

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page

Birthdays	2
Youth	3,4
Barefoot with Jesus.....	5
Council Meeting	6

A Prayer for Labor Day

Lord on this Labor Day,
we thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that
You be with those whose faces
we might never see
but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.
Amen.

Blessings from Our Sunday Visitor www.osv.com

From the Pulpit Committee

Greetings to all,

It is hard to believe that September is upon us. We will



Pastor Garth Schumacher

welcome Pastor Garth Schumacher on Sept. 8. The Pulpit Committee feels excited and motivated as we begin the next part of our journey to find a settled

pastor. Pastor Schumacher brings experience and guidance to the process on which we are about to embark.

The past few months have been challenging as we transition to a new pastor then add in Covid 19 and it feels kind of overwhelming. The Congregational Church has great strengths and we are as strong as all of our members. So as we move forward, please consider the following:

Romans 15:5-7

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

(English Standard Version)

The following is a Call to Worship

from the MT19 Come Back Service which seems quite appropriate for this moment:

Leader: Listen up everyone! God has given us work to do.

All: God has called each of us before we were born

Leader: It is God who named us

All: It is God who claimed us.

Leader: The light of God's love shines in us.

All: Let's shine God's love into all the world.

The Pulpit Committee will proceed to do the work we need to do. Please keep us in your prayers. We have included God in this effort and trust he will lead us to the right decisions.

The Amery Congregational Church Pulpit Committee

Chair : Chad Leonard

Members: Chris Anderson, Nyla Anderson, Abby Betzold, Dave Bowman, Ashley Emerson, Mark Kopp and Virginia Ormsby



09/01 Bradon Folkert	09/08 Tyler Jackson	09/23 Andrew Benner
09/01 Karri Bowen	09/09 Leland Anderson	09/24 Leanne Whitley
09/02 Gavin Harris	09/14 Patrick Langlois	09/25 Adam Morris
09/02 Pat Canham	09/18 Chris Anderson	09/25 Joy Silvis
09/02 Paula Richey	09/21 Otilia Anderson	09/25 Sasha Rondeau
09/03 Kori Nelson	09/21 Adam Tulkki	09/26 Randy Olson
09/04 Cooper Harris	09/21 Gary Piasecki	09/28 Teri Kohlrusch
09/05 Patric Hesch	09/22 Ian Stoeklen	09/30 Alex Martin
09/06 Thomas Bowen	09/22 Barry Schaefer	
09/07 Shania Burstad	09/23 Evie Porter	



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

The name "September": September comes from the Latin root septem-, meaning "seven," because in the original Roman republican calendar September was the seventh month of the year rather than the ninth. The Roman calendar was only 10 months long and included the following months: Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December.

It wasn't until 46 BC, when Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar (named after Caesar, himself), that the year grew to include two more months, January and February. Quintilis and Sextilis were later renamed July and August in honor of Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar, but despite repeated attempts to change them, the names for September, October, November, and December not only stuck, but spread to other languages as well.

The strangeness of calling the ninth month "Seventh Month" didn't seem to bother Old English speakers. September replaced the Old English forms Hāligmōnað and Hærfestmōnað, which mean "harvest month" in modern English. If the Roman senate had gotten their way, we might now be calling September Tiberius or Antoninus, after two Roman Emperors. Or we might have ended up calling September Augustus as followers of the Emperor Commodus hoped, or Germanicus, as Emperor Domitian wanted.

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
Evelyn Monteith Halverson

Sylvia Utter

Bob Holms

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
715.268.9949
Beth Sorensen
Shirley Johnson

from your YOUTH MINISTER



Youth news: With Homework & Hangout, dinner and youth group starting back up on Wednesday September 2nd, please note the following changes:

Transportation to Congo on Wednesdays: We are encouraging our youth group participants (all kids in grades 5-12) to walk in groups to church after school (weather permitting) unless parents are able to drop them off at Congo. If neither are an option, please ride Bus 26 (bus driver Liz Bowman) to Congo.

Ending time of youth group: We will end each Wednesday evening at 7pm.

FUEL: (Faith Used in Everyday Life) has been cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year.

Masks: We are now requiring ALL who enter the church to wear a mask. Youth events held outside do not require a mask. Masks will be provided.

WEDNESDAYS:

Sept. 2nd - Homework & Hangout after school. Family Dinner at 5:45pm followed by a fun game of Boomball to kick off our school year. Please note: our evening will conclude at 7:00pm.

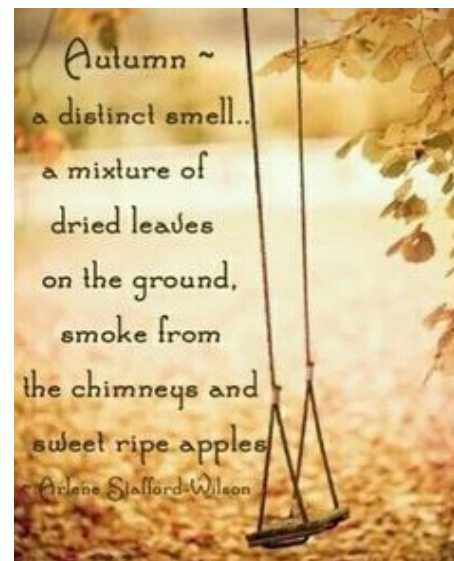
Sept. 9th – Join us in welcoming our interim pastor Garth Schumacher! Homework & Hangout after school followed by youth group at 5pm and dinner at 5:45pm. After clean up, we will close with worship around the campfire, weather permitting. Please note: our evening will conclude at 7:00pm.

Sept. 16th - 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.

Sept. 23rd - 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.

Saturday September 12th

Ruby's Pantry morning of service. Please meet at the Am Tec parking lot (near the bus garage) by 7:15am. Parent pick up time is 10am at the Am Tec parking lot.



As school resumes, so does our need for Congo cooks to prepare youth group meals on Wednesday evenings. Please let Charlotte know if you are able to provide a meal for our Congo kids! Thank you!

Goodbye Summer!



Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

Walking Barefoot with Jesus

Lately, I have been hearing and reading much about the health benefits derived from “earthing”



or “grounding.” Both these terms are just fancy names for the simple act of going barefoot. The proponents cite studies showing that the negative electrons absorbed from the earth quenches free radicals and helps in reducing

stress, aiding digestion, reducing cardiovascular disease, reducing inflammation and maybe even curing male pattern baldness (ok, I threw that last one in). I wouldn't put too much stock in these studies without knowing who paid for them - though I am guessing it was not the United Shoemakers' Union. But, I will agree that I find, at least for me, many spiritual health benefits in walking barefoot.

I hate wearing shoes. I always have. Being barefoot outside is like taking a layer of material away and being one with the earth. Since each foot has over 7000 nerve endings, when we are barefoot, we are able to feel and be mindful of the subtle, and maybe not so subtle, changes in temperature and textures of the ground we walk on. For example, when I go out walking before the sun has had a chance to warm the asphalt, I am aware of the coolness of the driveway and I am aware of each pebble and puddle. I feel the dew on the grass and the softness of the sand. When walking barefoot, I always need to be cautious of where I step - the deer often leave little presents and acorns bruise the feet. The beauty of being more aware of where I place my feet means I am less concentrated on the strife and stress of the world around me. I feel more centered and connected to God's incredible universe. My mind is on His creation from flora to fauna.

While walking, I am reminded of the two times God told someone to take off their sandals because, as He told them, the ground they were standing on was holy (Exodus 3:5 and Joshua

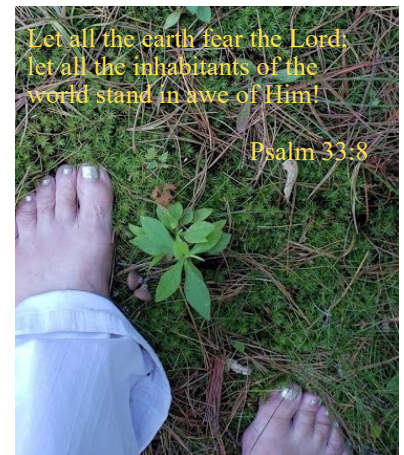
5:15). What made the ground holy was God's presence. While walking and contemplating the glory of His works, Jesus' presence is palpable, therefore the ground I am walking is surely holy.

When walking barefoot with and feeling Jesus by my side, my mind becomes peaceful, my mood grateful and worshipful. My whole being becomes filled with awe.

Many times I will chose to walk in the rain. I love feeling the chill of the wet earth, the cool mud and refreshing puddles. Yet, even better than walking in puddles is stepping on the moss that grows close to the river. The moss feels like walking on a carpet of deep, soft, thick velvet.

As I sit here typing, my imagination goes like this: Jesus and I are walking together - both barefoot, of course. We have just left the driveway and are heading, toward the river. I am talking enthusiastically and in great detail about how amazing the river oaks are. Since He created these oaks, I am not telling Jesus anything He doesn't already know. Yet He listens indulgently. He is aware of my obsession with trees. He might be feeling somewhat pleased that His handiwork makes me stand in awe. Don't we all derive pleasure from some praise?

Soon we come to the moss and pause. We both want a moment to savor the anticipation of walking on nature's amazingly soft blanket of green. As our feet hit the moss, Jesus takes my hand and says, “Sweetheart,” (Jesus calls me Sweetheart in this fantasy because “Beloved” is too formal, if not a bit dated), “Walking on this moss is just like walking in heaven.” I chuckle, “I guess you should know.” Then I add, “Yes, it really is pleasing to the sole, isn't it?” I drag out the word “sole” while nudging Jesus with the edge of my dirty, bare foot. Jesus rolls his eyes at the obvious homophone - He may have heard that play on words a few times before. Yet, He still refers to me as Sweetheart. We continue our stroll, enjoying our time together.



Blessings, Your Church Lady

Council Meeting: August 11, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, Richard Wooldridge: Financial Secretary, Charlotte Gillen: Youth Director and Christian Education, Nyla Anderson: Diaconate, Chad Leonard: Trustees, Abby Betzold: Congregational Giving, Rae Wooldridge: Congregational Giving, Julie Smith: Recording Secretary

Sheldon opened the meeting with prayer at 6:05 pm.

The Minutes from the previous Council Meeting were discussed and approved.

Sandy presented the Clerk's report. She stated that two long time members passed away and the current membership role is at 170.

Char reported on the Christian Education program. She said that Christian Education materials have not been ordered yet until it has been determined what the needs will be for Fall.

Nyla, with the Diaconate Committee, reported that the Diaconate has been helping to organize and direct the flow of outdoor services. She also brought up the idea of planting of Memorial trees in the green space. (near parking lot) Options for this program were discussed.

Virginia presented the Treasurer's Report. She stated that expenses were under budget in many areas.

Abby said that the Congregational Giving Committee has not met recently. She said her committee hopes to do pledge cards again in the Fall.

Chad, with the Trustees, explained that there was a resignation on the Board of Trustees. Dave Bowman has been selected to serve on the Board. The Council voted him in to the Trustees. Chad also explained that many renovations for both the Pastor's Office and the administrative/ Main office are currently taking place. Painting and new flooring will be completed.

Chad said that Garth, our new Pastor, is open to the idea of outside services. Discussions were held on youth group activities and how the youth is able to use the church building. Details on how these activities need to be modified in light of the pandemic were discussed. Abby motioned that the Youth may use many areas of church building as they have in the past, however the kitchen area is to be used by Adults only while assisting with Youth programs. Nyla seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

Sheldon noted that there will be an upcoming funeral in the church. Masks have been required for the service and cleaning measures have been taken to assure a safe environment. Discussions were held about the cleaning of the building and operations of the church during this pandemic.



Sheldon said the next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6:00pm

Virginia motioned to adjourn, Abby seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary