

The  
*Communicator*

July 2025 Vol. 44 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](mailto:mail@cwames.org) by NOON on Wednesday. Type *weekly email* in the subject line.

Cover Pictures: taken mid-June

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## 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: July 21, 2025

# Message from Pastor Lee

by Rev. Lee Roorda Schott

Dear Collegiate/Wesley friends,

I miss the flag.

I've always appreciated our red, white, and blue, "Old Glory," the stars and stripes that we honor at sporting events, in parades, and in those long-ago school mornings that began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In those days I thought the flag was uncomplicated. Maybe it never was.

In recent years, though, the flag has become something of a dividing line. Its appearance on a house, or flown from a vehicle, has become a statement (even if unintended) that identifies the occupants' politics more than our nationality. Unless, of course, it's flown upside down as I've seen repeatedly in recent months—a sign of distress, and protest against the current administration.

Patriotism itself has become divisive, "independence" increasingly complicated. Which of us loves our country? Is our history great and noble? Are we free? If my neighbor is not, am I? Can we claim the flag while disagreeing with some of our nation's policies and actions, or while lamenting some parts of our history?

I long for the nuance that allows us to say clearly, "I love my country," while acknowledging its flaws. We know how to do that; don't we all manage this level of complexity in our relationships with people we love? None of my family and friends—none of *you!*—are flawless, yet my love for them and for you is real. We are all precious *and* imperfect, beloved *and* broken. It's only when we can own that blended, actual reality of a person—or a nation—that our love for them can be real.

That's the spirit I want to carry with me into the upcoming Independence Day holiday, where the flag will be especially visible. The Ames 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, has as its theme this year "Stars, Stripes, and Summertime." May it be a day of celebration even *with* lament, a day when our love for our country reinforces not our blind patriotism, but our hope for and commitment to the day the prophets long ago saw, when we may be a nation in which "justice [as opposed to *injustice*] roll[s] down like waters, and righteousness [right relationship] like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5.24)

Peace,  
Lee



# What's Coming in Worship

## Our Summer Worship Series: BELIEVING OUT LOUD

Starting 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

Stay tuned for guests this summer that include:

Our new associate pastor & campus minister, Rev. Jena Finch-Manchester

**Courtney Dufford, AMOS' lead organizer**

Rev. Fred Lewis

Melanie Hauser, chaplain at Buena Vista University (& newly ordained UM elder)

**Maybe... you??!** (Let Pastor Lee know if you'd like to be included!)



## 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.



# Farewell Party for Pastor Lewis





# Pictures from June Activities- VBS





# Pictures from June Activities– Elementary Service Trip





A Warm (it IS July, after all) Welcome



July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade



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 by 10:15am. Wear your Collegiate t-shirts if you have them. Watch the weekly email for more information as the Ames July 4th Committee hasn't distributed parade assignments as of this printing.



# Iowa Annual Conference Recap

In last month's *Communicator* we previewed this annual gathering of Iowa United Methodists for which a number of us were preparing. We thought we should share a few highlights now that it's over!

## Pastor Lewis' Ordination!

The final steps of approval and the ordination service itself were completed, and Pastor Lewis is now an ordained United Methodist elder! Surrounded by bishops, colleagues, and family, he was blessed to “take authority” as an elder “in Christ’s holy church.”

## Constitutional Amendments

Last month we mentioned the constitutional amendments that would be before us, and those votes were completed. We won’t know the outcome of the votes—which get tallied with all other votes in all our conferences worldwide—until all those conferences’ work has been completed.

## Keynote Address

We were blessed by our keynote speaker, Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, who shared an inspiring message that leaned in to John Wesley’s discovery that he must “become *more vile*” - a sense of call that propelled him out of church buildings and into fields and other places where people were. You can [listen to her address at this link](#); it’s well worth it!

## A Lay Leadership Award for Patty and Mike King!

Outstanding Laity Awards were given by the District Superintendent of each Iowa district. Our D.S. Lilian Seagren presented this award to Patty and Mike King, noting their leadership and involvement in small groups (Spiritual Formation, Divine Kneads, Forum Class) and committees (Finance, Trustees, Church Council), within Collegiate, as well as conference-wide activities (Session Committee member and Alternate Jurisdictional Delegate—Mike, and Editor of The Monitor—Patty). Congratulations to Patty & Mike!

## COSROW Video

Our conference’s Committee on the Status and Role of Women has done some good work this year in the areas of salary equity, improved family leave policies **\*\*which we adopted as part of our legislative work!\*\***, and clergy domestic violence awareness. Their report included a video that seeks to name sexual violence and abuse that happens even within the church. You can hear [this committee’s report and watch the video at this link](#). We are grateful for this group’s important work.

Way more happens at Annual Conference than we can tell here. You can learn more at the [AC2025 News page at this link](#). Thanks to all our leaders who joined in this important, fortifying, and sometimes exhausting time!



Kneeling: Leah Berbano Standing L to R: Orville Berbano, John Jacobson, Pastor Lewis Cox, Darra Johnson, Jane Jacobson, Patty King, Donna Niday, Mike King, and Linda Carver



## Trustees' Report

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

### "It's not the heat, it's the humidity"

You often hear that phrase here in Iowa. The same is true at Collegiate Wesley. For many years we've battled humidity issues in our lower levels. Dehumidifiers were used in an attempt to control the humidity, but that doesn't work if they get unplugged due to noise. Often times after a week of rain, the basement would feel almost tropical! This has all changed now! As part of this year's Endowment Grants, I've added mini-splits to the Norman Room, Pine Room, and the Reading Room. This will provide air conditioning, heat pump, and dehumidification to these rooms. The impact these units are having is been noticeable already. They will also help reduce our heating costs! Stay tuned for more updates on our summer projects!



## Thank You



Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners (ASIP) thanks the Endowment and Byrne Funds given to support DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) in this very critical time for immigrants. One of the recipients helped is from Crawford County. This is the first time she needed to ask for help from ASIP for the \$605 filing fee. She is also the first one we have approved with a husband having to endure the cruelty of confinement in detention, awaiting probable deportation somewhere. She has been laid off from her job. She has four children. Without DACA status, it would be unsafe to drive, and she would also face unemployment. We are very concerned about what may lie ahead for immigrants with actions being implemented without legal due process. ASIP volunteers recognize and appreciate the help and leadership of our congregation in assisting refugees and immigrants.



## A Day of Service



Becky Brand and Michele Olsen recently spent a day working at Midwest Mission in Jefferson. They joined a team from Asbury UMC in Sioux Falls, including Michele's sister. They spent the day assembling and verifying Personal Dignity Kits, packing dried soy and rice meals, and doing a little sewing. Midwest Mission sends supplies around the corner and around the world in the areas of disaster relief, education, health and micro business.



## Our Prayers

- of joy and blessings for Pastor Lewis in his new endeavor.
- of joy as Frank and Rosalie Amos celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary.
- for Carol Phillips and her husband Dean with her recent move to Bickford assisted living and transition today to hospice care.
- for the peoples of Palestine, Ukraine, Iran, those who have had to leave their homes, and the people of our country.
- for the family, friends, and former patients of Dr. Jack Swanson, longtime Ames pediatrician, whose memorial services were held recently.
- for the wellbeing of the Pope.
- for safe and smooth travels for all who will be travelling this summer.
- for the cousin and family of Janell Eby as her husband was deployed last week.
- for the Hucker family on the passing of Wanda Hucker (mother of Bruce and grandmother of Ben) on May 29.
- for Beverly Hucker, suffering from Alzheimer's.
- for Pam, sister-in-law of Kimberly Taylor, recently diagnosed with colon cancer.
- in celebration of the completion of a PhD in astrophysics by Dr. Lynn Buchele, adult child of Marybeth Buchele's late brother Rod.
- for Suzie Dobbs, hospitalized in Iowa City. Prayers also for her husband Josh.
- for Doug Meinhard, continued healing from knee replacement surgery.
- for Paul Lundy, healing from surgery and rehabbing at Bickford Cottage.
- **for Madie Dunn's brother, being deployed to Syria.**
- for the families of the immigrants captured in Ames last week and are being held at the Polk County



## Sending to Serve—AMOS Special Offering

### Invest in Justice. Give to the AMOS Special Offering (through 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.

## Ames Area Immigration Network

Dear Friends,

The Ames Area Immigration Network is a group of community members who began working together in December 2024 to prepare for the threat of mass deportations based on changes in administrative policies and actions President Trump is taking. The group is composed of representatives from Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance, Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners, County Coordination Committee/Community ID card, religious institutions, and other interested individuals.

**The statement of basic values for the group is,** *“The Ames Area Immigration Network (AAIN) recognizes the inherent dignity of the immigrants and refugees living in our communities. We support the positive ways they contribute to our economy and the enrichment of our cultural diversity. We strive to provide support for them and their families as they face the detrimental changes in immigration policy of the new administration.”*

We are pleased to share that the Ames Area Immigration Network has started an Emergency Fund in collaboration with Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance that will assist our immigrant and refugee friends with rent and/or utility payments if they are experiencing financial hardship related to loss of work authorization or having a family member detained or deported.

Applications for assistance are available upon request by emailing [story.immigrants.fund@gmail.com](mailto:story.immigrants.fund@gmail.com). Once the application is completed a case manager will be assigned to the applicant to work through the process for approval. Good Neighbor will issue the checks to the landlords or utility companies of approved applicants as directed by the Ames Area Immigrant and Refugee Emergency Fund team.

We need donations and support from our community in order to make this possible. Donations can be made online through the Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance website ([gnea.org](http://gnea.org)), **noting “Immigrant Fund” under comments**. Or checks can be mailed to Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc; 613 Clark Avenue; Ames, Iowa 50010. **Please note on the memo line “Immigrant Fund”.**

Thank you for your support and for helping us to spread the word.

Ames Area Immigrant Emergency Fund Team  
Nancy Heideman, Chair  
[nheideman@gmail.com](mailto:nheideman@gmail.com)



# Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

## Little Food Pantry

Donations Are Down & Need Is Up! Please help as you can.

Monetary contributions are welcome to buy items needed when donations are low.

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 July 25

This is a great chance to build community, have fun, and serve others. To learn more, email Lauren Loonsfoot at [lauren@cwames.org](mailto:lauren@cwames.org) or sign up at [Food at First Volunteer](#).

Food at First is located inside First Christian Church, 611 Clark Ave., Ames



You are Welcome Here!

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, economic condition, or anything **else which threatens to divide God's family.**

The purpose of C/W is to build an inclusive community that invites all people **to experience God's unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others.**



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