

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



hello
AUGUST

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Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

AMERICANSTEEPLES.COM

From Pastor Dana

Amery Health Happiness Walk and Block Party

Amery Health Happiness Walk and Block Party will be held Saturday September 28th from 10-2 (set up begins at 7.) Sign ups are on the round table near the offices, in addition they are also shared with our partners. Please consider being on one of the work area teams. Our efforts last year were well received and we raise significant funds, plus everyone was able (and needed) to be involved

Once we have some folks signed up we will collaborate on a meeting time that can include everyone and begin organizing, dividing up tasks, reviewing feedback from last year, ideas from the newly formed team and get to work! If you have any questions please let Dana know.

Marketing Team 6-10 people-includes advertisement-Radio, Free Press,

Facebook, Instagram, local businesses, posting flyers on bulletin boards around town, and spokes people at other churches or organizations

Recruiting Team 10 people - includes connecting with and inviting clubs, organizations

and businesses you are a part of to encourage their participation - donation, basket, other item to raffle, volunteers and guests.

Basket Raffle Team 6 people - writing up basket guidelines, putting film on and

numbering completed basket's and donation items received, Cards to identify those donors of the items who would like to be named.

Food Team 10 people - create a simple menu, gather to prep food, serve food

and clean up food- possibly sell leftovers that Sunday.

Face painting team 4-6 people : We have Face Paints-

Walk Planning 6-people Registration and fundraising team- ,solidify how we want to

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raise money pledges or Fee to enter, T-shirt? etc
Baking team (all our good bakers!) baking for free will offering -all

bakers on deck- we will need about 4-6 people to help at the tables.

Games team 4-6 people- set up but also we need people to play like cornhole to encourage others to join in (tough job)

Set up - all hands on deck but specific tasks support needed like- Tables from Morris's and our long white tables and card tables, Follow up on Tents, setting up smaller tents, chairs, garbage cans, Yard signs placed, baskets moved, food serving tables set up and other needs.

Break down - all hands on deck.

Women's Retreat Saturday, October 19th

8:-2:30pm Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

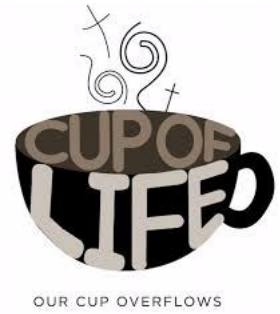
The Retreat will be based on Joyce Rupp's book "The Cup of Life" Remember the retreat is \$25, there will be a light breakfast, and lunch provided. In fact we are using the same Pork Loin recipe we had for Dinner Theater. We have copies of the book available now.

Enjoy this next excerpt. that Joyce Rupp wrote: "When I was a young child of eight years old, I lived on a beautiful farm. I had chores to do after school. Mine consisted of feeding the chickens, and gathering eggs. I didn't like doing this because my free spirit wanted to be out in the grove playing or down by the creek watching the tadpoles and catching minnows.

But one day all of that changed for me. I learned that I had a secret companion who was always kept me company, even when I was doing the dairy farm chores. Hidden away deep within my heart was a loving being named God who would always love me and would never leave me. It was

at this that a wise teacher taught about friendship with God.

As I grew older I recognized this inner presence as a dynamic source of guidance and consolation. I became more deeply rooted in the belief that this indwelling God loves me totally and unconditionally. To this day, draw comfort and courage from the belief that I am a container holding the presence of God.



Youth Summit Chris Barnett

Chris said Going to church does not make you a Christian, just like going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger. (and Dana would add or Going to Dairy Queen does not make you a Dilly Bar!) The focus now needs to be on being and becoming a Christian and learning what that means for each person and as a body of Christians in a congregation. He suggested we take steps to create the best environment for intergenerational experiences. Which is defined as a minimum of two generations with opportunities of worshiping, working, and learning together. These relationships need to reflect qualities of reciprocity, equity, and mutuality. Involving people, who listen openly to change their heart to all those they are with. Intergenerational experiences have the potential for transformation of all involved building relationships sharing the wisdom of experience and the fresh eyes of youth informing each other of the presence of God.

Festival of Homiletics

Ottis Moss III from Trinity UCC in Chicago.

Exodus 5 "Let my people go"

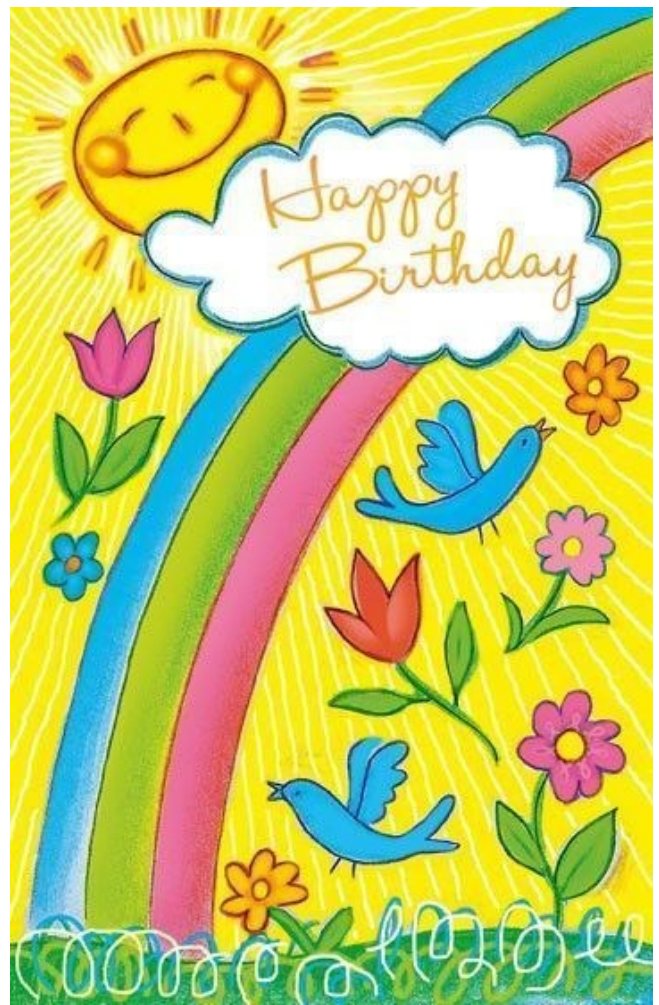
Moses on God's behalf, "Let my people go to hold a festival in the wilderness, to offer sacrifices to

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Me, a 3 day journey. Pharaoh's response: Get Back in Your Place! I am not letting go of what I own! In Pharaoh's response he said take away the straw and require the same number of bricks made. Pharaoh made things harder. Attempting to prove his power and strength in owning them as slaves. Pharaoh wanted them to respond with gratitude for what Pharaoh provided them. What Pharaoh (and others in history) did not understand is that you cannot own other people. You cannot own their spirits, you cannot own their souls, for you cannot own what is truly God's. You, Pharaoh or any other person of privilege and earthly power, cannot own anything, or anyone. God calls for human dignity to be preserved. For a Child of God is not owned by anyone or any circumstance. Enslaved people who love God and self changes how you function- no matter what enslaves you. To all those who would reduce, limit, marginalize, demonize, diminish, ostracize, punish, belittle, threaten, hate, other people today, God says God's Children are free to be themselves- Let them go! There needs to be a collective liberation, we are all on the same team under Jesus Christ- The Liberator. With the right Theology comes an elevation of our Anthropology, which elevates our psychology, with elevates our sociology, with elevates our ecology and then our biology all of which leads us to the bringing about of God's Kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven....Let My People Go! says the Lord.

Suggested reading: Jordan Anerson wrote "A Letter to a Former Slave Owner" <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/letter-jourdon-anderson-freedman-writes-his-former-master>



- 08/01** **Brett Johnson**
- 08/02** **Chad Leonard**
- 08/03** **Doug Johnson**
- 08/05** **Jessica Stoekle**
- 08/16** **Juli Maukstad**
- 08/16** **Linda Satterlund**
- 08/17** **Cheryl Bowman**
- 08/20** **Lavone Pratt**
- 08/24** **David Russo**
- 08/27** **Benjamin Pitchford**
- 08/27** **Bobbie Edin**

2024 NEW MEMBERS



Peter and Colleen Kwong
January 21



Bob Swank
January 21



Morgan Leonard
June 30

Donovan Maukstad
June 30



Mike Swank
July 7



AMERY RUBY'S PANTRY

Hosted by: Congregational Church

A smart way to extend your monthly grocery budget and enjoy a variety of food.

Ruby's Pantry is for anyone that is looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. For a \$25 bundle donation, you will receive an abundance of groceries. There is no income or residency requirement. Guests can attend as many locations each month that work for their schedule.

Next Ruby's Pantry is August 10

Next Pop-Up Pantry is Saturday July 13, 2024 9000 Griffin Street East, Amery, Wisconsin 54001

DAYS AND HOURS

2nd Saturday of the Month - Registration begins at 7:30 AM - Food bundles available 7:30-9:00 AM



GRACE *mercy* PEACE

Prayer Service
Thursday, August 8th
8 PM



Women's Retreat

Annual Women's Retreat is Saturday, October 19th
9am-2:30pm

The focus is Joyce Rupp's book *The Cup of Our Life* will be the subject - cost \$ 20 without the book or \$25 with a preowned book. Books are available now if you want to read ahead of the retreat but that is not required.

Vacation Bible School



I attended a few of the VBS nights. I helped Tim with registration. We averaged about 35 each night

and 7 churches were represented based on Abby's report.

We provided the Tuesday night Taco in a bag



dinner and the kids really loved it. A shout out to Sandy Morris, Beth and Morgan Leonard, Abby Betzold, Rick and Juli Maukstad, even Chad Leonard delivering items needed. I attended one of the groups bible study time and



the kids, asked good questions and had an activity that was memorable-They each took off one

shoe and placed in in the form of a heart and the counselor talked about when we work together we can complete a project that has part of each of us in it and we can love what we are doing and each other.

hand motions or movements.

Rae helped with the " Littles" Mon-Thur. I heard



from Pastor Ed from Redeemer that Rae is an excellent story reader!.

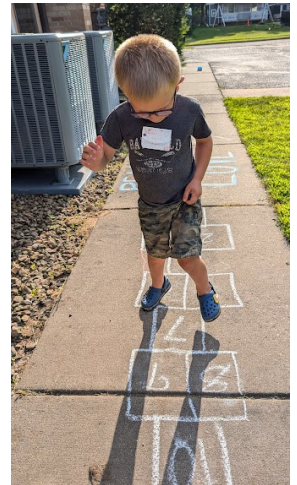
I have one thing I ponder, we experience the lack of youth in our own church, some of our younger

families that we rarely see take their kids to VBS- what would it mean to see more of "us" present during VBS? The same thing goes for Firestarters. If you have been following the Youth Summit blurbs I have provided, it is apparent that children and youth need to be the focus of our

ministry for their sake and not our own. Are there relationships we need to check in on or families

to encourage and support? Something to reflect upon as we move forward.

Dana .



Council Meeting 7/21/24

Attendance: Abby Betzold, Dave Bowman, Pastor Dana Caldwell, Beth Leonard, Chad Leonard, Sandy Morris, Maralyn Saleh
Opened meeting in prayer by Pastor Dana Caldwell

Reviewed the May meeting minutes. Approved by Sandy, seconded by Maralyn. Motioned passed.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report: Chad reported that our gap is actually closing compared to the last two reports. We are currently around \$12,000 short in general operations. We did transfer some funds from our money market account into general checking, this was due to put the check from flood insurance into the money market and having pulled those repair costs from checking. The financial report was approved by Maralyn and seconded by Beth. Motion passed.

Clerk's Report: In June we had two new members through confirmation in Donovan Maukstad and Morgan Leonard. Total membership is 145.

Christian Education: Beth and Abby both reported that the confirmation on June 30th for Morgan and Donovan went very well. We also just finished Amery Community Vacation Bible School, a good turn out of youth from throughout the community enjoy the taco meal we provided. Planning for fall programming will happen at the August Christian Education meeting. It was mentioned that Amery Breakfast Club is planning to be active again this school year with more details to come.

Diaconate: Pastor Dana reported that we held our first lament prayer service with seven people in attendance, the service was a little over an hour with great responses from all who attended. These services will continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month at 6pm through November. It was also noted that we appreciate all of the little things that happen behind the scenes by our members (such as putting oil in the alter candles!)

Congregational Giving: Maralyn shared the updated Congregational Giving Brochure, it has been updated in such ways that it will not need to be re-printed as often. Abby motioned to accept the brochure with some grammatical revisions. Dave seconded. Motion passed. Maralyn also reported that Sports and More will be engraving a total of six leaves for the memorial tree. She has also reached out to Mary Schieffer to update the memorial book that will happen yet this summer. Andrew Warner from the greater UCC (and the WI conference) will be on a meeting via Zoom with our congregational sometime this fall to talk about giving, the date will be confirmed soon. The June Noisy Kettle offering raised around \$180 that was donated to the Polk Country Salvation Army Backpack program.

Trustees: Dave reported that the tiling in the kitchen has been finished. They are also looking at venting the convection oven and some venting for the pantry as other kitchen projects. In the process of replacing the fans in the restrooms when they went up to the roof they discovered a large amount of water. This was caused by clogged drains, mostly coming from debris from the Japanese Lilac Tree in the front of the church. Much discussion was had and ultimately decided the tree will either have to be removed or re-located, will look into both options. To increase trees around the church Congregational Giving committee approved use of memorial funds to purchase trees to plant on the south side of the green space. The "Odd Job" list of items needing attention around the church has been updated and is on the electrical panel in the narthex, individuals or groups can sign up to complete any task. Many thanks to those who have helped complete a large number of projects already! Dave did receive word from the lawyer we are working with regarding the funds our church is to receive from the Granum Trust. We are continuing to work on receiving these funds and are at least getting a line of communication open, more details will be coming this next week. We have a TV set up in the narthex with weekly announcements, congregational updates, and more that will be playing before church each week. Finally, the pastoral relations committee is fully functioning and going well.

Missions and Social Concerns: Pastor Dana reported the current task they have worked on is "Sharing the Share", our church through donations is purchasing a share from Ruby's Pantry each month and distributing it to families in need of the help with groceries.

Pastor's Report: Dana said she is starting to ramp up for the Amery Health & Happiness Walk & Block Party again. Plans to have sign-up sheets out this next Sunday for individuals to sign up to help in areas they are interested in. She has applied for a grant from the Hospital Foundation and is looking into other grants/funds to help put this event on.

Reviewed the August calendar, noted that we have our next all ages game night coming up on August 4th from 6-8pm and the St. Paul Saints baseball game outing will be Saturday, August 24th, Abby will update if there are extra tickets, currently all spoken for.

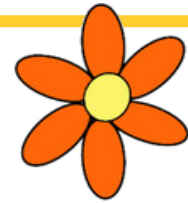
No Old Business

No New Business

Next Council Meeting will be Sunday, August 18th at 8am in the conference room.

Motion to adjourn was made by Maralyn and seconded by Sandy. Motion Passed.

AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:00am Sunday Worship	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 7:15pm - 8:15pm Acapella Group	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:00am Diaconate Meeting 10:00am Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:15am Christian Ed. Mtg 6:00pm - 8:00pm Game Night	5 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	7 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:15pm - 8:15pm Acapella Group	8 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 8:00pm - 9:00pm Prayer Service	9 Office Closed	10 6:45am Ruby's Pantry Volunteers 7:30am - 9:00am Ruby's Pantry Distribution at SMC 10:00am Share a Share Volunteers
11 10:00am Sunday Worship	12 Rae out of Office 6:30pm Boy Scouts	13 Rae out of Office	14 Rae out of Office 10:00am Bible Study 6:15pm Trustee Mtg. 7:15pm - 8:15pm Acapella Group	15 Rae out of Office 8:15am Ministerium	16 Office Closed	17
18 8:00am Council Mtg. 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:15am Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.	19 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	20 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	21 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:15pm - 8:15pm Acapella Group	22 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	23 Office Closed	24 Baseball Outing
25 10:00am Sunday Worship	26 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	27 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	28 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 7:15pm - 8:15pm Acapella Group	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	30 Office Closed	31



HAVE A BEAUTIFUL
 AND
 BLESSED AUGUST

