

The  
*Communicator*

April 2024 Vol. 43 Issue 4

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.

**Cover Pictures:** Taken on the second day of Spring (March 20). It was beautiful and sunny and COLD!

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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.

May 2024 Communicator Deadline: April 20, 2024

*“Now may the sound of the genuine in you stir anew, that you would stay near enough to yourself to decipher the truth of who you are -- what you crave, how you communicate, how you love, what you’re afraid of -- and when it’s safe and right, choose to unmask. As you rise to meet your own face, may you be at rest. May it be so.”* Cole Arthur Riley Black Liturgies, ©2024



When you are experiencing what is genuine in you do you know it? I think **most of us do: what we like, what we don’t like, what we feel is right or wrong**, what moves us or leaves us cold. Most of us can experience what is genuine in us, or usually in others, and let that teach us about relationships, life, faith and God. In the years I worked as a therapist, there was a condition I would see sometimes, wherein a person did not know what they **felt, what they believed, or what they liked or didn’t like. They had been** raised without any support in naming and confirming their own personal proclivities. Sometimes it took months, if not years, to help people find their own voice. But when they did have a voice that they named and owned as their own, there was a great sense of joy, empowerment, and confidence.

When we walk into the world with our faith intact, and our relationship with Jesus continually nourished, we are much more likely to know what is genuine in ourselves and others. Because there is something **planted within us that says “I am called to be myself and to be loved” and when we keep that part protected and strong, we can also say, “I see you” to other people. This is the nub of relationship: to** relate in our mutual authenticity, to belong to one another and to belong to oneself.

As we move into April at Collegiate/Wesley, we emerge from Easter as authentic people seeking to share **God’s love and vision for justice with the world. We seek to be “at rest” or certain about our identities as** beloved people of God reaching out in inclusive love to all. At Collegiate/Wesley, all does mean all. There is no equivocation.

I hope you will join us in worship this April, in person or online. We will be celebrating the baptism of Lucia Wolff, daughter of Ted and Maren on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary for the weeks after Easter throughout the month of April. So we will journey with Thomas **through his doubt, the bewilderment of the followers after Jesus’ death and resurrection, the sacrificial** life described in the person of the Good Shepherd and the vine that connects us all in the vineyard of God.

May we gather, knowing that our communion with one another strengthens and helps us.

Pastor Mary

## Coming in Worship

**APRIL 7 Sermon: “I’ve Got My Doubts”.** Scripture John 20: 19-31; In this Scripture we engage with Thomas who cannot quite believe what he is seeing. When have we been that way and what does it mean to see anyway? In John’s Gospel, seeing is a motif that is unpacked all the way to this encounter with Thomas.

**APRIL 14 Sermon: “Beyond Doubt: Trusting in the Intangible”.** Scripture Luke 24: 36b-48; We are invited to explore the power of encountering the resurrected Christ. This morning in worship encourages us to embrace the risen Savior with confidence, knowing that God's presence brings peace, and joy for the mission ahead.

**APRIL 21 Sermon: “The Power of the Shepherd”.** Scripture: John 10: 11-18; In this Scripture we ask ourselves about how we see God. Do we meet God as one who cares for us and guides us in life? If so why and if not, why not? Baptism of Lucia Wolff

**APRIL 28 Sermon: “Pruned for Growth”** Scripture: John 15: 1-8; This Sunday encourages us to embrace discomfort and change, trusting in the wisdom that shapes us into vessels of greater fruitfulness and purpose within God's vineyard.; College Student Recognition Sunday

## 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.



## 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.



# Easter

## EASTER BREAKFAST

SUNDAY 31 MARCH |  
8:00 AM - 9:45 AM  
WESLEY HALL  
FREE WILL DONATION FOR  
THE YOUTH SUMMER  
SERVICE TRIPS



SUNDAY 31 MARCH |  
8:45 AM DURING SUNDAY  
SCHOOL. START IN ROOM 202

## EASTER EGG HUNT

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR:

## EASTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 31 MARCH | 10:00 AM



## Welcome to CW!

On Sunday, March 17th we had the great joy of welcoming 11 members to Collegiate Wesley!



Left to right:  
Ben Hucker  
Bruce Hucker  
Beverly Hucker  
Pat McMillen  
Tom Olsen  
Michele Olsen  
Autumn Lechtenberger  
Kat Breitbach  
JoAnn Barten  
Denny Youngquist  
Ann Youngquist  
Pastor Mary Bellon  
Pastor Lewis Cox

# Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

**JOIN US!**

**WEEKLY MEALS!**  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30**

All are welcome!  
Children's small group following the meal

*Last weekly meal is  
April 24th with a  
potluck*

## Summer Service Trips

**Elementary Trip:** This year the elementary service trip for current 2nd-5th graders will be heading to Des Moines. We will depart Ames on Thursday, June 20th and return to Ames on Saturday June 22nd. To learn more and sign-up click here: [Registration](#).

**Middle School Trip:** This years Middle School trip for current 6th-9th graders will head to Omaha. We will be leaving on Sunday June 9th and will be back in Ames on Tuesday June 11th. While in Omaha we will be working with food banks, clothing closets and environmental preservation. To learn more and to sign-up click here: [Registration](#)

**High School Trip:** This years High School service trip for current 9th-12th graders will be serving in West Virginia. While in WV we'll be doing several construction projects along with work for local non-profits. We'll be heading to West Virginia Tuesday July 23rd and will be back in Ames on Sunday July 28th. Current 9th-12th graders are invited to register now! [Registration](#)

**CAMP FIRELIGHT VBS**

JUNE 2-5TH  
5:00 PM DINNER  
5:30-7:30 PM VBS  
PREK-8TH GRADE

REGISTRATION AND VOLUNTEER INFO

## Vacation Bible School 2024

June 2nd-5th  
5:00 pm Free Meal  
5:30-7:30 pm VBS

Ages PreK-8th grade. New this year we'll be offering a youth VBS option for any youth that are interested. Each night will include a service project.

Youth are also welcome to volunteer with the younger participants if they would like. To register for VBS, please fill out a quick [sign-up here](#).

Volunteers!  
We will need LOTS of help to make VBS a fun success for our attendees. From helping with the meal, registration table, shepherding and more. To volunteer, please [sign-up here](#).

# March Pictures



# Sunday School and Small Groups

## Spiritual Formation Class

On April 7, the Spiritual Formation Class will join the Forum Class in the Norman Room to hear Lindsay Drake speak about the upcoming General Conference.

On April 14 and following, the Spiritual Formation class will return to exploring the resources in the Library in honor of the wonderful volunteers who collected these resources over the years. Specific topics to be announced.



Meeting at 9 AM Sundays in the Library or via zoom, masks welcome, but not required. 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>

## Forum Class

### April 7th

- Upcoming General Conference of the UMC Discussion with Lindsay Drake
- 9:00 -9:50 am
- Norman Room

### April 21st

- State Legislators Forum
- 9:00-9:50 am
- Norman Room

All are welcome to attend these Forum classes!

## FORUM CLASSES APRIL 2024

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



The graphic displays two forum class events side-by-side. The left event is titled 'General Conference UMC Discussion April 7' and features a background image of a church building. The right event is titled 'State Legislators Forum April 21' and features a background image of the Iowa state flag. Below the event titles are icons for a calendar, a clock, and a building, with corresponding dates and times: April 7 and April 21 for the dates, and 9:00 Am and 9:50 Am for the times. The location 'Norman Room Lower Level' is listed at the bottom right.

## Our Prayers

### Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- in celebration of Janet Beer's 95th birthday (March 1).
- ISU Women's Basketball Team. Go Cyclones! ~ Josh Carper
- for our new church members, who officially joined on Sunday, March 17.

### Prayers of Concern:

- for LeAnn Meehan, for strength in treatment.
- for the soul of Airman Aaron Bushnell. ~ Bonnie & Jerry Nichols
- for our friend Karel who was diagnosed with a tumor. ~ Ann & Denny Youngquist
- for Sarah, a 42-yr old relative of Helen Farr, undergoing chemotherapy. Prayers also for her husband and 2 children.





April Showers bring May flowers... right? Hopefully we can get some rain in April to get things growing good! If you want to help this Spring with the CUMC/WF landscaping, please send me an e-mail so we can get you connected!

So far, this year has been mild and dry. While that's not the greatest for nature, it does allow us to get a jumpstart on some of our exterior projects. In March, we had the windows in the Norman and Pine Rooms in the basement replaced. The previous windows were wood and in very bad shape. So much wood had rotted on the outside, that when the window company was removing the windows, one completely fell out of the wall! Those windows were identified last fall as needing to be replaced after our alleyway project exposed the issue. The new windows should help keep the temperatures downstairs nicer and decrease chances for bugs/mice getting inside!



*the Norman Room windows before and after.*



# Sending to Serve

This Lenten Season we have been collecting household items and monetary donations for Ukrainian refugees through AIRA.

So far we have raised **\$2911!**

We have also collected a wide variety of household items from kitchenware to bedding. Your support is greatly appreciated. You can still make an impact with a donation on our website here: [CW Giving Website](#)

More about the project and why?

Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance (AIRA) is assisting Ukrainian refugee families who will soon be resettling in our community. Many of these families have arrived with minimal possessions and are in need of essential household items. We kindly ask for your generous donations of household items and local grocery store gift cards to help these families rebuild their lives.

Your contributions will make a significant impact, providing comfort and stability during a difficult period of transition. Together, we can create a welcoming and supportive environment for those who have sought refuge in our community. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.



We are excited to once again be a host collection site for the 2024 Live United Food Drive. The collection dates are April 22 - May 2 . You can see a list of most needed items on this page from most needed food items to non-food items. The donation box will be located in the West hallway. Thank you for your donations. All donations will be collected by United Way and share with local agencies. Thank you for your support!



## FOOD ITEMS

- Canned fruit
- Cereal
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut butter
- Canned beans or meat
- Rice
- Cooking/baking supplies (spices, oils, mixes, etc)
- Instant items (mashed potatoes, dried milk, etc)

## NON-FOOD ITEMS

- Diapers (need large sizes)
- Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins)
- Baby wipes
- Soaps (bar, hand, dish, detergent, laundry)

**Please no bottled water or bulk-sized items!**



United Way of Story County

# Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

## Little Food Pantry—Donate What You



- 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 increasing numbers of 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). Donations should be dropped off when CTW is open: Wednesdays, 2-5pm and the first Saturday of the 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 April 26. This is a great chance 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

## Focus On: Clothing That Works

CTW is open Wednesdays, 2-5pm and the first Saturday of each month, 9am-noon.

- The number of people served from July 26, 2023 - January 31, 2024: 1612 (this is an average of 54 people per open day). Last year's average from June 4, 2022 to July 1, 2023 was 37 per open day.
- Clothing That Works is on the 3rd floor of the Annex. If we have any knowledge of physically disabled people, we figure out a way to help them choose clothing.
- Clothing That Works operates on donations from the public, including both clothes and money. We have received monies from the Byrne Fund and **CUMCWF's Endowment Fund**.
- In the past year we have used our money to buy underwear, jeans, towels, winter coats, gloves and hats.
- CTW continues to get free bras and few other items from a charity called Support the Girls.
- In 2023 we received 3000 pairs of Bomba socks. We are on the calendar to get another 3000 pairs this summer.
- The LOFT of Ames donates clothing four/five times a year.
- St. Cecilia Church had an underwear drive for CTW in summer 2023 and Northcrest Community had a coat drive for CTW in the fall of 2023.
- We continue to recycle unusable shoes and jeans with the Zappos recycling program. Our unusable tennis shoes go to Got Sneakers for recycling. One Vision, a recycling program from Clear Lake, has been taking our unusable clothing. The best thing about this company is they come to the Annex every other week to collect the clothes.
- CTW discontinued taking donations at the church. This was too much work for our volunteers. Donations should be taken directly to CTW on the days/times that they are open.
- We have a great core of volunteers: Megan Fairall, Barb Pederson, LeAnn Meehan, Julie Voss, Bonnie Trede, Kim Gawley, Karen Klaiber, Fran Berger, Elaine Johnson, Janell Eby, and Cathy Halverson.
- CTW has a Facebook page.





# Divine Kneads

MONTHLY GATHERING TO BAKE BREAD FOR COMMUNION, AND FOR SHARING WITH OTHERS

1ST SATURDAY 9-11AM IN WESLEY HALL



**Scan or text "Bread" to 515-292-6936 to get connected**



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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