



Volume 26 Issue 9 September 2025

Amery Congregational United Church of Christ
201 Harriman Avenue N
Amery, WI 54001
715-268-7390
office.ameryucc@gmail.com
Worship: Sundays at 10:00 AM

Congregational Clarion

September Scheduled Meetings

September 7:	9 am—Diaconate Meeting 11:15 am—Christian Education Meeting
September 10:	7pm - Trustees' Meeting
September 14:	11:15am - Missions & Social Concerns
September 21:	8:00 am - Council Meeting All members are welcome to join
September 28:	9 am—Congo Giving Meeting

September Events and Community Activities

Aug 29th & September 1:	Labor Day—Office Closed
Tuesdays:	10 am—Adult Studies
September 16:	5pm - Gaither Video
September 18-20:	Amery Fall Festival

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Another Walk with Jesus

By Rae

Image By Rae

After I wrote the August article about walking with Jesus, I had a dream. Jesus showed up—wearing a plaid suit. Not flowing robes. Just full-on vaudeville plaid with the oversized suit jacket. I don't remember much else, but that image stuck with me. It was a sign: time to write another "Walking with Jesus" piece. The news had left me raw. I needed air. I stepped outside, limping up our gravel driveway, dodging acorns and sharp pebbles. That's when I felt Him beside me.

"I brought you shoes," Jesus said, holding out a pair. "Tearing up your feet won't ease the ache in your heart." I didn't answer. I was in no mood for divine comfort. Sometimes, you just need to stew in your anger. "I thought I'd walk with you," He said gently, "maybe quiet your thoughts, bring you some peace of mind." I finally turned to face Him. "Peace of mind?" I snapped. "How can you talk about peace of mind when children are dying from preventable famine? When masked men are kidnapping innocents? When women are being assaulted by imposters posing as ICE agents? When policies are being written to crush the already broken?"

Mid-rant, I paused. His outfit caught me off guard. "What's with the suit?" I asked, squinting at the plaid. Jesus ignored my question. "I know you're angry. But your faith tells you that God will make things right in the end. Remember the prayer you say every Sunday— 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' That's not just a hope. It's a call to action." I scoffed. "Tell that to the people suffering right now. And some of the folks who are pushing these cruel policies? They're wearing crosses and quoting scripture. So again—what's with the suit? You look like you just bombed a comedy set at a Vaudeville club. All you're missing is the derby hat."

Jesus smiled, soft and steady. "I know Christians can disappoint you. But God doesn't. Don't let your pain convince you to give up on hope." I cut in angrily. "Then why don't you do something? You're all-powerful, aren't you?" "Free will," he said with a shrug. "What's a Son of Man to do?" I couldn't help but smile a bit at his turn of phrase. He continued, "You can still make a difference. Show kindness. Love your neighbor. Pray for the world. Use your gifts to lift others up." Then He paused, eyeing my awkward gait. "And for heaven's sake, put on these shoes. You're walking like a constipated chicken." I narrowed my eyes. "And you look like a geek in that ridiculous plaid suit. Sandals with white socks? Really?"

We tried to glare at each other, but the giggles won. He took my hand, and we walked on. And somehow, the comfort I felt had less to do with the Birkenstocks now on my feet—and everything to do with the company walking beside me.

GRANDPARENTS DAY — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

THE HISTORY OF GRANDPARENTS DAY

A day for young and old to honor each other, and an opportunity for civic engagement for all generations

National Grandparents Day falls each year on the first Sunday after Labor Day. It's not a holiday invented to sell cards and flowers. It was initiated at the grassroots level by West Virginian Marian Lucille Herndon McQuade, with the behind-the-scenes support of her husband Joseph L. McQuade. They had 15 children, 43 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. After being married for over 60 years, Mr. McQuade passed away in 2001. Mrs. McQuade passed away in 2008.

Thanks to President Jimmy Carter and Senators Robert Byrd and Jennings Randolph introducing official legislation into the Senate, it officially became a national holiday on August 3rd, 1978.

There are three purposes for National Grandparents Day:

- 1) To commemorate and pay respect to grandparents
- 2) To recognize the importance that older people can have on the lives of the young
- 3) To give said grandparents the opportunity to show love and support for their children's children.



Mark Your Calendars

October 11th: Chinese Dinner is Back

If you are interested in helping organize this year's event reach out to Rae Wooldridge, Penny Carter, Sherry Monson or Peter Kwong.

Walleye Dinner will be held Friday, February 20, 2026

Volunteers and organizers will be needed as the date gets closer

Dinner Theater will be held the weekend of April 30-May 2, 2026.

Many volunteer opportunities for this event will be needed Start thinking about how you would like to be a part of it....cook, serve or STAR!

Council Meeting August 17, 2025

Attendance: Barry Tulkki, Sherry Monson, Chad Leonard, Beth Leonard, Abby Betzold, Sandy Morris, Margie Peterson. Other members attending a portion of the meeting included Peter Kwong and Rae Woldridge.

Meeting opened in prayer led by Abby B.

Approval of July 2025 minutes. Sandy M. made a motion to approve and seconded by Abby B. Passed.

Financial/Treasure Report: Chad L presented the report indicating we have spent \$40,000.00 over income. We are currently living off reserves. The catalyst grant we received for the Block Party does need to be returned. It was clarified we can spend the interest of the Jen Christensen Trust Fund on youth, music and landscaping. A motion to approve the report was made by Margie P and seconded by Barry T. Passed.

Clerk's Report: Sandy M announced no change in membership status. Membership still at 143.

Board of Trustees: Margie P reported on the following:

- ☐ The bathroom doors have been adjusted to the best that they can be.
- ☐ Air Conditioner in fellowship hall & kitchen have been repaired
- ☐ Polk County wants a new refrigerator in the pantry.
- ☐ Planning to replace floor tiles in the pantry.
- ☐ The name plate on the fountain will be replaced.
- ☐ Looking into lights behind the hallway stain glass windows to illuminate them better.

Board of Christian Education: Abby B reported they are looking into partnering with Wapo staff for the Amery Community Youth Group programing. Breakfast Club will be starting again when school starts. Regarding the confirmation program, they are still waiting to hear back from First Lutheran Church. Additional suggestions by the council included checking into an online program. Abby B will follow up with the students, Christian Ed. Board to see what can be figured out.

Board of Diaconate: Barry T reported they continue to visit members of the congregation who are unable to come to church. They are planning to continue with the current worship arrangements.

Board of Congregational Giving: Beth L reported they continue to update the memorial leaves. They will be replacing the engraved memorial plate on the fountain. They have received the Beth Mares memorial gift, but they still need to get an address to send a thank you. The next Noisy Kettle money will be given to the school backpack program.

Board of Mission and Social Concerns: no report

Church Calendar: reviewed and corrections made.

Old Business:

- ☐ Catalyst Grant of \$2500.00 for the Block Party needs to be returned.
- ☐ The Pulpit Committee has been formed including the following members: Vonnice N, Margie P, Rae W, Beth L, Maralyn S, Adam T, and Sherry M

New Business:

- ☐ Peter Kwong presented his information regarding holding cooking classes at the church. After his presentation and discussion, the Council recommended he contact the Community Education Program again because there is a new organizational person now.
- ☐ Chinese Dinner Organization Meeting will be held next Sunday, August 24th right after worship.

Next Meeting: September 21st at 8:00 am

Motion to adjourn was made by Barry T and second by Abby B. Passed.

Submitted by Sherry Monson, Recording Secretary

Friends and Visitors of Congo Birthdays

Verle Ormsby	09/02	Gary Piasecki	09/21
Gavin Harris	09/02	Barry Schaefer	09/22
Pat Canham	09/02	Andrew Benner	09/23
Paula Richey	09/02	Leanne Whitley	09/24
Cooper Harris	09/04	Joy Silvis	09/25
Thomas Bown	09/06	Sash Rondeau	09/25
Shania Burstad	09/07	Randy Olson	09/26
Tyler Jackson	09/08	Teri Kohlrusch	09/28
Adam Tulkki	09/21		

The September birthstone, sapphire, was once thought to guard against evil and poisoning. It was believed that a venomous snake would die if placed in a vessel made of sapphire. Traditionally a favorite stone of priests and kings, the sapphire symbolizes purity and wisdom.



September Worship Leader Schedule

September 7:	Barry Tulkki
September 14:	Abby Betzold
September 21:	Chad Leonard
September 28:	Barry Tulkki

Other Special September Dates

- Labor Day, *September 1, 2025*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 7, 2025*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2025*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 7, 2025*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15, 2025*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 22, 2025*

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FIRST 2026 MISSION TRIP MEETING

September 14th

9am

Fellowship Hall

Join us if you'd like more information
about what our team does and how to
join us!

Youth Activities

**NEW SCHOOL YEAR - NEW
FUN!**

Amery Breakfast Club: Starting back up Sept. 15th at 7am at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (6th-12th grade welcome!) Regularly meeting the 1st & 3rd Mondays!

Faith & Fun: For youth in K-5th join us on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays over at Our Savior's for fun, fellowship, and supper - Starting Oct. 8th!

Amery Community Youth Group: Hosted at Camp Wapo each month this year! First meeting will be Sept. 28th (more details to come!)



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Church Potluck Noisy Kettle - Salvation Army 10:00am Sunday Worship	1 Office Closed for Labor Day 6:30pm Boy Scouts	2 10:00am Adult Studies 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	4 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	5 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	6 1:00pm - 4:00pm R. Shafer Funeral
7 9:00am Diaconate Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship Led by Barry Tulkki- Communion 11:15am Christian Ed. Mtg	8 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	9 10:00am Adult Studies 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	10 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:00pm Trustee Mtg.	11 Amery Fall Festival 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	12 Amery Fall Festival 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	13 Amery Fall Festival
14 Amery Fall Festival 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship Led by Abby Betzold	15 7 AM Breakfast Club at Our Saviors 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	16 10:00am Adult Studies 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	17 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	18 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	19 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	20
21 8:00am Council Mtg. 10:00am Sunday Worship Led by Chad Leonard 11:15am Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.	22 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	23 10:00am Adult Studies 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	24 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	25 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	26 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	27
28 9:00am - 10:00am Congo Giving Mtg 10:00am Sunday Worship Led by Barry Tulkki	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	30 10:00am Adult Studies 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	4