

The
Communicator

August 2025 Vol. 44 Issue 8

Connecting People



Collegiate United Methodist Church
and Wesley Foundation
Ames, Iowa

Contact Us

Phone: 515-292-6936

Email: mail@cwames.org

For more information, please visit our website: cwames.org

Facebook: facebook.com/cwames

Inside This Issue:

A Message from Pastor Lee	3
What's Coming in Worship in August	5
Ways to Give / Livestreamed Worship	5
Information for Children, Youth, and Families	6
Middle School Service Trip Pictures	7
High School Service Trip Pictures	8
July 4 Parade / Garden Committee Update	9
Wesley Center Updates	10
Wesley Center Schedule/Site Analysis Update	11
/ Our Prayers	11
Trustees Report / Thank You	12
Our Prayers / Sending to Serve-Special Offer.	13
Helping Our Neighbors	14
Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested	15

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 a hot and humid day in mid-July.

Message from Pastor Lee

by Rev. Lee Roorda Schott

August 2025

Dear Collegiate/Wesley friends,

You've just opened up *the last issue* of the Communicator newsletter. Maybe you've been reading it for years. Maybe you rarely get to it. Maybe you haven't really connected with this monthly news source that's been linked to every weekly email we send.



We're discontinuing the Communicator because it isn't communicating very well. One of our goals for 2025 has been to improve our communications. We decided to start here. Here's why:

The Communicator isn't really getting read. Even if YOU, personally, read it every month, and get all the way through, most don't. I was surprised to hear that said, jokingly, in many settings after I arrived a year ago. "Nobody reads the Communicator." On further asking many of you directly, I've heard that sentiment from highly engaged leaders, from newer attenders, and a whole range of folks in between. It's not an effective means of communicating to most of you.

Which means, *the big-picture news and updates we share there don't get through.* We've used the Communicator for news that requires explanation, for updates to ongoing projects, for celebrating accomplishments, and for other items (like thank-you notes) that don't quite fit the weekly email. That email was meant as a supplement to the newsletter, with mostly brief promos and reminders, alongside the prayer list and what's happening in worship that Sunday. But the news we've shared through the newsletter isn't getting to many of you.

The monthly Communicator misses mid-month developments. In an active church where plans come together unpredictably, some news comes too late for one month's newsletter but is already over before the next one. A monthly newsletter is out of date almost as soon as it's published. People who only read the Communicator—and we do have a few whom we send a hard copy—miss out on the things that happen with short notice.

It's hard to read the Communicator on your phone. The Communicator is designed as a full-page printable document, and when you open it on your phone, the print is quite small, and if you stretch it bigger, you can't read across a whole line of print. Since many of you use your phone to read email, this clunkiness interferes with you diligently reading the whole newsletter. Our email uses newer technology designed to fit the device where it's being read—phone, tablet, or computer—so, perhaps unsurprisingly, you more reliably read that.

With all these realities, it seems clear that the production of the monthly Communicator is no longer a wise use of our staff's time. We will refocus that time on the look and content of our weekly Thursday email, whose weekly rhythm spreads out the work more evenly and gets developments communicated sooner. By mid-August, you'll start receiving an updated version of that email where you'll find:

- A brief weekly reflection from me or another staff member, or sometimes a guest writer;
- A preview of that weekend's worship;
- Of course the week's prayer list, which some of you have named as the thing you most consistently read;

A Message from Pastor Lee *continued from previous page*

- Announcements and calendar items;
- Other news, recaps, and updates on ongoing projects that we've previously published primarily in the Communicator. We hope you'll be glad to check in on these subjects that are happening in our life together here at C/W.
- A bottom section where you can find links (like to our livestream, giving page, or other items) that don't change much but will keep you from having to go searching.

Some of you are already wondering whether these changes will make the weekly email fearsomely long. We will be monitoring that, but our strategy on longer items will be to publish only the opening paragraph or so in the email, with a link to the rest of the piece in the "news" page (under "Coming Up") on our website. These updates will be posted on a rolling basis, so you'll always be able to learn about the newest developments by scrolling through those headlines.

A few of you will be reading these words on a printed copy of the Communicator that we mail to you each month. **We haven't forgotten you! We'll print and mail you a copy of the weekly email every week—so you'll be in on the weekly news.** For longer items of general interest, we plan to print the longer article from our website and include it along with the printed email. **We'll be listening for your feedback, but we think you'll find it an improvement overall.**

As with all things, this process will no doubt have its glitches. Please be patient as we work through the details. **We'll be asking for your feedback in six weeks or so. And once we get this work moving smoothly, we'll turn to the next things—**our website (supported by an Endowment grant!), and our livestream and other worship-related communications.

If what I've shared here leaves you unsettled, we hope you'll take a breath, notice those feelings, and commit yourself to trust the good intentions of all involved. I hardly need to point out (but I will!) that while the *form* of communication changes over time, the goals remain steadfast. We no longer rely on smoke signals and parchment scrolls to convey information, nor mimeographed pages and faxes. You're probably a member of multiple organizations that long since stopped printing a monthly newsletter.

Last week Rev. Fred Lewis reminded us, in those ancient words from Habakkuk, to "write the vision," "make it plain" (3.2). Yes. What we're doing right now partakes of that purpose.

Peace,
Pastor Lee

What's Coming in Worship

Our Summer Worship Series: **BELIEVING OUT LOUD**

We continue our summer worship series clear to the end of August! Most Sundays during this time, our message time is 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.

You won't want to miss our **MISSION Sunday, August 24**, when our young participants in our Elementary, Middle School, and High School Service trips will share about their experiences! Along with their leaders, including Lauren Loonsfoot, this will be a time of inspiration with all that happens through this important ministry of Collegiate/Wesley.



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 Families

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH- FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Farr Board Room- By the Nursery.
Anyone interested in helping with Sunday School for children and youth encouraged to attend. Childcare provided.



SERVICE SUNDAY

AUGUST 24TH 10:00 AM

HEAR ABOUT OUR
SUMMER SERVICE TRIPS



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH 10:00 AM

BRING YOUR BACKPACKS, LAPTOP BAGS,
CROSSING GUARD VEST, NAME BADGE.
WHATEVER REPRESENTS THE NEW SCHOOL
YEAR TO YOU.



COLLEGIATE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND WESLEY FOUNDATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
8:45-9:45 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHILDREN-ROOM 202
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL-
YOUTH ROOM

Confirmation Meeting

Sunday, August 17th
9:15 am Fireside Room

7th/8th Grade guardians and youth
meeting for those interested in
learning more about confirmation

July Activities– Middle School Service Trip



PIC-COLLAGE

High School Service Trip



July 4th Parade



Garden Committee Update

Courtyard Update - CW Garden Committee

Thanks to a 2024 CW Endowment Grant the deceased red bud tree in the Courtyard has been replaced and is surrounded by a new garden space. The new tree is a Royal Raindrops Crab Apple. It was chosen for its size, canopy, and adaptability to the microclimate of the Courtyard. The leaves and flowers provide seasonal interest. The fruits, which are persistent (i.e. they do not drop) attract birds. The encircling bed features hostas, hellebores, brunnera, and sedum. The next time you are at the church walk through the Courtyard, take your shoes off, and sit a spell.



Wesley Center Updates

by Jena Finch-Manchester
Assoc. Pastor & Campus Minister



Meet Your Campus Minister: Rev. Jena J. Finch-Manchester

Campus ministry often begins with a nudge—a text, a conversation, or a memory that tugs at your heart. For me, it started with a message from a few of my former high school students who were now attending Iowa State. They told me they missed our Bible study and asked, “Would you consider starting one again?” I laughed when they offered to drive *to me*, but after prayer and discernment, I found myself driving to Ames instead. What I didn’t expect was to find open doors and warm hearts at Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation.

Though I’m newer to formal campus ministry, nurturing the faith of young adults has long been part of my story. In my early twenties, while taking classes at UNI, I was part of a church that intentionally created space for college students. We invited them to worship, play games, study, eat pizza—and even do laundry on Sunday afternoons/evenings. It worked. Looking back, I realize now that may have been the beginning of my call to this kind of ministry.

I’ve served in parish ministry for over 20 years. I’ve learned to keep my eyes open for needs in the community, then ask if the church feels called to join me. When the answer is yes, we go all in. That spirit continues to guide me today in campus ministry.

I understand that campus ministry has changed. Sunday evening meals are covered by the school. Laundry can be done at any time. Students have different needs than we ever imagined. And yet, they still long for community and authentic relationships.

Outside of ministry, I’m blessed with two adult sons and their wonderful families. Ben and Katie live in Des Moines with their daughter Elaine—named after my mom—and their big dog Orzo. Jonathan and Emily live in Duluth, MN, with their pup Mamet (named after the playwright) and Emily’s son, Aspen. I love to kayak in the summer (I have two—call me!) and cross-country ski in the winter.

I’m honored to serve as your Associate Pastor and Campus Minister. Being present with students during these transformative years—listening, praying, sharing, and laughing—is not just meaningful work, it’s sacred. I look forward to all that this year holds, and I’ll be publishing a calendar of upcoming campus activities. Stay tuned!



Meet Your Campus Intern: Claire Hennessey

Hello! I’m currently serving as the student intern here at the Collegiate United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation.

I am a senior here at Iowa State, majoring in Human Development & Family Studies! I’m very passionate about fostering an environment of inclusivity and safety within our community. I absolutely love diving into theology discussions – there’s something truly special about exploring faith and spirituality with others.

My favorite hobbies are hanging out with friends, going for walks, working out, reading, and doomscrolling.

I am so excited to be at the Wesley Foundation!

Wesley Center Schedule

Wesley Center Schedule for Fall 2025

“801” Day

Saturday, Aug. 23, 1 - 4 pm at Collegiate/Wesley
Distribute water, electrolyte packets, and snacks

Campus Ministry Welcome

Monday, Aug. 25, 7:30 am - 11 am AND Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2 pm - 5:30 pm
Collegiate/Wesley

Share information about Collegiate UMC and Wesley Center, and invite students to participate.

Grillin' & Chillin'

Date: Wednesdays Aug. 20, 27 and Sept. 3, 5:30-7:30 pm
Collegiate/Wesley Patio
Promote Collegiate/Wesley, feed students

We're also participating in **ISU's WelcomeFest** (Aug. 27) and **ClubFest** (Sept. 10). We're in the planning stages of a **Homecoming Celebration**, a **Progressive Dinner**, and a campus-wide **FaithFest**.

Contact Rev. Jena (jena@cwames.org) if you'd like more information on any of these activities.



Site Analysis Update

A Site Analysis Update: SO CLOSE

You wouldn't know it, but our Site Analysis work has been moving forward over the summer and we **can't wait** to share it with you. **We're actively working on plans to do so after the academic year** begins again and you all are back in town and, we hope, ready to listen and consider and move toward some decisions!



After intensive discussions with you all in February, which gave us the feedback we needed to share with our consultant (BBS), and after conversations in March with updates about properties and priorities, we still had work in progress and questions to answer before we'd be ready to share next steps out loud, with you all.

But during these months, the Site Analysis Oversight Team (SAOT) has been in conversation with our **Church Council**, with a **consensus on some items we're moving forward**. So **stay tuned** for times and places where we'll roll out insights, next steps, and a process toward decisions about the optimal use of our properties. We aren't there yet, but we will be, very soon.

As we've previously asked, please be praying for this process. Our SAOT members—Jeff Elver, Max Morris, David Orth, Ann Sandine, Chris Strawhacker, and Pastor Lee—are committed to seeing this through, even though this work has stretched longer than we initially expected. Thanks to all for your engagement in the process so far, and for your patience along the way.

Trustees' Report

by Doug Warren, Facilities Superintendent

Wax on, wax off, and wax on again! I'm not quite sure Mr. Miyagi would enjoy this type of work, but it could be material for a sequel. Summer is in full swing here at CUMC/WF which means summer maintenance! This summer I'm working on parking lot repairs, Wesley Hall, and numerous painting and flooring tasks. Recently, we converted a few handicapped parking spaces into van accessible spaces so we could be more accommodating to everyone.

Now that things are heating up, I've started on the inside projects too. This week I completed the stripping of all the layers of old dirty wax in Wesley Hall and laid down several layers of new wax. Yes, the wax is dry, though all of Wesley Hall looks like its wet still! Hopefully the floor will be protected for years to come (see pictures below). To help protect and preserve it, I replaced all the feet on the tables with fresh rubber ones. New outlets in Wesley Hall with safety shutters and new lights in the kitchen are also in the works.

Still to come this summer are new windows in Wesley Hall, the Reading Room, and the North Pine room. The reading room will be repainted and the Gathering Space will receive some fresh paint as well! Sooner than we think, we will back to Sunday school and using all these refreshed spaces. Have a

before



after



Thank You



On behalf of our Founding Executive Director, Erica Johnson, and our whole staff, thank you so much for your recent grants to Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (Iowa MMJ)! Your support will help us continue to provide urgently needed immigration legal services and to advocate for immigrants' rights in Iowa. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Collegiate United Methodist and the Wesley Foundation to support Iowa MMJ in our

shared vision of a creating a more welcoming and inclusive Iowa. Blessings to you as you continue to live out the Gospel call to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).

Susie Tierney, Development Director

Our Prayers

- continued prayers for Pastor Lee's husband Dan, who has chemotherapy infusions every other week. You can [follow updates at this CaringBridge link](#).
 - of appreciation and thanks to the crew at Food at First on June 27: Bev Kruempel, Michele Olsen, Sally Wilson, Dee Dreeszen, Betty & Tom Barton, Marjory Howe, Brenda Allen, Steven Schroder, Janet H, Shirley R, and 2 Ames High students.
 - in celebration of the birth, in early May, of Briar Mahannah, daughter Kaci and Ashley Mahannah (and brother Caliber Coffman).
 - for Doug Meinhard, continued healing from a recent knee replacement.
 - for the family and friends of Charlie Henkle, a lifelong friend of Tim Garner.
 - for David, brother of Kimberly Taylor, recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's and moved into a care center.
 - continued prayers for Pam, sister-in-law of Kimberly Taylor, battling cancer.
- for the family and friends of Carol Phillips. Carol's services will be held here at C/W Friday, July 18 at 3pm. You can read Carol's obituary [here](#).
- for Dan Schott and family on the death of his mother Teresa Schott, whose funeral was held July 24 in Fort Dodge.
- for the family and friends of Carl Bleyle. Carl's services will be held here on Wednesday, July 30 at 11 am, with a light lunch following. You can read Carl's obituary [here](#).
- for the family and friends of Carl Bleyle. Carl's services will be held here on Wednesday, July 30 at 11 am, with a light lunch following. We will provide Carl's obituary when we have it.
 - of thanks as Eldon Weber celebrated his 90th birthday (which was July 22) with 50 relatives from 4 different states, including his 10-month old great granddaughter from Dallas.
 - grateful appreciation for the crew at Food at First on Friday, July 25: Dee Dreeszen, Bev Kruempel, Dean Phillips, Michele Olsen, Tom & Betty Barton, Steven Schroder, Marjy Howe, and Shirley R, Janet H, Becky K, and Robert A.



Sending to Serve– August Special Offering



Helping Our Neighbors

Emergency Fund for Immigrants and Refugees

The Ames Area Immigration Network has a new emergency fund available to help with rent and/or utilities for families who have had an income loss due to changes in immigration policy. If you know an immigrant or refugee who has lost work authorization, or a family member has been detained or deported and their income is no longer sufficient to pay for housing or utilities, email story.immigrants.fund@gmail.com and request an application. The completed application needs to be returned to story.immigrants.fund@gmail.com and will be reviewed. If you are eligible for consideration, you will be contacted by a caseworker to discuss your circumstances. All information will be kept confidential. The Ames Area Immigrant Emergency Fund is for Ames area residents only and is not intended to be long term assistance.

This Emergency Fund of the Ames Area Immigration Network is in collaboration with Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. We need donations and support from our community in order to make this fund possible. Donations can be made online through the Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance website (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”.**

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice Legal Clinics

The Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice will be offering a legal clinic for immigrants and refugees at the Ames Public Library on August 2nd, October 4, and November 1. Appointments are required. To make an appointment visit IMMJ’s website Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice and under ‘Services’ select ‘How to make an appointment’.

The Legal Clinics continue to need ongoing support to keep our Story County legal assistance clinics going. To donate go to the website lowammj.org, please indicate “Story County Expansion”. Donations can also be made by check, noting on the memo line Story County. Make checks payable to Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice and mail to P.O. Box 41006 Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Any questions regarding donations can be directed to Susie Tierney, Development Director, Iowa MMJ, at stierney@lowammj.org. Support to help all our neighbors is appreciated.

Redeemable Bottle & Can Drive for Good Neighbor Emergency Immigrant Fund

Proceeds 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. Donations are welcome, signify “Immigrant Fund” on your donations to Good Neighbor - <https://gnea.org/Giving/>.

August 16 and September 13
8:30 am to 6:00 pm

Bethesda Lutheran Church
1517 Northwestern Ave.

Ames Area Immigration Network
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 assistance for them and their families as they face the changing immigration policy.

Volunteer Opportunities and Donations Requested

Little Food Pantry

Thank you so much for your generosity. There has been so much need for food and personal items in the community this summer and you are helping by donating to the Little Food Pantry.

Please remember that all donations need to be **UN**opened and **NON**perishable. We must throw away anything that is already opened or anything that will spoil.

Always Needed:

- Shampoo/Conditioner/Soap/Deodorant/Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Peanut Butter
- Crackers
- Canned Ravioli/Spaghetti/Cup of Noodles
- Dry Pasta
- Canned Meat, Chicken or Tuna
- Macaroni & Cheese (boxes or individual cups)
- Canned Vegetables (peas, green beans, corn, any kind of beans)
- Hot and/or cold cereals (oatmeal, cream of wheat, raisin bran, corn flakes)



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](#) and be sure to say **Little Food Pantry** in the “notes” section. 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 opportunities to serve are August 22 and 29.

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.**



2622 Lincoln Way
Ames IA 50014
www.cwames.org