

The

September 2021 Vol. 40 Issue 9

# Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church  
and Wesley Foundation  
Ames, Iowa

## Contact Us

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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 rare rainy August morning.

## 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.

October Communicator Deadline: September 20, 2021

## A Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

**Where did the summer go? That's what I keep saying to my husband as** I turn my calendar pages to the fall. But together here at Collegiate/Wesley, we have had a good summer! We worshipped outdoors in June, returned to indoor worship in July, held VBS (a rousing success), went through the Strategic Planning Retreat, added new windows to the buildings, held a clean-up day, welcomed back the students, and found ourselves refreshed to see each other in person.

Now, we set our sights on the fall! I am pleased to share that we have hired a new Minister of Music, Mr. Patrick Gagnon. He is a wonderful person and a man of great talents. We also welcome Emily Moen as our Assistant for Children, Youth and Family and for the Wesley Center. We are so glad Emily will be here with us! Watch for more to be shared about these two excellent additions to our staff! September 12th is our kickoff Sunday and we will have Communion at both services. The Chancel Choir will sing that Sunday. Communion will also be offered at the outdoor service on September 5th. Small groups and Sunday School classes for all ages are about to begin; I urge you to join a group and be a part of learning and fun in fellowship! There will be both Zoom and in-person groups meeting available. In September we will also be announcing when we will hold some gatherings for people wishing to join the church. Youth group will resume! Our music ministry will be kicking off too! There are so many ways to be involved, including our missional work with Food at First, Clothing that Works and our interfaith work with AMOS, Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance and our new Story County Circuit of United Methodist Churches that you will be hearing more about in the months ahead from me and from our Lay Leader Gerry Kennedy. It is a way of Loving, Learning and Leading that we are doing together within the county and in conversation with all the UMC churches.



I do want to take a moment and share with you some precautions that we are setting up to keep everyone safe. The Tactical Team is deciding on a threshold of rate of infection when we would go back to digital worship only for two weeks, hopefully until the rate went down. We hope that this will not have to happen. But, if we were to need to do this, we would send out a special email explaining the circumstances as well as the two-week timeline. We believe that as we continue to move through the pandemic, now exacerbated with the Delta variant, we will remain a space that is as safe as possible from infection and spread. I know that for some our policies have seemed almost too conservative, but after over a year of being in this process, we can say for sure that Collegiate/Wesley has never been a super-spreader and that children and adults, vaccinated and unvaccinated are welcome and protected here.

I would like to give a special shout out to a group I am offering on Sunday evenings (7-8:30) beginning in September via Zoom. We will be reading the book *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. It is a book of stories and anecdotes around the questions people have about God, the Bible and faith. Rachel Held Evans was a young journalist who began writing about faith and the Bible as she visited different churches and had different experiences. Tragically, she died of the flu at the age of 38. But she is one of the most engaging and enjoyable writers of the last twenty years. She discusses major questions of our day, topics of social relevance and what God means to us in this world we find ourselves in. I encourage you to sign up and join me for great conversation around some of our questions of faith.

Light and grace,  
Pastor Mary

# Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot: Director of Children, Youth & Families

## Rally Sunday September 12th

Let's start this year's fall programming off with a celebration! On the 12th we will kick-off Sunday School, Youth Groups and Small Groups and our next sermon series, I've Been Meaning to Ask. Learn about Sunday School for children, youth and adults. Enjoy some games and activities on the South lawn from 10:00-10:45.



## Children Sunday School

We are excited to kick-off Sunday school this year with Rally Sunday on September 12th for a time of outdoor activities, games and crafts. Classes will start on September 19th. We will be meeting upstairs in our Sunday school wing. Masks will be required for all. This year we will be starting with classes for Preschool, Kindergarten/1st grade, 2nd/3rd grade and 4th/5th.

## Sunday School helpers needed!

Do you have a passion for helping our younger generations learn about the love of God? We are adding more volunteers to our Sunday School team. We are in need of more volunteers for our Sunday School classrooms. You can find the sign-up [here](#).

Please pray about ways that your gifts can be used in our Children's ministry areas. Contact Lauren Loonsfoot for more information [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org)

## Youth Ministry Needs

We currently have a need for additional help with the High School and Middle School Sunday School classes. We're looking to add to our team of adult leaders to facilitate on Sunday mornings. If you're interested in learning more please contact Lauren Loonsfoot [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org)

## Youth

### Youth Group

Middle School youth will gather from 5:30-6:30 every other week starting on September 19th in the youth room. A printed schedule and google calendar will be provided on the first Sunday gathering. High School youth group will start on September 12th from 6:30-7:30 in the youth room. High School youth group will meet every week.



## Confirmation

We are excited to kick-off Confirmation for 7th-9th graders on Sunday, September 12th.

If you have a youth who is interested in learning more or participating in confirmation, please let

Lauren [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org) or Lindsay [Lindsay@cwames.org](mailto:Lindsay@cwames.org) know.

## Fall Small Groups

### Inspired Book Group with Pastor Mary

Explore the Bible through the lens of stories and anecdotes about questions of faith, using Rachel Held Evan's book, **Inspired**. Join with Pastor Mary Bellon on Sunday evenings from 7-8:30 via zoom beginning Sept 19th. Purchase your book and read the first chapter prior to the first gathering. Sign up today <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-small-groups/inspired-with-pastor-mary-bellon>.

### Dialogues on Race Anti-Racism Small Group

Dialogues On: Race replicates a conversational experience by giving participants a reader on race. Each topic is packed with well-researched information, but brought to life with the lived experience and stories of people at the center of the topic. Join us every other Wednesday starting on September 22nd at 8:00 pm via zoom for powerful discussion and action. Sign up today: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-small-groups/dialogues-on-race>. Pick up your book from the Welcome Center or contact Lindsay ([lindsay@cwames.org](mailto:lindsay@cwames.org)) or Lauren ([lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org)) for more information.

### I've Been Meaning To Ask Small Group

The fall sermon series, **I've Been Meaning to Ask**, provides us the opportunity to ask questions and get to know one another better. Join with others for conversation every other Tuesday evening beginning Tuesday, Sept 14th at 6:30 via zoom. No prep needed. Come as you are! Sign up today.

## Fall Sunday School Classes

### Faith Journeys

Faith Journeys is a flexible Bible study designed to help you pursue one or more of the following goals:

- a. See our overall search for God's Kingdom through the ages.
- b. Know and work more closely with God.
- c. Conduct an orderly search for God's will with regard to a project or ministry.

We plan to again offer a Faith Journeys class via email. Participants receive a short lesson on Friday.

**Within a few days they use the "Reply to all" option to share personal news and thoughts about the Bible passage(s).** Beginning September 11-12 we plan to study lessons about prayer found in the Bible section called Acts and Letters. Newcomers are welcome.

If you would like to join the class or explore other ways to participate in a Faith Journeys study, such as in person or by Zoom, please contact us at [bakerallan14@gmail.com](mailto:bakerallan14@gmail.com) or 515-296-0481

### Forum

Forum Sunday school class has speakers who cover a range of topics, including local community and charitable initiatives, candidate forums, and other matters of interest. We meet in person in the Norman room. Our speakers include: Sept. 12: Janet Fisher, Mosaic of Central Iowa Oct. 3: School Board Candidates Forum Oct. 10: City Council Candidates Forum Nov. 7: Tim Gossett: Copyright 101 Dec. 8: Bob Bourne: Streamliner Trains Across Iowa

### Builder's Class

Have you ever heard a story on NPR, CBS Sunday Morning, or local radio that you would like to discuss further with a fun and lively group? Well, then Builder's Sunday School Class is for you! Come join us for lively conversations and camaraderie.

Until further notice, we will be meeting outdoors on the south lawn at the 10am Sunday School hour. Bring your lawn chair.

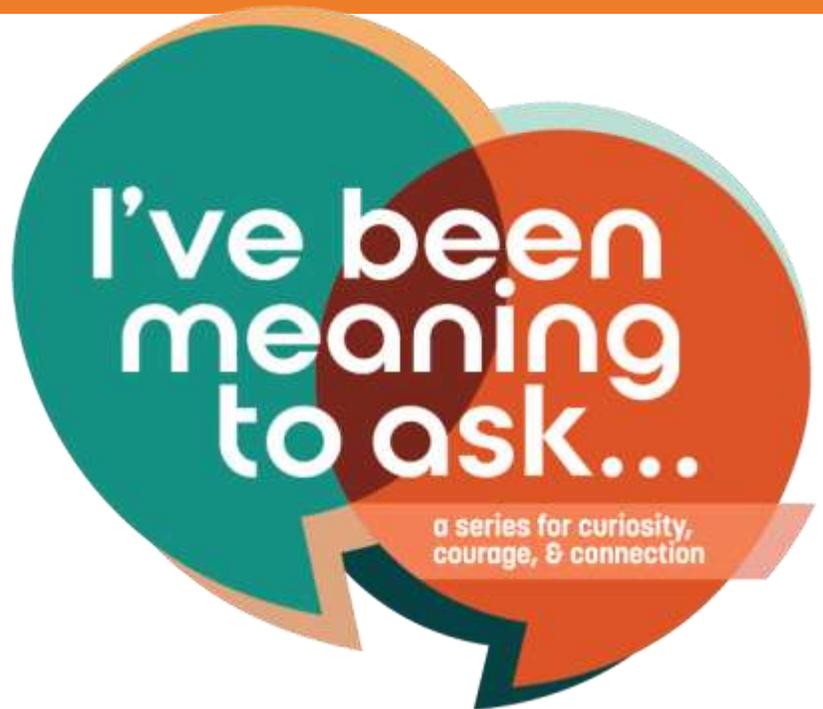
## Fall Sermon Series

### **"I've Been Meaning to Ask" Sermon Series**

"How can we listen to one another? How do we find connection despite distance? How do we create space for compassionate dialogue and for seeking the holy in one another?"

While the challenges of becoming beloved community to one another are endless, these questions are simple. Courageous conversations begin with simple questions and the curiosity to truly listen. This fall, as we begin to say, "I've been meaning to ask..." we begin to listen with intentionality, warmth, curiosity, and consideration.

Starting September 12<sup>th</sup>, join us for this 8 week sermon series as we explore ways to listen and love one another. Small groups and Sunday school classes will also be asking intentional questions of one another.



## Ames Pride

### **Save the Date**

#### **Ames Pride Around Town Sept 11th**

This year Ames Pride will be celebrating Pride Around Town on Sept 11th. You will be able to drive around town on September 11th and see how full of Pride Ames is. Collegiate/Wesley is participating in Pride Around Town by decorating the front of the church. We need your help on Friday, Sept 10th to chalk our sidewalk and chalk paint the stairs.

Meet in front of the church at 5:30. Bring your kids, neighbors and friends to help create a fun, welcoming and Pride-full space! Contact Lindsay Drake ([lindsay@cwames.org](mailto:lindsay@cwames.org)) with questions.



## Welcome New Staff

Emily Moen is the new Education and Campus Ministry Associate.

She is an Iowa State graduate and has been teaching preschool in Ankeny for the past eight years. Her favorite part of teaching was forming great relationships with students and families and looks forward to the same opportunity at Collegiate.

Emily lives in Ankeny with her husband and two teenage daughters. Most of her spare time is spent cheering for her girls on the volleyball court or watching them dance and sing in Show Choir.



Patrick Gagnon is a music educator dedicated to the development of the tuneful person. He is a K-5 Vocal Music Specialist and HS Vocal Music director for the Eldora-New Providence CSD and was most recently Director of Music at First Congregational UCC in Eldora. Patrick was principal organist/pianist, directed the Chancel Choir, and was founding director of both the First Carillon Handbell Choir, and the First Children's Choir. He served as Performance Chair for Hardin County Performance Series, and has been music director for productions of *Into the Woods*, *Les Miserables*, *The Secret Garden*, *Little Women*, *Oklahoma*, *Godspell*, *9 to 5*, and *Songs for a New World* for the Department of Music and Theater at Iowa State University. Patrick has served Handbell Musicians of America in numerous capacities as a board member in Area 1 and Area 8 and on the HMA Education Resource Task Force.

While living in Boston he served as Massachusetts Chair, Adult **Weekend Chair, Directors' Seminar Co-Chair**, Festival/Conference 2009 Chair, and finally Chair-Elect of HMA Area 1. Patrick was a founding member and later associate director of Back Bay Ringers, and was a member of Merrimack Valley Ringers. Since moving to Iowa in 2009, he has served Area 8 as Iowa Chair and has served the six-year Chair sequence on the Area 8 Executive Committee serving as Chair of the 2016 Festival/Conference in Springfield, IL. Patrick was a member and director of the North Central Iowa Handbell Ensemble, and is a founding ringer and director of Des Moines Concert Handbells. Patrick serves as the Education Chair for Area 8 and in that capacity has created content for and edited a series of monthly "Fourth Friday Focus" online seminars for Area 8 during 2021. This has helped handbell musicians in Iowa, Area 8, across the country, and around the world chat, learn, and ring together while we have had to remain apart. 1 and Area 8 and on the HMA Education Resource Task Force.



He is excited to work as the Director of Music Ministries at CUMC and continue to tell "the old, old story" in new and diverse ways. Patrick and his wife, Jodi Goble (Associate Teaching Professor in Voice), live in Hubbard, Iowa.

# Wesley House

## Meet the Wesley Residents Living in the Wesley House



### Sean Etherington

Hometown: Council Bluffs, IA

Favorite Food: Peaches

Major: Psychology

Thing I like about Wesley: Small groups are a really good way to connect with other students about topics we wouldn't normally talk about.

Why I'm living in the house: It's a really easy way to get involved with the church and it's super close to campus



### Hannah Johnson

Hometown: Waverly, Iowa

Favorite Food: Boneless wings or acai bowls

Major: Family Consumer Science Education

Something I like about Wesley : I have always felt accepted for exactly who I am here, and I am really drawn to the authenticity of this ministry.

**Why I'm living in the house: I wanted to feel more connected with this community.**



### Miah Manker

Hometown: Merville, Iowa

Favorite food: tacos and pizza

**Major: I'm double majoring** in Psychology and Human Development and Family studies,

My favorite part about Wesley: is all the friends I have made

**Why I'm living in the house: to be more involved in the church and to give back to the community**



### Ethan Murrow

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Major: Agricultural Education

Favorite food: Ravioli

Something I like about Wesley: Accepting place to grow in faith with great people

Why I'm living in the house: To be close to the church physically and spiritually. I also love living with my Wesley friends

# Opportunities to Serve

## Worship Liturgy Ministry

Are you interested in being a part of the worship leadership team by reading the liturgy and scripture in worship? We have opportunities each week at both services to be a part of this important ministry. Contact Lindsay Drake ([lindsay@cwames.org](mailto:lindsay@cwames.org)) with any questions. To sign up, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044EA4A82AA7F58-worship1>.

## Worship Welcome Team! We Need You!

Now that we are back to worshipping in person, 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 every single week. 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!



## Lunch on the Landing

We have a wonderful opportunity on Sunday's during the school year to provide a meal to college students that join us for worship at Collegiate Wesley. We are looking for hosts for the upcoming school year to provide a meal for approx. 20-25 students after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Starting Sunday, September 5th we will be serving to meal to go in reusable containers. Hosts will provide a meal for approximately 20-25 students. It is fun to sign up with a friend, neighbor, or small group.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Sign-up here [Lunch on the Landing](#) or contact Lauren Loonsfoot [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org)

## How Can I Serve? Survey

It's that time of year again when we work to find and call leaders that help run the ministries of the church. This is a great opportunity to serve the church and community, along with a way to get to know people more and make a difference. Please take a moment to fill out the brief survey so we can know what you feel called to. A member of the nominations subcommittee or staff will be in contact with you soon. [How can I Serve ? Survey.](#)



# Discipleship Pathway

The Church Council adopted a Discipleship Pathway back in 2019 as a way to clearly define the way we, as members, constituents and friends of Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation can live fully into our purpose.

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

The Picture (what this looks like)

Our inclusive community 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. In our quest to follow the example of Christ, we will** employ no circles of exclusion and we commit ourselves to loving acts of invitation, hospitality, and reconciliation, providing ministry to, for, and with all persons without exception.

We know all are loved and called by God. In response, we

- **Intentionally and enthusiastically share God's love with all people.**
- **Strongly encourage everyone to be engaged in learning about themselves and their faith in order to** strengthen their relationship with God and one another.
- **Intentionally and proactively invest in people so they realize their God-given gifts and empower them to** serve as a way of life.



In order to live into our purpose at Collegiate/Wesley, we believe that all persons should:

Invite (Red)

Invite all people into an inclusive community.

**Evangelism "Come with Me"**

Experience (Yellow)

**Experience God's unconditional love.**

Worship, care

Grow (Green)

Grow in faith to better know God, self and others.

Education, small groups

Serve (Blue)

**Serve God, community and creation as we seek to live into God's Kin-dom.**

Missions and justice

## Sending to Serve, Member Witness, and AMOS

**Save the date:** Ecumenical prayer service celebrating and promoting care for our world. This event will take place on the grounds of St. Cecilia Church on Sunday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.

**AMOS Special Offering: \$359 in physical cash and check donations.**

### **Congregational Witness from Mary Jean Baker during the August 29th Worship Service:**

The church from its inception has been called to lead and organize. We all lead to some extent. Some of us lead in quiet, small ways, others in prominent roles. I began learning to lead in 4-H. Since then I have learned a lot more, some of it in AMOS.

This church offers numerous opportunities for us to learn and use our leadership and organizing skills. Wesley students lead activities with and for fellow students. In addition, they may organize outreach to the larger community. Two examples before COVID were a blood drive and Study Buddies. Study Buddies brought together Wesley students and children from the homeless shelter on Wednesdays. The students helped the kids with their schoolwork; then they all ate together at our Soup Suppers.

People from this church often work with members of other congregations. One example is a team that coordinates with police to organize events in which immigrants and US-born persons can obtain ID cards. They have added COVID vaccinations to that project.

Some of our people have joined other congregants to address problems regarding housing or the environment. Some are joining with others to help immigrants and refugees from diverse countries who now live in Story County.

**Let us be open to God's Spirit working among us and beside us.**

### **AMOS:**

The surge of the Delta variant in Story County is creating lots of uncertainty. One thing that remains steady is the need for emergency financial assistance. Why? Many workers, particularly those in the service sector, have not yet resumed regular hours. On top of that, some of these workers have remained ineligible for pandemic benefits that would ease their economic burden.

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to continue to assist with rent and utility payments. The numbers are \$353,816.68 AND \$335,742.87. They represent the amount DONATED and the amount ALLOCATED by the Immigrant Fund since we started our work back in March 2020.

If you know someone who needs help, please refer them to us! (First time applicants can go to [tinyurl.com/storyimmigrantfund](https://tinyurl.com/storyimmigrantfund).)

If you are able to help, the Immigrant Fund still welcomes your support. We can receive checks at St. Cecilia, Attention: Immigrant Fund, 2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010 OR online contributions via our dedicated GoFundMe. Thank you!

Can you hear me now? Oh wait, I guess I should say, can you see me now? This month's update is a project I've been very excited about! The Board of Trustees, with the help of Endowment Board and a gift from a generous donor, was able to replace more of our aging windows. The windows that were replaced covers the area from the west door, and half of the south side of the building. We were, unfortunately, unable to replace the whole south side, due to lack of funding. These new windows not only improve the look of our building cosmetically, but they are very functional. The old windows were very inefficient and required plastic covers to be installed every winter. During the removal process, it was also discovered that the old windows were leaking water and caused some damage to the building. We hope to replace the remaining south wall as funding becomes available.





## Our Prayers

### Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For our High School service trip team and their work in Memphis this past week.
- I am so thankful to be with family this past week. They came from Texas, Pennsylvania, California a, North Carolina and of course from here in Iowa. There were around fifty of us. What a blessed and wonderful day we had. ~ Helen Farr
- I just watched the youth who went to Memphis. Thanks kids and Lauren for serving God and those who needed the help. What a great experience for each of you. God bless you. ~ Helen Farr
- To all who are organ donors. ~ Tim Garner
- For the volunteers at Food at First last Friday evening (Aug. 27th); Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Bev Kruempel, Dean Phillips, Dee Dreeszen, Sally Wilson, Betty & Tom Barton, Marjy Howe, and Lauren Loonsfoot.
- **For Maeann and Darrin Unser's 25th wedding anniversary on August 17th.**



### Prayers of Concern:

- For the complete recovery of Bob Huber, Tim Garner's brother-in-law, who received a heart transplant.
- For Mary Kay Polashek, Ames HS Orchestra Director, diagnosed with Bulbar ALS. Prayers for strength and healing. ~ Steph Scherbart
- For the safety and well-being of all students as they return to classes in the coming week. ~ Barbara Munson
- For Haiti – keep the people safe; help the people that help all; prayers for those who lose loved ones. ~ Suzie Dobbs
- For a clear path forward on my cancer journey after my appointment at Mayo this week. ~ LeAnn Meehan
- For those without power due to heat/storms/rain; the wildfire areas. ~ Suzie Dobbs
- For Eryn Shriver, recovering from a medical procedure.
- For Elizabeth Bolstad and positive outcomes.
- For Carl Arbuckle.
- For Henrietta Klarenbeek, following knee surgery.
- For those who will be impacted by Hurricane Ida. ~ Joshua Dobbs

## Worship at Collegiate/Wesley



Join us for outdoor worship at 9am on the first Sundays of September and October. Weather permitting, we will worship together on the south lawn. 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 **September 24th** 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.

Bring your items on communion Sundays to worship for our special collection 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](mailto:melston8@gmail.com) or 515-460-1694 with questions or if a different time for your donation drop-off is needed. Thank you!



# Church Council

## Church Council: Summary of 2021 Congregational Survey

Earlier this summer the Church Council invited all members of the Collegiate Wesley community who are middle-school-age or older to complete a three-part survey. The professional strategic planning consultant **provided the questions about CW's core values. Church Council included questions about CW's purpose and respondent demographics.** The 87 survey responses guided the Strategic Planning Retreat held July 23 and 24. The Council promised to share information about the responses with the CW community following the retreat. What follows is a summary of parts two and three of the survey. A future article will focus on Core Values.

### Demographics of the Respondents:

#### Age range

- 65+ = 54 respondents
- 55-64 = 14 respondents
- 40 - 54 = 7 respondents
- 25 - 39 = 7 respondents
- 19 - 24 = 1 respondent
- High school / middle school = no respondents
- One respondent chose not to identify

#### Gender Identity:

- She / her = 51 responses
- He/him = 22 responses
- I prefer not to answer = 12 responses
- Other comments - 2

Church Council plans to reach out to under-represented groups during the year through other means. It is important to hear voices of all age groups and identities as a road map for the future is designed.

CW Purpose: The purpose of Collegiate Wesley is to build an inclusive community that invites all people **to experience God's unconditional love, grow in faith and serve others.** The survey asked respondents to suggest ways that CW could better fulfill this purpose. The recommendations are

- FOCUS ON NEEDS OF AMES COMMUNITY
- JESUS vs. POLITICS
- INTENTIONAL WELCOMING
  - Welcome the whole person, not just as a token of a marginalized group
- LAITY
  - Expectation of engagement / volunteering
- RE-EXAMINE CHURCH STRUCTURE
- USE TECHNOLOGY TO REACH ALL PERSONS
- INCLUSIVE
- MUSIC
- ASK THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
- REFLECT ON AND HEAL HURTS FROM PREVIOUS TRAUMAS
- FAMILIES
  - Evening support groups
  - Outreach to young families

- BUILD COMMUNITY WITHIN CW
  - Better communication
  - Support clergy
  - More group fellowship
- FOCUS ON GOD
  - Align with God not society
  - Accept our faults and push each to be our best self in God's image**

The survey and the retreat are starting points for planning the future of Collegiate Wesley. The congregation, the Ames community, and the world are in very different places than we were when this process began in 2017. The Church Council welcomes additional input and insights from the CW community to guide in planning how CW can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.

## Methodist Men's Group

All of the men of the Church are invited to attend the Methodist Men's Wednesday Morning Coffee group. The group meets from 9 am to 12 noon in the Fireside Room. You can come and leave at any time. We help each other and have lively discussions about our lives and the community. If you were part of our group pre-CV 19, we would like to have you join us again. If you have recently found yourself with time available on Wednesday mornings, we would like to include you in the Group. You can call Doug Provow at 292-1892, if you want to know more about the Group.

## 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).





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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