

The

# Communicator

June 2024 Vol. 43 Issue 6

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church  
and Wesley Foundation  
Ames, Iowa

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## Inside This Issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A Message from Pastor Mary                              | 3 |
| Coming in Worship/Livestreamed Worship/<br>Text-to-Give | 4 |
| Onboarding for Pastor Lee / Our Prayers                 | 5 |
| Children, Youth, and Family Information                 | 6 |
| Photos from May Activities                              | 7 |
| Sending to Serve  | 8 |
| Volunteer Opportunities and<br>Donations Requested      | 9 |

## 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-May, following a morning of wind and rain.

## 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.

**July 2024 Communicator Deadline: June 20, 2024**

# Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

*No, No, there is no going back.  
Less and less you are  
that possibility you were.  
More and more you have become  
those lives and deaths  
that have belonged to you. (Wendell Berry, Sabbaths)*

As I come to write this last Communicator article to you, I found this bit of a Wendell Berry poem that seemed to me to say something about the passage of time. Four years ago, when I arrived at Collegiate/Wesley although we were entering a world-wide pandemic, still there was a sense of possibility. Over these years, as we moved through and then out of the pandemic, that feeling of possibility was replaced by actuality, by what we lived together in real time and place. In the living of our lives there is always what buds and brings relationship and ministry to fruition and there are things that pass away from us: groups that met for a few weeks and then ended; ideas that were entertained and then abandoned due to impracticality or time or money constraints; or **even people we walked with who then passed over into God's kingdom.**

I would celebrate with you the many things we did accomplish: we traveled through the pandemic having weekly worship streamed through our Facebook page and You Tube. We met in Zoom groups for our council, board and cluster meetings. We sometimes gathered on the lawn either for worship or just conversation. When we reopened, we began that first Sunday with 75 people between two services. As we live into the summer of 2024, we are celebrating an average of 140 in person in worship and another 80 through the livestream for a **weekly average of 220. We celebrated Carl Bleyle's retirement, Jen Hibben's family leave and then extension ministry assignment, Lindsay Drake going to a new job, and Gerry and Jane Kennedy retiring to Wisconsin.** We welcomed Patrick Gagnon and then Rev. Lewis Cox. Just this last month we brought Claire Hennessy onboard as an intern for the Wesley Foundation.

Some of the ways we did church together will remain with me forever: our summer worship series with Winnie the Pooh was just so much fun. We had the bench and the 100 Acre Wood backdrop and all the animal friends **as we explored the Gospel according to Pooh. The next summer we looked at Mr. Rogers' take on the Gospel** and we enjoyed the mailbox and story-time. I enjoyed the different groups I was a part of: the Roundtable, **Green Hills, Northcrest, Women's Koinonia, and Disciple Bible Study.** I appreciated all the work that the Christian Education team accomplished under the leadership of Lauren Loonsfoot, the Sending to Serve Cluster, how Reaching and Receiving welcomed RAGBRAI, the new chalices Worship Cluster commissioned from Val Williams. The Wednesday night supper and groups were spectacular. Helping our Neighbors reached out to the immigrant community in such important ways.

The Holy Days were always made miraculous by the work of the Music program including the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choirs and Lynn and Ed Kaizer. I thank Patrick Gagnon for his leadership of this crucial area of ministry. I celebrate with you how our worship included our missionary Kathleen Parker from Nepal and Rev. Danita Parra **who launched our Native American Lenten series on Ovide Bighetty's paintings. We heard from Pastor Paul of Women at the Well and Erik Rucker of the Simpson Youth Academy.**

There are so many things that have happened, possibilities that emerged into realities. I remember in the summer of 2021 when the Church Council gathered for a strategic planning retreat. I truly believe that during that weekend, people could never even imagine all that would bloom and grow to fruition,

Thank you, Collegiate/Wesley, for letting me be a part of this these four years. I wish you the best of luck in your new ministry season with Pastor Lee Schott. I know you will dream dreams and live truths that share the Gospel of Love in significant ways.

Finally I would like to thank Janelle Keltgen and Doug Warren for being staff members that I also call my friends.

Pastor Mary

## Coming in Worship

**June 2:** Retirement service for Pastor Mary followed by luncheon in Wesley Hall. Lots of music, fun and good food!

**June 9:** Worship brought by the Farm and Family Values Group. Darra Johnson leading. Come and enjoy the recollection of what growing up on a farm was like and how we continue to embrace the values farm life taught us.

**June 16:** Mike King will bring the message “When Will It Be Ready?”. Scripture: Mark 4:26-34.

**June 23:** Strength Through Weakness. Pastor Lewis Cox leading. Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:4-23. Discovering how our greatest weaknesses can become our greatest strengths.

**June 30:** Rev. Nan Smith will deliver the message “The Defining Moment.” Scripture: Mark 5:25-34.

## 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.



## Onboarding Process for Pastor Lee and CW

The CW Church Council and the Staff Parish Relations Committee are hosting an Onboarding event for incoming senior pastor Reverend Lee Schott. The Onboarding process is strongly recommended by the United Methodist Church when there is a change in senior leadership. CW and Pastor Lee investigated the process and mutually decided it would be a beneficial way to launch our new relationship. The Iowa Annual Conference will cover the expense of bringing a trained and certified facilitator.

The event is scheduled for Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29. The Friday session will be for Pastor Lee and the CW staff. The Saturday session will be for Pastor Lee and members of the CW congregation. Persons in CW leadership positions will receive an invitation to attend, but any member of the congregation is welcome.

The purpose of the process is to have a neutral facilitator lead pastor, staff and congregation through questions about their hopes, dreams, fears, quick sand, gifts and graces. It guides them to a place of shared vision for the body and how they can work together to achieve that vision. According to Reverend **Nancy Lane (a clergy participant in North Georgia)** “It’s about developing that ‘we’ mentality and that spirit of ‘us’ so much sooner. . . .The process expedites unity, trust, and the development of priorities.” It helps staff, congregation, and the senior pastor develop personal connections much more quickly. It is designed to provide a safe atmosphere where open, honest and candid conversations can happen.

The Saturday session is currently scheduled for the morning, 8:30 – 11:30. If you are interested in participating please contact Ann Sandine, CW Church Council chair ([ann.sandine@gmail.com](mailto:ann.sandine@gmail.com)). Watch the weekly emails and other social media for additional information as the event approaches.

## Our Prayers

### Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- for those who were confirmed last Sunday and are now full members of Collegiate UMC and Wesley Foundation: Carl Bigelow, Zach Brand, Maddi Rabe, Ian Shriver, and Mylie Smith.
- for our mothers.
- For all Pastor Mary has done, and well wishes for her next steps. ~ Andrew & Elizabeth Bolstad



### Prayers of Concern:

- for the people of Palestine. ~ Bonnie & Jerry Nichols
- for those who have been affected by recent tornadoes.
- for Deanna Jordan and family on the loss of her brother, Alan Schiebel, whose services were held in Conrad, IA on May 3rd.
- for Jon Matulac (brother of Dave), who had a heart attack last week and remains in an ICU, supported by machines.
- for Deanna Jordan and family on the loss of **another** brother, Wayne Schiebel, from Liscomb, IA, who died on Friday, May 10. Services are pending.
- for the people of Gaza and the West Bank. ~ Jerry & Bonnie Nichols

# Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families



# THANK YOU!

**To all of our  
Sunday School  
leaders!**

WE APPRECIATE YOU!



THANK YOU!  
**FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT  
FOR THE  
ELEMENTARY  
SERVICE TRIP**

Our bake sale  
raised \$565!!!



**CAMP  
FIRELIGHT** **VBS**

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

REGISTRATION  
AND VOLUNTEER  
INFO

# May Pictures



## Sending to Serve



## June and July Special Offering



## Food At First



You can make a donation online, by mailing a check or placing it in the offering in a special offering envelope.

## Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

It's said that lightning never strikes in the same place twice. Let's hope that's true! Our church campus was struck by lightning on May 2nd, at 4:18:05am. We sustained a fair amount of damage to our electronics. At the church, the hallway lights outside of the Fireside Room exploded, all of our exit signs broke, both the refrigerator and freezer in Wesley Hall had their compressors fried, a pull down cord reel in Wesley Hall melted, a mini-split in the sanctuary no longer turns on, and our core router was fried. While the building does have a whole building surge protection device, nothing can stop a lightning strike, especially one this size. At the annex, some hallway lights exploded and the 2nd floor air conditioning took a hit. The biggest hurdle to handle was the main core router. This router handles our WiFi, door locks, security system, and livestream, and it routes the HVAC. Since this happened on a Thursday morning, we were unable to get a new one shipped in time for the weekend. Luckily, we were able to borrow a UDM Pro core from DT&K Farms to help us get by for the livestreamed funeral on Saturday, and the Confirmation Sunday service. Without a working core router, the building couldn't even be unlocked. We have recovered everything but the refrigerator and freezer.

The attached pictures show the lightning bolt as viewed from DT&K Farms north of town, and the network rack that houses our core.





# Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

## Little Food Pantry

*Jesus said to the disciples. "There's no need to send them away. Give them something to eat." - Matthew 14:16*

Needed Most:

- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes (individually wrapped)
- Deodorant
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meat/Tuna Packets

Only NON-perishable, UN-opened items can be used.

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

The number of people in need of clothing has continued to increase. Clothing That Works is in need of your clean usable adult-sized clothing. Help others by cleaning out your closets. The donated clothing items are free to all!

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 June 28** 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



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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