

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



From Pastor Dana,

Hanging the Greens this year.

Please mark your calendars for a Church family event. The Diaconate met on October 6 and decided they would like to do something a little different this year to " Hang The Greens" or decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. On Saturday, November 30, from 9:30 until finished we will be hanging the greens and then have lunch. So if you are in town, or back from a family visit, we would like to invite you to join us. We will have some singing and some readings to enjoy as we work. There will be more details to follow.

Chinese New Year Dinner with Chef Peter Kwong.

Peter Kwong has offered to help us host a Chinese Dinner on February 1st in 2025. Mark your calendars for this event also. We need a few folks to help plan the event, from decorating to deciding if we have one seating or two we need to work out the details. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the planning team.

Peter will also be training cooks for the meal which the committee will have people sign up once we have met and a plan is in place.

**“Dear friends,
since God loved
us that much, we
surely ought to
love each other.”**

— 1 JOHN 4:11

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10/01 Jeff Bylander	10/11 Barry Tulkki
10/04 Sylvia Schillinger	10/20 Peter Kwong
10/05 Chuck Hoppe	10/20 Abby Betzold
10/06 Mike Swank	10/21 Morgan Leonard
10/08 Penny Carter	10/21 Walter Richey
10/09 Andrew Stalhiem	10/26 Elizabeth Sigsworth



Surrender and Release - A Fall Prayer

Loving God,
 Pause me into the mystery
 Of Your marvelous beauty
 Revealed in endings
 Necessary to give way
 To resurrection beginnings.
 Let each leaf of fall
 Awaken in me
 Your invitation to pause
 And consider the miracle
 Of being alive in a cosmos
 Revealing Your eternal motion
 Of awe-filled love and grace
 Falling all around me
 If only I will stop and notice.
 Kindle in me a spirit
 Capable of considering
 This Holy motion of You
 Revealed in others
 All aging into a beauty
 Often overlooked
 By a world resistant
 To wisdom's quiet fall.
 Today, pause me just enough
 To notice the little graces
 You scatter all around
 Bearing the large mystery
 Of Your motion of creation.
 And by this of You
 Help me savor the same
 Motion of Your Holy Love
 Revealed in leaf's fall
 Forming me ever anew
 Even in necessary seasons
 Of surrender and release.

By David Long Higgins

Dear Friend,

The impact of Hurricane Helene is widespread and devastating, as more than 100 people have been confirmed dead, over 2 million people are without power, and damages are estimated to be over \$140 billion. We know of two UCC congregations on Florida's Gulf Coast whose church buildings suffered significant flood damage, and another building that experienced structural damage from high winds. We continue to be in touch with our Southern, Southeast, and Florida Conferences as they work to contact local congregations and become aware of their needs.

The United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster well after their plight fades from the headlines. As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal. Your gifts matter. This is something you can do to help alleviate suffering, rebuild homes, and restore communities. Your gifts will make a difference to those who are struggling during these difficult times and enable needed assistance as we stand with impacted communities in the years ahead.

To Donate go to UCC.org

Thank you for your generosity.

Rev. Kent Siladi
 Interim Director of Philanthropy
 United Church of Christ

Amery Health and Happiness Walk and Block Party





Pastor Appreciation Day is celebrated annually on the second Sunday of October. While it may seem your pastor gets enough appreciation from their loyal *fans* or the satisfaction of a well-delivered sermon, your pastor could likely use some appreciation. Consider this article as the ultimate guide for Pastor Appreciation Day and perhaps you would consider taking the whole month of October to honor and appreciate your pastor.

We can easily and far too often take our pastors for granted. It can be easy for us to criticize them on how good of a job they did on their sermon, saying things like:

- “I wasn’t a big fan of their sermon today.”
- “I didn’t really connect with their sermon.”
- “I think they could have done a better job preparing or delivering their message.”

We far too often forget that they are human, and have a life, family and other responsibilities they have throughout the week. We can easily think that a pastor is just there to serve us and deliver a sermon that we want to hear and if either of these doesn’t go the way we want it to, we forget that our pastor also is pastoring an entire congregation. If we are not careful, we can fall victim to the spirit of entitlement where it becomes *all about us*. Now, while this isn’t always the case and it may not be this extreme, it is something we all need to keep in consideration and remember that even if one person’s life is changed by the pastor’s message, then isn’t that what it’s all about? It is important to notice everything that your Pastor does for the congregation but what most people don’t realize is that they are not given back to very often. They easily slip through the cracks and we assume that they are doing fine and they are getting their needs met. If everyone had this mentality then no one would be giving back to their Pastor. That is why this time of year is most important. We should all appreciate or learn to appreciate our Pastors or Leaders and encourage them as much as they encourage each of us. Remember, your congregation out numbers leadership. Imagine if everyone did their part and served consistently. At the end of the day, your Pastor is still a part of the body of Christ just like us and they should be treated in the same way we treat our other brothers and sisters. This is the one time during the year where we are reminded to consider our Pastor, think specifically about their needs and how you can personally or as a congregation encourage them and their family. By <https://www.cloversites.com/>

September 15th, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Pastor Dana Caldwell, Treasurer Chad Leonard, Clerk Sandy Morris, Trustees Dave Bowman, Diaconate Nyla Anderson, Christian Education Abby Betzold

Pastor Dana opened us in prayer.

A motion to approved the August council meeting minutes was made by Sandy and seconded by Nyla, motion passed.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report: Chad reported that we are still trending down for giving and reminded council that Andrew Warner from the WI conference was going to be meeting with our congregation via Zoom on Sat. Sept. 21st and encouraged members to attend. Dave made a motion to approve the financial report and Nyla seconded, motion passed.

Clerks Report: Sandy reported that there were no changes in August and our membership remains at 146.

Trustees: Dave reported that the trustees had not met yet since last council but they are working on fixing the fountain in the narthex as well as working on giving out the first scholarship from the Barry Schaefer Scholarship fund, they plan to give around \$2,500 to the current applicant.

Christian Education: Abby reported that Fire Starters programming started back up for the school year meeting on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, there were about a dozen kids in attendance at the first session. For older youth (6th-12th grade) there will be community youth events on the third Sunday afternoon of each month from roughly 1-3pm, the first event being Sept. 15th at Ox Lake. There will also be Amery Breakfast Club starting back up on the 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7am at Our Savior's Lutheran.

Diaconate: Pastor Dana & Nyla reported that this last month they went over the calendar ahead and discussed any upcoming worship services, it was also brought up to remember if there are any ways we can enhance our worship or church experiences to please reach out to our Pastor Parish Relations Committee which consists of Sandy Morris, Margie Peterson, and Colleen Kwong.

Congregational Giving: Pastor Dana reported they have approved use of memorial funds to plant more trees along the south side of our green space when the time is appropriate to plant those.

Missions & Social Concerns: Currently the main activity is Share the Share, as a church with donated funds we are buying a share from Ruby's Pantry each month and distributing it to those who can use some help with groceries each month.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dana reminded us that the Amery Health & Happiness Walk & Block Party is quickly approaching, more community involvement this year including having a fire truck, chief of police, and others involved. Many baskets have come from community business beyond, and we are thankful to have gotten word out via family folders at the schools. Dana also wanted let us know that she will be taking PTO the week after the block party, she will be doing the service the following Sunday though.

Monthly Calendar: Did not have paper copy to review, reminder it is great to get all events to Rae!

Old Business: We are looking for a few people to lead the Chinese Dinner that will take place at the end of January, please let Pastor Dana know if you are interested. In other business the mission team will start making lefse every Sunday after church throughout October and into November, these will also be the time the team meets to discuss planning the trip if you are interested in joining the team for 2025 please come to any lefse making or reach out to Abby Betzold.

New Business: Budget is coming up, please let Chad know by Sept. 30th what funds any boards would like to have for 2025 so they can be approved in the budget.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, October 20th at 8am

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Dave seconded by Abby, meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Abby Betzold



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri-day	Saturday
29 Noisy Kettle 8:30am - 9:30am Congregational Giving Mtg 10:00am Sunday Worship	30 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:00pm Acapella Group	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00am Diaconate Meeting 10:00am Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:15am Christian Ed. Mtg	7 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	8 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	9 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 6:00pm Fire Starters 7:00pm Acapella Group 7:00pm Trustee Mtg.	10 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:00pm Prayer Service	11 Office Closed	12 6:45am Ruby's Pantry Volunteers 7:30am - 9:00am Ruby's Pantry Distribution at SMC 10:00am Share a Share Volunteers
13 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship	14 Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	16 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:00pm Acapella Group	17 9:00am Ministerium 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	18 Office Closed	19 8:00am - 2:30pm Retreat
20 8:00am Council Mtg. 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:15am Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.	21 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	22 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	23 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 6:00pm Fire Starters 7:00pm Acapella Group	24 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	25 Office Closed	26
27 10:00am Sunday Worship	28 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	30 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:00pm Acapella Group	31 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	1 Office Closed	2