

The

March, 2021 Vol. 40 Issue 3

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation

Contact Us

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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 late February as the snow was melting.

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.

April Communicator Deadline: March 20, 2021

A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon



*“O God,
let something essential happen to me,
something awesome,
something real.
Speak to my condition, Lord,
and change me somewhere inside where it matters...
Let something happen in me
which is my real self, God. (Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace)*

We are now in the midst of the Lenten season as we move through the days and weeks toward Holy Week and Easter. As we go through our days, maybe each of us really wants to touch deeply the sense of our real selves, the selves that sometimes we hide because we feel vulnerable or, sometimes, we cover up with the busy-ness of our life. There are so many demands on us with family and work and caring for ourselves and others in the middle of a pandemic. We can lose a sense of what is most important: who we love, how we love, and what we love. This is really the essential task that God places before us: to keep ourselves connected to the thread of love that gives us our value and worth. During Lent, we are invited to explore those bonds of love again, to renew them or even to discard that which might be holding us up from loving ourselves and our neighbors. Our sermon series of *Again and Again* reminds us of this journey.

As we approach Holy Week, we will begin on ***Palm Sunday*** with a wonderful service that includes our Bell Choir. ***On Maundy Thursday, we will offer a 7 p.m. digital communion service*** that will “gather us around the table” yours and ours. Jen, Lauren, Lindsay and I will be gathered around our kitchen tables and invite you to join us from yours to commemorate the Last Supper. ***On Good Friday we will also offer a service of Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.*** that will be interactive and include music by Lindsay Drake.

Easter morning, I invite you to join us at 6:45 a.m. either in your cars or on the south lawn for our Easter Sunrise service. We intend to livestream this service so if you are home just getting our coffee you can watch the sun come up on Easter morning with us. We will have a way of transmitting the audio into car radios, so if you would like to come but not sit outside you will be able to sit in your cars and be a part of the gathered body.

All of these services lead us again to let our real selves, our essential selves, flourish and grow and be renewed. I look forward to walking with you to Easter morning when together we say again, “He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!”

Light and grace,
Pastor Mary



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation



PALM SUNDAY *March 28th*

We hope you will join us for digital worship at 10:00 am on Palm Sunday. Our theme will be Again and Again We Draw on Courage – John 12:1-19. On Palm Sunday, we remember that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was not a risk-free, palm party. It was a protest parade—a protest against those in power, a parade to prepare the way for a different kind of king. And this was all happening with plots to kill Lazarus (and Jesus) building in the background. We're reminded that the crowds were brave to show up that day, and that Jesus drew on courage to face his journey to the cross. The root of courage is "cour," meaning "heart." Courage is deep within us; drawing on courage is both internal and external. We often find it when we most need it, when everything else has been stripped away. We will enjoy a digital palm parade and music from the bell choir.

MAUNDY THURSDAY *April 1st*

On Maundy Thursday we will discover that Again and Again We are Held Together. Footwashing is a practice of radical vulnerability, of being seen and known. Jesus loved the disciples "to the end." In this act, we remember that God holds all of our pain, vulnerability, doubts, and sufferings. As we venture toward the cross, we can lean into God's everlasting arms, knowing we are held. Our Maundy Thursday service will be digital at 7:00 pm. Music will be provided by Stephanie Scherbart and Jane Kennedy.

GOOD FRIDAY *April 2nd*

Good Friday: Again and Again We Find Ourselves Here -Stations of the Cross. Again and again, we find ourselves at the foot of the cross, at the pit of despair, in the face of death, in the grip of state sanctioned violence. "Here" is an emotional place. "Here" is grief. "Here" is the reality of sin and brokenness. On Good Friday, we are called to sit in the silence of death, knowing that God is here. We will join digitally at 7:00 pm. Music by Lindsay Drake.

EASTER SUNDAY *April 4th*

Easter- Again and Again the Sun Rises– Mark 16: 1-8 According to Mark, on the first day of the week, the women rise with the sun and buy spices to anoint Jesus' body. They are shocked to find the tomb empty, and leave in fear and terror. Mark's resurrection story is less triumphant than the other Gospel testimonies (as scholars believe the remainder of Mark's gospel was a later addition). In Mark's version, we are reminded that Easter comes to us, again and again, even if we don't know what to make of God's resurrection ways. Again and again, the sun rises. And some days, that is enough. More information to come about worship times and formats.

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot: Director of Children, Youth & Families

Children's Sunday School

Sundays at 9:00 am
We continue to gather as preschoolers-5th graders on zoom for Children's Sunday School. Here is what we will be learning about in March.

3/7/21 Jesus Washes Feet

3/14/21 The Last Supper

3/21/21 Praying in the Garden

3/28/21 Jesus Enters Jerusalem

To register for Sunday School head on over to: [https://](https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-children-and-youth-sunday-school/children-sunday-school-2020-2021)

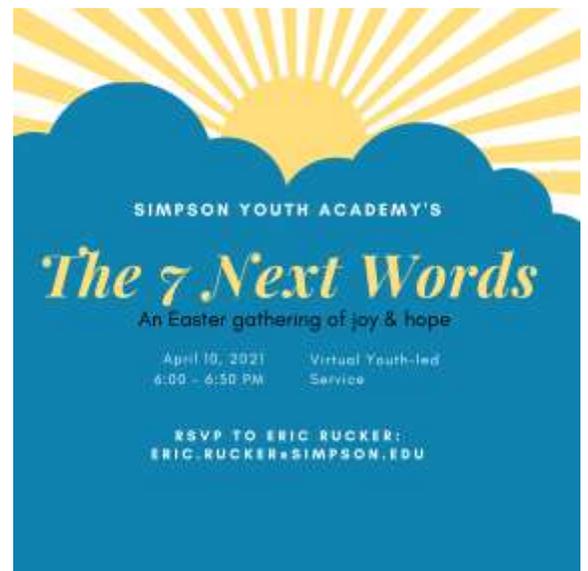
cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-children-and-youth-sunday-school/children-sunday-school-2020-2021



The Seven Next Words - An Easter Gathering of Joy and Hope

Join the Simpson Youth Academy community for a virtual gathering where our students will offer blessings based on the words of the resurrected Jesus. It's a great chance to support youth and nourish your faith during Eastertide.

Saturday, April 10 from 6:00-6:30pm. RSVP by emailing director Eric Rucker at eric.rucker@simpson.edu.



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Last year we had a lot of fun with our community Easter egg hunt.

We are doing it again this year! Here's how it works:

If you would like a cardstock egg to decorate and color please let me know how many by emailing me at Lauren@cwames.org, I can drop them off or email you a digital copy. If you're willing to be on a map where others can drive by and see your Easter eggs hanging somewhere visible, a window or maybe your garage really any space that is visible by driving by, please let me know by Wednesday, March 31st. I will put together a map that has folks from Collegiate Wesley participating to send out in the weekly email. I would also love pictures of your decorated eggs for a digital Easter Egg hunt that folks can watch.

Thank you for helping spread the love!

Sending to Serve

Lenten Offering

Sending to Serve had previously communicated that this year our Lenten offering would go towards the dream of using the church apartment as a housing option for an immigrant or immigrant family. That project is currently pivoting due to zoning. ASIP plans to continue looking for a way to sponsor an immigrant in Ames. We look forward to the ways that we can help in the future as plans continue to develop. As the groups that are working on this dream are now looking at what's next we are transitioning our Lenten offering to Bridge Home and YSS Rosedale Shelter.

Both of these organizations assist in shelter and housing for those in need. With the blistering cold and covid-19, these organizations continue to offer much needed services. Over the Lenten season we will share more about these organizations, along with ways you can make a difference. You can make a donation online here (https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Fi1giPL8kwX_Oe1A050jRsCEqv7zUdGDJcJObnuMiXGhjXsUKRLImI4vCU4-rZZZ2EvVVAEjqawDomKT1pboueY8Xg406OG1IXBPXJdnYWE=&ver=3) or mail a check to the church office with Lenten Offering in the memo. Thank you for your support!



THE BRIDGE HOME

CAN YOU HELP?

ITEMS NEEDED

- CEREAL
- SOUP BOWLS
- COFFEE MUGS



Donation Opportunity

From The Bridge Home:

"We're bringing clients back to the main shelter in the near future and we're in need of some donations! You can see the items we're in need of on the post to the left. We appreciate all your generosity and willingness to help families in your community.

Donations can be brought to our main shelter 225. S Kellogg between 9:30 am and 4 pm".

2020 Mission Giving

Thank you all so much for your mission giving in 2020. Last year we were able to donate the following to some wonderful organizations and ministries. Here are some of the total monetary donations.

Emergency Residence Project: \$7,487
 Project Home Mission \$120
 Katherine Parker \$2,174
 Women at the Well \$2,166
 Ames Ecumenical Housing \$510
 Human Relations Sunday \$155

Good Neighbor \$4,965
 UMCOR \$6,190
 Justice for our Neighbors \$30
 AMOS \$2,325
 Food at First \$11,095

Collegiate Wesley Relay for Life Team

Cancer won't quit. So neither can we.

Collegiate Wesley has created a Relay For Life (RFL) team this year! RFL is an annual fundraising event for the American Cancer Society (ACS). ACS provides support for cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers – this takes the forms of a 24/7 support hotline, Hope Lodges to provide housing during cancer treatments, rides to and from cancer treatments, and grants to fund cancer research.



COVID-19 has put cancer patients at risk – attacking already weakened immune systems, delaying cancer treatments, and closing many clinical trials. Because of the impact cancer has had on our lives, **we are doing something about it. We joined Relay For Life to remember people we've lost and offer up support to anyone in our community who is affected by cancer. And that's why we need your support!**

The funds we're raising will help sustain critical research and patient services in this difficult time. Believe us, every dollar really does count, so we're asking for your help.

Join our team – go to <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/CollegiateWesley> and click on the “Join Our Team” button. You'll be able to set up your individual RFL page and request donations through links and social media. All ages are welcome; it's not just a “college thing”.

The annual Relay For Life event will take place virtually this year on Thursday, April 15th, at 7:30pm. **Additional details to come. This event will remember those who we've lost to cancer, honor our cancer survivors, celebrate the funds raised to continue ACS's mission. For more information or questions contact Nathan Ross drummernater@gmail.com.**

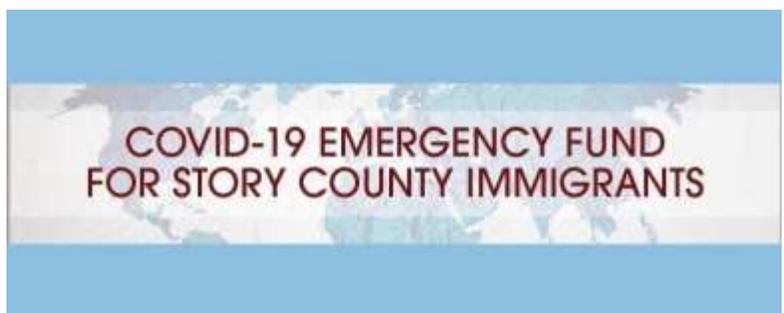
COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants

Thanks to continued support, this fund has been able to alleviate some of the emergency needs of Immigrant households in Story County. With the help of many, we have raised \$224,570 and made 557 individual rent and utility payments since beginning in March 2020. Ten unduplicated immigrant households have been helped; some of them one time, others ten times. Donations have come from 418 individual donors or institutions. The highest amount allocated in one week was \$12,316 to 30 households.

As the pandemic continues we hope to continue to count on support for our immigrant neighbors.

Donations can be mailed to:

Emergency Fund for Immigrants
c/o St. Cecilia
2900 Hoover Avenue
Ames, IA 50010



Endowment Grants

2021 Endowment Grants = \$77,807

The Collegiate Wesley Endowment Fund is pleased to offer \$77,807 in grants to support the ministries of CW. Projects supported or funded by Endowment grants last year include the HVAC improvements, the fall Wesley Student Retreat, an outdoor movie screen and video capabilities, and new signage for the building and the parking lot. The Endowment Board is now soliciting good ideas for 2021.

Grant requests must meet the following criteria:

- Capital expenditures on behalf of, or in the name of, the Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation, Ames, Iowa, for real property acquisitions, repairs or improvements; or
- Funding or helping to fund new or existing programs to be administered or sponsored by the Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation, Ames, Iowa; or
- Benevolences endorsed, supported or approved by the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The deadline to submit grants is **March 31**. To apply, use the 2021 Application: <https://forms.gle/cPZAu28KB1MPaaVq6>.

If you have difficulty accessing the form contact

Endowment Board Chair: Mary Wickham, wickhammary1@gmail.com, 309-550-2594.

If you have questions applying for grants, contact Mary Wickham or

Endowment Board Grants Manager: Phil Poorman, ppoorman@aol.com, 515-232-5447

Dennis Byrne Endowment Fund Grants

Dennis Byrne Endowment Fund

The Byrne Endowment Fund was established by a member of the church, Dennis Byrne, who had a heart for missions and who was involved with many different mission trips during his lifetime. The proposals for grant funding are available to support United Methodist associated groups and individuals in mission work, with an emphasis on international work as well as local missions.

If you have a project for which you'd like funding, please submit an application here: Byrne [Endowment Fund 2021 Application](#).

The deadline for applications is March 15th.



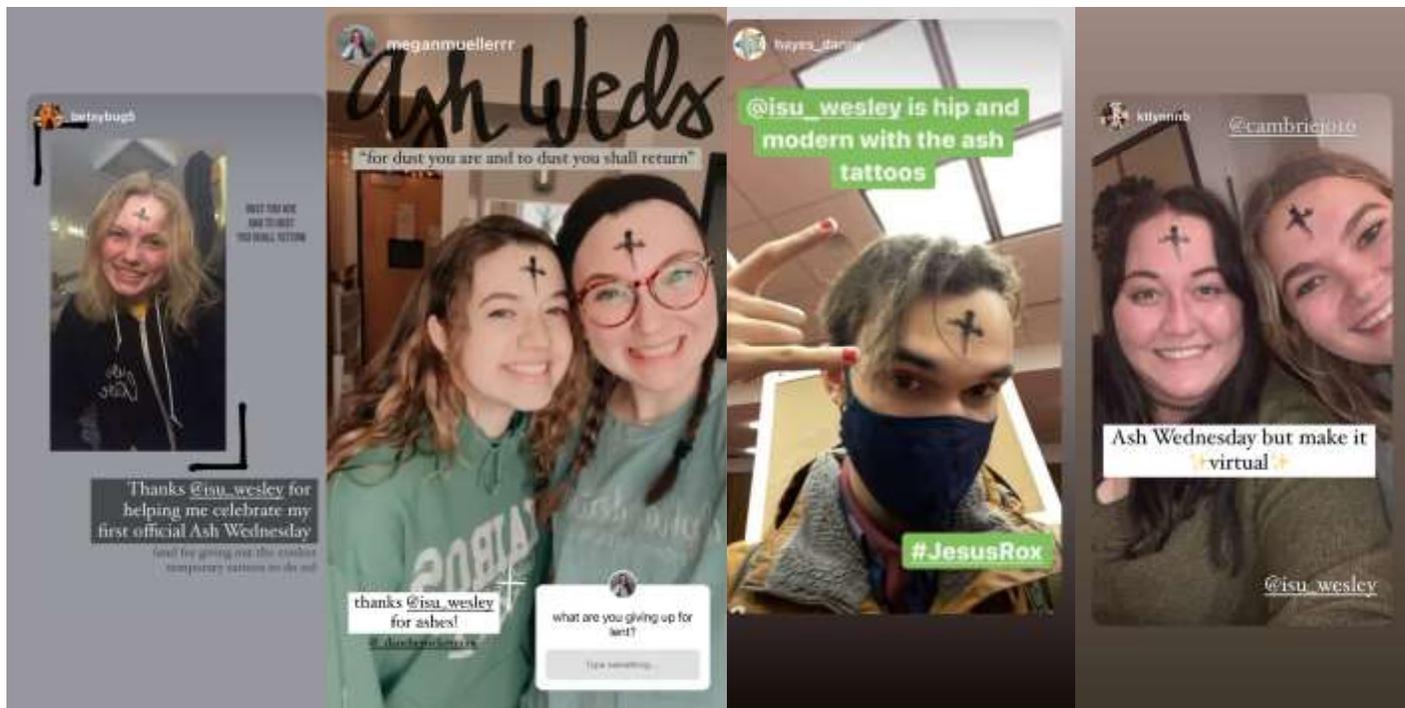
Wesley

Ash Wednesday at Wesley

Although Ash Wednesday looked very different this year, students still engaged in an opportunity to start off Lent by reflecting, connection and setting intentions for the season. We spent the day at the Memorial Union sharing about the meaning of Ash Wednesday along with ash temporary tattoos. We offered an online service for students to watch that evening and impose their “ashes.”

Our small groups continue to meet and our social justice grant applications have been coming in and it **will be an exciting time for the Wesley Center.** There's still time for students to get involved so if you know ISU students looking to connect and join an inclusive, progressive campus ministry, please help us connect. You can send Jen (jen@cwames.org) any contact information and we will reach out.

As always you can support the Wesley Center by giving online or through Venmo (@Wesley-Center). Thank you for all the ways you support our work and the ISU community.



Trustees/Building

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Hello Everyone! Hope you are staying warm! We continue to be busy making changes inside, including **this month's highlight, the new Welcome Center**. This change was imagined by our very own Lindsay Drake and funded by a grant from the Endowment Board. The new Welcome Center is located on the landing just to the west of the Gathering Space. It is a custom built piece of furniture that features poured concrete countertops (a first for me) and oak cabinetry. Power and A/V outlets are also incorporated into the piece for seamless integration with the new TV. Lighting was also added above the Welcome Center to highlight the area. I hope that once we reopen, everyone will be able to stop by and check out the new Welcome Center.



Do You Consider Donating a Delight?

Following are some thoughts from Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III. (Dr Duncan is the Chancellor & CEO of the Jackson campus of the Reformed Theology Seminary.)

I appreciate the tenor of these simple sentences, so wanted to share them with you again:

- Giving is a delight when we realize we are giving to God.
- Giving is a delight when we view it as worship.
- Giving is a delight when we realize the privilege of giving.
- Giving is a delight when we realize that in giving we are acting like Jesus.
- Giving is a delight when we realize that God rewards for doing our duty.
- **Giving is a delight when we realize that God doesn't want our money unless we delight in giving it.**

Please consider these words next time you are thinking about contributing: what a delight it is to donate!

In gratitude, David

G.S. Nichols Scholarships

G.S. Nichols Scholarships provide financial aid to students from Collegiate who plan a career of Christian service.

Recipients of 2020-2021 scholarship awards are Jason Ellingson and Priscilla Joel. Jason attends Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, KS, and is enrolled in the Master of Arts for Christian Ministry (MACM) with an emphasis in diaconal studies for the United Methodist denomination. Priscilla is an ISU Aerospace Engineering student, and a very active member of our Wesley Foundation.

Scholarship applications for the 2021-22 academic year are available, due by May 1. For questions or requests for application forms, contact Paula Anderson, pdanderson@mchsi.com, or Dean Phillips, phillipsrdean@mchsi.com.

Are you interested in serving on the G.S. Nichols Scholarship Foundation Board? If so, please contact one of us.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing That Works has been helping people even during our closed times. We take orders and have people pick them up.

We are in need of good clean adult clothes. Please look in your closets and see if you have something to donate. Donation times are Wednesday 2-5pm or the first Saturday of the month 9-noon.

clothingthatworks@gmail.com



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 Coming up we need your help to fill the March 26 and April 23 and 30 slots.

All volunteers are masked. Early shift work only with others in the CUMC/WF family. Second shift volunteers help package the meal, distributing the packaged meals outside and clean-up. Please dress in layers as you will be inside and outside for the second shift. This is a great opportunity to build community, have fun, and serve others.

Sign up here: [Food at First Volunteer](#)

Donations Needed for the Little Food Pantry!!

Non-perishable items are needed for the Little Food Pantry. Please bring your donations any Wednesday from 2:00-4:00 pm and place in the donation box near the Pantry at the north door of the Annex.

The Pantry is a great source of nutrition for those who are food insecure this winter. Personal items are also needed. Suggestions for the winter months:

Crackers; peanut butter; pasta; pasta sauce; bagged grains; dried fruits; granola bars; Toothpaste; toothbrushes; deodorant; shampoo; soap Kleenex; toilet paper; paper towel



Monetary donations can be made by sending a check to the church office with "Little Food Pantry" in the memo line or go to the online giving page, https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Fi1giPL8kwX_Oe1A050JRSCeqv7zUdGDJcJQbnuMiXGhjXsUKRLImI4vCU4-rZZZ2EvVVAEjqawDomKT1pboueY8Xg406QG1IXBPXJdnYWE=&ver=3

Choose "Other" under -Missions and write Little Food Pantry in the designated box.

Please contact Marti Elston, melston8@gmail.com or 515-460-1694 with questions or if a different time for your donation drop-off is needed. Thank you!

Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- Happy Valentine's Day! ~ Clara Schroder
- Good morning! Glad to be able to worship with my great Collegiate family. Such a great time of joy. Love to all, Helen Farr
- Joy! The cardinals are singing their mating songs!* ~ Deborah Blaedel
- *Taught to all of us by member Laverna Brindley years ago: to notice and find joy in this annual reassurance of life and of love.
- Thank you for being with my granddaughter, Valerie, as she is healing from her tonsillectomy. I pray that you will help her to have a complete recovery without complications. ~ LaRue Clark
- God's blessings on the staff. Love all of you. ~ Helen Farr

Prayers of Concern:

- Prayers for the friends who are ill and families who have lost loved ones. ~ Marilyn Green
- I pray for children in need! ~ Eldon Weber
- We hope everyone can soon be vaccinated and Iowa can get the required 2 doses for everyone. ~ Kevin & Verallynn Schilling
- For Ginny Everett, who fell this weekend and broke her finger.
- For Carol Alexander-Phillips, who fell and broke her humerus.
- We hope everyone continues to wear masks and stays warm and well! ~ Kevin & Verallynn Schilling
- That God's outrageous love may fill us today, bringing hope and healing to our fears and sense of lack. ~ Keith Schrag
- We hope our country can find its way, both through the Covid virus and politically toward a more caring community. ~ Kevin & Verallynn Schilling
- For Jeannie Weber, who is in the ICU at Mary Greeley Medical Center with kidney stones and an infection.
- For LaRue Clark who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- I pray for good healing for my 23-year old granddaughter, Valerie, who just had a tonsillectomy. ~ LaRue Clark
- For my granddaughter Danielle who defends her thesis this Thursday. ~ Ann McMullin

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](#)



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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