

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



From Pastor Dana

Saturday, September 21, 9-12 we will have a Church Finances meeting with Andrew Warner via zoom.

We will gather in the fellowship hall and all are welcome.

Who is Andrew Warner?

Andrew B. Warner CFRE, serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer of the national setting of the UCC. In that role he trains, coaches, and mentors conference and congregational leaders across the country to strengthen the culture of generosity in the UCC. Working collaboratively with staff of the national setting, conferences and congregations, Andrew will design workshops, presentations, and resources on philanthropy and development of best practices.

Andrew also serves as President of the Wisconsin Foundation UCC. He leads the fundraising efforts of the conference, supports the planned giving and effective philanthropy of congregations, and works to organize a foundation based on a community foundation model for the endowments of the conference and congregations.

Before joining the conference staff in 2019, Andrew served for twenty-two years as pastor of Plymouth Church UCC of Milwaukee, a vibrant and inclusive Christian community. Through faith-based leadership and board service, Andrew developed as a leader who connects people's deepest passions with generative opportunities and initiatives.

What is the purpose of the meeting?

Andrew is coming to share with us about trends and shifts in churches within our conference and around the country and where do we, Amery Congregation aligns with those trends and ways we may not. He will also talk with us about resulting best practices around what is effective and what that looks like for us financially. He will talk with us about how planned giving plays into our larger financial plan and finally how to implement any

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May your September be filled
with love, blessing,
and healing

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next steps we might take. This will not be a lecture but a dialogue/conversation. (Chad, Andrew and I will meet via zoom about one month before hand to give him a thumbnail sketch of our finances so Andrew will have a picture of who we are today and where we have been)

Why am I inviting all of you?

Because if we plan to implement any next steps or make some alternative decisions I want as many people as possible to hear it firsthand. As members of this church, you all have a voice in our future and I want you to be empowered through transparency which will help us all discern our path forward. This is a very important gathering of our leadership, please give it a priority in your planning.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

If you have any questions in advance for Andrew - please let me know and I will be sure he comes prepared to address them. Dana

Amery Health Happiness Walk and Block Party!

The Walk and Block Party is on Saturday, September 28th from 10am -2pm – Just a few weeks away! The excitement is in the air! Are you thinking about how you can support the event? Is it inviting people you know? Could it be putting a basket together (Guidelines in the Narthex) or making a financial contribution? How about set up or clean up? or being part of the food serving crew? Encouraging people to play yard games-like corn hole? Helping with the 2.5k walk in some way... Maybe you have some community connections that you can tape for a basket, other donations or volunteers? there are many ways- just let us know what might be right for you! Thank you so much for your participation in making the event a success in helping the Mental Health Collaborative and for bringing the community together to have fun, good food, and learn about being healthier in all ways!

Women’s Retreat

Our retreat will be held on Saturday October 19th from 8:00am to 2:30 pm. Held at East Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Lead by Rev Dana Caldwell, Rev Hilary Tolson, and Rev Laurie Kenyon Wood, using Joyce Rupp’s book “The Cup of Our Life, a Guide for Spiritual Growth. The fee is \$25 which includes the book, or you can purchase the book for \$5 and the fee is then reduced to \$20. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. In anticipation, savor this poem by Joyce Rupp.

“It is time for me to see the flaws of myself and stop being alarmed. It is time for me to halt my drive for perfection and to accept my blemishes. It is time for me to receive slowly evolving growth, the kind that comes in God’s own good time and pays no heed to me panicky pushing. It is time for me to embrace my humanness to love my incompleteness. It is time for me to cherish the unwanted and welcome the unknown to treasure the unfulfilled. If I wait to be perfect before I love myself I will always be unsatisfied and ungrateful. If I wait until all the flaws, chips, and cracks disappear I will be the cup that stands on the shelf and is never used.”

Children and Youth Ministry Summit

Teresa Cho, St John’s Presbyterian
 Teresa suggested we explore our feelings around having children in worship. What do we consider respectful, reverent, appropriate, welcoming. Also thinking about How do we celebrate and support our baptismal vows of the children who have been baptized in this church. Dana- How do we actively express that support? Some ideas Life mentor- from Baptism trough confirmation. Family support- young to older family as connection to and resource of the church. Dana- concerned we do not currently even have a strong mentor program for our Youth going through confirmation. So, are we really willing to formulate supportive

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mentorships? Do we need some sense of mentor training.

Teresa- What is our motivation to have children, young people, young families within our church? Dana -Can verbalize it? Can we build programs under our verbalization of the importance of having these age groups as part of our congregation? Teres why do we want the presence of Children, young families in our worship, Dana-what does this mean to use- what does it signify.

Dana- things that came to mind for me are – do we have quite space within the sanctuary we can offer to young children? Do we have space for the strollers or car seats that may enable the children/parents to be in the service with us? What programs are we willing to support? Mothers’ morning out? Date night, parents’ meetings with Firestarter parents as check ins. What about Childcare when needed for meetings, gatherings, retreats, etc- if we don’t have it why should/would/will then come. On an aside – will we need more room for walkers, wheelchairs, in our sanctuary as we also age?

Festival of Homiletics Thelma Bryant

Thelma asks us, “What is the purpose of the church?” (we may have many different answers to this) She goes further to ask- Do traumatized people feel safe in our presence? Are you sanctuary for the unprotected. Whose wounds need to be addressed by you and whose have you addressed. How sensitive are we to people victims? Are we actually insensitive? Do we interact with people who would be considered on the social margins? If we interact do we place expectations on them that come from the center of society. How comfortable are we about looking at those on the margins of society?

Trauma can be complex and it may affect people long after the trauma but it does not define them. How can we show up for those who are traumatized. The ravages of trauma are throughout the Bible. How did Jesus

respond? Maybe the best story are of Lazarus dying and being raised again – the challenge to the community to remove his grave clothes (or the sense that he is dead) or said another way allow him to live again- to come back to what was before. We have to allow people to move on beyond their trauma.

You are not discardable, I am not discardable, NO ONE is discardable as a child of God. We need to show our humanity to one another. Give ourselves self-care and each other care. We are called to risk to show love, and risk to receive love, then risk to allow healing. Healing is not instant but takes time. God is with us. We are already enough. We are already Holy enough because God is with us-sit with that.

We can be a stabilizing presence for people, if we just listen. As we listen the traumatized may share only part of the story- and then as we listen and are present to them they may start the story over with more detail. They are learning to trust us, to trust their story with us, to trust sharing insight to their pain with us.

Dear Friends,

I would like to again encourage you to let me know how I can help you or how we as a church can help you, if you are ill, if you are having dr appts, or procedures and you would like prayer with me, if you are going through grief. Please let me know how you would like to be supported. Everyone is different. Some want home visits, some not, some want a hospital visit some do not, some want texts others want phone calls. If you are up and around and would like additional support please let me know. I need your help in knowing what you need. I highly respect your privacy, If you would just like a home visit from me for any reason please invite me. I am hear and available to you but I need you to let me know when to rally the troops or when and how I can provide support and care for you.

Peace Dana



Happy Birthday

09/01 Karri Bowen	09/21 Adam Tulkki
09/02 Gavin Harris	09/22 Barry Schaefer
09/02 Pat Canham	09/23 Evie Porter
09/02 Paula Richey	09/24 Leanne Whitley
09/04 Cooper Harris	09/25 Joy Silvis
09/06 Thomas Bowen	09/26 Randy Olson
09/08 Tyler Jackson	09/28 Teri Kohlrusch

September Born

People born in September are truly remarkable! They often possess a unique blend of intelligence, practicality, and a strong work ethic. Known for their meticulous nature, they excel in fields that require attention to detail and organization. Whether it's in medicine, law, teaching, or creative arts, September-born individuals strive for excellence and often achieve it. Their analytical minds and pragmatic approach to life make them reliable and trustworthy friends and colleagues. They are also known for their kindness and compassion, making them wonderful partners and friends.

Some famous September-born individuals include Beyoncé, Zendaya, Keanu Reeves, and Prince Harry. These celebrities exemplify the creativity, dedication, and charisma that many September-born people share.



AMERY RUBY'S PANTRY

Hosted by: Congregational Church

Ruby's Pantry is for anyone that is looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. For a \$25 bundle donation, you will receive an abundance of groceries. There is no income or residency requirement. Guests can attend as many locations each month that work for their schedule.

Next Ruby's Pantry is September 14

DAYS AND HOURS
 2nd Saturday of the Month
 Food bundles available 7:30-9:00 AM

Lament Prayer Service Thursday, September 12 6pm

A lament prayer service is a time for a congregation to come together to reflect, trust in God, and bring their pain to him. It's a way to grieve and praise God through sorrow, and to process pain so that one can rejoice. Some say that lamenting in good faith can clear the way for praise, and that God will eventually turn tears into laughter.



Listen to my words, LORD,
 consider my lament.



Harvest of Harmony in Amery

"DREAM DATE"

66th Annual Harvest of Harmony
 Polk County Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society - "Indianhead Chorus"

October 5th at 2pm and 7pm at Amery High School Auditorium

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. You can see Rae at the church office if you would like to buy advance tickets or give her a call at 715.554.3196

Our special guest, The Newfangled Four is one of the top barbershop quartets in the world, performing all around the United States, as well as internationally. Combining old fashion slapstick humor with their quirky offbeat comedy, The Newfangled Four merges their talents as top notch harmony singers and world class entertainers.

Women's Retreat Annual Women's Retreat is Saturday, October 19th 9am-2:30pm

The focus is Joyce Rupp's book *The Cup of Our Life* will be the subject - cost \$ 20 without the book or \$25 with a preowned book. Books are available now if you want to read ahead of the retreat but that is not required.



Donations for the Amery Health Happiness Walk and Block Party

We need your help in all ways to support this event!

Please Take an envelope to make a donation at the amount you are comfortable with.

Take the flower off the envelope and place it on the picture in the center of the display. Where ever you like. We want to fill the picture with flowers representing our participation and donation toward the event.

Using the envelope, put your donation in the envelope, seal it, then return the envelope in the offering box, or give it to Rae or Dana



Thank you so much!



Giving is not just about making a donation

It is about making a difference

Council Meeting August 18, 2024

Attendance: Nyla Anderson, Rick Maukstad, Sherry Monson, Pastor Dana Caldwell, Chad Leonard, Dave Bowman, Beth Leonard, Sandy Morris, Abby Betzold & Peter Kwong

Pastor Dana opened meeting in prayer.

July 2024 Council Minutes approved after discussion about the Lilac tree and roof drain issues. Per Dave B, the tree is no longer going to be cut down. Motion to accept the minutes were made and second by Chad L and Dave B. Passed.

Trustee/Financial Secretary Report: Chad L. presented the budget to date. We are still having decreased income to expenses. We currently have a budget balance negative of \$19,430.38.

Clerk's Report: Sandy M. indicated we had 1 new member, Mike Swank, join the church. Membership is 146.

Board of Trustee: Dave B reported they are still working with the insurance company regarding the flood damage. It was decided they will not be moving forward with the purchase of new fellowship hall chairs because they will reduce the number of sitting spaces for special functions. They will be installing a special window film on the windows in the narthex by the fountain to try to reduce bleaching of woodwork, etc. and algae growth in fountain. The decision was made to professionally prune the lilac tree instead of moving it or cutting it down. Rae W, church secretary, will be retiring in the spring.

Board of Christian Education: Abby B and Beth L reported that the Firestarter will continue during the school year on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday. The church will be registering for a spot in the Fall Festival Parade. Rick M has volunteered a couple of Llama's with signage advertising the Firestarter's program and distribution of post cards with candy to hand out along the parade route. Breakfast Club will be held on the 2nd and 4th Monday's at Our Saviors. The plan is to have S.T.A.F.F. programming on the 3rd Sunday's. There will be no formal Sunday School planned during worship.

Board of Deacons: Nyla A. and Pastor Dana reported the Lament Service has been going well. It is held on the 2nd Thursday's at 6 pm. The Women's Retreat will be held October 19.

Board of Congregational Giving: Pastor Dana reported they well be meeting next Sunday. They have plans to donate \$5,000.00 for trees in the green space.

Mission and Social Concerns: Pastor Dana reported the "Share the Share Program" has been going well. Duane M. brings the share to the church after Ruby's Pantry and others divide it up into 2 units. They are currently serving 2 families.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dana

- Block Party Promotion: Pamphlets and flyers for the Block Party were reviewed. There is pending financial support from the hospital for the Block Party. Team building for the Block Party Tasks continues.
- Chicken & Biscuit Dinner: Sherry M will not be available to do it on September 8th. There was discussion on having it, not having it or changing the date. It will not happen on September 8.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

- Peter Kwong presented a proposal to do a cooking class where students would learn how to prepare an authentic Chinese dinner. A couple weeks later the class would then prepare the Chinese Dinner as a fundraiser for the church. Details of what would be needed to facilitate the dinner were discussed. Peter K will have a Chinese Cooking class on January 19. Time of day for the class will be determined. Plan to have the students prepare the meal on February 1 to celebrate the Chinese New Year as a church fundraiser.
- Chad L made a motion to cancel the Chicken & Biscuit Dinner for 2024. Dave B second.
- Chad L presented a proposal for the congregation to become a chartering organization for the scouting troop in Amery. He explained that we, as a church, already fulfill the requirements. The scouts have met at our church for years. The Trustees have already approved. Also, the Trustees have approved \$100.00 to each division (Troop, Pack & Venturing Crew). Abby B made a motion that we sponsor Scouting America who meets at our church. Dave B second. Passed.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2024 at 8:00 am.

Motion made & second to adjourn.

Submitted by: Sherry Monson and Nyla Anderson



September

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