

The

# Communicator

September 2024 Vol. 43 Issue 9

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church  
and Wesley Foundation  
Ames, Iowa

## Contact Us

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For more information, please visit our website: [cwames.org](http://cwames.org)

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## Weekly Email Announcement Deadline:

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 late August

## 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.

October 2024 Communicator Deadline: September 17, 2024

# Message from Pastor Lee

by Rev. Lee Schott

Dear Collegiate Wesley friends:

It might make you uncomfortable.

I'm saying it right up front. It'll probably make you uncomfortable, worshipping in a different place. With people you don't know, who might have claimed true things about themselves that aren't entirely familiar to you.

I'm talking, of course, about our upcoming Pride Worship, which will happen at the ISU Memorial Union, not in our building, on Sunday, September 15. (Details inside.) I'm just saying, it might take you outside your comfort zone.



And that's even before you realize the speaker ("preacher") will be in drag.

Dan and I found ourselves at a drag show nearly four decades ago, in a nondescript storefront building in New York City, visiting our (gay) friend Mike who lived there. I remember realizing I might be the only woman in the room. That was weird. But the show was not. I remember Broadway and other songs and acts, with costumes and humor and much joy.

I didn't grasp then how deeply political drag has always been. In recent years, legislatures (including Iowa's) have scurried to (supposedly) protect children from drag's so-called corrupting influence. Yet at the same time drag has become more and more visible, through shows like *Queer Eye* and *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Music like Flamy Grant's (whom I saw in person last fall), that managed a [#1 ranking on the Christian music chart](#). Far-reaching (and controversial) performances like at the [Paris Olympics opening ceremony](#) in July.

If you don't know how to think about drag, I hope you'll get online and learn. There's so much! What I see is beautiful, courageous people who are amazing performers and wonderfully interesting humans. Knowing many of them haven't been welcomed and safe in their communities, their churches—even in their own families—should sadden us and deepen the longstanding resolve of us at Collegiate Wesley to live our inclusive love for all.

On September 15, the preacher will be [Ms. Penny Cost](#), a minister in drag, who happens to be in the process toward ordination in the United Methodist Church. I hope you'll be in worship that day—with whatever level of uncomfortable it might bring. As one of the worship planning team observed: "Our queer siblings are uncomfortable every day" (for so many different reasons); "if we're uncomfortable, think of it as solidarity with them."

Peace,  
Lee

## Coming in Worship

### Doing Life Together: Four (Fruitful) Rules

This fall, after our Sunday School kick-off (Sept. 8) and Pride Worship at the Memorial Union (Sept. 15), we'll launch into a look at how we **do life together**. Based on her book, *Foolish Church*, Pastor Lee will share her Four Foolish--and FRUITFUL---rules for how we live well, together. We'll think about authenticity, relationship, boundaries, and reconciliation. Along the way Pastor Lee will lead us in some intentional practice times around *befriending one another*. Who doesn't need to be better at that?! Whether you're in a new dorm or in a retirement community, or simply want to put Jesus' words about loving your neighbors into actual practice, there's something here for you. Join us for worship--five Sundays, September 22 through October 20--and check out additional *befriending* times on Sundays 11:30-12:30 (starting Sept. 29) or Wednesdays at 4:30 (starting Oct. 2).



## Livestreamed Worship

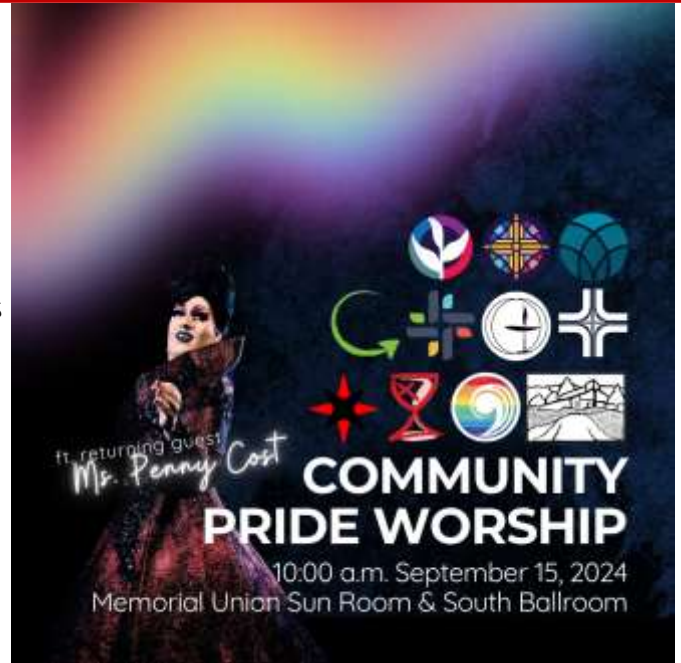
### Helpful links for watching our worship services:

- 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.

# Pride Worship

Our worship for September 15 is MOVING to the ISU Memorial Union, where we'll join a number of faith communities in a combined Pride Worship Service. Our schedule for that day is as follows:

- \* 8:45-9:30 Sunday School for All Ages--ending early so we can get to worship at the MU!
- \* 9:15-10:15 Our Church Bus will make repeated trips from the west (Annex) parking lot to the MU.  
\*\*Riders need to be physically able to board and leave the bus without assistance.
- \* 9:30 FIRST group of walkers depart from the NE entrance--to the MU
- \* 9:40 SECOND group of walkers depart from the NE entrance--to the MU
- \* 10:00 Worship begins AT the MU (We will not gather in our sanctuary that morning.)
- \* 11:00ish Worship ends, cookies are served, and return bus service begins back to Annex lot



Parking is available at the MU (\$5 parking fee for up to 2 hours). The Memorial Union utilizes a convenient payment system with pay stations located throughout the building. Visitors may also pay as they are leaving the ramp via the pay station located at the exit. We accept VISA, Mastercard and Discover. \*\*This is your best option if you have any accessibility challenges.\*\*

Worship will include:

All ages! A kid-friendly space will be set up in the worship area.

Time for you to visit one or more stations that reflect various spiritual traditions, including Holy Communion, Anointing, Lighting of candles, Ritual of release, and more.

A message offered by Ms Penny Cost a/k/a Isaac Simonson, reportedly the first Drag Queen in the world to become a Certified Candidate for ordination within the United Methodist Church. Her work resides at the intersection of queerness and spirituality (with a dose of JOY.) Learn more at her website.

Music, prayer, and people—precious children of God—who have longed to be welcomed, affirmed, valued, and allowed to serve. (Those people include all of us, BTW.) As we show up together, we claim our solidarity with one another.

If you prefer to worship online that day, we'll be posting the link on Facebook and we'll send it in our communications over the coming weeks. The service will be uploaded to our YouTube channel after the event.

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

## Children Sunday School

Sunday School options for Preschoolers-5th graders. Sundays 8:45-9:45 Starting September 8th

8:45-8:55 Music 8:55-9:45 Sunday School rotations including Science, Art, Cooking, Drama, and Games

K05th Room 202 Top Floor Preschool Room 200 Top Floor

Register here: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/registrations>



## Youth Sunday School

8:45-9:00 Game and Snack Gathering time

9:00-9:45 Sunday School

Youth can take a few minutes to grab a snack and drink, play a round of ping pong then at 9:00 Middle Schoolers will gather in their Sunday School room and High Schoolers will gather in the youth room.

## Elementary Kids Wednesday Group

Following the Wednesday evening meal until 7:00 pm, Elementary aged children are invited to go to the Library for a time or Bible Stories, Games and Crafts! Sometimes this group will also work on service projects and special Advent/Lent materials.

**It's a great mid-week fun time!**

Starts on Wednesday, Sept. 11th.



## Youth Groups Starting Wednesday September 11th

Middle School Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm Youth Room

High School Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 pm Youth Room

High School Girls Small Group 8:00-9:00 pm Youth Room

## Weekly Meal

Last Fall we brought back the Collegiate Wesley Weekly meal. We averaged feeding 60 people a week!

From babies to those in their 80's! We provide the meal. No need to bring anything but yourself and friends. We will have potlucks once a month so you can bring your favorite dishes then!

All are welcome to come and eat.

- Where: Wesley Hall
- When: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Starting September 11th
- Ways to help: Help prep beforehand at 5:00 pm. Or help clean-up following the meal around 6:15.
- Like last year our leftovers will be packaged and delivered to the Reliable Street Community Fridge, where anyone who needs food can grab something any time.
- Free will donations accepted to help cover the costs.

Able to lend a hand and be involved? Please email Lauren Loonsfoot [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org) to sign-up.



## Sunday School Shepherds Opportunity

We have a growing Sunday School program at Collegiate Wesley! This is so great and also means we have a greater need for volunteers. We have set rotation leaders but we are still in need of 2-3 more Shepherds to rotate with the children during their classes.

**Can't commit to weekly shepherding? That's ok! Any help, even once a month is helpful! We are specifically looking for help with the preschool aged group.**



# Adult Sunday School

## M&M

This Adult Sunday School Class explores different topics from a faith perspective. We will often start with a short video followed by lively discussions. This group meets on Sunday mornings 9:00 - 9:45 in the Fireside Room. No preparation needed. All are welcome!

## Builders

Builders class uses multiple platforms to explore current issues and how they connect to our faith. We will be meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in Room 44. Come join us.

## Forum

Check out the Forum Sunday School class!

Topics based Forums throughout the year.

Keep an eye out for postings of the topics.

Coming up:

- County candidates: Sept. 29th, 9:00-9:55 a.m.
- State legislator candidates: Oct. 6th, 9:00-9:55 a.m.

Location: Norman Room



## Spiritual Formation

This Adult Sunday School class is for persons interested in deepening their personal and communal spiritual life. This class explores various topics using discussion, videos and other expressions throughout the school year. "All questions welcomed, and all answers questioned."

Most Sundays September 8, 2024- May 18, 2025

9:00-9:55AM in the Library on the lower floor.

Sign-up: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/adult-sunday-school/spiritual-formation>

If you have an questions please contact Mike King, [mikeking@dwx.com](mailto:mikeking@dwx.com) or 515-708-1419 or Eryn Shriver, [shriver3@gmail.com](mailto:shriver3@gmail.com) or 515-291-6227

**Faith Journeys** is a Bible study that is adaptable to the needs and interests of individuals or groups. It can help us do one or more of the following:

- See the search for God's kingdom through the ages and our place in it.
- Know and live closer to God.
- Search for God's will regarding a specific project or area of work.

Currently one group meets monthly by Zoom. Meeting dates and times depend on the needs of the group and will be announced to all interested persons. If you would like to see the Faith Journeys Bible Study Guide and/or get information about joining a group, please contact Mary Jean Baker at (515) 357-5107 or [bakerallan14@gmail.com](mailto:bakerallan14@gmail.com).

## Little Free Library

Adventures Preschool partnered with local Boy Scout Troop #140 to install a new Little Free Library on the CUMC/WF property. Boy Scout Adam Pendry constructed and installed the Little Free Library as his Eagle Scout Project. The Little Free Library is registered as an official Little Free Library site and is available for anyone to select or donate books.



## Fall 2024 Opportunity Booklet

At Collegiate Wesley there are so many opportunities to Invite, Experience, Grow and Serve! Take a look at this Fall's Opportunity booklet to view some of the great small groups, clusters, committees, service opportunities, sermon series information and so much more! You can view the booklet here: [Fall 2024 Opportunity Booklet](#)



## 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

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

- 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](http://cwames.org) under give for general giving or mission giving.
- 4 Physical donation:** place a donation in the offering plate on Sundays or mail your donation to the office.



## Upcoming Small Groups

### Relating to People Through Empathy

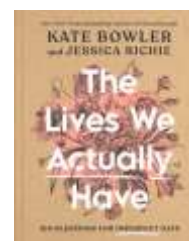
Have you not known what to say to someone with a serious diagnosis or to a grieving spouse? Darra has struggled as well and knows how difficult that can be. This fall, Darra will be facilitating a small group with a focus on learning about ways to be more empathetic. We will be using this book plus some Brene Brown wisdom and other resources. This session will be confidential and non-judgmental – we are all learning. There will be six or seven sessions. One of the real benefits of small groups is getting to know people you have seen in church. If you have interest, please email [darrajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:darrajohnson@gmail.com). The group will determine what is the best time to meet.



### Men's Coffee

Come and spend some time with other CW men enjoying coffee on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Fireside room.

**Anam Cara** (Celtic for "soul friends") is a small group that explores faith through books, sharing, and conversation. We meet Wednesdays at 7pm in the Fireside Room. Starting on Wednesday September 11, we will be using the book *The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler as a guide for our discussion. There may be limited outside reading. If this type of group appeals to you please contact Janelle Keltgen ([janelle@cwames.org](mailto:janelle@cwames.org)) by September 3. Space is limited.



### Roundtable

Do you enjoy reading thoughtful books and discussing them with others? Check out Roundtable! The next book will be announced soon. For more information contact Bev Kruempel at [kruempel@msn.com](mailto:kruempel@msn.com) as well as to get your email on the notification list.

**Seasons of Wonder** is designed to allow you to gather together weekly with your loved ones and expand your understanding of divinity, specifically the radical but faithful idea that everything is sacred. This devotional is designed around weekly contemplative activities as well as interactive and transformative practices that connect us to surprise, awe, and wonder. Seasons of Wonder will be a two format group. With a weekly Instagram connection component and a monthly in person gathering on the first Monday of the month. Contact Lauren Loonsfoot ([lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org)) with questions.

Sign-up here: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups/seasons-of-wonder>



### Dad's Night Out

Join together with other guys for an evening of conversation. This group meets the first Monday of the month. We meet at the church by the West door before heading out to a different location to chat. Contact Steven Schroder at [s.r.schroder@gmail.com](mailto:s.r.schroder@gmail.com) if you are interested in more information or signing up.

### Divine Kneads

Monthly Gathering to Bake Bread for Communion and to Share with Others 9:00-11:00 AM Saturday before the first Sunday of the Month. We're rolling up our sleeves to bake some real goodness. No need for formality, just bring your energy and let's bake bread together. It's not just about baking; it's about connecting. Join our crew, where every loaf has a purpose – from communion to making a difference in our community. Come get a slice of the action, where good vibes rise with the dough!

## Our Prayers

- Grateful thanks for the crew at Food at First on Friday (July 26); Pastor Lee Schott, Dean Phillips, Sally Wilson, Mary Ann & Paul Lundy, Bev Kruempel, Dee Dreeszen, Joslin Peters, Grant Olsen, VaLinda Parsons, Tom & Betty Barton, Marjy Howe, Brenda Allen, and Ashley, Andy & Camren Smelser.
- for comfort for the family of LaRue Clark's friend Rex, who passed away this week.
- Josh & Suzie Dobbs are thankful for a successful move.
- The obituary for Jerry Knox can be found [HERE](#). His services will be held on August 10 at the Casey (Iowa) UMC.
- for Pastor Lee and her husband Daniel who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in August.
- for the family of Gwen Wells, who passed away on August 4. You can find Gwen's obituary [here](#).
- for continued joy and good health for LaRue Clark, and a thank you to her church family (from LaRue's family, who were in worship with her in August).
- continuing prayers for Mary Stratton.
- for May Conde, Lan Wallin and family on the death of May's daughter, Kate. Services were held Wednesday, August 28.
- for the people of Palestine in both Gaza & the West Bank.
- for a safe and successful school year for all.
- for comfort for the family of a friend who was buried this week. ~ LaRue Clark
- for Jerry & Susan Long's nephew, living with glioblastoma. He's the father of 4 young children.
- Sincere thanks for the Food at First crew on August 24: Dean Phillips, Dee Dreeszen, Bev Kruempel, Tom and Betty Barton, Sally Wilson, Joslyn Peters, Marjy Howe, Amy and Jerry Miller, Chris Rettig, Jane Esterly-Rettig, Lauren Loonsfoot & Ashley and Andy Smelser.



## Stephen Ministry

### Stephen Ministry Training

As many of you know, our church participates in the Stephen Ministry program. Our Stephen Ministers are a team of congregation members who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. For purposes of training classes and regular peer support meetings, we cooperate with the larger Stephen Ministry group of the local Catholic congregations.

A new Stephen Ministry training class will begin on November 6th and continue through April 2025, meeting on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm through 8:30pm at St. Cecilia Church. An information meeting for persons interested in the program and the upcoming training will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on September 16th, 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Potential candidates will be asked to submit their applications for Stephen Ministry training by the end of September.



If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry and the training program, please feel free to contact Josh Dobbs, Dara Johnson, Mary Ann Lundy, Max Morris, or Lori Schippers.

## News from the Music Department

### Looking for Singers

Would you be...please would you be...my singer?

Would you join the Chancel Choir to sing a beautiful, accessible anthem once per quarter? On Sunday, **September 29th, we will reprise “Doxology for a New Day” by Mark Miller. You may have heard it this summer, sun by Lynn, Alex, Patrick and Pastor Lee, but now it could feature YOU!** All singers are welcome to rehearse at 9:29am on 9/29.

Please join us. Email [patrick@cwames.org](mailto:patrick@cwames.org) with any questions.

### Looking for Homestay Hosts

Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir is visiting Ames on their annual mid-winter tour. They will be providing an evening concert at Collegiate Wesley on January 8, 2025. In addition to hosting the concert, we have been asked to organize homestays for approximately 50 singers (in pairs). If you and your household are willing and able to host a pair of singers (or several!) on the evening of January 8th, please sign up using [this link!](#) We will provide more information to the host families as it becomes available. Thanks!

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Gagnon at [patrick@cwames.org](mailto:patrick@cwames.org).

## G.S. Nichols Scholarship Awarded

G.S. Nichols Scholarships provide financial aid to students from Collegiate/Wesley who plan a career of Christian service. A scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year has been awarded to Jason Ellingson by the G.S. Nichols Scholarship Fund Board of Directors.

Jason is attending St. Paul School of Theology, a United Methodist Seminary in Leawood, Kansas. He is in the final year of the Doctor of Ministry program. Jason has been an active member of CUMC/WF, in Stephens Ministry, served on Administrative Council, and has volunteered in many activities. Jason is currently serving churches in Urbandale and Alden.

G. S. Nichols Scholarships were established in 1959 to honor the long-time pastoral ministry of G.S. (Sam) Nichols, who served Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation for 25 years. Only the earnings from our funds are available for scholarships. We welcome and appreciate memorials, bequests, and other donations to increase the principal and interest generated.

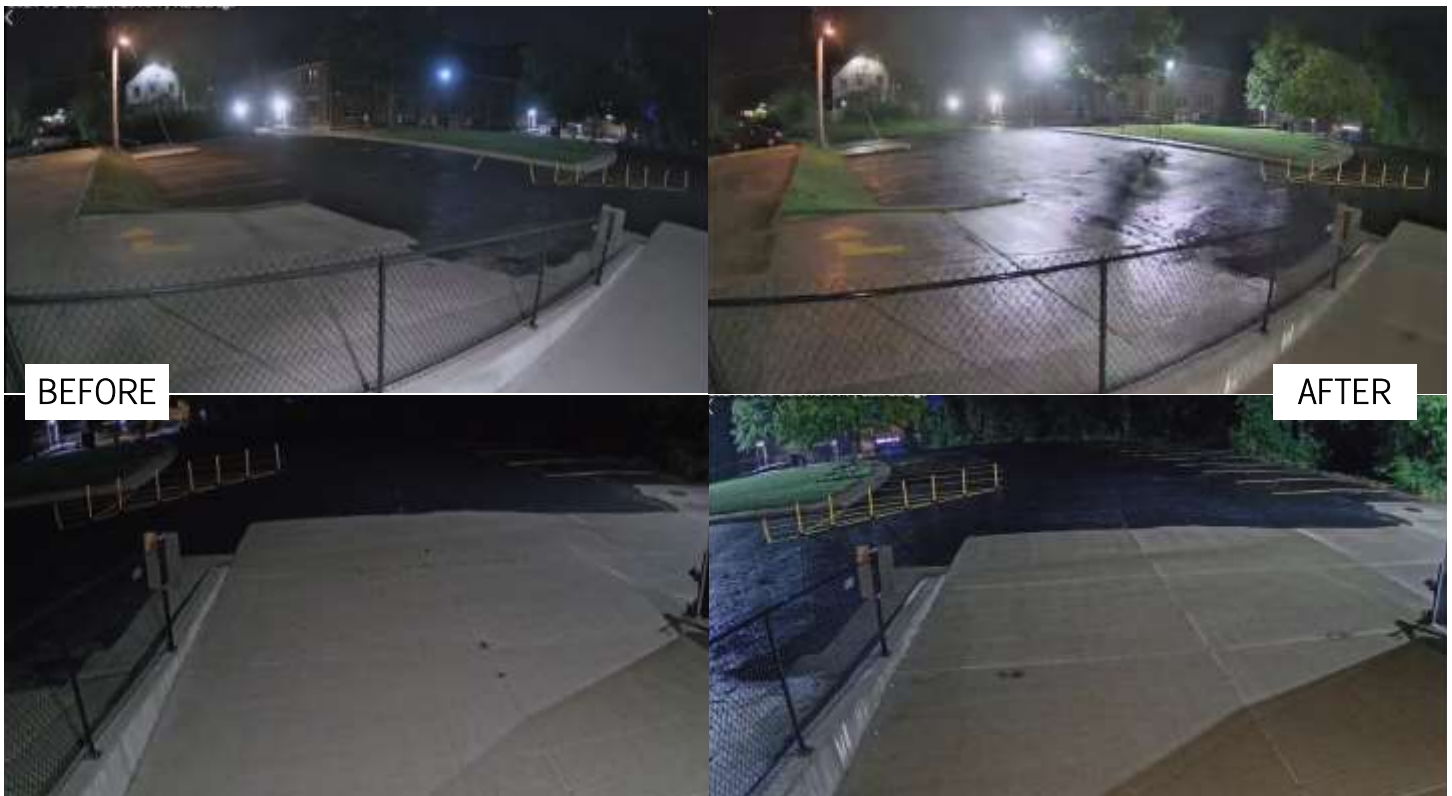
In the 62 years since the first G.S. Nichols Scholarship was awarded in 1962, more than \$215,000 have been awarded to 53 students.

If you have an interest in serving on the G.S. Nichols Scholarship Board, or if you need more information, contact Paula Anderson, [pdanderson@mchsi.com](mailto:pdanderson@mchsi.com), G.S. Nichols Board President, or Dean Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer.

# Trustees

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Lights! Camera! Action! Okay, maybe just lights and action. This month sure has been a busy one, and **it's hard to single out just one project that has taken place.** The biggest one though, was lights. This last month two substantial lighting updates have taken place; lighting inside of the Annex building and lighting upgrades to our exterior. At the annex, Mike King and I replaced 128 T8 Fluorescent lights with LED bypass lights. These lights are in the basement in rooms that are heavily used and don't have windows. This upgrade reduces our operating costs by \$0.27 an hour and will save a minimum of \$561.60 a year. The other big update of lighting was in our church parking lots. I upgraded the lighting to high output LED lights to reduce some of the unwanted behavior and increase the safety for groups that meet at Collegiate in the evening. While you may not see all the new lights first hand, the increase in security and reduction in utilities will be greatly appreciated by the church.



*New lighting in the lower level of the Annex building*



*The lift used to install the new lightbulbs high on our building*

# Ames Pride



Ames Pridefest, a fun and family-friendly street festival celebrating our LGBTQ+ community and allies, will be held Saturday, Sept. 14 at Fifth Street and Douglas Avenue. CUMC/WF is a sponsor and has a booth from which we'll be giving out stickers, magnets, pens, pronoun pins, stick-on tattoos and cookies! This is your opportunity to show up and support your church/community in a very FUN way. Shifts are two hours; our booth is shaded and chairs will be provided. Please sign up at this link: <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2388982>

# Fall Laity Day

Fall Laity Day with Bishop Kennetha will be on Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the West Des Moines UMC in West Des Moines, Iowa. There will be treats and fellowship upon arrival, as well as a break for lunch and conversation at noon. The focus will be equipping Laity for now and the Future.

Topics: Leadership, Social Principles, SLM, LSM, General Conference, Future Trainings

Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/2024FallLaityDay>



# Celebrating Our New District Superintendent

## Riverview Park District

Superintendent: Rev. Lilian Seagren  
Email: [lilian.seagren@iaumc.org](mailto:lilian.seagren@iaumc.org)

Mailing address: 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321



Administrative Assistant: Sierra DeVoe  
Email: [sierra.devoe@iaumc.org](mailto:sierra.devoe@iaumc.org)

Phone: (515) 974-8912

### **Sunday, September 15 - All are invited.**

A Service of Celebrating the Appointment of Rev. Dr. Lilian Seagren as the Riverview Park District Superintendent will be held 2:30 PM on Sunday, September 15, 2024, at Pleasant Hill, Oakwood UM Church located at 400 NE 56th St, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327.

# Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

## Little Food Pantry

Thank you for all your support and donations. Special thanks to Alan and Donna Vandehaar for painting the Pantry each summer so that it looks fresh and clean!

Always Needed:

- Crackers
- Canned Fruit & Vegetables
- Granola Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta & Sauce
- Individual Microwavable Meals

Most Needed:

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant/Soap
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

Please Note: Only nonperishable, unopened items can be brought. 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 September 27. 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



# Watch Out For Scams!!

A number of you recently received an e-mail or text message--supposedly from Pastor Lee--asking you to purchase gift cards or otherwise assist, *immediately*. None of these messages were real. We hope none of you fell for them, and are writing to urge you to be careful the *next* time this kind of message pops up!

What should you watch for? The "right now" flavor is a red flag. Also, these messages came from odd places--an odd e-mail address and an 848 (New Jersey!) area code. Messages from Pastor Lee will come from [lee@cwames.org](mailto:lee@cwames.org) and from a 515 area code. If you have ANY doubt, reply with questions. We heard that one of you was able to confirm her suspicions by asking, "What was your sermon about on Sunday?" That stopped the conversation cold!

When we're working on a project that involves giving money or other items, those requests will come through our regular communications. Check the Communicator (our newsletter) or our recent e-mails. And you're *always* welcome to reach out to the supposed sender or the church office if you have any doubt. Please don't ever spend money or share your own personal information in response to such a message. This kind of scam is all too common--not just against churches but other helping organizations. We'll all do better if we're a *bit* skeptical.

# Sending to Serve

## Thank you!

Thank you for your generous donations to the Ames Community Schools with your Kleenex and Snacks! Your donations will be dropped off at local schools to help covers needs that teachers usually cover the cost for out of pocket.

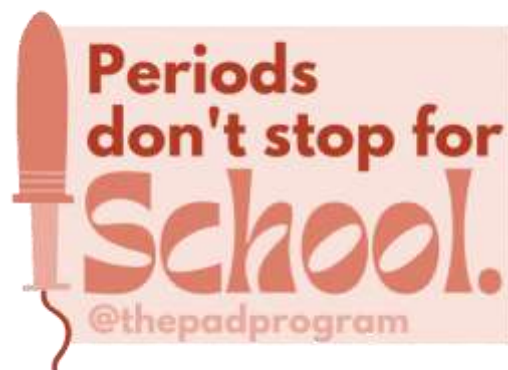


## Prayer Cards

**This school year we'd invite you to take a card from the card rack in the gathering space. Each card identifies an area of one of our Ames School District Schools and Adventures Preschool. We'd invite you to spend the school year praying for that specific section. There is a prayer written on the back or you are of course welcome to say your own prayer. This is a way to extend care and love to the students, teachers, staff and administrators in our area.**

## September Drive for the Pad Program

This September we invite you to donate boxes of pads and tampons for the Pad Program. A student run group that provides access period supplies for free. There will be a collection bin in the West Hallway. You can learn more about the Pad Program here: <https://sites.google.com/ames.k12.ia.us/the-pad-program/home>



# Join the Ames Area Religious Leaders Association for storytelling, dialogue, and authentic personal connection



**OPEN BOOK**  
Read any good people lately?

**September 29, 2:00-4:00 pm**  
**Ames Public Library**  
**515 Douglas Ave.**  
**Ames, IA 50010**

Space is limited, so register today!  
Stop by the library or register online:  
[amespubliclibrary.org/event/open-book](https://amespubliclibrary.org/event/open-book)

Imagine a library full of stories—not written in books, but told through the lessons learned by people with real-life experiences. Books are people. They are our neighbors from diverse backgrounds who are willing to share their personal experiences and defining moments. Readers are people like you who are interested in hearing stories that inspire joy, awe, wonder, and disbelief. The conversations that follow will leave you feeling even more like you belong within your community.

This event is in partnership with the Ames Public Library and supported by Ames Public Library Friends Foundation.





Join us for a movie screening and discussion of  
**GOD & COUNTRY**



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

**6:00 PM**

**Collegiate UMC & Wesley Foundation Annex  
130 S. Sheldon Ave, Ames, IA 50014**

Following the documentary screening, Connie Ryan, Executive Director of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, will lead us in a discussion about the rise in Christian nationalism and its impact on our nation and communities.

*About the documentary: Many Christians fear their faith is being hijacked by an extreme right wing political movement known as Christian nationalism, which is the political ideology in part that America should be defined as a Christian nation. GOD & COUNTRY takes a closer look at the implications and explores how a base of Christians has radically stoked a dangerous movement.*

*GOD & COUNTRY features many of the most prominent and well respected voices of Christianity, including Sister Simone Campbell, Rev. Dr. William J Barber II, Jemar Tisby, Andrew Whitehead, and more. The documentary is directed by Dan Partland and produced by Rob and Michele Reiner.*



**INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF IOWA**

PO Box 41086, Des Moines, IA 50311 | [info@interfaithallianceiowa.org](mailto:info@interfaithallianceiowa.org) | [interfaithallianceiowa.org](http://interfaithallianceiowa.org)



## 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.**



2622 Lincoln Way  
Ames IA 50014  
[www.cwames.org](http://www.cwames.org)