

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



FROM PASTOR DANA

For those who missed the solstice service, this is one of the reflective readings:

First Comes the Waiting By Ericka A Hewitt.

This is the season of endings and beginnings, when the small signs of dawn pierce through the night and something new is born. But first come the waiting, first comes the lessons of endings and beginnings. The presence of Life, the sheltering Spirit of Love, grieves with those sweeping up the debris of loss: waits with those who restlessly reach out for change: grant us courage in the night to guard each other's dreams for this holy, wonderous universe. Grant us, Oh Universe the unfolding mystery, as sense of your timing. May we loosen our grip on that which doesn't serve us, leaving behind that which we have outworn and outgrown.

Teach us the lessons of beginnings. Remind us that such waitings and endings may be a starting place, a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born- something right and just and different; a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love- in the fullness of time.

Prayer retreat

Saturday, March 2nd 8am-2pm we will be having a prayer retreat- we will explore prayer tools that could enliven or enhance your prayer life, share stories about what we have learned about prayer, do some praying- no one has to pray out loud- and of course some good fellowship. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Prayer Walks will be returning the 3rd Saturday of the Month, If you have any ideas you would like to share about places we could visit in prayer – please let me know. Some additional ideas are Memory Care, The Highrise-outside, the downtown area, Stower trail, the nature paths behind the intermediate school and middles school.

2024 local ministry and service opportunities

Please be thinking about the following areas of service and ministry. Lent programming and meals, The seder meal prep and service, prayer walks planning that will start up again, mental health first aid event in April, The health happiness walk and block party planning in September, all of which will be getting under way pretty quickly- you can let me know in person, send me a text, call the office or email me for more information.

Sad news

For those who did not know Sandra Welk died just before Christmas. The family will not be holding services but we will recognize her presence with us and celebrate her life and resurrection on Sunday, January 14 at the 10 am service. There is no obituary so if anyone

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has a few words to share about Sandy please share them with me to share or feel free to speak them yourself as we acknowledge her resurrection. Thank you so much.

While I was printing out the signs for last years Health and Happiness Walk and Block Party I ran across this Mental Health First Aid Training in the Websites list of resources Katie McCormack Johnson gave us. I began to read as I put the signs together and then talked to Katie and she agreed this would be a great next step for us. So in April I hope we will hold a Mental Health First Aid training that will be open to the community. Here is a snapshot of what this training is.

What is the description of Mental Health First Aid?

Mental health first aid is the help you give to

someone developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. You can give this first aid until the person has received appropriate professional treatment or the crisis is resolved.

What are the five components of the Mental Health First Aid action plan?

- Action 1: Approach the person, assess. and assist with any crisis.
- Action 2: Listen non-judgmentally.
- Action 3: Give support and information.
- Action 4: Encourage the person to get. appropriate professional help.
- Action 5: Encourage other supports.

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Cleaning - Monson/Ormsby/Morris 10:00am Sunday Worship - Watch Night Service 10:20am Sunday School 11:00am Pot Luck	1 New Year's Day - Office Closed	2 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	3 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm - 8:15pm A Cappella Group	4 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	5 Office Closed	6 8:00am - 11:30am Leader's Workshop 12:00pm - 6:00pm Alex Kegley Court of Honor
7 Cleaning - Betzold 9:00am Diaconate Meeting 10:00am Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship/Installation Service 10:20am Sunday School 11:15am Christian Ed. Mtg 3:00pm - 4:00pm Community Lament Service	8 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	9 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 11:00am Health and Happiness Meeting	10 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:00pm Youth Group 6:15pm Trustee Mtg. 7:15pm - 8:15pm A Cappella Group	11 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	12 Office Closed	13 6:45am Ruby's Pantry Volunteers 7:30am - 9:00am Ruby's Pantry Distribution at SMC
14 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship 10:20am Sunday School	15 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	16 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	17 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm - 8:15pm A Cappella Group	18 8:15am Ministerium 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	19 Office Closed	20
21 Cleaning - Bowman/Anderson/Bevington 8:00am Council Mtg. 10:00am Sunday Worship 10:20am Sunday School 11:15am Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.	22 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	23 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	24 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm - 8:15pm A Cappella Group	25 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	26 Office Closed	27 Betzold Baby Shower
28 Cookie Baking after Church Service 9:00am Congregational Giving Mtg 10:00am Sunday Worship 10:20am Sunday School	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	30 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	31 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm - 8:15pm A Cappella Group	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2 Office Closed	3

Youth Volunteer Contact Information:

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Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

From Abby Betzold, Youth Volunteer

January Youth Updates

A new year often comes with a little change, I am sure by now all of you have heard that I will be taking a different type of role within our youth program as I step back into being a volunteer rather than paid staff. I want to assure you that thanks to the support of our congregation when it comes to our youth that we will be able to still provide some great opportunities for kids of all ages.

If you'd like to help with this transition we will still need a couple of meals provided each month on two Wednesday nights for our Fire Starters Nights, we eat at 5:30pm and typically it has been about 20 people between kids and adults. We also will gladly accept additional volunteers on the nights we have Fire Starters as they have a lot of energy and sometimes it's nice to just have someone who can be an extra set of hands.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping in either of those ways!

Finally, the programming for our middle & high school students will remain at the same time frame as before however, they will be starting to study the Bible using The Bible Project with questions and conversation led by Pastor Dana, the study time will be from 6-7pm each week. We will also still have S.T.A.F.F. Nights with other churches on the third Wednesday of January, April, & May.

January Youth Events:

- Jan. 3rd : Bible Party (Middle & High School Study) 3:30-7pm (Study from 6-7pm)
- Jan. 5th : Amery Breakfast Club 7th-12th Grade @ Our Savior's 7-7:45am
- Jan. 10th : Fire Starters 3:30-6pm & Youth Group 3:30-7pm
- Jan. 17th : Youth Group 3:30-8pm (S.T.A.F.F. Night at Camp Wapo 6-8pm)
- Jan. 19th : Amery Breakfast Club 7th-12th Grade @ Our Savior's 7-7:45am
- Jan. 21st : All Ages Snow Tubing Day @ Badlands Snow Park (RSVP to Abby by 1/16)
- Jan. 24th : Fire Starters 3:30-6pm & Youth Group 3:30-7pm
- Jan. 31st : Bible Party (Middle & High School Study) 3:30-7pm (Study from 6-7pm)

Blessings to you all & a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported my time as youth director. I hope to continue doing as much as I can as a volunteer to support this program!

Abby

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01/05 Alek Betzold | 01/08 Darlene Sattler |
| 01/03 Henry Bowen | 01/09 Debra Strodthoff |
| 01/02 Maren Dodge | 01/08 Essie Whitehead |
| 01/21 Donavan Maukstad | |
| 01/07 Heather Rushfeldt | |
| 01/21 Maralyn Saleh | |
| 01/24 Connor Satterlund | |



Council Meeting December 12, 2023

Attendance: Sheldon Betzold, Abby Betzold, Sandy Morris, Sherry Monson, Dana Caldwell, Dave Bowman (via phone)

6:08 Meeting opened in Prayer led by Pastor Dana

November Minutes corrected that Abby B reached out to Mickie Dado and now the Trustees will be reaching out to her. After correction, Sandy M made a motion to accept the corrected minutes, second by Sherry M. Passed.

Treasure/Financial Secretary Reports: Written Report from Chad. Income is still down. To date, Income to expenses is in the negative at \$19,606.04. Dave B made a motion to wait to approve report until after reviewed by Trustees. Seconded by Sandy M. Passed.

Clerks Report: Sandy M mentioned Sandy Welk passed away last week (December). Unaware of funeral service currently. Current membership is 143.

Youth Director Report: Abby B reported she will be transitioning from a staff position to a volunteer position on December 31, 2023 because of the church's current financial situation. She has accepted another job in Amery. She still plans to stay involved in the following ways with help of other church members as needed: Firestarters, S.T.A.F.F nights with the youth on the 3^d Wednesdays, helping with family/youth activities like snow tubing & 30 Hour Famine for World Vision on March 1& 2 at Our Saviors. As her work schedule allows she wants to continue with the Amery Club on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings. She is hoping to continue to keep the Facebook and Website up to date to the best of her ability as her schedule allows. She is recommending to have some of the money that was going to be used for a paid youth director, now be used for mileage for youth volunteer drivers and possibly youth/family/outreach activities. She would also like to see that office space used to keep things organized to store youth items. Abby B also has volunteered to serve on the Christian Education Committee of the council wishes to vote her in to start in January 2024.

Board of Trustee Report: Dave B reported they discussed Abby B resignation from Youth Director. Pastor Parish Committee including 1 trustee and 2 Congregation Members. They have 3 names in mind. They are working on documentation to guide the Pastor Parish Committee. They are thinking it would include 1 meeting per quarter and if any issues arise between meetings. Rick Maukstad is working on the flood damage. $\frac{3}{4}$ quotes to date have been submitted. Work may start in February. The Barry Schaefer Scholarship will be set up for individual wanting to become Paramedics. Dave B is requesting to buy a larger microwave for the kitchen that would be more functional.

Board of Christian Education Report: Abby B mentioned the youth Christmas Program.

Board of Diaconate Report: Ash Wednesday Meal February 14.

Board of Congregational Giving Report: None.

Pastor Report: Dana C has been in contact with Paul Oman. He is scheduled to come Sunday, April 14. January 6 Leadership Meeting from 8-2. Discussing having sandwiches instead of soup. Supper will be at 5:30 and program/service at 6:00. Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 6:00. Planning a Seder Meal on March 28th. Easter Service March 31. Looking into an intergenerational Lenten Program. Walleye Dinner February 16th.

Review of Monthly Calendar.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1000 Watt Microwave for Kitchen. Possible funding for purchase through Memorial Fund. Dave B will check into purchasing one from Menards.

Motion to have Abby B join the Christian Education Committee in January 2024 was made by Sandy M and seconded by Sherry M. Passed.

Next Council Meeting: January 9, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Recording Secretary

Sherry Monson