

# Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC

WELCOME  
OCTOBER

## As We Adventure Together By Reverend Garth Schumacher

### THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GREAT QUESTIONS (HINT: We're in an adventure of transformation)

Einstein said, "we cannot solve a problem from a mindset that created the problem."

Many church growth strategies fail to create transformational growth because the problem and the change process are in the same mindset. Transformation requires looking at things differently.

One way to change mindsets is to change the questions we are asking. When stuck, transformational leaders learn how to change the questions rather than simply try different solutions. David Cooperrider, the founder of Appreciative Inquiry found that organizations grow in the direction of the questions they ask. Because we want to grow into an abundant and transformational future, we'll be using Appreciative Inquiry to help us discern where we are and where we want to go as a church. From these questions, we'll have a better idea of the qualities we'll want in our next settled pastor.

For instance, we already know we are a "good" church. We know we have great qualities that might be attractive to future

ministers... so, we'll ask:  
"What do we want more of?"  
rather than asking:  
"What do we want less of?"

Here is another possible change of questions:  
If we are stuck trying to discern a way forward because "God" questions trip us up and are asking:  
"What is God calling us to do?"  
What happens if instead you ask:  
"What is love calling us to do?"  
Is your answer to these questions the same?  
If not, which do you need to change:  
Your perspective of God or  
your perspective of Love?

Changing either perspective is likely to lead to transformation. Transformation was the primary movement of Jesus' ministry... it has been and will continue to be our adventure as well!!  
Go in the peace of love of God,

Rev. Garth Schumacher

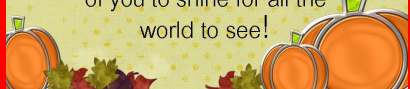


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Being a Christian is like being a **pumpkin**. God **picks you** from the patch, brings you in, and **washes off** all the dirt. Then He cuts the top and **scoops out** all the yucky stuff. He **removes the seeds** of doubt, hate, and greed. Last, He **carves you** a new smiling face and **puts His light inside** of you to shine for all the world to see!



10/01 Jeff Bylander  
 10/01 George Paulzine  
 10/04 Sylvia Schillinger  
 10/04 Gavin Folkert  
 10/05 Julie Smith  
 10/05 Chuck Hoppe  
 10/08 Nancy Anderson  
 10/09 Andrew Stalhiem  
 10/09 Shirley Satterlund  
 10/11 Barry Tulkki  
 10/12 Bill Monteith  
 10/16 Joyce Schaefer  
 10/16 Terry Hill  
 10/20 Donald Kvam



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Your October birth flower  
 is the Marigold

In Victorian times, a gift of marigolds would secretly mean, "My thoughts are with you."

10/20 Sandy Johnson	10/26 Gage Paulzine
10/20 Abby Betzold	10/26 Elizabeth Sigsworth
10/21 Morgan Leonard	10/27 Joshua Goulet
10/21 Walter Richey	10/28 Mary Monson
10/23 Eva Stoeklen	10/31 Brad Anderson
10/25 Ross Smith	10/31 Sylvia Utter

## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street  
 Amery, WI 54001  
 (715) 268-7107  
 Dave Waterrman

### 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  
 Evelyn Monteith Halverson

Sylvia Utter

Bob Holms

### Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane  
 715.268.9949  
 Beth Sorensen  
 Shirley Johnson



## WEDNESDAYS:

**Oct. 28th** - Homework & Hangout after school. Homework & Hangout after school followed by youth group at 5pm and dinner at 5:45pm. After clean up, we will close with worship around the campfire, weather permitting. Please note: our evening will conclude at 7:00pm.

- Youth Group Service Day: Friday
- October 16th. Spend your day off from
- school by helping others! Please meet
- at Congo church at 9am for a morning
- of service helping with the newsletter
- for the Northwoods Homeless
- Shelter. Lunch will be served and
- parent pick up time is 1pm.

Please join us on Sunday October 18th at 3pm at Congo Church for our annual family fun day! Enjoy a hay ride, pumpkin carving and a hot dog roast with your church family and friends. This is a FREE event, cancelled if raining.

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



## Halloween - The day the little children rule the world and make it a better place.

Halloween's origins date back approximately 2,000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). This day marked the end of summer harvest and the beginning of winter - a dark cold time of year often associated with death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31st, they celebrated Samhain, as it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth to create mayhem and mischief.

Around the late 1800's, in America, Halloween became a holiday that was more about community get-togethers than death, ghosts, witches and demons. In the 1900's, the most popular way to celebrate Halloween was with parties featuring seasonal food and festive costumes.

Today, parents are encouraged by schools and churches to take anything too frightening or inappropriate out of Halloween celebrations. In our modern times probably few, if any, people relate Halloween to the festival of Samhain.

For most of our little ones, Halloween is about candy, parties and costumes. My favorite Halloween celebrations are the costume parades for elementary students held at the schools. On this day, our children become little Walter Mittys. In their imaginations, they are not simply wearing costumes - they are what they wear.



The Disney princesses are not wearing cheaply made dresses of thin fabric. No, as they march around the gym, they are true royalty dressed in satin and silk gowns. Their cardboard tiaras transformed by imagination to real crowns bejeweled with rubies and diamonds. All the little doctors are certain they are admired by all for healing the sick and mending broken bones. Even the little witches are about good, rather than evil. Of course, they might turn their parents, teachers or little siblings into frogs, but only for a little while - just a bit of good natured fun. Never doubt that all the girls and boys dressed up as police officers will save us all from the bad guys roaming the neighborhood. The miniature fire fighters dream about rescuing children and

puppies from burning houses.

However, my very favorites are the super heroes. I get a kick out of the kids with their self-important, serious expressions. After all, saving the world from evil villains and aliens from outer space is not to be taken lightly. Yet, as these caped heroes proudly march around the gym, they can't help but steal little peeks to make certain their parents are watching them.

On this one day, these little ones are no more shy, helpless or insecure adolescents. Oh no! They are beautiful, benevolent princesses admired for kindness and wisdom or good witches using magic to make lives storybook perfect. The superheroes are our fearless protectors. All the costumed children have been transformed by the power of imagination from powerless to invincible, from timid to conqueror. They are able to make the world safe to live in.. Because of these brave costumed champions, all of us will be forever secure, safe, loved and provided for. We will all live happily ever after.

What melts my heart is that, in their innocence, these sweet children have no idea of the real evils and injustice they will face in the all too near future. The real battles lie ahead. Yet, for today, we will allow these little ones to believe that the battle of good over evil is theirs to win with just a costume and imagination.

In my own childlike fantasies, I envision what the world could be if it were as easy for adults as it is for the children to become transformed by what heroes we choose to emulate - what costume we choose to wear. What if, simply by dressing like Jesus, we all started thinking and acting like Him - all of us truly being the face and mind of Jesus. Then we would be like our little superheroes determined to make the world safe and just for all. But for now, I will simply enjoy the little ones proudly marching in their Halloween parade. I will trust that many of them will grow up and, in reality, be the champions who will use their talents wisely to make the world a better place for all to live.

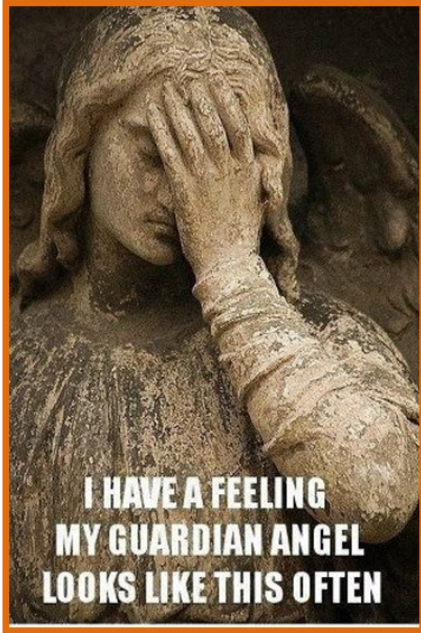


Blessings from your Church Lady



# The “Morning After”

By Julie Etta Smith



In October there is a frenzy of activity, for some folks anyway, about the excitement of Halloween. Parties, candy, costumes and the changing of the leaves show us Mother Nature's most beautiful colors. There is much to be said about this

Having the status of SAINT bestowed on a person is given to those who demonstrate a life of almost perfect virtue and people who are living examples of Christian values. The process by which one becomes a saint is called canonization. This is a lengthy process involving many different steps, but it is important to note that the church has stated that the designation of sainthood only recognizes what God has already done. So in that respect, there is hope for the rest of us lay persons that are not considered “Saints”....*God may be working in each and every one of us....working towards the goal of aligning our lives with what he expects from us and hopes us to achieve in this life time.* We may not be classified in church doctrine as true “SAINTS”, but we can move towards a stronger bond and connection with God, our fellow Christians and learn from those that have gone before us.

This angel meme is one of my favorites....it is a reminder that we may not all be “Saints” or angels, but we all have a connectedness and relationship with God. Besides, this depiction of a frustrated angel always gives me a good laugh, and that brings joy.

season, but sometimes the “morning after” Halloween is sometimes forgotten in the shuffle. So I would like to talk about a sometimes forgotten holiday on our Christian calendar: **All Saints Day**.

So what is All Saints Day about? Many people wonder that, because it is not widely celebrated in the United States. The holiday is traditionally celebrated the day after Halloween, or “all hallows eve”, on November 1. In Europe and many predominately Catholic countries, the holiday is a “big deal”...the kids are out of school and businesses closed. **In the USA... not so much.** Yet maybe we should think about it a little more. The concept for recognizing saints began by the Catholic Church, but also spread to other Protestant faiths. **All Saints Day reminds us of our connectedness as Christians.** It is good to remember and give gratitude to God for the lives and deaths of the Saints who have gone before us. It is important to remember both those who were well-known and those who were not. Perhaps there was someone in your life who may not have been officially bestowed the status of “saint”, but were saints in our eyes and helped us to learn guidelines for living a Christian life.

*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Psalm 30:5.*

For more writing by Julie, visit her blogs at:  
<http://travelingamericablog.com/>  
<http://julieetta1982.blogspot.com/>



Council Meeting Minutes for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 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, Rae Wooldridge : Congregational Giving. Pastor Garth Schumacher

Pastor Garth opened the meeting with prayer,

Chad moved to accept August Council meeting minutes, Charlotte 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Reports from Committees Included the Following

**Treasurer Report from Virginia:** We are below budget in most expense areas and below budget for our income. Reviewed some line item figures. Chad moved to accept the report. Barry 2<sup>nd</sup> and motion passed.

**Clerk Report from Sandy:** We had 1 nonmember death; membership is 170

Youth report from Charlotte: After school youth program has around 12 kids attending. This is down from last school years attendance of 30 kids.

**Diaconate report from Barry:** The deacons have been working hard to help with outdoor service, with parking, set up, and other functions, as well as continuing to reach out to our shut-ins and Wednesday devotionals. As well as discussion on possibly moving church inside.

**Trustee report from Chad:** New flooring is installed in the church office & pastor's office. Furniture will be delivered soon. 2021 budget discussion, grease trap repair plan has been submitted to the WI state agency for review and approval, estimated cost is over \$2,000.00, rental (Ray's) garage is empty & church will no longer use it.

**Christian Education report from Charlotte:** Sunday school on hold until church services move inside. Then plans will be made at that time.

**Congregational Giving report from Rae:** Fall pledge drive is being planned.

**Old business:** Continue discussion on when, how and if church services will move inside. Singing will not be part of indoor service but ways to incorporate music will be planned.

Monthly calendar events and meetings should be set to Rae

**New business:** October's outdoor Fall Family Event will be planned by Charlotte. Permission forms needed and Covid-19 restrictions will be followed. 2012 budget requests need to be submitted to Virginia by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

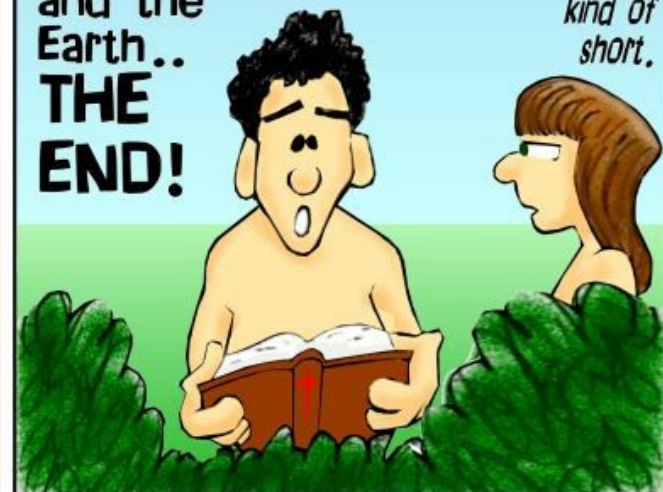
Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> is the next scheduled Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheldon Betzold, Moderator

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**

In the beginning God  
created the Heavens  
and the  
Earth..  
**THE  
END!**

*It is very  
nice,  
but  
kind of  
short.*



Then one day Adam & Eve stumbled across  
the early manuscripts for the Bible.