

The

# Communicator

August, 2023 Vol. 42 Issue 8

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](http://cwames.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/cwames](https://facebook.com/cwames)

## 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.

Cover Pictures: taken in mid-July

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## 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.

September 2023 Communicator Deadline: August 20, 2023

Coming in Worship

# A GRACE THAT'S NOT ARTIFICIAL

INVITE - EXPERIENCE - GROW - SERVE

AUGUST SERMON SERIES

## Worship Time Change

Worship moving from 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Starting August 6th



## Live Stream Worship

You can view our weekly worship anytime during the week on Facebook @cwames or on YouTube @collegiatewesley242



## 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.

# Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

*Living God, grant us the grace of true vision so we may serve your people: that the Good News is heard each day, lived in our locality, bringing your healing and justice. For the sake of your kin-dom on earth. Amen. (from the Iona Community)*



There are two items of particular note I would like to call your attention to: the first is the Fireside Renovation Project. Under the leadership of Linda Carver, Team Leader, a group has been commissioned by the Trustees to renovate the Fireside Room. A grant was procured from the Endowment Board. Team members include: Mary Jo and Jon Banwart, John and Jane Jacobson, Janelle Keltgen, and Pastor Mary. The target date for the big reveal is Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, we are refurbishing the Conference Room across the hall from the Fireside Room. It is equipped with a large screen, whiteboard and new carpeting. A new table is being ordered. All meetings will occur in the Conference Room until the Fireside Room is complete. Study and Fellowship groups may use the Conference Room or the Gathering Space.

Secondly, you will soon receive information from the Church Council regarding next steps in visioning and implementing financial sustainability and ministry for the 21<sup>st</sup> century here at Collegiate/Wesley. This is a process we are all entering and as we go forward, information will be shared with the congregation every step of the way. There are many different possibilities for the use of our property and assets, including the house next door as an intentional student community. The Church Council will be releasing its decisions on next steps after a special retreat in July to consider all the options and weigh survey results.

As we turn our thoughts toward the fall, we prepare for the students arriving and returning to ISU, for our kick off Sunday on September 10<sup>th</sup> and for the many ways our fellowship flourishes as we come back into our study groups, our service opportunities, our fellowship with each other and our full worship with our choir. August is an important month because it is the hinge between the summer and the fall; August has **sometimes been called, “the dog days of summer” because it is often hot and the time seems to move slowly**, but, in reality, August brims with preparation and vision.

Here are some of the exciting learning opportunities coming this fall that are in preparation:

**Disciple Bible Study** – new app version; meeting on Zoom. Contact Pastor Mary

**Reading and Conversation** – led by Lauren Loonsfoot, this group usually meets at Dog Eared Books. Some of their studies include racial reconciliation and allyship.

**The M&M Sunday Group** – led by Lynn Kaizer at 9 am, this group does studies of theology and scripture and the practical implications on our lives. Conference Room (across from the Fireside Room)

**Spiritual Formation** – led by Mike King at 9 am on Sunday mornings, this group often follows the scripture and worship themes. Library

**The Builders Class** – led by Barb Pedersen at 9 am on Sunday mornings, this is a conversational group that deals with current events. Room 44

**Faith Formations** – led by Mary Jean Baker, this group is an online learning experience where you read and comment in a group email thread.

**The Forum Class** – facilitated by Tim Garner, this class meets occasionally to bring speakers and information regarding important issues in our community. **Norman Room**

**Roundtable** – facilitated by Bev Kruempel and led by Pastor Mary, this group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at noon on Zoom. This group reads a book a few chapters each month for discussion. The book that begins the series is: **“All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis”** by Ayana Johnson and Katherine Wilkerson

**Northcrest Bible Study** -led by Pastor Mary this group meets at Northcrest in the Green Room every other Wednesday at 1:15 pm and follows curriculum we choose as a group. Sample of what we have studied: Nones; Adam Hamilton on The Lord’s Prayer; Amy Jill Levine, Difficult Words of Jesus. All are welcome

**Green Hills Tuesday Group** – led by Pastor Mary, this group meets once a month in the Pine Room at Green Hills. We are just finishing Leslie Weatherhead’s **“The Will of God”**

**Campus Wesley Foundation Groups** – led by Pastor Lewis on Wednesday evening

Our Director of Music, Patrick Gagnon will be announcing bell choir rehearsals for the various bell choirs, Chancel Choir will resume in September on Wednesday evening and Alex Jean will lead children’s choir on Sunday mornings.

We also will enjoy some fellowship groups:

**Roots and Values** – led by Darra Johnson, this group will gather to explore the values that people were raised with on farm communities and in rural America. Times TBA

**Women’s Koinonia Group** – Wednesday at 7 pm in the Gathering Space. We use a devotional book to prompt our discussions

**Men’s Coffee Fellowship** – Wednesday at 9 am in the Gathering Space. Coffee and donuts provided

**Middle School Youth Fellowship** – Wednesday at 6 pm in the Youth Room led by Lauren Loonsfoot

**High School Youth Fellowship** - Wednesday at 7 pm in the Youth Room led by Lauren Loonsfoot

We also will be enjoying some special programming and worship:

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** -we welcome Missionary Kathrine Parker from Nepal to our Pulpit and for a learning opportunity before worship

**October** – a special program of **Storytelling** is being shaped and more information will be forthcoming! **Pastor Lewis is organizing** this and it is going to be great!

We have had a terrific summer here at Collegiate/Wesley and I hope you will plan to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10, join a Sunday School class starting September 10th available for children and youth at 8:45 am and adults at 9:00 am on Sunday and consider plugging into one of our learning or fellowship opportunities.

**May we live out the vision of God’s love for all and create justice and kindness in all we do.**

Pastor Mary

# Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families



—20 AUGUST—  
WORSHIP  
**SERVICE**  
*Sunday*

Come hear about this years  
summer service trips



 **COLLEGIATE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
AND WESLEY FOUNDATION


**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
KICK-OFF!**


SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH  
8:45-9:45 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00 AM WORSHIP



Starting *Youth Group* Middle School 6pm  
September 13th High School 7pm

**MOVING TO WEDNESDAYS!**



 **COLLEGIATE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
AND WESLEY FOUNDATION

**Back to  
School  
Blessing**

Sunday, August 20th  
10:00 am during worship.  
Have your backpack,  
briefcase, crossing  
guard vest, laptop or  
other item that  
represents this years  
school year with you.



— We need you! —

CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL

**VOLUNTEERS**  
NEEDED

We are looking to grow our Sunday School programming. Please contact Lauren Loonsfoot [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org) for more information or to volunteer. Volunteer meeting following worship on August 20th.

# Upcoming Opportunities

## New Small Group Alert, Coming Soon!



When we did a breakout group one Sunday morning, three of us discovered we all grew up on a farm. Since that quick breakout, I have been interested in talking about growing up on a farm for some time. Finally, we will transition this idea into a small group. The group title is "Values Learned from Growing Up on a Farm". Weekly, we will discuss 15 values Successful Farming identified plus talk about the spiritual impact of being close to nature, to our neighbors, to family and to our rural churches. This group will start after Labor Day. If you are interested in participating, please email me at [darrajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:darrajohnson@gmail.com). We will determine what night works best for the

group and what location, either the church or my house in north Ames. I am looking forward to hearing about the group's early years.

## Grow in Faith Booklet

If you have a group or opportunity that you would like included in our fall kick-off brochure please send the information to Lauren Loonsfoot [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org) by August 17th so they can be included. When you send information please include:

- How people that are interested can sign-up
- Who they can contact with questions.
- Logistical information including meeting locations and times

Small groups, service opportunities, one off events, **Sunday School class info, etc. We're looking forward to a full booklet with lots of great opportunities!**



## Disciple Bible Study Class Forming



Pastor Mary is looking for six to eight people who might like to take the new Disciple Bible Study program which uses an app and Zoom meetings to read, hear audio lectures, watch videos and chat throughout the course with fellow participants. The Zoom group is once a week for face to face fellowship. Disciple covers 70% of the Bible in 36 weeks. Have you ever wanted to know more about the Bible, how it was written, what the historical movements were in theology, who the different books were written for and when? Would you like access to top notch scholars, theologians and historians. Let Pastor Mary know today that you would like to join the new Disciple Bible Study program: [Mary@cwames.org](mailto:Mary@cwames.org)

## Sending to Serve



# SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

## MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND

September 2nd 9:30-11:30am  
Hy-Vee Hall- Des Moines

Service Opportunity coming up: Meals from the Heartland Saturday September 2nd from 9:30-11:30 am During the Annual Fight for Hunger, we'll package meals to be used all around the world, where needed. This is their large packing event of the year and will be held in Hy-Vee Hall, downtown Des Moines. We have a number of spots already reserved. If you would like to sign-up to volunteer, please contact Lauren Loonsfoot [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org).

All volunteers must be 14 years or older or at least 8 years old and accompanied by an adult. If enough people are interested we may take the church bus for transportation.



**Katherine Parker  
is visiting!**

We're excited to welcome Katherine to worship on September 17th. Katherine is a United Methodist Church missionary in Nepal.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL OFFERINGS!

July- Bridge Home  
August- Food at First  
September- Katherine Parker  
October- Women at the Well

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



# Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Can you see me now? Good! This month's project is a little easier to see than some projects, literally. This last month after a wonderful Sunday service, volunteers Andy Smelser, John Jacobson, Darin & Kai Johnson, Denny Goodrich, Denny Youngquist, Patrick Gagnon, Lewis Cox, John Lauridsen, Janelle Keltgen, and Ed & Lynn Kaizer gathered in the sanctuary to tackle the screens. Many hands made light work, taking down the screens and putting the new ones up. In the days following, Denny and I were able to run all new cabling and hardware to run the TVs. Replacement of the screens and hardware was a needed upgrade to fix video delay issues along with issues where TVs would cut out intermittently. This project was majority funded by the Endowment Board. An extra big thank you to all that were involved in this project to make it a success!



## Our Prayers

### Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- Grateful thanks for the volunteers at Food at First on Friday, June 23: Dean Phillips, Dee Dreeszen, Bev Kruempel, Sally Wilson, Janelle Keltgen, Tom & Betty Barton, Janell Eby, Brad Brinkmeyer, Marjy Howe, and Alex & Noah Jean.
- Grateful thanks for the volunteers at Food at First on Friday, June 30: Dean Phillips, Dee Dreeszen, Bev Kruempel, Sally Wilson, Barbara Munson, Paul & Mary Ann Lundy, VaLinda & Mike Parsons, Tom & Betty Barton, Donna & Alan Vandelaar, Marjy Howe, Erik Anderson, Stephanie Hamilton, John Shriver, Branda Allen, Brad Brinkmeyer, and Robert Allie.

### Prayers of Concern:

- for our church as it goes through discernment. ~ an anonymous guest
- for Mary Stratton as she undergoes treatment.
- for LeAnn Meehan, experiencing difficult side effects while on a clinical trial.
- for those being treated for cancer, including brother John. ~ Ann McMullin
- for Mary Ann Lundy and family on the loss of her sister last week.
- for stress and depression in life. ~ Stewart Jackson
- For those in our church family dealing with health issues.



## 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](http://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.

## ASIP Collection

Cans and bottles can be taken any day in August to Ames Bottle and Can (ABC) to benefit ASIP's (Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners) Honduran refugee. This ASIP project was selected as their "Charity of the Month". If you choose to donate your recyclables in August it is very much appreciated.

# Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

## Little Food Pantry

*"Life's persistent and most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" -Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Please help as you can. Thank you.

Nonperishables such as:

Peanut Butter

Pop-top meals – Spaghettios, Raviolios

Crackers


Granola Bars

Canned fruits & Vegetables

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste

Shampoo & Conditioner

Donations can be left in the container inside the west door of the church or in the Pantry itself. To make a monetary donation, go to <https://cwames.org/give>, click on Giving Website, scroll to Missions and write in "Little Food Pantry" with the amount you would like to give. Thank you!



**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.**

**DONATION DROP OFF AT THE WEST DOOR OR DIRECTLY TO CLOTHING THAT WORKS WEDNESDAYS, 2-5 PM AND THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9AM-NOON.**

## Food at First Volunteer Opportunity

We have the opportunity to prepare and serve the daily meal for Food at First on the fourth and fifth Friday of every month. There are two shift opportunities 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.

The next opportunity to serve is August 25. 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](#).

Food at First is located inside First Christian Church, 611 Clark Ave., Ames





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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