

The

March, 2022 Vol. 41 Issue 3

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation
Ames, Iowa

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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 warm, overcast day in mid-February.

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.

April Communicator Deadline: March 20, 2022

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

As we enter Lent, our sermon series will be Songs of the Heart. Each week we will explore a different hymn or song that invites us to touch into the way music has shaped us, changed us, comforted us or challenged us. We will also hear from different voices. On March 6th, Rev. Cindy Hickman will be with us as we enter into Lord of the Dance. On March 13th Lindsay Drake will share with us For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table. Lauren Loonsfoot will take us on a journey with Amazing Grace on March 20th. On the 27th, I will be devoting my message at 9 am to **Ten Thousand Reasons and the Choir will perform Handel's Messiah at the 11 o'clock service that day. On April 3rd, we enter into the great** message celebrating creation with How Great Thou Art. Patrick Gagnon will offer his amazing musical talents on Palm Sunday with a selection of music and on Easter Sunday we will celebrate with the great hymn of the faith, Christ the Lord is Risen Today.



As we begin Lent, I want to personally invite you to our services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Wednesday, March 2nd, you are invited to gather in the sanctuary at 7 pm for the distribution of ashes, readings and music. There will be a digital Ash Wednesday service as well, and you can pick up a vial of ashes on Sunday morning the 27th if you plan to **worship at home. Maundy Thursday, April 14th, we will remember Jesus' passion as we take Communion** together also beginning at 7 pm. Good Friday, April 15th, we will hear the last words of Jesus and contemplate the journey of the cross that takes us to the Resurrection on Easter morning. There will be a digital Good Friday service offered to the community as well.

During Lent, we often give something up and/or take something up. This Lent, I invite you to take up the practice of daily prayer for our world and for our community and for ourselves. I invite you to remember how God walks with us in all things, no matter how difficult, and supports us in our joys. I invite you to begin a set aside time for a few minutes every day and allow yourself to know the presence of the Holy with you.

Light and grace,
Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families



Some of our 2nd and 3rd graders weaving prayer mats. Our K-5th graders are currently learning about the four friends that carried their paralyzed friend to see Jesus. Jesus healed the man and the friends showed compassion and loyalty to their friend. Sunday School for Children and Youth are located on the top floor of our building and are available every Sunday at 10:00 am

All Ages Lenten Small Group Edible Theology

All ages are welcome and invited to partake in this Lenten small group. We will journey together as we learn about Lent all while making bread/crackers together. Each week we will focus on a story and make something delicious to enjoy at home after class. We will gather in the Wesley Hall kitchen on Sundays from 1:00-2:30 pm starting on March 6th and ending on April 3rd. You can sign-up for the class at this [link](#).



Youth Group

Middle School February 27th and March 20th 5:00-6:30 pm in the Youth Room

High School

Sunday's at 6:30 in the Youth Room

*NO Youth Group March 13th

Sharing Your Time:

We have a wonderful group of children and youth that we provide education, service and fun opportunities to. We are always looking to add to our team of adult and youth leaders, Please contact **Lauren Loonsfoot** if you'd like to explore opportunities.



Wesley Partners with SHOP

During the Month of February the Wesley Students have made and delivered 80 meals to the Students Helping Our Peers (SHOP) food pantry on campus. Every Wednesday we gather for a meal together in Wesley Hall at 6:00 pm. There we laugh, catch up and **talking about what's going on in our lives.** Then at 6:30 we start packaging up meals to take to the food pantry. This is only possible with your support. You can support this ministry with your time, food and monetary donations. See more about how to get involved below.



Student Day Retreat Save the Date!

March 26th 11am- ? Join for a day of hiking, games, pizza and movies. More information to come but save that date! Looking for more information about how to get involved as a student? Email Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org



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 upcoming opportunities 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!

For Lent, the **Spiritual Formation Class** decided to do the video series "Witness at the Cross" by Amy-Jill Levine. We will be viewing and discussing a short video during class. There is an optional study book. If you'd like a copy of the book, please email mikeking@dwx.com or call or text 515-708-1419.

"Witness at the Cross"

March 6: Standers and Scoffers

March 13: The Other Victims

March 20: The Soldiers

March 27: The Beloved Disciple

April 3: The Women

April 10: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

Meeting at 10 AM Sundays in the Pine Room or via zoom.

If you aren't comfortable meeting in person and 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>.



About Guys Night Out

Join together with other guys for an evening of conversation. This group meets the first Monday of the month. Meets at 7:00pm via zoom. Sign-up here to get email reminders with the [link](#).

Women's Action Group

All women are welcome to attend our new Friday night group. We'll gather on the fourth Friday of the month at 8:00 pm. Each month we'll chat and act. Action items like: making cards for local teachers, creating care bags, and postcards to legislatures all while checking in with one another. Next gathering will be Friday, February 25th, 8:00 pm-9:00 pm at Dog-Eared Books. To sign-up for the group to receive reminders you can go [here](#). Contact Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org with any questions.



Wesley Hall Re-Do

It's finally completed! Wesley Hall is finished! Over the last year, much has changed in Wesley Hall. The refresh included; new carpet and tile in the entry, new lighting, new paint, all the woodwork redone, and a brand new coat closet. These updates will make Wesley Hall a lot cleaner and brighter for people to use. A lot of work from a few volunteers and myself were able to make big changes in Wesley Hall. The Wesley Hall team originally met a year ago and it's great to see the completion of this project! I hope you all get a chance to see and use that space soon. A special thanks to all who were involved with the renewal of Wesley Hall!



I love to travel. I like planning and studying where I will be going. I enjoy the experience of exploring places. I like meeting the people, sampling the food, absorbing the culture. I love taking pictures of the adventure and reliving it many times over as I view them later.

Twenty-four months ago Covid brought all of my travel to an abrupt halt. Since March 2020 I have had plenty of time to think about other journeys such as my life journey and my faith journey.

Collegiate Wesley's Discipleship Pathway provided me with a guide to assess my faith journey. My current standings are

INVITE: Needs work, I can invite people already at church to be a part of a CW activity, but I am not comfortable inviting other people to join me at church or to become a part of the CW community,

EXPERIENCE: Recognize the increasing value. **Covid's closure of the church made me sharply aware of how much I value the human connections that CW provides me, It is where I experience God's unconditional love in the flesh,** Helping to deliver monthly Communion bags to CW members gives me an opportunity to add those connections back into my life. Volunteering to help the Worship Welcome Team (usher, Welcome Center) also reconnects me with individual members of our CW community and introduces me to new people.

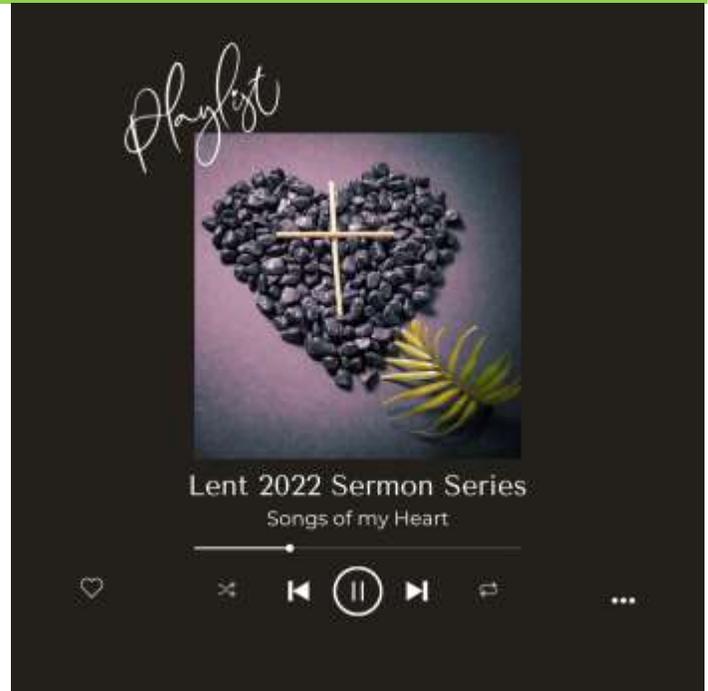
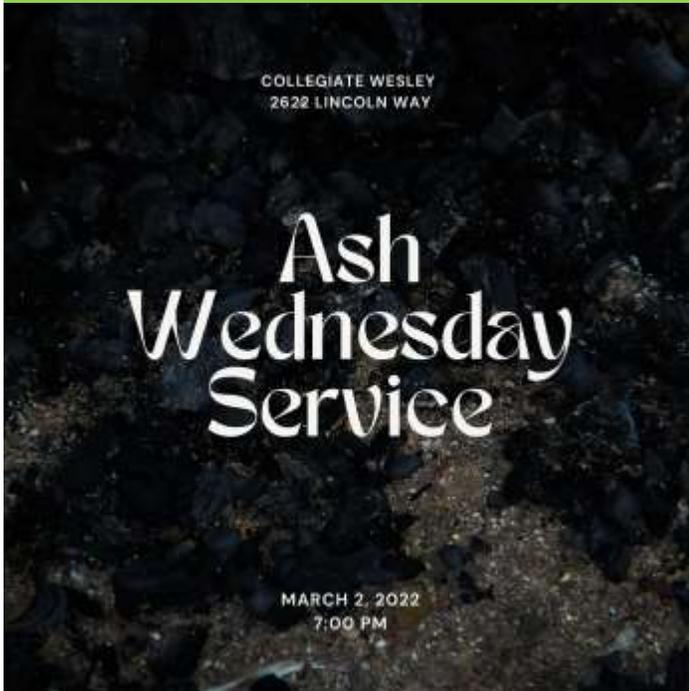
GROW: One of my favorite parts of my faith journey, One of the early attractions of CW was its adult education program. CW introduces me to authors, books, philosophies, and church structure that I would not have encountered on my own, I learn so much from discussing with other CW members. I learned early on that at CW Sunday School is not just for kids.

SERVE: Increasing my involvement. Prior to Covid this took the form of co-hosting Snak Chat each Sunday. I enjoyed seeing CW community members on a weekly basis. Covid coincided with my retirement. That provided me with more time to participate in other aspects of CW life. Currently I am one of the two Lay Leaders and a member of the Endowment Board. Each opportunity to serve introduces me to people I have not known and increases my knowledge of CW and its mission.

Each of us is on a faith journey individually and collectively as members of the CW community. **The four parts of CW's Discipleship Pathway provide guidance, opportunities, and challenges to keep traveling.**



Coming Up in Worship



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.

Endowment Board Grants—Change a Life, Change the World

In 2021 two of the Endowment Board Grants helped to change the lives and the worlds of members of the Ames Community. One grant helped to support the Covid 19 Emergency Fund for Story County immigrants. The funds provided assistance to non-student immigrants in Story County suffering economically from the effects of the pandemic. A second grant assisted the DACA Fund, a project of the Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners. The project provides the fee that DACA individuals must pay the federal government to register or renew their application for temporary legal reprieve from deportation. The support from both of these projects helped to feed children, to pay rent, and to keep families together. **In the words of one thankful mother, "Ustedes hacen un buen trabajo" (You are doing good work.)**

The Collegiate United Methodist Church / Wesley Foundation Endowment Board has \$82,373 for "good works" in 2022. What ideas do you or your cluster/committee have that could change the life of individuals in our community? Endowment grants offer support for new or existing ministries / programs. They can fund outreach through a mission. They provide opportunities to become more sustainable by making capital improvements.

The grant application is at <https://forms.gle/GEQHfFjwXBXdokOa6>. Applications are due **March 31, 2022**. If you have questions about the grant process contact Endowment Board (endowmentboard@cwames.org).

Finance Committee

Friends,

Despite the challenges of 2021, CUMC/WF's year ended with a burst of financial generosity by our members and friends. Including income we received from the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP), we ended the year with a surplus of revenue over expenses – a real accomplishment given the stress COVID has put on all of us.

Following input from the church's ministry and administrative groups, and with information from the recent stewardship campaign, the Finance Committee has compiled a 2022 church budget. This budget has been approved by both the Finance Committee and the Church Council, and can be found on page 11 of this issue of the *Communicator*, or at <https://cwames.org/staff/collegiate-wesley-leadership/>. Note that at this time the Wesley Foundation continues to have a separate budget, the details of which are not included in this document.

The budget we've adopted includes a planned deficit (expenses over revenue) of \$49,656. Two factors that contributed to this are the discontinuation of the PPP, and the Iowa Annual Conference's inability to continue financial support for our Wesley Foundation. Past experience suggests that we are not likely to actually experience a real year-end deficit of this magnitude. Increased giving would eliminate the need to cover any realized deficit through savings the church has built up over years (including 2021) in which revenue exceeded expenses. Depending on savings to cover a budget deficit is certainly not a strategy **we are willing to adopt as "standard practice", but it is important that we maintain the programs and services that allow CUMC to accomplish its critical mission in our community and beyond.** I want you to know that all the ministry and administrative groups of the church have constructed very responsible budget requests for 2022, and that the Finance Committee will, as always, continually monitor income and expenses throughout the year. As always, please feel free to contact me (maxorlori@gmail.com), or our Financial Secretary Jason Janssen (jason@cwames.org) if you have related questions.

Thanks for your generous support of our church; with your continued support, 2022 will be another year of programs and mission of which we can be proud.

Max Morris
Chair, CUMC/WF Finance Committee

Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Found.
2022 Budget

2022 Budget

Headings and Account	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Revenues			
Offering			
1-40010 - Estimate of Giving	\$640,000	\$ 570,000.00	\$ 592,800.00
1-40011 - Member/constituent gifts (no EDG)	\$78,000	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 81,120.00
1-40040 - Plate/Adult Sunday School Offering	\$5,100	\$ -	\$ 5,100.00
Total Offering	\$723,100	\$ 648,000.00	\$ 679,020.00
Other Income			
1-40065 - Room Use	\$10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
1-40195 - Adventures Preschool Rent	\$3,500	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
1-40220 - Annex Room Use Fees	\$3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
1-40222 - Transfer from Annex	\$11,000	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
1-40226 - Interest	\$11,000	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
1-40300 - Faith Income	\$11,500	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,500.00
1-40302 - PPP Loan Forgiveness		\$ 107,640.00	\$ -
Total Other Income	\$50,000	\$ 135,640.00	\$ 44,000.00
Balance Forward			
1-40054 - Balance Forward		\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues	\$773,100	\$ 783,640.00	\$ 723,020.00
Expenses			
Personnel	\$512,362	\$ 563,037.56	\$ 479,697.00
Conference Apportionments	\$105,166	\$ 78,676.00	\$ 68,173.00
Property	\$140,000	\$ 131,970.00	\$ 147,000.00
Finance			\$ 11,500.00
Programming			
Leadership Development	\$1,800	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
Discipleship	\$1,125	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 1,125.00
Reaching/ Receiving Cluster	\$15,285	\$ 15,285.00	\$ 15,285.00
Christian Education Cluster	\$26,328	\$ 25,828.00	\$ 25,850.00
Worship Ministries Cluster			
Music Program	\$11,700	\$ 6,496.00	\$ 6,496.00
Other Worshipful Programming	\$4,095	\$ 5,299.00	\$ 9,475.00
Congregational Care Cluster	\$3,070	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
Sending to Serve Cluster	\$2,825	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 2,825.00
Total Programming	\$66,228	\$ 60,458.00	\$ 64,656.00
Total Office Operations	\$27,000	\$ 25,885.00	\$ 34,650.00
Total Expenses	\$850,756	\$860,027	\$805,676
Budget Surplus/Deficit	-\$77,656	-\$76,387	-\$82,656
1-96000 Wesley Foundation Shared Expense	\$77,677	\$77,677	\$33,000
Surplus/Deficit	\$21	\$1,290	-\$49,656 **

** deficit can be covered by funds available 1-26702 Cash Forward from Prior Years - GO, if necessary

Our Prayers

Prayers of Concern:

- for Sue Cronin and family on the loss of Bill. Bill passed unexpectedly in December. If you'd like to reach out to Sue, you can find her at 2880 Grand Ave., Unit #505, Des Moines 50312.
- for Xavier Johnson, undergoing medical tests.
- for Doug Provow, recovering from Covid.
- for Kay and John Thomson on the recent loss of their brother-in-law.
- for all those who have Covid or are having Covid now. ~ LaRue Clark
- my friend Susan's father has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and so has begun hospice care - prayers for Church and his family. ~ Brenda Allen

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- Jonathan, Kaylin, and Noah Contag welcomed Wesley on February 3! We celebrate with them!
- For an amazing confirmation class. Full of thoughtful young students who are engaged and curious. What a gift to grow with them.
- Thank you for our great staff who give us wonderful leadership. ~ LaRue Clark
- Elizabeth, Andrew, and Evelyn Bolstad welcomed Grace and Lillian (Lily) on Monday, February 21st. We are celebrating with them!



Notes of Thanks

Thank you to the tag-team of Dee Dreeszen, Jane Kennedy, and Jane Jacobson for keeping the office running while Janelle was on vacation the week of Feb. 14. If you phoned or dropped by the church during that time, you experienced their hospitality!

Thank you to David Orth for attending Confirmation class on February 6th to help lead the class in a conversation about giving and financial stewardship.

Thank you to Jill and Brian Brand for their ongoing support for the Wesley Foundation. For the countless meals for Lunch on the Landing and the positive words of affirmation.



Thank you to Janell Eby for providing Lunch on the Landing for the Wesley students!

Generosity News

Giving to the Church? It's not just checks and cash anymore...

Many of you use these traditional methods of financially donating to the church: writing a check or placing money in the offering plate. And these methods are still terrific ways to donate to Collegiate/Wesley.

Some of you are taking advantage of a process called Electronic Fund Transfer. This allows you to make a one-time payment or set up reoccurring payments from a bank account or credit card – and the donation is transferred electronically. If you have an interest in learning more about this option, please contact me.

Here are three alternative methods you can utilize to donate:

Text-to-give: Using your smart phone, simply text the amount you want to give to 84321. You will receive a text message that helps you through the process of identifying Collegiate/Wesley as the church to whom you would like to give, logging into your profile, adding or selecting a payment **method, and submitting a donation. After the initial setup, next time you want to donate it's as easy as texting the amount you want to give to 84321.**

Church Center app: Install this app on your smart phone (or just open it if you already have it) and it easily guides you through the process.

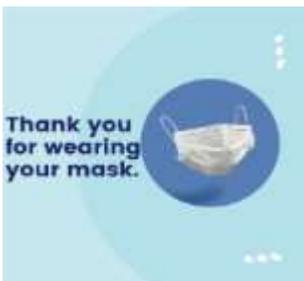
Planning Center: Log in to your account and donate from your computer.

Thanks for your financial support of Collegiate/Wesley! We are living into our Purpose (to build an **inclusive community that invites all people to experience God's unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others**) thanks to your generosity!

Sincerely,

David Orth
Director of Generosity
david@cwames.org
515-451-6033

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.

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

Clothing That Works

Current Needs: Men's clothing. Clean out your closet and donate to Clothing That Works. Bring your donation to CTW on Wednesday, 2-5pm or drop them off at the west door of the church, 9am-8pm. We need every type of clothing: Shirts, pants, jeans, sweatshirts, belts, shoes, etc.

Clean out your closets and help people in our community!



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 **March 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](#).

Little Food Pantry

Continued thanks to all! Your kindness is appreciated every time someone opens the pantry door and finds a treasure inside for themselves and their families.

Pop-top cans are still the best for food. Items that won't spoil if frozen and thawed are great right now. Sugar, flour, crackers, stuffing, boxed dinners, spaghetti, and peanut butter. Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex) are very helpful.

Remember that on the first Sunday of each month there will be a container at each of the Sanctuary doors for your donations. You can also leave your non-perishable items in the container by the west door of the church at any time or you can put them directly in the Pantry. Monetary donations may be given online under Missions, Other, then write in Little Food Pantry. Those funds are used to supplement the food donations given. For questions or more information, email Marti at melston8@gmail.com.



Last but not least - take a drive through the parking lot on the north side of the Annex and check out the beautiful new red Pantry!



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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