

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



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WHY GIVE THANKS?

There are few things more galling to us than “not knowing.” Personally, “not knowing” goads me into appreciating and giving thanks for those moments when we finally KNOW. So, once we experience this new revelation, why is it important that we give thanks? What is the impulse that calls for “thanks?”

I had an instructive experience the other day as to why. As many of you are aware, Norma Rae and I have been taking care of two Morgan horses, Dolly and Molly. Talk about a learning experience! Dolly has a tendency to eat too much and Molly, being pushed away from the hay nets and mangers by Dolly, has been losing weight. They both have a tendency for Equine Metabolic Syndrome (kind of like human diabetes). Meanwhile, we’ve known that exercise would help a great deal. But, the frustration is that we’re a couple of green-horns and haven’t had the faintest idea how to work with these two beauties. Let’s just say, we’ve been studying as much as possible and praying for guidance... meaning God AND everyone we know who knows anything! (OK GOD... WE’VE BEEN GOADED INTO KNOWING... SEND HELP!) Fortunately, God listens to prayers. A few members of this church have offered advice and

support that has been quite helpful. And, just this week, we finally got our first lesson on ground work at the farm. Yeah! We’ve loved Dolly and Molly, but hadn’t yet learned how to form the crucial bond that is necessary when working with horses. Well, it’s beginning to happen! The horses knew what to do, we just didn’t know how to ask them to do it in the right way. Connection began to happen. There was mutuality. There was respect... and, there was love. So, we thanked our horse trainer profusely... And, we thanked God! Giving thanks just felt like the right thing to do.

So often we forget the many gifts we’ve been given so that when Thanksgiving comes upon us, we struggle to feel grateful. The experience Norma Rae and I have had with Dolly and Molly, is a powerful reminder that love is the most important part of life to be thankful for. So, why give thanks? Because love is always a process of reciprocation. Through our gratitude, we complete the loving circle with God.

May we all remember that God forever loves you. You are not alone. And, we in our church, are the hands and heart of God. Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Garth Schumacher



Chrysanthemums are the birth month flower for November.

With their connotations of abundance, cheerfulness, and friendship, chrysanthemums imbue all these qualities on November-borns. You'll find these people great fun to be around and very generous with their attention, money, and time. November babies are capable of a friendly word even under personally difficult circumstances.

ABOUT MUMS

The Chrysanthemum is a member of the Asteraceae (Compositae) family, related to dahlias, sunflowers, marigolds, zinnias, and cosmos. Each bloom is made of hundreds of

11/01 Sherry Monson	11/14 Dennis Heiken
11/01 Adrian Newton	11/16 Jake Edin
11/01 Pete Waggoner	11/19 Asher Stalhiem
11/04 Nyssa Langlois	11/21 Auebrielle Harris
11/05 Tom Dusek	11/21 Eric Silvis
11/10 Brady Emerson	11/24 Dixie Lee Brill
11/12 Thelma Betzold	11/24 Amanda Warner
11/13 Earl Langlois II	11/29 Alison Emerson

tiny flowers called florets. The plant ranges in size from a common small cushion mum to the giant spider mums, and they bloom in almost every color of the rainbow: yellow, lavender, pink, purple, red, bronze, orange, and white. They leaves are a lovely blue/green.

A BRIEF MUM HISTORY

The chrysanthemum was first cultivated in China as a flowering herb back in 15th century B.C. Based on early illustrations, it appeared as more of a daisy-like flower. Since then, the mum has been bred in so many shapes, sizes, showy styles and a multitude of colors that don't always resemble its humble beginnings.

**MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS**



Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-7107
Dave Waterman

Evergreen Village

611 Harriman Avenue
(715) 268-6640
Marian Peterson
Gussie Fennern

Memory Care

215 Birch St. W
Amery, WI 54001
Jeanne Murphy
Bob Holms

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
715.268.9949
Beth Sorensen
Ruth Schafer



FROM Abby Betzold
YOUTH MINISTER



November Youth Updates!

Inevitably the crisp mornings and shorter days mean fall is really in full force and winter is probably not too far behind. We have been having a great school year so far with our youth. Our number of youth participants has increased slowly as well, this has been so much fun to get to really know some new kids and familiar faces that are now the age to join our youth. With November being a month of thanksgiving I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of those who help with the youth in big and small ways. We could not do all we do without the immense amount of support we have. This month we have some regular Wednesdays as well as a couple of fun activities for the kids to enjoy. Check them out below and be sure to join us!

November 3rd: Youth Group 3:30-7pm & Confirmation 5:30-7pm

November 10th: Sorting Toys for Tots 3:30-7pm in New Richmond

(This event is limited to 8 youth for Covid reasons please let Abby know if you are planning to attend - watch for parent permission forms soon!)

November 17th: Youth Group 3:30-7pm & Confirmation 5:30-7pm

November 24th: No School! Youth Event & Thanksgiving Eve Service (More details to come on youth event! Tentative plan is a service project & a movie at St. Croix Falls theater then any youth that would like are welcome to join Abby at the 7pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Joseph's Church at wonderful service!)

With gratitude beyond words,
Abby Betzold





Youth Director Contact Information:

Abby Betzold

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.715.641.2237 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Fellowship Time is happening after Sunday indoor church services. The following committees and groups have agreed to host our time together!!

November: Trustees
December: Christian Education

We appreciate all the volunteers who are providing treats and beverages for this much-enjoyed time together after worship.

Please plan on joining us on Sundays after worship for good food and fellowship.

Got Lefse?? We Do!!

It's that crisp time of the year again where we start thinking of the holiday seasons and all the wonderful food that goes with those feasts. Including LEFSE! Let your mission team and extra church helpers do the lefse making for you. We have a sign up sheet in the narthex or you can call the church office with your order. Packages are \$5 each for three very large sheets of lefse, the funds go to support our mission team and some proceeds going to the general church budget. We will also be selling lefse on **Nov. 13th at St. Joseph's Christmas Bazaar** as well as on **Nov. 20th at River Falls High School Craft Fair**. Feel free to visit us at either event!



Thank you for your continued support of this delicious fundraiser!

-Amery Congregational Mission Team

Budget and Election Congregational Meeting

November 14th

**Following the
Worship Service**



Twenty-First Annual
Chili Feed
Drive Through Event

Proceeds to benefit Northwoods Homeless Shelters
located in Amery and Luck

Saturday, November 20, 2021

4:30 pm— 6:30 pm



Free Will Offering

Hosted by

**St. Joseph Catholic Church
1050 Keller Ave. N., Amery**

www.northwoodsshelters.org * (715) 268-5730

October 12, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Abby Betzold, Barry Tulkki, Rae Wooldridge, Sandy Morris, Ginny Ormsby, Dave Bowman, Heather Rushfeld, Sheldon Betzold, Sherry Monson

Pastor Garth opened meeting in prayer

September Minutes were read by Ginny O. and approved. Motions to accept minutes were made by Abby B. and Barry T.

Treasure & Financial Secretary Report: Ginny reported the church is taking in less but also spending less this past month. They had to take out \$20,000.00 from the Money Market Account. The balance in the account is approximately \$50,000.00. A motion by Abby B. and second by Barry T. to approve the report. Motion passed.

Clerks Report: Sandy M. reported there was a death of one member, Shirley Johnson, in September and a death of one member, Mary Monson, in August. Current church membership at 163.

Youth Directors Report: Abby B. reported 8-10 students participated in the Youth Sunday Service. There are 5 student participating in Confirmation. Current Youth Group attendance has been averaging 8-10 per week.

Trustee Report: Dave B. indicated they did not have a meeting in September. They will be meeting on the 3rd Sunday's prior to worship. They are seeking 2 members to replace Rick Maukstad and Scott Smith. Chad Leonard's term will also be up at the end of the year. Duane Morris accepted one of the replacement positions. They are thinking that some of the church building projects may need to be hired from outside services. They will be scheduling a fall workday to address the landscaping and cleaning of roof drains. Discussion on reforming a Pastor Parish Committee. The phone system is working. Seeking opinion regarding the ceiling tiles.

Board of Christian Education: Abby B. reported they have had low attendance for Sunday School. Post cards sent to families. Christmas Program is set for Sunday December 12th. It was decided they would not have a Family Fun Day this fall.

Diaconate Report: Barry T. reported that the name tags have been ordered and would be made up for regular attenders and located on the table in the Narthex. They are wanting to start having regular greeters. They are planning to ask each committee to be responsible for a month. The committees do not have to do all the greeting for the month but would be responsible to find volunteers. They do have prayer request cards available with a box to check if they want a meeting with the pastor and a box to check if they would like it shared via email to church members.

Congregational Giving Report: Abby B. reported they will be sending out a letter to members the week after the Budget & Election meeting on November 14th. Alek Keller-Betzold and Kate Bevington have agreed to join the committee.

Mission & Social Concerns Committee Report: Heather R. reported they sent out a survey to parents regarding LGBTQ. They had 23 respond. Most responses were positive. There is 1 child who is thinking about attending youth group

Pastors Report: since September 14th Council Meeting

- September 14-27 (vacation)
- September 28- October 3rd: 49 hours
- October 4-October 10th: 46 hours

Pastor Garth's activities included: Administrative work, Newsletters, Bulletins, etc.; Memory Care Communion & monthly services; Sermon & Worship Preparation including coordination: setting up Worship service fit, finish, and flow; Calls & Emails to Judicatory; Meetings/consultations with various congregation members; Beginning and Setting up New Confirmation Program; Wednesday Bible Study; Conference UCC Minister Group; Missed the September local Ministerium group because he was out of town.

Pulpit Committee Report: Abby B reported the candidate they had did not work out. Currently there are no new applications.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Kelsey Montieth will be organizing the Christmas Tree for school families.
- Beaver Brook Badger 4-H is seeking permission to use the church on the 2nd Sunday of each month beginning in December. The group would include about 30 people.
- Ginny O. inquired about installing a speaker for the fellowship hall. Trustees reported it is already in the works.
- Brief discussion on coordinating Soup Suppers, Confirmation & worship during Lent.
Ash Wednesday will be March 2, 2022.

Next Council Meeting: November 9, 2021

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ginny O & Dave B. Motion passed.

Submitted by: Sherry Monson

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	1 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	2 10:00 AM Office Open	3 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Christian Education Mtg.	4 10:00 AM Office Open	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00 AM Christian Ed. Meeting 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion 10:15 AM SS Christmas Program Practice 11:00 AM Lefse Making	8 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	9 10:00 AM Office Open 5:00 PM Diaconate Meeting 6:00 PM Council Meeting	10 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Youth Group Service Night - Toys for Tots New Richmond	11 10:00 AM Office Open	12 Office Closed	13 7:30 AM Ruby's Pantry at Artec Parking Lot
14 10:00 AM Worship Service/Blessing of the Hunters 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Budget and Election Meeting 11:00 AM Lefse Making	15 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	16 10:00 AM Office Open	17 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class	18 8:15 AM Ministerium 10:00 AM Office Open	19 Office Closed	20
21 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Lefse Making 11:15 AM Congregational Giving Mtg.	22 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	23 10:00 AM Office Open	24 Thanksgiving Eve Community Event - Details to Come 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study	25 Thanksgiving - Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 10:00 AM Worship Service/Hanging of the Greens 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Lefse Making	29 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	30 10:00 AM Office Open				