

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC

PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry and Joyce Schaefer



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page

Birthdays	2
Youth	3,4
Thanks for Your Support	5
Family Fun Day	5
What Do You Do On a Rainy Day	6
Council Meeting	7
UCC Quiz	8



I'm baack!... This is Pastor Schaefer with one really final last Pastor's Point for the Clarion newsletter.

2Th 1:3 ESV We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

The above verse just begins to touch the gratitude and humility that both Joyce and I feel at how the congregation has been so good to us during the last days of my ministry at "The Congo".

The days and events leading up to our departure were fast, full of anxious anticipation, and frankly they were a blur, of vision and of emotion. We have received many, many gifts of love and of appreciation for our work amongst you over the decades and we are truly thankful and humbled by all of your response to us. We are very humbled by books, letters, scholarship funds, pictures, cards, gifts, and other expressions of love directed towards us. But, most importantly, we are humbled by your outpouring of love and affection towards us. "We did not see this coming".

Speaking for myself, I wouldn't have done it (my years with you) any other way, as I cannot think of any other way to do parish ministry except "full boar" "steam ahead"

moving into life of each other and the life of our community. I believe parish ministry is "all or nothing".

Given this philosophy, I am heartened that you have chosen to follow along with us across time and space on this journey of life.

In reading the "Shutterfly" book (we only do a page a day, for we want to savor it) your thoughts and expressions of love and your memories of long ago events really warm our hearts. We remember those events that you remember, but...I/We had no thought that they (the events) had such meaning to you, or were so instrumental in your faith development, or that they would have such a lasting, life-shaping effect on your lives and life of faith! Who could have guessed that back packing trips, trains, snow and "Camper Cabins" would have the effect that they did. You know, "we're just workin fools" was the operative slogan when it came to the Mission Trips. We were/are just building homes for persons...and after several decades the number of those homes "adds up".

Joyce and I do look forward to a long and fruitful retirement together doing what the Lord asks of us in the future. We will be "keeping an eye on you" from afar encouraging you in all you do in your future work in and for the Lord. You all will forever live in our hearts, and our days at the Congo will always be cherished. God Bless You All!

Happy August Birthday

08/01 Brett Johnson	08/16 Linda Satterlund
08/02 Chad Leonard	08/17 Cheryl Bowman
08/03 Doug Johnson	08/20 Lavone Pratt
08/05 Jessica Stoeklen	08/24 David Russo
08/08 Yvonne Monteith	08/24 Wyatt O'Rourke
08/09 Carol Eklund [08/27 Mindy Molls
08/15 Shirley Johnson	08/27 Bobbie Edin
08/15 Howard Monteith	08/27 Benjamin Pitchford
08/16 Juli Swanson	
08/16 Brennen Wagner	

**History:**

In the original Roman calendar the month of August was called Sextilis. This was because it was the sixth month of the year. Later, after January and February were added to the calendar, it became the eighth month of the year. At the time the month had 29 days. When Julius Caesar created the Julian calendar in 45 BC, two days were added giving the month 31 days. The month was later renamed Augustus in honor of the first emperor of Rome, Caesar Augustus.

**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
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

**MEMBERS
AND
FRIENDS**



from your
**YOUTH
MINISTER**

Welcome to 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 see Charlotte for a revised parent permission slip that **MUST** be signed in order to participate.





Barry Tulkki convinces youth group kids that a game called "pulling weeds" is great fun.



Sitting around the fire pit for Bible lessons and discussions.



Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



THANK YOU, Thank You, thank you!! The congregational giving committee once again would like to say thank you to our members and friends of the church for your continued support this year. We know it has been a difficult time for many people in many ways which makes us even more grateful for the continued gifts of finances, prayers, and time. Our church has been able to work in new and inventive ways to keep our ministry strong and active throughout this whirlwind of a year, however we could not do it without our church family backing us and working with us in so many ways. We have been blown away by how connected our congregation has stayed even when we have been apart. So please continue to give in whatever way possible and continue to show your love to one another through phone calls, conversations, and worshipping outdoors with us. We are so blessed to have such an amazing church family!

Sincerely,
The Amery Congregational Giving Committee



FAMILY FUN MONTH



Each year, Family Fun Month is celebrated throughout the month of August. It is the opportune time to enjoy family with extra fun and activities.

When I was a child, most families were still able to live on one income. My mother was a stay at home mom until I was almost a teen. My dad traveled out of town and, since my mother didn't drive, we were without transportation living in a small rural area. We did not have computers, cell phones, or Xboxes. Our television was black and white. Sometimes we kids watched Howdy Doody or Kukla, Fran and Ollie, or sat with my mom while she watched a variety show that ended with Kate Smith singing, *When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain*. But mostly we entertained ourselves with playing board or card games, riding bikes or horses, making our own paper dolls or swimming at the beach. My mother didn't mind that she couldn't drive - she loved walking. Perhaps my favorite times were walking along the railroad tracks with mom and my sisters to get popsicles at the little corner store or pulling a wagon three miles to the grocery store. At night, mom, my sisters and I would play night tag or catch fireflies. By moonlight, we would tell stories of magic forests and silver ponies.

Now that Covid-19 is keeping us all closer to home, If you look at FB posts, you will notice that families are once again doing more activities together and to be really enjoying it. It just goes to show that, "What Satan means for evil, God turns into good. My heart hurts for all those who have lost loved ones or their source of income. Yet I rejoice at seeing families being able to spend quality time together.

So, dear friends, pray for this virus to end, pray for the people who have been adversely affected. Then hug your family members living at home. Treasure this time you have with them. Make the most of it - make memories. And praise God for His goodness in all things.

Blessings,
Your Church Lady

What do you do on a Rainy Day?

By Julie Smith

As I write these words, it's 90 degrees humid and the scorching sun is burning all the grass up and down our block. So the thought of some cooling rain sounds pretty good right now. Yet, I am using the Rainy Day metaphor to compare it to our current situation of the 2020 Corona virus requiring us to "shelter in place" and keep our social distancing when we are required to go out. Well, the COVID 19 has become our "Rainy Day" (or more accurately months...) Of course I understand the necessity of quarantining ourselves to stop the spread of the virus, but to me it seems reminiscent of being stuck in the house on a rainy day. Both kids and parents can understand the frustration of being cooped up too long. Also think back when you were a little kid inside on a rainy day...what types of indoor fun did you participate in?



So here are a few fun ideas to try to help us all get through these **"Rainy Days"**:

- *Movie night: pull out those DVDs or the modern version might be finding some favorites on Netflix.*
- *Cook something special, what a perfect time to try a new recipe. Although sometimes cooking an old favorite can be beneficial too. Ahhh, nothing like a favorite cookie recipe and it's not even Christmas yet!*
- *Dance Party: Put on your favorite music and get the wiggles out. As they say: Dance like no one's looking!*
- *If there are young kids in your household....how about a blanket fort- remember those as a kid? So fun to construct your very own little place.*
- *Pull out the board games and puzzles that have not been tried in awhile.*
- *Take this time to pursue your favorite craft or hobby. As a scrapbooker, I have completed oodles of work on my albums during this time of "shelter in place." It also might be a good time to start up a new hobby. Inspired by our Congo youth, I painted and put inspirational words on various rocks. They have become a nice addition to my garden.*
- *And last, but certainly not least take a few minutes every day to read scriptures, your favorite devotional book and remember the Lord with prayer. These are tough times we are going through, but seeking shelter in our faith helps to keep us going.*



Psalm 46:1-2 – "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

Council Meeting Minutes for July 14th, 2020

Attendance: Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, Charlotte Gillen: Youth Director & Christian Education, Chad Leonard: Trustees, Shannon Hayes: Missions & Social Concerns, Barry Tulkki: Deacons, Dick Wooldridge: Financial Secretary, Rae Wooldridge & Abby Betzold: Congregational Giving.

Reports from Committees Included the Following

Clerk Report from Sandy: We had 2 member deaths, 2 Baptisms, and 3 Confirmations making our member count 172.

Treasurer Report from Virginia: We are below budget in most areas and on budget for our income.

Diaconate report from Barry: The deacons have been working hard to help with outdoor service, with parking, set up, and other functions, as well as continuing to reach out to our shut-ins.

Other committees commented that they will begin have meetings more regularly.

Following our committee reports we started discussion on how our congregation will go forward through these challenging times.

Sandy Morris made a motion that we will not apply for Payroll Protection or similar COVID relief funds as we feel we are not in need of funds at this time. Barry Tulkki seconded and the motion passed.

Much discussion was had about what the church can be used for and how we will continue our church activities during these difficult times the following decisions were made.

- The Church will be available for special events such as funerals, baptisms, or other important events arise. We are also opening the church for use for Bible Studies, Committee Meetings, etc. The guidelines are as follows:
 - ◊ Allowing use of Sanctuary, Narthex, Bathrooms, and Choir Room or South end of fellowship hall.
 - ◊ No use of the kitchen or nursery, no food will be allowed to be served
 - ◊ We recommend the use of masks and social distancing
- Sunday worship will continue to be held outside at this time, if we have inclement weather we will be asking people to go home to watch a digital service. This will be available via Facebook live as well as having a video link sent out via email by the following day. To the best of our ability we will make the decision to go digital Saturday nights by 6pm and contacting the congregation via email and phone upon making this decision. We ask for continued prayers for the wonderful weather to keep up.
- Youth activities will continue to be held outside and in the south end of the fellowship hall with social distancing as well as having the youth wear masks when indoors, the church will be providing masks for the youth. We are interested in the safety and health of all of our young people and adult helpers.
- Other items discussed were in regards to our time before our interim pastor arrives. We would like to inform the congregation we will have communion given on the first Sunday of each month. Barry Tulkki will be leading us on these Sunday's. We also encourage everyone to look at Pastor Garth Schumacher's current sermons. If you are interested you can preview our future interim pastor's sermons online at www.congorocho.org.

Chad motioned to adjourn our meeting at 7:40pm the motion was seconded by Ginny, motion was passed.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11th at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Betzold



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Take the UCC Environmental Justice Quiz!

1. *Did you know that UCC ministers coined the phrase “environmental racism” and played a leading role in giving birth to the environmental justice movement in the 1980s?*

During a six week campaign of civil disobedience in 1982, a movement was born that made national headlines and introduced the world to the issue of environmental racism.

2. *Did you know that the UCC has formed a special partnership with a leading climate organization called 350.org, so that church green teams are now becoming 350 affiliates?*

Members of the United Church of Christ have often worked with 350.org in the pursuit of justice and shared goals. This informal, longstanding relationship is now being deepened through a pilot endeavor that encourages and invites UCC green teams to affiliate with 350.

3. *Did you know that in places like Flint and Standing Rock the UCC has been actively involved in standing alongside those struggling for justice?*

Solidarity is one form that love takes in the ministry of environmental justice. The goal is to find ways that local churches and members can actively support others who are facing environmental injustices.

4. *Did you know that the UCC is building a powerful environmental network that stays connected through a blog and e-newsletter called **The Pollinator**?*

The Pollinator is a digital platform of the UCC for the sharing of ideas and inspiration, so that we might become more fruitful in the pursuit of environmental justice. Its focus is the building of a faith-filled and faith-rooted movement for the care of creation.

5. *Did you know that UCC churches are deepening and expanding their commitment to the environment by becoming Creation Justice Churches?*

Whether it is taking on climate change or addressing the lead poisoning of children, environmental justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do now. Join the movement and become a Creation Justice Church.

