

The  
*Communicator*

June 2025 Vol. 44 Issue 6

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church  
and Wesley Foundation  
Ames, Iowa

## Contact Us

Phone: 515-292-6936

Email: [mail@cwames.org](mailto:mail@cwames.org)

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/cwames](https://facebook.com/cwames)

## 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 mid-May

## Inside This Issue:

A Message from Pastor Lee	3
<b>What's Coming in Worship in June</b>	4
Our Money Story / Ways to Give / Livestreamed Worship	5
Children, Youth And Family Ministries	6
Pictures from May Activities	7
Parade Opportunities	8
Join Us! / CW Garden Committee	9
Trustees Report—Spring Spruce Up	10
Site Analysis Update	11
Our Prayers / Amos Special Offering	12
Volunteer Opportunities & Donations Requested	13
Sending to Serve	14
Iowa Annual Conference	15

## 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 2025 Communicator Deadline: June 16, 2025

# Message from Pastor Lee

by Rev. Lee Roorda Schott

June 2025

Dear Collegiate/Wesley friends,

I recently talked in worship about prayer, and how we approach it, and it occurred to me that you might appreciate knowing about some resources that could support your prayer life.

Some of you see those words and ask, about your own self, “*Do I have a prayer life?*” I lived through a lot of years when I didn’t! If you dare to wonder if there’s something there that you’d be sorry to miss, here are a few thoughts.



First, I mentioned that day (you can [listen at this link](#), starting at about 22:50) the work of Roberta Bondi, a teacher of prayer. Bondi was recently featured in the *On Being* podcast when they aired an interview with the title “*What Is Prayer and How to Begin.*” (Don’t we all want to know?) You can search for that episode or [find it at this link](#). It’s well worth the half-hour listen.

Another prayer resource that has deep roots in our tradition is the practice of **fixed-hour prayer**. For centuries, faithful persons have been praying these pre-written prayers (sometimes called “the divine office” or “the liturgy of the hours”) at multiple times that punctuate the day. [Here’s a link to](#) one reflection on the beauty of this form of prayer.

You can find a number of resources for fixed-hour prayer, including online resources like [this one through the Ann Arbor Vineyard Church](#) and [this one from the Northumbria Community](#). Dan and I have been **ending our days praying the Compline at that Northumbria link; it’s lovely to not have to conjure up words**, but instead to join the saints now and across the ages in praying timeless, often Scriptural words, already supplied for each prayer time.

Finally, do you know **Pray As You Go**? Dan and I first discovered the app by this name way back in the days of iPods. (Remember those?) For all these years they’ve offered a short (10-ish-minute) recorded prayer guide that begins with church bells and includes music, the day’s Scripture, questions for reflection, and a closing benediction. In more recent years they’ve added other prayer resources, *including for children*.

All of us come to prayer from different starting places. If you ever want support or feel stymied in your prayer life, please ask me or another staff member here! We’d be glad to support you on this journey. Until then, I hope something here might nudge you to begin if you’ve been resisting, or to go deeper even if you do, totally, already have a prayer life.

With you,  
Pastor Lee

## What's Coming in Worship

June 1

**Promised Even Now: Where we never expected**—Pastor Lee

John 3.8

Holy Communion

June 8—Pentecost Sunday **WEAR RED!**

**Promised Even Now: Holy Spirit Fire**—Pastor Lee

Acts 2.1-21

June 15, 2025

Psalms 8, Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31

On this Sunday of the Iowa UMC Annual Conference, while many of us (including our pastors) will be joining the worship service where Pastor Lewis is to be ordained (9:00 am at the RecPlex, 6500 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines) (All are welcome!), worship here at C/W will be led by our own Patrick Gagnon, Director of Music Ministries. Stay tuned for more details!

June 22, 2025—**Pastor Lewis' farewell!**



### Our Summer Worship Series: BELIEVING OUT LOUD

On June 29, 2025, Pastor Lee will kick off a new series that will carry us through July and into August. Most Sundays during this time, our message time will be a conversation between one of our pastors and a special guest, some from within our Collegiate/Wesley congregation, and some outside guests, with the goal of inviting one another to believe out loud, to put our faith into words, in dialogue we expect will be engaging, inspiring, and sometimes surprising. Hearing one another's faith convictions put into words may help us each to do the same.

June 29, 2025

**Believing Out Loud: Speaking Our Faith**—Pastor Lee

Romans 8.31-39



# Our Money Story—New Insurance Coverage

## Our Money Story Continues

*Our Church Council has another installment in this "Our Money Story" conversation that we've been sharing since last fall. The focus this month is **Insurance**. Pastor Lee worked with Sherry Hoyer (Trustees chair) and Doug Warren (Facilities Superintendent) to author this chapter of Our Money Story.*



You've probably heard our leaders talk about the huge increases in recent years in the cost of our insurance coverage. Climate change and the increasing severity and experience of storms in our state and here in Ames have wreaked havoc on the insurance market. Rates have skyrocketed and we, like many churches have faced year after year of cancellation, followed by renegotiated, higher rates and increased deductibles.

In 2024, we budgeted \$45,000 for property, automobile (van) and liability insurance coverage, but our May 1, 2024 renewal increased our premium to the point that our total expenditure for the year reached \$75,483. (This increase, in fact, accounted for 91% of our 2024 \$33,341 budget shortfall.)

**The budget impact wasn't all: that higher-priced renewal in 2024** was conditioned on us accepting a \$1 million deductible for wind and hail damage. Fortunately we did not experience any casualty losses from wind or hail during that year (May 2024-April 2025). But it was a situation that kept some of us awake at night, especially when storms threatened.

In all this, by the way, we were not an exception. Many, many churches in Iowa have experienced similar rate increases and outrageous deductibles.

**But this year's news is much better!** Our longtime insurance broker was able to place our 2025 renewal, effective May 1, with a different carrier, Church Mutual, on ***much more favorable terms***. For a premium ***that's less than*** our 2024 renewal rate (!), we now have better coverage and a steeply reduced wind & hail deductible (\$177,000). While that amount still sounds daunting, it is at least in a much more manageable range. It also reflects, unsurprisingly, the protection insurers still feel the need to build into their policies to balance risks in these times.

We wanted you all to be able to savor this news, with better sleep and continued prayers for storms to continue to spare us.

## Ways to Give



## 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.

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries

by Lauren Loonsfoot, Director of Children, Youth & Families

**VBS:** We are excited to host vacation bible school this year Sunday, June 1st - Wednesday June, 4th from 5:30-7:30 pm with a free dinner at 5:00 pm. We welcome current preschoolers through 5th graders for a time of music, crafts, games, science, FUN and more. Come for one day or all four! You are welcome whenever you can be there.

About the theme: Embark on an exciting journey with *Road Trip VBS* is based on Joshua 1:9 – "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together.

Road trips are a great way to build strong relationships and create indelible memories. This makes *Road Trip!* VBS not only a fun experience for kids but also an opportunity for them to strengthen their faith and bond with others in their community. With engaging activities, interactive games, and meaningful lessons, children will have a blast while they grow in their understanding of God's love and promises for everyone.

[Register here:](#)



## Congrats 2025 High School Grads!

Tyler Brand, Caden Olsen, Ellian Jones, Maysen Smith, Myah Smith and (not pictured) Izzy Smelser. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what's next on your journey.



## Support Our Youth Service Trip!

Starting June 15, you're invited to purchase **"stock"** in our **Youth Service Trip** fundraiser!

Stocks are just **\$20 each** and will be available **before and after worship**. Your investment helps send our youth out to serve, grow in faith, and make a difference in the world.

As a **"shareholder,"** you'll receive a postcard from our trip. Your support not only funds the journey—it encourages and empowers our young people to live out their faith in action.

*Stock Sales: Gathering Space, Sundays June 15–July 13. Before and after worship.*

Thank you for supporting this opportunity for our youth!





# Pictures from May Activities

Beautiful Cards created by our Card team, Elementary end of the year treats at Freddy's, Youth Sunday School creating Mothers Day plants, Children's Choir, Youth Group end of the year bowling fun, College Grad, Bailey Lagan.





## Parade Opportunities

# JOIN US FOR THE DES MOINES PRIDE FEST PARADE!



**SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH**  
**DEPARTING FROM AMES AFTER CHURCH**  
**PARADE BEGINS AT NOON**



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! Meet in the parking lot west of City Hall. Wear your Collegiate t-shirts if you have them. Watch the weekly email for more information.



## Join Us For These Celebrations



A WELCOME! Party for Pastor Jena will be held on **Sunday, July 13**. More details will be available soon in the weekly email.

## Garden Committee

### CW Garden Committee

The Collegiate Wesley Garden Committee is back in action. The first project this year is the Courtyard. A 2024 Endowment Grant funded a Royal Raindrops Crab Apple to replace the tree that died last year. We are now looking for some hostas to plant at the base of the new tree. If you have a hosta to share let Jane Jacobson know ([janej4831@gmail.com](mailto:janej4831@gmail.com)).

The CW Garden Committee will be meeting on Saturday mornings this season. If you wish to be part of the group contact Jane Jacobson ([janej4831@gmail.com](mailto:janej4831@gmail.com)). She will send an email to let people know which Saturdays we will be working and what the project of the week will be. If Saturday mornings do not fit your schedule let Jane know. There are always opportunities to water or weed.



# Trustees' Report

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! A special thank you to all our wonderful workers that came out full of energy during the Spring Spruce Up on May 17th. With the help of many hands, we were able to complete so much in just a morning! Some of the projects that were completed were; Cleaning Wax off of many worship items and spaces, cleaning out and organizing storage closets, assembling room essentials kits, cleaning bugs out of light fixtures, organizing the garage, and cleaning up garbage from around the property. As a result, we now have a sizeable pile for donation to Rummage Rampage. We also, as you may have noticed, filled a pretty sizeable dumpster of items that had lived its purpose. Fear not though, that dumpster did not go straight to the landfill, it was brought to a resource center where it was sorted and the recyclables were sorted out.

Not all projects are pictured

Homemade muffins provided by Trustee Kris Meinhard



Wesley Center closet cleaning before and after



Cleaned wax off the altar in Nichols Chapel



Cleaned and organized several storage spaces in the building



Staging for items to be stored until the Rummage Rampage



Cleaned bugs from the light fixtures



## Trustees continued

Following the clean up day, the Trustees identified some old church items that we no longer want to hold onto, and wanted to offer them to the congregation. Any items left after June 15th will be taken to an architectural salvage company.

1. Metal Railing
2. Stained glass without window—8' x 3'8"
3. Stained glass with window—12' x 3'8"
4. Wooden railing
5. Small sections of stained glass

These items are being offered to the congregation for FREE. Contact [Doug@cwames.org](mailto:Doug@cwames.org) if you're interested in owning a piece of church history!



## Site Analysis Update

### More Progress in Our Ongoing Site Analysis

We've been updating you month by month as our consultant (BBS) is conducting a thorough site analysis, reviewing our properties and helping us think through how they can more effectively support our mission, purpose, and vision. As you've seen, we gave BBS the feedback that came through our Conversation Circles and Leaders' Summit in February, and you glimpsed their initial work in our information sessions held in March.



Among the recent work of our Site Analysis Oversight Team (SAOT) was a presentation to our Church Council at its May meeting, providing an overview of BBS' facilities condition analysis and a number of proposed next steps with respect to our properties, which our Council members will be digesting and prioritizing over the coming weeks. We're getting closer to a congregational presentation of all this, but we aren't there yet! **Stay tuned for more information** that will indeed be shared when the time is right.

In the meantime, please be praying for this process as we move toward being ready to make strategic decisions that will guide the future of Collegiate/Wesley and our care for our properties. Our SAOT members have invested a lot of time, attention, and intentionality in this work, so give them a shout-out when you have a chance: Jeff Elver, Max Morris, David Orth, Ann Sandine, Chris Strawhacker, and Pastor Lee. Thanks to all for your engagement in the process so far, and for your patience as we move closer to the stage of decision-making and implementation.

## Our Prayers

- for Mark Blaedel, (who was) hospitalized at Mary Greeley Medical Center.
- for the Food at First crew on April 25: Dee Dreeszen, Bev Kruempel, Dean Phillips, Sally Wilson, Paul & Mary Ann Lundy, Marjy Howe, Steven Schroder, and Ann Sandine.
- for students facing final exams.
- of thanks for the beautiful music from our bell choirs.
- Prayers with so many in our world who are grieving the death of Pope Francis. Here's [our Bishop's reflection](#) on his life and legacy.
- or the people of Palestine, Ukraine, and the US.
- for our nation's leaders.
- continued prayers for Pastor Lee's husband Dan, who has chemotherapy infusions every other week. You can [follow updates at this CaringBridge link](#).
- of celebration on the May 2 marriage of Will (Orth) and Lexi.
- for Jack, cousin of Brooke Mattingly, facing more surgery for brain tumors.
- for students facing final exams.
- for Karen Huiatt and family on the recent death of her mother, Ruth Meyer.
- in celebration for Pope Leo XIV and the world's Roman Catholics. Read Bishop Bigham-Tsai's letter [here](#).
- for Tim Gossett and family on the recent death of his mother.
- for Claire Hennessy and family on the death of her grandfather.
- for the fantastic crew at Food at First on Friday, May 23: Bev Kruempel, Dee Dreeszen, Sally Wilson, Betty and Tom Barton, VaLinda and Mike Parsons, Steven Schroder, Marjy Howe, and Robert, Shirley, Janet, Melissa, and Lincoln.
- For Mike Parsons and family on the recent death of his father, Jerry Parsons.
- for clients of Clothing That Works and the Little Food Pantry.



## AMOS Special Offering—Sending to Serve

### Invest in Justice. Give to the AMOS Special Offering (June–July)

This June and July, join us in building a stronger, more just Central Iowa by supporting the **AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) Special Offering**. AMOS empowers everyday people to create real, lasting change in our communities—addressing critical issues

like affordable housing, mental health care, public safety, and immigration reform.



Your gift helps AMOS train leaders, amplify community voices, and take meaningful action grounded in justice and compassion. Together, we can shape a future where everyone has a voice and a seat at the table.

You can donate through the pew envelopes, online at [cwames.org/give](http://cwames.org/give), or by mailing a check to the main office.

Give generously. Give boldly. Give for justice.



# Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

## Little Food Pantry

*There is nothing greater than love invested in helping to feed the impoverished living in hunger.*

- Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Hot and/or cold cereals
- Knorr side dishes
- Granola bars
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits
- Crackers
- Individual microwave meals
- All personal items – shampoo, deodorant, soap, toilet paper, etc.

Please bring your donations directly to the **Little Food Pantry**, located outside the north door of the Annex or to the collection box inside the west door of the church. If you'd like to make a financial donation to the Little Food Pantry, please click [here](#). Thank you so much!



## Clothing That Works Needs Your Unused Clothing

CLOTHING THAT WORKS has been serving 50+ clients every week. Come visit CTW any WEDNESDAY, 2-5pm or the first SATURDAY of each month 9am-noon.

Don't forget to donate your unneeded, adult-sized clothing. Donations can be delivered to CTW when they are open on Wednesdays and the first Saturday, or dropped off inside the west entrance of the church building.



## 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 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

# Sending to Serve

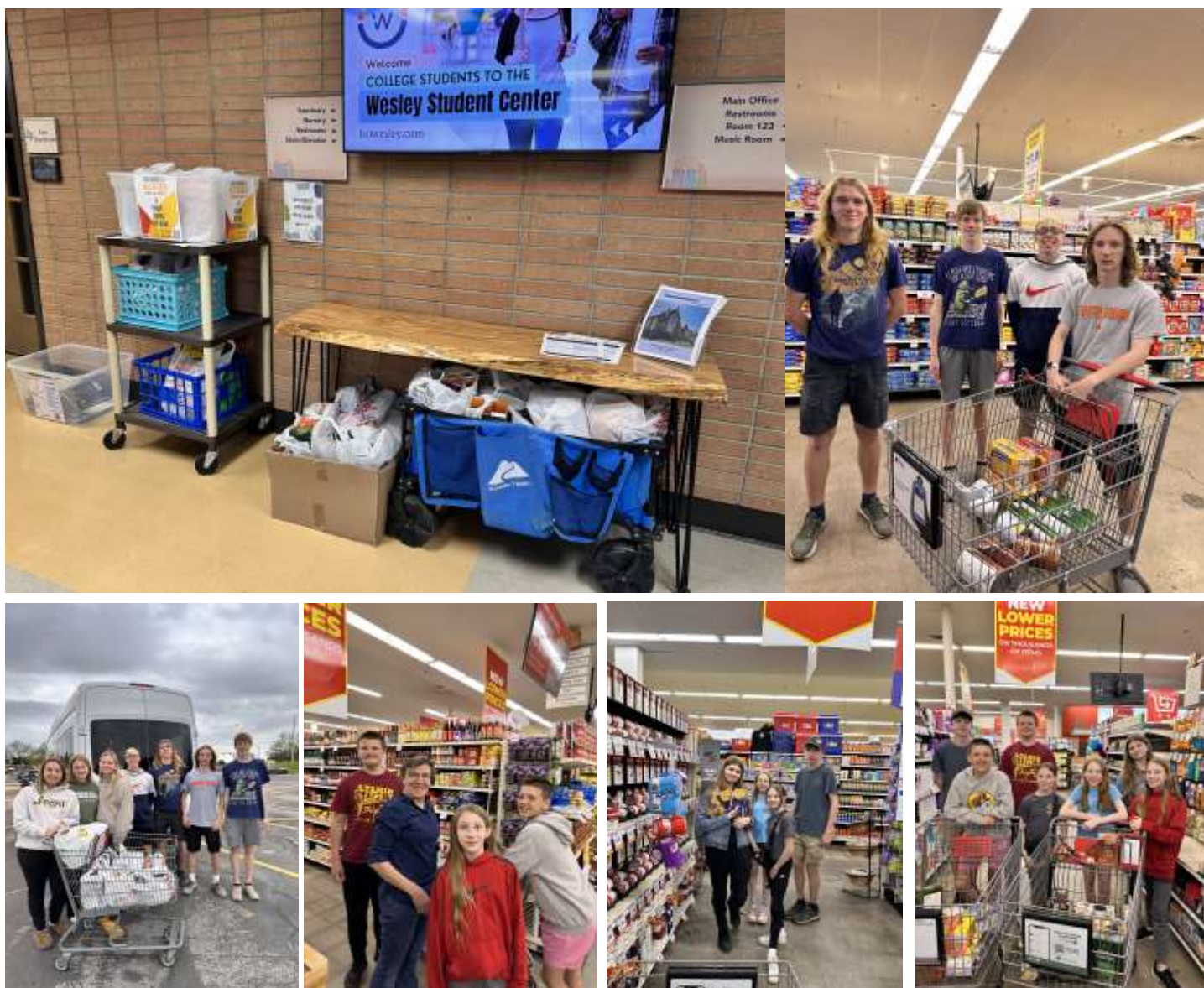
## Thank You for Your Incredible Support!

We're excited to share that, thanks to your generosity, we collected **167 pounds** of food and essential goods during our United Way Food Drive!

Your donations will go directly to individuals and families in our community who are facing food insecurity, helping to provide not just nourishment, but hope and support during difficult times.

We are truly grateful for your kindness, compassion, and commitment to making a difference. Together, we are building a stronger, more caring community—one donation at a time.

Thank you for being a part of this effort!





# Iowa Annual Conference

## Iowa Annual Conference Coming in June

Each spring, representatives of the Iowa United Methodist Church gather to do the work that belongs to us as a body: receiving and approving nominations, budgets, and reports; adopting action items and resolutions, and other business that may come before us. This meeting is called our **Annual Conference**, and we here at Collegiate Wesley are represented by our clergy (Pastor Lee and Pastor Lewis), two lay representatives (Jane Jacobson and Donna Niday), plus two lay representatives for our Wesley Foundation: Claire Hennessey and Bibhas Kumar). Mike and Patty King are also active at Annual Conference--Mike as an equalization member by virtue of serving as a delegate elected to the 2020/2024 jurisdictional conference and Patty as a member of the staff that prepares the Conference Journal. A big thanks to all these folks who will spend the better part of three whole days in this gathering.

At the start of Annual Conference, clergy will gather in a Clergy Session that includes the business of approving candidates for ministry--including our own Lewis Cox for ordination. Assuming (as we do) that he is approved, Lewis will be ordained at the worship service at Annual Conference, 9:00-11:30 am on Sunday, June 15 at the RecPlex. All are welcome!

Some especially important business to come before this year's Annual Conference is our vote on constitutional amendments adopted at last year's General Conference. General Conference is the worldwide, every-four-years (except as delayed by a pandemic!), full United Methodist denomination version of the regular meetings we hold here in Iowa each year. General Conference is the only body that can make decisions on behalf of the whole United Methodist denomination. And when their decisions involve changes to our UMC Constitution, those decisions aren't final until adopted by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of all votes cast in annual conferences around our entire UM connection. You can learn more about all these amendments at this link: <https://www.iaumc.org/constitutional-amendments>. ***All voting members (and retired clergy!) are encouraged to be present for these votes scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 14.***

Alongside all the business, the highlight of Annual Conference each year is the connections--and re-connections--we make with colleagues and fellow travelers on this journey with the United Methodist Church. Together we'll join in several worship services, addresses by our bishop and by keynote speaker Dr. Ashley Boggan D., General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History, and an exhibit hall that highlights ministries within our conference (including our many Wesley Foundations and campus ministries!). This year includes a couple of special events that may be of interest even if you're not otherwise attending:

- An Evening of Art, Architecture, and Storytelling, on the eve of Annual Conference, Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 pm at the Conference Center, 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines. Details at this link: <https://www.iaumc.org/eventdetail/19028872?month=5&year=2025&day=1&display=1>
- A Celebration of Ministries, which includes music, art, poetry, dance and comedy as we celebrate what God is doing through the ministries of the Iowa Annual Conference. All are invited! Saturday, June 14 starting at 5:00 pm at the RecPlex. Details at this link: <https://www.iaumc.org/eventdetail/19050095?month=5&year=2025&day=1&display=1>

Please be praying for our representatives, our conference leaders, and for all who will gather in person and online to do this important work and celebration that will happen at Annual Conference 2025!



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)