

# Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC

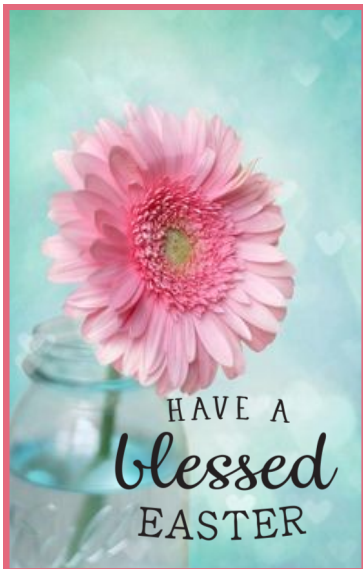


## LIVING RESURRECTION

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We have a multicolor banner on the front corner of our church calling us to “Be the Church!” We might as well say, “Be Christ!” for as a church we are the Body of Christ... meaning we are here to live Christ’s resurrection. I firmly believe that down deep in our souls, we want to be personally transformed into a loving world. Either consciously or unconsciously, we seek a Christianity that incorporates heart, mind, body and soul. To live a practice that is true to the Greatest Commandment by insisting that we love God as well as our neighbors—and that, in truth, we are able to love our neighbors fully only because we love and are loved by God.

As we look out upon the greening of our Wisconsin countryside, it is perhaps helpful to think of our loving union with God through Christ in a more organic way... as a living unity within the Earth. The following is a quote from Joanna Macy from her book, “The Greening of the Self,” in *Spiritual Ecology*. It describes how we might re-frame our concept of self in relation to God and others through nature...

The conventional notion of the self with which we have been raised and to which we have

been conditioned by mainstream culture is being undermined. What Alan Watts [1915-1973] called “the skin-encapsulated ego” . . . is being replaced by wider constructs of identity and self-interest—by what philosopher Arne Naess [1912-2009] termed the ecological self, co-extensive with other beings and the life of our planet. It is what I like to call “the greening of the self.” . . .

Among those who are shedding these old constructs of self . . . is John Seed, director of the Rainforest Information Centre in Australia. One day . . . I asked him: “You talk about the struggle against the lumber companies and politicians to save the remaining rain forests. How do you deal with the despair?”

He replied, “I try to remember that it’s not me, John Seed, trying to protect the rain forest. Rather, I am part of the rain forest protecting itself. I am that part of the rain forest recently emerged into human thinking.”

This is what I mean by the greening of the self. It involves a combining of the mystical with the pragmatic, transcending separateness, alienation, and fragmentation. It is . . . “a spiritual change,” generating a sense of profound interconnectedness with all life. .

*(Continued on page 5)*

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS



4/02 Elsa Rose O'Rourke	04/08 Brittany Dusek	04/19 Jill Jackson
04/02 Scott Smith	04/09 Chris Lindee	04/19 Irene Stindle
04/04 Owen Harris	04/13 Roy J. Giudice	04/21 Dan Satterlund
04/06 Kelsey Monteith	04/13 Christine Kopp	04/21 Nancy Hoppe
	04/14 Marian Elmer	04/23 Corey Warner
	04/15 Pat Waterman	04/24 Jeanne Murphy
	04/17 John Mayer	04/25 Mary Piasecki
	04/18 Christine Olson	04/28 Martin Sigsworth
	04/18 Vicki Betzold	04/29 Margie Peterson
	04/19 Bailey Johnson	

## 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  
Gussie Fennern

### Memory Care

215 Birch St. W  
Amery, WI 54001  
Jeanne Murphy  
Bob Holm

### Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane  
715.268.9949  
Beth Sorensen  
Ruth Schafer



FROM  
Abby Betzold  
YOUTH MINISTER



## April showers bring May flowers, right?!



Throughout the spring we are continuing to grow our faith together as a youth group as flowers grow in the spring. We have about twelve youth, give or take, join us each week for fellowship, fun, food, and faith building! This month we have some exciting stuff for our church to get to see our youth! Please note that unlike year's past we will NOT have an Easter Sunrise service, HOWEVER, our kids are going to be bringing a new level of cheer and excitement to our regular 10am Easter Service on April 17th. We have a couple of special music pieces, and some friendly young faces leading us and reading for us as we do the opening parts of our service. You won't want to miss it!

I also want to take just a quick moment to remind any youth, or those who may know someone interested, to sign up for Wapo Bible Camp (or any other Summer Bible Camps) sooner than later! Scholarships are available through the church and Wapo. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this! Also if you are 16 or older and interested in working at a camp, many of these camps are looking for staff still for the summer, it's a great opportunity & I'd be happy to point anyone in the right direction if you're interested!

Easter Blessings to All!  
Abby



### Rummage Sale:

This year the rummage sale is coming back!! As you start your spring cleaning, start your boxes to donate to this church fundraiser. Save the date for Saturday, May 28th to help with running the sale. Also please let Abby Betzold know if you are interested in helping set up the sale ahead of time or clean up afterward. Again, this is a church fundraiser so we could really use many hands to make light work!



### Last Month to Join Mission Team

Are you interested in joining us on our mission trip this year?! April is our cut-off month for signing up for the trip so we know who is committed to coming and we have accurate numbers to give to those we're partnering with for our stay, showers, and work! If you aren't sure what we're all about, join us for the meeting on Sunday, April 10th at 9am or ask any team member!







## April Youth Events:



**April 6th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm**



**April 13th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm, Confirmation 5:30-7pm**



**April 15th : Good Friday Service 7pm, All Are Welcome**



**April 17th: Easter Sunday Service 10am, Youth Involved in the Service!**



**April 20th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm**



**April 27th: Youth Group 3:30-7pm, Confirmation 5:30-7pm**



### Easter Egg Hunt

- Mark your calendars for the Amery
- Community Easter Egg Hunt! April 16th from
- 10-11am at Micheal Park for kids from age 0
- -10! Our church will be helping enhance this
- year's event by having a scavenger hunt and
- crafts at the hunt! If you are interested in
- helping with this outreach please reach out
- to Abby Betzold, we'll be meeting at church
- around 9am that morning to get some tables
- & chairs and then heading over to the park
- to set up. It should be over right around 11
- and we will come back to unload.

### Save the Date

Confirmation Students & Mentors  
Movie Outing! May 1st Following  
Church! (More details to come -  
watch your emails!)

#### Youth Director Contact Information:

**Abby Betzold**  
715.268.7390; ext. 12  
715.715.641.2237 (cell)  
Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



*(Living Resurrection Continued from page 1)*

Unless you have some roots in a spiritual practice that holds life sacred and encourages joyful communion with all your fellow beings, facing the enormous challenges ahead becomes nearly impossible.

What Macy calls the "greening of the self" is what I call Living Resurrection. Knowing that we are all intimately connected with all of creation... in Christ and therefor in God. During this season of Easter, may we all live into our connection with Christ and say, "I Love You, God!" Amen.

**Rev. Garth Schumacher**



**Procession of the Palms**  
**Palm Sunday Service**  
**10 am April 17th**



*Good*  
**FRIDAY**  
**SERVICE**  
**APRIL 15**  
**7:00 PM**



*Easter*  
**SUNDAY**  
**SERVICE**  
**APRIL 17**  
**10 AM**



**THE VICTORY'S WON!**

## UCC officers share prayer for Ukraine

by UCC Leadership | published on Feb 24, 2022

“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” Proverbs 6:16-19

As the attention of the world turns to the ignored cries for peace from the people of Ukraine, we the officers of the United Church of Christ join our prayers with those of churches and people of faith all over the globe that the attack against Ukraine will cease. As a Just Peace Church, the United Church of Christ calls for the de-escalation of violence and a return to diplomatic negotiations, the only true way conflict ever ceases. We urge our members to pray throughout the day for peace and protection against the evils of war for the people whose lives and wellbeing are in danger, and to make this Sunday a day of collective prayer and fasting for a peace that only God can bring.

**Holy God,**

**Hear our prayers for all those who will die today because of war in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in You.**

**We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed can be avoided and a new, just peace can be forged out of this crisis. We ask God grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, calling them to end provocation on all sides and invest instead in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions (Luke 19:41-2).**

**We pray for an end to the deep insecurity and mistrust on all sides, and call on leaders to build trust, based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity. Now is a time in which past harm should be acknowledged and addressed, and new partnerships can be envisioned.**

**We pray for and call on our leaders to have the courage to take small, verifiable, and independent steps toward peace, inviting others to reciprocate. Now is time to invest in conflict resolution, diplomacy and international cooperation — not more weapons which only escalate tension in the region.**

**Be with those suffering in ways that we cannot.**

**Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not. Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them. Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.**

**Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world.**

**Make us a people who love our children, all of our children, more than we love greed, power, and control. Overturn governments of tyranny wherever they are found. Disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control. Grant that peace and justice come to warring nations by the hands of those courageous enough to stand and study war no more. Let Thy kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray.**

**In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer — General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci A. Blackmon — Associate General Minister

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson — Associate General Minister



### Council Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2022

Attendance: Barry Tulkki, Emilie Russo, Sandy Morris, Sheldon Betzold, Abby Betzold, Sherry Monson, Ginny Ormsby, Garth Schumacher

Meeting opened in prayer by Pastor Garth

February Council Minutes read and approved by Abby B & Barry T

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports: Ginny O reported that the income was up at \$38,286.01 and expense was up at \$36,001.99 with a variance of \$2,284.02. Question was brought up about the line item involving Ruby's Pantry balance of \$1,110.15. Ruby's Pantry is no longer funneled through the church and Ruby's Pantry will take that money back. The line item Family Table Fund Balance was a gift given from in memory of Julie Maukstad's son and it was requested by Julie Maukstad to have it transferred to the youth since the Family Table is not currently active. Chad L report was sent via email to Sheldon B. After discussion of the written report it was decided more clarification is needed so no vote was taken.

Clerk Report: Sandy reported that Joyce Schaefer's membership be transferred to Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Current membership is 162.

Youth Director Report: Abby reported that there was about 20 people who attended the Snowtubing event. The Lock In consisted of about 20 kids. Thank you to Heather and Alek who helped chaperone. There are about 10-15 kids attending youth group on Wednesdays. There are 4-5 students being confirmed this May. Planning for Confirmation Banquet the Saturday before their Confirmation. There will be a Mentor/Mentee gathering at church on March 25th. Saturday April 16th at 10:00 the youth & adults from the church will be assisting with a Scavenger Hunt and Crafts at Michael Park. There will be no sunrise service or breakfast this year. Youth will participate in the 10:00 service.

Board of Trustee Report: No report

Board of Christian Education Report: Emily R reported they will continue with the same Sunday School Curriculum

Board of Diaconate Report: Barry T reported the church would like to send a couple of people to the Annual UCC Conference June 10-12. Nyla Anderson has agreed to be one of the representatives. Still looking for a 2nd representative. Abby B made a motion to accept Nyla A as one of the representatives and second by Barry T. Question was brought up to see if there is some money available to help cover their cost. They are looking in to getting a TV for the nursery. They are trying to get a men's singing group going. There have been 14 responses from the survey they sent out.

Board of Congregational Giving: Abby reported they are working on the Funds Brochure and looking into updating the Narthex Memorial Book.

Mission and Social Concerns Committee: No report. Heather R is still on duty out of town.

Pastor Report: Written report highlights by Pastor Garth included the Lenten Bible Study "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A beginner's Guide to Holy Week"; continuation of workshops about "Braver Angel's" & the National UCC "Racial Relationships"; April 1 the County will begin serving Senior Meals again in the Fellowship Hall 4 days a week.

Pulpit Committee: They have an upcoming meeting.

Old Business: Rummage Sale is planned for June 4th

New Business: Discussion about doing in church evening Lenten services. After discussion it was decided to keep the schedule as planned for this year. Pastor Garth requesting a couple weeks off after Easter.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12 @ 6 pm

Motion to Adjourn: Abby B & Ginny O

Submitted by: Sherry Monson





# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> One Great Hour of Sharing 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	<b>28</b> Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:30 PM Lenten Service/Class via Zoom	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Office Open	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Sunday Worship	<b>4</b> Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Christian Education Mtg. 7:30 PM Lenten Service/Class via Zoom	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Office Open	<b>9</b> 7:00 AM Ruby's Pantry Volunteers Meet at Amtec Back Parking Lot 7:30 AM Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution Begins at Amtec
<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Mission Team Meeting 10:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 3:00 PM 4-H	<b>11</b> Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Office Open 5:00 PM Diaconate Meeting 6:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:30 PM Lenten Service/Class via Zoom	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting 10:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	<b>18</b> Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group	<b>21</b> 8:15 AM Ministerium 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Office Open	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	<b>25</b> Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Office Open	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Office Open	<b>30</b>

## Church Office Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10am - 2 pm
Wednesday	10am - 2 pm
Thursday	10am - 2 pm
Friday	9am - 1 pm