

The

April 2021 Vol. 40 Issue 4

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.

Inside This Issue:

A Message from Pastor Mary	3
Holy Week Services	4
Children, Youth & Family Information	5
Adult Discipleship/Spiritual Formation	6
Generosity 2021	6
Trustees/Building	7
Sending to Serve	8
Digital Worship	10
Thank You	11
G.S. Nichols Scholarships	11
Office Policy on Sharing Contact Information	11
Volunteer Opportunities	12
Our Prayers	13
Wesley News	13

Cover Pictures: Taken on a rainy date in late March.

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.

May Communicator Deadline: April 20, 2021

*“then in these swelling and ebbing currents,
these deepening tides moving out, returning,
I will sing you as no one ever has,
streaming through widening channels
into the open sea”.* Rainer Maria Rilke, *Book of Hours*



Although here in Iowa, we are far from the sea, I think everyone has an appreciation for that experience of walking along the shore and feeling the immensity and power of the waves and tides. We can remember moments when we have stood on the beach and felt its expansiveness call to our spirits. It reminds us again that the nature of life and the power of God is so much more than our individual lives and yet holds us too. And the image of the open sea is such a beautiful way to think about the future: open and widening, known and yet **undiscovered**. **As we walk into this future, let us “sing you as no one ever has.” Let us sing the grace and love of God.**

As we move into April, Jane Jacobson will be writing some articles regarding our upcoming Strategic Planning process. I hope you will look at those. I hope you will again feel as though the expansiveness of **God’s intention is moving among us.**

Spring is awakening the dormant earth here in Iowa, and we are looking to rebirth in so many ways. Soon, we hope, the majority of people who want a vaccine will be vaccinated, and at Collegiate UMC/Wesley Foundation, we are beginning to plan the time when we can reopen for in person worship. There are still preparations to attend to and patience to proceed carefully, but just as the trees are budding and the shoots of plants are breaking through the ground, we are starting to look toward a return to gathering with one another. We are beginning with Morning Watch services each Sunday morning at 8 a.m. following Easter. The Sunrise Service Easter morning at 6:45 will begin this season of gathering outdoors.

We are anticipating a big outdoor gathered service on Pentecost which is May 23rd. We are hoping that the day will be bright and sunny and we can gather to sit in lawn chairs on the south lawn or in our cars as we include the option of FM transmission of the service to car radio. Of course, the service will be live streamed and available to watch online too. This Pentecost, as we remember the birth of the Christian church many centuries ago, we will also celebrate our rebirth as a community of faith emerging from the cocoon of the pandemic. We certainly hope you will join us!!

The days from Easter to Pentecost are called Eastertide, and in this season, we celebrate how the living Spirit of God renews us, consoles us, and walks with us through all of our days. May we keep the Collegiate UMC/WF in prayer and love as we walk forward together.

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

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 April.

4/4/21- Easter Session 5 Resurrection Matthew 28:1-10

4/11/21 Session 6 The Great Commission Matthew 28:16-20

4/18/21 Session 7 Peter and John Acts 3:1-10

4/25/21 Session 8 Believers Share Acts 4:32-37

To register for Sunday School head on over [here](#).



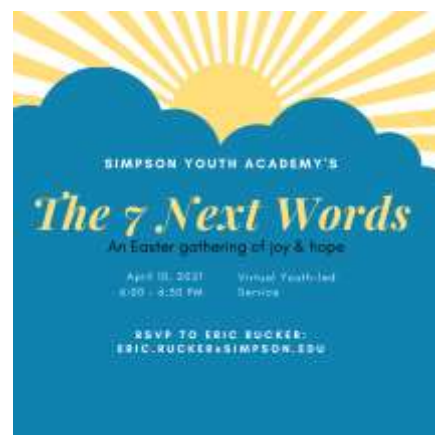
Community Easter Egg Hunt

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!

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



The Current State of the UMC: An Invitation to Conversation

With the General Conference being delayed yet again, and new information coming out on a regular basis, there is a lot going on in the UMC. You are invited to join Lindsay Drake, Lay Delegate for the Iowa Conference, along with Pastor Mary and Gerry Kennedy, for a time of conversation around the state of the United Methodist Church. This conversation will be held virtually on April 15th at 12pm and 7pm. Please register below to receive the link for the meeting. There will be plenty of time for Q&A, but if you have specific questions, please send them ahead of time to Lindsay (lindsay@cwames.org) so that we can be as prepared as possible.

When: Apr 15, 2021 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: [Here](#)

When: Apr 15, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: [Here](#)



On Easter, **Spiritual Formation** is concluding the series Animate-Faith

April 4 Animate-Faith: Church - Bruce Reyes-Chow led by Eryn Shriver

April 11, 18, & 25: Being Easter People

Meeting at 11 AM Sundays via zoom.

If you haven't signed up for the zoom group, you can sign up [here](#).

Is It Time To Review Your Estate Plan?

Here is a checklist to help with this important task:

- **Review your will**, checking for any updates that may need to be made
- **Check that the executor you've named** is still the qualified individual you want to manage your estate
- **Confirm the guardian** named for your dependents is still the right person. Does a guardian still need to be listed?
- **Update beneficiaries designated** for your insurance and retirement plans
- **Name a health care power of attorney** to guide your family and health care providers

Share the following language with your estate planning attorney to add Collegiate/Wesley and/or the Endowment Fund in your Will or Living Trust:

I give, devise, and bequeath to Collegiate United Methodist Church, a non-for-profit corporation existing under the laws of the State of Iowa and located in Ames, Iowa, _____ (percent of my estate, dollars, properties, securities, etc.) to be used for _____ (however you wish the gift to be used) at Collegiate United Methodist Church.

“Progress in the Paint”

While the building has been closed, we have been updating various spaces. This month we have begun a refresh on our beloved Wesley Hall! A team of volunteers and representatives from various church groups have been meeting with our Professional Designer, Katherine Rants, who also happens to be a CUMC/WF Wesley Alumni!

After many meetings, site tours, and paint samples, the final selection of colors has been made. In the next several weeks, walls will be repaired, the carpet on the wall will be taken down, a new coat closet constructed, and the new paint will go up on the walls. I will be keeping the in-progress pictures hidden for awhile to build suspense, and maybe round up a few volunteers for the next step. If you want a sneak peek at the updates to Wesley Hall, we are looking for volunteers to help strip, sand, repair, and stain the woodwork. If this is something you might be interested in helping with, please email me at Doug@cwames.org. Of course, we will share pictures of the project once it is complete!



Sending to Serve

Lenten Offering Update

At the time of this article submission we have raised \$2380.00 towards our Lenten offering for YSS Rosedale Shelter and The Bridge Home. We appreciate your continued donations to these wonderful organizations in our community. The Bridge Home is devoted to bridging the gap between homelessness and housing by providing shelter, support, and inspiring a pathway forward to individuals and families experiencing or on the verge of homelessness. You can learn more about The Bridge Home [here](#).

YSS provides hope and opportunity to children, youth and families through our prevention, treatment and transition programs. To learn more visit the YSS Rosedale Shelter website page [here](#). You can make a donation anytime on our website [here](#).



Stash the Trash

The Sending to Serve cluster would like you to consider how you can invite your friends, family and coworkers to be a part of the 23rd annual Stash the Trash. Community wide clean-up.

Pick up what's been under the snow and bring your trash bags to Parking Lot S5, south of Jack Trice Stadium and by ISU Reiman Gardens.

Starting Friday, April 9, 9:30 AM and ending Saturday, April 10, 3:30 PM. You can drop off trash bags anytime during that timeframe.

Learn more [here](#).

Upcoming Special Offerings

During our April 11th worship service you will be able to learn more about the Simpson Youth Academy and how you can make an impact in the ministry happening in the organization. If you would like to learn more about the Simpson Youth Academy you can read about the program [here](#) or contact Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org with questions.



AMOS

The Collegiate Wesley AMOS Immigration Group would like to share the following with our fellow friends at CW. We are a part of two important community initiatives to help our neighbors in need.

The **COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants** has brought our community together during the pandemic. Since April, 2020 over \$250,000 has been raised to assist with rent and utility payments for our community immigrant and refugee neighbors. At this time the balance in the fund is \$8300. Over 623 individual rent and utility assistance payments have been made to 113 households.

The stories of the beneficiaries are varied, but the common theme is the difficulty of living with a small or no safety net. One recipient who has DACA status; but her spouse does not and did not receive coronavirus relief payments, said she can't imagine where she or her children would be without the support of this fund."

Thanks to those of you who have contributed to this fund. Donations continue to be accepted at:

c/o St. Cecilia
2900 Hoover Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50010



Or [GoFund Me](#)

The **DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Support Fund** which is being administered through ASIP (Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners) is providing scholarships to help existing and new DACA recipients in Iowa cover the cost of the government application/renewal fee of \$495.

Here are some quotes from recent recipients:

"Receiving the help to pay for my DACA renewal has been such a blessing for my family. Receiving the help took a big weight off my shoulders. Before having the help you guys provided for me, I was beyond worried on how to come up with that money as I was not stable due to being high risk to COVID. I truly appreciate the support you guys gave me and the opportunity to continue to be in this country safe and with my family."

"This fund has given me so much hope and excitement for my future. The money I have received from ASIP has felt like a blessing and a final push to become a DACA recipient! I am so grateful for all the lovely people who have donated. It goes to show that there are some good-hearted people in our community. Thank you for helping achieve my dream of becoming a 'dreamer'."

Your tax-deductible donation to ASIP will go to DACA recipients who are struggling to pay these government fees.

Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners
P.O. Box 65
Ames, IA, 50010

If you have questions or wish to become involved with the Collegiate Wesley AMOS Immigration Group please contact Bev Kruempel, Keith Schrag, Marti Elston, Jim Cornette, Betty Barton, Maureen Wilt, Allan Baker, Mary Jean Baker, Alan Vandehaar, Donna Vandehaar, or Pastor Mary Bellon.

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 [here](#) 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.

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](#)

Thank You

Thank you to the 29 families who took part in our “Do-It-Yourself” Advent Workshop in December. This was the largest workshop we have ever had. A big thank you to the members of the committee: Sandy Stevenson, Jill Brand, Dianna Nelson, and Megan Schroder; Lauren Loonsfoot, who did all of the registration set-up, and Sandy Stevenson, Jane Jacobson and Kitty Lamont who helped assemble materials. The biggest thank you goes to Paul Brackelsberg, who single-handedly made 25 fresh green wreaths that were given to the families who participated. ~ Mary Buck



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](#) 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. Soon, 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.

Suggested items: **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](#), 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:

- We want to thank those who provided food, gift cards and prayers for Jeannie in her bout with kidney stones and sepsis infection. She is home from the hospital recuperating and the kidney stone removal is scheduled in a couple weeks. ~ Eldon & Jeannie Weber
- My Pet Ct Scan this week showed that my cancer is gone from my ribs, and that the cancer in my lungs and back is much less than it was. Thanks to all of you for your prayers. God is good. ~ LaRue Clark
- We look forward to a safe, normal future and the opportunity to see all of you again! ~ Kevin & Verallynn Schilling
- We want to express our appreciation for Dee Dreeszen and the Bell Choir for enriching the service this morning with the beautiful music! ~ Kevin & Verallynn Schilling
- A big thank you for all the meals and cards as Jeannie recuperates from her medical challenges! People are so caring! ~ Jeannie & Eldon Weber

Prayers of Concern:

- for a friend who is looking for a place to live in Ames. ~ Marjory Howe
- for Annie Arbuckle, in pain from shingles.
- for my niece, Jordan, who has early stage of breast cancer. ~ Darra Johnson
- For granddaughters who need guidance. A friend's granddaughter needs prayers for healing. ~ Marilyn Green
- for Jeannie Weber who is recovering from surgery.
- for Lori Schippers, in treatment for breast cancer.
- for Annie Arbuckle, recovering from shingles.
- for the family and friends of Anna Nilsson, who died on Tuesday.
- We hope all people stay safe. ~ Kevin & Verallynn Schilling.
- for Connie Clark, friend of Jim Okey, recovering from spinal surgery.
- I ask for prayers for my two sisters. Jo Ann is in the Boone County Hospital here in Iowa. She has a bacterial infection and a viral infection. My sister Marilyn in Houston, Texas is having multiple health problems. I know God is with them both but we always can use the extra prayer boost. ~ Helen Farr
- for Phyllis Boon as she recovers from hip surgery.
- for Jim Okey who is continuing to recover from surgery.
- for Mary Stratton and family on the loss of her son, Jeffrey Stratton.

Wesley

Wesley Finals Week Care Bags

As the semester comes to a close we want to remind the Wesley students that we have their backs. That they can get through finals and overall are wonderful humans. One way we can do that is with a care bag. We are collecting monetary donations this year for the care bags. Included are stress relieving items, snacks and a finals week prayer card.

You can donate on our website and give to the Enduring Gifts: Campus Ministry line.

[CW Ames Give](#) Thank you for your continued support!





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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