

The

August 2021 Vol. 40 Issue 8

# *Communicator*

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church  
and Wesley Foundation

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## Weekly Email Announcement Deadlines:

Send Weekly Email submissions to [mail@cwames.org](mailto:mail@cwames.org) by NOON on Wednesday. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

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Cover Pictures: taken on a late July evening.

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](mailto: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.

September Communicator Deadline: August 20, 2021

# A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

**“O God, let something essential and joyful happen in me now, something like the blooming of hope and faith, like a grateful heart, like a surge of awareness of how precious each moment is...”**. Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace.



Time passes so quickly. Here we are in August and the year is over half gone. As we linger with these last weeks of summer, perhaps our thoughts turn to the school year starting, ISU students returning, getting those home-grown tomatoes canned, or planning our last summer trips away before a new season of activity and purpose is upon us.

But our CUMC/WF community has remained busy and active these summer months. We reopened to in person worship on July 11th, and because of the popularity of the outdoor services, we decided to continue those on the first Sunday of the month at our early service hour 9 a.m. By the time you read this, many of our leaders will have met for strategic planning, and the goals they develop will be taken to a staff retreat and then sent out to our various Councils and Clusters for strategic implementation. Lauren has just led children and youth through a wonderful Vacation Bible School. The youth will be leaving for a mission trip in Memphis the first week of August, and soon you will be hearing from Lindsay of new groups forming. In late August we will bless the backpacks as kids return to school. Our sermon series will look at extraordinary women of the Bible. Things remain busy and active here, even in the more casual days of summer.

One Sunday morning recently, I noticed Mary Buck carrying a bouquet of gladiolas into the sanctuary to set up as altar flowers. We got to talking and it reminded me of a time many years ago when my daughter was four, and my mother came to visit. My mother was a genius with flowers, and she took my daughter to the store to get a wading tub, soil and gladiola bulbs. They planted them together in that plastic wading pool, and all summer my daughter and I watered the bulbs until a beautiful spray of gladiolas bloomed. It happened that I had a friend who painted oils and watercolors, and when she was over once she took photos of the gladiolas. She then painted an amazing oil of the gladiolas which she gave to me. **I, of course, gave it to my mother who hung it in her living room. Upon my mother’s death, I took the painting and gave it to my daughter.**

When I think of the spiritual life available to us in the summer months, I often think of those gladiolas and the painting that reminded my mother, and continues to remind me and my daughter, of a time of love and growth and delight. If you were to paint a portrait -- or had an artist friend do so - that captured your **feeling of God’s presence and life with you this summer, what would it be? What would you paint to remind you of something precious, of someone precious, of some time that is precious?** “Let something essential and joyful happen in me now” writes Ted Loder in his prayer to God. May our painting be a reminder of God’s essential love to us and let us touch the joy in that.

Light and grace,  
Pastor Mary

# Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot: Director of Children, Youth & Families



## Funday School

Summer Funday School is a time to learn about a Holy Troublemaker. We'll color, read a story, learn about someone new each week and pray together. We'll gather outside on the patio using the book Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints to learn about pioneers for justice! We meet on the North patio from 10:00-10:30.

- August 1: Rumi
- August 8: Valarie Kaur
- August 15: Rev. Wil Gafney
- August 22: Jesus

## Backpack Blessing

On Sunday, August 22nd bring your backpack, briefcase, crossing guard vest, hair net, any item that symbolizes the school year for you, for a special back to school blessing. Teachers, staff, students of all ages! We'll have a special Collegiate/Wesley gift for you as we start the 2021-2022 academic year. P.S. you can invite a friend to come with you and share the fun!



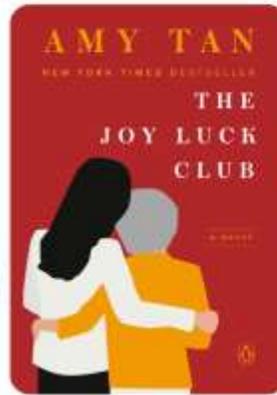
## VBS Thank You!

Thank you so much to all who helped with Vacation Bible School! We had a great two days learning about the love of God and being in community with one another. (see pictures below, and more on page 5)



## Small Groups

Join us for a discussion on the book *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. About the book: Four mothers, four daughters, four families, whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's telling the stories. In 1949, four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters' futures, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Their daughters, who have never heard these stories, think their mothers' advice is irrelevant to their modern American lives – until their own inner crises reveal how much they've unknowingly inherited of their mothers' pasts. You can read more about the book and sign-up for the group at this link: [CW Ant-Racism Summer Book Club](#)



## CW Summer Anti-Racism Book Club

The Joy Luck Club  
by Amy Tan

September 9th

6pm at Dog-Eared Books



*Pictures from Vacation Bible School, held July 18 & 19*

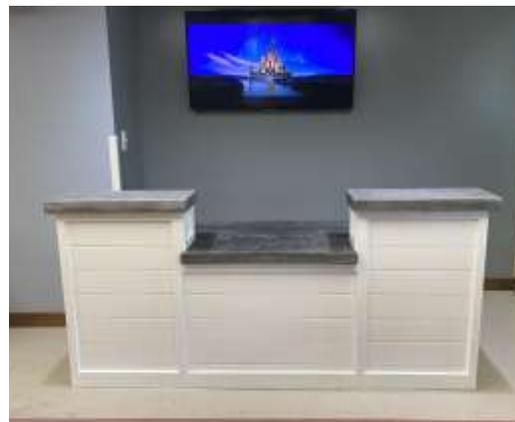


# Adult Discipleship

by Lindsay Drake: Director of Adult Discipleship

## Worship Welcome Team

Each week we need a total of 10 people per service to serve on the Worship Welcome Team. This team is responsible for welcoming people into our parking lot, building, and sanctuary. While we are making great strides to fill these positions, we need more people to serve in this way. Please consider serving with your family, friends, Sunday school class or small group once a month. Sign up to serve here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044ea4a82aa7f58-worship>.



A third training opportunity will be provided on August 16th at 6:30. Sign up for the training here: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/worship-support/worship-support-general-sign-up>. If you can't make the training, let Lindsay Drake ([lindsay@cwames.org](mailto:lindsay@cwames.org)) know.



## Name Tags

As we continue to come back to worship in the sanctuary, now is the perfect time to update our name tags for all of our members, attenders and guests. The new nametags will allow for personalization, distinction for our Worship Welcome Team ministry, as well as provide an opportunity to identify our pronouns. Please fill out [this form](#) and your church staff will create your new name tag for you. You can find your completed nametag in your usual nametag space or at the new Welcome Center in the Gathering Space. Thank you for making this part of our radical hospitality a priority!

This summer, Spiritual Formation will have a more relaxed format, and each week will view a short animated video from "The Bible Project." We meet Sundays at 10am in the Fireside Room, also available via Zoom.

- August 1 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" Judges, led by Eryn Shriver
- August 8 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" Ruth led by Mike King
- August 15 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" 1 Samuel, led by Mike King
- August 22 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" 2 Samuel, led by Eryn Shriver



If you haven't signed up for the zoom group, you can sign up here: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-adult-sunday-school-classes/spiritual-formation>

## Stephen Ministry

*Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21.*

Just as Jesus chose his apostles to carry on his work with the help of the Holy Spirit, so we have been chosen to continue God's work through the love and help we give to those in need. The CUMC/WF Stephen Ministry team would like to remind you that we have trained Stephen Ministers available to provide one-to-one, confidential, compassionate care to those experiencing life's difficulties such as struggling with grief, stress and anxiety, loneliness, health problems, and many other situations.

If you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry or would like additional information or are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Lori Schippers, 515-460-0774, email [lschippers1@hotmail.com](mailto:lschippers1@hotmail.com).



## Finance Committee

### Financial Update

At each of our monthly meetings, the Finance Committee reviews the most recent available expense and revenue summaries, and compares these with the church's budget plan for the year. It is a joy for us to "witness" the faithfulness represented by the continuing financial support of all who contribute to CUMC/WF's mission; thank you!

As of the end of June, CUMC/WF's year-to-date revenues (primarily offerings) were about 25% less than year-to-date expenses. (For reference, that difference was about 10% at the end of April.) It is not unusual to see a dip in revenues during the summer months; giving levels typically "rebound" in the fall. Still, we need to remember that church programming (and expenses) continue each month. As the church proceeds toward reopening, we will see additional changing trends in both the revenue and expense sides of our balance sheets. If you've fallen a bit behind in your planned church giving, now would be a great time to consider catching up.

Thanks again for your continued generosity! Remember that you have access to our financial reports through the church website. If you have questions regarding the church's budget or finances, please feel free to contact me ([maxorlori@gmail.com](mailto:maxorlori@gmail.com)); for questions regarding your own record of giving, please feel free to contact CUMC/WF's Financial Secretary, Jason Janssen ([jason@cwames.org](mailto:jason@cwames.org)).

Grace and Peace,  
Max Morris, CUMC/WF Finance Chair

# Sending to Serve

## Story County Alert System( Article From Ames Tribune)

Story County switches to new alert system; residents sign up to receive emergency notifications  
Danielle Gehr: Ames Tribune

Alert Iowa will now notify Story County residents of emergency situations, but residents need to sign up first.

Story County switched to this new emergency notification system, which began service July 1, according to a news release. Residents will be able to add multiple addresses and phone numbers under one user account for the entire household.

**“It’s very important that everyone register for the new system,” said Ames Fire Chief Rich Higgins, according to the release. “Even if you had registered for alert notifications in the past, it’s likely that data didn’t transfer completely with the change. To ensure you are still in the system and will be notified during an emergency, you must register.”**

The new provider, RAVE Public Safety, also allows users to log in relevant health information which "will assist emergency management to identify potential special response needs during a disaster," according to the county's website.

How to sign up:  
Go online at

Download the Smart911 App to a cell phone or wireless-enabled device

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## ID Drive

A Central Iowa Community ID Card Drive was held on July 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas Aquinas Church with several Collegiate Wesley members volunteering (pictured below).

Proving identity is simple for people who have a driver's license or state photo ID card, but not everyone does. The Central Iowa Community ID Card is not a government issued form of ID or a driver's license, but it is a verifiable form of identification that says you are a part of our community. It can be used as a tool



by local law enforcement to better identify, serve, and protect you and is accepted as identification by health care facilities, schools, and other city and county busi-

*ID Volunteers pictured: Alan Vandehaar, Maureen Wilt, Keith Schrag, Donna Vandehaar, Betty Barton*

## Collegiate Wesley Disaster Response Plan:

Sending to Serve is working on a disaster response plan for our congregation. After the 2020 Derecho we started envisioning what our response plan would look like. Using information from Planning Center, provided to the cluster from staff, the cluster will plot out where folks live and create community leaders within where the natural pods form. From there we will make phone and address trees that can be **activated**. **It's important to note that we are including addresses for when the phones are not usable so when it's safe, we can make physical contact and check on one another.**

What we need is for everyone to make sure they update their information in the database. You can do so [here](#). We have decided it would be easier to start with everyone opted in. So if you would NOT like to be included in the disaster response plan tree please fill out the opt-out form [here](#) so we know to leave your information off. This information will only be shared with the community point person for your area. Once we have identified the neighborhoods we will be working on identifying people to serve at the point of contact to initiate the plan when needed. They will be responsible for connecting with the 10-12 households in their area in the event of an emergency. Thank you for your help in making this plan possible.

## Our Prayers

### Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- I am thankful for all of our Freedom, and for all of those who made it possible. ~ LaRue Clark
- Happy Fourth of July everyone. Pray for peace in our land and our hearts. Hope to see you next Sunday. ~ Helen Farr
- Just wanted to send a note of thanks to all that called or sent kind notes to my mom, Shirley Snell, during her hospice respite stay at Cedar Ridge Village. Your kindness helped her get through being away from her room in Mark and Cindy's home while they were visiting their daughter in California. Notes for Shirley should now be sent to the home of Mark Snell: 196 80th Ave, Norwalk, IA 50211. Thanks again for the love and care you have shown for my mom. Sincerely, Sue Griffith
- Amy, Joe, Chloe, Nolan, and Benji Doolittle are excited to share they are moving to Fletcher, Vermont in August. Many thanks for all the love and support this community has given us during our time in Ames; you all will always hold special places in our hearts.
- For the fellowship provided by in-person worship.
- I want to thank Pastor Mary and the congregation for the many prayers and for her visiting me at the hospital! ~ Eldon Weber



### Prayers of Concern:

- For Owen Kolstad, as he goes through treatment for cancer.
- For Shirley Snell, as she receives continuing care.
- For Eldon Weber, hospitalized at Mary Greeley Medical Center.
- Jim Okey, who was hospitalized after a fall.
- For my deaf-blind sister who is beginning to show signs of dementia. ~ Marjy Howe
- Jo Campney Memorial Service, Sat. July 17, 11:00am, Grace UMC in Des Moines - Eryn Shriver
- For Eldon Weber, who remains hospitalized.
- For Carl Arbuckle as he has major surgery in August.

## Worship at Collegiate/Wesley

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

AUGUST 1ST @ 9AM

SEPTEMBER 5TH @ 9AM

OCTOBER 3RD @ 9AM

Join us for outdoor worship at 9am on the first Sundays of August, September and October. Weather permitting, we will worship together on the south lawn together. Bring a lawn chair. We will continue to worship in the sanctuary all other times.

### Helpful information to know as we return to indoor worship:

- When you come for worship on Sunday mornings masks will be required. This is our way to help protect our youngest, who are not able to be vaccinated yet and those who are immunocompromised. Thank you for helping us all keep one another safe while also being able to worship together.
- Please sit in designated areas.
- Vaccinated worship leaders (including musicians) may remove their masks during their part of the service. They will be socially distanced from those in the front of the sanctuary.
- The congregation may sing hymns during the church service while wearing masks.
- Masks are required of all persons while in the church building while not attending a meeting or small group gathering (e.g. in hallways, bathrooms, etc).
- Unvaccinated adults are encouraged to continue wearing masks at all times.

### Helpful links:

For digital worship you can "tune in" on our [Facebook page](#) at 8:00 am to watch live.

You can also view a recording of outdoor worship and our digital 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. You can also share your prayer requests and give at that link.

# Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing That Works is open to the public. Clothing That Works helps any adult in need of clothing for everyday life.

CTW is taking donations on Wednesdays 2-5pm and the first Saturday of each month, 9am-noon. In addition to clean usable adult clothing, CTW is in great need of men's athletic shoes, boots, bath towels, and blankets.

If you are interested in touring CTW please come by and check us out during the open times. [clothingthatworks@gmail.com](mailto: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 **August 27<sup>th</sup>** date.

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!!

Thank you to all who have contributed non-perishable items and monetary donations to the Little Food Pantry. Because of you we have been able to continue providing food and personal items to those who need them most.

But items are needed to keep the Pantry supplied every day. Non-perishable donations are always welcome. Please place them in the Little Food Pantry at any time or place them in the collection tub in the west hallway.

Non-perishable suggested items include: Crackers; peanut butter; pasta; pasta sauce; bagged grains; dried fruits; tuna; granola bars; canned vegetables; toothpaste; toothbrushes; deodorant; shampoo; soap; Kleenex; toilet paper; paper towel; diapers and baby wipes. *All must be in sealed/unopened packages.*

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.

Contact Marti Elston, [melston8@gmail.com](mailto:melston8@gmail.com) or 515-460-1694 with questions or if a different time for your donation drop-off is needed. Thank you!



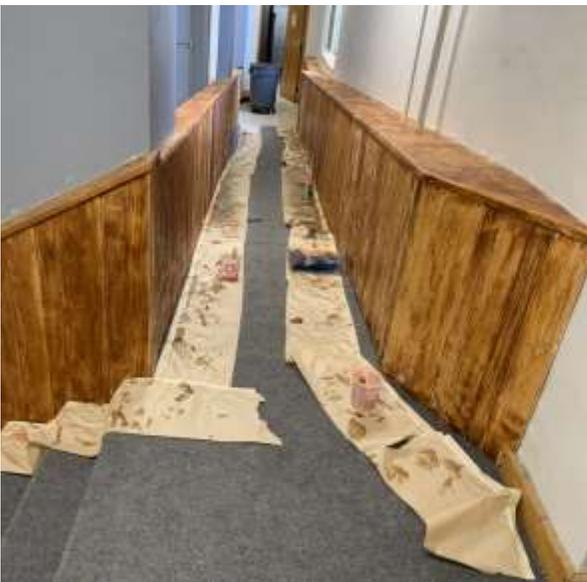
# Trustees

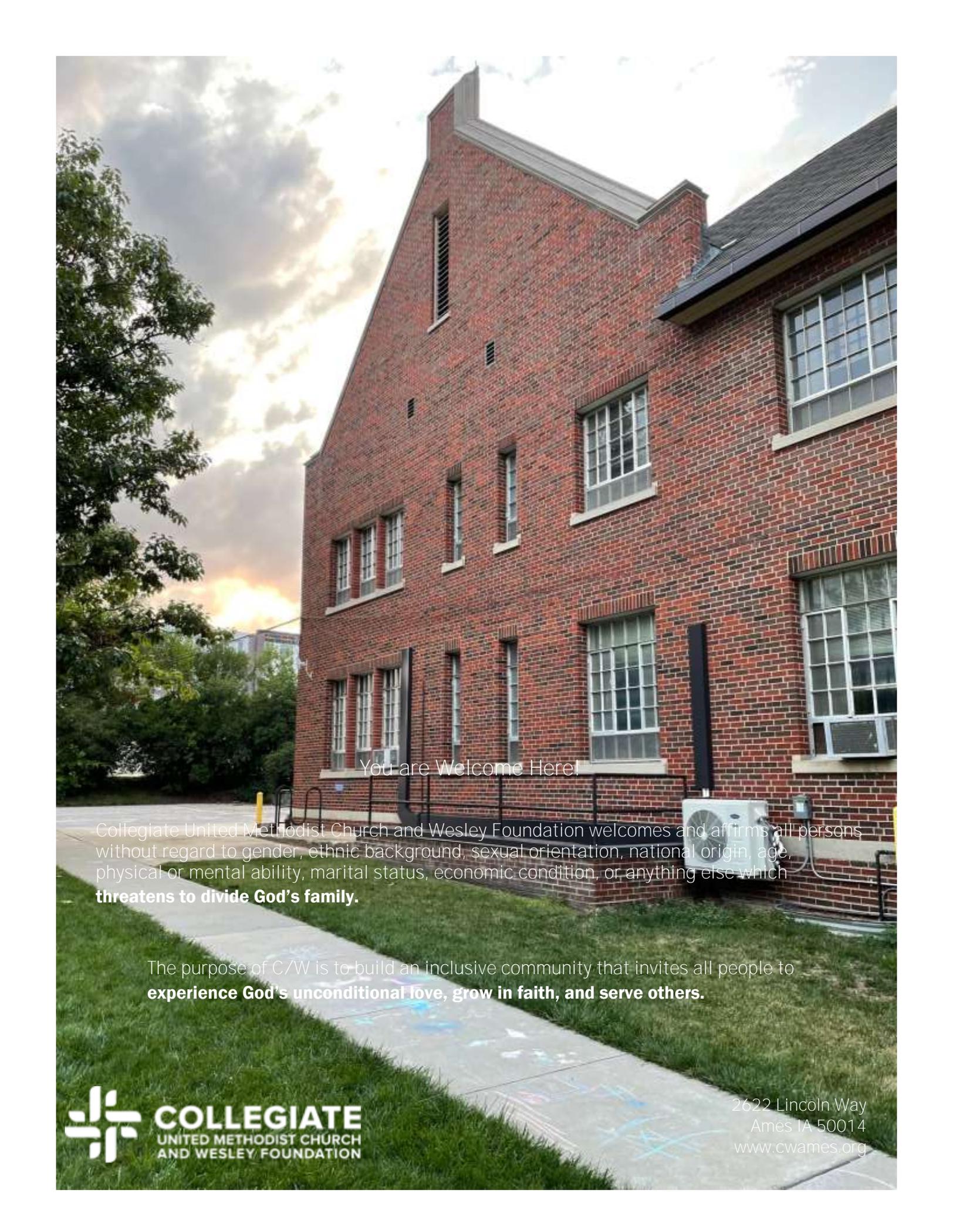


## CUMC/WF Work Days July 16 & July 17

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped spruce up spaces both indoors and outdoors!







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 God's family.**

The purpose of C/W is to build an inclusive community that invites all people to **experience God's unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others.**