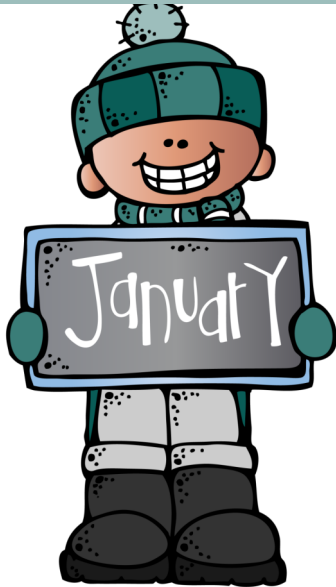


# Congregational Clarion

A M E R Y C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C



## GETTING THE BEST NEW MINISTER MEANS CREATING THE “RIGHT” LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

We want the best minister we can find who matches our needs and prayers for a happy, healthy, and faithful church. And, I believe we have a good chance of making that happen. That’s why our church’s Search Committee is making and taking the time to create a church profile that reflects our true history, present, and calling into God’s Realm on Earth.

Studies have shown that many pastoral mismatches have occurred because the way the search committees have described their church doesn’t jibe with reality. They may have presented the congregation in unrealistic or inaccurate terms, thus attracting candidates who were not appropriate “fits” for the church as it actually was. An honest, true, and ‘right’ profile establishes a foundation that allows us to explore truthfully both our history and our hopes for the future.

And, as you may know, members of our Search Committee are already beginning the process of writing our Local Church Profile. In it they’ll need to include:

Statistics to be gathered (concerning the church and concerning the community);

Information to be gathered (concerning the church and the community);

Interpretive/narrative information to be prepared;

A Leadership Expectation Checklist to be completed by a large group of church members;

References for the church to be identified.

AND, much more

This is why we are calling ALL our parishioners to be a part of helping us create our Local Church Profile. We will be receiving your input via several pathways:

Zoom Focus Groups (4 Wednesdays in January at 6pm- Call Office!)

Questionnaires emailed and snail-mailed (beginning in February)

Phone calls for specific questions  
Larger gatherings when we’re able to spread out outside (according to safe pandemic practices)

By May we’ll probably be ready to share our first draft with the entire congregation to discern whether we believe the content actually reflects who we are and accurately describes the kind of pastor we are seeking.

NOTE: The sooner most parishioners give our input, the sooner we might be able to achieve a first draft and the “right” final version of our Local Church Profile. AND, once the profile is complete and signed by Wisconsin Conference staff, we will publish it online and begin receiving potential pastors’ profiles in return... We’ll be on our way to finding the best pastor for our beloved community.

FINALLY: “If our Local Church Profile accurately reflects our church’s strengths, identity, gifts, and vocation—even as we re discerning what God is calling/claiming us to become in the future—we will never be tempted to seek a pastor to “re-create our past.” Rather, we will come to understand—as a result of our faithful work—that we are engaged in a unique, visionary enterprise. We will seek out a new pastor who is eager to work with God and the congregation discerning a new future together, utilizing the strengths, the spirit, and the gifts of all.” (from UCC Local Church Profile preparation materials)

NOW... LET’S FIND THAT MINISTER!

Yours in Christ’s Love,  
Rev. Garth Schumacher,  
Interim Minister

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God bless this new year in which love overcomes. He is always with us and unfolds great possibilities.



HAPPY NEW YEAR



01/03 Henry Bowen

01/05 Kory Hill

01/05 Alek Betzold

01/07 Lindy Olson

01/07 Nyla Roettger

01/08 Essie Whitehead

01/08 Darlene Sattler

01/09 Debra Strodthoff

01/10 Zeke Eugene Warner

01/14 Ozzie Warner

01/17 Rooney Adele Warner

01/21 Donovan Maukstad

01/24 Connor Satterlund

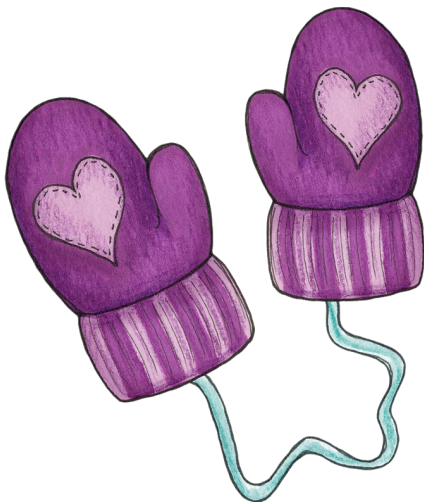
01/26 Mitchell Larson

The traditional January birth flowers are the **carnation** and the **snowdrop**.

**Carnations** are regarded as The Flowers of God and the association harks back to Dianthus, their scientific name which is the contribution of Theophrastus, the Greek botanist. The name is split into the Greek words dios (Zeus) and anthos (flower). Carnations are also symbolic with love and are popular for their lovely fragrance.

**Pink Carnations** are representative of pure emotions and are associated with a Christian tale where they bloomed when Virgin Mary shed tears for Jesus while he bore the cross of crucifixion.

**Snowdrops** Although not as widely recognized as carnations, these plants are also considered as a January birth flower. They give out captivating white, droopy-shaped flowers. Blooming in the winter between January and March, snowdrops are a known symbol of hope and rebirth. They are also called Galanthus.



## MEMBERS AND

### 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

### Christian Community

#### Home

2650 65th Ave  
Osceola, WI 54020  
Evelyn Halverson Rm. 217

### Memory Care

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

### Baldwin Care Center

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

### Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane  
715.268.9949  
Beth Sorensen

from your  
**YOUTH  
 MINISTER**

### Youth Activities

Due to COVID-19, youth group will be meeting virtually each Wednesday at 6pm through Google classroom. Please contact Charlotte Gillen for the password.

When we are allowed we will make certain you are notified.



## YOUTH GROUP NEW YEAR'S

### R<sup>1</sup> E<sup>1</sup> S<sup>1</sup> O<sup>1</sup> L<sup>2</sup> U<sup>2</sup> T<sup>3</sup> I<sup>1</sup> O<sup>1</sup> N<sup>1</sup> S<sup>1</sup>

Lisa Gehl: Make more friends

Kaitlyn Peterson: To build my relationship with God and to learn to love myself for who I am

Megan Meck: To only eat out once a week

Bella Moody: Get closer to God and understand him more

Maren Dodge: Work on my mental health and get myself to a point where I am happier with myself

Sarah Meck: To make someone smile every day

Gabby Moody: To work on my relationship with God

Charlotte Gillen: Reach out to those in need more often

Church Lady: Eat less ice cream and exercise more, or, perhaps, the other way around



### Youth Director Contact Information:

**Charlotte Gillen**

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com





## CONGREGATIONAL FOCUS GROUPS FORMING

Beginning on Wednesday, January 6 at 6pm, Rev. Garth Schumacher will be hosting and moderating 4 consecutive Wednesday focus groups helping us discern "Who we are and Where we want to go in our future." This process will help the pastoral search committee create the Amery Congregational UCC Church Profile that advertises our church to all UCC pastors throughout the world.

We will be limiting each focus group session to 12 people as a way of improving deeper conversation. Therefore, Rae, our "Church Lady" will be taking reservations for each Wednesday session. Our sessions will be on all four Wednesdays of January: 6, 13, 20, 27. So, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AND SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THESE SESSIONS with Rae!



FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE HEARD RAE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCUSSION, LET ME RESTATE..."WHY DON'T THESE DANGED FOCUS GROUPS EVER HAVE GOOD COFFEE?"

## AFTER WORSHIP "COFFEE-TIME" CONVERSATION ON ZOOM!

Rev. Garth has set up a zoom meeting to begin at 11:15am. However, as you'll note in the zoom invitation below, some of you can get in on the conversation as early as 11am... (Garth will still be transitioning from worship and will need at least 15 minutes to prepare for the conversation.) SO... if you've been missing INFORMAL CONVERSATION about life and getting up to date on everyone else, this is the perfect zoom opportunity on Sunday morning.

To join Zoom Meeting, watch your email each Sunday morning for your invitation. Or copy and paste this link into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88621307360?pwd=QlJpOGxGQ3F5TTJvQlglvNG5YdnZHQT09>

## 2021 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Officers

Sheldon Betzold Moderator  
Virginia Ormsby, Treasurer  
Sandy Morris, Clerk  
Julie Smith, Rec. Sec'y  
Richard Wooldridge, Financial Sec'y

### Trustees

Brittany Dusek  
Mary Piasecki  
Chad Leonard  
Dave Bowman  
Scott Smith

### Christian Education

Ashley Emerson  
Beth Leonard  
Emily Russo  
Juli Swanson  
Amanda Warner

### Missions & Social Concerns

Dave Bowman  
Shanon Hayes  
Kate Bevington  
Linda A Lee

### Diaconate

Vonnie Niccum  
Joy Silvis  
Nyla Anderson  
Barry Tulkki  
Chris Anderson  
Cheryl Bowman  
John Mayer

### Congregational Giving

Julie Smith  
Abigail Betzold  
Rae Wooldridge  
Duane Morris



## CHRISTMAS 2020 Poinsettia Tributes



### IN MEMORY OF:

### DONOR

Marietta Wilson Pribnow	
Lorraine O. Pribnow	
Donald Wilson.....	Eugene G. Pribnow
Harvey & Shirley Monson .....	Sherry Monson
Merle Betzold &	
Robert & Joanne Seibel.....	Sheldon & Vicki Betzold
Dear Ones We Have Lost .....	Dennis & Wendy Heiken
Our Parents, Wendell & Cora Scottum and	
Neal & Auva Whitley .....	Bob & Leanne Whitley
My Mom, Opal Burnyeat .....	Shanon Hayes
Walter Utter .....	Sylvia Utter
Howard Halverson & Bob & Jen Monteith .....	Bill & Yvonne Monteith
William H. & Jeanne M. Burman .....	Burman Family

### IN HONOR OF:

### DONOR

Our Family .....	Dennis & Wendy Heiken
Thelma Betzold,	
our Children and Grandchildren .....	Sheldon & Vickie Betzold
Eight Niccum Grandchildren .....	The Niccums
Our Children, Grandchildren &	
Great-grandchildren .....	Rae & Dick Wooldridge
Josephine Elbing Morris &	
Evan & Alexa Brey .....	Tom & Sandy Morris
Our Seven Dear Grandchildren.....	Bob & Leanne Whitley
Our Grandmothers: Thelma & Evelyn.....	Howie & Kelsey Monteith





## Council Meeting: December 8, 2020 (Zoom meeting)

**ATTENDANCE:** Pastor Garth Schumacher, Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, Richard Wooldridge: Financial Secretary, Charlotte Gillen: Youth Director and Christian Education, Barry Tulkki: Diaconate, Chad Leonard: Trustees, Abby Betzold: Congregational Giving, Kate Bevington: Mission and Social Concerns, Rae Wooldridge: Congregational Giving, Julie Smith: Recording Secretary

Pastor Garth opened the meeting with prayer at 6:04 pm.

Barry Tulkki motioned to approve the minutes from the November meeting as published. Abby seconded the motion, it was voted on and approved.

**TREASURER:** Virginia presented the Treasurer's report. She explained that we are currently under budget with income, but also under budget with expenses. At year end we will be experiencing a shortfall. The budget that was approved requires approximately \$17,000 per month to make budget.

The November budget was voted on and approved.

**CLERK:** Sandy said that there are no changes to report this month. The current membership role stands at 168.

**YOUTH:** Char reported that the Youth group was able to have one get-together prior to the recent pandemic shut-down. They assisted with some flyers for the homeless shelter and also enjoyed a pizza party.

**TRUSTEES:** Chad gave an updated report on the completed grease trap system in the kitchen. In addition to completing that work, the kitchen was cleaned thoroughly from top to bottom. Many helpers assisted and were able to make the kitchen spotless. Rae commented that when the County came back to use the kitchen they were amazed at how clean it was and were very appreciative of our efforts. Chad also reported that the Trustees will be meeting this coming up Sunday.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Char reported on the Christian Education program. A virtual Christmas program will be presented on December 20. (on the church's website and the Facebook live feed)

**DIACONATE:** Barry Tulkki reported that a phone tree calling system is currently in place. The calls to members hopefully will help to keep people informed and feel connected with each other.

**CONGREGATIONAL GIVING:** Abby said that the committee has not met this past month, but they hope to meet soon to discuss plans for 2021 and also year end shortfalls.

**MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS:** Kate reported that her committee established a plan to send out cards and notes to people who have not been able to connect with the church via virtual services or Facebook. About 40 cards were recently sent out to shut-ins and/or folks who don't have internet access. Kate stressed that her committee is happy to send cards out, just let them know who needs that connection.

**PASTOR REPORT:** Pastor Garth said he continues to make weekly calls to members, virtual services and virtual Bible studies. He also would like to continue an on-line Zoom coffee fellowship at 11:15 on Sunday mornings.

**OLD BUSINESS:** "Open and Affirming" program was briefly discussed. Also the recording of services was discussed and the options for airing them on local access programming was brought up. Several avenues for accomplishing this will be pursued. Pastor Garth confirmed this would be a great way to reach out to the community.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sheldon reported that Cheryl Bowman has agreed to serve on the Diaconate. It was voted on and approved for Cheryl to be on this committee.

**Sheldon said the next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 pm**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary

