

The

April, 2022 Vol. 41 Issue 4

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 the last day of March.

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.

May Communicator Deadline: April 20, 2022

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

We live in a noisy culture in which much talk clamors for our attention. What's more, many of us also love to talk. And when we read the Bible, we learn that God love to speak too. Yet, God doesn't just drone on in the same way as us. God speaks to God's people in many different ways. In the Old Testament God spoke through a flood, through promises, through prophets, through earthquakes and even in the "sound of silence" or sometimes translated, "the still small voice." When we are out and about in our lives, sometimes we hear God speaking to us in a sunrise or a bird calling or the quiet of the forest. Maybe we hear God speaking through our children or the voice of a friend or even in our daily devotionals. But God spoke most decisively to us and to the world in Jesus. In Hebrews 1:3 Jesus is called, "the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's being." The Scripture tells us that Jesus was with God at the foundation of the earth, and yet, Jesus comes to be with us, to walk with us, to comfort us, to challenge us, to help us do the right thing. Jesus Christ comes to share God's very self with us to remind us that we are a part of God's eternal story. The story that never ends. God speaks to us in Jesus, and we should pay attention. Because in that Word of Relationship lies strength, courage, faith and love.



We are preparing to hear God speak again to us during these days leading to Holy Week and Easter. On April 3rd, the Rev. David Weesner will bring the message based on the hymn How Great thou Art. I have known Dave for many years - for seven of them he was my District Superintendent -- and I can tell you, you do not want to miss his sermon. He is an exceptional preacher and will allow us to hear a word of God to us.

On April 10th, Patrick Gagnon will lead us on Palm Sunday with a selection of hymns to celebrate this entry into Holy Week. We will also have the Palm Parade during the morning worship. On Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 7 p.m., we will gather around tables in Wesley Hall to commemorate the Last Supper. This will be a moving, and meditative service. We will have a service of hand washing within the service and you will have an individual small bowl and towel to take part. On Good Friday, April 15th at 7 p.m. the Chancel Choir will be with us as we go through seven readings that walk us to the Cross. The music will take us into the deep place of recognition of the cost of God's love for us. Please be there. We all need to remember again the story of this sacrificial act.

Easter Sunday, April 17th, we will lift our voices at 9:00 and 11:00 with the great anthem of the faith, **Christ the Lord is Risen Today**. We will rejoice that death is never the final word, that God's love and goodness reaches beyond the grave to embrace us in eternal life and hope. We lift up together the knowledge of the ways Christ continues to call us, to gather us and to send us for the transformation of the world in love and justice.

On April 24th, we will conclude our series of Songs of the Heart with Hymn of Promise, one of my personal favorites. Please join with us to celebrate the promise of new life, the promise of Christ with us and the promise of our belonging to the Beloved Community.

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!
Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families



Youth Group

Middle School April 3 and April 17,
5:00-6:30 pm in the Youth Room

High School

Sunday's at 6:30 in the Youth Room

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.

Save the dates!

Vacation Bible School

June 5, 6, and 7 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Elementary Service Trip

June 9th and 10th Ames and Des Moines

Middle School Service Trip

June 12-15th Minneapolis/Saint Paul

High School Service Trip

June 20- 26 Dallas/Fort Worth



Wesley Partners with SHOP

During the Month of February the Wesley Students have made and delivered **244** 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.



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





Trevor Project

Join with the staff as we participate in the 50 Mile Challenge for the Trevor Project. The Trevor Project focuses on suicide prevention among LGBTQIA+ youth. The staff have committed to walking together at noon on Mondays (except the Monday after Easter), and you are invited to join them. We will meet at the west entrance and leave for the walk promptly at noon. Be on the lookout for other group walking activities and feel free to form your own walking groups. To learn more about the project and join yourself, visit (<https://www.facebook.com/TheTrevorProject/>)

Confirmation

Our awesome group of confirmands are rounding the end of their year. They only have a couple of classes and a retreat left before Confirmation Sunday on May 1st. Over this next month, please be in prayer for these students as they discern their call to membership and work to articulate their faith.

Spiritual Formation Class will cover the following topics:

April 3: “Witness t the Cross-The Women” by Amy-Jill Levine, led by Bev Kruempel

April 10: “Amy-Jill Levine and Holy Week” led by Mike King (a break from the book for a series of even shorter videos).

April 17: “Witness at the Cross: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus” by Amy-Jill Levine, led by Bev Kruempel

April 24: Starting the video series “Reclaiming church” by J.J. Warren, led by Mike King. If you want a copy of the book, email mikeking@dwx.com or call/text 515-708-1419.



Meeting at 10 AM Sundays in the Pine Room or via zoom, masks welcome, but not required. Masks encouraged if you've been travelling. 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

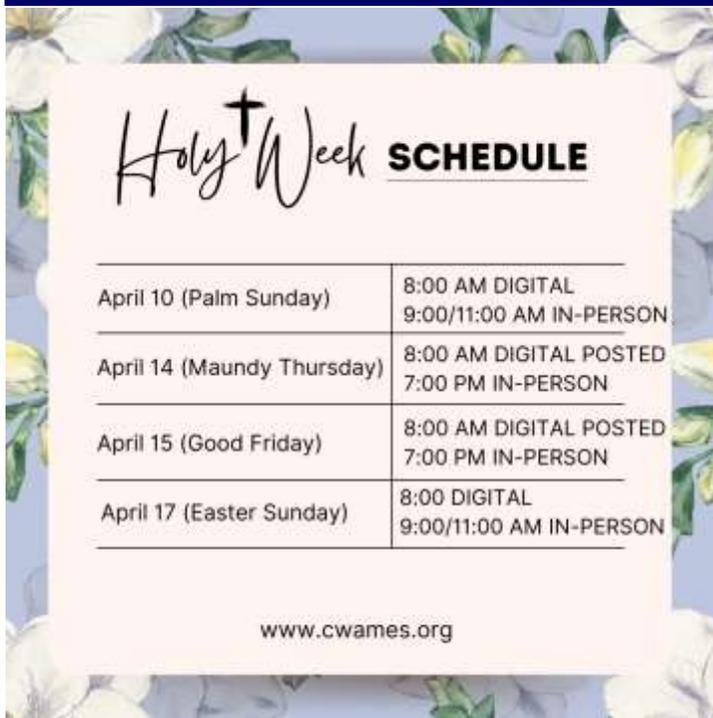
Join together with other guys for an evening of conversation. This group meets the first Monday of the month. Meets at 7:00pm via zoom. Sign-up here to get email reminders with the [link](#).

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, April 22nd, 8:00 - 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.

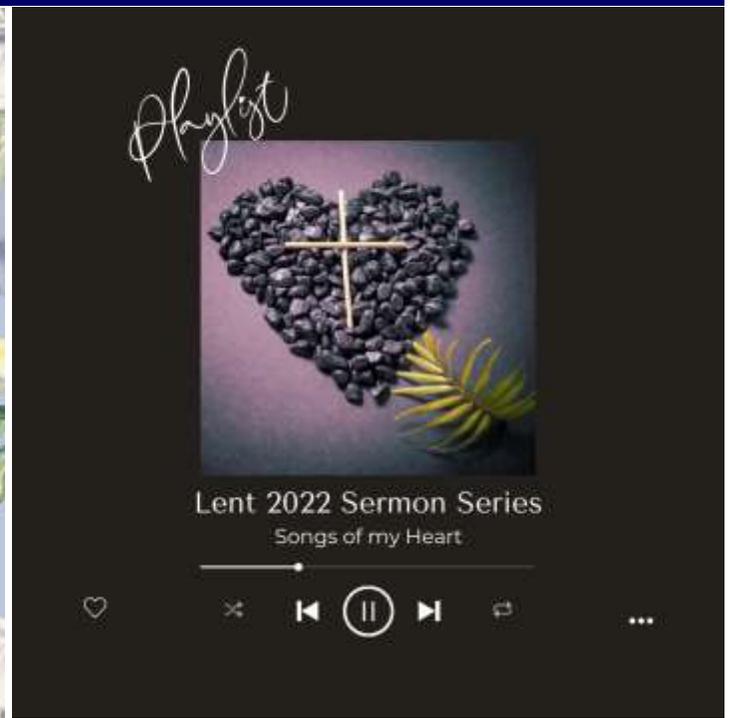


Coming Up in Worship



Holy Week SCHEDULE	
April 10 (Palm Sunday)	8:00 AM DIGITAL 9:00/11:00 AM IN-PERSON
April 14 (Maundy Thursday)	8:00 AM DIGITAL POSTED 7:00 PM IN-PERSON
April 15 (Good Friday)	8:00 AM DIGITAL POSTED 7:00 PM IN-PERSON
April 17 (Easter Sunday)	8:00 DIGITAL 9:00/11:00 AM IN-PERSON

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Coming up on our Lenten Playlist:

- * April 3 Rev. David Weesner
How Great Thou Art
- * April 10 Patrick Gagnon What Wondrous Love
- * April 14 Maundy Thursday 7 pm, Wesley Hall
- * April 15 Good Friday 7 pm, Sanctuary
- * April 17 Pastor Mary Bellon
Christ the Lord is Risen Today
- * April 24 Pastor Mary Bellon Hymn of Promise

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.

Update from C/W Tactical Team

NEW MASKING POLICY

Beginning April 1st, Collegiate/Wesley will no longer require masks but strongly encourage mask-wearing in our facilities. Small groups and other groups are encouraged to make masking decisions based on the various needs of the group. The Tactical Team asks that if you are feeling sick, please stay home. Digital worship will continue to be offered each week. The team will continue to monitor the positivity rates and CDC recommendations.

You are encouraged to enter the building using the West, South, or North doors. The East door will remain locked. We are so thankful for the ways we can continue to take care of one another and worship together.

Finance Committee

As many of you are aware, CUMC/WF has had a contract with David Orth for several years through which he has provided fundraising expertise to the church. Until recently, that contract was managed by the Endowment Board.

In the most recent renewal of David's contract (January 1, 2022), management responsibility was moved to the Finance Committee. While many of his efforts under this new contract will be similar to those he has provided in the past, this change broadens the scope of his position to provide support for fundraising throughout the church and Wesley Foundation. The Finance Committee has established a subcommittee to work closely with David to develop priorities and strategies for his efforts.

Through his work as Director of Generosity, David has played a key role in the financial affairs of CUMC/WF for many years. **As the church moves forward to find the "new normal" beyond the COVID-driven** stress of the last two years, the Finance Committee is delighted to collaborate with David in his newly redefined position.

Max Morris
Chair, Finance Committee

Byrne Endowment Fund



2022 Applications

The Byrne Endowment Fund was established by a member of the church, Dennis Byrne, who had a heart for missions and who was involved with many different mission trips during his lifetime. The proposals for grant funding are available to support United Methodist associated groups and individuals in mission work, with an emphasis on international work as well as local missions.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 granting year. You can find the application form [here](#). The deadline for applications is April 15th. If you have any questions please contact Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org If you are a past recipient and are looking for the project completion form you can find that here.

Trustees/Security

It has come to my attention that some of you may not understand the reasons the Trustees have implemented stronger security measures at the church, both in the main building and at the Annex. Since the main building was reopened last summer, we have seen an influx of people coming into the building with weapons or who have sought to vandalize. The policy that the Trustees developed and enacted to secure the building with electronic locks and security cameras was encouraged by myself and in consultation with the staff who work in the building. The purpose is to increase safety not only for the staff, but also for anyone who is in the building. Any of our members who wish or need to access parts of our building can fill out a short form and receive a key card that will allow them access to areas closed off to the general public. This policy means that when members of our church, or other guests, are anywhere in the building, they, too, are safe. The west door and hallway remain open to the general public with use of a restroom, benches to sit, and a public computer. Additionally, at the door to the Office Suite/hallway, there is a doorbell and intercom. So if you were to need to come into the office, you can ring the doorbell and talk to Janelle through the intercom and she will let you in.

This last week, we had to alert the Ames PD of one person in our building who entered the west hallway and began to pull things off the wall and act in an erratic way. The previous day I assisted a man with housing and later received a phone call that he had been arrested for domestic abuse with a weapon and drug trafficking. These are just two of the most recent incidences. I share this information not to alarm you, but to explain why we need to take our security seriously. We are dedicated to keeping our staff safe, our members safe, and our visitors safe when they are on our campus. Thank you for understanding.

Pastor Mary Bellon

G.S. Nichols Scholarship

G.S. Nichols Scholarship Applications

G.S. Nichols Scholarships provide financial aid to students from Collegiate who plan a career of Christian service.

The recipient of the 2021-2022 scholarship award was Jason Ellingson. Jason attends Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, KS, and is enrolled in the 3 year Doctor of Ministry program.

Scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 academic year are available, due by May 1. For questions or requests for application forms, contact Paula Anderson, pdanderson@mchsi.com, or Dean Phillips, phillipsrdean@mchsi.com.

Are you interested in serving on the G.S. Nichols Scholarship Foundation Board? If so, please contact one of us.

High School Youth Group



Our Prayers

Prayers of Concern:

- For the family of James "Ed" Dixon, who passed on February 25. His obituary can be read [here](#).
- For Barb Pedersen and family on the death of her father, Max Bisbee.
- For my parents Greg and Deanna Etherington as they both are both grieving the sudden loss of their fathers this winter. ~ Sean Etherington
- **For Lindsay Drake's family as they mourn the passing of her brother, Lynn.**
- For Marilyn Green, hospitalized at Mary Greeley.
- Prayers for Ukraine: to view an email that came out from the Bishop's office, including a prayer for Ukraine, click [here](#).
- for safety during surgery and good outcome from Deborah's (Blaedel) Knee Replacement Surgery scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2022
- **"It is nearing the time where my wife Linda and I need to make the decision about our puppy Tabitha. She is almost 13 years old and has liver cancer. We ask for prayers for guidance as to know when."**
~Ron Folkwein
- For Mitch Meehan and family in the loss of his father, Elwin Meehan.
- For the sister and brother-in-law of Barb Pedersen, in their recovery from major surgery.
- **For Bryan Loonsfoot and family following the passing of Bryan's grandfather Michael McGuire**



Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For a fabulous Food at First crew last Friday (February 25): Dee Dreeszen, Bev Kruempel, Sally Wilson, Mary Ann and Paul Lundy, Alex and Grant Olsen, Marjy Howe, Erik Anderson, Stephanie Hamilton, Kaitlyn Barnes, Jacob Linch and Lauren Loonsfoot.
- for last Friday's (March 25) Food at First Crew: Lauren, Zayden and Emry Loonsfoot, Bev Kruempel, Dee Dreeszen, Sally Wilson, Janelle Keltgen, Mary Ann and Paul Lundy, Marjy Howe, Bud Everett, Myah and Maysen Smith, and Natalia Rios.

Notes of Thanks

- Thank you to the good and kind folx of Collegiate/Wesley for all of your care and support with the untimely loss of my brother, Lynn. My family felt carried through this difficult time by your prayers. ~ Lindsay Drake
- Thank you to all who supported the bake sale on Sunday, March 27, 2022 We raised over \$400 to benefit the Library at Kate Mitchell Elementary!
- Thank you to the High School Youth group for their help in picking up trash around the property during their youth group time.
- Thank you to Bruce and Barbara Munson for providing a Wednesday Wesley Meal
- Thank you to Jill, Brian, Tyler, Sean, Zach and Dylan Brand for providing a Wesley Wednesday meal

Sending to Serve



Special Lenten Offering:

Kate Mitchell Elementary Library

During the season of Lent we will be collecting monetary donations as well as physical books for the Kate Mitchell Elementary. Earlier this year we were informed that Kate Mitchell was looking for support in updating their library. The main request on their list? Biographies! How cool is that? They have put together a wish list that you can find [here](#). Please only purchase books from this list so we know what books are purchased and they are the correct ones needed for the library. We will also be collecting monetary donations as they can make the money stretch further through wholesale book retailers. At the time of this publication we have collected

Update from Katherine Parker

Register [here](#) to join me on April 7 at 9am PDT (noon EDT) for an zoom overview of the ministry of the United Mission to Nepal. This is part of the #StillinMission series organized by Global Ministries. You'll also get to hear a bit from my mission colleagues serving in Angola, Switzerland and Central African Republic.

I'll present a wide range of ministries with the hope that you will invite me to come and join your church or group for a more detailed chat on the topic(s) that inspire you. Even if you can't make the April 7 event, you can still sign up for your own time [here](#). As my field visits around Nepal get confirmed I'll continue to add available dates.

I'm excited to keep connected with you. Thank you for your ongoing prayer and support. Your sister in service for Christ, ** **Katherine**

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

Clothing That Works

Clothing That Works needs your help!

Spring cleaning time is here. Clean out your closets and let your adult clothing be loved all over again. Your clothes will begin a new journey and be part of new memories, far better than just sitting in your closet not being worn.

So share the love – donate and send your clothes on a new adventure!

Donations can be dropped off at CTW on Wednesday, 2-5pm or to the donation box in the west hallway of the church, 9am-8pm.



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 **April 22nd and 29th**. 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

Spring is here! Keep the Pantry in mind as you clean out your kitchen cabinets. (Please check the expiration dates first though.)

Right now, it's well stocked with canned vegetables but veggies are always accepted and last a long time. Needs include soup, cereal, spices, salt & pepper, sugar, flour, crackers. Dishwashing detergent, any kind of soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo. Plastic silverware is still in demand.

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.





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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