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Amery Congregational United Church of Christ
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Worship: Sundays at 10:00 AM

Congregational Clarion

Daily Reasons to Celebrate

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.

If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an inter-generational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.

And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the year — holiday or not.

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****Don't forget Amery's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5th at 5 pm**

St. Paul Saints Game! All Ages Church Outing

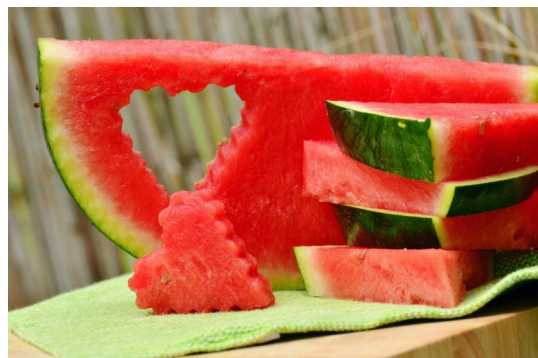


Join us on Sunday, August 24th for a 2 pm Baseball Game. Tickets will be \$15 per person—please let Abby Betzold know if you would like to join the group by Sunday, August 3rd so tickets can be ordered! (Abby 715-641-22327 or Abigail.anderson2013@gmail.com. Money will be due by the day of the event, or you can give it to Abby ahead of time. Once we have a list of participants together we will coordinate carpooling and discuss if we'd like to do lunch as a group that day, or as individuals.



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August Scheduled Meetings

Aug 3:	9 am Diaconate Meeting 11:15 am Christian Education Meeting
Aug 10:	11:15 Missions & Social Concerns
Aug 17:	8:00 am Council Meeting All members are welcome to join
Aug 20:	7 pm Trustees' Meeting
Aug 24:	9 am Congo Giving Meeting

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!

National Night Out 2025

Amery Police, EMS, and Fire are hosting National Night Out 2025 at the Amery Fire Department on Tuesday, August 5th at 5 pm. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. We will have lots of fun things to do for many ages. This year we will have inflatable bounce houses. AFD will have a splash pad along with a dunk tank and fire hoses to spray. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Save the date and share it with your neighbors, family and friends.



WALKING BAREFOOT WITH JESUS

By Rae Wooldridge *Adapted from the September 2020 Clarion*

Some call it “Earthing” or “Grounding”— fancy terms for the simple act of walking barefoot. Advocates point to studies suggesting that absorbing the earth’s negative electrons can reduce stress, aid digestion, lower inflammation, improve cardiovascular health, and maybe even cure male pattern baldness (okay, I made that last one up). While I wouldn’t bet the farm on these claims — especially without knowing who funded the research (probably not the United Shoe Makers Union) — I’ve found that walking barefoot brings me spiritual healing in ways science can’t quite measure.

I’ve always disliked wearing shoes. Going barefoot outdoors feels like removing a barrier and becoming one with the earth. With over 7,000 nerve endings in each foot, we’re able to sense the subtle shifts in temperature and texture beneath us. I like early morning walks, before the sun dries the dew. The morning offers cool wet grass, damp sand and delightful puddles to splash through. Of course, it requires some attention — dodging acorns, sharp stones, and the occasional animal dropping. But that focus, combined with the sensation of velvety moss or mud from the puddles squishing between my toes, pulls me out of my worries and into a deeper awareness of God and creation.

Twice in the Bible God tells someone to remove their sandals because the ground is holy (Exodus 3:5 and Joshua 5:15). What made it holy was God’s presence. I believe all ground is holy — because God made it.

When I walk barefoot I imagine Jesus walking beside me. We chat. I point out the trees, marveling at the age of the large old oaks. Of course, Jesus was there when they were created, so none of this is news to him. Still, he listens patiently, maybe even pleased by my awe. Then he says, “Darling”— yes, Jesus calls me darling; “Beloved” feels a bit too formal — “walking on moss is like walking in heaven.” I laugh. “I guess you’d know.” Then I add, “It’s really pleasing to the sole.” I draw out the word *sole* and nudge him with my dirty foot. Jesus rolls his eyes at the homophone like he hasn’t heard that one before. He wraps his arm around my shoulder and leads me toward the river. We walk on in silence, simply enjoying each other’s company.

Council Meeting July 20, 2025

Attendance: Chad Leonard, Sherry Monson, Dave Bowman, Sandy Morris, Abby Betzold, Nyla Anderson, Beth Leonard, Maralyn Salah

Opened meeting in prayer led by Abby B.

May 4th and May 18th meeting minutes approved. Motion by Dave B and second by Sandy M. Passed.

Financial/Treasure Report: Chad L. reported we are spending more than we have monthly income. Noisy Kettle raised approximately \$150.00. The church is responsible for paying Pastor Dana's salary through August and health insurance through September. Motion to accept the Financial/Treasure Report was made by Abby B and seconded by Dave B.

Clerks Report: Sandy M reported the two deaths of Beth Mares and Chuck Yoak leaving membership at 143.

Board of Trustee: Dave B reported on the following:

- Ruby's Pantry funds have been successfully turned over to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.
- The Investment Committee consists of Dave B., Chad L, Sandy M. & Duane M
- Pastor Search Committee development
- Garbage containers can't be moved due to overhead wiring.
- Air Conditioning isn't working in the Fellowship Hall. It will cost \$ 2,000.00 + to find the leak. Thinking of replacing the system.
- The refrigerator in the kitchen refrigerator has leaked out. This has been fixed.
- The pantry floor will be replaced with tiles due to mold growing under vinyl flooring from previous flooding.
- The Bell system is not working. The money to repair or to be replaced will come from the Memorial Funds.
- The player portion of the Grand Piano does not work. They are checking with a company in Eau Claire to see what can be done about getting that fixed.
- Granum Trust has been successfully completed. We have been awarded \$455,120.00 of which we can only spend the income for the following three areas: music, landscaping and youth.
- The Scouts are planning to build a few garden boxes that will be located in a portion of the green space.

Board of Christian Education: Abby B. reported they haven't met for the past 2 months but they are going to be meeting soon with Our Savior's Church to develop a game plan for the 2025/2026 school year. There are two potential confirmation students, Joseph Maukstad and Hayden Leonard.

Board of Deaconate: Nyla A. reported that Barry Tulkki has developed a list of pulpit supply through August. There are people who have been visiting members who are unable to get to church including: Gene Pribnow, Dave Waterman, and Sally Haasnoot. A person from the Country Dam Motel called her regarding a ride to church. She referred them to Inter faith Caregivers. Dave B. will take care of removing members' phone numbers from the church answering machine. To redo the message on the machine must be done through NW Communications.

Board of Congregational Giving: Maralyn S reported that Tim Mares (Beth Mares son) has given \$2-3,000.00 for living flower arrangements for special occasions. They continue to update the leaves on the Memorial Tree. Noisy Kettle brought in \$150.00 that will be given to Habitat for Humanity. The trustees are working on getting trees planted on the south end of the green space. Some of the money will come from the Memorial Committee from Evie Porter's Memorial. They will have the Memorial Book updated. The Noisy Kettle Collection on August 31st will go to the Backpack Program.

Calendar Reviewed with additions and deletions.

Old Business:

- Chad has not heard back regarding the Catalyst Grant of \$2500.00 that was to be used toward the Block Party.
- Activity Meeting Update: There was a nice turnout at the meeting held on June 29th. It was decided at the meeting to concentrate on the following fundraisers for the year:
 - Walleye Dinner in the spring (1st Friday after Ash Wednesday)
 - Dinner Theater
 - Rummage Sale in July with proceeds going to the School Mental Health Program. The rummage sale would include a light meal, pie and coffee.
 - Chinese Dinner in the fall (October 11, 2025)

New Business:

- The pulpit committee was called. The committee includes 1 council officer, 1 member from each of the church committees, and 2 members at large. We would like to have members identified by the end of July. Once the committee is formed Chad L. will contact Michael Jones. Other topics regarding worship were suggested. One topic was to think about partnering up with another established UCC Church like River Falls/Roberts/Twin Cities. Another possible suggestion was to hire a part-time Pastor.
- Monday, August 4 at 6 pm there will be a Stephan Ministry informational meeting held at East Immanuel Church.
- A \$50.00 gift card will be given to Catherine in memory of her stepdaughter to be used for additions to the Memorial Garden they plan to develop in her memory.

Next Meeting: August 17, 2025 at 8:00 am

A motion to adjourn made by Sandy M and seconded by Maralyn S.

Submitted by Sherry Monson, Recording Secretary

Friends and Visitors of Congo Birthdays



Chad Leonard	8/2
Howard Monteith	8/15
Julie Maukstad	8/16
Linda Satterlund	8/16
Cheryl Bowman	8/17
Lavone Pratt	8/20
David Russo	8/24
Benjamin Pitchford	8/27
Bobbie Edin	8/27

August Worship Leaders' Schedule

August 3: Colleen Kwong
 August 10: MaryAnn Bowman
 August 17: Abby Betzold
 August 24: Heather Rushfeldt
 August 31: 5th Sunday Hymn Sing with Testimonial by Rick Maukstad

A Month of Sundays

"August is like the Sunday of summer," an online meme proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week — a chance to sleep in, do "nothing," relax and play — then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the onslaught of the workweek is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed "August is like the Sunday of summer." God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons.

—Heidi Mann



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am - 10:00am Congo Giving Mtg 10:00am Sunday Worship	28 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	30 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	31 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2
3 9:00am Diaconate Meeting 10:00am Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:15am Christian Ed. Mtg	4 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	5 10:00am Adult Studies & Lunch 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	8 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	9
10 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship	11 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	12 10:00am Adult Studies & Lunch 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	13 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	14 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	15 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	16
17 8:00am Council Mtg. 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:15am Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.	18 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	19 10:00am Adult Studies & Lunch 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	20 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:00pm Trustee Mtg.	21 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	22 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	23
24 <i>Church Outing - St. Paul Saints</i> 9:00am - 10:00am Congo Giving Mtg 10:00am Sunday Worship	25 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	26 10:00am Adult Studies & Lunch 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	27 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	28 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	30
31 <i>Church Potluck</i> Noisy Kettle - Salvation Army 10:00am Sunday Worship Hymn Sing	1 <i>Office Closed for Labor Day</i> 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