

The

February, 2022 Vol. 41 Issue 2

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation
Ames, Iowa

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

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Weekly Email Announcement Deadlines:

Send Weekly Email submissions to mail@cwames.org by NOON on Wednesday. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

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Cover Pictures: taken on a very cold, late January 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 and put “*Communicator*” in the subject line. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 515-292-6936.

March Communicator Deadline: February 20, 2022

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

In our culture, February celebrates love. We have mostly looked at that in modern times as romantic love, and as a special day, I have always thought that it was a little questionable. What about people who are not **partnered or people who have lost their partners? Maybe for them it's a hard day.** Interestingly, St. Valentine, after whom the day is named, was a 3rd century priest who is the Saint of courtly love (which emphasizes nobleness and chivalry), Terni a town in central Italy), epilepsy and beekeepers. He healed the daughter of a Judge named Asterius, and converted him to Christianity after which Asterius freed all the Christian prisoners under his authority. Valentine (or Valentinus as he was called) was later arrested for continuing to evangelize and was beheaded by the Emperor Claudius.



It's a wonder to go from that story of a person's life to Valentine's Day where we think about romantic love. But it seems to me that Valentine's actual story is a story of passion and love. Here was a person who sought to tell people about God's love in a way that brought justice and hope. I would feel so much better about our February remembrance if we also pondered that a little more, how God has loved us and inspires us to be people of justice and hope. Maybe this February as we come to the edge of Lent, we could engage with that a little. How has God loved me? How have I communicated the love of God to others? How has my life been a part of justice and hope?

We continue in February to consider some of the parables of Jesus. On Feb. 6th, Rev. Paul Witmer will be **with us and bring us the message "Hold it fast with an honest and good heart" based on Luke 8: 4-10** which is the parable of The Sower. On Feb. 13, I will preach on the story of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15: 11-32. On the 20th, our stories from Jesus are The Mustard Seed and The Leaven Bread. On the **27th, we will celebrate the Transfiguration, thinking about Jesus' journey to the mountain top with several of his disciples.**

Many of you are reading Short Stories by Jesus written by Professor Amy Jill Levine. While not all of the stories will be used in worship, we will all be working together with what parables do as we read them, and what they invite us to consider in our own lives and the life of the world.

As we go forward into a month of love, may we all feel refreshed by the One whose abiding presence **confirms for us our worth, our value and how we are loved. There is a wideness in God's love that includes all of us. Let's celebrate that!**

Light and grace,
Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families



Children Sunday School

Children Sunday School classes meet upstairs in our Sunday school wing at 10:00 am-10:45 am. Masks will be required for all. This year we have classes for for Preschool, Kindergarten/1st grade, 2nd/3rd grade and 4th/5th.

Youth Sunday School

Middle school and high school Sunday school meets in the Youth room on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. All 6th-12th graders are welcome to attend! Thank you to Brenda Allen and Kari Smith for leading the group!

Sunday School helpers needed!

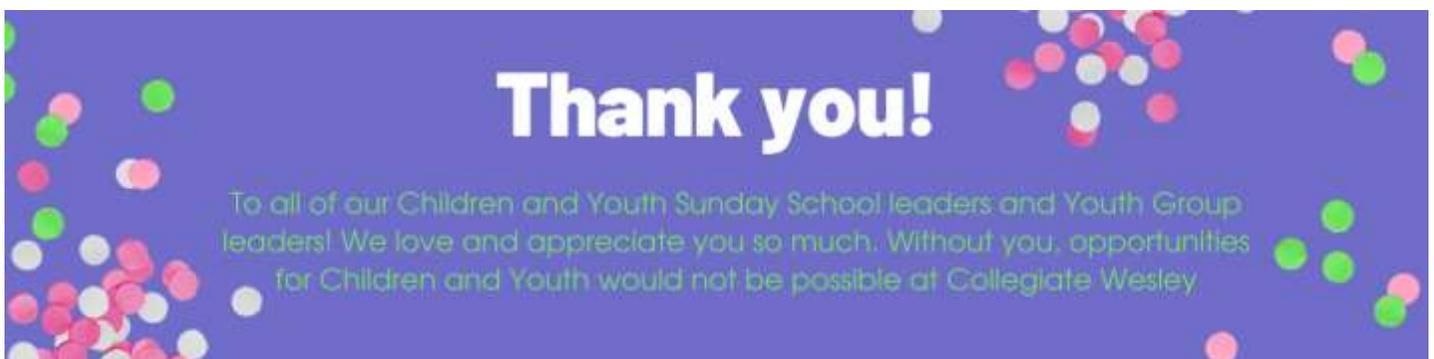
Do you have a passion for helping our younger generations learn about the love of God? We are adding more volunteers to our Sunday School team. We are in need of more regular volunteers for our Sunday School classrooms. As well as substitutes for when we are running short on leaders. Please pray about ways that your gifts can be used in our Children's ministry areas. Contact Lauren Loonsfoot for more information lauren@cwames.org

Youth Ministry Needs

We currently have a need for additional substitute for the Youth Sunday School class. If you are occasionally available to fill in please consider volunteering your time to our awesome youth. If you're interested in learning more please contact Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org

Youth Group

Middle School youth will gather from 5:30-6:30 every other week. In February we will gather on February 13th and 27th. High School youth group will gather from 6:30-7:30 in the youth room. High School youth group will meet every week.



Wednesdays at Wesley



Every Wednesday of the semester starting February 2nd we will have the following:

- 5:00-6:00 Study Hall in the Student Lounge
- 6:00-6:30 Free meal in Wesley Hall (lower level of the church 2622 Lincon Way Collegiate UMC)
- 6:30-7:00 package up meals for SHOP ISU Food Pantry.
- Large Group at 8:00 pm on Feb. 2, March 2, and April 6. located at 130 S. Sheldon

Sundays at Wesley

Join us on Sundays!

- Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 am
- Sunday School 10:00 am check out some of the great options on our website
- Lunch on the Landing: Free lunch Sundays at 12:00 in the student lounge 2622 Lincon Way Collegiate UMC

Small groups Spring 2022



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Three ways you can support the Wesley Foundation

Questions? Email lauren@cwames.org

Ways you can support the Wesley Foundation:

1. Pray: Pray for our students. It is so powerful knowing someone is praying for you. Pray for their classes, their health, mental and physical. Pray that they can find/have people and spaces that love and support them.
2. Volunteer your food making skills. One way to show our love to the students in by providing lunch on the landing or a Wednesday dinner. You can sign up and learn more about them at these links: [Sunday Lunch on the Landing](#), and click here for the [Wednesday night meal](#).
3. Give. Support a small group, retreat, special event or programing cost. Give online [here](#).

Have an interest in getting involved at a deeper level? Contact Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org

Worship Hospitality

Each week, we welcome guests, long time members and students into our space. It is important that we create an environment of welcome and hospitality that makes all people feel safe and a part of the community at Collegiate/Wesley. In an effort to fill these important roles, Reaching and Receiving is asking that each member and constituent of Collegiate/Wesley pick one Sunday a month to serve as a part of the Worship Welcome Team.

Are you ready to sign up for your week? Sign up here (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044ea4a82aa7f58-worship>).

Thank you for being a part of this important ministry. You are what makes Collegiate/Wesley a special place to be!

2022 Leadership Teams

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation has a wonderful slate of talented and committed leaders for 2022. Please check out our leadership list and thank our church leaders for their work and commitment. You can view the list [here](#).

Just Faith Book Discussion



Looking for a good book on progressive Christianity that is modern, relevant and fresh? *Just Faith, Reclaiming Progressive Christianity* by Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons is just the book for you. After several groups at C/W read this book, it was confirmed that this book is a must read. Don't miss out on this book and discussion. A generous gift of 25 books was anonymously given to this congregation so that more people can enjoy and learn from this book. Pick up your gifted book at the Welcome Center following worship.

This group will meet via zoom on Feb 10th and March 10th at 7pm. Grab your book and sign up today! <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-small-groups/just-faith-winter-reading-group>

Church Database Update

It's that time again! Time to update your personal information on our database. It only takes a few minutes to fill out your information. Those who are not connected to the online database will automatically receive an invitation to sign up for that.

Do you need help filling out your personal information? Church staff will be available in between the worship services on **February 6th** to assist you.

Questions? Contact Lindsay Drake or Janelle Keltgen.

<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/people/forms/155529>

Discipleship Pathway

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

Invite all people into an inclusive community.

Evangelism "Come with Me"

Experience

Experience God's unconditional love.

Worship, care

Grow

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

Education, small groups

Serve

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

Missions and justice

How do you live out your discipleship pathway at Collegiate/Wesley? Be on the lookout for how members of Collegiate/Wesley live out their discipleship pathway over the next few months.



Covid Policy Update

In light of the continued rise in Covid cases and other seasonal illnesses the Tactical Team updated our precaution practices. In person worship will continue, but the number of worship leadership participants will be limited to reduce exposure risks. Those who are feeling ill or have been directly exposed to Covid are asked to please stay home. Masks continue to be required in all areas of the building, including worship. Online worship offers an excellent way to stay connected and worship from the comfort and safety of your own home.

Coming Up in Worship



- ◆ January 30th: On Things Lost and Found - Rev. Dr. Mary L Bellon , Luke 15: 1-10, Parable of the Lost Sheep and Coin
- ◆ February 6th: Pastor Paul Witmer from Women at the Well will be preaching. Parable of the Sower
- ◆ February 6th at 2:00 pm Women at the Well 15 year anniversary celebration worship service at Collegiate Wesley. We hope you will join us for this special celebration.
- ◆ February 13th : The Distant Country Rev. Dr. Mary Bellon, Luke 15: 11-32. Parable of the Lost Son
- ◆ February 20th: A Little Mustard, A Little Yeast Rev. Dr. Mary Bellon Luke 13: 18-21 The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast
- ◆ February 27th: The Appearance of His Face Luke 9: 28-36 Transfiguration Sunday

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.



Women at the Well 15 Year Anniversary Celebration!

Worship in person, Sunday, February 6, 2022. 2:00 p.m.

Collegiate/Wesley Foundation, Ames.

Music by local musician and Psalmist Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. Greetings and proclamation from the Bishop and the pastors who have served Women at the Well.

Celebrating Reentry Ministry

We especially want you to join us for this celebration if you are one of the many people who have been part of Women at the Well's impactful Reentry Ministry. **Maybe you served on a team? Maybe you walked with a woman leaving prison. Maybe your church was a welcoming community. Please come join us!**

Generosity News

THANK\$!

I always enjoy writing this article for one of the early Communicators of the year. Because every year the members and friends of Collegiate/Wesley continue to amaze me with your financial generosity, and 2021 was no exception despite the interesting time in which we continue to live. You are good stewards of your money - and Collegiate/Wesley is wisely spending the money you donate to the church. In addition to the money you donated to the church's operating fund, you donated to many mission projects. Your donations are making a difference inside and outside the walls of the building.

Your continued support as we live into our Purpose (to build an inclusive community that invites all people to experience God's unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others) is greatly appreciated.

In gratitude,

David Orth
Director of Generosity

2022 Endowment Grant Applications Now Open

The Collegiate United Methodist Church / Wesley Foundation Endowment Board is now accepting requests to fund special projects in 2022. Grants may be used for the benefit, welfare, and betterment of the property and programs of CW. Grants may include support for capital expenditures, new or existing programs/ministries, and/or missions. Five percent of the average year-end Fund balance for the previous five years is allocated to be distributed. This year that amount is \$82,373.

How could \$82,373 be deployed to fulfill CW's picture and purpose? Grants in 2021 made a difference in the life of CW in the following ways.

- A new under-the-counter refrigerator for the Gathering Space will reduce energy costs and increase available counter space.
- Three OWL Labs allow classes, committees, and organizations to support hybrid meetings. During Covid and in the future these encourage inclusiveness, removing physical barriers to participation.
- New windows on the south and south-west corners of the building improve temperature control inside and reduce energy costs.

What ideas do you have to improve or enhance the property and / or programs of CW in 2022? The Grant Request form and instructions are available at (<https://forms.gle/GEQHffjwXBXdokQa6>) . Requests are due March 31, 2022. **(That's 8 weeks and counting.)**.

If you have questions contact Endowment Board chair, Mary Wickham (wickhammary1@gmail.com) or Grants Manager, Phil Poorman (ppoorman@aol.com).

Last month, we talked about how we are saving money through the Outside program of SunSmart Solar that was spearheaded by our Energy Research Team. This month, I wanted to shed light on how we are saving money Inside our building. We have our new projects fully up and running, we have saved thousands of dollars, a little over \$3,000 in October and a little over \$1,000 in November, compared to our average! This is due to three major changes that we made in the last two years. The biggest cost savings project that allows us to save by not turning on the heat so early in the season, is the HVAC heat pump project we did in 2020. Since we are able to heat rooms on demand with heat pumps, we don't have to fire up the building heat so soon, saving over \$100/day! The second big change is window replacement. We had more than 100 windows in need of replacement and have replaced about 1/3 of them so far. The new windows are a lot more energy efficient and user friendly. As a added bonus, they improve the look of the church building, and make the building look a lot newer. Both of these projects were major capital projects that received majority funding through the generosity of the Endowment Board. Without the use of major grants, projects of this size would not be possible. The third major thing we did to save money was replacement of all of our interior and exterior lighting with high efficiency LED lighting. Not only do these lights save money, they also are gentler on the eyes compared to fluorescent lighting. As we look to the future, we hope to continue to be able to replace more windows and reduce our energy costs even further! Stay tuned for more info and ways that you can help with Collegiate/Wesley's Energy Sustainability!

Sending to Serve

On Sunday, January 23rd we were so thankful to welcome and have staff from YSS attend worship and share about the ways we in the community can be involved in their work.

Sending to serve has identified three areas of focus for the next few years based off of previous information gathered and some information gathering from strategic planning's. Those three areas are

1. Food Insecurity
2. Affordable housing and Homelessness
3. Mental Health

YSS assists youth and children in all of these areas. One way you can help is by becoming a mentor! Head over to their website to learn more [here](#).



Feleecia Watkins, Mentoring Program Manager and Sarina Flathers, Community Engagement Coordinator

Our Prayers

Prayers of Concern:

- For Bob Humphrey, recently released from the hospital
- For the health and safety of our C/W staff and families
- For Kevin Schilling, having surgery at the Mayo Clinic
- For Bob Humphrey, recovering from a stroke
- For Xavier Johnson, having medical tests
- For Kai Johnson, recovering from Covid
- For Lindsay Drake, recovering from Covid
- For Lauren Loonsfoot, recovering from Covid
- For a friend who lost her brother to Covid. ~ Terry Fredrick
- For a successful biopsy at Mayo Clinic this Friday. ~ LeAnn Meehan
- For good results on Marit's further tests for cancer this week.
~ Barbara Munson
- For those who are sick, homeless, afraid, lonely, isolated, hopeless, suffering. And for my sister Yvette who is writing children's stories. ~ Melinda Cree-Anthony



Opportunities to Serve

Worship Welcome Team! WE NEED YOU!

We need your help on the, 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 team is a vital part of the Sunday morning experience.

We need a minimum of 10 people to fill the Worship Welcome Team roles for each service every single week. If you are interested in being a part of this team, sign up [here](#) If you are ready to sign up for a Sunday, use this sign up [here](#). Contact Lindsay Drake with any questions. Thank you for making Collegiate/Wesley an incredible place to be!

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) with any questions. Click [here](#) to sign up.



COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Immigrants

The Covid-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants was honored with not one, but two, Ames Humanitarian Awards at the Ames/Story County MLK Celebration on January 17. One award was for the entire Immigrant Fund ("organization") and one was for Anneke Mundel ("individual") who helped convene the Fund.

This effort was a community wide effort with the leadership of several organizations and institutions in our community, one being **Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation**.

Thank you to all of you for your support of the Fund, whether financial, moral, time/volunteerism, or other. Also, thanks to the grant funds from the Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation Endowment Board. Together, we helped lift one another.



COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Immigrants

The Immigrant Fund made its final allocation on December 8, 2021, wrapping up nearly 21 months of financial assistance to immigrants and refugees in our community. The generous contributions from many of you and others in our community made it possible to provide \$374,235 for rent and utility payments to 1028 applicants. The decision to end our financial assistance was difficult as some immigrant households continue to struggle. However, the original intent of the emergency fund was short-term assistance. We are delighted that Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance will carry this effort forward with a dedicated immigrant fund. Financial assistance thorough a donation to Good Neighbor **earmarked "GNEA Immigrant Fund" will continue to assist our immigrant and refugee neighbors in need.** The participating organizations and individuals in the COVID-19 Emergency Fund will continue to meet and work to ensure immigrant and refugee households have access to services and opportunities necessary for full participation in our community. The participating organizations are: ACCESS, Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance (AIRA), Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners (ASIP), Ames UCC, Bridges International, Collegiate United Methodist and Wesley Foundation, County Coordination Committee, Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, St. Cecilia, St. Thomas Aquinas, and United Way of Story County. This group will now be known as the Story County Immigrant and Refugee Collaboration. One of the first projects is advocating for language interpreters for our neighbors who have limited English proficiency. United Way of Story County is funding a pilot program to contract skilled interpreters for service agencies.

If you wish to become involved or to learn more about the Story County Immigrant and Refugee Collaboration contact Donna Vandelaar at advand2715@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

Clothing That Works

Current needs: Men's winter coats, gloves, hats, t-shirts, blue jeans, shoes, boots and socks. Women's winter coats, gloves, hats. We are in need of XXL to XXXXXL sizes for both men and women. We also need men's small and medium clothes.

Clean out your closets and help people in our community!



Meal Train

I am afraid I am missing people who may need meals. If you know of anyone in our church family who may be in need of meals please contact me directly at Meg.fairall@gmail.com. Please include the name, email address, phone number of the potential recipient, and the reason why they may need meals. Thank you so much, Megan Fairall



Food at First Volunteer Opportunity

We have the opportunity to prepare and serve the daily meal for Food at First on the fourth and fifth Friday of every month. There are two shift opportunities 2:30-5:30 AND/OR 5:00-7:30 pm. Early shift volunteers work together on prepping and packaging the meal for service. Second shift volunteers help package the meal and distribute the meal outside, along with cleaning up following the meal. We are serving on **February 25th**. We are preparing for 100+, thus more volunteers would be welcome. This is a great opportunity to build community, have fun, and serve others. To learn more, email Lauren Loonsfoot at lauren@cwames.org or sign up at [Food at First Volunteer](#).

New Little Food Pantry!

Thanks to the brilliant woodworking skills of Alan Vandehaar, the brand-new Little Food Pantry is open for business! Many thanks to Alan for his hours finding the right design and the right materials, building and painting, adding hardware, and installing it by the Annex door. The Pantry's bright red color is an added bonus.

The Pantry continues to need personal items the most right now. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, soap are all very low. Pop-tops are still the best for food. Canned fruit, SpaghettiOs, tuna, canned chicken, granola bars, and cereal go quickly.

You can leave your donations in the container by the west door of the church at any time. Monetary donations can be given online under **Missions, Other, then write in "Little Food Pantry."**

Thank you! Marti Elston





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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