

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer

Recently on our Mission Trip, some of our members helped to set up for a Juneteenth celebration. Now, I've heard of this but knew nothing of it. Here's what I found out:

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free

Since our country celebrates our "Declaration of Independence" on July 4th., the topic of freedom...in Christ is on my mind.

John 8:36 ESV So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Here is another verse speaking of the kind of freedom we experience as followers of Christ.

Luke 4:18 ESV "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

When we think about the "4th. Of July" kind of freedom we most often think of independence, where no tyrannical force can "tell us what to do". We think of our independence from political or religious powers dictating the events of our lives.

Listen to this: **Romans 1:1 ESV** Paul, a servant (dulos) of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

As we render this text of Paul a different notion of "slavery" comes out ***"The word translated "servant" in this verse is more properly rendered "bondslave". This is the Greek word "dulos" is the most servile term in the New Testament. It speaks of the one whose will is swallowed up in the will of another."***

As Christians, when we speak of "freedom in Christ", we are not speaking of independence, as in "freedom from" something or everything!", but "freedom in Christ" is our entrance into, or submersion into Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Freedom in Christ means that sin's death hold on us has been broken by our Lord Jesus. We are no longer "slaves to Satan, Sin and Death". But...by no means does our life in Christ mean that we are independent, free to choose what we will for our lives. We, as Christians, are truly under Jesus' authority, guidance and direction.

Remember, Jesus died for us, "for our sins" upon that cross. He gave his life so we could live our lives.

Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but the ability to do what we ought. Without Christ, we are slaves to sin, unable to do what is right. Christ's death on the Cross set us free from the penalty and power of sin. Let us remember this month, that as a nation we are independent, but as Christians we are the "dulos" of Christ. Amen!

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**TRUTH & JUSTICE IS THE
CHRISTIAN WAY.**

JULY BIRTHDAYS



JULY BIRTHSTONE

Ruby, the king of precious gems, is the birthstone for fortunate folks born in July. Symbolic of the passion and energy associated with the color red, the vibrant ruby is said to bring love and success.



07/03 Linda A. Lee	07/13 Samantha Sigsworth
07/04 Maxx Harris	07/20 Casey Haasnoot
07/06 Deborah Henke	07/23 McKenna Dunham
07/07 Larry Wojchik	07/23 Lisa Hill
07/07 Adina Vrzal	07/25 Jack Porter
07/10 Rick Jackson	07/25 Amber Harris
07/11 Sally Haasnoot	07/28 Olivia Russo
07/12 Rick Maukstad	07/29 Benjamin Bowen
07/13 Heidi Wilbur	07/30 Maycee Harris
07/13 Duane Morris	

BIRTH FLOWER OF JULY THE LARKSPUR

Close relative to Delphiniums, Larkspurs are the birth month flower for July. A true blue flower that symbolizes lightness and swiftness, This flower has significance in Greek mythology as it grew from the blood of Ajax as he threw himself on his sword during the Battle of Troy. Larkspurs grow wild and tall in pastures. Unfortunate for cattle owners, this flower is extremely poisonous and dangerous when ingested by cattle. Its poison makes this flower useful as an insecticide. In fact, in ancient times, it was worn as an ointment to drive away scorpions. Native Americans used Larkspurs to make a rich, blue dye. European settlers used it to dip their quills in as blue ink. As soon as the snow melts, these pretty Larkspurs make their appearance; however, they do not flourish until July.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street
Amery, WI 54001

(715) 268-7107

Kathy Picotte

Betty Jansen

Willow Ridge

400 Deronda Street
Amery, WI 54001

(715) 268-8171

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
715.268.9949

Beth Sorensen

Water's Edge

410 Harriman Ave.
Amery, WI 54001

Betty Jansen

Evergreen Village

611 Harriman Avenue

(715) 268-6640

Marian Peterson

Gussie Fennern

Baldwin Care Center

650 Birch St.

Baldwin, WI 54002

Mary Monson Apt. 27

Memory Care

215 Birch St. W

Amery, WI 54001

Dorothie Mueller

Jeanne Murphy

Evelyn Monteith

Halverson

Ginny Nelson

Sylvia Utter



from your
**YOUTH
MINISTER**



Hugs are God's way of letting us know we are loved! To kick off summer at Music on the River, our Congo kids passed out free hugs (juice barrels) to the crowd.





Giant Ice Cream Sundae

Friday July 5th at Michael Park. Youth group kids are needed to help run games at this fun summer social event so see Charlotte if you want to help!

July 7-12 : Wapo Bible Camp for our registered campers.

July 12 - 14: Camp Wapo Seeds



Saturday, July 13th: Ruby's Pantry Service and Fun Day. Please be at Congo by 8am for our morning of service. Following clean up and lunch, we will go see the movie, The Lion King. Parent pick-up time and movie location to be determined.

S U M M E R S T R E T C H :

Wednesdays, July 17th, 24th, 31st 7:30am- 4:30pm Summer Stretch is a fun way to make a difference working in the community helping others in the morning and spend the afternoon at fun recreational places:

- July 17th Arrested in Kindness/Wild Mountain
- July 24th Camp Wapo/Crystal Caves
- July 31st Feed my Starving Children/Como Zoo



Wednesday July 31st:

Summer FUEL at Little Falls Lutheran Church from 6-8pm. We will be back at Congo for pick up by 8:15pm. **Must RSVP to Charlotte at 715.338.6929 by Sunday, July 28th**

so ample transportation can be arranged. Adult drivers are needed for FUEL, so please let Charlotte know if you are able to help.

Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen
715.268.7390; ext. 12
715.338.6929 (cell)
Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

JULY USHERS, GREETERS AND COFFEE HOSTS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FAMILY TABLE

Please join us at the Congo Family Table on
Wednesday, July 17th at 11:30 am

Our lovely chefs and our sort of lovely grill masters
will be serving grilled pork steaks, warm potato
salad, a wilted slaw salad and a special red, white
and blue dessert.

Call Rae
715-268-7390, by Sunday, July 14th to make your
reservations.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Free Will Donation

A 4th of July planning tip:
this year throw veggie burgers
on the grill ...
and next year,
someone else will
host the cookout.



RUBY'S PANTRY

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Congregational Church, Amery; 201 Harriman Ave N

Registration begins at 7:30 am and ends at 9:00 am

Food Distribution begins at 9 am

!!!BRING BOXES OR OTHER CARRYING CONTAINERS!!!

A portion of your donation will go to provide assistance to those in need in our local area
through Car Grant ministries and other local charitable organizations.

CONTACT US: email: rpamery@amerytel.net

PHONE: 715.268.7390; Pastor: 715.222.2899

Cost is \$20 donation at door or preregister online for \$21.

To volunteer: arrive no later than 6:30am

Guests: arrive no later than 9:00am



National Ice Cream Day – July 21, 2019

National Ice Cream Day is observed each year on the 3rd Sunday in July and is a part of National Ice Cream Month. This day is a fun celebration enjoyed with a bowl, cup or cone filled with your favorite flavor of ice cream.



Thousands of years ago, people in the Persian Empire would put snow in a bowl, pour grape-juice concentrate over it and eat it as a treat. They did this when the weather was hot and used the snow saved in the cool-keeping underground chambers known as “yakhchal,” or taken from the snowfall that remained at the top

of the mountains by the summer capital. It is believed that ice cream was first introduced into the United States by Quaker colonists who brought their ice cream recipes with them. Their ice cream was sold at shops in New York and other cities during the colonial era.

- Ben Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson enjoyed ice cream.
- 1813 -First Lady Dolley Madison served ice cream at the Inaugural Ball.
- 1832 – African American confectioner, Augustus Jackson, created multiple ice cream

recipes as well as a superior technique to manufacture ice cream.

- 1843 – Philadelphian, Nancy Johnson, received the first U.S. patent for a small-scale hand-cranked ice cream freezer.
- 1920 – Harry Burt puts the first ice cream trucks on the streets.

Surprising to some, President Ronald Reagan is the person to thank for designating the third Sunday of July as National Ice Cream Day and July as National Ice Cream Month in 1984, in proclamation 5219 (National Ice Cream Month and National Ice Cream Day), which lauded the dairy industry. He wanted to commemorate a treat enjoyed by over 90 percent of the nation’s population and produced by 10% of the nation’s milk supply. In fact, Americans consume more ice cream than any other nation in the world. When Reagan’s proclamation was officially signed into law, he also called on the U.S. people to pay tribute to ice-cream with “appropriate ceremonies and activities.” Since then, it’s been one of the most coveted holidays that sparked a tasty tradition celebrated year after year. Get out your scoopers, because it’s time to delight in some ice cream—according to Reagan, it’s your civic duty.



TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND WHAT?

Daily Reflection / Produced by The High Calling

"Then when you swear by my name, saying, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' you could do so with truth, justice, and righteousness. Then you would be a blessing to the nations of the world, and all people would come and praise my name." Jeremiah 4:

When I was a boy, I loved watching The Adventures of Superman on television. In glorious black and white, George Reeves starred as the Man of Steel whose superpowers saved lives and captured criminals. The opening of each episode included a voiceover that defined Superman's mission. "Disguised as Clark Kent," Superman "fights a never-ending battle for truth, justice, and the American way."

We find a similar trio of values in Jeremiah 4, though with "righteousness" in place of "the American way." It appears as God was preparing to judge Judah by using the might of Babylon. Nevertheless, he continued to give his people an opportunity to repent. "O

Israel . . . if you wanted to return to me, you could. You could throw away your detestable idols and stray away no more" (4:1). But the Lord knew that they had made promises before without backing them up in action. So the Lord asks his people not only to swear an oath by his name, but also to do so "with truth, justice, and righteousness."

This passage reminds us that we are to bear witness to God not only in our words, but also in our deeds. We need both to speak and to live according to truth, justice, and righteousness. **As people of truth**, we are committed to seeking, speaking, and living by God's revelation. **As people of justice**, we work to see that the systems and structures of our world treat all people fairly, especially those who are powerless and marginalized. **As people of righteousness**, we seek healthy relationships in every facet of life: in our families, in our workplaces, in our communities, in our churches.

In a day when people are more doubtful, even cynical, about religious professions and organizations, we must strive, by God's grace, to back up our words with lives of truth, justice, and righteousness.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: How does your life reflect truth, justice, and righteousness? How might these three virtues be expressed in your life today?
PRAYER: O Lord, forgive me when I fail to live up to my words, whether I'm speaking to you or to others. All too often I say one thing and do another. How sorry I am. Help me to be a person of truth, justice, and righteousness. May I speak and live the truth. May I seek justice wherever I have a chance. And may my relationships be right, honest, and loving. As I live out my faith in this world, help me to live in such a way that people can see you in me.

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Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.

Albert Einstein

JULY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 10:00 AM Worship/Noisy Kettle 11:15 AM Pot Luck</p>	<p>1 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 9:30 AM Senior Dining Hall Open 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>4 Independence Day Office Closed for Holiday</p>	<p>5 8:30 AM Distant Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Youth Ice Cream Event at Michael's Park</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Camp Wapo 9:30 AM Christian Education Meeting 10:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Diaconate Mtg.</p>	<p>8 Camp Wapo 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 Camp Wapo 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>10 Camp Wapo Newsletter Submission Deadline 9:30 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>11 Camp Wapo 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>12 Camp Wapo Camp Wapo Seeds 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>13 Camp Wapo Seeds 6:00 AM Food Set-Up 7:30 AM Ruby's Party Registration Begins 8:00 AM Youth Service and Sunday 9:00 AM Ruby's Party Registration Begins Distribution Begins 2:00 PM Wedding Reception</p>
<p>14 Camp Wapo Seeds 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Trustee Meeting</p>	<p>15 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>17 7:30 AM Summer Stretch 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 11:30 AM Family Table Meal</p>	<p>18 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Congregational Giving Mtg.</p>	<p>22 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>24 7:30 AM Summer Stretch 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>25 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>26 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.</p>	<p>29 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>31 7:30 AM Summer Stretch 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 6:00 PM FUEL Little Falls Lutheran Church</p>	<p>1 9:30 AM Local Communion 8:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM Distant Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>3</p>

