

# Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



Hello  
May!

## FROM THE RISEN CHRIST TO THE HOLY SPIRIT GOD'S GREAT TAG-TEAM HANDOFF

When I was a youngster, I used to LOVE professional wrestling. (This was way before Hulk Hogan of the 80's... It was wrestlers like Andre the Giant, Haystacks Calhoun, and Stan "The Man" Stasiak) One on one was how it started. They'd talk 'smack' about the other wrestler and the 'bad one' was always the one you wanted crushed. Then, inevitably the 'good one' would win. I and my friends would argue about who was the best or the strongest and if it was real or not. But then, we started to watch the wrestling tag-teams. Oh, they were wrestling entertainment times 10! They would dance around and body-slam and cheat and then their 'manager' would always get into the act by crashing a folding chair over the head of the good-guy wrestler. I'm surprised our TV wasn't destroyed by my screaming at it! (Maybe that's why Mom put the second TV in the basement... and, shut the door.) In the end I began to realize that they were all athletically choreographed morality plays... entertainment through scripted violence.

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This prologue is by way of introducing this time between the Easter Resurrection and the entrance of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We are all living in an in-between time of living the same questions of reality as Jesus' Disciples were so long ago. Is he really alive after we saw him on that cross and laid in the tomb? How are we to process this? Does the Holy Spirit replace Jesus Christ or another aspect of Christ? Are the visitation stories with Christ meant to instruct and enlighten us to Christ's presence to this day?

Unlike professional wrestling, the visitation stories are not mere entertainment or fake. These stories are real experiences related and passed down through the ages to assure and embolden our faith in our living God in Christ. That said, we are also in a month-long transition, a tag-team handoff if you will, from the Christ's ascension to sit at God's right hand and the Holy Spirit's assumption of eternal advocacy in the world.

During this Easter Season, may we all pay close attention to Christ's presence in our world and affirm the love of God through the Holy Spirit always ready to protect us. Because, we never know when that folding chair will come down... we DO know that God will win in the end. It's pre-ordained. Amen.

Blessings, Rev. Garth Schumacher





- 05/02 Allan Foxwell
- 05/02 JoAnn Bjorkman
- 05/02 Wanda Burstad
- 05/04 Richard Wooldridge
- 05/06 Mason Henke
- 05/09 Darold Niccum
- 05/10 Shanon Hayes
- 05/10 Sheldon Betzold

- 05/13 Breana Pitchford
- 05/13 John Stoeklen
- 05/14 Kate Bevington
- 05/15 David Waterman
- 05/15 Elizabeth Leonard
- 05/18 Joseph Maukstad
- 05/21 Desiree Harris
- 05/22 Barry Eklund
- 05/22 Hayden Leonard
- 05/23 Madisen Jackson
- 05/24 Isabella Moody
- 05/24 Warren Henke
- 05/26 Emily O'Rourke
- 05/29 Tom Morris



# MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street  
Amery, WI 54001  
(715) 268-7107  
Dave Waterman

### Memory Care

215 Birch St. W  
Amery, WI 54001  
Jeanne Murphy  
Bob Holm

### Evergreen Village

611 Harriman Avenue  
(715) 268-6640  
Gussie Fennern

### Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane  
715.268.9949  
Ruth Schafer

*The Lord gives his  
people strength.  
The Lord blesses  
them with peace.  
Psalm 29:11*

pamelahenkelman.com



FROM  
Abby Betzold  
YOUTH MINISTER



Hello All,

This past month brought some wonderful experiences filled with the joy of Easter. I want to take a moment to say how wonderful our youth who participated in the Good Friday and Easter Services did! We are blessed with a talented bunch of students! I also wanted to say a huge thanks to those who helped put music and speaking parts together and helped practice with our young ones from our great volunteers to the parents and other adults, thank you!!!

This month doesn't seem to slow down for youth events. Hopefully, if spring ever gets here, we'll be enjoying time outside during youth group and continuing our weekly 3:30-7pm youth time on Wednesdays. We also have confirmation coming to a close for the year and many wonderful students being confirmed. Beyond that with the school year nearing an end we have a few students who have participated in our youth group over the years that I'd like to congratulate on their graduations! These include; Samantha Ross, Ricky Maukstad, & Bradon Folkert. If you'd like to send congratulations their way their addresses are below:

Samantha Ross: 228 South St. / Amery, WI 54001

Ricky Maukstad: 1325 60th St. / Turtle Lake, WI 54889

Bradon Folkert: 888 Sunrise Beach Dr. / Amery, WI 54001

### **May Youth Events:**

May 1st : Confirmation Mentor-Mentee Movie Day 11am - 4:30pm

May 4th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm

May 11th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm & Confirmation 5:30-7pm

May 15th : Confirmation 10am, Banquet & Faith Statement Reading to Follow

May 18th: Youth Group 3:30-7pm

May 25th : Youth Group 3:30-7pm

June 1st: Last Regular Youth Group For The School Year 3:30-7pm

I wish you all a wonderful May and as always, reach out if you have any questions!

Blessings,

Abby

## Save the dates!!

Find Details Here:  
[flcamery.org/vbs](http://flcamery.org/vbs)  
 "Amery Community  
 VBS" on Facebook



# AMERY COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 12-16 | 5:00-7:30

Community VBS is coming back & we're hosting this year!! It will be June 12th-16th from 5-7:30pm each night. It's for kids ages Pre-K through 5th. Older youth can help out & volunteer if they would like. This is a wonderful opportunity for younger kids to invite friends to church for fun activities, crafts, and bible study time. Supper is served every evening as well. The programming is put on by Wapo Staff so to help cover their costs we do recommend a \$40 donation per student, however this is just a free will donation event so please come and invite as many others without hesitation. There are always extra funds donated!! To find out how to register and keep up on what's happening check out the Amery Community VBS Facebook page or ask Abby Betzold if you have any other questions.

Saturday, May 28th



This year the rummage sale is coming back!! As you start your spring cleaning, start your boxes to donate to this church fundraiser. Save the date for Saturday, May 28th to help with running the sale. Also please let Abby Betzold know if you are interested in helping set up the sale ahead of time or clean up afterward. Again, this is a church fundraiser so we could really use many hands to make light work!

The annual church meeting will be held on May 22 immediately following the Sunday service.

Youth Director Contact Information:  
 Abby Betzold  
 715.268.7390; ext. 12  
 715.715.641.2237 (cell)  
[Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com](mailto:Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com)



## Thinking of my Mother - by The Church Lady.

My mother passed away almost 15 years ago, and after all this time, I still feel a deep sense of melancholy when Mother's Day approaches. Every time I see beautiful gift items artfully displayed in store windows, I long to buy something special for my mother. So I do. This year I bought a delicate glass teacup with enamel roses and butterflies. I admired the teacup for a few days while imagining my mother's delight with her gift. After a while I returned the teacup to its box.



I miss my mother yet know I was blessed to have her for the time God gave me. God gave me a wonderful mother; a mother who loved me unconditionally and who I could always count on to be in my corner - woe to anyone who hurt mom's children. Mom and I went through times of tears and times of celebration. She was my rock, and I hers.

My mother loved nature. Her second church was the outdoors. She and I would walk through the woods, admire God's handiwork, share our thoughts and feelings, our fears and our hopes. And, of course, we were sure we knew how to solve all the world problems, if only the powers that be would listen to us.

When Mom was in home hospice, we placed her hospital bed on the all season porch so she could look out windows from three sides. From her bed, Mom could watch the trees as their leaves turned brilliant red, yellow, and orange. From her bed, Mom could view the river with its ever changing moods; sometimes agitated and other times calm and serene. Mom loved the river best when it danced joyfully flinging silver shards of light. Mom enjoyed watching her birds and squirrels that she fed faithfully. The squirrels grew so fat on peanuts that I swear they were the size of large alley cats. But, mom's favorites were the gentle, soft grey mourning doves.

As fall changed to winter, Mom wished that she could see one more snowstorm before she died. God gave her two. We turned off the indoor lights and turned on the outdoor floods during both snowfalls. Then we sat in silence as we watched the snow and listened to the wind. We felt God's presence and were grateful.

My daughters and I each had our shifts sitting with Mom. Mine was in the early morning - the time mom and I enjoyed the most together. Mom and I found pleasure in watching the day wake up. We could see the lights go on in the houses across the river as people started their morning routines. We would wait for the sun to paint the top of the trees before we began our day.

My mother took her last breath on my morning shift. I was privileged to be the one with her as she went to be in God's arms. I sat with her one last time watching the day start. I thought, "We did pretty well, Mom. We didn't quite finish righting all the wrongs in the world, but we gave it our best shot and had a good time doing it. I'll miss you."

Happy Mother's Day, Mom. I am happy that you are pleased with the gift I bought for you this year. I know the friend I gave it to was delighted as well. I will always love buying you beautiful things; things adorned with butterflies, or birds or dragonflies with iridescent wings of blue, green or gold. Buying you gifts makes me happy. It is my way of coping. It may seem silly, but it works for me. Of course you understand this. After all you are a mother - my mother. I'll love you always.

## Council Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2022

**Attendance:** Ginny Ormsby, Sandy Morris, Barry Tulkki, Abby Betzold, Sherry Monson, Pastor Garth Schumacher, Sheldon Betzold, Heather Rushfeld, Chad Leonard  
Minutes from March Meeting approved by Barry T & Sandy M

**Treasures and Financial Secretary Report:** Ginny O. reported the income is under budget but spending is also less. The total income \$49,849.51 and total expense \$44,088.88 with a variance of \$5,760.63. Chad L clarified his written report from last month. He shared that some of the & that comes in is unbudgeted money like: Memorial dollars, Easter Lilly's/Poinsettias, Coffee, NIN & One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of that there can be a difference between the Treasure and Financial Secretary's Report. Chad reported he is going to look into prorating the 1 time gifts/offerings a 12 month period to try even out the budget so it reflect more on how the church sitting financially month to month. A motion was made by Barry T and seconded by Ginny O to accept the March and April Budget reports. Motion Passed.

**Clerk Report:** Sandy M reported current membership is 162.

**Youth Report:** Abby B reported the youth were involved with the Ash Wednesday Service, assembled the NW Homeless Shelter newsletter, 8 students plan to attend summer camp at Wapo, Gabby Moody will be working at Wapo camp this summer, Confirmation is May 15<sup>th</sup> with the banquet on May 14<sup>th</sup> & the Mentor/Mentee will be having a fun day on May 1.

**Board of Trustee Report:** written report by Dave B presented by Ginny O. about the financials indicated in the Treasure and Financial report above; Church Cleaning is going well and taking about 2 hours each week. They are trying to get more volunteers; They are discussing a "zero-based budget". The goal of this type of budget is to eliminate the possibility of money becoming stagnated in groups or ministry's and assuring and overall better usage of all moneys. Duane M, Tom M & Chad are working on this process and will report back to the Trustee's; They are working on getting an audit done with a local retired accountant who is willing to train a few people to conduct a proper audit; Offering counting method is going to change a little. The method will change to counting on Sunday after church and depositing at the bank on Sunday. They are looking for additional volunteers. Chad L and Duane M will start on April 3.; Kitchen garbage disposal plugged up again. The plumber recommended that boiling water with Dawn soap be poured down the drain weekly. The cleaning groups will take on this responsibility.; The kitchen passed inspection but the church needs to provide a vomit clean-up kit to the cleaning cart.

**Board of Christian Education:** Abby B reported the following – last day of Sunday school will be May 2; Community Vacation Bible School will be June 12-16 for preschool thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade from 4:30-7:00 pm; They will be purchasing bibles, cake and flowers for the Confirmands; They plan to mail card/gift to the 2 graduates (Samantha Ross and Brandon F)

**Board of Deacons Report:** They are trying to find a more appropriate time to meet.

**Board of Congregational Giving:** Abby reported the wish list has been updated and placed In the pews; Memorial book will be updated this summer; planning to send out a letter to all members regarding upcoming church activities; Moneys will be allotted for the Easter activities taking place this Saturday at Michael Park and for the attendee's who will be going to the Annual Conference.

**Mission and Social Concerns Committee:** Heather R has been invited to a round table discussion regarding LGBTQ;

**Pastor Report:** written and presented by Garth S.- Pastor Vacation April 18-25 will be covered by Heather R and Barry T; Pastor Garth vacation May 17-31. Change in time off without pay from June to August. Pastor Garth would like people to come to him with any issues instead of the triangulation method. Currently the Parish Committee consists of Sheldon B, Dave B and Chad L; Still looking for one more volunteer to attend the Annual Conference June 10-12.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Minutes Continued from page 6)*

**Pulpit Committee:** They have another meeting planned. Keep praying.

**Old Business:** Participation in Communittee Easter Activity this Saturday 9:15-11:00.; Church Rummage Sale will be May 28 from 8-2. Looking for volunteers to help Abby. Suggestion to ask Shannon H. to use her truck/trailer to haul left over rummage to the Thrifty Nifty. That organization will take all the extra rummage.

**New Business:**

- Annual Meeting May 22 after worship
- Duane Morris needs to be set up for a drop account at Bremer Bank. A motion was made by Barry T and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ginny O to authorize Duane Morris to get set up with the Bremer Bank to make night drops and Duane Morris, Gene Pribnow and Chad Leonard be approved as signers for retrievers of the pouch. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Ginny O and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barry T to add Sheldon B to the Pulpit Committee with voting member rights to help co-chair with Chad L. Motion Passed.
- Outdoor Worship Services: June, July and August at 10:00. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's wilt be held indoors; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday's will be held outdoors (weather permitting). Set up for outdoor services will be at 8:30
- Sandy M will submit a Church Constitution to all board members in electronic form or printed if needed.

Motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm by Barry T and Abby B. Passed.

Submitted by: Sherry Monson



May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 11:00 AM Mentor/Mentee Event After the Worship Service	2 Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	3 10:00 AM Office Open 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting	4 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Christian Education Mtg.	5 10:00 AM Office Open	6 9:00 AM Office Open	7
8 Happy Mother's Day Start Accepting Donations for Rummage Sale 9:00 AM Mission Team Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	9 Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	10 10:00 AM Office Open 6:00 PM Council Meeting	11 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group	12 10:00 AM Office Open	13 9:00 AM Office Open	14 7:00 AM Ruby's Pantry Volunteers Meet at Amtec Back Parking Lot 7:30 AM Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution Begins at Amtec 5:30 PM Confirmation Banquet
15 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday Worship/Confirmation 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Congregational Giving Mtg.	16 Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	17 10:00 AM Office Open	18 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group	19 8:15 AM Ministerium 10:00 AM Office Open	20 9:00 AM Office Open	21 Nick Silvas Eagle Ceremony
22 Annual Meeting Immediately after Worship 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	23 Office Closed 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	24 10:00 AM Office Open	25 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group	26 10:00 AM Office Open	27 9:00 AM Office Open	28 8:00 AM Church Rummage Sale
29 10:00 AM Sunday Worship	30 Memorial Day - Office Closed	31 10:00 AM Office Open	1 10:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Christian Education Mtg.	2 10:00 AM Office Open	3 9:00 AM Office Open	4

Church Office Hours

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