

The

January, 2023 Vol. 42 Issue 1

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 in late December

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.

February 2023 Communicator Deadline: January 20, 2023

Epiphany: The (Star) Light Among Us

Some years ago, I took my children to South Dakota and we went down into **a cave. I can't quite remember which cave we went into** – maybe it was the Wind Cave – but I remember we rode an elevator down into the bowels of the earth, and then we stepped out on a platform that was lit with electric lights. The guide who was with our group explained how the cave was formed and the geological features we were seeing. Then, he turned out the lights. In a split second, we were plunged into absolute darkness. We could not see **our hands in front of us. In fact, I remember holding my children's hands** and in those few seconds of complete darkness, I think we all felt reassured **by holding onto each other even though we couldn't see a thing.**



Of course, the guide turned the lights back on and although we all laughed sheepishly at feeling afraid, I know all the people there were so glad when the lights came back on. We could see each other. We could see around us. We could see where we were going.

When Jesus came into the world, it is said that a Natal Star shone above his manger in Bethlehem. And then, tradition says that twelve days after his birth, the Wise Ones came from the East bearing gifts, and when they found him, they bowed down and worshiped him. The Natal Star pointed a light to a moment in time, and the light that was in Jesus illuminated the minds of the Wise Ones sent to confirm his birth into the world. Because of these stories, we have the season we call Epiphany, or enlightenment, in the weeks between Christmas and Ash Wednesday.

This January, in our worship together, we will explore the ways the Light has come into our lives. We will see what the star light in creation has to show us about the mystery and miracle of creation. We will have **a Reader's Theater and we will remember the light of our baptism. We will be invited to "come and see"** how the light of God lives among us. We will ask that we be enlightened as we ponder again the rule of living Jesus taught us in The Beatitudes.

Be with us in January – **you are a part of God's illumination among us. Because you are present, others** take comfort and feel companioned on the journey. Together we lift our light. Together we discover Epiphany.

Grace to you,

Pastor Mary

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

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](#). No Sunday School 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

Middle School (Sunday evenings 6:30-7:30)

High School (Sunday evenings 7:30-8:30)

No Youth Group January 1st

Youth Bells

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

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



SAVE THE DATE!

Theme reveal coming soon!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! (VBS)
JUNE 4TH-7TH
5:00 PM DINNER
5:30-7:30 VBS

Thank you to all who made the children and youth Christmas program possible

YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all who supported the youth card fundraiser and bake sale!



WE RAISED OVER \$650 FOR SUMMER



Children and Youth Christmas Program!



If you haven't had a chance to watch this year's Christmas Program, you can view it anytime on our YouTube channel under the Live videos tab. Or at this link if you are viewing the communicator digitally <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OrThbIGYI4>

Pictures from Christmas Activities and Services



Pictures from Christmas Activities and Services



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>

Spiritual Formation will have the following schedule for January:

January 1: No class

January 8: conclusion of "From Generation to Generation"

January 15: "What Does Jesus Mean?"

January 22: "Surviving Hope"

January 29: "Rejoice in the Healing"

Meeting at 9 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>

Holiday Services Online



HEAD TO YOUTUBE TO WATCH:

- **THE 2022 BELLS AND BRASS CONCERT**
- **7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**
- **STORY COUNTY CIRCUIT CANTATA**



Worship

Worship Experiences in January – Epiphany Theme: The (Star) Light Among Us

Jan. 1 – Remembering our baptism, we will renew our commitment to God and each other for the New Year. Lewis Cox is preaching. Pastor Mary will consecrate the Communion elements.

Jan. 8 – **Epiphany: God’s Awesome Creation.** This Sunday we celebrate the way the light returns into the world. We will have a Reader’s Theater with several voices. This service uses inclusive language and builds a worship experience in which we celebrate our church’s witness that everyone is welcome and valued. In God’s light, we see each person as beloved.

Jan. 15 – Much of our insight, or moments of Epiphany, are because we observe something in the world around us. This Sunday we look at John 1: 29-42 and we think about how we are invited by Jesus to “Come and See”. Pastor Mary preaching

Jan. 22 – **Most of us have had an “ah ha” moment, and for some of us it connected us to God.** On this Sunday we explore Matthew 4: 12-23. When have you seen a great light? When have you heard, “follow me”? Pastor Mary preaching

Jan. 29 – Jesus gives us a rule for living and it is called the Beatitudes. This set of teachings ask us to grow in spirit and in faith by living under certain terms. The Beatitudes illuminate the mind of Christ. Be with us as Lewis Cox opens up these teachings for us.

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.



TO VIEW OUR ONLINE SERVICES LIVE OR PRERECORDED

Via YouTube

1. Go to youtube and type in Collegiate Wesley 242 or type in: <https://www.youtube.com/@collegiatewesley242>
2. The home screen will show you non-live videos like Bells and Brass and the Christmas Cantata.
3. Go to the Live tab for our Livestreamed videos. You can also go here on Sundays at 10:00 am to watch our services live.



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**. 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!

Endowment Board Grants

Announcing 2023 Endowment Grants

The Collegiate Wesley Endowment Board announces that the 2023 grant cycle has begun. Grants may be used to underwrite new or existing programs / ministries. They can support a mission project. Or they can be used for capital expenditures. The exact amount of money available in 2023 will be announced at the end of January. Grant money will be disbursed in April. But the time to start generating ideas is now. Watch the weekly email announcements and the February and March Communicators for the link to the grant request form. Send questions about the grant process to endowmentboard@cwames.org. The CW Endowment Board looks forward to hearing from you.

"I can see clearly now the Pane is gone..." That's how that song goes, right? No? I guess the cold is affecting me, or maybe it was a terrible attempt at a joke for this article. You may have noticed construction (and debris) as we tackled a major project this last month. The Board of Trustees applied for funding through the Endowment Board in the spring of 2022 to continue their campaign of window replacement. The Endowment Board renewed their support of this window replacing venture and helped fund the majority of this project. With that funding we were able to finish replacing the windows on the west and south sides of the Church. A total of 31 windows were replaced this last month, just in time for the colder months.

The Board of Trustees is extremely grateful for this partnership with the Endowment Board as we strive to reduce our carbon footprint through energy efficiency. Since 2019, we have been able to replace almost 100 windows, add air conditioning/heat pump to the second floor, and replace all the window air conditioners on the 1st floor. Through this teamwork, the CUMC/WF campus saves thousands of dollars a year on utility costs while making the building beautiful, and increasing the comfort for everyone inside. Thank you to all who help on these projects to make CUMC/WF more sustainable for the future!



Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for all of your prayers for my son Warren with his kidney surgery. They have found that the tumor is non-malignant. Hurrah! ~ LaRue Clark
- 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
- for volunteers at Food at First on Friday, 12/23: Ann Sandine, Dee Dreeszen, Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Sally Wilson, Dean Phillips, Marjy Howe, Jeremy & Ben Galvin, Zayden & Lauren Loonsfoot, Tara & Eric Anderson, and Brenda Allen.



Prayers of Concern:

- for students during finals and for family's health. ~ Natalie Rios
- for my cousin Will and his daughter Molly, as they deal with the loss of his mom/her grandma this past Friday. ~ Janet Wilson
- for my dad who is having open heart surgery on Monday. ~ Sharon Busch
- for Janet Stephenson, recovering from a fall.
- for Jim and Karen Dorchmann on the loss of their daughter, McKenzie. Cards can be sent to them at 13311 West Blue Bonnet Dr, Sun City West AZ 85375.
- for my uncle Harvey Teague (and his wife Sharon), who is in hospice after fighting covid and a stroke. ~ Amanda Winters
- for Brandy Bergman. ~ Erin Faeth

**Welcome
Baby
Loonsfoot!**

HELP US CELEBRATE BRYAN, LAUREN,
ZAYDEN, EMRY & BABY!
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR
AN ALL-AGES SHOWER WITH LUNCH,
CAKE & GAMES TO WELCOME BABY!

**PLEASE BRING A BOOK THAT YOU
LIKE BEST, EITHER WELL-LOVED OR
BRAND-NEW, & PLEASE SIGN YOUR
BOOK WITH A LINE OR TWO, LETTING
BABY KNOW THE BOOK IS FROM YOU!**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
11:30 AM (FOLLOWING WORSHIP) IN WESLEY HALL

REGISTRY: [HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/BABY-REG/LAUREN-
LOONSFOOT-FEBRUARY-2023/WVI6SNQ4W420](https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/lauren-loonsfoot-february-2023/wvi6snq4w420)

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

Clothing That Works has seen a huge increase in usage. Your clean usable adult clothing donations are needed. Our **BIGGEST** need right now is men's clothing and shoes.

Come visit us for a tour. Open Wednesdays, 2-5 pm and the first Saturday of each month, 9am-noon.



We have the best volunteers!



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 30**, and **January 27** 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

The next opportunity to fill the Pantry shelves will be Communion Sunday, January 8. Donations can be placed in the containers by each of the sanctuary doors.

Throughout the week, please take your donations straight to the Little Food Pantry or place them in the collection bin inside the church's west door. Contact Marti at melston8@gmail.com with questions.

Recent Highlight: Iowa State University Extension visited our Little Food Pantry and has featured it in one of their publications. The food safety publication offers ideas for items that are good to donate, those that are not, and items that may not do so well in the cold Iowa weather. Check it out at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/16592>





THANK YOU!

Because of your generous donations, we were able to collect, during the Advent season as a community, \$5651.00 and over \$600 in gift cards for families living in Ames who are refugees from Ukraine!

Thank you!!!

End-of-year Mission Giving

Through your generosity, we at Collegiate Wesley give to a number of local, national, and international missions and ministries: Women at the Well, Katherine Parker, Food at First, Good Neighbor, Clothing that Works, Bridge Home, and more. Your mission giving makes an impact. You can support individual organizations or give to the larger mission line where Sending to Serve distributes money from. To make a final 2022 donation, head to our website here [Mission Giving](#) (before midnight on December 31).



An Update from Katherine Parker

(included are parts from Katherine's recent letter)

“Dear Friends and partners in ministry at Collegiate UMC and Wesley Foundation,

I'm grateful for your continued support through these uncertain times. Since I last saw you in 2019, your congregation has donated \$11,792 plus multiple project funds through the Dennis Byrne Fund. Thank you for making sure that our church continues to be able to build cross-cultural international relationships all around the world and for **specifically supporting me to be here in Nepal.**”

Katherine mentions that she has been approved for in person church visits in 2023! We at Collegiate Wesley are excited to see and hear updates from Katherine this fall. Potentially in September. To view **Katherine's full newsletter** you can visit our website here: <https://cwames.org/blog/updates-from-katherine-parker/>

Thank you for the many ways you support Katherine, through your donations and prayers.

Thank You Messages



Thank you to the volunteers and committee members for all of their help with the Advent Workshop – Jill, Brian, Tyler, Sean, Zach and Dylan Brand, Elaine Trinkle, Jane and John Jacobson, Stephanie Hamilton, Chris and Erik Anderson, Dianna Nelson, Janelle Keltgen, Jamie, Maddie, Elsa and Evelyn Rabe, Bonnie Nichols, Sandy Stevenson, Joann Barten, Carl and Leah Bigelow, Mary Ann and Paul Lundy, Megan Schroder and Charley Bleyle. A big thank you to Mary Jo Banwart for the cookies for decorating, to Doug Warren for helping cut down the evergreen tree that was donated and to Maureen and Chris Tuggle for donating the evergreen tree for the wreath making. A huge thank you to Paul Brackelsberg for cutting down and cleaning up the Tuggle's tree and helping make the 25 wreaths.



Thank you to all of the children, youth and adults that made the Children and Youth Christmas program possible! We had a wonderful program to share with the congregation because of YOU! We hope you had fun and enjoyed the experience.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make our Christmas Eve services possible! Without your **help we couldn't have provided the hospitality and experience that we did to our guests and members.** Thank you so much!



Thank you Jane Jacobson and Mary Buck for taking care of the poinsettias this holiday season!



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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