

The

May, 2022 Vol. 41 Issue 5

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 between rainy days in mid-April.

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.

June Communicator Deadline: May 20, 2022

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

"I hope I am not such an anachronism that I am alone in remembering to throw open the windows day. As a child I remember it clearly. It came when grandma decided it was time for Spring cleaning. The windows went open, no matter how cool the air, and the dust started flying. Suddenly the house was filled with new life, fresh air and hope. I pray some of you remember a happy memory like this because I want to invite us all to throw open the windows in the days to come. I want us to feel flooded with the clean scent of Spring. I want us to be restored by a new beginning. You will know when the windows need to be opened in your life. Your heart will tell you when the time comes. Your spirit will find its season." - Steven Charleston



We are in the season of throwing open the windows and feeling ourselves flooded with **“the clean scent of Spring.”** What does that mean for us here at Collegiate/Wesley? It means that we greet **May and move toward summer with celebrations, honoring, commitment to service and a sense of God’s hand in ours** leading us through this wonderful, if sometimes challenging, life.

One of the things that Collegiate/Wesley represents in the world is a place of welcome: no matter who you are, no matter who you love, no matter what the messy details of your story are, you are welcome to be a part of our community. We deeply believe that within each person is the Imago Dei - the image of God - and so as we gather, we are glimpsing the Presence within each one who comes. The Presence that is held uniquely in a person and then, together, we reflect the Beloved Community. When we join our efforts in mission, it is not to **“them.”** It is to **other children of God, other persons who also make up the Beloved Community and hold within them the Imago Dei.** When we come together to worship, to play music, to **study, to fellowship, we are a gathering of the variety of ways that God is expressing God’s self within human beings.** This is what inclusion means: to understand that no one is outside the circle of God’s creation. And each of us represents an opportunity to be a window that is thrown open and then the fresh air of the Spirit blows through our lives and into the life of the world.

That’s pretty amazing, don’t you think? You, yourself, are a window to be opened. Sometimes we get all closed up, and things might get a little musty, or a little depressed, or a little stale. And then, we feel God in the season of our life, and we know, “now is the time to open the windows.”

We are going to be doing that together this May. We are opening up the windows and celebrating our Confirmation Class as they join the church on May 1st. We are going to feel the energy and joy of these young people who have traveled together for a school year, learning and loving, and who now make their profession of faith. Be with us to celebrate them. On May 22nd, we will be honoring our graduates who are crossing a threshold, who have achieved a milestone. Join us that Sunday to see how they are showing us **the Spirit of God’s creativity and purpose! On May 8th we will recognize our Wesley students whose lives have intertwined with ours all year.** Be present to greet them! And on May 15th we invite Rev. Henrietta Klarenbeek to our pulpit. I know she will help us open the windows. Our last Sunday in May, the 29th, we will begin our outdoor services. Our summer theme is A Walk in the Wood with Winnie the Pooh, and we are going to have so much fun both with our story time and with our interactive message. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and open the windows of your heart!

Perhaps in this season, this time of Spring, you might ask yourself: “what fresh air do I need in my life? In my personal life, in my family life, in my spiritual life, in my friendships and in my service?” I would imagine that if we all do this during this Spring, as we move into summer, we will know something remarkable has happened to all of us together. We just might feel again the love and grace of God with us in a new and exciting way. We might sense renewal and hope in just the way we need in our walk of discipleship.

Light and grace,
Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families



Youth Group

Middle School Sundays from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Youth Room

High School

Sundays from 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.



Register for VBS: [here](#).

Register to Volunteer: [here](#).

What is the Wesley Center?

It's family. We love each other

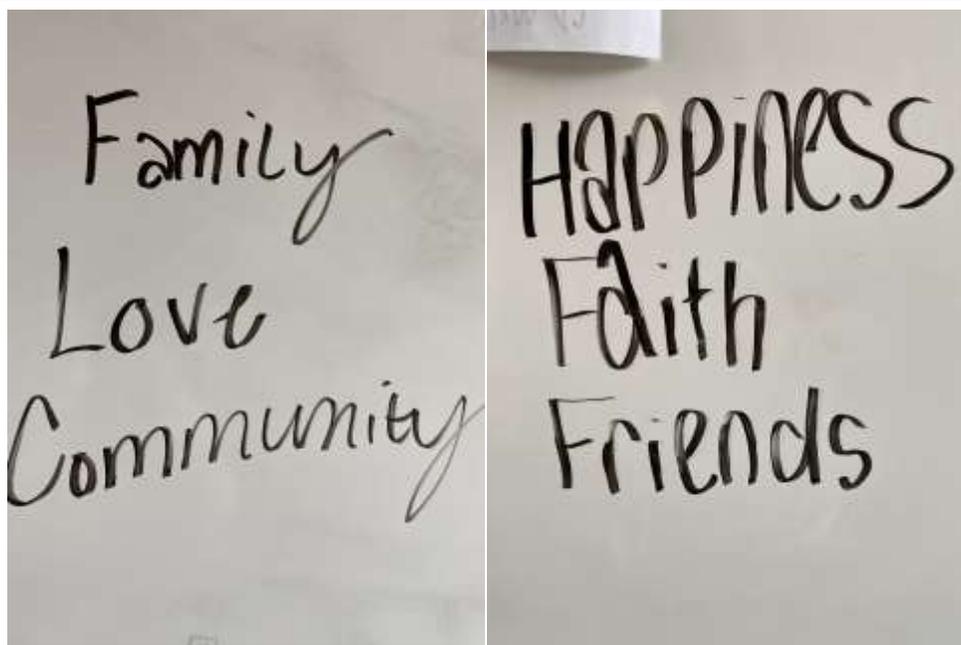
It's love. We show up for each other.

It's community. We support each other.

It's happiness. We are better together.

It's faith. We grow together.

It's friends. We laugh together.







Summer Hospitality and Welcoming Needs

Outdoor worship will bring new opportunities to welcome people into our worship space on the south lawn. We are looking for people to help set up, hand out bulletins, and help with the refreshments. (Yes! You read that right! Coffee and snacks are back!!! Yay!) Sign up today! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044EA4A82AA7F58-outdoor>

During May, the **Spiritual Formation Class** will continue 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.



May 1: "Reclaiming Church: Doesn't the Bible Say...?"

May 8: "Reclaiming Church: Costumes"

May 15: No class, Mike is travelling. You are encouraged to attend Forum in the Norman Room to learn about Annual Conference

May 22: "Reclaiming Church: What is the Church? and This is the Church" We will also break bread together before we break for summer.

May 29: Outdoor worship begins. No class until we resume. Those who wish may gather after worship for mutual support.

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, May 20th, 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.



You've hopefully noticed that our monthly Communicator, weekly bulletins, and other church communication pieces are often organized by four key words: **Invite, Experience, Grow, and Serve**. These four words are important to our Purpose statement and help describe our Discipleship Pathway.



A Discipleship Pathway is the unique path we each take as we decide how to participate in the church and grow our faith. We each find meaning in different **aspects of church community and experiences so everyone's path is a bit different**.

I have found many different ways to connect with the church over the years, but one of the most powerful has been participating in mission trips. I went to the Heifer Ranch in Arkansas with a multi-age group from the church and also participated in an Iowa Conference-wide service trip to Cuba. These were **meaningful to me because we not only SERVED others, I also built friendships and EXPERIENCED God's love through those relationships**.

I have GROWN in my faith both through participating in various book groups and studies, but also in teaching middle school and high school Sunday School. The dialogue with others and the questions that youth ask encourage me to better formulate my own thoughts and ideas around the topics being discussed and provide opportunities to see and EXPERIENCE God working in those moments.

I have had lots of fun and fellowship SERVING in the bell choir over the years, but that group has also given me the opportunity to INVITE friends and family to visit our church so they can EXPERIENCE one of **the ways I EXPERIENCE God's love**—through music. Most recently, as part of my SERVICE on the Church Council, I have also had the opportunity to INVITE others to SERVE through our nominations process. **The clusters and committees I've worked with have provided opportunities to develop relationships with others in the church, which also allow me to EXPERIENCE God's love through new found friends and GROW in my faith as I learn about the amazing work that people in this church community are doing to make a difference in the larger world.**

As you choose your own Discipleship Pathway, I encourage you to consider how you can take another step to **Experience God's love, Grow your faith, Serve others, and/or Invite someone to join you along the path as well. There's no wrong path to take!**

Coming Up in Worship

May Sermon Series:

Many Christians have been saying the Lord's Prayer for years, probably since their childhood. Most denominations and expressions of Christianity have some version of the Lord's Prayer. Through studying Matthew 6: 9-13, sermons, different musical renditions and Sunday school classes, we will dig deeper into this timeless prayer for 4 weeks in May. We can't wait to worship, study and grow together!

M&M Sunday school (meets in the Fireside room) will be following along with the sermon series, as well as the children's and youth Sunday school classes. All are welcome to join!

Summer Worship Series

Join us beginning May 29th for our summer outdoor worship series, *A Walk in the Wood with Winnie the Pooh*. We will worship together at 9am on the south lawn. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and imagination as we tell stories and interact with each other. If weather does not permit us to be outside, we will worship in the sanctuary.

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.

Our Prayers

Prayers of Concern:

- for Bob Telleen and family on the death of Jean Telleen.
- for Lori Schippers, who is hospitalized at Mayo.
- for Jane Esterly-Rettig and family on the loss of Jane's mother, Jan Esterly.
- for Sue Scott, who is recovering.
- for Marilyn Green, who is recovering.
- for my sister-in-law, Ilene in Virginia, who is in ICU. ~ LaRue Clark
- for my husband Jim, may he rest in peace. ~ Deb Miller
- for my cousin Keith, who is having complications since his lung transplant. ~ Jay & Terry Fredrick
- For relief and peace for so many in the world who are suffering. ~ Eldon Weber



Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- celebrating Lori Schippers' March 31 retirement.
- joy that our daughter Marit has completed her radiation treatment. ~ Bruce & Barbara Munson
- For Avis's 7th birthday on April 24. ~ Steven & Megan Schroder
- From Betty Barton – "Sincere thanks for the fabulous crew at Food at First on Friday: Dee Dreeszen, Sally Wilson, Lauren Loonsfoot, Bev Kruempel, Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Tom and Betty Barton, Aisha DeWall, Lillie Galvin, Jenn Plagman-Gavin, Marjy Howe, Jaye Grimm, Erik Anderson, Chris Anderson, Aspen Unser

Trustees/Security

Spring is in the air! Our April showers (and snow) are sure to bring May flowers. We need your help on the CUMC/WF Garden Committee. Whether you have a green thumb, or are all thumbs, everyone is welcome. Sign up in Planning Center (<https://groups.planningcenteronline.com/groups>) or email Doug (doug@wames.org) to get involved and join the fun.



Endowment Board

2022 Endowment Grants Awarded

The Collegiate United Methodist Church / Wesley Foundation Endowment Board received four grant requests for 2022. The Board fully funded three proposals.

- \$900 to support the Little Food Pantry. The money will supplement donations to the pantry and provide money for upkeep on the pantry housing. The grant was requested through the Sending to Serve cluster.
- \$5000 to support DACA renewals. The Collegiate/Wesley Amos/ Immigration Group is collaborating with Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners to assist persons who qualify as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to pay the \$495 cost of a two-year renewable work permit. ASIP combines grant funds with personal donations. To date in 2022 ASIP has helped 14 individuals. A total of 34 persons received assistance in 2021. The Sending to Serve cluster also supported this grant request.
- \$2000 for new window shades in Room 123. Window shades will be installed later this summer to filter the light and provide privacy / security for groups meeting in Room 123. This request came from the Trustees.

The Board awarded the remaining funds (\$74, 473) to the Trustees' window replacement project for 2022. This did not fully fund the request. Trustees will be prioritizing which windows to replace this year.

If you have any questions about the grants process, you may send them to endowmentboard@cwames.org. As the year unfolds and you think of new ministries / programs or other ways to enhance the ministry of CW, make note. It is only seven months until the Endowment Board will call for 2023 proposals.

Sending to Serve

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- pancake mix and syrup
- cereal (any kind)
- instant oatmeal
- chicken noodle/tomato soup
- cream of mushroom/ chicken soup
- beef stew
- hamburger/tuna helper
- instant potatoes
- egg noodles
- elbow macaroni
- lasagna noodles
- spaghetti
- mixed vegetables
- canned spinach/peas/ carrots
- diced tomatoes
- pineapple chunks
- mandarin oranges
- mixed fruit



NON-FOOD ITEMS

- shampoo
- conditioner
- toilet paper
- kleenex
- dish soap
- laundry soap
- paper towels
- kitchen sponges
- diapers
- pull-ups
- wipes



United Way of Story County

Lenten Special Offering: Books for Kids!

Kate Mitchell Elementary Library
 We have raised \$3,405 towards our \$3,000 goal for the Kate Mitchell Elementary Library. We hit our goal thanks to YOUR donations, support, prayers and dedication! Thank you for your support and for putting books into kids hands! Amazing!



2022 Ames Humanitarian Award

The COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Immigrants of Story County received the Ames Humanitarian Award for the collaboration and innovation for helping our neighbors. Collegiate/Wesley is one of the organizing partners of the fund that joined other faith-based organizations to start the fund in 2019. The fund raised over \$374,000 which was distributed for rent and utility payments to qualifying households as a way to help our neighbors during the pandemic. The award will be displayed at Collegiate Wesley during the upcoming weeks. Thank you to all who supported this fund, including Collegiate Wesley's Endowment Fund. Please take a moment to see the award and share the gratitude for helping our neighbors.



Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners Backpack Project

Backpack Project

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) in San Antonio, Texas (www.interfaithwelcomecoalition.org) has a mission of “Meeting the changing needs of asylum seekers, refugees, and at-risk immigrants in collaboration with others.” One of their projects is backpack outreach. When released from detention at the bus station or airport, families have no supplies to provide comfort on their journey. The backpacks provide families with basic supplies as they begin their travel to reunite with loved ones and sponsors around the United States. **Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners (ASIP), of which CUMC is a member, is asking for donations and volunteers to assemble the needed items and provide backpacks for distribution to these families.**

Items can be purchased from the list below or through a Walmart Registry beginning May 6.

Registry Name: Backpack Project for ASIP.

Purchased items need to be delivered to the marked box inside the west door of CUMC, by June 3.

There will be an **Interfaith Gathering Assembly** of the backpacks on June 18, at 10 am in Wesley Hall.

To sign up to volunteer to help assemble, contact Marti Elston, melston8@gmail.com

Monetary donations will be used to fulfill the items list, and excess funds will be donated to IWC for **additional backpacks**. **Donation checks can be made out to ASIP with “Backpacks” in the memo line and sent to ASIP, Box 65, Ames, Iowa 50010.** Cash or check donations can also be given to Marti Elston or Bev Kruempel.

Thank you for your willingness to help these vulnerable people as they travel to their destinations in the U.S.

- Individually wrapped toothbrushes
- Travel size toothpaste
- Hand wet wipe packs (10-20 per pack)
- Travel size Kleenex packs
- Small combs
- Ballpoint pens
- Small note pads
- Small blanket (4x6)
- Snacks – peanut butter crackers, granola bars, fruit bars



The Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners is a program of AXIOM International Cultural and Educational Foundation, a tax-exempt organization as described in 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.”

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

Clothing That Works

Are you spring cleaning? CTW is a free clothing closet for adults in need in our community. We always need all kinds of clothing, but right now Clothing That Works is in need of men's clothing/shoes.

Tell your friends, tell your family. Donate your clean adult clothing to CTW.

CTW is open Wednesday, 2-5pm and the first Saturday, 9am-noon.



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 **May 27**. 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](https://www.foodatfirst.org).



"Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others."

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All kinds of personal items are needed as well as pop-top foods and plastic silverware.

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.

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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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