughed and were reminded how much we are loved and that we are called to love others. We are thankful for the students who helped to lead devotions and spiritual practices and to the endowment board for helping us adapt this retreat this year to make it safe and socially distanced.

We make sure that the retreat is affordable for any student who wants to attend. If you'd like to sponsor a student's costs next year, please reach out to us and we can share more about this opportunity.

Thanks for your continued prayers, support and love,
Jen (jen@cwames.org) & Lauren (lauren@cwames.org)

STUDENT CENTER



THE ANNEX STUDY SPACE IS
AVAILABLE SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY
FROM 5PM-9PM AS A SAFE
SPACE FOR YOU TO STUDY

LOCATED @ 130 S SHELDON AVE



Hear what some of the Wesley Students who went on the retreat have to share:



“A lot of times in college we forget that we need to take breaks and just stop. Stop being on campus, stop doing homework, stop thinking about everything and just exist, and that’s what this weekend helps you to do. When you stop, you have a moment to deeply reflect on your faith and connect to God. It’s a fantastic weekend of meeting people, spending time connecting with yourself, nature, and God, and a weekend that I would I highly recommend to anyone”.

Betsy Marlow

“Great group of people and great way to take a break and focus on yourself”!

Megan Muller

“It’s a fun and refreshing weekend with good people”.

Ethan Murrow

“It’s a great way to get to know people outside of your small group who are also active members of Wesley”.

Sean Etherington

“It’s a great time to relax with friends and learn more about religion”. *Josie Huss*



“It is a great way to connect with God through nature, and also to get to know new people who you may never have gotten to otherwise”!

Dani Oberfoell





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

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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