

# Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

	Page #
Birthdays .....	2
Youth .....	3
Unfolding Light.....	4
Hope and Healing.....	5
Book Review.....	6
Into the Mystic by John Dorhauer .....	7
Calendar .....	8

*Show by your good life  
that your works are done  
with gentleness born of  
wisdom.  
The wisdom from above  
is first pure, then  
peaceable,  
gentle, willing to yield,  
full of mercy and good  
fruits,  
without a trace of  
partiality or hypocrisy.*

James 3.13, 17

## TWO IMPORTANT FORUMS COMING!

1st Forum: "STATE OF THE INTERIM, WHERE WE ARE IN OUR CHURCH" Sunday, Sept. 25

2nd Forum: "GREAT EXPECTATIONS: OUR NEXT PASTOR" Sunday, October 2  
Both will be only 30-45 minutes long immediately after worship

Remember John 15:5-8? "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

I've always strived to make the connection between our world and the ministry of Jesus. I know that, just like John 15, we will shrivel and die as a church without that connection... I don't care how many "best practices" we follow, keeping Jesus as the head of our church will always be paramount!

With that in mind, each forum will prayerfully encapsulate how Jesus Christ is part of both the

interim process and the welcoming of your new pastor. The transition time between a departing pastor and a regularly called and installed permanent pastor presents an extraordinary opening for possible transformation. Too many churches miss this infrequent opportunity because of confusion or haste. With this in mind, I've tried to find a middle way between the Traditional and Intentional approaches to our interim time together.

## The Traditional vs. Intentional Approach

There are two different broad strategies capture the congregation's leadership choices during an interim period.

**Traditional approach.** In the traditional approach, the church searches for someone to keep the doors open and help the congregation tread water. The interim minister's role is seen as providing stability and keeping all programs and ministries running. The goal in this approach is not to move the church in any particular direction. A local retired pastor may be asked to provide this type of leadership to prevent the church from losing momentum. Certainly an experienced pastor, serving as an interim, can maintain and enhance the church's ministry.

*(Continued on page 7)*



- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 09/01 Bradon Folkert | 09/21 Garth Schumacher |
| 09/01 Karri Bowen    | 09/22 Ian Stoeklen     |
| 09/02 Gavin Harris   | 09/22 Barry Schaefer   |
| 09/02 Pat Canham     | 09/23 Evie Porter      |
| 09/02 Paula Richey   | 09/23 Andrew Benner    |
| 09/03 Kori Nelson    | 09/24 Leanne Whitley   |
| 09/04 Cooper Harris  | 09/25 Adam Morris      |
| 09/06 Thomas Bowen   | 09/25 Joy Silvis       |
| 09/07 Shania Burstad | 09/25 Sasha Rondeau    |
| 09/18 Chris Anderson | 09/26 Randy Olson      |
| 09/21 Adam Tulkki    | 09/28 Teri Kohlrusch   |
| 09/21 Gary Piasecki  |                        |

Duane Morris and I could use another person to help with cleaning the church. Our third helper is no longer able to assist. Here are this years' dates we are responsible for cleaning: 9/24, 11/5 and 12/17. I hope you will be able to join our cleaning team. Please call me at 715.268.2419. If I am unable to answer, leave a message so I may return your call.

Thank you,  
Sherry Monson



We would like to thank **Sherry Monson** and **Chris Lindee** for all their hard work in making our church flower beds look beautiful as well as pulling all the weeds in the parking lot!

It looks amazing!

Blessings,  
The Bowmans



**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**

**YOUTH:**

It's feeling like fall around here! With the beginning of another school year we will be back at regular youth group starting Wednesday, August 31st. Youth Group will be on the same schedule as last year from after school (around 3:30pm) until 7pm. We will have a meal each week at 6pm as before. The beginning of the school year is a great time to invite friends, tell your neighbors, or even become a volunteer! It's a fun time of joy and fellowship with our youth. Reminder youth events are designed for grades 6th-12th.

A change this year is that we currently will not have transportation by bus for kids from the school to church. Our school district has updated their bussing policies, I am hoping if it is a bad weather day we can look at arranging volunteers to bring the kids, or I recommend if a parent is willing to bring their child that they bring friends too! I plan to keep everyone posted as this will be ongoing.

Our Sunday School Programming will look a little different this year. The first day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, September 11th directly following children's moment. After this, we will be having Sunday School once a month and on other Sundays children are welcome to head to the balcony during the sermon with Beth Leonard to do quiet projects, worksheets, etc. Sunday School is designed for ages Pre-K through 5th Grade.

We are also still looking for some Wednesday night cooks! We typically have about 15 people between youth and adults (I will let you know if I anticipate more or less on the week). We eat at 6pm each week. Please reach out to me if this is something you'd be interested in doing!

I thank you all, our members, parents, youth, & volunteers for your continued support of our youth and am looking forward to another school year and church year beginning!

Blessings,  
Abby

**Youth Events:**

**Sept. 7th - Youth Group 3:30-7pm**

**Sept. 11th - Sunday School Starts 10am**

**Sept. 14th - Youth Group 3:30-7pm**

**Sept. 21st - Youth Group 3:30-7pm**

**Sept. 28th - Youth Group 3:30-7pm**



## UNFOLDING LIGHT

### Daily Reflections and Worship Resources

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Unfolding Light is a daily reflection rooted in a contemplative, Creation-centered spirituality, often inspired by my daily walk in the woods. In poems, parables, psalms, thoughts and the odd weather report I hope to invite readers into a spirit of presence, compassion, justice and delight. Though these writings are rooted in the Christian story you'll hear in them melodies of many traditions. Unfolding Light is for anyone who wants to be a part of God's healing of the world.

### Division

Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! —Luke 12.51

There is only one thing,  
and we are all part of it.  
One God, one Creation,  
one Spirit, one Body.  
We care for the poor,  
include the outcast,  
forgive those who hurt us  
and love our enemies  
because they are us.

All is one.

This is disturbing to those who are afraid,  
who are self-enclosed,  
who want to be better than—  
that is, separate from—others.

They will oppose those who preach unity,  
those who celebrate our oneness.

If you proclaim the gospel of uniting love  
they will turn against you,  
they will divide “us” from “them.”

This division is to be expected.

Don't let it discourage you.

Forgive them, for we are still one.

You have touched the nerve.

In that touch, by grace, in time,  
in the fullness of time,  
healing will come.

### Hope

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.

—Hebrews 11.1

Hope is not optimism, not wishing,  
not a bet on the future,  
but trust in what is already present, unseen.

I hope in the sunrise because the earth is already turning.

My faith is not that God will intervene  
and make things better or fix problems;  
my faith is that love is at work.

I trust in hidden love even as injustice runs loose.

I believe in our Oneness even as war and racism wound us.

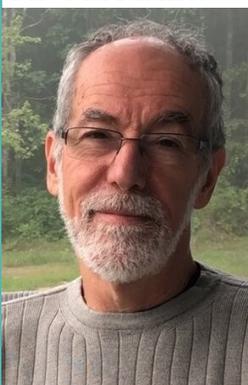
I know our Belovedness even as we assault each other.

Even though we damage the earth,  
though the violent rage and the rich oppress the poor,  
still this world is born of Goodness,  
and grace flourishes even in bad places,  
and Love holds us in aching but untiring arms.

Even when the way is not well lit, I live in hope.

### About Steve Garnaas-Holmes

I'm a retired United Methodist pastor. My wife Beth and I live in Maine. We have three grown sons whom I love dearly.



I served churches for 40 years in Montana and New England. I've also lived in South Dakota, California, Washington and Minnesota. I often lead retreats on prayer, poetry and renewing our language about God. I used to write and perform with the Montana Logging & Ballet Company, a quartet that did music and comedy around the country, but people laughed us off the stage so after 37

years we quit. I write a lot of church music. I am trying to be here now.



**The Mental Health Task Force of Polk County works to improve mental health in our community through education and innovative programming. Please check out their website for resources and events: <https://mentalhealthpolk.org/>**



Join us for our 2022 Hope and Healing on Saturday, September 24th, 2022 at Coon Lake Park in Frederic, WI for our second annual Hope and Healing. This is a FREE EVENT. Come spend the day with us and visit our: resource booths and art displays. Enjoy outdoor games, chalk painting, coloring projects for all ages, including making kindness rocks. This is a SOBER Event.

The purpose of this event is to invite our community to come together to celebrate positive mental health and sobriety, learn about what community resources are available and learn how to live healthy and rewarding lives. September is National Suicide Prevention Month as well as National Recovery Month.

Nyla Anderson and I will be attending this event. If you would like to ride with one of us, please call the office at 715.268.7390.

Rae

**Get Connected. Get Help. 24/7/365**

When you need help and don't know where to turn, **211** is your one-stop connection to the local services that are here for you, like food and utility assistance, housing, mental health services and crisis intervention, elder care, disaster services, substance abuse help, and much more. 211 St. Croix Valley provides free, confidential information and referral to programs in Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett counties.

**HOW TO CONTACT 211:**

CALL 211 to speak to a representative (dial 877-947-2211 if you have a non-715 area code)

TEXT your zip code to 898211

Mental health problems don't define who you are.

They are something you experience. You walk in the rain and you feel the rain, but you are not the rain.

## Book Review by Heather Rushfeldt

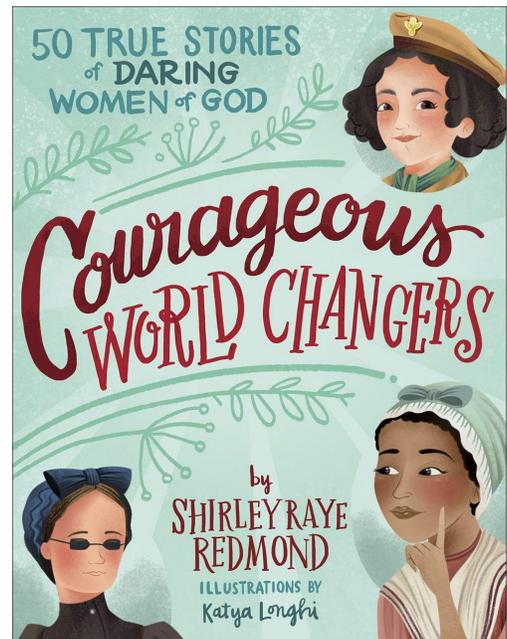
### Courageous World Changers

By Shirley Raye Redmond, Illustrations by Katya Longhi

*Courageous World Changers: 50 True Stories of Daring Women of God* is a vibrantly illustrated and engaging collection of biographies of inspiring women of faith I picked up this title while researching potential books for the Congo Youth, and honestly couldn't put it down.

Although the sketches each fit on one page, Shirley Redmond gives her readers a taste of each woman's personality, calling, and notable accomplishments. Katya Longhi provides a colorful portrait of each person being portrayed. I was impressed by the range of representation this book presents.

Heroines of faith from numerous cultures, time periods, and traditions are represented. Varieties of vocations, races, ages, and abilities are represented as well. I found myself encountering Pilots, Evangelists, Saints, Mathematicians, Sports Stars, Abolitionists, Humanitarian Pioneers, Disability Rights Advocates, and Gospel Singers.



I would recommend this book for anyone who is inspired by short, engaging biographies. Although the stories and illustrations are vibrant enough to hold the attention of elementary school students, the sketches of these women's lives are straightforward and engaging enough to inspire adults- and anyone in between!

“Blessed with a variety of talents—writing and preaching, teaching and nursing--- these women used their gifts to glorify God. Aviators and athletes, musicians and mathematicians, many of them forged their faith in the fires of persecution, prejudice, and pain... These brief cameos of strong women will inspire young girls to live out their own Christian faith in bold and innovative ways.” - from the Introduction

*“Shirley Ray Redmond is an award-winning writer and newspaper columnist. Her book Patriots in Petticoats: Heroines of the American Revolution was named one of the best children's books of 2004 by the Bank Street College of Education in New York. She is also a part-time instructor for the Institute of Children's Literature, a sought-after workshop speaker, and a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.” -About the Author*

*(Best Practices Continued from page 1)*

**Intentional approach.** Congregations making this strategic decision see this in-between time as a transitional window. They ask for someone with an adaptive leadership style who will serve for a designated period to resolve conflict, create space for grief or anger some members may feel from losing their previous pastor, and assist with efforts to identify future goals and priorities. This approach emphasizes transformation and renewal rather than continuity. The biblical role

model for this approach is John the Baptist, who God called to prepare the way for the one who would follow him.

It is my fondest hope that our church will continue to follow the way of Jesus Christ by finding a middle way between the comfort of tradition while looking toward the transformation in Christ. Amen.

Rev. Garth Schumach

## **Into the Mystic: The Privilege of Not Seeing**

by John Dorhauer | published on Aug 23, 2022

“I hurt easy, I just don’t show it. You can hurt someone and not even know it.”

So sings Bob Dylan in his song “Things Have Changed.”

For people of color in the United States, this has always been true. Every day is an endurance test of micro-aggressions leveled against them, constantly working to ‘just don’t show it’, and living alongside a largely white crowd that hurt them and didn’t even know it.

When teaching about white privilege to white audiences, I almost always begin the discussion with the same question: what do you see. It is a test and it is a provocation.

The test is to examine the extent to which the privilege that manifests itself in micro-aggressions to people of color and deepens their experience with pain can be seen by whites. Do they even know it?

The provocation is a nudge to help whites open their eyes to the manifestations and impact of a privilege that persists, pervades, and perpetrates every aspect of their being – and yet cannot be seen by most whites.

To not see is itself a privilege. Very few people want to be known or seen as capable of doing damage or harm to another person. Therefore ignorance of a persistent problem like white privilege reduces the inner turmoil of guilt and shame that, if experienced in its fullness would prove debilitating to most whites.

But ignorance of the impact doesn’t reduce the pain of privilege, it in fact exacerbates it.

And so it is time to start seeing.

See the black woman you walked by at the counter who was there in line in front of you but which you just disregarded and stepped in front of.

See the black man pulled over for a faulty headlight who is sitting anxiously in his car and wondering how safe he and his daughter in the back seat are.

See the persistent portrayal of black actors as either victims or perpetrators of crime in most of the roles they are given in film and TV.

See discomfort in the eyes of the black friend you invited to your office dinner party as they survey the room and see that there is not another person of color in the room while you strut around comfortable with your peers and showing off how woke you are.

See the white Jesus hanging in your sanctuaries and portrayed in your stain glass windows and hung on the walls of your Sunday School classrooms – and remind yourself again that we know for a fact Jesus wasn’t white.

See the grimace on the face of your co-worker as two white employees make an offhand remark about how sad it is the Cleveland Indians had to change their name while you stand there and say nothing.

See and see and see. Privilege has its, well, privileges. But it has its costs, as well. And there is a world of unseen pain out there to be known. Dylan is right – you can, and you likely do, hurt someone and not even know it.

Let those who have eyes to see, see on this, our journey Into the Mystic.



# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Church Clean - Betzold 10:00am Sunday Worship	<b>29</b> Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>31</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	<b>1</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>2</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Church Clean - Bowman/Anderson/Bevington 10:00am Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship	<b>5</b> Office Closed Labor Day	<b>6</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:00pm Diaconate Meeting	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group 7:00pm Christian Education Mtg.	<b>8</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>9</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>10</b> 6:45am Ruby's Pantry Volunteers 7:30am - 9:00am Ruby's Pantry Distribution at SMC
<b>11</b> Church Clean - Emerson 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship	<b>12</b> Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:00pm Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 1:30pm - 2:30pm Garth - AMC 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	<b>15</b> 8:15am Ministerium 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>16</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Church Clean - Leonard 8:30am Trustee Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:15am Congregational Giving Mtg.	<b>19</b> Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 2:00pm - 3:00pm Garth - Evergreen 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	<b>22</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>23</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Church Clean - Monson/Ormsby/Morris 10:00am Sunday Worship	<b>26</b> Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>28</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	<b>29</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>30</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>1</b>

Hello all!

I am in contact with an anonymous mom in town who is pregnant and due in December.  
I am collecting baby supplies to be delivered this fall.  
Any gender-neutral baby supplies are helpful (sex is unknown at this time).  
Specific larger item that would be helpful is an all-in-one jogging stroller.  
New or used is fine; basics like diapers, wipes, etc. are perfect.  
Items can be dropped off at the Church office.

Thank you SO MUCH for the donations that have been received so far! This reminder is going out in case there is anyone who would still like to send a gift along.

Thank you!  
Heather

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

