

The

December, 2022 Vol. 41 Issue 12

# *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](mailto:mail@cwames.org) by NOON on Wednesday. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

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**Cover Pictures:** taken just after dusk in late November.

## 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](mailto: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.

**January 2023 Communicator Deadline: December 14, 2022 (note the earlier than usual date)**

# Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

Perhaps for us as we prepare for Christmas, entering into the Advent season, there is an unspoken, silent hope within us that we will experience anew the change that happened in the world when a child was born and history was never quite the same. It was not the same for Joseph and Mary or any of the others who were there. Not for the friends Jesus found and made as he grew older. Not for the men and women who were his disciples. Not for those down through the ages who have felt him come into their lives. One of the **Advent scriptures reads: "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."** (Matthew 24: 36-37).



But coming he is, and for us who live on this side of the first Christmas and this side of the first Easter, we believe that He had indeed come. And we know that encountering him is just how the Gospel writer said: one minute you are going about your business as usual and the next minute you feel the mystery and healing of God with you.

The time of Advent and Christmas says: He is coming for you again, like he did the first time, like he will whenever we open ourselves to the hushing gentleness of a mother with her baby in a drafty stable or the new found strength of a young father who is determined his untimely child will survive into greatness for the world. He is coming like He did so long ago and we are asked to wait and watch for his coming as we open up ourselves to God. We are asked to wait and watch, knowing that the moment of His arrival into our lives will be unpredictable and un-staged. But when he comes into your life, you will see Him and perhaps if you look up just at that moment you will see a star light the sky and it will feel as though the light has come just so you personally can see, just so you personally can know the holiness of your life wrapped up in the life of Jesus.

I hope you will join us at Collegiate/Wesley this Advent all the way to Christmas Eve when we light candles and sing Silent Night and know again how He comes into the world, into our world. I hope you will **be present as we worship with Lessons and Carols, enjoy the Children's Pageant, spend some time in Nichols chapel during our Blue Christmas service remembering those whom we have lost over the years, and maybe even find your way to the sanctuary for storybooks and hot chocolate on Christmas morning.** All in order to say with our lives and our hearts: He has come again into our lives to love us and teach us how to love.

Pastor Mary



# Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

## Little Free Food Pantry

Adventures Preschool and Children/Youth Sunday School classes collected items for the little free food pantry! Thank you all!



## Youth Card Fundraiser

Support our middle school and high school summer service trips by purchasing cards for Christmas in the gathering space following worship.



## Children Sunday School

On Sunday mornings we have opportunities for children preschool-5th grade. We gather upstairs in our Sunday school wing. You can register for Sunday School [here](#). During the month of December our rotation Sunday School focus is on Advent. No Sunday School December 25th or January 1st.

## Youth Sunday School

Sunday School for Middle school and High school students is available during the Sunday school hour starting in the youth room on the top floor of the building.

## Youth Group

Christmas Parties December 11th 6:30-7:30 Middle School, 7:30-8:30 High School. Bring a pair of wrapped festive socks for our sock exchange. No Youth group December 18, 25 or January 1st.

## Youth Bells

Middle School Bells (Sunday evenings 5:30-6:30)

High School Bells (Sunday evenings 6:30-7:30)



# Wesley News

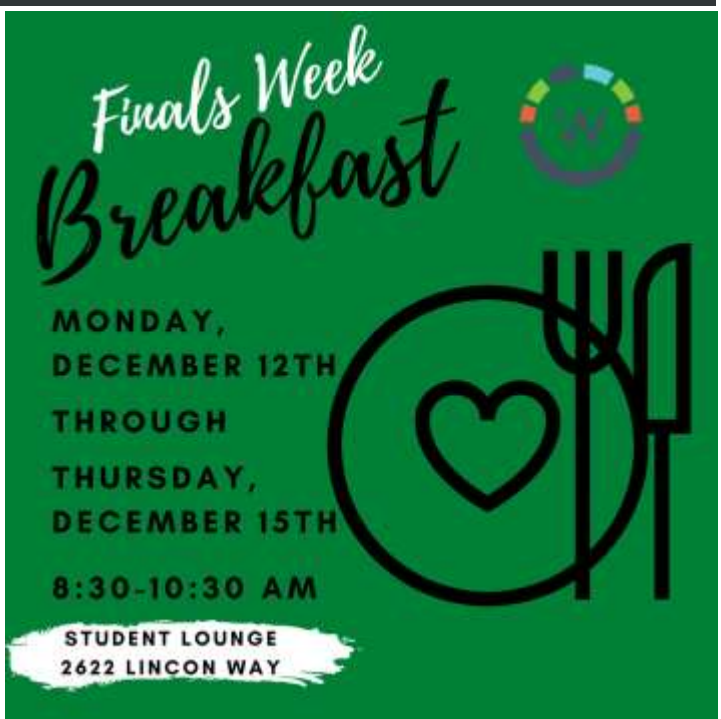
## The Wesley Center

### For Students:

- Christmas Party December 7th from 7:00-9:00 pm in the student lounge, bring a pair of wrapped socks for our festive sock exchange. We'll have food and games, cookie decorating, and ornaments you can make.
- Finals week breakfast December 12th-15th 8:30-10:30 am Student Lounge

### For Non Students: Ways you can support the Wesley Center

- Pray for college students, for their classes, their mental and physical health, their relationships and for the knowledge to know that they are loved and worthy!
- Sponsor a care bag for students to receive during finals week. You can make a donation online at our website under the give tab.





## Pictures from Activities in November





## Pictures from Activities in November





## Advent Activities and Special Worship

### ADVENT WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 4TH 1:30-4:30 PM  
ANNEX AUDITORIUM  
130 S. SHELDON AVE



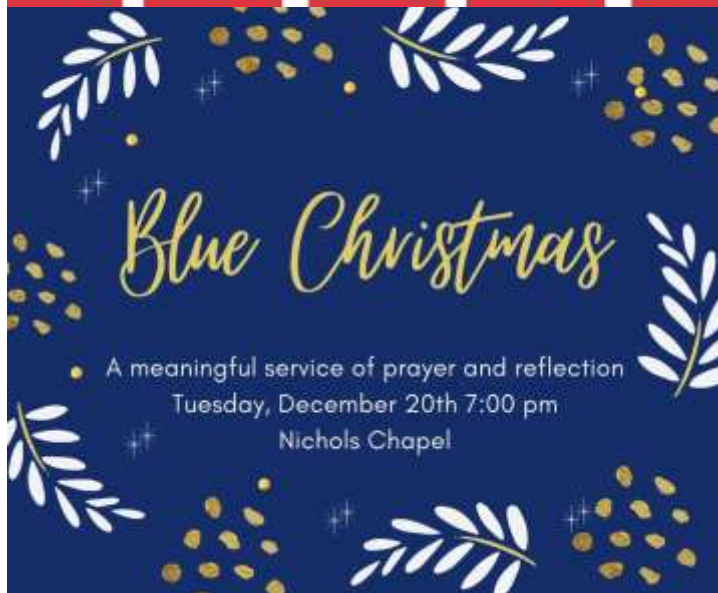
### Annual BELLS AND BRASS CONCERT

Thursday, December 8th  
7:30 pm  
Collegiate Wesley  
Sanctuary



### Blue Christmas

A meaningful service of prayer and reflection  
Tuesday, December 20th 7:00 pm  
Nichols Chapel



MAY YOUR CELEBRATIONS BE  
CHEERY AND BRIGHT

### Christmas Eve Before You Leave

Wednesday,  
December 21st  
7:00 pm



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 pm Intergenerational

7:00 pm Traditional

11:00 pm Lessons and Carols

[cwames.org/advent](http://cwames.org/advent)





## Worship

### Coming up in Worship:

**December 4th—2nd Sunday in Advent.** Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Jaye Johnson. Communion Sunday with special music by the Chancel Handbell Choir. Our scripture focus will be Luke 1: 26-38

**December 11th—3rd Sunday in Advent** Service of Lessons and Carols, Pastor Mary preaching. Special music from the Chancel Choir.

**December 18th—4th Sunday in Advent** Children and Youth Christmas Program

**December 20th** Blue Christmas service of prayer and reflection, led by the Congregational Care team, with a message from Pastor Mary. Located in Nichols chapel at 7 pm.

**December 21st** Christmas Eve Before you Leave. Before you leave Ames for the holidays come to our interactive, all ages service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

### Christmas Eve, December 24th Services

5 pm All ages, interactive service with a sensory message, carols and candles.

7 pm Traditional service with Christmas Carols, Communion, Silent Night with Candles,

11 pm Lessons and Carols

**December 25th** Worship Christmas Morning, pajamas, books and carols. Come comfy and relaxed.

**January 1st Worship** Covenant Service with Communion



### Helpful links:

For our livestreamed worship, you can "tune in" on our [Facebook page](#) at 10:00 am to watch live.

You can also view the service 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.

A festive graphic for a Christmas event. On the left is a stylized Christmas tree made of books of various colors (blue, yellow, red) and sizes, decorated with red and white ornaments and a red star on top. The background is light blue with white snowflakes and small white dots. To the right of the tree, the text "PAJAMAS &amp; Books" is written in a mix of bold, sans-serif and cursive fonts. Below that, "SUNDAY DECEMBER 25" is written in bold, sans-serif. At the bottom, a paragraph describes the event: "Christmas Day worship at 10:00 am wear your comfy clothes/pajamas In worship we'll enjoy three storybooks, sing carols and enjoy the day after Christmas with one another."

## Adult Small Groups and Sunday School Opportunities



### Adult Sunday School Classes

Something for everyone!

#### Join an Adult Sunday School or Small Group!!

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>

## Year-End Giving

by David Orth, Director of Generosity

The conclusion of the year is traditionally a time we think about our giving to the church, especially during the annual Generosity Campaign. Hopefully you had the opportunity to prayerfully consider how you will financially assist Collegiate-Wesley in 2023. If you returned your generosity card, thank you! If you have not yet done so, please complete the card and submit it to the church office. Need another card? Just let us know.

One interesting thing about this process is your estimate of giving is based on a best guess of your financial status for the upcoming year. What happens if you have extra charitable giving money left? If you have already fulfilled your estimate of giving for 2022 (or were unable to submit a generosity card for 2022), please consider a year-end gift to the church. You can send your donation to the church or **submit it online using the “Give” tab at [www.cwames.org](http://www.cwames.org)**. Please note that contributions must be postmarked by December 31 or donated online by 11:59 p.m. on December 31 to be claimed for 2022 tax credit.

Every dollar “invested” allows Collegiate-Wesley to continue fulfilling our mission: “To build an inclusive community that invites all people to experience God’s unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others.” As a church, know that we are making a positive difference in our neighborhood, city, county, state, country, and the world.

Thanks for your consideration of a year-end gift to Collegiate-Wesley!



I hope this article is not too of-FENCE-ive! (Obviously the cold weather is affecting my brain) This last month has been a whirlwind of activity as I prepare for the colder months ahead. I was able to accomplish two big fencing projects, one at the parsonage and one at Wesley Place. The fence at the parsonage had started to show its age, and with the help of some of the neighborhood kids, it was in need of replacement. The entire old fence was removed and a new fence, complete with new posts and a light to help at night, was installed. Both Pastor Mary and the neighbor were very happy with the upgrade. The second fencing project that was completed was over at Wesley Place. The previous fenced-in playground for the preschool had left a corner in the North West isolated and cut off. It was deemed that it would be a better use of space to square off and expand the fencing to increase the usable space and allowing the preschool to obtain even more credentials. To help keep costs down, part of the old fence pickets were cleaned up and used to picket part of the new fence. Both of these fences turned out great and were a great way to wrap up the outdoor projects.

On a different note, we have been in the process of training more volunteers on the Livestream and the soundboard. Especially with all the colds and viruses going around, it is good to have multiple people to help out. So, if you are interested or willing to help out with our Sunday worship experience, please send me an email at [Doug@cwames.org](mailto:Doug@cwames.org)



↑ Rebuilt fence at Wesley Place for Adventures Preschool ↓



New fence at the parsonage on Keats St.



# Our Prayers

## Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for the awesome crew at Food at First on Friday, Oct. 28: Lauren Loonsfoot, Ann Sandine, Bev Kruempel, Jill, Tyler, Sean, Zach & Dylan Brand, Sally Wilson, Dee Dreeszen, Dean Phillips, Betty & Tom Barton, Chris and Erik Anderson, Donna & Alan Vandehaar, Eric, Tara, and Vivienne Anderson, Marjy Howe, Lillie & Robert Allie, and Aaron & Garrett Brand.
- For an amazing Food at First crew on November 25: Ann Sandine, Dee Dreeszen, Dean Phillips, Chris and Erik Anderson, Matt, Alexander, and Olivia Nelson, Mary Ann and Paul Lundy, Donna & Alan Vandehaar, Ashley, Andrew, Camren and Izzy Smelser, Marjy Howe, Robert Allie, and Lauren Loonsfoot

## Prayers of Concern:

- for the North Central Jurisdictional Conference, to be held this week.
- for improved health for my friend, Sandy. ~ LaRue Clark
- for my uncle John Wingstand, who passed on Oct. 29. ~ Suzie Dobbs
- for my son who had kidney surgery for tumor with cancer. ~ LaRue Clark
- for my friend Sandi Ryan in hospice. ~ Betty Barton
- for Nancy Wylie, who has increased prognosis with MS. ~ Fran Berger
- for healing and quick recovery for my granddaughter Tessa, so she can return to her classes at Central. ~ Mary Austin
- for those traveling this week. ~ Ann McMullin
- for the family and friends of Loraine Safly, who died on Saturday, November 19. You can read Loraine's obituary [here](#).



## Shower for Lauren, Bryan, and Baby Loonsfoot!

**Sunday, January 22, 2023  
11:30 am (following worship)  
in Wesley Hall**

**Join us for games, refreshments,  
and the celebration of new life!**

### Gift Registry:

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/lauren-loonsfoot-february-2023/WVI6SNQ4W420>





# Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

## Clothing That Works

Clothing That Works is a mission of Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation. CTW is in need of winter coats and blankets and is currently having a coat/blanket drive. Please clean out your closets and donate. Ask your friends, family and neighbors to help.

Bring your donations to CTW on Wednesdays 2-5 pm or the first Saturday of each month 9-noon OR bring them to the west door of the church and put them in the CTW donation box.



## 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 3:00-5:30 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 December 23 and December 30. This is a great opportunity to build community, have fun, and serve others. To learn more, email Lauren Loonsfoot at [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org) or sign up at [Food at First Volunteer](#).

## Little Food Pantry

***"There is no wrong way to perform an act of kindness."* - Catherine Ryan Hyde**

*During the rush and joy of the holidays, please remember there are those in Ames who are struggling just to put food on the table for their families.*

***The next opportunity to fill the Pantry shelves will be Communion Sunday, December 4. Donations can be placed in the containers by each of the sanctuary doors.***

*Food and supplies are constantly needed: Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, TP. Cleaning supplies. Pop top fruits & vegetables, soups, SpaghettiOs. Crackers, cereal, or any other non-perishable foods. Throughout the week, please take your donations straight to the Little Food Pantry or place them in the collection bin inside the church near the west door. Volunteers are also needed to help restock the Pantry. Contact Marti at [melston8@gmail.com](mailto:melston8@gmail.com). Thank you!*





# Food at First



## Pass Along Party 2022

The party will be on Sat. Dec. 10th from 1pm - 3pm at  
Collegiate United Methodist Church 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames

**Donations will be accepted at  
Collegiate United Methodist Church  
2622 Lincoln Way at the  
EAST door - look for signs.**

**Donation Drop-off times:**

~~Sat. November 19th 10:00am-Noon~~

~~Mon. November 20th 4:00pm-6:30pm~~

**Tues. December 6th 4:00pm-6:30pm**

Suggested donations: Gifts for teens, gently used or new toys for all ages, games, books, art supplies and other items. Household items, hats, gloves, personal care products.

Sorry, NO clothes, NO furniture or other large items.

Cash donations are also gladly accepted:  
[www.FoodAtFirst.com/donate](http://www.FoodAtFirst.com/donate) - then click  
on the yellow donate button.



## Advent Special Offering

**Ukraine Refugees:** Since May, Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance - AIRA has helped welcome 9 families including 15 adults and 7 children ages 4 to 14 from Ukraine to the Ames area. The children are attending Fellows, Sawyer and Gilbert Elementary Schools, Gilbert High School, and Ames Middle School. The families come from several different cities in Ukraine and many have left family members at home. Several of the adults are studying English with volunteer tutors and through DMACC ELL classes. Some have found employment. Two families have recently moved to their own rental units from their host family homes. AIRA has raised funds to pay initial living stipends, transportation, initial housing costs, and government application fees. This Advent season we at Collegiate Wesley would invite you to give a special holiday gift to AIRA to assist in welcoming more individuals from Ukraine to the Ames area and also assist in sponsoring individuals that are already here. There are a few ways you can make a donation.



- \* One our website: [cwames.org/give](http://cwames.org/give)
- \* Mailing a check to the main office, put Advent Special Offering in the memo.
- \* Making a donation during worship using the special giving envelopes.

### The Giving Tree

The giving tree this year will be connected to our Advent Special offering. We invite you to grab a tag off the tree to support our Ukrainian friends who are living in Ames. There will be different gift cards listed that you can purchase to donate to the families. Deadline is December 18th.

## Alternative Gifts Market

Alternative Gift Market Coming in December!

The Alternative Gift Market will be available in the Gathering Space on December 4 after the service and before and after the church service on December 11.

This is a wonderful opportunity to show our Christian love and to learn about projects around the world that relieve poverty and suffering. You may choose from 21 international and six local projects for your gifts, available through Alternative Gifts International.

Giving alternative gifts is a great way to match a thoughtful gift to the interests of a friend or family member and to encourage children to think about others while helping people around the world.

Donors receive an attractive card to send along with an insert telling about the project and its impact on the world. Since the beginning of AGM more than 25 years ago, more than 19 million dollars has supported many charities worldwide. Please consider participating in the market by giving an alternative gift to someone on your Christmas list.





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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