

Congregational Clarion



Taking Awe Breaks This Summer

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/
August 2008

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Sometimes Explanatory Words Solves a Problem

In the 1930s it was legal for people to explode fireworks quite freely. Thus it was that in 1937, when the Fourth of July was on a Sunday, some of the youth in Paulding, Ohio, were popping firecrackers while the Rev. Eldred Johnston was starting to lead a worship service. A couple of loud explosions were enough for the pastor to realize that he needed to deal with the problem. Therefore, the preacher asked the choir director to lead a hymn-sing for a few minutes. Then he slipped out a door, walked out to where the boys were gathered and began talking kindly to them. "Fellows," he said, "I used to enjoy shooting fireworks as much as you do, and I know it's an historic way to show our patriotic pride on Independence Day. But don't forget that many in this town are gathered in worship at this hour, and the noise is very distracting. Now, I don't want to interfere with your religious liberty. All I'm asking is that you wait until church services are over — about noon — and then shoot your firecrackers all you want." The pastor smiled at each of the boys and returned to the church. Writing about the experience later, he said that he half-expected to hear rebellious explosions in defiance of his request. The boys, however, respectfully waited until the worship hour was over. Kind and sincere words explaining a problem and requesting help in solving it often bring desirable results. The book of James reminds us of what we might call "heavenly wisdom," something we all need: "The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity" (James 3:17).

—Pastor Johnston's experience, found in Liberty magazine

In June we said good-bye to two members



Beth Mares



Chuck Yoak

Council Meeting—June Meeting Cancelled Due to Mission Trip 2025

**Rescheduled for Sunday, July 20th at 8 am.
All Church Members are welcomed**

July's Scheduled Meetings

July 6th	9 am Diaconate Meeting 11:15 am Christian Education Meeting
July 9th	7 pm Trustees' Meeting
July 20th	8 am Council Meeting All members are welcome to join
July 27th	9 am Congo Giving Meeting



Found in Parking Lot and still not claimed. Does it belong to you, or have you seen it before?

Please contact the Office if you can help us find the owner.
715-268-7390

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

Amery Community Vacation Bible School had another successful year with an average of about 30 students from Pre-K through 5th Grade attending each night from churches throughout our community. Students enjoyed worship, crafts, Bible studies, and of course games! We are grateful for the partnership we have with Camp Wapo that sends a few of their counselors to help lead these activities!

Special shout-out to Juli Maukstad, Sherry Monson, Ginny Ormsby, and Nyla Anderson for helping with the meal our congregation provided for the Wednesday night of VBS!



2025 MISSION TEAM—HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—LA CROSSE, WI

Sunday - After the send-off service we drove a very scenic route to La Crosse stopping at Perrot State Park for a "short" hike....steep but beautiful views!

Monday - Day One on the job site. Met our job supervisor, Eric, and got the lay of the land. The oldest home in Stoddard being remodeled for a family of 9 (7 children!). One group worked on outside siding while others did bracing for the second story flooring and pulled up flooring that needed to be replaced. Overall, a great first day! Went to Grandad's Bluff this evening for another great view!

Tuesday - Today we continued to work on the siding by doing prep work for siding the front peaks of the home. Inside crews worked on subfloor on the second floor, bracing the second story from below, and starting to level the second story. Tonight, we drove past homes that we worked on during the 2021 La Crosse trip & enjoyed an Escape Room that we actually escaped!!

Wednesday - Work included siding, more leveling and supporting the second Story of the home. In the morning, we also organized the garage that had become a bit chaotic! *Can't forget to say a shout-out to Ginny O for ordering us donuts & to Sherry's sisters Nila & Laura Lee for bringing us afternoon snacks- squeaky cheese curds and all!! Wednesday Presentation Night

Thursday -Jobsite Work! Thursday Night Game Night. This week has been a lot of steady work for the same goals on the job site - the goals being side the house & sure up the house. Big beams went up yesterday!

Friday -We continued siding, and got one more beam put up inside to help support the second story. We also did communion in the house before leaving the job site. In the afternoon, part of the group went to the Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe - a gorgeous site. Following that we did Faith Night and finished out the trip on a River Cruise on the Mississippi!

Thank you all for the support and thank God for another wonderful trip!

—2025 Mission Team





Friends and Visitors of Congo

7/3 Linda A. Lee	7/20 Casey Haasnoot
7/4 Maxx Harris	7/25 Amber Harris
7/6 Deborah Henke	7/25 Jack Porter
7/11 Sally Haasnoot	7/28 Olivia Russo
7/12 Rick Maukstad	7/29 Benjamin Bowen
7/13 Duane Morris	7/30 Maycee Harris
7/13 Samantha Sigsworth	
7/13 Heidi Wilbur	
7/16 Alora Stalhiem	

July Birthstone

Ruby is the sole birthstone of July. The name comes from the Latin word 'ruber,' which means red. It is symbolic of love, passion and energy. Many cultures have admired the ruby, going back to ancient times where early cultures believed that rubies held the power of life. Hindus offered rubies to the god Krishna in the belief that they would be reborn as emperors. In China, rubies were traded along the North Silk Road and noblemen believed that adorning their armor with the gem would grant them protection. In Burma, warriors who thought the protective powers of rubies would make them invincible in battle even inserted them into their flesh.



As you may know, a mysterious camper utilized the church parking lot (and electricity) for over 4 weeks avoiding contact, although many attempts were made to connect with the individual and perhaps offer assistance. I stumbled on this short article in Reader's

Digest. It's timing coincided with the camper situation and sparked the idea. Perhaps a new idea for Congo's outside sign????

A Sign near a church lot in Verona, New York: "If thou hast parked thy car in this lot, thee had better be in church. All others will be towed ..."

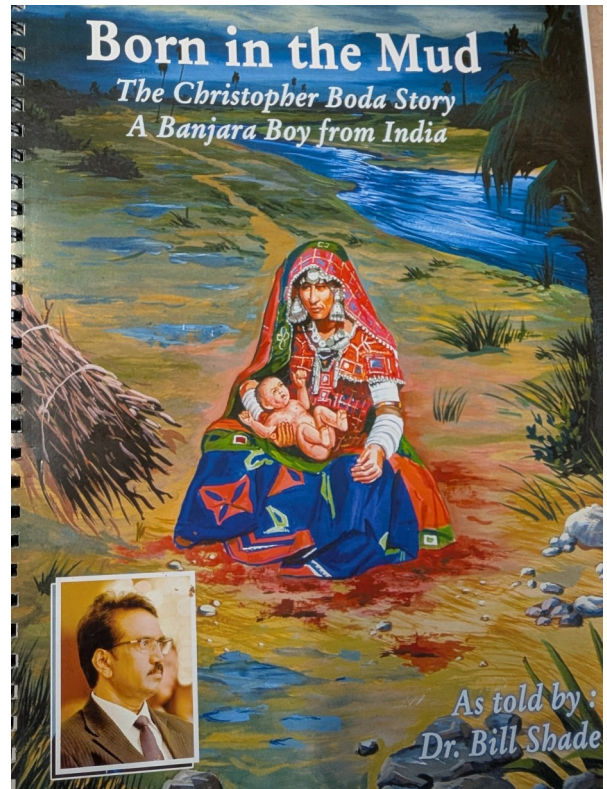
Plan on Attending Service on Sunday, July 13, 2025 for a Special Guest Speaker

“Born in the Mud” - Christopher Boda’s life as a Banjara boy in south India, will be shared during worship on July 13th.

Christopher will show slides and tell his story of being born to a Banjara family, and his spiritual journey to becoming a pastor and head of the Banjara Tribal Ministries. The Banjara are an indigenous gypsy tribe of India, whose caste is “untouchable” which means they make their meager livings doing work no one else will do.

Rev. Boda is hoping that the congregations he shares his story with will help support the orphanage and school which he runs with their prayers and financial giving.

Colleen and Peter Kwong enjoyed visiting with him in their home over dinner, and are glad Christopher will have the opportunity to share his story and preach on July 13 in our church.



Lessons From My Dog

I always know when Simon needs to poop. His whole demeanor changes—he paces anxiously, circles a dozen times, then shifts to what he thinks is a perfect spot and then circles some more. Finally, he relieves himself and—instantly—he’s a brand-new dog: bouncing, prancing, and practically dancing with pride before we resume our walk.

Once we’re strolling again, Simon will sometimes stop, take a deep sniff of the woods, look around thoughtfully...and sigh. He’s completely present, utterly content, not a worry in sight.

We can all learn something from Simon. Now, I am certainly not suggesting that, after your morning toilet, you get up and dance with pride. But if, like me, you watch the news and feel the world is spiraling out of control, that people have lost all sense of compassion or civility, that our government is corrupt, our environment is unsustainable, and that we all are going to be victims of a mass shooting, maybe you and I need to head to that ideal spot, whether it be in the woods, a favorite chair, or maybe a coffee shop, where we can let go of all that sh..., um, poop. We can’t do much about solving all the world’s problems anyway, so it is probably healthier for mind and body to take time to enjoy the moment, be grateful for our many blessings, and perhaps, like Simon, we will feel completely present in the moment, without a care in the world and we will be able to sigh with contentment.

—Rae Wooldridge



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	4 Office Closed 4th of July 	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 - 2:00pm Office Open 7:00pm Trustee Mtg.	10 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	11 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	12
13 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship - Special Speaker Christopher Boda	14 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	16 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	17 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	18 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	19
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 - 2:00pm Office Open	24 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	25 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	26
27 9:00am - 10:00am Congo Giving Mtg 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 - 2:00pm Office Open	31 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2

Church Picnic

Held June 29th: In case you missed it, here are some pictures

