

The

January, 2021 Vol. 40 Issue 1

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation

Contact Us

Phone: 515-292-6936

Email: mail@cwames.org

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 Wednesday. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

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Cover Pictures: Taken by Doug Warren following the first snow of the season.

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.

February Communicator Deadline: January 20, 2021

A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

Epiphany is the season of the church year that occurs twelve days after Christmas. We always enter the New Year with Epiphany, which means **“manifestation” or “showing forth”**. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, it is called **“Theophany”** which means **“the manifestation of God.”** Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Magi, or Three Kings, as they visit the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and has been celebrated since the end of the second century.

Another way to think about Epiphany is as enlightenment. Something powerful, something hopeful is revealed to us. Suddenly, we can see it because the Light of Christmas is made fully visible to us. When we think about Epiphany in our lives and in the life of the church, we might ask: **“what is being revealed to us?”** What can we see that was previously hidden?



As we enter 2021, we are going to embark on strategic planning with Kay Kotan, a professional who has written many books on the subject and guided many faith organizations. This will help us with Epiphany, or enlightenment or manifestation here in our local setting. Mitch Hoyer, our Council Chair in 2021 will be sending out an all-church letter with more information. Watch for that! Taking this journey, we hope to **better “see” what and who we are and how we can position ourselves to live out our exciting ministry here** at Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation. Our centering verse for this work is Isaiah 43:18-19: **“Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it?”** (MSG).

Something brand new. Something that invites us to be alert and present. Something that gathers us to walk forward hand in hand, knowing that ahead of us we meet the God who is coming toward us. As I have met many of you in these last six months, I feel excited about the creativity, energy and purpose that you all bring and I know we are going to do some incredible things in the year ahead.

Also, in January we are going to post a service that the Annual Conference prepared for churches to use when they might need a break from all the worship production that is required with digital worship. So, on January 10 we will air a service to our Facebook page, website, and You Tube that offers all aspects of our service led by members of the Conference leadership team. Not only is it a well-designed and **delivered service, but it will give you the opportunity to “meet” some of the people who serve us in the wider connection.**

We look to 2021 as a year when we hope and pray the pandemic will end, that the world will be vaccinated from the deadly virus, and we can move about, greet each other in person and have as many meetings in person as we do on Zoom! This is also a time of reimagining, reopening and re-considering all that we are and what we want to do with our lives. Here at Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation we are so fortunate to have each other to walk into the future with, and to offer ourselves as healing and hopeful voices to the world around us.

Light and grace,
Pastor Mary

January Sunday School

January 10th on zoom!

9:00 am PreK-5th Grade

11:00 am Middle School and High School

email lauren@cwames.org to sign-up

YOUTH GROUP

January 17th

6:00 Middle School

7:00 High School



Game NIGHT

JANUARY 15, 2021 6:00 PM

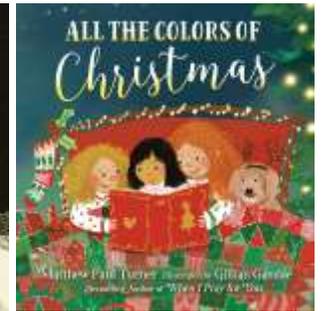
LET'S HOP ON ZOOM AND PLAY SOME GAMES!
BINGO, FAMILY TRIVIA, AND MORE!

TO REGISTER FOR THE ZOOM LINK EMAIL LAUREN LOONSFOOT
LAUREN@CWAMES.ORG



Thank You!

- * Thank you to everyone who donated items for the pass along party! Your donations were greatly appreciated! Over 50 households stopped by for gifts and more were given out to communities in need later in the week.
- * Thank you to everyone who participated in the advent wreath reading for this season. It was great to have your voices!
- * Thank you to all of the readers and musicians who shared their gifts for our Christmas Eve Services this year!
- * Thank you to all of our 2020 Leaders: cluster leaders, council leaders, committee leaders, Sunday School leaders. We appreciate all of your dedication and leadership this year.
- * Thank you to an endowment grant that made it possible for us to make and distribute 55 Advent boxes and 68 Christmas Eve books! We hope that those who received them enjoyed the extra advent and Christmas eve treasures. You can see below a few of the children enjoying them.



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, along with 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

Help Us Update the Database

An up-to-date and accurate database has never been more important. We need your help to make sure that the information we have for you is updated and correct. Please use this link (<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/people/forms/155529>) to fill out a form that will automatically update your information. Those with more than one person in your household, please fill out a form for each person.

For those of you who have updated their database information, you will soon be getting an invitation to join the digital directory. Emails will be sent to in January.

Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate. Contact Lindsay Drake (lindsay@cwames.org) with questions.

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>

Christmas Bag Success!

Thank you to John and Jane Jacobson, Brenda Allen, Michael King, Linda and Al Carver, Pastor Mary and Steve Bellon for your help distributing 75 Christmas week bags. We pray that you found these small tokens for Christmas week to be meaningful as you prepared for the birth of Jesus.

Pictured at right, distributing Christmas bags:
Brenda Allen, Lauren Loonsfoot, & Michael King



Year-End Giving

by David Orth, Director of Generosity

The conclusion of the year is traditionally a time we think about our giving to the church, especially during the annual Generosity Campaign. Hopefully you had the opportunity to prayerfully consider how you will financially assist Collegiate-Wesley in 2021. If you returned your generosity card, thank you! If you have not yet done so, please complete the card and submit it to the church office. Need another card? Just let us know.

One interesting thing about this process is your estimate of giving is based on a best guess of your financial status for the upcoming year. What happens if you have extra charitable giving money left? If you have already fulfilled your estimate of giving for 2020 (or were unable to submit a generosity card for 2020), please consider a year-end gift to the church. You can send your donation to the church or submit it online using the “Give” tab at www.cwames.org. Please note that contributions must be postmarked by December 31 or donated online by 11:59 pm on December 31 in order to be claimed for 2020 tax credit.

Every dollar “invested” allows Collegiate-Wesley to continue fulfilling our mission: “To build an inclusive community that invites all people to experience God’s unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others.” As a church, know that we are making a positive difference in our neighborhood, city, county, state, country, and world.

Thanks for your consideration of a year-end gift to Collegiate-Wesley.

2021 Endowment Grants

During Advent our pastors challenged us to be dreamers, to imagine how things could be, not how they are. In 2021 the Collegiate Wesley Endowment Board will again have funds available to help bring those dreams to life. While you wait for the warmth of spring and life in a post-vaccine world, sketch out your dreams for our CW community. Then complete and submit the grant application form available at <https://forms.gle/cPZAu28KB1MPaaVq6>.

If you have questions about the grant process contact Mary Wickham, Endowment Board chair, (wickhammary1@gmail.com).

Sending to Serve

Pandemic Support to Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Assault



Since the beginning of the pandemic, an increased request from survivors to ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support) in Ames has been emergency phones and phone plans. These phones are given to victims to help them stay connected to emergency services, family and friends. Having a data plan included gives them access to email, social media and an internet browser to research needed resources such as housing and employment. With limited access to the internet at places like the public library due to COVID-19, and an increase in online communication (for job interviews, telehealth appointments, etc.), this need has been amplified.

The Sending to Serve cluster at Collegiate-Wesley has set a goal to purchase 10 prepaid phones with one-month 5GB phone plans for ACCESS survivors. To reach this goal, we need to raise \$700. Please help by **making a donation to ACCESS online; simply type “ACCESS” in the “Other” missions category. Or, send a check to the church office and put “ACCESS” on the memo line: 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014.**

The **Food At First** program currently consists of two parts: a daily free meal program, plus a perishable food pantry known to the community as the Food at First Free Market. Food at First is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing meals to anyone who is hungry, no questions asked. FAF serves a hot meal every day of the year. In 2017, 43,000 families came through the Free Market, and 20,000 had meals in the dining hall. Food at First operates on donations from individuals and businesses. We have a great partnership with Food at First as we serve meals on the 4th and 5th Friday each month. You are always welcome to sign up to help (see our volunteer page for the link).



Food at First has monthly operation costs, including rental space, cost of the take out containers, and more. There are also some wish list items like a new stove. With 20,000 meals being served a year, you can imagine the importance the stove is to this ministry. We have a goal to raise \$5,500 for Food at First this Advent season. So far we have raised **\$6,845** thanks to your generous donations! To donate to Food at First, you can make a donation online at our website here: [Food at First](http://FoodatFirst.org).

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

TOGETHER OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways.

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at [ResourceUMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive)

TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

TOGETHER OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?
United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit [UMC.org/yourimpact](https://www.UMC.org/yourimpact)

HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT HUMAN RELATIONS?
We are called to make an impact in communities where our brothers and sisters in Christ lack the resources or tools to reach their God-given potentials. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life:
Each of God's children are equally important.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Human Relations Sunday
Special Offering
January 17th

You can learn more about this special offering here: <https://www.UMC.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article>

You can make a donation online or by mailing a check to the church office.
Thank you for your support!

Funds needed to help DACA Persons

An urgent plea for help! DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) persons need to file and pay a \$495 processing fee to register with the federal government. Our local Immigration Team has been helping with this process. Now there are new applicants needing financial help but we have run out of money. Can you help? If so, please send your tax-deductible donation to: ASIP, c/o Henry Grey, Treasurer, 1416 Maxwell Ave, Ames, IA 50010-5659, noted for the DACA Fund. Any amount is appreciated! I'm moved as I read the warm thank you of an earlier recipient: "I am very thankful for the assistance...This year has been tough and to be able to receive the help from ASIP was a blessing. Thank you so much!" If you have any questions, contact Keith Schrag, 515/231-1557 or kgschrag@gmail.com. Thank you for your prayers and financial support!

Covid-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants

As we head into holiday weeks, we wanted to take a minute to thank you all for the incredible support during 2020. Together, we raised nearly \$194,000 and allocated \$181,000 through 468 rent and utility payments, assisting 103 immigrant households.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND FOR STORY COUNTY IMMIGRANTS

"This pandemic has been really terrible. But it has brought humanity together. It has brought America together and many people are out there helping and spending their time asking about their neighbors."

- Awein Majak, volunteer caseworker

This month's Update from the Trustees is a big one and has been over a year in the making! Last November, I started designing and talking with contractors to come up with this project. After much refining and number crunching, I brought my idea to the Board of Trustees. Once their suggestions were incorporated, the proposal was sent to the Endowment Board, seeking funding. What is this project that I keep talking about? It was a complete renovation and addition to the heating and air conditioning systems in the entire 1955 Wing (basically all of the church that is not the sanctuary or the Gathering Space Addition).

What all does this project involve? On the 1st floor, ductless split systems were installed where we previously had window air conditioners. This allows us to have stronger air conditioning, noise reduction, and an increase in efficiency. Each room on the first floor now has air conditioning with its own controls in the room. This greatly increases comfort in staff offices, Room 123, and the Music room. The second part of this project was much larger, and involved installing air handlers in the attic, and ductwork to completely condition the 2nd floor. All of the Sunday School rooms, Youth Education Rooms, and the Preschool are now fully air conditioned, a huge improvement from the original 1955 build!

In addition to the increase in comfort and appearance, this project helps increase our efficiency and helps lower our carbon footprint. All units on the 1st and 2nd floor are air conditioners with heat pumps. This allows us to turn off the Steam Boilers sooner in the spring, and delay turning the Steam Boilers on in the fall, saving thousands of dollars a year.

This project would not have been made possible without funding from Endowment Board, Adventures Preschool, and the Board of Trustees. This was a major project that will help increase the usability and long term usage of our building. Thank you to everyone involved!



Office Policy on Sharing Contact Information

Update: Sharing Contact Information

The Church Council is making an adjustment to the policy on sharing CW members' contact information. Based on research on peer churches and the capabilities of the church database, the Council approved a three-phase transition to an electronic directory.

1. Effective immediately: Upon receiving a request for member contact information, the church office will notify the church member. The member can then decide whether to honor the request.
2. All CW members are invited to help us update the database. An up-to-date and accurate database has never been more important. We need your help to make sure that the information we have for you is updated and correct. Please use this link (<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/people/forms/155529>) to fill out a form that will automatically update your information. Those with more than one person in your household, please fill out a form for each person.
3. In early 2021 an electronic directory will be available for all CW members who entered their information in the church database. Individuals will be able to select what contact information they want to appear in the directory.

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](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing That Works

CTW is closed but we are continuing helping people in need by filling email orders sent to clothingthatworks@gmail.com.

CTW is still taking donations. Please give us clean adult clothing/shoes. Bring your donations by the Annex on Wednesdays 2-5pm or the first Saturday of each month 9am-noon.

CTW had their 4th Pop-Up Giveaway at Food at First on Thursday, December 17. We gave away coats, hats, and gloves. We will have more Pop-Ups in the future.



Food at First Volunteer Opportunities

We have the opportunity to prepare and serve the daily meal for Food at First on the fourth and fifth Friday of the month. There are two shift opportunities 2:30-5:30 AND/OR 5:00-7:30 pm.

All volunteers are masked. Early shift work only with others in the CUMC/ WF family. Second shift volunteers work outdoors, distributing the packaged meals. This is a great opportunity to building community, have fun, and serve others.

[Food at First Volunteer](#)

Hop Aboard the Meal Train!

Hi, I'm am Megan Fairall, the conductor of the meal train. When an individual or family is in need of meals, I arrange to have them delivered. Our church family has been very generous, providing meals to 19 people/families over the last 2 years! There are many reasons someone might be in need of a meal. The one that most people think of is helping out a family with a new baby. Actually, the people we have served the most have been recovering from a major illness or have had a death in the family. We had a Covid scare with one of our families. People rallied around this family and provided meals. We have provided meals to individuals who have had accidents and cannot cook. Some people do not have a person at home to help A loved one might be in the hospital, and the caretaker is exhausted. Meals help alleviate the stress.

I am always looking for new volunteers to provide meals. Please email me if you would like to be added to our group (meg.fairall@gmail.com). This is not a huge commitment. You can provide a meals every time there is a need or you can do it once a year! Some people opt to have food delivered straight to the recipient's home. During this time of Covid, there is always contact free delivery. Thank you!

Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- Many thanks to all for the cards and phone calls. You made my 90th birthday extra special. ~ Marilyn Green
- Help us celebrate (in your heart) Greg's retirement from medical practice after 40 years in Des Moines, New Hampton, and Carroll. He would do it all again, but it's time to go. ~Greg & Cathy Halverson
- Joy for the birth of our grandson, Emery Solomon Thompson Long, on December 4th. He was welcomed home by his parents, Levi and Autumn Long, and sister Aria. ~Jerry and Susan Long
- My niece Brittany and Matt were married yesterday in Lexington, SC. Prayers for all who joined them in their celebration. ~Melinda Cree-Anthony
- My PET scan last week showed no change, so my medicine continues to control the cancer! ~LeAnn Meehan
- I just returned home yesterday after a wonderful two weeks with my daughter and son-in-law in San Antonio. I am exhausted and will spend the next couple days recovering. On the 28th I will be moving into an apartment in Northridge Village. I ask for prayers as we get ready for this big move. God has guided the way and I trust that this move is the right one for me at this time. Merry Christmas everyone. ~Helen Farr
- I thank Thee dear God, for a successful cancer surgery this week at Mayo Clinic for my sister-in-law, Beth. I pray for a complete recovery for this wonderful person who has always been very loving, thoughtful, and giving to other people. ~LaRue Clark



Prayers of Concern:

- For my niece, who is undergoing chemotherapy and has contracted Covid-19. ~ Mary Ann Lundy
- For Teresa Gibson, hospitalized at Mary Greeley (NOT for Covid-19)
- My sister, Laura, who has stage 4 metastatic neuroblastoma, has had her cancer spread to her brain. Please pray for her, her 6 year old daughter, Kaitlyn, and her husband. ~Sharon Busch
- I lost my mom on Dec 3, 2019 and miss her very much. ~Jim Pepper
- I had some health complications this week and still trying to figure them out. ~Megan Mueller
- For my friend Karen, who recently lost her husband to Covid-19. ~Janelle Keltgen
- For the family of Donna Butler, who died on December 14.
- Prayer request for all those traveling this holiday season along with all those meetings. So that they are safe, healthy, and happy. ~Cambrie Lane
- Prayers for all who have Covid-19, and are impacted by loss of income, isolation, homeless, suffering in any way. ~ Melinda Cree-Anthony
- My sister, Laura, is getting emergency radiation this morning on her spine related to her cancer. ~ Sharon Busch
- For Jason Janssen's full and complete recovery.
- I pray for a successful cancer surgery for my sister-in-law , Beth, this week at Mayo Clinic, and for a complete healing. ~LaRue Clark
- Prayers for the family and friends of my Aunt Diane who died this week. ~Janell Eby
- For a friend whose daughter is hospitalized with injuries resulting from an abduction. ~Marjy Howe
- Prayers for Carl Arbuckle's sister, Debbie, she had a work accident and severe injury to her leg.



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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