



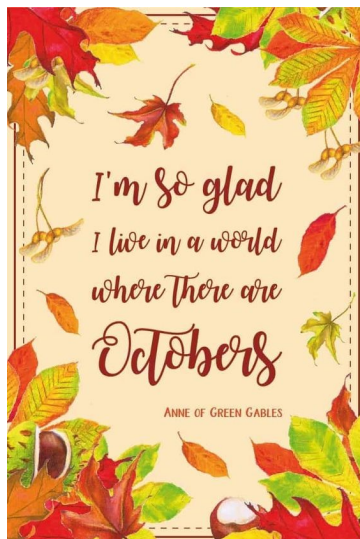
Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



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“Come and See” AND “Go and Do”

What happens when generations of people living around us have no experience with worship, no vocabulary for understanding faith, no familiarity with scripture, and have never once stepped inside a church? The culture provides an ever-increasing number of competing activities on Sundays that are more compelling than church attendance. Our assumptions no longer serve us well. The way we've always done it doesn't work in a context where most young adults believe the church is boring, judgmental, hypocritical, out of touch, anti-homosexual, insensitive, old-fashioned, and boring. (See *unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity* by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons [Baker books, 2012].)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus and his followers repeatedly invite others by saying, “Come and see.” Their approach is “invitational.” In a similar way, our friendliness can influence folks to “Come and see!” Yet, Jesus doesn't just sit passively waiting for people to come to him. Jesus' life-changing encounters happen while Jesus is on the move, in the real places where he engaged people, in their houses, at their dinner tables, in

their grain fields, in their fishing boats. He stepped into the lives of people of all types, Jews and

Gentiles, women and men, neighbors and strangers, the up-and-coming, and the down-and-out. He crossed borders, literally and figuratively.

During October and part of November, I'll be creating a sermon series that asks us to do BOTH... “Come and See” AND “Go and Do.” Together, we'll discover some of the best practices that can help to grow our spirit and congregation.

Blessings,
Rev. Garth Schumacher



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



10/01 Jeff Bylander	10/20 Abby Betzold
10/04 Gavin Folkert	10/20 Donald Kvam
10/04 Sylvia Schillinger	10/20 Sandy Johnson
10/05 Chuck Hoppe	10/21 Morgan Leonard
10/05 Julie Smith	10/21 Walter Richey
10/08 Nancy Anderson	10/23 Eva Stoeklen
10/09 Shirley Satterlund	10/25 Ross Smith
10/09 Andrew Stalhiem	10/26 Elizabeth Sigsworth
10/11 Barry Tulkki	10/31 Brad Anderson
10/12 Bill Monteith	
10/16 Terry Hill	
10/16 Joyce Schaefer	

October Birth Flowers:

Marigolds (devotion, commitment); Cosmos (harmony, love, innocence, beauty, modesty, joy, and balance).



Marigolds come in many colors, but the most popular ones are the orange marigolds that symbolize passion and creativity because of their vibrant color. Because of their diversity, these flowers convey different meanings that include cheer, joy, remembrance, wealth, success, hard work, and winning over someone's love.



In the language of flowers, cosmos are a known symbol of peace and tranquility. The flowers mean harmony and order, as well as love, innocence, beauty, modesty, joy, and balance.

Because of their attractive colors and lovely scent, cosmos flowers also convey wholeness and peacefulness.

Golden Age Manor

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

Memory Care

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

Evergreen Village

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

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
715.268.9949
Beth Sorensen
Ruth Schafer

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS





Fall is officially here! One of my favorite seasons and a busy time in the life of our youth group!

On October 6th we will be starting confirmation during our Wednesday night youth group, this will take place from 5:30-7pm with a break for supper. Different than what was put in last month's newsletter please note that this will now be for youth in 9th & 10th grade as well as any older kids finishing up their confirmation journey. It will be every other Wednesday (Oct. 6th & 20th) throughout the school year with some breaks for the Holidays. This change has come with discussion amongst the church leaders, parents, & youth. We hope this will be a good change for our youth. Please let Abby or Pastor Garth know if you are interested in confirmation and have not already been in touch with them.

October 16th & 17th will be our youth lock-in and youth service on October 17th at 10am. We are looking forward to showing off our bright and talented kids as they will bring you the entire worship service that morning. The lock-in will start on Saturday evening at 5:30pm and go through the following morning. Volunteers are welcome

FROM Abby Betzold YOUTH MINISTER



to come that evening and even stay the night if you're feeling brave to help out. Our youth really enjoy getting to know our church members and learn a lot from the mentorship that comes with this time spent together.

Finally, we continue to have youth group every Wednesday following school (roughly 3:30) until 7pm. We have been enjoying games/activities, worship, supper, and bible study time on these evenings and enjoying having the group we have. Please spread the word to young people you may know who are in 6th-12th grade and would enjoy time with other youth. We'd love to see more smiling faces! If you'd like to help in any way we can use cooks around 6pm on Wednesday nights and volunteers are always welcome to join us!

Thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful youth program, I couldn't do it alone!

Blessings,

Abby



Wednesday October 6st : Youth Group 3:30-7pm
 Wednesday October 13th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm
 Wednesday October 20th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm
 Wednesday October 27nd : Youth Group 3:30-7pm

As a reminder: If your child has a fever, is not feeling well or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please have them stay home. Thank you.

**Youth Lock-In
 Saturday,
 October 16th
 Starting at
 5:30pm.**

**Youth Service
 Sunday, October
 17th at 10am.**



FALL FESTIVAL PARADE



Youth Director Contact Information:

Abby Betzold

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.715.641.2237 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



The kids enjoyed a special guest at Wednesday Youth Group.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

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

October: Diaconate
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.



CDC director weighs in on whether kids should go trick-or-treating on Halloween amid the pandemic

Kids should be able to go trick-or-treating this Halloween with a couple of caveats, Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Sunday. "I certainly hope so," Walensky said on CBS' "Face the Nation" when asked whether it's safe for children to go trick-or-treating this year. "If you're able to be outdoors, absolutely," she said. The head of the CDC also recommended that parents and kids "limit crowds" on Halloween. "I wouldn't necessarily go to a crowded Halloween party, but I think that we should be able to let our kids go trick-or-treating in small groups,"

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time for all of us to speak up about domestic violence, raise awareness, and support survivors of abuse.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, "Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, economic, and emotional/psychological abuse.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone and it is present in every community, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, socioeconomic status, religion, or nationality. And, too often, the abuse remains hidden behind closed doors. However, it doesn't have to remain that way.

If someone you know is experiencing domestic violence and you are someone they trust, talk to them about what they want. You can help them create a safety plan that will help the survivor to prepare for emergency situations. The National Domestic Hotline offers free templates online. You can't make decisions for the survivor of domestic violence but you can always inform them of all their options, including reporting and getting help. The National Domestic Hotline has advocates available 24/7 at 1.800.787.3244

Living on the 45th Parallel by Julie E Smith

It's funny how a simple activity, like trying a new restaurant for lunch, can spur a whole new level of conversation and pique my need to look into a topic further. Sometimes, it goes beyond: "Oh, this pizza is really yummy." Recently, my husband and I went to a local restaurant called the 45th Parallel. As you can imagine, the conversation turned to where we are living, on the 45th parallel, and why is that significant? More about this unique restaurant and distillery later...

So at the forefront of our discussion was the fact that Yes...we are roughly, geographically living on the 45th parallel in this area of Wisconsin. It is significant for several reasons. First of all, C'mon...it just sounds cool: I live on the 45th Parallel. Sounds like the making of a great Sci-Fi drama, in conjunction with Area 51. But more seriously, it is significant because it is generally the half way point between the Equator and the North pole. The 45th parallel latitude circumvents the globe and passes through the northern part of the United States, Europe, Asia and both the Pacific and Atlantic. In the U.S., only 4 states lie entirely north of the 45th parallel: Alaska, Washington, Montana (almost) and North Dakota.

In my state of Wisconsin, and many parts of Michigan, the proximity to the 45th parallel has become somewhat of a novelty and to some extent...a tourist attraction. Perhaps not in and of itself, but when combined with a really great restaurant and/or bar you've got yourself an attraction. In Cadott, Wisconsin (located northeast of Eau Claire in Chippewa County) the sign welcoming visitors proclaims their status on the 45th, and also is the town's official slogan: "Half-Way Between the Equator and North Pole".

Those of us that live on the 45th parallel, in the Midwest anyway...know that there is more to the attraction than just a line on a map. The climate and the beauty of the terrain here makes even the winters not so terrible. There is nothing quite like seeing the snow blanketing the branches of incredibly tall majestic pines. I remember when we moved up here, our cousin Al said: "Welcome to God's Country" and I am sure he said something at the time about living North of the 45th.

So markers informing travelers of their locations on the 45th parallel can be found from Maine to Washington. The oldest known 45th parallel marker is in Maine. Many of the markers in Wisconsin were placed originally in the 1930's by a newspaper editor by the name of Frank E. Noyes. Several of the plaques bear his name and date.

So interesting to see a part of history and know that your footsteps are becoming a part of that history.

Here is a photo of one of those markers placed on Hwy 141, 3 miles north of Lena, WI.

When I looked up information on the topic, I found that it is not just cartographers who are interested in this phenomena, but historians and even vintners. It is probably not a



coincidence that some of the best vineyards in the world, both in the US and Italy, are along the 45th parallel. Apparently the climate along that part of the globe is conducive for establishing vineyards and other crops. Not just grapes for wine, but also hops and grains for other fermented beverages. That brings me back to how the thoughts on this topic got started: a terrific lunch at The 45th Parallel.

I had a brief talk with Paul Werni, the founder of The 45th Parallel in New Richmond, Wisconsin. I led with the question that is perhaps on many customer's minds: are we really exactly on the 45th Parallel right here? Pretty darn close: about 7 miles from the exact latitude. Yet, Paul said that the only farm that they get their grain from, Rusmar Farm, for the distillery is only about 8 miles from here and the 45th Parallel runs right through their land. Cool. Paul also explained that when they opened, in 2007, there were only 50 distilleries in the U.S. Now there are over 1,600.

I'm hoping to go back again someday soon for perhaps a tour and hope to sample some of that "Richmond Rye" whiskey. Sounds great! When we were there, we just sampled the lunch menu, and did not have time for further sampling. Hope to go back when we have time to savor the flavor of a smooth bourbon by the fire. For more information on The 45th Parallel Distillery, check out their website at: <http://www.45thparalleldistillery.com> In the mean time, I find the simple joy in knowing that I am one of the 4% of the population that live on (or above) the 45th parallel. CHEERS!

Julie E. Smith



September 14, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Sheldon Betzold, Abby Betzold, Ginny Ormsby, Nyla Anderson, Chad Leonard, Sandy Morris, Heather Rushfeld, Rae Wooldridge, Sherry Monson

Sheldon called for a motion to elect Sherry Monson as Recording Secretary. Ginny made the motion and Sandy second. Motion passed.

July meeting minutes were reviewed. Ginny motioned to approve the minutes and Sandy second to motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer & Financial Secretary Report: Ginny reported she has had to withdraw \$10,000.00 from the money market account to pay bills for August and September. Sandy made a motion to accept the report and Nyla second. Motion passed.

Clerk Report: Sandy reported no new members or deaths. Church membership remains at 165.

Youth Director Report: Abby reported the youth did multiple service projects over the summer. There were 2 youth who went on the Mission Trip. Both had a good experience and are indicating they would like to go again. Youth group is back to the regular school schedule on Wednesday afternoons/evenings. Sunday school has started during worship. Children attendance has been low. Pastor Garth will be leading Confirmation beginning October 6th at 5:30. The youth will be doing a worship service on October 17th. They will be doing a Lock-in the night before on October 16th.

Trustee Report: Chad reported they will be putting out a list of projects that need to be done to spruce things up around the church. Consider signing up for volunteering to help out with the projects.

Board of Christian Education: Abby reported that Sunday school started for Pre-K through 5th grade. The committee sorted through cupboards to take inventory and to dispose of items no longer being used.

Diaconate Report: Nyla reported they have been discussing how they can re-introduce prayer requests. They plan to develop a prayer request card that will be available in the Narthex. The card can be place in the offering box. Rae will then send an email out to members with the requests within the next day or two. Members can also call or email the church secretary with prayer requests and she will include them in the weekly prayer request email. They continue to provide lay readers for worship. Cheryl and Dave are looking in to getting more permanent name tags for members and friends of the church.

Congregational Giving Report: Abby reported October is Stewardship Month. They plan to make announcements on Sundays as well as distribute personal pledge cards and written letters to church members and friends. Please start considering how you can help support our church.

Mission and Social Concerns Report: Heather reported on an idea they had to apply for a grant through the United Church of Christ to develop a youth led event for LGBTQ. Discussed by council. The committee was given the okay to go ahead with applying for the grant. The council encouraged an invite to any LGBTQ kids to come to youth group so all can get more acquainted with each other. It was recommended that each committee have discussions about a possible event of this kind. More discussion to come.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Garth on vacation. No report.

Pulpit Committee: There is one candidate. The committee continues to prepare for conversations and interviews with potential candidates. Seeking continued prayers for the search committee to find the best match for our church.

Old Business: none

New Business: Discussion regarding a fall harvest fun day that was recommended by Chris Anderson. Abby will follow up with Chris. An email submitted by Marge Peterson was read by Sheldon regarding Covid, vaccine rate and masking. After discussion, the council is highly recommending masking in the building but it will remain optional at this time. Coffee hour will continue after worship on Sunday's that we are inside.

Discussion regarding Interim Pastor Progress. It was brought up that some members of the congregation would like to see the minister more invested in the community by possibly attending ministerium meetings and participating in the WPCA radio daily devotional, etc. The Pastoral Search Committee will be following up (performance review) with Pastor Garth about some of the concerns brought up during the Council discussion.

Next Council Meeting: October 12, 2021 at 6:00

Meeting adjourned at 8:13

Submitted by: Sherry Monson



October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School	27 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	28 10:00 AM Office Open	29 10:00 AM Office Open	30 10:00 AM Office Open	1 Office Closed	2
3 Neighbors in Need Offering 9:00 AM Christian Ed. Meeting 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion	4 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	5 10:00 AM Office Open	6 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class	7 10:00 AM Office Open	8 Office Closed	9 7:30 AM Ruby's Pantry at Amtec Parking Lot
10 9:00 AM Mission Team Meeting 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School	11 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	12 10:00 AM Office Open 5:00 PM Diaconate Meeting 6:00 PM Council Meeting	13 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Youth Group	14 10:00 AM Office Open	15 Office Closed	16 5:30 PM Youth Lock-In
17 Budgets Due 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Youth Worship Service 11:15 AM Congregational Giving Mtg.	18 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	19 10:00 AM Office Open	20 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class	21 8:15 AM Ministerium 10:00 AM Office Open	22 Office Closed	23
24 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School	25 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	26 10:00 AM Office Open	27 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Youth Group	28 10:00 AM Office Open	29 Office Closed	30
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	4 10:00 AM Office Open	5 Office Closed	6

Happy Halloween