

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC

PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer



The Lord supplies
to the sower and
will multiply your
seed for sowing.

2 Corinthians 9:10

Knowing-Jesus.com

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So dear readers I want to build a case for us, this fall, to “bring in the sheaves”. Here’s the first verse:

Sowing in the morning,
sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide
and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest,
and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing,
bringing in the sheaves

This is one way that a biblical notion, of offering the **first** and the **best** to God needs be our motivator. Through a smattering of bible texts, offering to God is what God’s people are to do as a show of our appreciation of and trust in what God has done and is doing for us. Here are some texts to build my case:

Numbers 18:12 NLT “I also give you the harvest gifts brought by the people as offerings to the LORD—the best of the olive oil, new wine, and grain.

Exodus 34:26 NLT “As you harvest your crops, bring the very best of the first harvest to the house of the LORD your God.”

Proverbs 3:9 NLT Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.

2 Chronicles 31:5 NLT When the people of Israel heard these requirements, they responded generously by bringing the first share of their grain, new wine, olive oil, honey, and all the produce of their fields. They brought a large quantity—a tithe of all they produced.

Nehemiah 10:35 NLT “We promise to bring the first part of every harvest to the LORD’s Temple year after year—whether it be a crop from the soil or from our fruit trees.

Do you see the theme of this Biblical teaching: God is to receive, “with rejoicing” the first and the best portion. Realize, God has given us this “bountiful harvest”, for we “give thee but thine own”. God owns all we have. True we often work in partnership with God in the production of an “abundant harvest” but it is God who has supplied us with all of the resources we need. We, in our labors, sort of just “tip it in”.

Here is another example of one of the first fruits:

1 Corinthians 15:20 NIV (20) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Jesus is the real “first fruit” for us in that his resurrection from the grave makes possible for us to follow with him into God’s heavenly kingdom. I can surely say that I wish to be “on that bus” when Jesus takes his people with him to be with God.

In summary; what we have is a gift of God. We work with God to multiply the produce (harvest), and we called, no challenged to NOT keep all of God’s produce as our own, and to give back a portion to God with singing and rejoicing!



**Those born in
September are:**

- ♥ suave and compromising
- ♥ careful, cautious and organized
- ♥ likes to criticize
- ♥ calm and cool
- ♥ kind and sympathetic
- ♥ clever and knowledgeable
- ♥ understanding
- ♥ loves sports and leisure
- ♥ hardly shows emotions
- ♥ choosy especially in relationships

09/01 Bradon Folkert

09/01 Karri Bowen

09/02 Gavin Harris

09/02 Paula Richey

09/02 Pat Canham

09/03 Kori Nelson

09/04 Cooper Harris

09/05 Patric Hesch

09/06 Thomas Bowen

09/07 Shania Burstad

09/08 Tyler Jackson

09/09 Leland Anderson

09/14 Patrick Langlois

09/18 Christopher Anderson

09/21 Adam Tulkki

09/21 Gary Piasecki

09/21 Otilia Anderson

09/22 Barry Schaefer

09/23 Evie Porter

09/24 Leanne Whitley

09/25 Adam Morris

09/25 Joy Silvis

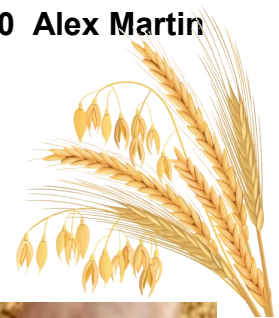
09/25 Sasha Rondeau

09/26 Randy Olson

09/28 Teri Kohlrusch

09/30 Alexander Martin

09/30 Alex Martin



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

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane

715.268.9949

Beth Sorensen

Water's Edge

410 Harriman Ave.

Amery, WI 54001

Betty Jansen

Evergreen Village

611 Harriman Avenue

(715) 268-6640

Marian Peterson

Gussie Fennern

Baldwin Care Center

650 Birch St.

Baldwin, WI 54002

Mary Monson Apt. 27

Memory Care

215 Birch St. W

Amery, WI 54001

Dorothie Mueller

Jeanne Murphy

Evelyn Monteith Halverson

Ginny Nelson

Sylvia Utter



WEDNESDAYS:

Sept 04- 3:30pm Homework & hangout, 5:45pm family dinner, 6:30pm WOW and youth group. Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

Sept 11 - 3:30 pm Homework & Hangout, 5:45 pm family dinner, 6:30 pm Amery Fall Festival float decorating. Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

Sept 18 - 3:30pm Homework & hangout, 5:45pm family dinner, 6:30pm WOW and youth group. Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

Sept 25 - 3:30 pm Homework & Hangout 6:00—8:00 pm FUEL @ Camp Wapo. Please bring \$5 for dinner. Evening concludes at 8:15 pm.

from your
**YOUTH
MINISTER**

Confirmation news: Sunday September 8th following our 10am worship service there will be a brief meeting for Confirmation students, parents and mentors to discuss our upcoming Confirmation program year.

Sunday, September 8th is National Grandparents Day and the Congo Bring Grandparents to church day.

THE HISTORY OF GRANDPARENTS DAY

A day for young and old to honor each other, and an opportunity for civic engagement for all generations

National Grandparents Day falls each year on the first Sunday after Labor Day. It's not a holiday invented to sell cards and flowers. It was initiated at the grassroots level by West Virginian Marian Lucille Herndon McQuade, with the behind-the-scenes support of her husband Joseph L. McQuade. They had 15 children, 43 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. After being married for over 60 years, Mr. McQuade passed away in 2001. Mrs. McQuade passed away in 2008.

There are three purposes for National Grandparents Day:

- 1) To commemorate and pay respect to grandparents
- 2) To recognize the importance that older people can have on the lives of the young
- 3) To give said grandparents the opportunity to show love and support for their children's children.


Thanks to President Jimmy Carter and Senators Robert Byrd and Jennings Randolph introducing official legislation into the Senate, it officially became a national holiday on August 3rd, 1978.

AH, GRANDPARENTS!



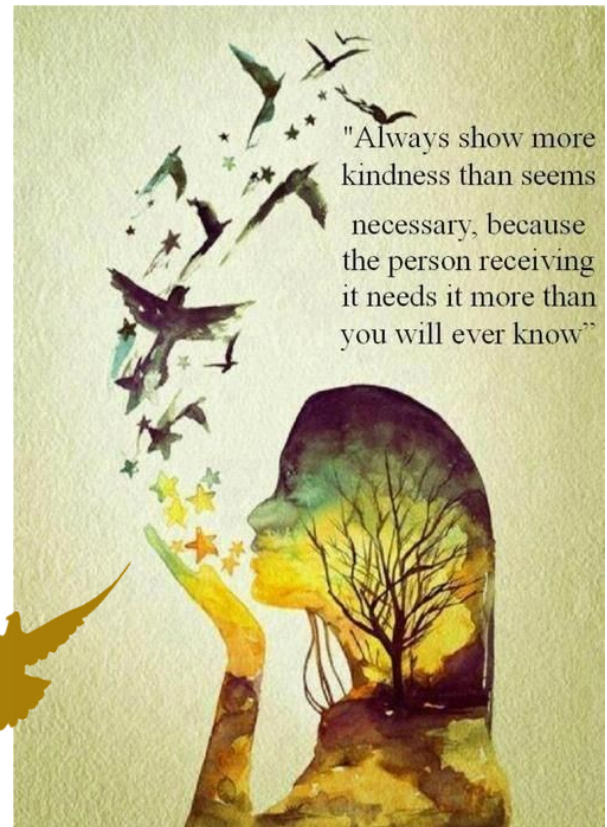
DEEP LOVE, DEEP WISDOM

Byington



Wednesday, Sept. 11th: Float decorating party: Please join us following Homework & Hangout and family dinner as we decorate the float for the Amery Fall Festival parade.

Amery Fall Festival Parade: Saturday September 14th. Amery Congo Youth will have a float in the parade. Anyone wishing to walk alongside and hand out candy, or ride on the float, please let Charlotte Gillen know. Parade line-up begins at 10am, the parade starts at 10:30am



September 28th: Walk to end Alzheimer's. Please join our Congo kids as they walk to help end Alzheimer's. If you are unable to walk but would like to donate to the cause, please see Charlotte Gillen.

Together
MAY WE GIVE
our children
the roots
to grow
AND THE
wings
to fly

September 29th:

Youth workers needed to help with the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner following our 10am worship service.

Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

EVENTS

FALL FESTIVAL FOOD BOOTH - September 14th

There are some exciting changes in our food booth at the Fall Festival this year!!
Our booth will be located at our church parking lot along with the craft fair!

We will be serving Scotch Eggs, hash browns, coffee, orange juice and Oreos dipped in white chocolate. Possible additional items as well!!

We will start serving at 6:00 am

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!



!!Back by Popular Demand!!
Chicken Gravy & Biscuit Dinner
 Sunday September 29th
 11:15am-2pm
 Amery Congregational Church
 201 Harriman Ave N. Amery, WI

Menu
 Chicken Gravy Over Homemade Biscuits
 Cranberry Relish
 Homemade Pie
 Adults \$10 - Kids \$7



FAMILY TABLE

Please join us at the Congo Family Table on Wednesday, September 18th at 11:30 am

Call Rae
 715-268-7390, by Sunday,
 September 15th to make your
 reservations.

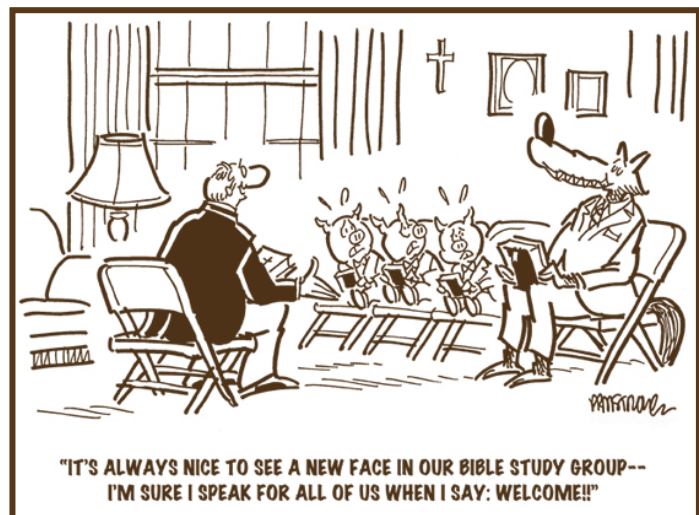
ALL ARE WELCOME

Free Will Donation

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



Question: "What is a spiritual harvest and how can I achieve one?"

Answer: Throughout the Bible, the harvest carries spiritual significance. It is used in parables (Luke 8:4–8) and as a metaphor for spiritual growth and health (2 Corinthians 9:10; James 3:18). The harvest has always been a beautiful and important part of life on earth, the time when the year's work bears fruit and the people are fed. It is symbolic of bounty, health and abundance. Israel celebrated the time of the harvest with a feast, appropriately called the Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16).

Jesus spoke of a spiritual harvest waiting to be reaped. As Jesus traveled, "he saw the crowds, [and] he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest'" (Matthew 9:36–38). Here, Jesus referred to the many souls needing to be brought to repentance and faith as a harvest waiting to be realized.

Jesus used the same metaphor of a spiritual harvest in Samaria. After talking to the woman at the well, Jesus told His disciples, "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35). In the days following this statement, many of the Samaritans became believers in Christ (verse 41). Jesus saw the spiritual harvest of souls awaiting in that village.

A spiritual harvest is the result of God's work in the heart of man. It is clear from the parable of the seed and the sower that some people's hearts are good soil; when the Word of God is sown there, the person accepts it and continues to mature (Luke 8:9–15). There is nothing we can do to change the soil—that is God's job (Ezekiel 36:26). However, we can be faithful to sow the seed, help the plants to grow, or reap the harvest. The process of spiritual growth and maturity, from the heart's regeneration to the recognition of faith, is often a long journey. In fact, the Bible indicates that the sower, the tender, and the reaper

perseverance (James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 11). This applies to all aspects of our spiritual lives, including witnessing and seeing people saved and growing in the Lord, which is the spiritual harvest we all long to see. Sometimes we don't see it. Nonetheless, believers are exhorted with these words: "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9) and "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18) and "Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them" (Psalm 126:6).

Jesus told us to pray to the Lord of the harvest for more laborers (Matthew 9:38). We should pray about all aspects of the spiritual harvest

process, including the preparation of the soil. We can ask God to change people's hearts. "The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:24–25). God will use us in His fields, each according to our gifts and the need of the moment, as we trust Him.

are likely to be different people at different times (John 4:35–38; 1 Corinthians 3:6–9). Just like the physical growth of a field, the spiritual growth of people is a natural, organic process, overseen by God Himself. If we don't see anyone getting saved, it can be discouraging, but we need to remember that sowing is just as important as reaping. Some of us are sowers and may never see the result of our labor. That is why our focus should be on pleasing the One who sent us into the field rather than on controlling the rate of growth or the amount we reap.

God's laborers in the spiritual harvest of souls are promised great reward for their faith and



Reprinted from <https://www.gotquestions.org>
Bible Questions Answered.

Council Meeting: Aug. 9, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Barry Schaefer, Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, Charlotte Gillen: Youth Director, Sherry Monson: Deacons, Abby Betzold: Congregational Giving, Rae Wooldridge: Congregational Giving, Julie Smith: Recording Secretary
Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer at 6:03 pm.

The council minutes from July were distributed, reviewed and approved.

TREASURER: Virginia presented the Treasurer's Report. She pointed out that the Building & Grounds category of the budget has recently been exceeded (for this month's budget alone) This occurred predominately because of recent expenses to fix the air conditioning units in the church and some problems with the AV equipment.

CLERK: Sandy reported that one wedding took place in the last month. The current membership role is at 167.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Not present.

YOUTH: Char presented her report for the month of July. The Summer Stretch program was a great success and 24 youth participated. Of those, 17 were Congo youth. Part of the program included "*arresting people with Kindness*" by handing out cookies with Officer Harris and K-9 Kerchak. Afternoon activities included: Wild Mountain, Crystal Caves and Como Zoo.

TRUSTEES: Not present.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Char presented her report for the committee. The Fall Sunday School curriculum has been ordered. Sunday School back to school party is Sunday August 25th. Youth Group begins Wednesday August 28th and Sunday School begins Sunday September 8th.

DIACONATE: Sherry stated she did not have a new report from her committee.

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL GIVING: Abby presented the minutes from her recent committee meeting. She reported that the mid-year letter highlighting our church's activities and achievements was sent to all members. The letter was well received and we had much positive feedback from it.

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Not present.

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Barry discussed a few of the items that were presented in his written report.

CALENDAR REVIEW: The August calendar was reviewed and discussed.

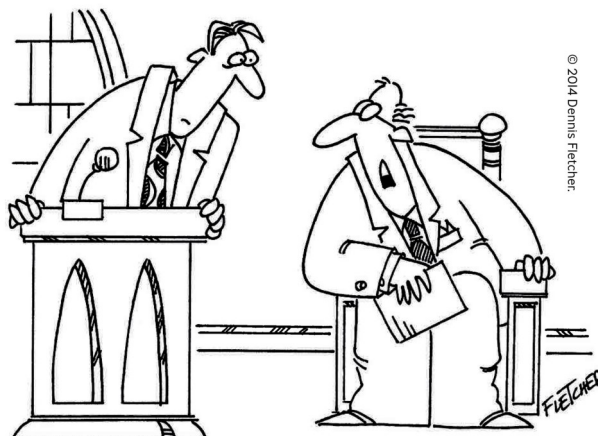
OLD BUSINESS: The Chicken & Biscuits Dinner has been scheduled for September 29. Sherry discussed some of the logistics for helping to put the dinner together. Also, advertising and promotion of the dinner was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was discussed.

The next Council Meeting was set for Tuesday, September 10.

Virginia motioned to adjourn and Sandy seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary



"We need to reach a younger demographic ... use an illustration about that Lady Goo Goo person."

Pastor's Report for JULY 2019

I AREAS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

1. Summer stretch commenced each Wednesday this month, for our Mid-schoolers doing service work in the AM, and a fun activity in the PM. Apparently our youth really like this activity, and youth of other churches ...not so much.
2. Money management bible study, women's bible study and men's bible study all are in full force this summer. We plan to not stop except for holidays and some personal days.
3. We've had some of our members hospitalized in Regions, which really racked up the travel miles this month.
4. Our youth attended (two different sessions) of Summer Camp at Camp Wapo. We need to keep finding ways to fund our kids going to camp. They get such a blessing from their experience.
5. On July 20th. I was present for, and officiated at two significant events for some of our members. There was a celebration of life for Laurie Porter, at his home, then off to conduct a wedding. This was the day after the significant wind storms north of Highway #8, which of course is where the wedding was to be held. The sound of chainsaws was filling their air

II Other Events:

1. Laurie Porter celebration of life family event at his home.
2. Jolyn Hase and Jason Sarsland wedding, private at their home.

