

The

July 2021 Vol. 40 Issue 7

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation

Contact Us

Phone: 515-292-6936

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

Facebook: 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 on a sunny afternoon in late June.

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.

August Communicator Deadline: July 20, 2021

A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

It's been a long time. It's been a long time since we worshiped in the sanctuary, but now we are ready! On July 11th we invite you to be with us in worship at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. The Worship Cluster has recommended that we return to two worship services even as we reconvene in the summer so in the fall, we do not have to change the times again. After such a long period away from worshipping in person inside our church, we are excited to reopen! We will also be building **services that are called "blended" worship: rather than having two distinct styles of worship, we will blend together different elements of liturgy and music so that whichever hour you choose to be with us you will experience a similar worship experience.**



As I write this in early June, I am about to embark on a week of hiking in South Dakota and Idaho. Our deadline for the Communicator occurs while I will be away, so I am preparing this before I go. I am thinking about the experience of walking - finding a trail that you have never been on and walking through a landscape where everything is new. You pay attention in ways that you might not on a well-worn path. You see things you might have missed or taken for granted if you know the trail well. You smell the air and the aroma of the plants and trees as a new experience. Sometimes you are focused on your breath if you climb a challenging hill. In your daypack are blister pads and band aids. You have plenty of water.

I like to think of our journey ahead together at Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation like this: a new trail, a new time, after a pandemic that locked us in and caused us and the world loss and alarm. Now, as we reopen, we begin to see with fresh eyes the value and love in our community. We smell **the "fragrance" of Christ among us, to quote the Apostle Paul. We meet the challenges of hills and we have our blister pads and band aids ready for any bumps along the way. We bring from the past the history of care and resilience, a living memory of all the ways this community gives of itself to its neighbors and the world around us. We return to indoor worship the same people but different too, strengthened by our adversities, and continuing to strengthen as we walk the path.**

We are also moving ahead this month to have our Strategic Planning Retreat. Members of the Church Council, Administrative Council and Ministries Council will meet July 23-24 to move forward in **determining the goals or "plan" for our faith community for the next leg of the journey. When these goals are set, they will go out to all the clusters and teams for strategies to implement our goals. All of us together will set the vision and build the future. We are indeed the ones setting out on the trail to see and find all that God imagines for us.**

I look forward to seeing you in worship and in the many ways we live community together.

Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot: Director of Children, Youth & Families

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 18th and Monday, July 19th, 6-8 pm Preschool through 5th Grade

From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, Explorers are guided by a Lighthouse Keeper and Beacon the Puffin on an exciting quest to find mysterious Infinity Lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from the Reference Book (the Bible), children discover clues to finding each Lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories. **We'll gather outside on the South Lawn. Participants will travel to music/drama, science, games and crafts with their group.**

Participants are invited to come tie dye a shirt and mask before hand each day between 5:30-6:00 (guardians please plan on helping with this portion).

On Sunday, July 25th we'll have a time during worship to share with the congregation some of the dances to the songs we learned.

We hope you can join us on this awesome discovery!
Questions contact Lauren (lauren@cwames.org)

We have many needs for volunteers. From registration table, tie dye helpers, shepherds who rotate with the groups and station leaders. Can only make one day? No worries, sign up for the day you can come. Volunteers sign-up [here](#).



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! July 4th will be our last gathering at 9:15 am. Starting July 11th we will meet from 10:00-10:30.



**TOGETHER
TUESDAY'S**

A time to be with
each other.

AM GATHERINGS
10:30-11:30
July 13: Bandshell Park
July 27: Daley Park

PM GATHERINGS
6:00-7:00 pm
July 6: Inis Grove - Miracle Playground
July 20: Moore Memorial Park

Together Tuesdays

Come out for a time to be together! We have an am option and a pm option. Come when you can. We do not have shelters reserved, feel free to bring chairs, blankets and snacks. Craft supplies will be provided if you want to craft. Sign-up [here](#) to get location and activity information reminders sent!



Stamped Kids

July 11th: Chapters 7-12

July 25th: Chapters 13-18

August 22nd: Chapters 19-24 at 11:15 am on the front Patio

Sign-up [here!](#)

More about the book:

This chapter book edition of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller by luminaries Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds is an essential introduction to the history of racism and antiracism in America.





Pictures from Senior Sunday, Welcome Team Training, Funday School, Free Vaccine Clinic, Worship, and Confirmation Camp



NEW APP!

We are excited to introduce you to the Church Center App! This app is available at your favorite app store at no cost. Simply search “Church Center” and download the app. You will need to type in our church name, and then you will be prompted to log in using your cell phone or email. Once you are in the app, you can access basic church information, any group you are associated with, online giving, and the calendar. For those of you who have opted into the digital church directory, this is where you can access it. You can also access all of the same information by using your computer browser and going to <https://cwames.churchcenter.com>.



Please contact Lindsay Drake or the office with any questions. We hope you enjoy this new app as much as we do!

Database Update

As of June 27th, 153 individuals have successfully updated their personal information on our church database. Those who have updated their information should have received an invitation to the digital directory. When you receive the invitation to the directory, you can choose if you want to share your information with other people who are participating in the directory. You can also choose what **information of yours you would like shared. This is a great and secure way to access your church family's** contact information in a format that can stay up to date and safe.

To access the online directory, go to <https://cwames.churchcenter.com> or download the Church Center App in your preferred app store. You will be prompted to log in using your cell phone number or email address. **Once you are logged in, select “more” on the upper right hand side of the screen and then click on “directory”.** This will give those who have accepted their invitation to the directory, access to the directory.

NEW! Worship Welcome Team! WE NEED YOU!

As we move back into the sanctuary, on July 11th, it is time to welcome members and guests back with the radical hospitality that Collegiate/Wesley has been known for. Because worship will look different than before, your ministry clusters have worked hard to create a new Worship Welcome Team to help people feel supported and welcomed when they enter the church parking lot, find their seats in the sanctuary and go forth back into the world. This new team is vital to opening up well.



We need a minimum of 10 people to fill the Worship Welcome Team roles for each service. If you are interested in being a part of this team, sign up here (<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/worship-support/worship-support-general-sign-up>) to be on the list. A training was held on June 29th but we will continue to train those who sign up. If you are ready to sign up for a Sunday, use this sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044EA4A82AA7F58-worship>. Contact Lindsay Drake with any questions. Thank you for making Collegiate/Wesley an incredible place to be!

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 11am via Zoom.



July 4 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" Numbers, led by Eryn Shriver
July 11 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" Deuteronomy, led by Mike King
July 18 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" Joshua, led by Eryn Shriver
July 25 "The Bible Project: the Torah Series" Judges, led by Mike King

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>

Note of Thanks

Thank you to Jane Jacobson, Mike King, Janelle Keltgen, Linda Peters and Steven Schroder for helping to clean all of the hymnals and Bibles in the sanctuary. This group is part of preparing the sanctuary as we welcome the congregation back in the building on July 11th.



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.



Sending to Serve

Mental Health First Aid Trainings

In support of the City of Ames “Mental Health Wellness, Recovery, and Resiliency Initiative,” Mental Health First Aid training sessions are being offered. These sessions are free and open to the public.

“Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders,” said Julie Saxton, Mental Health Advocate with the Ames Police Department. “This training will give participants the skills needed to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.”

Two training session options are available yet in July and August:

- Monday and Tuesday, July 26 and 27: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. each night. Julie Saxton and Iowa State University Police Sgt. Tim Denger will be the presenters; or
- Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 25 and 26: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. each night. Julie Saxton and Iowa State University Police Sgt. Tim Denger will be the presenters.

All sessions will be held in the auditorium at Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave.

To register for a session, email or call with your name, phone number, email address, and any special accommodations to Carly Watson, carly.watson@cityofames.org or 515.239.5101.

The Mental Health Wellness Recovery, and Resiliency Initiative is a series of mental health speakers, trainings, and educational opportunities planned through September. These events are free and open to the public.



Women
AT THE WELL

Women at the Well Event

We are so excited to celebrate our 15 year anniversary with you!

We have two opportunities this summer to celebrate with us.

July 17-18: Waverly, Trinity UMC (Evening concert by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan)

August 14-15: Ottumwa, Grace UMC (Evening

concert by Christopher Grundy)

Saturdays: Gathering, spiritual practices for social justice, workshops, fellowship, community, evening coffeehouse concert and more.

Sundays: Pastor Paul representing Women at the Well and preaching during worship.

More information about workshops to come.

Suggested donation: \$25 (checks or cash at the event)

To register for the event sign-up [here](#).



A Community Conversation

United Way of Story County's Community Impact Goals for 2025

Join us as we reimagine what's next...

Learn about UWSC's bold 5-year goals (2020-2025) in health, education, and financial stability. Provide your insights about challenges and wins in the goal areas. Suggest new ideas for collectively moving the needle and engaging underserved populations. Read more about our goals at uwstory.org/impact.

WHO

Any interested community members including existing partner agency staff, volunteers, and board members

WHEN

JULY 8 10:00-11:00am

JULY 15 12:00-1:00pm

WHERE

JULY 8 Virtual (Zoom)

JULY 15 Ames City Hall (Council Chambers)

REGISTER HERE BY JULY 1: <https://forms.gle/drDP9uZvKa24nCnh9>



United Way of Story County

Church Reopening and Building Access Update

Many have been anxiously awaiting word when the church will officially reopen. Property Trustees, in coordination with the COVID Tactical Team and Church Council, has approved the steps to reopen the church effective Sunday, July 11.

Moving forward, the way the building is open and accessed by the general public or the congregation will look slightly different than before but many will not notice a difference. Staff and our property insurance provider both encouraged Property Trustees to examine how the building should be accessed in the future in order provide a safe and secure space for anyone inside the church as well as securing the possessions inside the walls of the church. In the past, our church has been very open to everyone and that led to occasional vandalism, theft, and the potential for individuals to hide or sneak up on others at all hours of the day and night.

In response to requests to provide a safe and secure space for all to meet, Trustees has approved the installation of new electronic door locks on many exterior doors as well as several key interior doorways. This new smart locking system is a work in progress but will provide many benefits beyond the safety and security of all within the walls of CUMC/WF.

The plan is to have the ability to create secure zones within the church, especially for the staff that may be working alone, as well as meetings that may run late into the evening, or even Wesley Students accessing the student lounge late into the night. We want to keep everyone safe regardless of the situation.

More details will become available throughout the rest of the summer so be watching for follow up communications with further details. For now, the important information you will need to know is below.

- Effective Sunday, July 11, summer hours are 9AM-5PM Monday-Friday and 8AM-1PM on Saturday. Sunday will be open as necessary to facilitate church services. Right now, the hours are 8AM – 12:30PM. The office hours will remain the same as before, 9AM-3PM, Mon-Thurs.
- To provide the staff a secure working area, the office hallway will be locked. There is a video intercom available so the staff can let you into the office if necessary. A few of you have already used this function and have commented at the ease of use.
- The general public will have access to the west door and hallways on the main floor and basement, the Gathering Space and Student Lounge during the Monday-Saturday open hours. On Sundays the public will have access to these areas as well as the Sanctuary and the Office Hallway.
- If you need access to locked areas or at times other than the summer hours, there will be a process for applying for an electronic key card. These details will come out later this summer.
- Trustees and Church Council will be evaluating the initial implementation and determining hours and accessibility for fall..

If you have feedback, questions, or comments, please send me an email at isubrand@yahoo.com. I realize this new norm will take some getting used to and there will be some hiccups along the way, but it is all in the interest of keeping everyone safe.

Thank you!

Church Service Days- Friday July 16 and Saturday July 17

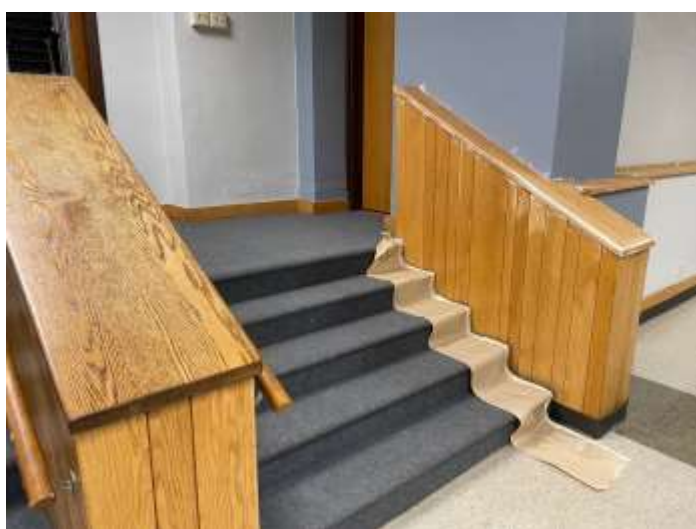
As you've read in the Communicator over the last several months, Doug Warren and the rest of the staff have been hard at work making improvements to the church building while the doors have been closed due to the pandemic. Property Trustees has been ambitious with approving projects from renovating the Wesley Conference Suite (the room just off Wesley Hall or the old nursery for the seasoned veterans), to repurposing the old computer lab into a meeting space, rewaxing floors, painting walls and several other projects along the way.

There are ongoing projects that haven't been completed because they are too large for one person to do or the staff hasn't had the time to complete them at this point. Property Trustees would like to invite you to be a part of these projects during Church Service Days on Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17. There will be projects for all ages so families are certainly welcome. Some of the ongoing projects are...

- Stripping the old wood finish, sanding, and re-staining the woodwork in Wesley Hall.
- Sorting, organizing, and removing clutter in several areas of the Church and Annex.
- Trash cleanup around our campus- weather permitting
- Weeding and general cleanup around our campus- weather permitting
- Kitchen cleaning
- Other projects as identified

We will start at 9:00AM each day in Wesley Hall and then breakout into groups from there for the morning. If you plan on working in the afternoon, please plan on bringing snacks and a picnic lunch. Water and lemonade will be provided. We will reorganize around 1:00PM and once again split off into groups. If you are unable to make it at 9:00 or 1:00, please stop by Wesley Hall to get further instructions.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please reach out to me at isubrand@yahoo.com. This way we can plan projects accordingly, based on interest.



The sign and key reader/doorbell at the entrance to the office hallway from the west hallway

Woodwork project in Wesley Hall

Welcome to another update from the building! Back in March 2020 when we shut down, I did not think I was going to be writing all these monthly highlights. I'm sure glad that after all of this, you will finally be able to see the projects you've been reading about! I'll stick with giving highlights each month, but now you'll finally get to see them in person too!

This month's highlight is two outdoor projects. This first is a paver patio in front of the Little Food Pantry at the Annex. By making this little patio it keeps people out of the mud and grass and gives us an area that can be shoveled in winter. The second is the removal of two big trees that were damaged in the Derecho. The trees were located in the front of the church. At the same time that I took down those, I also took down the various volunteer trees from the gilgal and other places on our campus.

I've really enjoyed keeping you all updated the last few months, but I'm even more excited for you all to see it in person!



Note the amount of debris on the curb, waiting for pickup



Library

New Books in our Library!

Your Church Library has a dozen new UMW books. We also have **added many books from Fred Wohn's collection.**

When the church is open again, come and check out some of our many great books.





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.

New Name Tags



As we begin to come back into the building, now is the perfect time to update our name tags for all of our members, attenders and guests. Thanks to a generous grant from the Endowment Board, new name tags have been purchased to update our previous ones. These new name tags 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. Fill out this Google form <https://forms.gle/qVqOPkuTwZSuHini9>. Thank you for making this part of our radical hospitably a priority!

Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for our confirmation students as they start confirmation camp on June 14th!
- We're grateful for a wonderful confirmation camp with 13 students. Please be in prayer for these students as they enter their year of confirmation.
- For Jenn Plagman-Galvin as she recovers from surgery. Thankful that it went well!
- Happy Fathers' Day to all of the Fathers. We are grateful for all that you have done for us. Help us to have a close bonding. ~LaRue Clark
- **A most blessed Father's Day to all Dads, Grandfathers, Dads to be and the father-figures in our lives.** Thanks for all you do and for jointly this year celebrating Juneteenth! ~Donna & Alan Vandehaar
- Love this worship service!! Pray that your ministry continues to thrive! ~ Beth Harbaugh



Prayers of Concern:

- for Susan Ramthun, sister of Mary Buck, having surgery following a fractured hip.
- for Jenn Plagman-Galvin as she prepares for surgery on June 15th.
- for Allen Lundy, brother of Paul Lundy, who has entered hospice care in South Dakota.
- I ask for continued prayers for my sister Marilyn who lives in Houston. Her body has not healed and it has badly affected her emotionally. ~ Helen Farr
- My mom, Shirley Snell, has entered hospice care. She is at Cedar Ridge Village, 8950 Coachlight Dr, West Des Moines, IA 50266. At this point she still likes visitors and to play Rummikub. She is often tired, but likes company. ~ Sue Griffith
- I've received some additional information from the staff at Cedar Ridge. Mom's room number is 174 and the landline number to her room is 515.369.1874. They also want visitors to sign up for their visits using the following link. <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10c0c4ba8ad22a0fec34-visitation1> . It is specifically for Mom and limits the number of visitors to 5 at a time. The staff person that can assist with signing up is Cyndi Brumfield, direct line, 515.369.1844. ~ Sue Griffith
- I pray for healing for my sister-in-law, Beth, who has gone back to Mayo Clinic. ~LaRue Clark
- My nephew has been living in China. He has cancer and he desperately needs to get back to the US for treatment. He and his wife have had numerous roadblocks trying to get a flight. Please pray that they can board a plane very soon and that the trip won't be too hard on him. ~ Becky Brand

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.



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 **July 23** and **30** slots.

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.

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 or 515-460-1694 with questions or if a different time for your donation drop-off is needed. Thank you!



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.**



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