

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC

PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer



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Dear All, happy Valentines month to you all. In this month, when society focuses on "romantic" love, I'd like to talk about discipleship types of love. In this kind of love, we learn of, demonstrate, and pass on that type of love Jesus has given us.

Here's the setting for this month's text. Jesus is at the end of his earthly ministry, it is the Upper Room, has just finished with the Passover Meal, Judas has just left to betray Jesus, and now Jesus and the remaining disciples are together. Jesus takes this last opportunity for "one last teaching session with the disciples...and the topic is about "how to carry on" in Jesus absence. Please read the text below.

Joh 13:33-35 ESV Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' (34) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus' talks about love and makes these key points: a) soon I will be gone, b) you can't follow me, c) this is your new Commandment, love each other as I have loved you, d) show others that you are my disciples through your love for each other.

THEE deciding fact that is

deterministic as to whether you are one of my disciples or not is "do you love one another, as I have loved you?" Love by putting others ahead of yourselves, love by seeking the best for the other, love which cares more for the other than for one's self. You know these attributes.

But, now in the absence of the leader, can you keep doing what the leader (Jesus) does and has shown you how to do? In essence, can you do what Jesus does, without Jesus by your side.

I can relate to Jesus' sentiments of this passage. In several months, I will no longer be with you. I will move onto the next chapter in my life. I will be "there" and you will be "here". We will be separated from each other. We do not know what tomorrow will be like, but we do know how Jesus and his love (His New Commandment Love) will effect our lives. For me the greatest challenge is for me to be sure you all know of this love, AND that you act on it. The greatest compliment you can give to me is to love one another as Jesus called his disciples to love each other.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

It's a big challenge, but love, Jesus' love is really the answer.

Amen!



02/02 Virginia Ormsby

02/02 Kaylee Burstad

02/02 Sarah Stalhiem

02/04 Roger Waterman

02/04 Madison Rondeau

02/05 Gene Pribnow

02/07 Colleen Foxwell

02/10 Kendal Moore

02/10 Ashley Emerson

02/10 David Bowman

02/14 Samantha Emerson

02/15 Judith Gordon

02/17 Gary Sigsworth

02/22 Gavin Koch

02/22 Gage Koch

02/24 Sandy Morris

02/25 Bonnie Springer

02/26 Grady O'Rourke

Modern Birthstone for February is Amethyst

February is the month of love, it's a month of passion and drama. Fittingly, the stunning Amethyst, with all of its purple passion, is the gemstone to adorn those born in February. From refreshing lilac to ripe plum, Amethyst demonstrates the drama and excitement of the color purple. Legend tells the story of Dionisus, the Greek god of wine, who was insulted one day by a mortal. Enraged, he called forth vicious tigers to exact revenge on the next mortal who would cross his path. Unfortunately, the maiden Amethyst, on her way to pay tribute to the Goddess Diana, was the unlucky traveler. The innocent girl suddenly found herself face-to-face with the tiger companions of the vengeful Dionysus. In order to save her from the beasts Diana turned Amethyst into a statue of pure crystalline quartz. The crystalline maiden was so beautiful that Dionysus, in sorrow and remorse, wept tears of rich wine over the statue. His tears stained the quartz purple, thus creating the poetic gem that still bears her name.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Golden Age Manor

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

Kathy Picotte
Dave Waterman

Willow Ridge

400 Deronda Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-8171

Betty Jansen

Evergreen Village

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

Memory Care

215 Birch St. W
Amery, WI 54001
Jeanne Murphy

Evelyn Monteith Halverson

Ginny Nelson
Sylvia Utter

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
715.268.9949

Beth Sorensen
Shirley Johnson

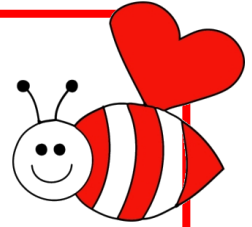
Baldwin Care Center
650 Birch St.

Baldwin, WI 54002
Mary Monson Apt. 27

February Meaning & Symbolism



From the Latin word Februarius, meaning "to purify", February was known as the "Month of Purification" during ancient Roman times. It is a transitional time, finding itself just after a month of reflection and new year's resolutions.



from your YOUTH MINISTER

WEDNESDAYS:

Wed Feb 5th - Homework & Hangout, WOW, Congo Cooks, youth group service night. We will be making Valentine crafts for our home-bound friends in the community.

Wednesday February 12th - Following Homework & Hangout and dinner, we will go to the Amery High School to take part in the third annual We Are Loved worship led by Stumbling Saints. Parent drivers are needed so please let Charlotte know if you are able to help transport youth to/from school. Parent pick-up time is at Congo Church at 8:15pm.

Wednesday February 19th - Homework & Hangout after school followed by FUEL. Please bring \$5 for dinner. Parent pick-up time is at Congo Church at 8:15pm.

Wednesday February 26th - Homework & Hangout, Lenten soup supper, Ash Wednesday service. Parent pick-up time is 7:30pm.

Souper Bowl of Caring: In celebration of Super Bowl 2020, please join in our Congo Souper Bowl of Caring event by bringing a non-perishable food item to church on **Sunday February 2nd**. During Children's Moment, we will pray over our donations which will be brought to the Amery Food Pantry. Let's tackle hunger together!

Saturday February 8th - Ruby's Pantry Service Day. Please meet at Congo by 7:30am to help serve at Ruby's Pantry. Following clean-up, we'll enjoy lunch together and bake cookies for the residents at Amery Memory Care. Parents may pick their kids up at 3pm

Friday February 21 - Youth Group Service & Fun Day! Please meet at Congo Church by 7:30am to head to Coon Rapids to help pack food for Feed My Starving Children. We will spend the afternoon at Urban Air Adventure Park. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes lunch. Urban Air waiver and payment MUST be turned in to Charlotte by Wednesday February 19th.



Sunday February 9th - Please join us for our 10am worship service. Following worship, we'll enjoy lunch together then walk to Amery Memory Care to frost and enjoy Valentine cookies with the residents.



Sunday February 23 - Sunday School Pajama Party during & after worship.



Let's share our talents with our church family
during coffee hour on

Sunday, February 16th
Following our 10am worship service. All God's children are
welcome to participate.

Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

**YOUR TALENT IS GOD'S GIFT TO YOU;
WHAT YOU DO WITH IT IS YOUR GIFT TO
GOD.**



EVENTS

**Lent 2020 will begin on
Wednesday, February 26
and ends on Thursday April 9**



Join us for Soup Suppers at 6pm on
Wednesdays:

Feb. 26,
Mar. 04, 11, 18, 25
and Apr. 01

Stay for the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm



**FAMILY
TABLE**
Please join us at the
Congo Family Table on
Wednesday, Feb. 19th at
11:30 am
Call Rae 715-268-7390, by
Sunday, February 16th
to make your
reservations.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Free Will Donation

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 3RD ANNUAL WALLEYE DINNER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
SERVING 4:30PM TO 7:00 PM

Adult Meal \$15

8-10 oz. Walleye
Baked Potato
Coleslaw
Mixed Vegetable
Dessert
Coffee, Milk, Water

Kid's Meal \$5

Mac 'n Cheese
Mixed Vegetable
Dessert
Milk, Water

Take-Out
Available

Pay at Door — No Reservations Necessary
Gift Certificates Available in Church Office

715.268.7390

201 North Harriman Ave.
Amery

BIBLE STUDIES:

Men's Bible Study
Tuesdays, 6:30 am
In Congo Conference Room

Bible Study
Open to men and women
Tuesdays, 10:30 am
In Congo Conference Room

Women's Bible study
Thursdays, 5:30 pm
In Congo Library





Erma Amrein, Joyce and Cheryl's aunt, will be celebrating her **100th birthday** on February 12th. Last year, many of us sent birthday cards. Erma was so delighted by this that she is still taking them out to read over and over. How wonderful it would be for us to send more love to Erma. If you would like to send a card, the address is:

**Erma Amrein
1024 Thornfield Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45224**



There will be valentine bags on the table outside the Sanctuary. Please help us fill these bags to hand out to our home bound friends and neighbors. Your cards and small gifts do so much to brighten the day for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you, Missions and Social Concerns

LET'S OPEN
OUR ARMS AND
OUR HEARTS
a little wider.

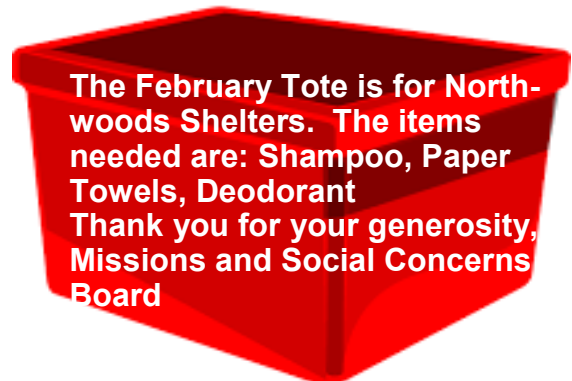
Neil L. Andersen



TOFW.com



**The February Tote is for Northwoods Shelters. The items needed are: Shampoo, Paper Towels, Deodorant
Thank you for your generosity,
Missions and Social Concerns Board**



Council Meeting: Jan. 14, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Barry Schaefer, Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, Richard Wooldridge: Financial Secretary, Charlotte Gillen: Youth Director and Christian Education, Chad Leonard: Trustees, Abby Betzold: Congregational Giving, Rae Wooldridge: Congregational Giving, Shanon Hayes: Missions & Social Concerns, Julie Smith: Recording Secretary

Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer at 6:03 pm.

Sheldon read the council minutes from December and they were voted on and approved.

TREASURER: Virginia presented the Treasurer's Report and was happy to state that we are "in the black".

CLERK: Sandy reported that there was one member funeral this month. Sandy stated that the current membership role is at 171.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Sheldon welcomed Richard Wooldridge to the council as Financial Secretary. They discussed briefly what the job entails and Chad will assist him with the position.

YOUTH: Char stated that the month of December was a busy time for the Youth and they were involved with many Christmas activities and events. She presented her Youth Director Report highlighting all the activities.

TRUSTEES: Chad said that the Trustees are moving forward with the updated security plans for the church building. He said that Thursday (1/16) the company (CWS) will be here to do a walk thru and discuss the placement of the cameras. This particular topic was the main item of discussion discussed at the last Trustee meeting.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Char announced that Sunday, February 23 a Winter Party has been planned for the Youth.

DIACONATE: Not Present, but Pastor Barry said that a joint service is in the works with the New Life congregation. Barry brought the idea to Council. The Council approved of the joint service. Barry said when details are finalized; it will be added to the calendar.

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL GIVING: Abby said her committee is working to update the "wish lists" to help provide ideas when monetary gifts come to the church.

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Shanon presented her committee's report that included a month by month schedule for 2020 designating which organizations will be receiving Noisy Kettle proceeds and also who receives collections of tote items. She said that the last Noisy Kettle collection, \$128 was raised.

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Barry presented his December report. He highlighted in his report the numerous joyous Christmas events in December, but also sadness in being called to officiate in two funerals. The details of his retirement are also in the report.

CALENDAR REVIEW: Additions and corrects were made to the February calendar.

OLD BUSINESS: Pastor Barry requested that all Council reports be given to Rae by Feb. 1.

NEW BUSINESS: During the upcoming Lenten season Soup suppers are served. The schedule for those suppers and which committee/group will assist was outlined. Sheldon stated that the annual meeting needs to be scheduled and suggested April 26. Chad made a motion to approve that date, Julie seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

Chad stated that the Pulpit Selection Committee, that has been newly formed, will meet on February 5.

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02-14-2000

The Walleye Dinner plans were also discussed and Abby volunteered to help chair the Walleye dinner.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary

Pastor's Report for DECEMBER 2019

I AREAS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

- This December was very typical for the month of Christmas. There was much frenetic activity, both church related and personal family related. This year All of the four Sundays of Advent occurred in December (doesn't always happen this way. We also, due to a late Thanksgiving, held our Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday of December. Thanks to Barry Tulkki for creating our Hanging of the Greens service for us, as well as for putting together the Lighting of the Advent Candle ceremonies for us as well. Many thanks to all of the families who helped with the hanging of the Greens, with the Advent Ceremonies, and who helped with our Lefse orders for Christmas as well as the seasonal offerings (Veterans of the Cross) and the Fifth Sunday Potluck meal.
- This month we lost one of our very long-lived members (12/26), Dorothie Mueller, who lived for 101 years. This is a very notable achievement. We will mourn her loss and we will also celebrate Dorothie's entrance into Jesus kingdom in her resurrection life.
- This years Christmas program was a very good one. Many of our youth, Sunday School students and staff worked long and hard at this event. Thanks to all who made it such a success.
- One of the "behind the scenes" narratives that the church has been dealing with has been the pre-mature birth of Hailey Russo, born at 14 weeks and born with significant health issues. Her due date was to be December 22, 2019. Hailey suffered mightily and her last day on earth, surrounded by her family was on December 26, the same day we buried Dorothie Mueller; 101 days to 101 years. Those two were "linked" together. (Hailey's funeral was on Jan 3, 2020 and will be reported with January stats.) Our congregation has been awesome in dealing with the needs of both families. Thank you, one and all for your support of prayers, food, patience and encouragement. The births and deaths of our members are very large endeavors, and I thank you all for your help.
- On December 29th 2019 at the 10am worship service, I announced my intention to retire this year. It is estimated that my last Sunday will be on July 5th at the 10am worship concluding nearly 35 years of service to the Amery. A very difficult day indeed. I know that the Pastoral Search Committee is forming and they will do a great job in their calling. God will continue to bless this congregation.



II SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Funeral: Dorothie Mueller, 12/26/19