

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



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Hello Everyone!

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received. So many of you have shared your kindness with me and I really appreciate it. I look forward to meeting each and everyone of you, either in service, in ministry or in visits I make to your home. I am excited to explore what God has in store for us in the coming years as an outpost for progressive Christian values serving our community with the heart of Christ.

I thought you might want to know a little bit more about me. I was born about 9 months after my Mom and Dad's 20th wedding anniversary (wink wink). I was the youngest and only girl with 6 brothers ranging 10-20 years older than myself. Today three survive, all married and there a good number of Nieces and Nephews and their children. My parents died when I was young so I have been pretty independent most of my life. Like many people I had a period I drifted away from church but I still believed in God. I believe God woke me up one Sunday and told me to go to Church, which I did. The rest they say is history.

That church embraced the talents and gifts I offered them which offered me wonderful experiences in ministry and spiritual growth. About 5 years later, I left Illinois and moved to Raleigh, NC based on what I believe to be a call from God and lived there many years. I attended large and small churches over this time, always volunteering in different ways. I have lead bible studies, taught Sunday school for Jr High through adults, lead retreats, given massages, planned worship services, served on church committees and participated in youth prison ministries. I had a sense of being "called to ministry" more than once but it never seemed the right time for one reason or another. With each sense of call there was forward movement in leadership roles and a continued deepening of my relationship with God. In August of 2013, I was at a retreat I had helped plan and was helping to facilitate. As I heard the minister share his part I heard "NOW" and I knew exactly what that meant. One month later we got word from work that the company was closing the operation in Raleigh. I felt a sense of calm because I knew God had a plan and

(Continued on page 6)



- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 11/01 Sherry Monson | 11/21 Eric Silvis |
| 11/01 Pete Waggoner | 11/24 Dixie Lee Brill |
| 11/05 Tom Dusek | 11/24 Amanda Warner |
| 11/10 Brady Emerson | 11/29 Alison Emerson |
| 11/12 Thelma Betzold | |
| 11/14 Dennis Heiken | |
| 11/19 Asher Stalhiem | |



Why do we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11? Originally known as Armistice Day, Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11 because it was on this day at 11:00 a.m. in 1918 that World War I ended.

Why is Thanksgiving celebrated on the last Thursday in November?

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in the month of November to be the national holiday known as Thanksgiving. It is fashioned after the three-day feast of the harvest shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indigenous people in 1621.

Why is it called November?

November got its name from the Roman word "novem," which means nine. Originally there were only ten months in the year until the months of January and February were added in 45 B.C., making November the eleventh month, rather than the ninth month.



Blue Star Families is committed to making food insecurity among military families a thing of the past by rallying around them, delivering military and civilian resources to those in need, and empowering them to thrive.

Bluestarfam.org

**From
Abby Betzold
YOUTH MINISTER**



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

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, I am so thankful for our youth, our volunteers, & our congregation. This month I encourage our youth to continue joining us for weekly youth group, especially with the addition of our new settled pastor, Dana Caldwell. As well as being sure to save the date for November 23rd for a youth event. More details will be coming soon.

November Youth Events:

Nov. 2nd : Youth Group 3:30-7pm

Nov. 9th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm

Nov. 16th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm

Nov. 23rd : Youth Event Starting at 8:45am, end time to TBD

Nov. 30th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm

As always more volunteers are welcome. Ways to help are; joining us on Wednesday evenings as adult helpers, cooking a meal for the youth, or driving for youth events.

If you are interested in being involved more with the youth please reach out to me.

Abby

Time has slipped away from me and I am looking for cooks for November and December youth group. We have increased in kids a little bit (which is great!). We are now feeding closer to 20 people between youth and adults.

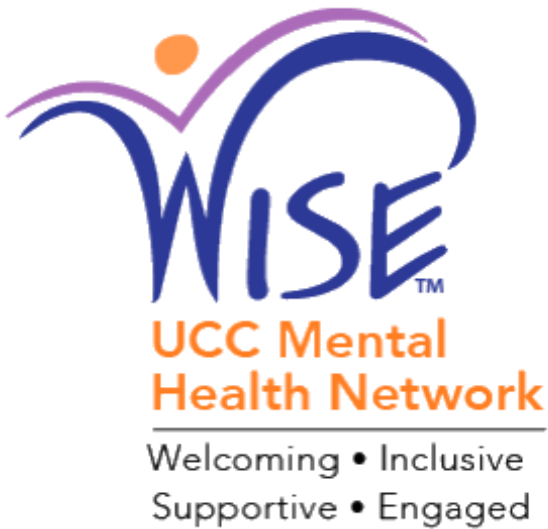
Dates I am looking for someone to bring a meal are:

Nov. 9th, 16th, & 30th

Dec. 14th & 21st (The 21st will be our Youth Group Christmas Party if that makes any difference to anyone)

Let me know if you are interested or if someone else you know may be interested in cooking for the kids. I appreciate all of you so much in this way of supporting our youth!

Abby



Wise Initiative Update

This past June, Rae and I had the opportunity to attend the UCC Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

We learned about the WISE initiative. This potential ministry for our church has led us to explore what it means for our congregation and our community.

WISE stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged. The UCC Mental Health network can provide us with guidance in the process.

Rae and I have already established connections with the director of the Polk County Mental Health Task Force, her name is Jennifer Andress Griggs. The Polk County Mental Health Task Force is a non-profit.

We also have been connected with Lisa Hart, Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation and Justice Ministries, Executive Associate to the Conference Minister,

Wisconsin Conference UCC. She is willing to visit our congregation and provide support.

The core action we as a congregation can take is to educate ourselves on resources available to folks who are dealing with mental health challenges. We are not practitioners but can serve as a conduit for those with needs to mental health professionals.

Feel free to ask questions or join us as we continue to pursue this ministry. We can support each other and members in our community.

Nyla Anderson

By sharing your story, you just may help someone else.

We are looking for people willing to share their stories in future issues of the Clarion. If you have experienced any mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, addiction, suicidal thought and would like to write about these challenges, we would like to hear from you. Write about your challenges, what support was available to you, or your difficulty finding support. You may share your name or write anonymously. However, sharing your experiences may encourage to speak up without shame or stigma and seek support. Send your story by email to Rae at office.ameryucc@gmail.com or mail to

Amery Congregational UCC, 201 Harriman Ave. North, Amery WI 54001.



THANKSGIVING FACTS FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

History of Thanksgiving

Prior to the formal establishment of Thanksgiving in the United States, harvest festivals had been celebrated for centuries by Native Americans, with colonial services dating back to the late 16th century. The autumnal feasts celebrated the harvest of crops after a season of bountiful growth.

As the story goes, it was in the early 1600s when communities of settlers in both Massachusetts and Virginia held feasts to give thanks for their survival, for the fertility of their fields, and for their faith. The most widely known early Thanksgiving is that of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, who shared an autumn harvest feast with the Wampanoag Native Americans in 1621.

This feast, which lasted for three days, is considered the "first" Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. However, there were other recorded ceremonies of thanks on these lands. In 1565, Spanish explorers and the local Timucua people of St. Augustine, Florida, celebrated a mass of thanksgiving. In 1619, British settlers proclaimed a day of thanksgiving when they reached a site known as Berkeley Hundred on the banks of Virginia's James River.

Of course, the idea of "thanksgiving" for the harvest is as old as time, with records from the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Native American cultures, too, have a rich tradition of giving thanks at harvest time feasts, which began long before Europeans appeared on their soil. And well after the Pilgrims, for more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving have been celebrated by individual colonies and states.

Thanksgiving Becomes a National Holiday

The first national celebration of Thanksgiving was observed for a slightly different reason than celebration of the harvest—it was in honor of the creation of the new United States Constitution! In 1789, President George Washington issued a proclamation designating November 26 of that year as a "Day of Publick Thanksgiving" to recognize the role of providence in creating the new United States and the new federal Constitution.

Washington was in his first term as president, and a young nation had just emerged successfully from the Revolution. Washington called on the people of the United States to acknowledge God for affording them "an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness." This was the first time Thanksgiving was celebrated under the new Constitution.

Thanksgiving Becomes a Federal Holiday

While Thanksgiving became a yearly tradition in many communities—celebrated on different months and days that suited them—it was not yet a federal government holiday.

Thomas Jefferson and many subsequent presidents felt that a public religious demonstration of piety was not appropriate for a government type of holiday in a country based in part on the separation of church and state. While

religious thanksgiving services continued, there were no further presidential proclamations marking Thanksgiving until the Civil War of the 1860s.

It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

Thanksgiving is observed on the last Thursday in November

President Lincoln made a proclamation marking Thursday, November 26, 1863, as Thanksgiving. Lincoln's proclamation harkened back to Washington's, as he was also giving thanks to God following a bloody military confrontation.

In this case, Lincoln was expressing gratitude to God and thanks to the Army for emerging successfully from the Battle of Gettysburg. He enumerated the blessings of the American people and called upon his countrymen to "set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." As of that year, Thanksgiving was celebrated on the last Thursday in November.

Thanksgiving is briefly moved to the third Thursday in November

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to the second-to-last Thursday. It was the tail-end of the Depression, and Roosevelt's goal was to create more shopping days before Christmas and to give the economy a boost. However, many people continued to celebrate Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November, unhappy that the holiday's date had been meddled with. You could argue, however, that this helped create the shopping craze known as Black Friday.

In 1941, to end any confusion, the president and Congress established Thanksgiving as a United States federal holiday to be celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, which is how it stands today!



(Continued from page 1)

the time for the plan was now. I started Seminary in January of 2014 and graduated in May of 2017. While that seems all neat and clean, we all know life is not always that simple. I broke my knee cap in 2015 which impacts me even today and I changed from being a Methodist of 35 years to the UCC, but those are stories for another time. And God took me through becoming a Chaplain before calling me to my first Church. For the past 5 years I have been a Chaplain serving in Hospitals, even during the Pandemic. I had the Covid floor and worked in the

ICU. I bring all of these learning and experiences with me to serve here at Amery Congregational. I am beyond excited to join the faith journey of this congregation and its impact on the community through its mission in loving all people.

A friendly reminder, I have a Beagle named Bailey who is 10, she will be present at the office with me some of the time. She loves people. If you have any allergies to dogs – please know I can meet you outside of the office to talk.

I hope to meet each and every one of you soon!

Peace and Joy

Dana



**Twenty-Second Annual
Chili Feed**
Dine In or Take Out

Proceeds to benefit Northwoods Homeless Shelters
located in Amery and Luck

Saturday, November 19, 2022
4:30 pm — 6:30 pm



Free Will Offering

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1050 Keller Ave. N., Amery

Silent Auction Baskets

Thank you everyone who had a part in making the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner a success. There were over 25 members who assisted with the jobs to pull this event off: de-boners of the 20 chickens, veggie cutters, cranberry relish makers, biscuit makers, brownie makers, gravy makers, coffee makers, cashier, food servers and dishwashers. I am grateful for you all. I also want to thank everyone who supported the event by attending the dinner. We served approximately 150 dinners and brought in approximately \$1,700.00 before expenses were taken out. After we decided to have our dinner, we found out Balsam Lutheran Church was also having a dinner on the same day. Going forward if we decide to do it again, we will choose another day/weekend to do ours. We had more take out dinners than expected so Alek and Abby put their heads together and called Village Pizzeria to see if they had extra takeout containers that we could buy. Thank goodness they did and provided us with enough at no cost. Thank you, Abby, Alek and Village Pizzeria. Feeling blessed with the support of our church community, Sherry Monson



October 11, 2022 Council Meeting

Attendance: Barry Tulkki, Abby Betzold, Ginny Ormsby, Sherry Monson, Dave Bowman, Rae Wooldridge, Sandy Morris, Heather Rushfeld, Garth Schumacher.

Opened in prayer by Garth Schumacher

September Council Minutes approved by Barry T & Abby B. Passed

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports: Ginny O reported we continue to spend less and continue to bring in less. Variance between income and expense is less than \$7,000.00. Motion to approve the treasure & financial secretary report made by Dave B & Barry T. Passed

Clerks Report: Sandy M reported membership at 163.

Youth Director Report: Abby B reported the youth attendance averages between 10-15 students per week. Youth Sunday will be held on October 30. A youth lock-in will take place on Saturday, October 29th. Still in need of a male chaperone from 9 pm to breakfast time.

Board of Trustee Report: Dave B reported the 2023 budget has been reduced 11% from 2022. Motion to accept the new budget made by Abby B & Sandy M to be presented at the budget/election meeting in November. An Audit Committee has been selected and consists of: Chad Leonard, Ashley Emerson, Shia Swanson, Brittany Dusek and Duane Morris. Their duties will begin on January 1, 2023. The signing of church checks needs to be the Trustee Chair or Moderator. Mary P, Margie P and Brittany D have been working on an inventory on all church supplies, record, tools, etc. They are requesting each committee chair go through the areas and dispose of anything that is not necessary so they can get a handle on storage space and organize items that are still necessary. They would like to know by November 1, 2022.

Board of Christian Education: Abby B reported they started talking about the Christmas Program. It will take place on December 11.

Board of Deaconate: Barry T brought up that as part of Heather Rushfeld's training she had to go through a Psychological Evaluation that cost money. The Church is responsible for 1/3 of the cost with Heather and the Associate each paying the other 2/3 of the cost. They recommend the church's portion be taken out of the Memorial Fund. They have started to go through the membership list and will be making calls to members who have not contributed financially, actively involved in church activities or worship.

Board of Congregational Giving: Abby B reported they have not met since the last Council meeting.

Mission and Social Concern Committee: Heather R reported the diaper tote will continue through October for a local mother who is in need for her upcoming birth. She found out the mother will be having a girl. If anyone is interested, she would welcome baby clothes and other baby supplies. Heather applied for a grant and will be assembling personal hygiene kits. The plan is to put together 40 kits. The plan for the November tote will be either something for the group home in Deronda, Amery Food Shelf or a Reverse Advent Calendar.

Pastor Report: Pastor Garth reported he regrets not living closer during his interim period. He recommends that the church continue to have good interpersonal connection by encouraging members/friends bring their concerns to the pastor so they can be discussed.

Old Business:

- Policy Book has been found.
- Chicken and Biscuit Fundraiser: Served approximately 130 people. We had more take outs than what was expected. Village Pizzeria was generously willing to supply us with extra take out containers at the last minute. We brought in over \$1600.00 but bills have not been taken out. Sherry M charged at Dick's Market approximately \$400.00 for chicken's and other dinner supplies and Ginny O has a bill from Sam's Club for dinner supplies.
- Pastor Garth's Farewell Dinner. Ginny reported members are to bring a dish to pass.

New Business:

- Heather R presented several possible ideas for Church Activities:
 - o Bingo VFW – no cost except for purchase of food and bingo cards
 - o Bible Study events – Youtube
 - o Apple Picking Events. Sandy M mentioned the upcoming FFA Corn Maze/hayride.
 - o Theology on Tap – Ale Works, Tac Two &/or UW-Wandroos
 - o Documentaries – Billy Graham, Black Church, Kalove, etc.
 - o Wine Tasting
 - o Secret Event
- Installation for Dana Caldwell – January 7, 2023 (Epiphany Weekend); Invite other churches
- WISE presentation discussed. Council's consensus to proceed. WISE = Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged
- Hope and Healing Walk: Suggested to be held the weekend after Fall Festival 2023. Thinking to have booths and speakers.
- Deactivation of the Mission and Social Concerns Committee: After a short discussion and motion was made and 2nd by Dave B & Ginny O to temporarily deactivate the Mission and Social Concerns Committee until 3 committee members are found. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Motion to adjourn by Barry T & Abby B. passed.

Submitted by: Sherry Monson

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Church Clean - Emerson Noisy Kettle 10:00am Sunday Youth Service 11:00am Pot Luck	31 Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:00pm Diaconate Meeting	2 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group 7:00pm Christian Education Mtg.	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	4 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	5
6 Church Clean - Monson/Morris 10:00am Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship/Blessing of the Military	7 Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	8 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:00pm Council Meeting	9 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 1:30pm - 2:30pm Garth - AMC 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	10 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	11 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	12 6:45am Ruby's Pantry Volunteers 7:30am - 9:00am Ruby's Pantry Distribution at SMC
13 Budget and Election Meeting Church Clean - Emerson 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship/Sunday School	14 Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	16 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 2:00pm - 3:00pm Garth - Evergreen 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	17 8:15am Ministerium 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	18 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	19
20 Church Clean - Betzold 8:30am Trustee Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship/Sunday School 11:15am Congregational Giving Mtg.	21 Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	22 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	23 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group 7:00pm Community Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's	24 Thanksgiving - Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 Church Clean - Bowman/Anderson/Bevington 10:00am Sunday Worship/Hanging of the Greens	28 Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	30 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	1 10:00am -	2 9:00am -	3

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

**"Fear not November's
 challenge bold -
 We've books and
 friends,
 And hearths that never
 can grow cold:
 These make amends!"
 — Alexander Louis
 Fraser, "November"**