Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



| NSIDE | THIS | ISSUE: |
|--------------|-------------|--------|
| | | Page # |

| Birthdays | .2 |
|-------------------|----|
| Members/Friends | |
| Youth | 3 |
| Events | 4 |
| St. Patrick's Day | 6 |
| Nyla Anderson * | |
| Silent Servant | 7 |
| Calendar | 8 |
| | |



PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer

Hey All welcome to this edition of the Pastor's Point.

I would not have to work hard to convince you that we live in a "me" generation and in a "me culture". People make decisions based on these two questions; "How will this affect me?", or "What will this cost me?" I understand their way of thinking.

You know the phrase, "Penny wise and pound foolish." I take this to mean that often times we can spend less on an inferior product (penny wise) but only too soon find out that our recent purchase does not last, and ultimately we have received a "poor value", but we got it at a bargain price!

What does it cost us to not obey God? Yes our tithes cost us money. Yes our weekly attendance at worship costs us "valuable" weekend time. Yes that service project takes event more time from our busy schedules. But in the big picture, what is the ultimate cost to us in terms of our spiritual health, our relationship with God, and possibly our ability to spend eternity with God?+

Into this quandary comes the prophet Joel. Hear now from him in these following verses.

Joel 2:12-15 ESV "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; (13) and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious

and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. (14) Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? (15) Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

What does it cost us to not "return to the Lord?" What does our sin and separation cost us in terms of our relationship with God, with each other, and with our society?

In this Lenten season, (Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019,) we can begin to reflect upon these costs. Life is indeed going to cost you something! There's no escape from this. I suggest that you carefully consider which cost you intend to pay.

So, Lent is more than a season in which we give up coffee, candy or potato chips. If we are going to make a meaningful sacrifice, it really needs to cost us something. How about giving up a long held opinion, and actually



listen in conversations? How about giving up a racist bias you may have towards another? How about giving up... and let God direct us?!!

| 03/01 | Claire Ash | 03/18 | Ruth Shafer |
|-------|------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 03/01 | Holly Scott | 03/18 | Beth Mares |
| 03/03 | Breanna Burstad | 03/20 | Danielle Edin |
| 03/03 | Suzanne Kvam | 03/20 | Mark Kopp |
| 03/03 | Nicholas Silvis | 03/22 | Caiden Demar |
| 03/05 | Janet Sylvester | 03/22 | Lilah Anderson |
| 03/06 | Sandy Welk | 03/23 | John Jackson |
| 03/10 | Austin Selvig | 03/24 | Jada Dunham |
| 03/12 | Nyla Anderson | 03/25 | Alexis Rondeau |
| 03/13 | Kylie Burch | 03/25 | Mike Kohlrusch |
| 03/13 | Andrea Pitchford | 03/27 | Ricky Maukstad |
| 03/14 | Charlie Russo | 03/28 | Jon Springer |
| 03/17 | Geraldine Smith | 03/28/ | 68 Kevin Standaert |



he name of March comes from Latin Martius, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named for Mars, the Roman god of war who was also regarded as a quardian of agriculture and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus. observances in the **His month Martius** was the beginning of

the season for both farming and warfare, and the festivals held in his honor during the month were mirrored by others in October, when the season for these activities came to a close. **Martius remained the** first month of the Roman calendar year perhaps as late as 153 BC, and several religious first half of the month were originally new vear's celebrations. Even in late antiquity, **Roman mosaics** picturing the months sometimes still placed March first.

MEMBERS AND FRIFNDS

Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street Amery, WI 54001 (715) 268-7107 Kathy Picotte Ruth Ream Willow Ridge

400 Deronda Street Amery, WI 54001

(715) 268-8171 Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane

715.268.9949 Beth Sorensen Nyla Roettger Water's Edge 410 Harriman Ave. Amery, WI 54001

Betty Jansen

Evergreen Village

611 Harriman Avenue (715) 268-6640 Svlvia Utter 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 **Dorothy Mueller** Jeanne Murphy **Evelvn Monteith** Halverson Ted Elmer Ginny Nelson

YOUTH MINIS ER

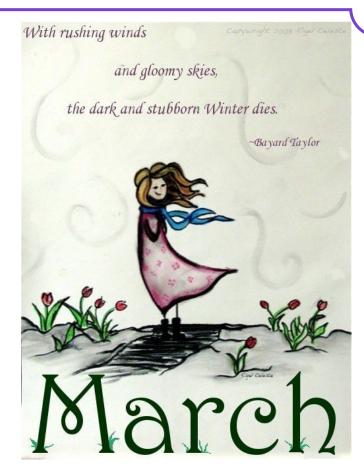
Wednesdays

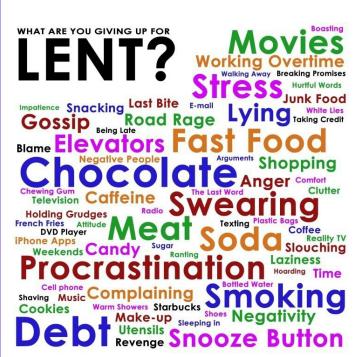
March 6 - H&H, Soup Supper and Ash Wednesday

March 13 - Congo Spring Break Youth Gathering 2pm, Soup Supper & Lenten Worship

March 20 - H&H, Soup Supper & Lenten Worship

March 27 - H&H, rehearsal for Youth Sonrise Service, Soup Supper & Lenten Worship

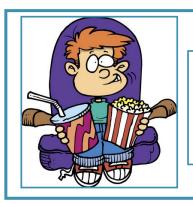




Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12 715.338.6929 (cell) Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



March 9 - Service & Fun Day, Ruby's Pantry and afternoon at the movies

March 15-16

30 Hour Famine at Luther Point Bible Camp

March 31

I Love My Church - luncheon celebration following worship

USHERS/GREETERS/COFFEE HOSTS 2019 SCHEDULE

January, Trustees February, Diaconate March, Mission Team April, Missions & Social Concerns May, Primetimers
June, Congregational Giving
July, Christian Education
August, To be Determined
September, Women of Faith

October, Youth November, Mission Team December, To Be Determined

FAMILY TABLE

Please join us at the Congo Family Table on Wednesday, March 20 at 11:30 am for our traditional March corned beef and cabbage dinner.

Call Rae, the Church Lady, 715-268-7390, by Sunday, March 17 to make your reservations.

> ALL ARE WELCOME Free Will Donation

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



DEAR CRABBY - An online Christian Advice Service by Velma Crabtree offering 'grace free' blunt advice that could make Baptists blush, and Catholics cringe.



Wednesday, March 6th is the beginning of Lent and the first of our Soup Suppers. Please join us at 6:00 pm and stay for the Lenten service at 6:30 pm.



SOUP SUPPER HOST SCHEDULE

- March 06 Diaconate and Missions and Social Concerns
- March 13 Mission Team
- March 20 Trustees and Congregational Giving
- March 27 Primetimers and Church Officers
- **April 03 Christian Education and Youth Group**
- **April** 10 Women's Fellowship and Bible Study



Amery Congregational The Congo Church"

invites you to our

Second Annual Walleye Fry

Friday March 8th Serving from 4:30 to 7:00



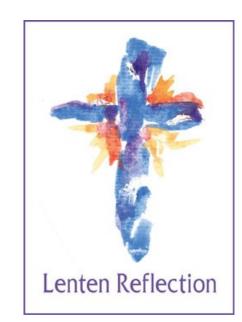
8-10 oz. Walleye **Baked Potato** Coleslaw Mixed Vegetable Dessert Coffee, Milk, Water

No tickets or Reservations Necessary

Kids Meal \$5

Mac 'n Cheese Mixed Vegetable Dessert Milk, Water





Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

TUESDAY - SERVE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY DANCAKES DAY



Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven' meaning to go to confession to say sorry for the wrong things you've done. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so in those days were eggs people went to confessions on the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday combine them with some and then Shrove Tuesday. flour and make pancakes! The other name for this

day, Pancake Day, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent. so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses and milk. A very simple recipe to use up these ingredients was to

The Truth Behind "In Like A Lion, Out Like a Lamb"

by Farmers' Almanac Staff | Posted In: Weather

You may be familiar with this bit of folklore about March: If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.

Is there any truth to this saying? Weather folklore sayings are as colorful as our imagination. While many sayings are based on careful observations and turn out to be accurate, others are merely rhymes or beliefs of the people who came before us.

Ancestral Beliefs—Balance

Those people often believed that bad spirits could affect the weather adversely, so they were cautious as to what they did or did not do in certain situations. Those beliefs often included ideas that there should be a balance in weather and life. So, if a month came in bad (roaring like a lion), it should go out good and calm (docile, like a lamb).

With March being such a changeable month, in which we can see warm spring-like



temperatures or late-season snowstorms, you can understand how this saying might hold true in some instances. We can only hope that if March starts off stormy it will end on a calm note, but the key word is hope. However, this saying seems to be simply a rhyme rather than a true weather predictor.

More March Weather Lore

Some other March-related weather lore includes:

A dry March and a wet May? Fill barns and bays with corn and hay. As it rains in March, so it rains in June.

March winds and April showers? Bring forth May flowers.

So many mists in March you see, so many frosts in May will be.

Is't on St. Joseph's day (19th) clear, So follows a fertile year; Is't on St. Mary's (25th) bright and clear, Fertile is said to be the year.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day 2019 occurs on Sunday, March 17, in observance of the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. What began as a religious feast day in the 17th century has evolved into a variety of festivals across the globe celebrating Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, and a whole lot of green.

Was St. Patrick Irish?

The Irish have a special claim over St. Patrick's Day, even though the holiday has come to be celebrated by people of all backgrounds and religions. But was the man of the hour, St. Patrick, even Irish? Long story short, no.

Originally born under the name Maewyn Succat around 386 A.D., St. Patrick belonged to a wealthy family. His father was a deacon, but the future saint wasn't a religious child. It wasn't until he was kidnapped at age 16 and taken to Ireland (where he was forced to work

as shepherd for Irish invaders) that he found his faith. Throughout his time in captivity he became a devout Christian, and was encouraged by a voice he believed to be God's to escape from his captors. After walking for hundreds of miles and returning to England, Patrick's religious beliefs were still intact. So much so that he received another, otherworldly vision (this time from an angel) telling him to return to the country in which he'd been held captive and spread the word of the Bible. He underwent missionary training for the next 15 years, then set off on a return trip to Ireland.

Although not the first person to introduce Christianity to the Irish, he converted many Irish natives from paganism. He spread his religion throughout the country over the next 40 years, respecting the culture of the Irish along the way.

SILENT SERVANTS



hen I say Nyla
Anderson is a class
act, you might assume I am
thinking of Nyla "treading the
boards" in the 6 Congo
Dinner Theater presentations
in which Nyla has acted.
However, I really mean Nyla

is **totally** a class act, whether working with our youth, serving on committees, or building houses on one of the 14 Mission Team trips in which she has participated.

On Wednesday evenings, Nyla partners with Dave Bowman leading lessons for the high school group. Before the lessons begin, Nyla is charged with "crowd control" which she describes as "a bit overwhelming at times." Going further back, Nyla was also a Sunday school teacher while her own kids were attending. I might mention that her "kids", Sara and Garrison are now 31 and 25, respectively.

Nyla, has always been an advocate of the Congo Block Parties, doing her part serving on the committees, working at the event and, as she puts it, "Offering a friendly face to the community." Nyla has also been the face of Christ at Ruby's Pantry and at the Fall Festival food booth fundraisers.

As your Church Lady, I am always encouraging our members to visit the UCC website, ucc.org, to see what the UCC church believes and the many ways they advocate for social justice. Nyla is one who actually does go to the UCC site where she says she finds a wealth of information and guidance. Nyla shares the UCC philosophy that, as Christians, we need to, "advocate for those who are in need, to pursue efforts to protect the vulnerable and to be a good steward of protecting our environment" As Jeff Bylander put it, "Nyla is very passionate and dedicated to many humanitarian causes and beliefs. I believe her proudest accomplishment is instilling that lifestyle and passion in her children." Abby Betzold added her thoughts; "She is someone who finds the light in every situation, a great quality when working with the youth, on the mission trips, and laughing off mess-ups during dinner theater practices." (I even coerced her into this year's dinner theater because I couldn't imagine doing it without her)."

Thank you, Nyla, for your dedication to the church, your church family, the community, the future of our children and the world they will inherit, and for your Christian heart.

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. Learn more about this inspiring movement in which the UCC became the driving organizational force.

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. Read about this exciting undertaking.

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?

that.

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. Read more about this important part of our work together.

- 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. Read the Pollinator blog and sign-up for its newsletter.
- 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. Learn about the six steps for doing just

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 24 Sunday School after Children's Moment 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Missions & Social Concerns Mtg. | 25 9:30 AM Senior Dining 9:30 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 26 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Sentor Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study | 27 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 4:30 PM Gass 6:00 PM FUEL at Deconda Lutheran Church | 28 10:00 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management | 10 AM Distant Communions 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open | 2 |
| 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 5 9:30 Fig. 1 - remind friends that Daylight Saving starts next Sunday 3:30 AM Senior Dining 9:30 AM Constant Education Meeting 10:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Communion 7:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Diaconate Mtg. 11:15 | 4300 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 5 Showe Tuesday 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 Office Study | 6 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 6:30 PM Lenten Service | 9:30 AM Local Communions 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:90 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management | 9.00 9.00 MP pastoral Leaders 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 4:30 PM Walleye Dinner | 9 800 AM Food Sat-Up 8:00 AM Youth Service and Eunday 9:00 AM Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution |
| 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday School after Children's Moment 8:30 AM MT 19 Meeting 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Trustee Meeting | 11 9:30 AM Senior Dining 9:30 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 12 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Sentor Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Council Meeting | 13 Newsletter Submission Deadline 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs 10:00 AM Office Open 2:00 PM Youth Gathering 6:00 PM South Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service | 14 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management | 15 Camp 9:00 AM Pastoral Leaders 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open | 16 30 Hour Famine at Luther Point Bible Camp |
| 17 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Congregational Giving Mtg 11:15 AM Cribbage & Games after Worship | 18 Begin one Great Hour of Sharing Promotion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 19 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Sible Study | 20 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 11:30 AM Family Table Meal 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service | 21 8:15 AM Ministerium 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM CJA Board 7:00 PM Money Management | 22 9:00 AM Pastoral Leaders 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open | 23 |
| 24 Sunday School after Children's Moment 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Missions & Social Concerns Mtg. | 25 9:30 AM Senior Dining 0:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 26 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Sentor Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study | 27 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangour/Rehearsal for Youth Sontise, Service 6:30 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lemten Service | 28 10:00 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management | 29 9:00 AM Pastoral Leaders 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open | 30 |
| 31 10:00 AM Worship/Noisy Kettle 11:15 AM I Love My Church Luncheon Celebration | 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 2 9:00 AM Nen's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study | 3 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service | 4 9:30 AM Local Communions 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management | 5 8:30 AM Distant Communions 9:00 AM Pastoral Leaders 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open | ō |