

# Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



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Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the  
Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

## PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer

Dear ones it has come to this, my last Pastor's Point as the Pastor of the Amery Congregational Church. Where did all of those years go, and how could they have gone so swiftly?

But first, this is the focus text:

**Rom 12:1-2 ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

**(2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Paul is speaking to Christians he has never met who are in a church in Rome. He is asserting deep spiritual truth to them, so that they may live faithful lives in his absence, much like what is going to happen in the life of the Congregational Church. Paul's advise is my advise: 1) Present your/our bodies as a living SACRIFICE to God. Notice, there is no "ME" in sacrifice! God is the focus, not us. 2) Present that sacrifice as that which is holy and acceptable to God...which is "our worship" to God. 3) DO NO BE CONFIRMED TO THIS WORLD BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND...

This is crucial, do not let the world determine you or your faith. We, disciples of Christ, need to set the agenda for the world. We need to step forth as leaders of the world

setting Christ, his life and example as the healing power in this darkened and broken place in which we live. Remember, "God's Got this". It is not up to us to fix this world, but it is up to us to live lives of virtue, faith and honor as an example to the world that Christ Jesus lives within us! This is my challenge to the whole Congregation. Only time will tell.

It has been the best experience of my life and career to be your pastor for nearly 35 years (11/11/20 is the exact date). I have lived, grown, failed and succeeded all within your vision and guidance. You all have been my teachers and I will be forever grateful to you all.

Recently there has been a flood of memories of you, of babies, of youth, of parents and of Amery's Senior Guard who have passed through my/our/God's ministry, and each memory I do and will savor for many years to come. The sweetest memories of those persons who have come to faith in Jesus, for this is the aim of our efforts, the goal of our energies, and the reason for our existence.

**Jud 1:24-25 ESV Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, (25) to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

**Pastor Out!**

## MESSAGE FROM JOYCE SCHAEFER

### My goodbye to my Congo family;

Wow, writing this is harder than I ever could have imagined. It is not that I thought we would be at the Congo forever but I did not think about how traumatic it would be to leave. I can still recall when Barry said he thought he had found the “right” place to go to while we were still living in Chicago and I said where and he said Amery, Wisconsin. Sure, I knew Wisconsin and we had talked about that being somewhere we might like to go but Amery? A town of under 3000 people, you want me to go there? So, I said okay but once I get my Master’s Degree finished I get to choose where to go next. Well, here we are almost 35 years later, guess I never got around to choosing the next place.



You all are the reason I never chose to go anywhere else. Our families lived quite a distance away so you all became our family. It is beyond difficult to leave your family after so many years. We have gone through so much with all of you, good times and hard times, celebrations and times of mourning. Both my Mom and Barry’s Dad also became part of the Congo family and now my sister Cheryl and brother-in-law Dave have become a part of the Congo family, making it even harder to leave.

The support you have all given to me and our family has been overwhelming. Your love for us is so evident and I hope you have felt the return of that love. My life has been made fuller being a part of the Congo family. My faith has grown over the years with all of you, whether it be from being a part of the “All God’s Critter’s” program, Youth group activities, Ruby’s Pantry, Bible studies, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, playing bells, being a member of the Mission team or simply worshipping with you on a Sunday morning. I am just so grateful to our Lord for leading us to you all and I do feel as painful as this is that the Lord is now leading us on to another chapter.

So, it is time for not just me but for us to choose that “next place”. No, we are not leaving Amery but yes, we are leaving all of you. It is good that I am doing this on the computer so that my paper doesn’t get wet from the tears streaming down my cheeks. I was excited for Barry to retire and I still am I just wasn’t ready for how hard this is to move on to this next chapter. It is beyond only affecting Barry and me as our children who have grown up in this church now also have to say goodbye to the Congo. Even our grandchildren are affected as you all have become their family also. One of our grandchildren asked so does this mean we won’t go to Papa’s church anymore, and sadly the answer was yes. But, thank goodness for all of the wonderful memories that will stay in our hearts forever.

I definitely feel that I have rambled on it is just hard to say what my heart is feeling on paper. I love you all with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my mind!!! I wish for you all to continue to be strong disciples for our Lord!! I want to hear the buzz in the community about what the Congo is doing!! I want to see what great things you all will continue to do in the Lord’s name!!! May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you and give you peace!! Amen!!



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

## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



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### Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street  
Amery, WI 54001  
(715) 268-7107  
Kathy Picotte  
Dave Waterman  
Ginny Nelson

### 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  
Sylvia Utter  
Bob Holms

### Riverbend

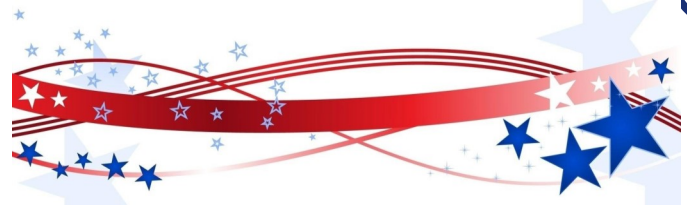
475 Golfview Lane  
715.268.9949  
Beth Sorensen  
Shirley Johnson

### Baldwin Care Center

650 Birch St.  
Baldwin, WI 54002  
Mary Monson Apt. 27



from your  
**YOUTH  
MINISTER**



**Baptism of Samantha Ross  
Sunday, June 21**



**CONFIRMANDS READ THEIR  
STATEMENTS OF FAITH**



**Samantha Ross**



**Zachary Silvis**



**Tyler Jackson**



**Pastor Barry welcomes the Congo's newest members.**



**A big Congo welcome to Samantha Ross, Zachary Silvis and Tyler Jackson**

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 ☆ **Summer Youth Group:** All kids ☆  
 ☆ entering grades 5-12 in the fall are ☆  
 ☆ invited to join us for youth group ☆  
 ☆ each Wednesday from 4- ☆  
 ☆ 7pm. Supper will be ☆  
 ☆ provided. Please note: An updated ☆  
 ☆ parent permission slip **MUST** be ☆  
 ☆ filled out in order to ☆  
 ☆ participate. Please contact ☆  
 ☆ Charlotte if you have any questions. ☆  
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**We need your help:**  
 Now that we have  
 started youth group  
 back up, our need to  
 provide meals for our  
 Congo kids resumes. If  
 you would be willing to  
 donate towards these  
 meals, please let  
 Charlotte know.



**FREE photography sessions to our Congo church families!** As many of you know, our Youth Director Charlotte Gillen loves to take pictures! She has turned that love into a hobby of photography. So if you're looking to have family photos taken or have a special occasion coming up, please let her know!



**Thank you,  
 Charlotte**

**Youth Director Contact Information:**  
**Charlotte Gillen**  
 715.268.7390; ext. 12  
 715.338.6929 (cell)  
 Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

## Council Meeting: June 7, 2020 (Video conference via Zoom)

**ATTENDANCE:** Pastor Barry Schaefer, Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Barry Tulkki: Diaconate, 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, Julie Smith: Recording Secretary. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer at 11:02 am.

Sheldon requested any Committee reports, but none were presented because committees have not been able to meet at his time. Chad Leonard reported that as of the end of May, we are within budget.

Current needs for lawn maintenance and landscaping at the church property were discussed. Char stated she was hoping to open up the church for youth programming soon. Extensive discussions were held regarding HOW and WHEN to open up the church. Many risks and benefits were discussed with possible solutions. Pastor Barry brought up the idea of a potential outdoor worship service (in the open green space adjacent to the parking lot). Ideas about how to proceed with this were brought forth.

Pastor Barry said there are four Confirmands in this year's class that will be Confirmed on June 21. The Council, after extensive discussion, decided to start with outdoor services for "re-opening" the church. Abby made a motion on the goal of resuming services with an outdoor service starting June 14 and another outdoor service for Confirmation Sunday on June 21. Virginia seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dick Wooldridge brought a question for clarification about the church building itself; it was established that the building needs to remain closed, and locked, at this time. Char brought up a concern about the use of the building for the youth group. Sheldon said that the use of the church building needs to be taken on a case by case situation. Guidelines were established on the use of the building for the youth. Council voted to allow the youth to start meeting as of Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, with limited use of the building and meeting outside when possible. Operations of Ruby's Pantry was discussed. Barry Tulkki will discuss with the director of Ruby's Pantry regarding current concerns and plans going forward.

Chad reported on the activities and plans that the Pulpit Committee has been working on. They have selected a candidate for interim pastor that they feel would be a good fit for our congregation. His name is Garth Schumacher and is currently serving as interim pastor at the UCC in Rochester, Minnesota. Barry Tulkki made a motion that we offer Pastor Garth a position as interim pastor starting in September. Julie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Barry Tulkki made a motion giving us the flexibility to call on Pastor Barry during the interim period. Virginia seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sheldon confirmed that the next Council Meeting will also be a Zoom meeting.

**It has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 30 at 6:00pm.**

Barry Tulkki closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary

