

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



Welcome November



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As We Adventure Together

By Reverend Garth Schumacher

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER...
"O God, show us the way to grow
our church
by growing our relationships
during this time of pandemic!!
Amen."

One of the sad realities these days is the fact that many of us have to stay away from our family gatherings for the safety and health of our families. That's why I'm getting more calls in for my parents in North Carolina and we're in the process of creating a robust telephone ministry from and for our church members. Maintaining our loving relationships during this time... especially during the holiday season is absolutely crucial!

Even in our worship services, we're working on ways to communicate more fully with our parishioners. For better or worse, technology is now a part of our church experience. Included in this month's newsletter is "The Parish Paper." It is a resource bought and paid for by our United Church of Christ denomination. We get to print, mail, and email this resource out to all of our members as a way to inform us of exciting new ideas happening in the world of church. This month's title is "Building Relationships in Livestream Worship."

In case you haven't noticed, Chad Leonard, Rae Wooldridge, Nancy Sigsworth, and myself have been working to step up the production values for our services. "Why?", You might ask. As Marshall McLuhan and Quentin Fiore

famously coined in their 1967 book, *The Medium is the Message*, "All media work us over completely (hence, the word "message" instead of "message."). They (mediums of communication) are so pervasive in their personal, political, economic, aesthetic, psychological, moral, ethical, and social consequences, they leave no part of us untouched, unaffected, unaltered."

Producing our own online church is our way of communicating, to the best of our ability, the love of God. Huge task, right? And, that's why we're taking this very seriously. The online media of Facebook, Youtube, and Zoom is changing the way we communicate in today's world. And, to be blunt, it will be a part of all church services from now on!

So, we're working hard to make sure our message of Jesus' Good News is clear, uplifting, informative, and above all a sign of God's love through Christ. That's why you'll see a gradual uptick in camera angles, Powerpoint images, musical inclusion, and new ways of getting our message out.

Finally, I'll be starting a Zoom gathering on Sundays about a half hour after worship. We'll begin after I'm finished leading Confirmation on November 22. **That means on Sunday, November 29th we'll have our first Zoom "coffee time" after worship.** As the time draws near Rae will send out an all-church email to invite you to join us.

Happy Thanksgiving!
 Rev. Garth Schumacher
 Interim Minister

I will
THANK GOD
 for my blessings
 without forgetting
 I am
BLESSED
TO BE A
BLESSING.

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Happy Birthday

11/01 Sherry Monson	11/19 Asher Stalhiem
11/01 Katy Hoppe	11/21 Auebrielle Harris
11/01 Hunter Hesck	11/21 Eric Silvis
11/01 Pete Waggoner	11/23 Paul Satterlund
11/05 Tom Dusek	11/24 Dixie Lee Brill
11/10 Brady Emerson	11/24 Amanda Warner
11/12 Thelma Betzold	11/29 Alison Emerson
11/14 Dennis Heiken	11/30 Hayley Sandmann
11/16 Jake Edin	

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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

Baldwin Care Center

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

Memory Care

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

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
 715.268.9949
 Beth Sorensen
 Shirley Johnson

Remember that our friends and neighbors in assisted living, memory care, nursing homes or in the hospital are not allowed visitors in this time of Covid. However, we may still reach out to them through calls, letters or a "thinking of you" note card. We must let our dear brothers and sisters in Christ know that they are loved and have not been forgotten. Let's let them know we are asking God to watch over them. A small caring gesture takes so little time, yet can be a huge blessing to someone who unable to hold and be held by loved ones.





During this month of Thanksgiving, I would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful church family for their love and support of our youth programming. Without your generous donations of your time and financial contributions, we would not be able to continue reaching out to our Sunday school and youth group kids in the ways we are able to do so. I am so thankful to God for sending such kind and loving youth our way to walk alongside them in faith. Have a blessed Thanksgiving. Charlotte Gillen, Youth Director

from your
**YOUTH
MINISTER**



Friday, Nov. 6th: Youth Group service and fun day! Please meet at Congo Church at 9am to help with assembly of the Northwoods Homeless Shelter newsletter. After lunch, we will enjoy a fun afternoon together. Parent pick-up time to be determined (but should be no later than 4pm).

WEDNESDAYS:

Nov 4th - Homework & Hangout after school followed by youth group at 5pm and dinner at 5:45pm. After clean up, we will close with worship and discussion. Please note: our evening will conclude at 7:00pm.

Nov 11th— Homework & Hangout after school followed by youth group at 5pm and dinner at 5:45pm. After clean up, we will close with worship and discussion. Please note: our evening will conclude at 7:00pm.

Nov 18th - Homework & Hangout after school. Homework & Hangout after school followed dinner and making cards for our home bound friends in the community. After clean up, we will close with worship and discussion. Please note: our evening will conclude at 7:00pm.

Nov 25th - NO SCHOOL OR YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Sunday, Nov. 15: Please join us for our 10am worship where we will hold a special blessing for our Congo hunters; dress in your favorite camo/orange hunting gear.

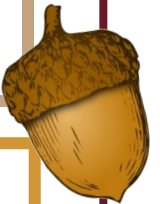
Sunday, November 29th: Please join us for our special Hanging of the Greens worship service at 10am.

**Confirmation classes will be held at 11:30 am on the following Sundays:
Nov. 1, 8, 15 and 22.**

Sunday, Nov. 8th: Please join us for our 10am where we will hold a special blessing for our retired and active duty military personnel.

Ruby's Pantry Service & Fun Day: Saturday November 14th.. Please meet at the AmTec parking lot (behind the bus garage) by 7:15am to help serve at Ruby's Pantry. Following our morning of service, we will have lunch together and then learn to make Lefse in the Congo kitchen. Parent pick-up time is 2pm.

November 24th Amery light-up parade begins at 6pm You are invited to be part of the Amery Congregational Church float. Please meet on Harriman Avenue behind Amery Family Restaurant. Look for our float and join in the fun of handing our candy and celebrating the beginning of the holiday season.



Youth Director Contact
Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



Gratitude

Living a Life of Thankfulness

This year for Thanksgiving I am thankful for many people and many things. The most important person I am thankful for is my friend, Lana. The most important thing I am thankful for is archery. My friends and family are also why I am thankful on Thanksgiving

Gavin Folkert

In this I will tell you what I am thankful for in this world. One I am thankful for my sister. Another thing I am thankful for is my family. Without my family, I wouldn't have people to support me when I'm sad.

Andrew M. Benner

I am thankful for my mom because she has done everything for me. I am thankful for Char because she has become family and teaches us about God. I am thankful for Pastor Garth because he teaches us about God and is very funny, I am thankful for my teachers because they help us learn. I am thankful for my friends because they make me happy. I am thankful for God because He made everything and everyone. I am thankful for Rae because she teaches us lessons. I am thankful for Church because we get to learn about God.

Bella Moody.

This Thanksgiving I am thankful for my pets. I am thankful for my pets because they are always there for me and they are also very therapeutic and help me with my anxiety and depression. I am also thankful for my friends and family along with my church and mentor, Rae Wooldridge.

Maren Dodge

What I am thankful for is my food. And my mom and dad and brothers and sisters and the rest of my family. And what else I am thankful for is my friends and church.

Sammy Newbauer.

Thanksgiving



Thankfulness...It's Not Always Easy

By Abigail Betzold

Well, we're in November, does that mean in things might start getting back to normal in two months? This year has many of us struggling to find things to be thankful for, however sitting with our bright youth at Wednesday night bible study reminds me that every situation in our lives is simply temporary, and that we can be thankful that there's another chapter coming.

Some days we may have a harder time seeing the light at the end of the tunnel but we need to remind ourselves on a daily basis that God is with us even in the darkest of times. Days, weeks, and years like this one are sometimes here to help us grow stronger in ourselves and our faith. But how do we keep ourselves going when we just want to give up and give in? Gratitude for everything is my answer.

Years ago I was listening to a sermon, I'm guessing it was around Thanksgiving, and it was brought up that we're always asking God for things, we ask for healing, help, patience, and answers but do we remember to thank him for all the things we have? Since that day I remember I started making a point to write down things I'm thankful for on my pastoral prayers, and praying more often in a thankful mindset. Sometimes it's for the big things like family, friends, and my health. Other times I say thanks for the little things like a beautiful day or just having a peaceful mind for an hour. That's what I'd like to encourage us all to do this month and really as often as possible. When something good happens, stop for just a few seconds to say, "thank you God".

Now, for my insert about cows, this last month we had a brand new red & white Holstein heifer calf born, she's absolutely beautiful and in her I see her mom, and her grandma. What does this have to do with being thankful? Well, the cow that was her grandma passed away almost exactly one year before this calf was born, and she was one of my favorite cows on the farm, this calf also happened to be born on the birthday of a loved one who passed away a few years ago, so without much thought I suggested

we name her Angel. That morning when I fed her I had the simple thought "Thank you God for this small wonder, for this moment to smile". Not only will it be that morning she was born but it will be every day I see her and watch her grow that I will have a smile brought to me by a life God gave to me, animals are all God's creatures and I am so



ANGEL

blessed to see them every day at work.

I hope each one of you can find a simple reason today and every day to smile, and to say thanks. Even if it is just being thankful that a rough patch will ultimately only be temporary. I also want to encourage you all to be the reason someone else may be thankful or may smile today. Happy Thanksgiving!

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this
day for giving thanks, mindful of
your many gifts.
For each one, we are grateful.
For each one, we are blessed.
For each one we are opened to the
abundance of your love.
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a
reminder to be generous with others,
as you are with us.
We praise you.
We rejoice in you.
We give you thanks.
Amen.



Council Meeting Minutes for October 13th, 2020

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

Pastor Garth opened the meeting in prayer at 6:05pm.

Chad motioned to approved the September council minutes and Charlotte 2nd, motion passed.

Reports from Committees Included the Following:

Treasurer Report from Virginia: We are still below budget overall but in a similar income for year-to-date as previous years which is below our income. Chad motioned to accept the report, Barry 2nd, motion passed.

Clerk Report from Sandy: We had no changes this month, membership remains at 170.

Youth Director Report from Charlotte: Youth group is back in full swing, ranging between 10-20 kids each week, they continue to help with Ruby's Pantry every month, and confirmation will start on October 18th.

Trustees Report from Chad: The trustees have worked on reviewing the budget, they also are working on fixing the grease trap for the main kitchen sink, this will hopefully be back up by the end of the month.

Board of Christian Education Report from Charlotte: When church moves back inside we will resume Sunday School, the curriculum will be the same for in person class as well as being sent home for families who would prefer to be virtual.

Diaconate Report from Barry: Nyla is working with Rae to re-establish phone contacts as COVID continues to keep everyone in touch. They have been ushering and helping set-up outdoors but will need more volunteers as we move in.

Congregational Giving Report from Abby: Stewardship month of October is underway to highlight ways to give both of time and financially, we are continuing to work on a pledge program for 2021.

Missions & Social Concerns from Shanon: Have not met recently with COVID

Pastor's Report from Pastor Garth: There will a community Thanksgiving service via video that we will participate in, First Lutheran will be doing the editing. Confirmation is starting this month with a new curriculum, it will be six weeks in the fall and another six weeks in the spring. He is involved in the Damascus project workshop which focuses on changes. He is actively working on making phone connections with those in need, please contact him with any special needs or prayers. We will start getting together in small groups via Zoom and some in person to discuss ideas for the future of our congregation.

We reviewed the monthly calendar and made changes as necessary, this included discussion of needing more adult volunteers at Ruby's Pantry as well as talking about mission team lefse making which will be sold by sign-up only.

Old Business: We reviewed the draft of the 2021 budget, overall we would see a 4% increase from this year's budget, which would include raises for our secretary and youth director as well as a few other line items. We may add some additional expenses in upgrading audio & video technologies in the sanctuary for recording the service. Chad will be looking into this.

New Business: Pastor Garth spoke about some topics to start thinking about our future, including looking at Mission Insight that focuses on the demographics of our congregation, as well as asking what we consider our top five identity markers are of the church.

Much discussion was had on how to and when we would move inside for Sunday worship. Ultimately Chad motioned that we would resume indoor Sunday services starting October 18th with a mask mandate and social distancing, we will have room for a maximum of 30 people in the sanctuary and 10 in the balcony with optional overflow of 20 people to watch it streamed in the fellowship hall. Charlotte 2nd and the motion was passed.

Barry motioned that if we are notified that we have one positive case of COVID within any church function we will shut down again. Virginia 2nd, motion was passed.

Our next council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10th at 6pm.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Chad and 2nd by Virginia, motion passed, adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Abby Betzold, Congregational Giving

