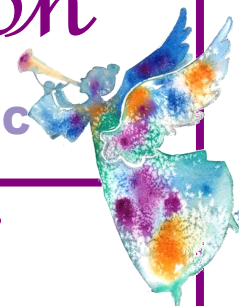




Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



January

PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer

**WE LOOK BACK
& THANK GOD.
WE LOOK
FORWARD
& TRUST GOD.**



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Please read this verse from Romans 3:23 **"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."**

For this month I would like to theologize about our New Year's resolutions. Keeping the above scripture in mind, ponder these facts: 1) Only about 50% of Americans make New Year's Resolutions; 2) Only about 10% of that group keep their resolutions for more than a few months; 3) That means that about only 5% of Americans make and keep a New Year's Resolution for more than a few months.

Oh my gosh, you say. Why do we so miserably fail at this? Well... look above at Romans 3:23 for a possible answer. Sin is that state we are born into. We can neither "will" ourselves into sin, nor can we "will" ourselves out of sin. It is a state of existence. If only 5 % of us make and fail at resolutions, the rest of the 95% of us are "doomed" even before we begin! So sad.

So for the resolute resolution makers here is some wisdom from commerce and industry for the "resolute" resolution makers in our midst. Be **SMART**, (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound)

Now back to that "sin" thing. Since we cannot "will" ourselves into sin, nor can we "will" ourselves out of sin, the conclusion is that we

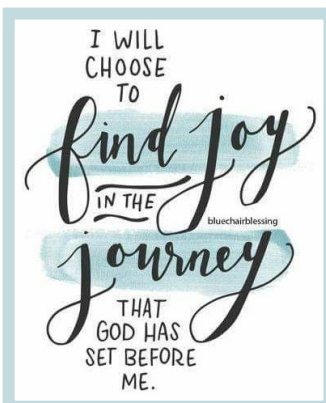
need a Savior. We have one, that is Jesus of Nazareth, the child who has come to save us all. Flash ahead to Easter time, the Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection. Each of these elements show/prove that Jesus is truly God's son, the One sent to save us all. Jesus is the remedy for our sin.

(1Jn 2:2 NRSV and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.)

Jesus can do for us what we cannot. Jesus has satisfied God's demand for punishment for sin, our sin through his death upon the cross. Jesus makes possible for us what we find, for ourselves, impossible. With ourselves,...we can't. With Jesus, we can!

Luk 1:37 NLT "For nothing is impossible with God."

So... please do make your **SMART** New Year's Resolutions. It cannot hurt (that much). But be merciful to yourselves knowing that by our power we are apt to fail. This is ok, for we are not the beginning, nor the middle, nor the end of life here on earth. Sure, we have our roles to play, but the Lord Jesus, The Redeemer, is our **SMART** resolution. Jesus is Sacrificial, Martyr, Atoning, Righteous, and Triumphant. Truly Jesus is our **SMART** sacrifice, our ultimate resolution and he is our Savior. Amen!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January Baby

January babies are hard-working and know how to get their job done! They are neat, organized and serious when needed, which makes them great leaders in the business world. While they can be critical, they are also sensitive and have a hard time expressing their emotions. They can be hard to please. Babies born in January tend to express love and have deep emotions.

1/03 Henry Bowen	01/10 Zeke Eugene Warner
01/05 Kory Hill	01/12 Kathy Picotte
01/05 Alek Betzold	01/14 Ozzie Warner
01/07 Lindy Olson	01/17 Rooney Adele Warner
01/07 Nyla Roettger	01/21 Donovan Maukstad
01/07 Jacob Anderson	01/23 Jayanna Mahler
01/08 Essie Whitehead	01/24 Connor Satterlund
01/08 Darlene Sattler	01/26 Mitchell Larson
01/09 Debra Strodthoff	01/26 Charlie Harris

JANUARY'S BIRTHSTONE IS THE GARNET

The name "garnet" is derived from the Latin "granatum" meaning "pomegranate" because the crystals resemble the red color and seed-like form of this fruit. Most people think of the garnet as a red gemstone, but in fact, it exists in all kinds of colors, such as black, many

shades of red and green, or even colorless. The garnet's variety of colors comes from metals such as manganese, iron, calcium, and aluminum. Some varieties even contain mineral fibers that produce the illusion of a four- or six-rayed star within the stone. Green

garnets are most highly prized but are very rare. Emerald green and colorless stones are highly valued, followed by pure red garnets.



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



from your YOUTH MINISTER

WEDNESDAYS:

January 8th: Homework & Hangout, Family Dinner, and QPR Guest Speaker. Our evening will conclude at 8:15pm

January 15th: Homework & Hangout, WOW, Family Dinner, Youth Group. Our evening will conclude at 7:30 pm.

January 22nd: Homework & Hangout, WOW, Family Dinner, Youth Group. Our evening will conclude at 7:30 pm.

January 29th : Homework & hangout, Family Dinner, Souper Bowl of Caring Kick-Off Football Game and Tailgating Party. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Amery Food Pantry. Our evening will conclude at 7:30 pm.

January 11th: Ruby's Pantry Service & Fun day. Meet at Congo Church at 7:30am to help serve. Following clean-up and lunch we will watch the movie Overcomer. Parent pick-up time is 3pm.



**Sunday,
January 19:**
Mentor-mentee lunch and bowling event following our 10 am worship service.



January 15th:
Camp Wapo registrations begin.



Monday January 20: No School - youth group day of service. Helping at Northwood's Homeless Shelter. Meet at Congo Church at 8am.



Juli Swanson and her son, Christopher Hammer for provided an incredible, once in a lifetime dining experience for our youth group. Christopher is the executive Chef at the Depot Restaurant in downtown Minneapolis.

Menu:

Appetizers:

Blue Cheese Crostini with Poached Pear and Foxberry Jam
Tomato Tartare in a Cucumber Cup
Bacon-Parmes en Crème Fraiche
Pinchos
Morunos
Mango Ketchu



Salad:

Mixed Greens with
Mulling Spiced Roasted Pumpkin Toasted Gingerbread
Croutons
Dried Cranberries and
Maple Vinaigrette

Entree:



Cinnamon Spiced Ribeye
Cap Steak with
Sage Bordelaise
Paired with
Garlic and Herb Roasted
Shrimp with Lemon
Beurre Blanc,
Fingerling Potatoes
Asparagus and Roasted
Mushrooms



Dessert:

Flourless Chocolate and Peppermint Candy Cane Trifle



Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

EVENTS

January 5th Installation Sunday.

Our newly elected and re-elected committee members and officers will be installed during the Sunday worship service. Please plan to show your support by attending the installation service.

FAMILY TABLE

Please join us at the Congo Family Table on Wednesday, January 15th at 11:30 am
Call Rae 715-268-7390, by Sunday, January 12 to make your reservations.
ALL ARE WELCOME

Free Will Donation



THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS:



WISE MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS STILL SEEK HIM.

BIBLE STUDIES:

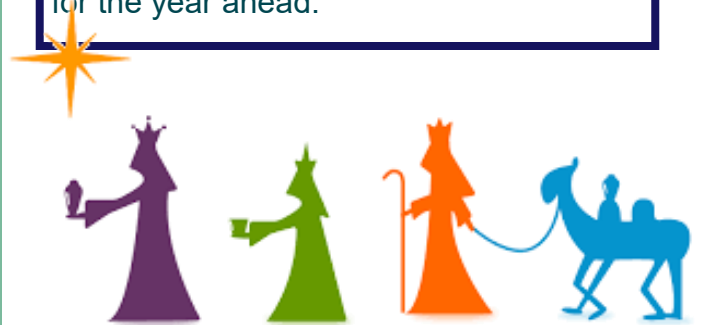
Men's Bible Study
Tuesdays, 6:30 am
In Congo Conference Room

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

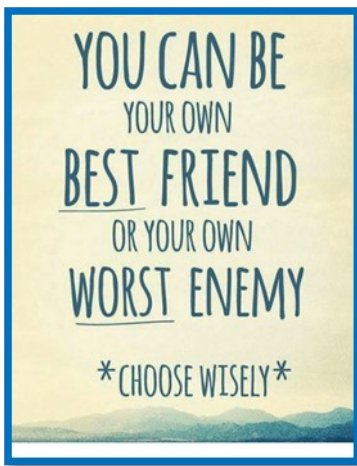
A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.



The New Year: A Kinder, Gentler Resolution

As we start the New Year, many of us, myself included, make *New Year's Resolutions*. Sometimes these Resolutions are kept to ourselves, sometimes shared with others. Anyway you approach it, it's exciting to think of starting the year with a clean slate to live life afresh and anew. It is thought provoking to look to the new year with inspirations for new possibilities and the hopes of being the very best people we can be. Resolutions generally revolve around health habits: *"I've got to lose weight."* *"I need to exercise more."* *"I must quit smoking."* The list goes on and on. I don't deny the importance of healthy habits as these, but sometimes the importance of our mental health can be overshadowed by the determination of fulfilling resolutions exclusively about our physical well-being. Let's not forget the importance of our mental well-being. The mental and the physical go hand in hand, but sometimes that is forgotten. Sometimes we forget to take good care of our psychological self: to be gentle with ourselves. Frequently we are our own worst critic, when it is beneficial to remember that ***we can be our own best friend.***



In the past I have made many resolutions, most of them involving exercising more and losing weight. Some of them were met with a moderate amount of success but if I did not maintain the status of what I originally set out to do, then I ended up feeling as if I had "failed". Even those years that I generally had overall improved health, again our own worst critic kicks in and I am back to square one: feeling that I had not truly completed the resolution. The year that I made a resolution dealing with mental health and growth was the time I really felt a sense of accomplishment. I read the Holy Bible cover to cover. It helped my faith grow, was educational and really made me feel that I had set out to do something and *did it!* I guess when resolving to do something in the new year it is wise to set obtainable goals and having the tenacity to reach them. *Easier said than done.* Yet I would like to encourage people to set goals that include taking care of your mental well-being and resolutions that help you grow as a person. Education and the growth of one's mind can never be taken away from you...it becomes a part of you. Whereas a resolution to

"exercise more" can be lost or obscured in trying to define in your own mind what you mean by "more".

I would like to suggest that we remember to include in our resolution making ones that would improve our outlook on life and thereby improving our psyche. How about taking a class at your local college or adult education on a topic that intrigues you? When reading, try a new author or a whole new genre other than what you normally read. If you have never tried a Bible study class, or another class through our church, I would recommend giving that a try. It's a great way to grow your faith, your knowledge and also share fellowship with others. Just make a vow to start something new in the New Year. I'm not trying to diminish the importance of healthier habits. I'm just lifting up the importance of tending to our mental health as well as the physical.

The betterment of our physical bodies is an admirable goal, let's just not forget our mental health as well! Be good & Be Gentle to Ourselves!

Happy New Year everyone and a Joyous & Blessed 2020! Julie E. Smith

WHAT IS EPIPHANY



is a ring-shaped roll filled with cream or chocolate and decorated with paper crowns.

In Mexico, Epiphany is known as the day of the Three Kings or El Día de los Reyes. Mexicans used to eat Rosca de Reyes, a special cake with a hidden figure of baby Jesus inside. Whoever finds the figure inside will be the godparent of Jesus that year.

Carol singing known as Janeiras (January song) is a tradition in Portugal.

In addition, Belgian children do door-to-door singing while wearing costumes like the three kings.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek term “epiphainein”, which means manifestation or revelation. Eastern Christians also call it Theophany, which means manifestation of God.

According to the teachings of the Catholic Church, Epiphany serves as the manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah or Saviour of the World. The magi’s visit to Jerusalem was to pay homage to the King of the Jews and they were guided by the star of Bethlehem.

The Bible contains no record of the origins of the three kings. It was believed that they were kings from Yemen since it was ruled by Jews. The term magi comes from the old Persian word “magupati”, which refers to the title given to priests of the ancient religion, Zoroastrianism. They were men of great knowledge.

Legends designated names for the magis. First, Gaspar, the King of Sheba who wore a green cloak and crown with green jewels. He brought frankincense to Jesus. Second, Melchior, the one with long, white hair who wore a gold cloak. He was the King of Arabia who brought gold to Jesus. Third, Balthazar, the King of Tars and Egypt who wore a black cloak, brought the gift of myrrh. Since the end of the second century, Epiphany was celebrated even prior to the establishment of the Christmas holiday.

It is mainly celebrated by Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians.

In Spain, the Festival of the Three Kings also known as ‘Fiesta de los Tres Reyes Magos’ is one of the important festivals for Catholic children. This is a time for them to receive gifts. In addition, local bakers make a special pastry called roscon. It

In Ireland, Epiphany becomes the Women’s Christmas or Nollaig na mBan in **which women get the day off while men do all the work.** While in the Philippines, it is known as Christmas of the Elderly.

The baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist at the Jordan River is also celebrated during the eighth day of Epiphany.

John the Baptist was Jesus’ second cousin because Mary was Elizabeth’s first cousin (mother of John). The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches focus on the visitation of the three kings while the Eastern Orthodox church commemorates Jesus’ baptism.



Council Meeting: Dec.10, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Barry Schaefer, Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, 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 6:05 pm.

The council minutes from November were voted on and approved.

TREASURER: Virginia said that the written Treasurer's Report will not be presented to the Council this month; several items on the report need to first be reviewed and approved by the Trustees. The items will be discussed and presented in next month's report.

CLERK: Sandy reported that there was one member death this month, and also Pastor Barry officiated at one non-member funeral this month. We welcomed 7 new members in a new membership service on November 17. Sandy stated that the current membership role is at 173.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Not present.

YOUTH: Char presented her Youth Director Report to the Council. She highlighted some of the successful activities for November. In anticipation of the upcoming Christmas season, the Youth participating in many Holiday activities including: food donations, Christmas ornaments and Christmas cards for homebound friends, caroling and also participating in the Amery Parade of Lights.

TRUSTEES: Chad presented several items that are currently being discussed by the Trustees. He said that new (energy-efficient!) LED lighting has been added to several areas of the church. The trustees are continuing their work on upgrades to the church security systems and are in the process of analyzing several quotes for both camera systems and door locks. The Trustees are also re-considering building usage fees and are currently working to establish guidelines for such.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Char stated that the children in Sunday School are looking forward to presenting the Children's Christmas Program in worship on 12/15. Then their Christmas Parties will be held the following Sunday on 12/22.

DIACONATE: Not Present.

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL GIVING: Abby said her committee is hoping to continue the "Stewardship Minutes" talks about once a month and/or articles in the Clarion about Stewardship.

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Not Present

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Barry presented his November report. He said that in addition to his usual Bible Studies (about 15 each month!) his pastoral duties kept him quite busy this month. He had two funerals and a new member service helped us welcome 7 new members into the congregation.

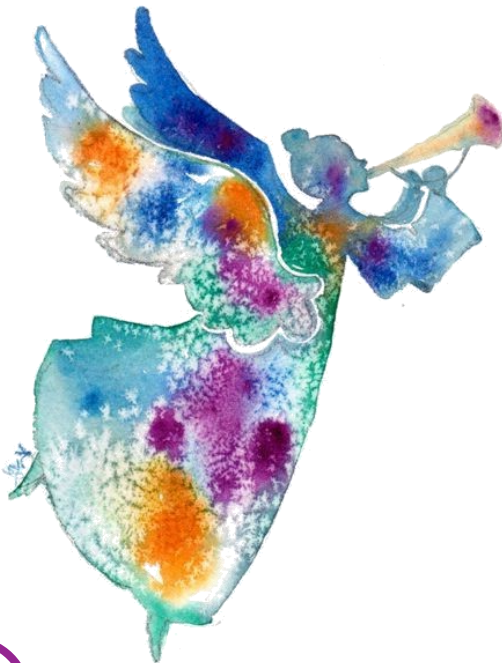
CALENDAR REVIEW: Several additions and corrects were made to the January calendar.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: Chad said that Dick Wooldridge has been nominated and agreed to serve as Financial Secretary. Chad made a motion to approve this nomination. Julie seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary



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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2013

YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A BLANKET?

Pastor's Report for NOVEMBER 2019

I AREAS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

This month there were a full compliment of pastoral duties (see Funerals, New Members and Baptisms below)

Our church was represented rather well in the Amery Community Holiday lighting parade. Our Youth were spectacular. Our church was well represented at the Amery Fire Department Chili Feed (in conjunction with Amery lighting parade) The Cincinnati Style Chili that I make is gathering "quite the cult following".

It amazes me (very positively) that I am involved with 15 or more bible studies each month. This is a ministry which I hope will keep on producing dividends in the future.

Some of our distant visits have lessened, but there are some that keep the calendar, as well as the miles full.

FUNERALS

Howard Stindle, November 1, 2019

Donald Schuldt, November 12, 2019

NEW MEMBERS November 17, 2019

Jessica Stoeklin

Jon Stoeklin

Marion Elmer

Tom Dusek

Brittany Benner

Robert Holms

Miki Jo Johnson

BAPTISM

Miki Jo Johnson on November 16, 2019

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(See Genesis 3)

12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU
MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 MT20 remodeling New Year's Day - Office Closed No School or Youth Group	2 9:30 AM Local Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management	3 8:30 AM Distant Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open	4 8:00 AM MT20 Remodeling
5 9:30 AM Christian Education Meeting 10:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Worship/Installation of New Committee Members and Officers 11:15 AM Diaconate Mtg. 11:15 AM Trustee Meeting	6 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	7 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study	8 Newsletter Submission Deadline 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM QPR Guest Speaker	9 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management	10 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open	11 6:00 AM Food Set- Up 7:00 AM Ruby's Pantry Service & Fun day. 7:30 AM Ruby's Pantry Registration Begins 9:00 AM Ruby's Pantry Registration Closes and Food Distribution Begins
12 Sunday School after Children's Moment 8:30 AM MT20 Meeting 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Take down Christmas Decorations	13 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	14 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Council Meeting	15 Camp Wapo Registration Begins 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 11:30 AM Family Table Meal 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM WOW 6:45 PM Youth Group	16 8:15 AM Ministerium 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM CIA Board 7:00 PM Money Management	17 Gould Wedding - Time to be Determined 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:00 PM Dusek Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner	18 2:00 PM Dusek Wedding
19 Sunday School after Children's Moment 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Confirmation Mentor/Mentee Pizza & Bowling 11:15 AM Congregational Giving Mtg.	20 8:30 AM Youth Service & Fun Day 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	21 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study	22 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM WOW 6:45 PM Youth Group	23 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management	24 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open	25
26 Sunday School after Children's Moment 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.	27 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study	29 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 5:45 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Souper Bowl of Caring	30 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management	31 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open	



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld

YOU NEEDN'T REALLY BOTHER WITH THOSE
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ANYMORE

Happy
New Year!