

The
Communicator

May 2024 Vol. 43 Issue 5

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 mid-April, on one of the many windy days.

Office Coverage

by Janelle Keltgen, Office Staff

I have a small group of volunteers trained to cover the office when I take vacation days. On those days, the office is open 9am—noon instead of 9am—3pm. I will be out of the office May 1—7 and May 22—28. Please plan to do your church office business in the mornings during that time.

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.

June 2024 Communicator Deadline: May 16, 2024

Message from Pastor Mary

by Rev. Dr. Mary Lautzenhiser Bellon

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it,

*He throws caution to the winds,
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
His right-living, right-giving ways
never run out, never wear out.*

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. (2 Corinthians 9: 8-10 The Message)



As we turn our thoughts to Spring, to graduations, to planting, to new life, to a sense of abundance and blessing, let us take moment and remember how God is in the midst of us, whether in the growing plants around us or in the thunderstorms that rumble through our state of Iowa and our inner lives. Our God is not a fair-weather God. Our God is generous to walk with us at all times and in all places. And so, as Paul writes to the Corinthians, we can be ready for anything and everything as we keep our hearts and minds in that Abiding Presence.

This is the second to the last Communicator article I will write as I approach my retirement. I have been praying for you all these four years that I have been among you and I am praying for you now as you lean forward to welcome Pastor Lee Schott and your exciting future. I believe that this new relationship will be filled with abundance and blessing for you as you serve the mission of God in the community of Ames.

Whenever May rolls around, I always am reminded of the many graduations I have attended over the years and how proud students and parents are, how great that energy feels to celebrate a milestone in life and cross a threshold. This year, in addition to all the high school and college graduates that might be in your life or my life, I welcome us to think about this pastoral change at Collegiate/Wesley like a graduation. I am crossing the threshold into retirement and the congregation is crossing a threshold into a new time of ministry with a new lead pastor, and your new senior pastor is crossing a threshold to join with you in the next stage of missional life together. May all of us feel the blessing of God who walks with **us and who makes us** *“ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.”*

Let us continue to love and to serve in all the ways that are placed before us, that are presented to us and which call us ever forward in the walk of grace, mercy, forgiveness and love.

Pastor Mary

Coming in Worship

May 5: CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, Communion. Children's Choir Scripture: Psalm 28; Message: A New Song (Pastor Mary). Psalm 28 describes the way God enters our lives and does a new thing, creates new opportunities and allows us to feel renewed joy.

May 12: MOTHER'S DAY. Scripture John 17: 6-19. Message: The Words My Mother Gave, I Gave (Pastor Mary). In this passage from the Gospel of John, Jesus is giving his last instructions to his disciples and reminding them that now he and they are one, that they have understood the love of God just as He has taught and exemplified. So our words reflect His words and our lives reflect His life.

May 19: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION SUNDAY. PENTECOST. Scriptures: Acts 2: 1-8; 12-21; Ezekiel 37: 1-14. Message: You Shall Live (Pastor Mary). This morning we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating high school seniors and we reflect on how God fills us with lively energy and sends us forward into a multidimensional world.

May 27: MEMORIAL WEEKEND SUNDAY. Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8. Message: Just Show Up - No this sermon title is not in reference to Memorial Sunday often having low attendance. In this week's scripture the whole encounter begins with Isaiah showing up at the temple. Often we forget that God continues to do the miraculous in our lives and in our church, if we would only show up expecting it to happen.

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.



Sunday School and Small Groups

Spiritual Formation Class

The Spiritual Formation class will be 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>

Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- **As the phrase goes..."How 'bout those Cyclones!" Great team effort and coaching—both done with high-level character. Congratulations! ~ Linda Carver**
- for giving us Jesus to follow. ~ LaRue Clark
- for our Wednesday night meal clean-up crew! ~ Lauren Loonsfoot
- to be celebrating my 48th birthday tomorrow (April 15th). ~ Joshua Dobbs
- for the prayers for my cousin, who was volunteering in Jerusalem. She will fly back to Des Moines on April 16. ~ Janell Eby
- that my daughter Susan from Iowa City is worshipping in church with me today. ~ LaRue Clark
- for the awesome crew at Food at First on Friday, April 26: Dean Phillips, Bev Kruempel, Sally Wilson, Paul & Mary Ann Lundy, Ann Sandine, Lauren Loonsfoot, Marjy Howe, Ashley, Andy & Camren Smelser, Betty & Tom Barton, Robert, Stephanie & Lily Allie, Mylie Smith, Maddi Rabe, Zach Brand, Garrett Brand, and Ian Shriver.
- to celebrate the work of General Conference. Hope for full inclusion in the UMC is alive! ~ Kris Meinhard
- and joy at seeing our first hummingbird this morning. ~ VaLinda Parsons



Prayers of Concern:

- For the people in Gaza.
- for Ron Moorman, healing after a fall.
- UMC General Conference, April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC. ~ Lindsay Drake
- for the people of Gaza/peace in the Holy Land.
- Our service people in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. ~ Bonnie & Jerry Nichols
- for the family of Joan Bailey, a minister in TN for many years. I grew up with her daughter and they were my second family. ~ Elaine Trinkle
- for strength and peace for my cousin Daniel who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. ~ Tim Garner
- UMC General Conference, April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC. ~ Lindsay Drake
- for patience and grace for my parents and my brother as they navigate changing plans for this fall, and for my sister as well as she approaches the end of her first year in college among a challenging social environment. ~ Ashley Marker
- for the family and friends of LeAnn Meehan, who died on April 24. You can read LeAnn's obituary [here](#).
- for the family and friends of Charlotte Jamison, who passed on April 26. Charlotte's obituary can be found [here](#).
- for those affected by the recent storms. ~ LaRue Clark

Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

After what seems like forever, we are now in full speed for Spring! Following a recent storm, we had a few trees come down, leaving opportunity for new growth. Out front, we removed an overgrown juniper. The patio got a refresh with new umbrellas and two new tables. As a reminder, if you open an umbrella, please put it back down to keep everything safe! As we get more involved with spring projects, we will be looking for additional people to join the Garden Committee. Send me an email to find out more about meetings and how you can get involved!



Highlight Hallway

Highlight Hallway

Have you ever wondered how you can be more involved in our church? Have you ever had some ideas about new things our church could try? Do you have some talents and gifts that could help our congregation?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please take some time after the service on May 5th to walk down the Hallway of Highlights! The Highlights will be located in the West hallway.

We will have members from various church clusters and groups telling you what they do and how you could be a part of it!



Children, Youth & Family Information

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

Coming up in May

- May 5th Confirmation during Worship 10:00 am
- May 5th Children sing during worship 10:00 am
- May 19th Last Sunday School of the School year 8:45 am
- May 19 Recognize High School Grads in Worship 10:00 am
- May 19 Sunday School leader appreciation in Worship 10:00 am
- May 19 Elementary service trip bake sale before and after worship.

Thank you for all the ways you support the children and youth at Collegiate Wesley!



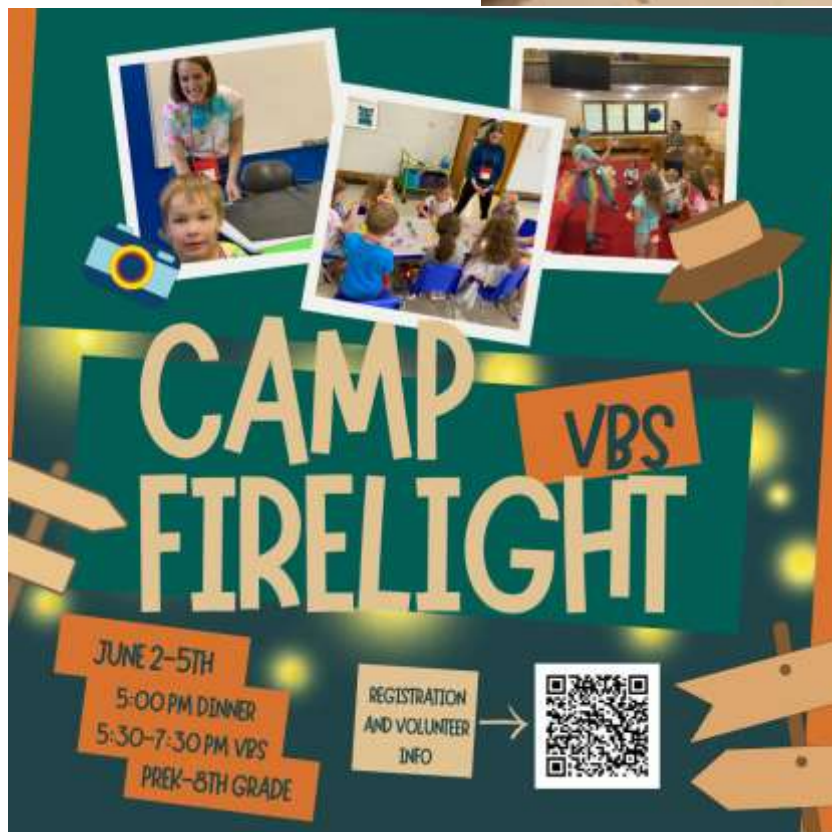
Vacation Bible School 2024

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](#).

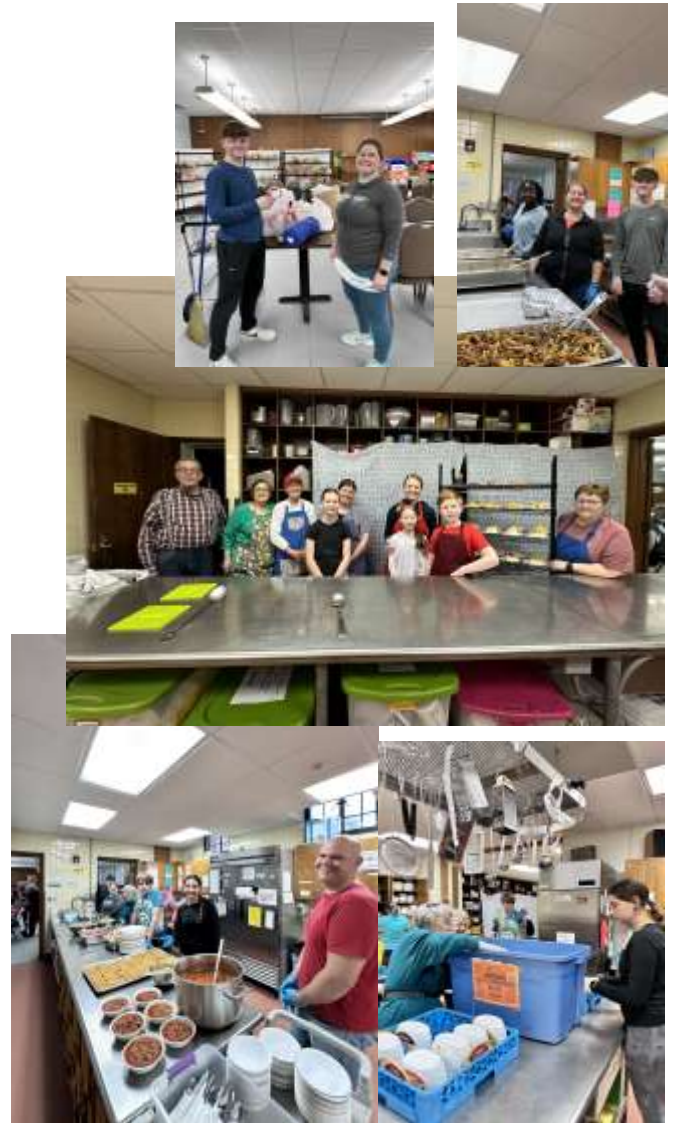


April Pictures

Easter Breakfast Prep



Food at First



Confirmation Retreat



Trash clean-up at CW (left) General Conference Fun (below) West hallway full of donations for United Way Food Drive and Clothing that Works! (right)



Middle School Youth Group (left)
Wednesday night Elementary Group Freddy's trip! (right)



Sunday School!



Sending to Serve

Lenten Special Offering Thank You

Thank you to everyone that donated gift cards, household items, and monetary donations for AIRA (Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance) and the Ukrainians. We raised \$4,181 in monetary donations and \$685 in gift cards to many great local businesses. There is a continued need to support refugees and immigrants that are in Ames.



On Wed. April 24th our CW youth went shopping for the United Way food Drive. They are cool for doing that, be cool like them and donate food to the cause.



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!

2024 LIVE UNITED FOOD DRIVE MOST NEEDED PANTRY ITEMS

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

Please give NON-perishable, UN-opened Food and Personal Items

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 May 24th and May 31st. This is a great chance 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



Dennis Byrne Endowment Fund

Spring 2024 Dennis Byrne Endowment Fund

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, May 31st**

You can find the application on our website or here: <https://forms.gle/bSVDUJbeyRk16hjPA>

You're Invited!

You Are Invited To A Picnic Party
To Celebrate Pastor Mary's Retirement



*Pastor Mary with her mother on
Ordination Day, 1988*



*Pastor Mary at Annual Conference,
June 2023*

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

11:00 AM in Wesley Hall

Collegiate UMC/Wesley Foundation

There Will Be a Basket for Cards,



a Light Lunch, and a Fun Time.

Hosted By Your SPRC Committee

WESLEY CENTER



LEARNING ABOUT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Members of the Wesley Center engaged in an evening at Iowa State University's Lecture Series featuring Dr. Nell Gabiam. Her insightful discussion on pathways to peace in the Middle East, particularly through the lens of Palestinian refugees,, sparking valuable reflections on global conflict resolution.

If you missed the event a recording can be accessed through the ISU Lectures website.

SPREADING SOME LOVE ON CAMPUS

If you are walking around campus and happen to find stones that have encouraging messages written on them, the Wesley Center just might have had a little something to do with that! Try to keep your eyes open and see if you can find any!



UPCOMING PROGRESSIVE DINNER

As an end of the year celebration the Wesley Center is hosting a progressive dinner. Learn more on our social media or by clicking:





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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