

The

Communicator

March, 2023 Vol. 42 Issue 3

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation
Ames, Iowa

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

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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 February, between precipitation events.

About *The Communicator* and deadline submission dates –

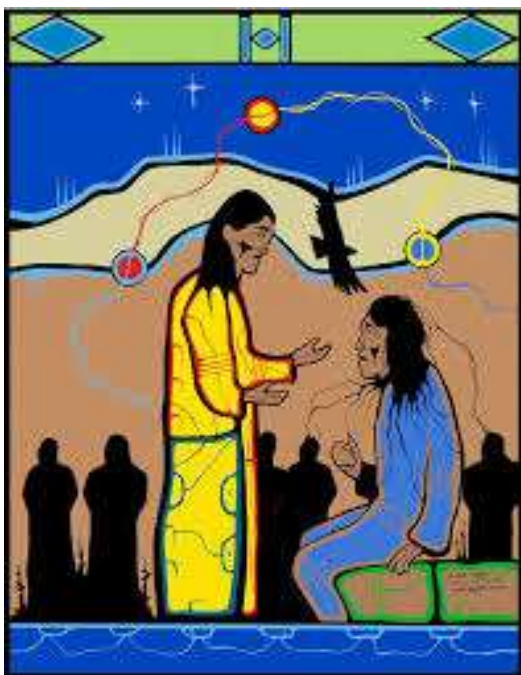
The *Communicator* is a monthly publication of Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation. The goal of *The Communicator* is to inform and involve people in the life and work of the church. **To submit articles, please email them to mail@cwames.org and put “Communicator” in the subject line.** If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 515-292-6936.

April 2023 Communicator Deadline: March 20, 2023

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

This Lenten season we are walking through a series of paintings by indigenous artist Ovide Bighetty that depict Holy Week. This is the series of days following Palm Sunday that includes Maundy Thursday when Jesus gathered around the table for the last time with his disciples, Good Friday when we see the anguish of the cross, Holy Saturday when it is said that Jesus descended to hell to redeem it and then, the Empty Tomb of Easter.



On March 5th, Native American clergywoman Danira Parra will be with us to walk us through the paintings and to officiate at our Communion service. I hope you will be with us for this special **Sunday**. I am sure we will learn much about how these paintings are distinctly Native American and how they communicate to us the passion and resurrection of Christ.

During the Sunday services following this great weekend, we will look at an individual painting and explore how it communicates to us **Jesus' journey, and ours, through Holy Week**.

I hope you will also put on your calendars Maundy Thursday April 6th and Good Friday April 7th. On Maundy Thursday – from the word “command” in Latin that references Jesus’ command “to love one another” – we will gather around tables in Wesley Hall and on

Good Friday – drawing on the meaning of “holy” or pious from the word “good” – we will have a service of readings and music led by the Chancel Choir.

In the Christian year, the Paschal Triduum is the period of three days that begins with Maundy Thursday and reaches its peak with **Easter Sunday**. In ancient times, this period was called, “the still days” because following the Maundy Thursday observance all bells and instrumental music of the church is silenced. In today’s world, we have the music of the church help us with our observance on Good Friday, but I would like to suggest to us that we all use the Paschal Triduum period as a reflective time within ourselves, a “still” time in our hearts to ponder the great mystery of God’s love and commitment to us and to consider what our love and commitment to God and others involves.

Light and grace,
Pastor Mary

Worship During Lent

Coming Up in Worship

This **Lenten Season** we will focus on a series of paintings depicting the Passion of Jesus by indigenous artist Ovide Bighetty. The Indigenous Studies Program at Vancouver School of Theology compiled and named the paintings **The Creator's Sacrifice**, and put together a worship experience. The paintings are designed to take us through Holy Week. This year, we will use the worship material and paintings of **The Creator's Sacrifice** to walk through Lent.

March 5th Starting the Journey. Scripture: Mark 14: 32-42 Rev Danira Parra preaching. Communion. Rev. Parra comes to us from DaySpring Native American UMC in Peoria, Illinois

March 12th The Betrayal. Scripture: Matthew 26: 47-56

March 19th **Peter's Failure. Scripture: Luke 22: 54-62**

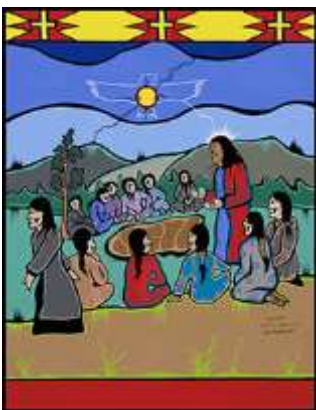
March 26th Crowned for our Glory. Scripture: Mark 15: 1-15

April 2nd **Palm Sunday.** Creating a New Family. Scripture: John 19: 17-27

April 6th Maundy Thursday – 7 p.m. Communion. We will gather around tables in Wesley Hall.

April 7th Good Friday. It is Finished. Scripture: Mark 15: 33-47. 7 p.m. Chancel Choir. Gather in the Sanctuary

April 9th **Easter.** Hallelujah, Christ Has Risen. Scripture: Matthew 28: 1-10 Communion



Lent 2023 Continued

About the Art:

Ovide Bighetty was born in 1969 in Pukatawagan Manitoba Canada. He is a Cree Missinippi- Ethniwak self-taught artist well known for his various painting series. In 2002, Indian Metis Christian Fellowship (IMCF) commissioned Ovide to depict the vision that an elder had of Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin - **The Creator's Sacrifice; the Easter story or the Passion of Jesus Christ.** Ovide accepted the challenge to paint the story in a fashion consistent with both the accounts in the gospels and aboriginal culture. Ovide painted the elder's vision of the Easter story in his own aboriginal style which he describes as 'Woodland Cree'. The setting for this Christian aboriginal artwork is the pre-European landscape of Ovide's childhood home, Pukatawagan First Nation, Manitoba, Canada. Bighetty's paintings are based on spirituality, stories and symbolism passed down by elders. He's well known throughout the Canadian provinces, and Europe. Ovide passed away March 20, 2014, and his artwork continues to make an impact. You can view and purchase his artwork online [here](#).



Livestreamed Worship

Helpful links for watching our worship services:

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.

Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

Vacation Bible School

Sunday June 4th– Wednesday June 7th 5:00 pm free meal, 5:30-7:30 rotation stations. Join for a time of music, games, science, art and fun!

About the theme: Mending God's World. During this exciting program, kids learn to be menders of the universe as they explore the daily themes of Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest. Register today [here](#). Volunteers needed, sign-up [here](#).



Elementary Service Trip

The elementary service trip is open to current 2nd-5th graders along with an adult chaperone to attend a two night service trip followed by a Saturday fun day activity. This year we are looking at traveling to Waterloo again for a our time of service and fun. The dates will be June 15th-17th. If you are interested in attending you can register [here](#). More details to come as we continue to plan.

Youth Summer Service Trip

This year we will be doing a combined middle school and high school service trip. We're looking into serving in the Madison, Wisconsin area, July 24th-July 28th. Interested participants can register [here](#).

Children's 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](#).

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– March 12th and March 19th.

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

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

Youth Bells

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

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

No Sunday School- March 12th

Summer Camp



The 2023 camping season is coming up fast! The Iowa United Methodist Church has two camp locations, Camp Okoboji and Camp Wesley woods.

To pick your camp, download the [2023 Summer Camp Catalog](#) and [register today](#) for an adventure of a lifetime!

Collegiate Wesley will cover 25% of registration costs for campers. Check it out today!

Children and Youth Photos from February



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 March:

March 5: "Starting the Journey" Mark 14: 32-42 led by Mike King

March 12: "The Betrayal" Matthew 26:47-56 led by Mary Bellon

March 19: "Peter's Failure" Luke 22: 54-62 Led by Mike King

March 26: "Crowned for Our Glory" led by Mike King

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>

Welcome Riley McGuire Loonsfoot!

Lauren, Bryan, Zayden and Emry Loonsfoot are excited to welcome home Riley McGuire Loonsfoot. Riley was born on Saturday, February 11th weighing 7 lbs, 5 ounces and measuring 19 3/4in long. Everyone is doing well and enjoying this time home together as a family of 5. Thank you for the love and support!





Wesley Center



Nacho Average Bible Study

Looking for a fun and engaging way to learn more about the Bible and connect with other college students? Then "Nacho Average Bible Study" is the event for you! Join us on March 1st from 7-8 P.M. in the Student Lounge for a night of delicious nachos and exciting Bible Trivia. No previous knowledge of the Bible is necessary - just bring your appetite and your competitive spirit!

Coffee With the Campus Minister

Our Campus Pastor, Lewis Cox, will be hanging out at Starbucks at 2302 Lincoln Way every Tuesday from 8:00-11:00 A.M. throughout the month of March and the rest of the semester. Lewis is excited to meet all of you, listen to your stories, and answer any questions you may have. This is the perfect opportunity to get to know each other, discuss your spiritual journey, and share your thoughts on life, faith, and everything in between



Connect With Us

We want to get to know you better and help you connect with the vibrant community here at our church. That's why we've created our student connect card - a fun, easy way for you to share a bit about yourself with us. It's a chance for us to learn more about your interests, passions, and goals, and to see how we can support you on your journey.

Finance Committee

Positive Financial News for 2023!

The Finance Committee has passed the 2023 budget. The budget, which is pending approval by the Church Council, reflects improvement in Collegiate/Wesley's financial condition as we emerge from the pandemic. In fact, the \$775,000 budget is expected to show a modest surplus! You, the donors to the church, have really come through. Pledges from the annual stewardship campaign show signs of rebounding, posting an increase from last year.

A portion of the projected surplus is the result of a one-time Employee Retention Credit payment from the federal government as part of its COVID relief efforts. Without this payment, Collegiate/Wesley would be operating at a deficit this year. However, the ERC payment comes at a good time, since it gives us some added cushion as we make continued progress toward a balanced budget every year.

Thanks for your continued financial support of Collegiate/Wesley!

Dennis Byrne Endowment Fund

Dennis Byrne Endowment Fund 2023 Applications Open

We welcome proposals for grant funding to support United Methodist-associated groups and individuals in mission work, with an emphasis on international work as well as local missions. These funds are made available by the generosity of Dennis Byrne and his commitment to support mission projects that have at their core efforts acts of justice, compassion and mercy. The grant proposal process is coordinated by the Byrne Endowment Fund Team. The team meets regularly throughout the year to administer the proposal process.

For full consideration, submit grant proposals by **Friday, April 14th, 2023**. The application form can be found [here](#).

Endowment Board

2023 Endowment Grant Applications Due March 31

Procrastination is not one of the seven deadly sins, but it could cost you the opportunity to receive a 2023 grant from the Collegiate / Wesley Endowment Fund. There are 31 days (or fewer depending on when you read this) to submit your application. A few FAQ's and answers may help.

'What qualifies for a CW Endowment Grant?

- Ideas for new ministries or programs or ways to expand or enhance existing ministries or programs.
- Support for mission projects.
- Capital improvements to the CW campus.

Who can submit a grant request?

- Any one in CW community
- CW Committees, Clusters, or Boards
- Requests must have the approval of CW boards or committees that oversee the area of the grant (e.g. property enhancements need Trustees approval).

How to submit a grant?

- Complete the grant application <https://forms.gle/qy6pctjsgzrhiWoc6>
- Email endowmentboard@cwames.org for assistance

When to submit a grant?

- **NOW**
- Deadline is March 31, 2023

Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

“And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.” Genesis 1:3-4 Now, I usually leave the scripture and preaching to Pastor Mary, as she is a far better wordsmith than I am, but I couldn’t resist using that bit of scripture. This month I want to showcase a big change that will be used every Sunday, yet many might not even notice. Burnt out or not, every bulb in the chandeliers of the sanctuary were replaced to maximize the usage of the rented scissor lift. Now, I’m not a huge fan of heights, but with some cheerleading from Janelle (although she claims she was only there to call for an ambulance if I fell) the project was completed before the Installation Service for the Bishop. These new lights will not only make the sanctuary brighter, but they help tremendously with the ability to capture a good image for the livestream.

I hope you all are having a happy and safe winter. As spring approaches, the CUMC/WF garden committee will be starting its work soon. If you want to join in on the action, send me an email: doug@cwames.org. We’d love to have you join us!



Good Neighbor Concert

A Good Concert with a Good Neighbor

On Sunday, March 26 Collegiate/Wesley will be the host site for the 25th Annual Good Neighbor Concert featuring several Ames area Church and Community Choirs, including our artists in residence, the Ames Children's Choirs.

Several choirs will offer solo selections and the concert will feature some special music. The closing piece will be sung by all massed participants and shares the title of this event: "You Do Not Walk Alone." This stunning piece is a modern choral work by Iowa native Elaine Hagenberg, whose music has been sung here at Collegiate/Wesley and in venues all over the world.

We will celebrate two anniversaries at this concert; the first is the 25th anniversary of the GNEA Choral Concerts, finally energized after three years of silence. Second, 2023 will mark the 50th annual Masterwork here at Collegiate/Wesley. We will perform the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré featuring soloists from the Iowa State University Department of Music and Theater, and a full orchestra featuring members of the Des Moines Symphony.

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance was founded to provide emergency assistance for Story County residents, with dignity, encouragement, and support.

Please join us at **2:00 pm on Sunday, March 26** for this important celebration.

This concert is being advertised widely, and we seek volunteers to assist with this great event. Contact Chris Anderson (cj4miles@gmail.com) if interested.



Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for all the people with talent to give us special music. ~ LaRue Clark
- the cardinals are singing their mating songs! Thank be to God for this reassuring, recurring miracle (and to Laverna Brindley for keeping us aware of it). ~ Deborah Blaedel
- for the arrival of Riley McGuire Loonsfoot.
- for a life well-lived and for the Christian example that President Jimmy Carter set for all Americans. ~ Tim Garner
- for Pastor Mary's family worshipping with us. ~ LaRue Clark

Prayers of Concern:

- for Stephani Scherbart and family on the loss of her mother Beverly.
- for Jeannie Weber, having surgery.
- for those affected by the terrible earthquake. ~ LaRue Clark
- for Ann Sandine and family (including Jenn Plagman-Galvin) on the death of her mother, Lois Weathers.
- for victory for Ukraine. ~ Janis Stone
- for Jeannie Weber's healing following kidney stone surgery.



Alternative Gift Market

Many thanks to the CUMC members who participated in the 2022 Alternative Gift Market. CUMC gifts totaled \$3,968, a significant increase over the last few years.

Ames gifts to AGM from several churches totaled \$20,283 with \$6,747.50 given for local projects including Food at First, The Bridge Home, Access, and Good Neighbor. The remaining \$13,380 helped many needy people in the U.S. and worldwide.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

Maureen Wilt, Coordinator

Text-To-Give

Text-to-give: Using your smartphone, simply text the amount you want to give to 84321. You will receive a text message that helps you through the process of identifying Collegiate/Wesley as the church to whom you would like to give, logging into your profile, adding or selecting a payment method, and submitting a donation. After the initial setup, next time you want to donate it's as easy as texting the amount you want to give to 84321.

Ways to give

At Collegiate Wesley, your giving makes a difference in our community.

- 1 Text-to-give:** Using your smartphone, simply text the amount you want to give to 84321
- 2 QR Code**
- 3 Website:** You can give anytime on our website: cwames.org under give for general giving or mission giving.
- 4 A physical donation:** place a donation in the offering plate on Sundays or mail your donation to the office.

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Needed

Clothing That Works

St. Cecilia Catholic Church held an underwear drive for the benefit of Clothing That Works and collected 1,400 items. They also gave a cash donation for other needed items. CTW would like to thank St. Cecilia for their generous donation.

CTW is open every Wednesday 2-5pm and the Saturday of each month 9am-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 3:00-5:30 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.

The next opportunities to serve are March 24th and 31st. 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](#)

Little Food Pantry

Today, love others for who they are. See the beauty in the journey. Hold your head high and be brave. Extend a hand, give back and believe in the power of simply being kind.
-rachel marie martin

Remember, March 5 (the first Monday in the month) is Little Food Pantry Giving Day. Containers will be accessible by the sanctuary doors and the west entrance.

Most Needed:

Toilet Paper

Shampoo/Deodorant

Peanut Butter

Beef-a-Roni and other pop-top meals

Crackers

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Granola Bars

Soup

Pasta



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. Thank you again for all your support!

Sending to Serve

Lenten Special Offering

Students can face challenging and unique barriers throughout their experience **working towards a college degree**. Whether it's navigating mental health, identity development, personal or medical concerns, Iowa State University has resources and support available to assist students with overcoming their individual obstacles. One of those resources is the **Office of Student Assistance** who through their work, coordinate the care and support students need for academic success and personal wellbeing. Specifically, their office follows up with students hospitalized for mental health crises, supports students and bystanders navigating loss and its intersection with their role as a student, and facilitates response when an ISU student dies.



Student Assistance has a **Crisis and Program Enhancement Fund** which was started by a gift from Paul and Lisa Niebuhr after their son Evan died in an auto accident. Any giving received during this campaign would be used by the Student Assistance team via this fund to enhance services to students/families in a variety of ways. Specifically, targeted outreach and support to some students navigating significant challenges, follow up with those students, and creating resources otherwise not available given funding parameters at Iowa State.

We invite you to give generously to this program during the season of Lent. The impact is great and the need is huge. You can make a donation online at our website, by mailing a check to the church office or placing your donation in the offering plate using a Lenten Special Offering envelope. Thank you so much for your support!

Bridge Home Board Rep Needed



We are proud to partner with the Bridge Home as committed community partners. One of the joys of that partnership means we have the opportunity to lift up a name for a board member to serve on the Bridge Home board of directors. This responsibility is a great and beneficial one. It does take additional time and commitment not only to the Bridge Home but also to Collegiate Wesley. We are currently seeking a Collegiate Wesley member to fill the board role. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity please fill out this [interest form](#) for our Sending to Serve cluster.

You can learn more about The Bridge Home on their website www.thebridgehome.org. To view their January newsletter click [here](#).

Bishop's Installation Service



Installation of Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Thank you to the members of collegiate/Wesley who volunteered to provide hospitality and logistical support for the Bishop's Installation and reception on February 19th.

Mary Jean & Allan Baker
Lewis Cox
Xavier Johnson
Patty & Mike King
Elaine Trinkle

Mike Bowman
Jane & John Jacobson
Janelle Keltgen & John Lauridsen
Mary Ann & Paul Lundy
Our Music Staff

Mary Buck
Darra Johnson
Michael King
Steven Schroder
Our A/V Staff

Additional thanks to Jill Brand, Zach Brand, and Ian Shriver for helping to remove the pennants and return furniture to its usual locations after the service.





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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