

The
Communicator

November, 2023 Vol. 42 Issue 11

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation
Ames, Iowa

Contact Us

Phone: 515-292-6936

Email: mail@cwames.org

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.

Cover Pictures:

taken in mid-October.

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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 and put “*Communicator*” in the subject line. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 515-292-6936.

December 2023 Communicator Deadline: November 20, 2023

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

Here is a prayer I came across on Facebook – I thought it was beautiful:

God,
Keep me from assuming the worst of others. Increase my capacity for critical thinking and radical love. Rip out any theology of hatred, and show me the value of every human being. All made in your image. All worthy of liberation and **joy. Give me the courage to be a peacemaker, even in the midst of today's** heartbreak. Keep me soft towards humility. Keep me fiercely kind.
(@thehappygivers)



As we enter this season of thanksgiving, remembrance and generosity, what would it be for us to stop assuming the worst of others and to increase our capacity for radical love? I think Collegiate/Wesley is uniquely situated to be those people, the ones that live out in word and deed our belief that everyone is worthy of liberation and joy.

This evening as I write this there is terrible war in the Holy Land with thousands of innocent victims being killed, over half of whom are children. We must stand as a people given to peace and to the dignity and worth of all people. We must stand with the bruised and hurting people of Israel and we must stand with the terrified, broken and anguished Palestinians. It is a radical act in this world to stand for life and dignity and peace amidst the raging of war and the horror of terrorism. We are now called into that moment. We are called to be the emblems of peace and to reach out as it becomes known how we might be helpful.

We give thanks this month for all that God has provided in our lives and for our community at Collegiate/Wesley. During the first Sunday of November we will include the remembrance of those who have passed on into glory this year, and on the 19th we will celebrate Generosity Sunday. I think in some special way these two things are tied together: we remember those who walked the faithful and fruitful road, who prepared the way for us, and we acknowledge that we are in the midst of faithful and fruitful lives, preparing the way for those who will come after us. It is a circle of love and faith.

As we move into the fall, the season of harvest, I hope we see how God has blessed us, comforted us, guided us and prepared us for the days ahead.

Light and grace,

Pastor Mary

Coming in Worship

Coming up in Worship

November 5

All Saints Sunday, Communion, Rev. Paul Witmer presenting on Women at the Well, stewardship video, Scripture: Luke 22: 14-23: Covenant, Communion and Community.

November 12

Award presentation to congregation from Church World Service, stewardship video, Scripture: 1 Cor 12: 12-27: The Beloved Community

November 19

Generosity Sunday, special words from Jeff Elver, Finance Chair and Jason Janssen Finance Secretary; Scripture: 1 Peter 4: 10-11, **To Be God's Hands and Feet**. Following Worship: cookies and apple cider

November 26

First Sunday in Advent, Luke 1: 1-23, How Does a Weary World Rejoice? Trimming of the Tree and Decorating the Sanctuary after worship

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.



Pictures from October



Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families



Sunday School

We are having a blast in Sunday School! Come anytime! Preschool-5th graders start at 8:45 in room 202 with a time of music before their rotations. They are currently learning more about Noah. Middle School and High School classes start in their classrooms at 8:45 with a time of check-in before moving on to their lesson for the day! Interested in learning more? Contact Lauren Loonsfoot
lauren@cwames.org

Reading Room

We are converting an old office into a large “free little library”. Furniture has been ordered and the room is coming into shape. We are in need of donations of gently used contemporary books, published in the last 10 years, along with classics. We’re looking for board books to adult literature and everything in between. If you have some books you’d like to donate please leave them by Lauren Loonsfoot’s office on Sunday mornings or on the table in the reading room, which is located between Nichols chapel and the gathering space. Thank you for helping us spread the joy of reading to all ages!



Christmas Program Practice

- Sunday, November 5th
 - 11:00 am First gathering
- Wednesday, November 15th
 - 6:15-7:15 pm
- Sunday, November 26th
 - 5:00-6:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 6th
 - 5:00-6:00 pm
- Sunday, December 10th
 - 11:00 am Dress Rehearsal

Program: December 17th during worship
Email Lauren Loonsfoot
lauren@cwames.org to sign up!

SAVE THE DATE

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Youth Group Volunteer Night
Meals from the Heartland

5:00-8:45 pm
Wednesday December 13th

email Lauren is your youth
can attend!

Adult Sunday School

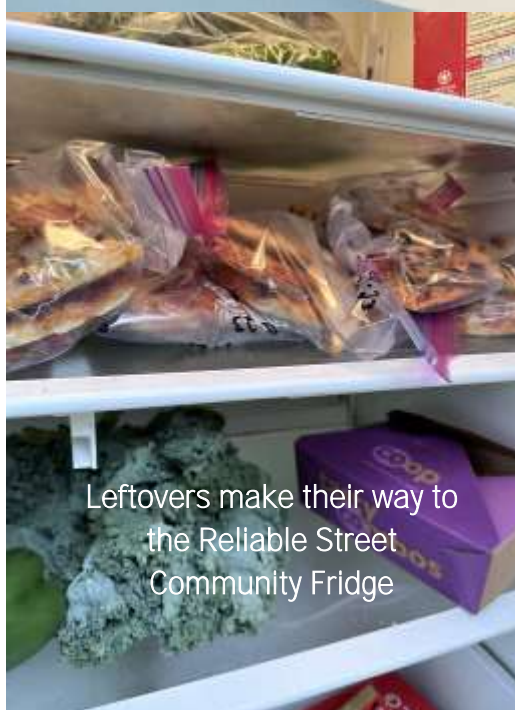
Adult Sunday School Classes
Starting September 11th unless
otherwise noted



Weekly Meal



potluck Friendsgiving meal
Wednesday, November 15th
5:30 pm wesley hall



Leftovers make their way to
the Reliable Street
Community Fridge



We're having a great time on Wednesdays at our weekly meal. Ranging from 40-50 attendees on average, we're enjoying the food and community. Come anytime! All are welcome. Wednesdays at 5:30 in **Wesley Hall**. We'd love for everyone to attend on November 15th for our Friendsgiving Potluck. Coming up: November 1st—Taco Bar, November 8th—Pot pie. Vegetarian and Gluten Free options.

WESLEY CENTER FALL UPDATES



WESLEY CENTER FALL RETREAT

This fall our Wesley Center Hosted Missionary Katherine Parker to lead a retreat helping us to reimagine mission in the global church ministry.

PARTNERSHIP WITH JUBILEE GOSPEL CHOIR

The Wesley Center was delighted to worship with the Jubilee Gospel Choir, a student organization dedicated to the art and history of Gospel music.



Stay connected with us on Instagram, Facebook, and our Website





**WESLEY
CENTER**

@ISU_Wesley

HOMECOMING TAILGATE

SAVE THE DATE

11.04.2023

**DON'T!
FORGET!**

2 HOURS BEFORE KICKOFF

515-292-6936

@ISU_Wesley

Lewis @cwames.org

2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa



2024 Generosity Campaign

2023 was a busy and transformative year for Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation! Our digital and in-person attendance has averaged in excess of 200 people during the course of 2023, and more than 400 people have chosen to celebrate Easter and Christmas by attending services at Collegiate Wesley.

As part of our transformation, the Church Council reaffirmed the importance of the Campus Ministry as part of our purpose. We welcomed Lewis Cox to the position of Associate Pastor/Campus Minister. We are also developing a financial plan for the sustainability of Collegiate Wesley.

Our programs and opportunities for involvement are almost too numerous to mention. To highlight a few:

- **Music program with Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir, special offerings and concerts.**
- Wesley Foundation ministry.
- Sunday School and adult Sunday School programs.
- Bible Study programs at Green Hills and Northcrest Retirement Communities.
- Summer mission programs for children and youth.
- **Women's Koinonia group.**
- Providing clothing for those in need through Clothing that Works, and food through the Little Food Pantry.
- Providing opportunities for missions through serving at Food at First and helping with other missions throughout the year.
- Supported Ames Pridefest, RAGBRAI, and the Fourth of July Parade.

There are many other programs and ways to participate. There is a place for everyone at Collegiate Wesley.

As we continue to grow in our ministry to one another and to the world, we plan to support our ministries with more than \$750,000 in 2023. In the past few months, Church Council has been presenting our progress on our longer-term financial plan for sustainability at Collegiate Wesley. To this end we are looking for ways to continue reducing costs while maintaining vital ministries and ensuring good use of our assets. We are asking that you thoughtfully and prayerfully consider your estimated contribution for 2024 and consider increasing your giving. Your giving is vital to supporting these wonderful ministries that make up the Collegiate Wesley Community. Your contributions are an essential part of our financial maintenance and growth. Please fill out your enclosed pledge card and return it during the Generosity Sunday service on November 19, where we will celebrate together. You can also mail it to:

Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation
Attn: Generosity
2622 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50014

This year, you also have the option to pledge online. You can go to our Giving page at www.cwames.org and click the link for the 2024 Generosity Campaign. You can also access the online Generosity Card by utilizing the QR code below.



Thank you for your faithfulness and support.

Your 2024 Stewardship team,

Mary Bellon
Senior Pastor

Max Morris
Finance Committee

Jeff Elver
Finance Committee
Chair

Jason Janssen
Financial Secretary

Patty King
Finance Committee

P.S. Your Estimate of Giving allows us to fund all the ministries mentioned here as well as many others. Please return your card as soon as you are able. Thank you for your generosity!

Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Wow! What a busy month it has been! Summer came and went, and now **it's gotten colder!** As the cold weather sets in, many preparations have to be made prior to firing up our boiler system. We used to fire up a lot earlier, but since adding the heat pump technology, we are able to heat the building efficiently until the temperatures get below freezing, saving thousands of dollars a year. Once temps are below freezing, we switch over to the boilers. The boilers take many hours to reassemble and get them all going again after their off-season lay-up.

In the last month we also finished up the refreshed Fireside Room; if you **haven't seen it yet, I encourage you to check out the new furnishings and** the powerful new LED lighting installed by yours truly! Another long term project was completed in the alleyway this last month. The old broken concrete was removed and replaced with river pebbles. Drainage tile was added to stop the water from seeping into the Norman room. It looks a lot better now and is helping to keep things dry!



The other big project, currently, is new electronic locks in our Annex building. The North door has the new lock and a few other rooms are currently in the works. This will greatly improve the security and usability of the space. If you use the annex, please send me (Doug@cwames.org) or Janelle (Janelle@cwames.org) to get a access card/fob. Thanks for all your support!



Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for the awesome crew at Food at First on Friday, Sept. 29: Dean Phillips, Bev Kruempel, Dee Dreeszen, Sally Wilson, Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Betty & Tom Barton, Barb & Wayne Pedersen, Mike Parsons, Donna & Alan Vandehaar, Eric, Tara & Vivienne Anderson, Bud Everett, and Ian Lavigne.
- for all of our blessings over the years as we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary October 14. We are grateful for our family, friends, and community. ~ Donna & Alan Vandehaar
- **Celebration of Jackie Manatt's 80th birthday on October 21st. ~ Barbara Munson**

Prayers of Concern:

- for Julie Schubert, recovering from a fall.
- for all those in need of healing.
- for those being oppressed. Give them God's love. ~ LaRue Clark
- for my brother, who is having surgery for thyroid cancer on Oct. 23. ~ Jane Jacobson
- for those being oppressed. Give them God's love. ~ LaRue Clark
- for my brother, who is having surgery for thyroid cancer on Oct. 23. ~ Jane Jacobson
- for the family of Bertlyn Johnston, who passed Tuesday, October 17. Bertlyn's services will be held in the Nichols Chapel on Friday, Oct. 20 at 1pm. Bertlyn's obituary can be found [here](#).
- for my friend Mark who is recovering from many medical problems ~ LaRue Clark



Note of Thanks

Thank you to our Collegiate/Wesley church family for offering prayers and support around the death of my dad. The blanket made by the Hope Blanket group is especially comforting. In appreciation, Stephanie Hamilton

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

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.

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

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

Free Little Food Pantry

Sunday, November 4 is Donation Sunday for the Little Food Pantry. Please give as you are able.

- Tuna
- Canned Ravioli/Spaghetti
- Dry Pasta
- Spaghetti/Tomato Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Canned Beans (Pinto, Black, White or Kidney)
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Individual sized apple sauce/fruit cups
- Hot and/or cold cereals (oatmeal, cream of wheat, raisin bran, corn flakes)
- Peanut Butter



Please bring your donations directly to the Little Food Pantry, located outside the north door of the Annex or to the box inside the west door of the church. If you'd like to make a financial donation please click [here](#). Thank you so much!

Clothing That Works Needs Your Help.

Clothing That Works has been serving more and more people. CTW is in need of your clean usable adult clothing. Needed most: t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and jeans. Help others by cleaning out your closets.

OR you can donate money (checks can be sent directly to Collegiate with a notation that it be given to Clothing That Works, or donate through our website [here](#)).



CTW is located at 130 S. Sheldon, Ames (in C/W's Annex building).



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 November 24. 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](#).

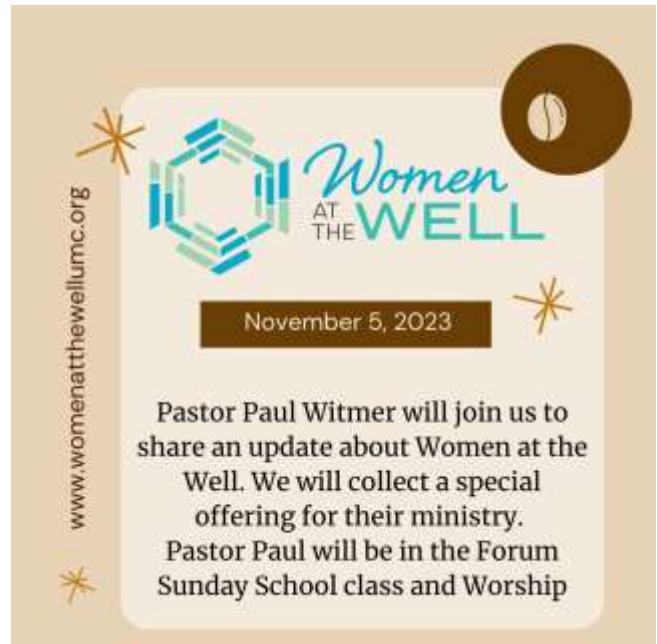
Food at First is located inside First Christian Church, 611 Clark Ave., Ames

Sending to Serve

Women at the Well

We're excited to welcome Pastor Paul Witmer on November 5th for worship and our Forum Sunday School class. You can hear a detailed presentation from Pastor Paul in the Norman room on Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour 8:45-9:45 am.

Pastor Paul will also do a short update during worship along with assisting with the service. We have been a proud partner with Women at the Well and can't wait for you to hear the updates. We'll also collect a special offering for the Women at the Well ministry. You can learn more about Women at the Well online here: <https://www.womenatthewellumc.org/aboutus>



CROP Walk- Ames Hunger Walk for Church World Service was held on October 8th. Ron Orth and Frank Amos raised \$2,507 for the Collegiate Wesley team. On Sunday November 12th Rev. Tiffany DeTienne, our regional Church World Service organizer, will join us in worship to present Collegiate Wesley with a Legacy Award. We look forward to welcoming Rev. Tiffany.

If you'd like to learn more about this ministry you can view their website at: crophungerwalk.org



Youth Group and Family Group Pumpkin Fun



Advent Communicator



Do you have an advent related activity, small group, gathering planned for this year? We'd love to include them in our communications. Please email your items to Lauren Loonsfoot lauren@cwames.org by November 9th for our digital and printed publications.

Advent Workshop

Mark your calendar for the Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 3, 1:30 to 4:30 pm in the Annex Auditorium. Each participating family can make and decorate a fresh evergreen wreath. There will be fun crafts for all ages. If you would like to volunteer, no crafting experience necessary, please contact Mary Buck (515-460-4571).

We are looking for one or more pianists to provide Christmas music during the event. Questions? Contact Mary Buck.



Alternative Gift Market

Alternative Gift Market is Coming!

As Christmas approaches, we are thinking of gifts we will give to friends and relatives. The Alternative Gift Market is coming in December to help you give meaningful gifts. As Christians, we are called to show the love of Christ through our actions of caring for others, and the Alternative Gift Market is a way of giving that provides an opportunity to provide for those in need locally and around the world. Through AGM you may choose from approximately 21 international and six local projects for your gifts, choosing them to match the interests of a friend or family member. It is also a way to encourage children to think about others while helping people around the world.

After choosing from the list of available projects with descriptions given in a catalog, donors select an attractive card to send along with an insert describing the selected project and its impact on the world. Last year, members of Ames churches donated \$20,000 to AGM projects. Local causes included the Bridge Home, Habitat for Humanity, Good Neighbor and Food at First.

Look for the AGM table in the Gathering Space on December 3 and 10 before and after services. The form with the list of projects will also be available in the church office from November 26 to December 10.

Please consider participating in the market by giving an alternative gift to someone on your Christmas list. If you have questions, call Maureen Wilt at (515) 450-4411.

If you are interested in assisting with this program please let us know. We are in need of an organizer for next year.

Helping Our Neighbor

Let's Listen and Learn from Our Immigrant and Refugee Neighbors Sunday, November 12, 2023

Collegiate United Methodist/Wesley Foundation
Wesley Hall, 2622 Lincoln Way (enter east door)

All community members are invited to attend

5:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner

Place settings and drink will be furnished.

Please bring a dish or two to share.

5:45 p.m. Program

- Hear personal stories from immigrants and refugees
- Who are our neighbors? How can we welcome them to our community?
- What can each of us do to make life better and safer for immigrants and refugees in our community?

There will be a free will offering to support the efforts of AIRA (Ames Interfaith and Refugee Alliance and ASIP (Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners). Checks can be made to CUMC, memo line Helping Our Neighbors



Congregational Care

Transportation Ministry

The Congregational Care Cluster would like to provide transportation to individuals who are mobile but unable to drive to church. To start the ministry we need four individuals to commit to driving once a month. Transportation ministry processes and procedures have been developed and will be shared with interested individuals. A personal vehicle is not required but a valid driver's license is. We also have opportunities to provide occasional transportation to and from church using your own vehicle. Please contact Lori Schippers for more information. 515-460-0774; LLSchippers1@gmail.com.

Stephen Ministry

Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation continues to have an active Stephen Ministry Program partnering with the Catholic Churches of Ames. The program is very successful. Stephen Ministers are spiritually nourished by the experience. If you would like to know more about becoming a Stephen Minister or if you would like a Stephen Minister caregiver, please contact Lori Schippers. 515-460-0774; LLSchippers1@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.**