

# Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



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Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas if I was unable to relay that to you in person. As we enter this new year together my hope for us all is to grow in relationship with Christ and with each other. I also hope we are able to invite folks we know to join us on the journey, be it the programs we are already offering or those new

things we will explore doing. I hope you all remember to participate in praying the new year prayer directive sometime on new years weekend, we never know what fruit it will bear as we pray together in agreement. ( Matthew 18-19 "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask it will be done for you by my Father in heaven) .

I look forward to the adventure of the new year that God has planned for us and I hope we are all in tune with listening for and acting on that plan.

Love, Peace and Grace in Christ, Dana

### Praying for More People Willing to Serve on The Diaconate Board

I remember serving communion for the first time. it was a large church and people came up to the railing and kneeled and there were a number of servers. It was so meaningful to me to literally be the human vessel providing this mysterious experience of Christ's presence through serving communion. As I mentioned before we may have different experiences in receiving communion and serving it but I would ask you to consider joining the Diaconate committee to help us all experience worship in deeper, more meaningful ways. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry. We meet at 9 am the first Sunday of the month, our next meeting is New Year's Day.

Happy  
**New Year.**

Let the Lord guide you to  
great things in **2023.**





- 01/02 Maren Dodge
- 01/03 Henry Bowen
- 01/05 Alek Betzold
- 01/07 Lindy Olson
- 01/07 Jacob Anderson
- 01/07 Heather Rushfeldt
- 01/08 Darlene Sattler
- 01/08 Essie Whitehead
- 01/09 Debra Strodthoff
- 01/10 Zeke Eugene Warner
- 01/14 Ozzie Warner

- 01/17 Rooney Adele Warner
- 01/21 Donavan Maukstad
- 01/24 Connor Satterlund



Hello again! I would love to know if there is anyone who would like to participate in being a reader during worship that I am not aware of, please let me know. I hope to formulate a rotation schedule and email group so that everyone who is willing to ready has a chance to do so. If I have not asked you to read it is simply because I am not aware of your interest, please let me know. Thank you Dana.



### Inspiring New Year Quotes

Let's make one resolution this year: to anchor ourselves to God's grace. – Chuck Swindoll

New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold. – Elisabeth Elliot

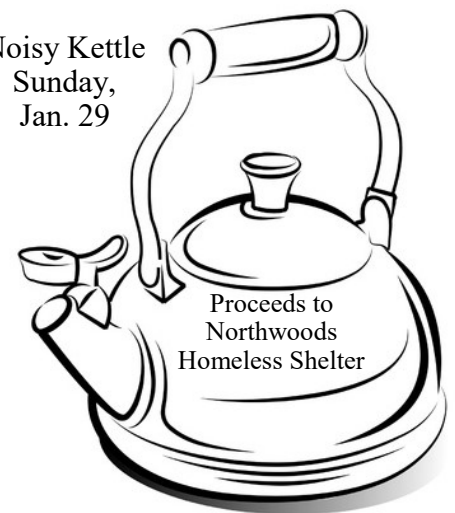
Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading. – Oswald Chambers

This one simple act of beginning each day with God sets each day on the path of wisdom. – Elizabeth George

We're most happy when we're enjoying God and fulfilling His purpose for our life. – Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Enter the coming year with renewed hope in the power of God to do through you what you cannot. – John MacArthur

Noisy Kettle  
Sunday,  
Jan. 29



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

**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**

We find ourselves at the beginning of another calendar year. After a month of weather delaying some of our Christmas fun, I hope to bring that excited spirit into the new year & start fresh! We will be doing our delayed Christmas party at the beginning of the month, have a church-wide winter fun day planned, and even starting confirmation.

Ways you can start fresh with us? Come be a Wednesday night adult volunteer! You can come for all or just part of the time we meet from 3:30-7pm. Hang out with the kids and get to know them, sing along with us during Worship on Wednesdays, or even help lead the bible study discussions. You can cook a meal for the youth or even just share our activities with a friend or neighbor who might have kids interested in joining. Our activities are designed for youth in grades 6th-12th and we have a lot of fun all while praising and learning about God.

## **January Youth Events:**

**Jan. 4: Youth Group 3:30-7pm**

**Jan. 11: Youth Group 3:30-7pm**

**Jan. 18: Youth Group 3:30-7pm**

**Jan. 20: Church Wide Snow Tubing (meet at noon, tubing from 1:30-4:30) & Youth Night to Follow (6-10pm at the church)**

**Jan. 25: Youth Group 3:30-7pm**

If you have questions about any of the activities or how to get involved reach out to me at 715-641-2237 or at youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

Warm Winter Wishes! Abby



Hello Everyone!

With this dreary weather ruining many Christmas plans I thought I'd share some good news and hope you'll join in! I have partnered up with our newly reopened Amery Theater to have church/youth night on February 15th with the movie starting at 6:30pm.

The movie will be How to Train Your Dragon (yes a bit different for church but they have limited titles at the moment.) It is a good movie about being yourself and friendship. I am planning to do a devotional to share with our youth ahead of time and will pass that along as the time gets closer. I really hope you all will consider adding this to your church calendar for that Wednesday evening and joining us so we can have a good turn out.

Additionally the cost of the movie is covered; it would just be paying for snacks/beverages. My goal is to get the youth there but can be open to all.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Again I hope you'll consider joining us! Abby

# Congo Christmas Program



## Manana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective by Justo Gonzalez

Book Review by Heather Rushfeldt, Amery Congregational UCC Community Director

Justo Gonzalez is one of my favorite authors. I was first introduced to him through reading his church history text, *The Story of Christianity* (also in our library!). After picking up a couple of his other books, I knew I would want to do a review of his work. This month I am reviewing *Manana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective*.

In the beginning of *Manana*, Gonzalez explains the unique cultural aspects of Hispanic Christian experience. He engages the Catholic roots of Hispanic faith, stemming from pre-protestant reformation missionary work in Mexico and South America. Gonzalez, as a Protestant, then engages the charismatic and evangelical experience of Hispanic faith communities. Gonzalez observes that, as part of a distinct ethnic minority, Hispanic Christianity bypassed some of the worst conflicts and divisions that shaped European Christianity during the protestant reformation. He explores a concept that he calls a “New Ecumenism” in which fellowship and cooperation across denominational lines can be imagined globally using the relative unity of Hispanic Catholics and Protestants as a guide.

In the remainder of the book, Gonzalez engages- from a distinctly Hispanic perspective- several major Christian doctrines. These include *The Word of God*, *The Trinity*, *Man*, *Sin*, *Redemption*,

*Reconciliation*, and *Life in the Spirit*.

I find Justo Gonzalez to be a compelling writer. Even while he is explaining esoteric doctrines, his writing style seems to draw the reader into the faith and experience of the perspective he is presenting. Although I always appreciate a solidly academic book, I read *Manana* devotionally. Gonzalez casts a compelling vision of Christian unity and spirituality that I find both inspiring and challenging. I would recommend *Manana* to anyone who is interested in engaging historic Christianity from a fresh (and distinctly Hispanic!) perspective.

“At the very heart of evangelism stands the good news that through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God’s Reign is coming and is now open to us. By the power and presence of the Spirit, we can live now as citizens of the coming city, as subjects of the One whose Reign will have no end.” – *Manana*, pg. 168

Justo L. Gonzalez, author of the highly praised three-volume *History of Christian Thought* and other major works, attended United Seminary in Cuba, received his M.A. at Yale, and was the youngest person to be awarded a Ph.D. in historical theology at Yale. Dr. Gonzalez is now on the faculty of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. - Amazon author profile

### Diaper Drive Report (Sept/Oct)

The Diaper Drive collection resulted in:

One free-standing high chair, one booster seat, one pack-n-play, one baby bathtub, 5 swaddling blankets/receiving blankets, 4 baby books, \$20, 5 packages of wipes, and 1,345 diapers.

Thank you so much for your generosity! I know this mom will be blessed by your gifts.

### Amery Food Pantry (Nov)

This month’s collection tub will be receiving non-perishable food items for the Amery Food Pantry! Help bless local families in need.

We thank all of you who honored and remembered their loved one by purchasing poinsettias that decorated our Sanctuary over Christmas.

Poinsettias are native to Central America and are a plant that flowers in the winter months. There is a beautiful, legendary Mexican story from the 17th century about this plant that connects it to Christmas: As Christmas drew near a poor Mexican girl was sad because she didn’t have anything to give to the baby Jesus. Her cousin tried to cheer her up and encouraged her to give even the smallest gift with great love. Not knowing what to do, the poor girl gathered some weeds along the roadside and put them in a bouquet. She approached the nativity scene, slightly embarrassed, but confident that she was giving Jesus the best that she could give. After she placed them in front of the manger the weeds transformed into a beautiful red poinsettia and were later known as “Flowers of the Holy Night.”

The star-shaped leaves were explained to represent the Star of Bethlehem and the red color was connected to the blood of Jesus’ sacrifice.

**Poinsettia Recognition**

**2022**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**DONOR**

Merle Betzold,  
 Bob & Joanne Seibel..... Sheldon & Vicki Betzold  
 William H & Jeanne M. Burman.....Burman Family  
 Herman (Ted) Elmer &  
 Bernie Van Hyfte ..... Marian Elmer  
 Harvey & Shirley Monson ..... Sherry Monson  
 G.E. & Judy, Helen Niccum ..... Darold & Vonnie Niccum  
 Marietta Wilson Pribnow,  
 Lorraine Pribnow,  
 Donald Wilson ..... Eugene G. Pribnow  
 Howard Stindle & John Frisco  
 Our parents & brothers & Sisters, .....Irene Stindle  
 John & Dorothy Tulkki  
 Curt & Jean Hougo..... Margie Peterson &  
 Barry Tulkki  
 Brother/Brother-in-Law,  
 Robert W Scottum ..... Bob & Leanne Whitley

**IN HONOR OF:**

Thelma Betzold,  
 Our Children and  
 Grandchildren..... Sheldon & Vicki Betzold  
 Evan & Alexa Brey,  
 Josephine Morris ..... Tom & Sandy Morris  
 The Niccum Grandchildren..... Darold & Vonnie Niccum  
 All my Families .....Irene Stindle

## Council Meeting December 13, 2022

**Attendance:** Ginny Ormsby, Dave Bowman, Abby Betzold, Sandy Morris, Barry Tulkki, Sherry Monson & Seldon Betzold. Dana Caldwell & Heather Rushfeldt (via Zoom)

Opened meeting in prayer led by Pastor Dana Caldwell.

November 2022 minutes reviewed. Motion made and second by Barry T and Sandy M. Passed.

**Treasure and Financial Secretary:** Ginny O indicated we are still taking in less income but still spending less. Underbudget in most categories except for electric. Religious supplies are slightly over budget. Bonus checks are in the mailbox. Barry T made a motion to accept the report and second by Abby B. Passed. Chad L submitted a written report. With 2 weeks remaining in giving and outstanding bills for the month of December, it looks like we will be \$6,207.46 if all bills have been paid. This information will be reviewed at the upcoming Trustee Meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Clerks Report:** Sandy M reported 1 death (Roy J) and 17 members removed since last month. Current membership at 145.

**Youth Director:** Abby B reported they have brought back the worship service on Wednesday evening for the youth. They participated in the Toys for Tots and did Bell Ringing and bowling.

**Board of Trustee:** Dave B reported that Chet's used our kitchen to make Christmas cookies to be distributed to age related organizations. Cabinets in storage room have been removed in preparation for the new upright freezer. The new freezer has been purchased with the Waterman Memorial money, approximately \$4,500.00. The new freezer is to be delivered by the end of December. Sandy M and Abby B have some space in their freezers for the food that is in the old chest freezer if needed. The large TV in front of the sanctuary was also purchased with the Waterman Memorial Fund. The new speakers for the sound system were purchased with the Satterlund Memorial Fund. We now have a boiler permit.

**Board of Christian Education:** Abby B reported the Christmas Program was a success. Still looking for additional members to serve on the Christian Ed Board.

**Diaconate Board:** Barry T reported the church has been decorated for Christmas and will be undecorated after Epiphany Sunday.

**Congregational Giving Board:** Abby B reported pledge letters have been sent out. Kelsey Monteith has agreed to join the Congregational Giving Board.

**Pastors Report:** Dana C reported her right foot is improving. She has an outline of services through the end of the year. We will be using trespasses for the Lord's prayer for the next 6 months. She is still planning to do the 6-hour Prayer Vigil on New Years Eve though midnight. Directives for the Prayer Vigil are being set up.

**Calendar reviewed:** January 20<sup>th</sup> the youth will be going tubing at the Badland's plus some other youth event. There will be an initial meeting in January with Dana and Abby for youth regarding Confirmation. Date to be determined.


**Old Business:** Heather R the Christian World Service project went well. She got approval to just plan a social event for the month of January and then have it announced to members

**New Business:** Motion to accept Kelsey M to the Congregational Giving Board was unanimous. Rae W given permission to pay bill for the website. Installation of officers and Board Members will be January 8<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Eve service will be at 9:00 pm. Vonnie and Doc Niccum will organize the candles. Sandy and Tom M will usher. Will need additional volunteers to pass the offering plate. Usher, Greeters and Coffee Hour sign up sheets will be displayed for volunteers to sign up on for 2023. The Sweet Shop is interested in using our church 1x/month for bingo. They will be collecting canned goods for the food shelf. Prayer request for Sheldon B's daughter, Brittany who will be having surgery.

**Next Council Meeting:** January 10, 2023 at 6 pm

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: Sherry Monson



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> New Year's Day 10:00am Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship/Sunday School	<b>2</b> Office Closed 8:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> Rae on Vacation 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:30pm Diaconate Meeting	<b>4</b> Rae on Vacation 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group 7:00pm Christian Education Mtg.	<b>5</b> Rae on Vacation 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>6</b> Rae on Vacation 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship/Sunday School	<b>9</b> Office Closed Cleaning- Leonard 8:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 8:00pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	<b>12</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>13</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>14</b> 6:45am Ruby's Pantry Volunteers 7:30am - 9:00am Ruby's Pantry Distribution at SMC
<b>15</b> 8:30am Trustee Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship/Sunday School 11:15am Congregational Giving Mtg.	<b>16</b> Office Closed Cleaning - Leonard 8:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gather Video	<b>18</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	<b>19</b> 8:15am Ministerium 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>20</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open 1:30pm - 4:30pm Church Wide Snow Tubing 5:00pm - 7:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 8:00pm - 10:00pm Youth Night	<b>21</b> 1:00pm - 8:00pm Hanson Wedding
<b>22</b> 10:00am Sunday Worship/Sunday School	<b>23</b> Office Closed Cleaning Leonard/Dusek 8:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>25</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group	<b>26</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>27</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00am Sunday Worship/Sunday School 11:00am Pot Luck	<b>30</b> Office Closed Cleaning - Leonard/Dusek 8:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>1</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 3:30pm - 7:30pm Youth Group 7:00pm Christian Education Mtg.	<b>2</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	<b>3</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm Office Open	<b>4</b>

*Happy New Year*  
**2023**

PRAYING GOD GIVES YOU A

*YEAR OF FAVOR*

FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...

PSALM 90:17a