

The

September, 2022 Vol. 41 Issue 9

Communicator

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation
Ames, Iowa

Contact Us

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

Facebook: facebook.com/cwames

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 in mid-August.

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.

September Communicator Deadline: September 20, 2022

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

Our Sunday series for September and October is “Anything but Ordinary.”

Using Scripture from Genesis and Exodus, the series focuses on extraordinary people – and as we get to know them, we come to understand that these extraordinary people are really just like us! They are part of families that have joys and struggles; they are on journeys for self-discovery; they have bad things happen to them; they have extraordinary things happen to them. The Bible is always a template for how human beings come to know God in the good and bad of life, in times of great faithfulness and in times of complete faithlessness. As we move into the fall season together, plan to be with us on Sunday mornings!



On September 11th we have our Sunday School and Adult Study kick-off at 8:45 am along with our first fall worship service at 10 am. Not only do we have a wonderful Sunday School program for children and young people, you **will find in this month’s Communicator descriptions of several opportunities for adults.** The 10 am service will include amazing music and we will take Communion together.

We are also doing something fun with our Hospitality Ministry. We are organizing teams who will greet and usher each Sunday. Each team will cover one Sunday of the month: Team 1 for instance will cover the first Sunday of the month, and so forth. It has been very heartening to have so many of you already agree **to serve on a team but I would like to invite you to say yes to a team if you haven’t already!** It will be a lot of fun! Many of you will be receiving an email from me, Jane Jacobson (Lay Leader), Steven Schroder (Lay Leader) and Mary Lynn Elvers (Reaching and Receiving) inviting you to join! It’s really a wonderful way to serve in ministry with us, and it isn’t hard but it’s so important! On October 2nd we will have a breakfast in Wesley Hall at 8 am for the team members of ushers and greeters!

We will welcome the Rev. Paul Witmer on September 25th as we celebrate Women at the Well Ministry. As many of you know, Collegiate/Wesley has been a long-time supporter of Women at the Well Ministry that serves incarcerated women and women re-entering communities after release from prison. Our own Lauren Loonsfoot is on the Board of Women at the Well, and it is our joy to welcome Rev. Witmer to our pulpit on September 25th to share with us about this important work. Please plan to be with us!

As we move into the fall, as the days cool, as we begin to look toward the end of the year, I invite you to ask yourself each day: where do I see evidence of God in my life, in the lives of my family and in the life of the world? So often we are saturated with bad news. But our faith invites us to look and see the mysterious light of love, renewal, hope, forgiveness and justice that continues to illuminate our lives and the life of the world. May we be its witnesses.

Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF SEPTEMBER 11TH @ 8:45 AM

Children Sunday School

We are excited to kick-off Sunday school this year with Rally Sunday on September 11th for a time of music, crafts, science and more! Classes will officially start for children on Sunday, September 18 at 8:45. We will be meeting upstairs in our Sunday school wing. This year we will be starting with classes for Preschool, Kindergarten/1st grade, 2nd/3rd grade and 4th/5th. You can register for Sunday School now [here](#).

4th and 5th Grade Bibles

Because of covid we have missed two years of our bible presentations for 3rd graders along with our Bible class to learn more about the Bible. This fall we will be offering a 4th and 5th grade bible class to help catch up. More information to come but this class will likely start at the end of October.

Youth Sunday School

Starting on Sunday, September 11th Sunday School for Middle School will meet in room 200 and High School will meet in the youth room on our top floor. There will be signs to help show where to go!

Youth Group

Youth Group Middle School youth will gather from 6:30-7:30pm starting on September 11th in the youth room. High School youth group will start on September 11th and we will gather from 7:30-8:30pm in the youth room.

Youth Bells

Middle School Bells (Sunday evenings 5:30-6:30, ringing every quarter)
High School Bells (Sunday evenings 6:30-7:30, ringing every quarter)

Children and Youth Sunday School Helpers Needed!

Do you have a passion for helping our younger generations learn about the love of God? We are adding more people to our Sunday School team and are in need of more volunteers for our Sunday School classrooms.

Youth Ministry Needs We currently have a need for additional help with the Middle School Sunday School class.

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.



We are in need of four more classroom helpers, an Art rotation leader, and Middle School Sunday School leaders. Please contact Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org for more information or to volunteer

Welcome College Students!

Wesley Campus Ministry is here for you!

@isu_wesley

Weekly Meals

Starting on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00 pm Wesley will have their weekly free meal. The meal is located on the bottom level of the church, using the East door.



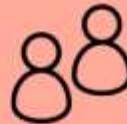
SHOP Meals

Following our weekly meals on Wednesdays we'll package meals for SHOP (the ISU Student Food Pantry) these meals will be delivered to SHOP for those needing a meal. We're always in need of extra hands to put the meals together.



Small Groups

Small groups are one of the ways we best connect with one another. Look out for more information on this semester's small groups on our social media and website.



Questions? Contact our
Campus Minister,
Lauren Loonsfoot
lauren@cwames.org
isuwesley.com



**WESLEY
CENTER**



Church Council/Staff Parish Relations Committee

Staffing Update

With the departure of Lindsay Drake, Director of Adult Discipleship, and Emily Moen, Christian Education Assistant, the Staff Parish Relations committee, and Church Council have explored options for our future staffing. Key considerations were: 1) strategic plan for our church and 2) commitment to the mission of campus ministry, and 3) availability of lay leaders to serve in some key roles.

On August 29, 2022, the Church Council approved the hiring of a new Campus Minister. We have a long history of a campus ministry serving Iowa State students. This position will oversee the program development of the Wesley Foundation/Wesley Center, while working directly with ISU students to provide opportunities for spiritual formation, leadership development, community development and service. The program provides a progressive, inclusive campus ministry. Its focus is to build small groups, offer service opportunities and engage in justice. We expect this to be a full-time position to start no later than January 2023. A draft job description is being reviewed by the Wesley Board and will be posted in September. Please refer any interested individuals to Janelle Keltgen, (janelle@cwames.org) our church secretary. She will then reach out to the interview team.

We want to thank Lauren Loonsfoot, who was first our assistant campus minister from March 2019-June 2021) and has been serving as our Campus Minister since June 2021, in addition to her responsibilities in Christian Education for children, youth, and families. Lauren has developed student leaders, initiated work with SHOP, the university food pantry, and has sustained the program during a time of change. With the hiring of a campus minister, Lauren will become the Director of Christian Education for all ages. Lauren will continue as our Campus Minister until a new Campus Minister has been hired. We are grateful for her leadership in helping us grow our families and develop our spirituality.

We are thankful for some lay leaders who have stepped up:

Mary Lynn Elver and Steven Schroder are leading the effort to get ushers and greeters for our church. Also, several individuals have volunteered to serve as liturgists for the next few months.

Several individuals have been volunteering to assist Lauren in the start-up of Sunday School.

I will head up the nomination process and leadership development. I am leaving Staff Parish Relations Committee in December. If you have interest in serving the church, please reach out to me at darrajohnson@gmail.com.

We will be switching from our on-line worship to live streaming soon which will reduce some of the staff workload. Stay tuned for more information about this.

If you have an idea to form a small group, just let Pastor Mary know. Several small groups have been initiated by members, not staff. If you have something in mind, we welcome new ideas for small groups.

As with most personnel changes, I ask for your prayers, your faith, and your grace.

Darra Johnson
Chair of Staff Parrish Relations Committee

Worship

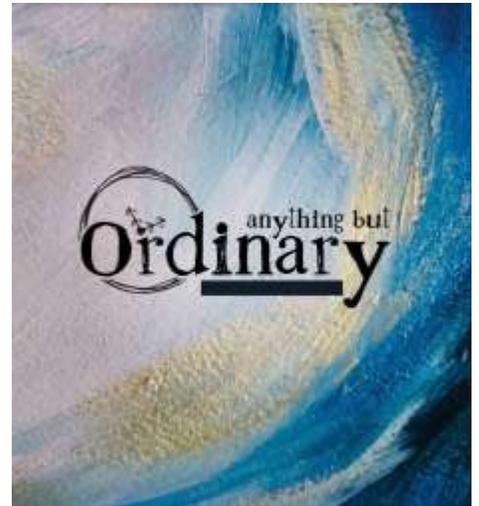
WORSHIP SERIES—*Anything But Ordinary*

SEPTEMBER 4 – Mike King will lead us in this week of transition from summer back into the fall. As usual, Mike will bring an energy to our worship experience that you won't want to miss! The sermon is: **IF GOD LOVES ME SO MUCH, WHY CAN'T I BE A DISCIPLE?**

SEPTEMBER 11 - SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF AT 8:45AM AND FALL WORSHIP KICK-OFF. We begin our series ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY, where we explore extraordinary people in the book of Genesis and Exodus. COMMUNION, BELLS, MUSIC. The sermon is: THE GOD WHO MAKES US LAUGH!

SEPTEMBER 18 – WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN RESCUED? This Sunday we hear the story of Hagar and Ishmael and think through the times when our lives were made better in extraordinary ways and sometimes against all odds. The sermon is: INTERVENTIONS IN THE DESERT

SEPTEMBER 25 – WOMEN AT THE WELL SUNDAY WITH REV. PAUL WITMER. This Sunday we celebrate the ministry of Women at the Well and its outreach to incarcerated women and women re-entering their communities. Please be with us as we welcome Rev. Paul Witmer, Pastor of WATW to share with us about the ongoing work.



Livestreaming Our Worship Services

Sometime in mid-September, new equipment that allows us to livestream our services will be installed. Once that happens, we will no longer post a digital service at 8am on Sundays. Instead, the livestreamed video will be available starting at 10am on Sundays, and can be viewed at any time after that. Watch for an announcement on when our livestreaming will be starting.

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 the same link.



Adult Discipleship



Adult Sunday School Classes

Starting Sunday, September 11 8:45 am

Join an Adult Sunday School or Small Group this fall!

This year, like every year, Collegiate/Wesley is offering a robust adult program. There are still adult Sunday school classes, but this year, because of the flexibility that online groups provide, not all groups will be meeting on Sunday morning. There are also various midweek opportunities, as well. Make sure to check out the website for all of the details for your favorite old or new classes.

All class information can be found at <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups>

Builder's Class

Has something caught your eye in the news? Have you heard a story on NPR that you would like to discuss? If so, Builders Adult Sunday School Class is for you. Bring a cup of coffee and come join us as we dive into social or current issues and discuss what change we might effect individually or collectively. Each week we share celebrations and concerns, do a fun ice-breaker, and then dive into compelling issues. Hope to see you on September 11th in room 44, across from the elevator. For more info contact Barb Pedersen at bped54@yahoo.com or 515-231-6134.

Forum Class

Meets in the Norman Room on Sundays at 8:45am and organized by Tim Garner.

September 18: A Review of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church

September 25: State Legislators Candidates' Forum

October 2: Story County Candidates' Forum

M&M Class

This class covers faith based topics using the AMPLiFY video library. A variety of scholars and interpretations are great starting points for healthy group discussions on many topics. No preparation needed. The class meets at 8:45am in the Fireside Room. This group is led by Lynn Kaizer.

Spiritual Formation Class

Starting September 11, the Spiritual Formation Class will resume meeting, led by Mike King, and follow the sermon series "Anything but Ordinary." If you want a copy of the study guide, email mikeking@dwx.com or call/text 515-708-1419.

September 11: A Child Promised to Abraham & Sarah, Genesis 18: 1-15, (21: 1-7)

September 18: Hagar & Ishmael are Cast Away, Genesis 21: 8-21

September 25: The Binding of Isaac, Genesis 22: 1-14

Meeting at 9:00am 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>.

Coming in October - New digital Bible study groups

Faith Journeys in Food and Sustainable Agriculture and Faith Journeys – Seeking Energy Solutions

If you would like to grow in faith at your own pace and share experiences with others who have similar concerns, one of these groups may be for you.

We currently plan that you will:

- Receive a copy of the Faith Journeys Bible Study Guide
- Receive a short lesson via email once a month
- Share comments and progress/problems via email.
- Receive an invitation to meet together once a month via Zoom.

For details contact Mary Jean Baker at bakerallan14@gmail.com. (Note: “allan” has 2 A’s and 2 L’s.)

Welcome one another!

We now have a chance to build fellowship like never before as we gather for one service on Sunday mornings. This is a time for us to reach out to those at church whom we haven't met as well as to old friends.

Soon ISU students will have their first worship experience at C/W. Let them know you are glad they are here! For any first-time visitors, a smile and kind words will reaffirm their decision to find out what it is like to sit in our pews.

The experience of being in the service can be as important as the service itself. Let's come together. Say hello!



Finance Committee

Message from the Finance Committee

Friends,

We will soon begin planning for our annual stewardship campaign, leading up to Generosity Sunday. This is an important component of financial planning for everything we will do as a church in 2023.

David Orth, our Director of Generosity, along with members of the Finance Committee, will be developing plans for how we will proceed this fall. But there are few of us, and much to do, and we could surely use help! Two general areas need to be addressed:

Planning for the Generosity Campaign: This may involve visiting members, sharing statements and testimonials in church services, and some office work (e.g. stuffing envelopes) in support of communication with the congregation.

Planning for Generosity Sunday: Decisions will need to be made about the special format of the service, along with any additional events we want to hold that day.

While November may seem like a long time from now, these planning activities need to begin soon. If you would like to be involved in either (or both) of these efforts, or would just like more information about what will be involved, we would love to hear from you. Please contact David Orth (Director of Generosity, david@cwames.org) or Max Morris (Chair of Finance, maxorlori@gmail.com) by Tuesday, September 6, so that we can invite you to our organizational meeting. Even a little help would be appreciated – we have lots to do, but nobody will need to participate in all phases of the activity.

If you have interest in being involved or would like more information, please contact David Orth (Director of Generosity, david@cwames.org) or Max Morris (Chair of Finance, maxorlori@gmail.com).

Covid 19 Tactical Team Update

On August 16 the members of the Collegiate Wesley Covid 19 Tactical Team decided to decommission the group. We recognize that CV 19 is still circulating in our community and affecting members of our CW family. Nevertheless, we do not see the need to continue to oversee policies and practices to safeguard the health of those who use our church and annex.

We strongly encourage individuals to monitor local data and guidelines from local, state and national authorities. We support those people who choose to continue wearing masks or elect to participate in events on-line to avoid indoor large-group gatherings.

When we first convened **twenty-two months ago, we agreed to follow the guidance of John Wesley to “Do No Harm”**. We are pleased that our efforts kept CW from being a source of a super-spreader event. We thank you all for your patience and your willingness to abide by the policies and procedures we adopted during that time period.

Many thanks to the individuals who served on the CW Covid 19 Tactical Team.

Mary Bellon

Brian Brand

Greg Halverson

Jane Jacobson

Jane Kennedy

Michael King

Lauren Loonsfoot

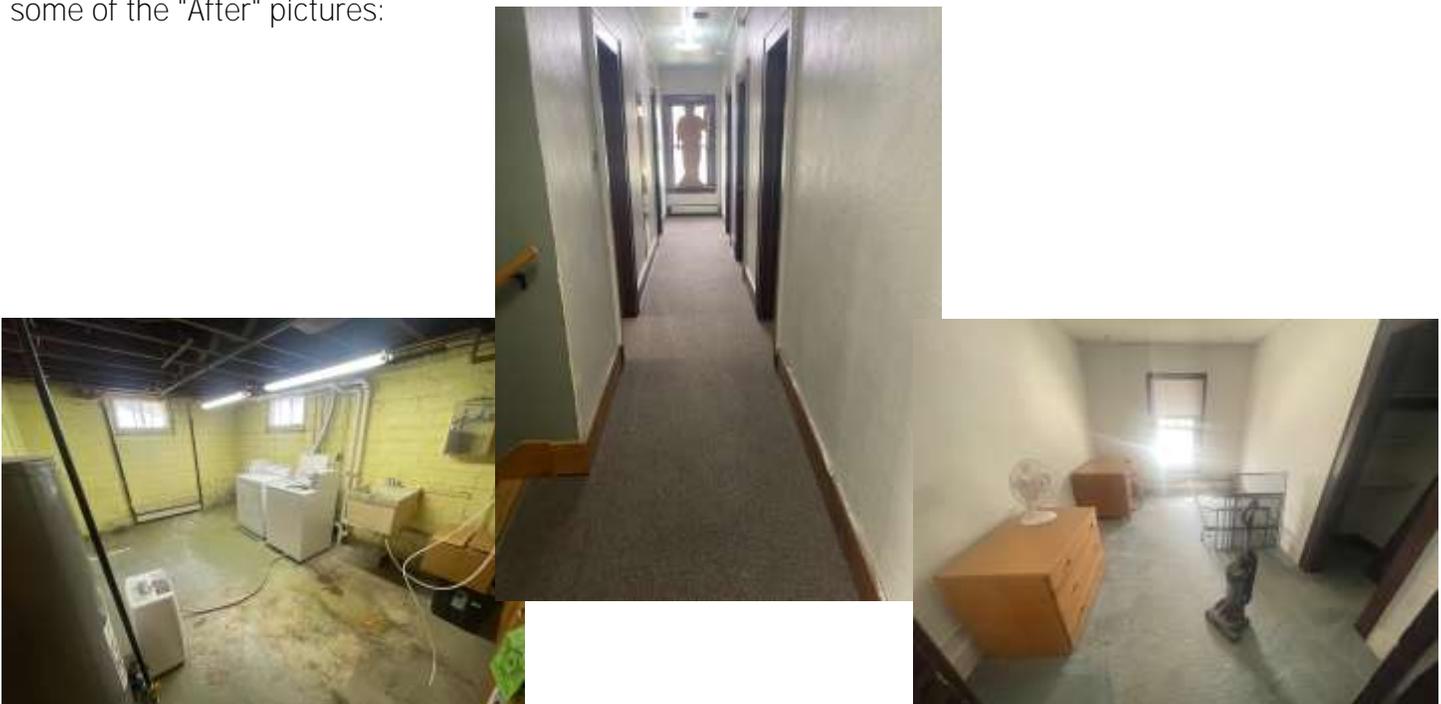
Donna Vandehaar

Ted Wolff

Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Fall is upon us! With that, it means that the students are back! This last month, we made progress over at the Wesley Place House., the house next to the church. We cleared the house of all the old and forgotten belongings and broken items, a 2-day process, which equaled 6 dump truck loads to the dump! Then the house was given a cleaning. New mattresses were ordered to replace the 20 year old mattresses. We also installed new LED light bulbs and a few more efficiency upgrades. While there is still more to do both inside and outside of Wesley Place, it is getting on the right track. **There aren't "Before"** pictures because not many were taken in the rush to get things ready before classes started. Here are some of the "After" pictures:



Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for the amazing crew at Food at First on Friday, July 29: Dean Phillips, Sally Wilson, Paul & Mary Ann Lundy, Tom & Betty Barton, Marjy Howe, Bud Everett, **Donna & Alan Vandelaar, Brenda Allen, Gwendolyn Thorne (Brenda's cousin)**, Lindsey & Lyra Pepper, Dee Dreeszen, Bev Kruempel.
- for Lindsay Drake and Emily Moen, and their service to Collegiate Wesley.

Prayers of Concern:

- for the family of Ed Augustine, who passed on Sunday, July 31.
- for a dear friend in Texas who is receiving treatment for recurring breast cancer. God bless her and her husband. ~ Linda Carver
- for my sister, Ruth Catlin, who is looking for a new caregiver. ~ Marjy Howe
- for the family and friends of Frances Theile, who passed on July 25.
- for the family and friends of Jim Okey, who passed on August 11.
- for Jeff Keltgen, brother of Janelle, recently diagnosed with leukemia.
- For the family and friends of Gwyn Augustine, who passed this week.



Pride Worship



Did you know? The LGBTQIA+ community in the US celebrates Pride Month in June of each year. Pride events commemorate the uprising after a NYC gay bar called the Stonewall Inn was brutally raided by police in 1969. At that time, these illegal bars and nightclubs were the only places it was safe to be openly gay in the US. To celebrate Pride is to affirm the dignity, equality, and inclusion of all LGBTQIA+ people. This is especially important in churches, where many people have been unwelcome and suffered trauma from homophobic and transphobic religious teachings.

In Ames, the LGBTQIA+ community celebrates Pride in the fall to allow ISU students to participate. To join in celebration with the community, Ames churches Collegiate Presbyterian, Collegiate United Methodist/Wesley Foundation, First Christian, St. Andrews Lutheran, and Unity will hold a Pride Worship service for **Sunday, Sept. 4 at 1:30 pm**. The service will be hosted at Collegiate Presbyterian

Church with preacher Ms. Penny Cost, a United Methodist minister who is a drag queen and "dragavangelist."

Drag is an exaggerated performance of gender and identity which has a long history in the LGBTQIA+ community, existing since the 1800s. Ms. Penny says, "Drag is a powerful way to celebrate identity, instill change, and have fun!" Embracing drag performance celebrates this aspect of the community, with no limits to our acceptance and celebration of all people. We hope that you will join us on September 4th!+

G.H. Nichols Scholarship

G.S. Nichols Scholarships provide financial aid to students from Collegiate/Wesley who plan a career of Christian service. A scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year has been awarded to Jason Ellingson by the G.S. Nichols Scholarship Fund Board of Directors.

Jason is attending St. Paul School of Theology, a United Methodist Seminary in Leawood, Kansas. This fall he begins year two of the three year Doctor of Ministry program. Jason has been an active member of CUMC/WF, in Stephens Ministry, served on Administrative Council, and has volunteered in many activities.

G. S. Nichols Scholarships were established in 1959 to honor the long-time pastoral ministry of G.S. (Sam) Nichols, who served Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation for 25 years. Only the earnings from our funds are available for scholarships. We welcome and appreciate memorials, bequests, and other donations to increase the principal and interest generated.

In the 60 years since the first G.S. Nichols Scholarship was awarded in 1962, more than \$196,000 have been awarded to 53 students.

If you have an interest in serving on the G.S. Nichols Scholarship Board, or if you need more information, contact Paula Anderson, pdanderson@mchsi.com, G.S. Nichols Board President, or Dean Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer.

Dennis Byrne Fund

The Byrne Endowment Fund was established by a member of the church, Dennis Byrne, who had a heart for missions and 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 Fall 2022 granting year. This fall we are only able to accept applications that have an emphasis on international work. For full consideration, submit grant proposals by Thursday, October 13th 2022 You can find the application form on our **website under What's Coming up**. If you have any questions please contact Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org



Left to right: Bridge Home Project, ASIP Backpack Project with funding assistance from the Dennis Byrne Fund, A photo of Dennis Byrne



Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

Clothing That Works

- * Clothing That Works would like to invite you to visit. CTW is very proud of our mission.
- * Clothing That Works is a FREE clothing closet for adults. We serve 30-50 people a week.
- * Clothing That Works is a clothing closet for EVERYONE. (CTW gives away all kinds of clothing, blankets and towels.)
- * Clothing That Works is serving the needs of our community.
- * Visit CTW and donate clean usable adult clothing, blankets and towels. Open Wednesdays 2-5pm and the first Saturday of each month, 9-noon



Food at First Volunteer Opportunity

Food at First has moved back to serving a hot meal inside the dining room at First Christian Church. 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 3:30-5:30 AND/OR 5:30-7:30 pm. Early shift volunteers (we need 6 volunteers for this shift) work together on prepping the meal for the evening. Second shift volunteers (we need 10 volunteers for this shift) help serve the meal along with cleaning up following the meal. **Our next opportunities to serve are September 23rd and 30th.** 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](#).

The Little Food Pantry

Our congregation has been extremely generous in supporting the Little Food Pantry over the last few years. Thank you so very much. Even though the Pantry is small, many people come to it regularly to help supplement their family meals or to open a pop-top can that will provide them their entire meal of the day.

Please place your non-perishable donations in the Pantry itself or in the labeled container by the west door of the church.

Always needed: Peanut butter, paper products, tuna, crackers, cereal, cans/ individual fruits & vegetables & non-perishable meals, mac & cheese, toiletries, and plastic silverware. Other items welcome.



Volunteers Needed to Stock the Little Food Pantry

To volunteer to stock the Pantry, please contact me directly or go to SignupGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4dafa92da4fd0-little> and put your name in a slot. Restocking takes less than 15 minutes and you can go any time of the day that's convenient for you.

For more information, contact Marti Elston, 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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