

The
Communicator

July 2024 Vol. 43 Issue 7

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation
Ames, Iowa

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Weekly Email Announcement Deadline:

Send Weekly Email submissions to mail@cwames.org by NOON on Wednesday. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

Cover Pictures: taken on the same day in late June.

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.

August 2024 Communicator Deadline: July 18, 2024

Dear Collegiate Wesley soon-to-be friends,

Where to begin? Here I am, writing a couple of days before the movers come, and a couple of weeks before I'll be regularly in your midst. Where shall I begin?

Well, where I'll begin with you in worship, starting July 7, is with these words:

I will be your God, and you will be my people. –GOD

These are words that show up repeatedly in the Hebrew Bible and reverberate through the New Testament—though rarely in the lectionary (the cycle of readings assigned for the days of the Christian year). I can't wait to consider these words with you, and what they have to do with us being the church in the world today, and the UM church on Lincoln Way today.

Also, as we begin together, I have a lot of names to learn! It's a little unfair, because you only have to remember mine (plus maybe my husband Dan's)! You'll know who I am pretty quickly, but I'll have dozens, hundreds of names to sort out and apply to the right face, in real time.

This remembering-names thing worried me very much when I first became a pastor. In fact, it was one of my most fervent prayers, 21 years ago: God, you're gonna have to help me with names. What God (and experience) taught me then has served me well in every ministry setting, so you may notice that I'll:

1. try to actually listen when you tell me your name. (This is the key, right here.)
2. say your name back to you, right away.
3. say it again, a few times, while we're still in the same setting.
4. try really hard to say it the next time I see you, or ask, if I can't retrieve it, and then repeat steps 1-4 until it's secure.

This name thing feels so important to me that I like to call church a "Name-Shame Free Zone"—a place where our care to learn and use one another's names outweighs any worry about having to ask, especially when it's a name we "ought" to know. My commitment is that I'll ask, if I don't know. I hope we all might do the same.

Oh—and you can call me "Lee." Or "Pastor Lee" if you'd prefer.

So, names, and worship: these are a place to begin. Of course along the way I'll be asking heavier questions. What is God calling us to do at Collegiate Wesley in this season, and in the years ahead? What needs attention right now? What bigger questions should we be discussing? I can't wait to begin to have these conversations, and prayers, with you.

Peace,
Pastor Lee



Pastor Lee's contact information:

lee@cwames.org

515-423-0771 (call or text)

Lee won't be in the office until the afternoon of July 3 because of a continuing ed commitment.

Coming in Worship

Our worship theme for July is: **I will be your God, and you will be my people.**

These words echo through the Hebrew Bible and into the New Testament.

Oddly, almost none of the occurrences of this saying appear in the lectionary (the three-year cycle of assigned readings for worship). **But it's a deep and abiding truth: The God who began as the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, becomes our God, and all of us come to realize we are God's people.**

We live and worship in this truth—which takes on whole new dimensions in light of the life and work of Christ—and we are formed and re-formed across time as we recall and live into it.

We forget both parts: That God is our God and that we are God's people, and that we are a people at all. Getting this straight sets us into right relationship with God and with one another—a preview to Jesus' command to "love God & love one another." It makes us clearer on what it means to be the church, as well as how we are to live together in the world.

We'll begin with Exodus 6.2-9 on Sunday, July 7, as we welcome Pastor Lee Schott and share Holy Communion.

On July 21 there will be time for all of us to consider and share about these questions:

- * What has it meant to you individually, and Collegiate Wesley as a church, that God is our God and we are a people?
- * How does the existence of a God—who is our God—affect your life day-to-day?
- * How does the knowledge that you and others are God's people affect the way you treat other human beings? Should it?



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.



Vacation Bible School Pictures

Vacation Bible School was a huge success! Thank you for your support! Here are some highlights

- * We had 53 children and youth participants!
- * Over 30 volunteers!
- * Our Middle school youth completed service and thank you projects including taking snacks to our local fire department.
- * Many songs were sung, games played, crafts made, and experiments tried throughout the week.
- * We served between 80-90 people for dinner each night.



Elementary Service Trip

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

We had a great experience during this year's Elementary service trip. We had 8 students and 8 adults come together for a time of service and fun. We worked at Families Forward, in the Bidwell Pantry, the largest serving food pantry in Iowa. We stocked products, organized clothes, and assisted clients with shopping. The second organization we volunteered at was Meals from the Heartland, where we packed 31 boxes of Taco Mac! Saturday we enjoyed the water and rides at Adventureland. It was a great two days!



Middle School Service Trip



Our middle schoolers rocked their service trip! We had a great group of 8 youth and 4 parents. We traveled to Omaha for a few days of service and fun. While in Omaha we volunteered at Food Bank for the Heartland where we relabeled canned and packaged bulk rice. We also picked up trash at a local park, went shopping for Hope food pantry, and tried our hand at an online game to help us understand poverty a bit better. We had the best hosts ever at First UMC in Omaha! We can't wait to make another trip there. We also enjoyed some ziplining and obstacle courses at Tree rush. Thank you for your support and prayers.



Our Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- grateful for the crew at Food at First on Friday, May 24: Dean Phillips, Bev Kruempel, Dee Dreeszen, Betty & Tom Barton, Sally Wilson, Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Marjy Howe, Mike & VaLinda Parsons, Becky Brand, and Ashley, Andy, Izzy and Camren Smelser.
- for our granddaughter Lia, who graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S. in cellular biology. ~ Bruce & Barbara Munson
- for 4 years of Pastor Mary sharing her wisdom and wise counsel with us. ~ Joshua and Suzie Dobbs
- and hope for the high school and college graduates as they begin the next chapter in their young lives. ~ Tim Garner
- for the Food at First crew on May 31: Dee Dreeszen, Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Sally Wilson, Ann Sandine, Dean Phillips, Mike Parsons, Caden Olsen, Lauren Loonsfoot, Martin Laird, Betty & Tom Barton, Becky Band, Marjy Howe, and Inez Smith.
- for Mike King's message last Sunday.



Prayers of Concern:

- for Dave Matulac and family on the loss of Dave's brother Jon.
- for my friend Kelly who recently had cancer surgery. ~ LaRue Clark
- for a friend having marriage problems. ~ Marjy Howe
- for Jack Whitver, family friend diagnosed with a brain tumor. ~ Kat Breitbach & Autumn Lechtenberger
- for Donna Vandehaar as she is recovering from a heart attack followed by the placement of 3 stents. She is now home resting and recovering.
- for my good friend Peggy, who has serious health problems. ~ LaRue Clark
- for our LGBTQ friends who have been recipients of hatred. ~ May Conde & Lan Wallin

Garden Committee

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

A special thanks to our wonderful Garden Committee that has been hard at work on our church campus this spring! Projects so far have included; the retaining wall removal, expanded rose garden bed, regrading of the front area, much weeding and much mulching. Last week, members gathered at the parsonage to prepare for Pastor Lee. If you'd like to get involved, send me an email Doug@cwames.org. The Garden Committee meets every Wednesday at 6pm.



No, John and Sheila are not hiding from work, they're trimming the inside of the weeping mulberry tree.



News from the Endowment Board

2024 Endowment Fund Grants

The Endowment Board did not distribute all the funds available for grants this year in our initial grant application review. We are opening grant applications for the remaining \$7495. We are requesting grant applications be submitted by August 1.

Endowment grant funds are available for use for:

- Capital expenditures on behalf of, or in the name of, the Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation, Ames, Iowa, for real property acquisitions, repairs or improvements; or
- Funding or helping to fund new or existing programs to be administered or sponsored by the Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation, Ames, Iowa; or
- Benevolences endorsed, supported or approved by the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This may be one opportunity to help achieve **some of the church's** goals, such as enhancing the ministries or programs of C/W or for capital expenditures. You should also be aware that the application process requires applicants to engage the support of an appropriate C/W cluster or group to sponsor their projects. If the proposal requires space or capital commitments, applicants are also asked to review their proposal with the Board of Trustees. These actions help to ensure the projects align with church priorities.

In 2023, the CUMC/WF Endowment Fund provided grants for:

- CW Promotional Clothing
- CUMC Banner, Stickers and Magnets
- Breakfast Boxes for RAGBRAI Guests
- Little Food Pantry
- Clothing That Works
- DACA Renewal Support
- AED Units for the church
- Fireside Room Lighting
- Fireside Room Renovation
- Video Equipment for the Sanctuary
- Recruitment and Kickoff for Wesley Center in the Fall
- Wesley Foundation Website Redesign
- Wesley Retreat
- SunSmart Solar for Reduction of Electricity Cost and Carbon

To apply, please use the 2024 grant application. It can be found at:

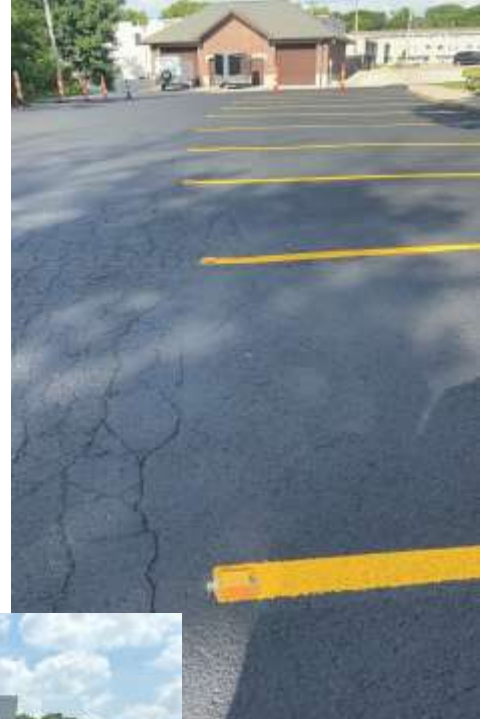
<https://forms.gle/xnNRmVP6T653U7Gw5>

If you have any questions, please email the Endowment Board at endowmentboard@cwames.org.

Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Summer projects are in full swing! As many of you have noticed, the parking lot got a facelift this last week. Blackford Inc was able to give us a SUPER good deal on filling pot holes, cracks, and seal coating our parking lot due to a last minute back out. This work will greatly reduce our trip/fall hazards, buy us some more time on our parking lot, and greatly improve our parking lot ministry. While we would all love to have a brand new parking lot, the \$800k price tag on just the main church parking lot is a little steep right now. We were able to pay for all 3 parking lots to be done by using the money that renting out parking brings in so that we would not affect the church budget. We rent out parking as a fundraiser to keep our parking lot up and pay for snow removal to not burden the church budget.



Thank You Note

Thank you so much for the lovely, joyous and delicious farewell service and luncheon for me on June 2! Steve and I were so touched by all of you, and we thank you for the generous gift. We are already looking at different luggage sets! I personally want to thank you for allowing me to be with the Collegiate/Wesley family for the last four years. We went through a pandemic and came back strong! You are a wonderful group of people, and I will be in prayer for all the ministry you have ahead of you!! May God watch over each of you and cover you with his grace and love. ~ Pastor Mary

Party Invitation



Please join us for a
Welcoming Summer Social

for our New Pastor,
Lee Schott

July 14, 2024 | 11:00 am

in The Gathering Space

Collegiate UMC & Wesley Foundation - Ames, Iowa

Hosted by Your SPRC



July 4th Parade Opportunity



Plan to join us in the CUMC/WF entry for the Ames Fourth of July Parade! You can walk, distribute candy, carry our banner, bring your kids and/or dogs, or ride in our air-conditioned van! Line-up is no later than **10:30am**, with the parade starting at **11:00**. Meet in the parking lot west of City Hall. We'll be gathering in spot #26, so look for the church van and banner. Wear your Collegiate t-shirts if you have them.

Sending to Serve- Special Giving

Stock Sales

SUNDAY!

\$10/SHARE
AVAILABLE BEFORE AND
AFTER WORSHIP
IN JULY

Support the 2024 Youth Service
trip to Cross Lanes, West Virginia

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.

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

Help With the Rummage RAMPage

Collegiate-Wesley is an official organization for Rummage RAMPage, July 26-August 3. Shifts are full, but sometimes people cancel, so you can check the link periodically to see if anything opened up:

RUMMAGE
RAMPAGE

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE49ABAF2AA7FAC34-48696010-rummage>

Other ways to help:

1) An additional fundraising opportunity related to this year's Rummage Rampage event-- if members of your organization can offer pick-up or delivery service for shoppers who find themselves in a bind when **their shopping desires exceed their ability to transport their purchases, or their vehicles won't accommodate transporting intended donations.** If interested, please provide me with your name(s), phone number(s), dates and times of availability, and vehicle(s) available for hauling by July 6.

2) Be part of the volunteer crew to move items from the Collegiate-Wesley grounds to Rummage RAMPage July 26-August 2, generally between Noon and 6 PM.

To indicate your availability for either of these, contact Mike King, mikeking@dwx.com, 515-292-3831 or 515-708-1419.

Little Food Pantry

Thank you for all your support and donations. Special thanks to Barbara Holt, Maureen Wilt, Megan Fairall, and Bev Kruempel and to Travis from Friendship Ark, for their dedication to keeping the Pantry full.

Always Needed:

- Crackers
- Canned Fruit & Vegetables
- Granola Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta & Sauce
- Individual Microwavable Meals
- Shampoo/Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

Please Note: Only nonperishable, unopened items can be used. Thank you!

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 July 26. 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





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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