

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

May 2020



Inside this issue

Message from our Bishop.....	2-3
Historical article.....	4-5
Heath Ministry.....	6
Ways of helping.....	7
Meet Jeff.....	8
Church Resources.....	9
Family Promise.....	10-11
Preschool News.....	12-13
Children's ministry.....	14

Youth	15
Summer Camp.....	16
How to get updates.....	17
Upcoming Events.....	19-22
Vacation Bible School.....	21
Finance.....	23
Congregational Care.....	23
Calendars.....	24-25
Birthdays.....	26



CHURCH OF GILBERT

331 S Cooper Road
 Gilbert, AZ 85233
 480-892-9166

Office Hours:
 Monday-Thursday
 8:30am-4:30pm
 by appointment
 only

Attendance April 26th
 Virtual viewing 802



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GILBERT

CAMPUS CLOSURE

The First UMC Gilbert Campus will be closed to all functions until further notice for COVID-19 considerations.

Offices are open by appointment only.

Please view gilbertumc.org for latest information.

Contact us at 480-892-9166 or info@gilbertumc.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday services will be livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30 am

Join us at gilbertumc.org or facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PHOENIX AREA

1550 E MEADOWBROOK AVENUE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85014-4040



A word from our Bishopm dated April 29, 2020.....

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,
Grace to you and peace in the name and spirit of Jesus!

Having prayerfully considered the statistics that show that the number of confirmed cases

of COVID-19 in the states of Nevada and Arizona continue to rise there are no changes to the instructions given last week. The churches of the Desert Southwest Conference will continue the suspension of in-person worship and gatherings. We must continue to engage in ministry in faith to care for our people, especially the most vulnerable among us, doing our best to protect their safety and health.

I know that this presents some challenges to laity and clergy. But I have also been hearing about ways you are engaging in new forms of ministry, new means of worship and engaging in outreach, and of stewardship. Keep up this creative, adaptive work as you find ways to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from silencing the Good News or binding the hands and feet of Jesus.

I want to remind you that our Desert Southwest Conference is offering COVID-19 loans/grants to assist churches with some of the financial challenges brought about by the pandemic. Terms for receiving these loans/grants have been revised from what was initially published earlier this month. For more details about these loans/grants [click here](#).

Today the Governor of Arizona held a press conference where he reaffirmed that his “Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected” order remains in place with a few exceptions; none of them lifting the suspension of in-person worship and gatherings in churches. We pray for and anticipate the day when all restrictions will be lifted. This has not happened yet but when it does, it will happen in stages and phases. I continue to monitor the situation and will inform you when the time has come to begin to converse with your DS as you prepare to open your churches. I will update you next Wednesday with any additional information.

Please prepare yourself when the time is right to move into these stages of re-opening. A resource has been developed to assist you in thinking through many of the steps and nuances that will come when it is time to re-open our churches and ministries.

Stay safe and keep healthy in body, mind, and spirit. I pray for you at all times as I give thanks for you!

Blessings,
Bishop Bob





SEPTEMBER 1991 PLANTING PARTY

In September of 1991 as this church building was being completed church members decided to save some money and do some landscape work themselves. I am including some pictures that tell a great story in themselves.

With the photos I have included the names of people who have been identified. If you can identify anyone in the photos that I have not, please contact me so I can add them into our historical archives.

Respectfully Submitted,
Therese Pineda R.N. Church Historian





Bill Grimes

1991



Health Ministry

We continue to live with the threat of the virus COVID-19 in our everyday lives here in Gilbert, Arizona and throughout the world. Some states are easing off the Stay Home order. It has been months since we have been able to sit down and eat in a restaurant. We are able to order and takeout or drive through. With all of this some of us have more time to make healthy food choices and to cook more. I have noticed that while some grocery store shelves are empty of toilet paper and cleaning products, the produce is often beautiful and well stocked.



Going to the gym is out of the question now so many find new exercise dancing with the kids while home schooling at the same time. Things will get better. Some things will have changed forever because of the impact of this virus. Keep praying and keep following the guidelines set out by the CDC and the Arizona Department of Health.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES: INDIVIDUALS

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Strongly consider using face coverings while in public, and particularly when using mass transit.

PEOPLE WHO FEEL SICK SHOULD STAY HOME

- Do not go to work or school.
- Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.

Peace be with you,
Therese Pineda RN Parish Nurse





Please be a Hero if you are well and meet the requirements above please give blood in these uncertain times. This is something you can do to help.

Another way you can help is to donate to the local food bank. If you have extra give to the food bank. But most important is the cash donations. Did you know that \$1 is equal to FIVE meals! With this shut down and pandemic the need is great. You can give to **Open Arms food bank in Gilbert** **United food bank in Mesa**, **Feed America** and several others.



**We would like to introduce you to our new accompanist,
Jeff Hendrickson.**

Most recently, Jeff moved from Las Vegas where he attended and played for Green Valley United Methodist Church. The District Superintendent (Dan Morley) for the Vegas area used to minister here at First United Methodist in Gilbert, so Jeff is sort of a “return” back! Jeff has played for many churches since his start at just 8 years old, where he played organ for the Assemblies of God in Laredo, TX and his older sister Dara played the piano. He has played for Assemblies of God (in the Americas and the UK), Baptist, Methodist, Church of God in Christ, and various independent churches. He claims his playing style is Metho-Bapti-Costal. Jeff has lived in many places both growing up (his parents were in the Air Force), and in his working life.

For his weekday job, Jeff is the Campus Director for University of Phoenix at the central administration building off of I-10 near the airport. Jeff has worked for University of Phoenix for 8 years, but prior to that held various positions as a CEO for a financial institution, various director roles with American Express here in the States and in the UK, and as a senior exec with a handful of credit unions. Jeff holds a Bachelor of Arts in Management and an MBA from University of Phoenix. His passions are people, teaching, and music! He loves to cook, has 3 small dogs (B, Kharmen, and Penny) and a fiancée (Christopher) whom he will marry on January 2, 2021.

Jeff is excited to be in worship here at First United Methodist Church in Gilbert and is certain God has led him here to be a support for the church leaders and for the congregation. He is happiest when playing for service and enjoys church folks who love to “sing out” and make a joyful noise - so don’t be shy! Be sure to introduce yourselves and most importantly, let him know you are enjoying the music by singing along. Bless the Lord oh my soul and ALL that is within me bless His holy name!





If you need resources please reach out to Pastor Diamond and let her know what you need . She is also collecting hard to find items. So please call the office to talk to her about what you need or what you have . If you have been called by a volunteer please let them know what you need and we can get them to you if we have them . We also have pantry food boxes. Thank you for the generosity you have shown! You are all being the Hands and feet of Christ!



Office will be open by appointment only please call and set up appointment



Boxes contain canned goods, peanut butter, rice or noodles and canned tuna. The contents vary.



On behalf of Family Promise, **THANK YOU** for everything you donated last week. They were very appreciative of all the meals, snacks, purses and gift bags filled with toiletries, Easter bags, toy cars, puzzles and diapers that were delivered from our church. FUMCG has an amazing group of volunteers with a lot of heart!

Below you will find a link to a news story about Family Promise and a video message from Ted Taylor.

Please mark your calendar for our next hosting week... August 16 - 23.



<https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/valley/shelters-working-hard-to-house-families-during-coronavirus-crisis/75-da972b5d-23cf-4d62-b76e-98e284fcc418>

Many adjustments have been made in recent weeks. Our families are sheltering in place at our Day Centers instead of going to our hosting congregations each evening and our kiddos are adjusting to remote school work. One thing that hasn't changed is the heartbeat of Family Promise, our community of supporters.





Tempur Pedic pillows
Sherry Cross

Towels & linens
Great Wolf Lodge

Our community has rallied around our families, making it possible for them to continue on their paths to self sufficiency while remaining safe and healthy. We're in awe of how the community-based Family Promise model just works, even in these difficult and uncertain times. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

There's still time before the April 15th deadline!

It's not too late to join us in rescuing more families than ever in 2020 by selecting Family Promise AZ as your AZ Charitable Tax Credit recipient (\$400 single, \$800 married filing jointly)

Never utilized the AZ Charitable tax credit? Need more instruction? click here or call us (480)659-5227.

QCO #20453

Donate Here

Visit our website

480-659-5227
info@familypromiseAZ.org
www.FamilyPromiseAz.org



Meals & groceries continue to be provided via drop off
Host Congregations



Snacks galore!
Branches Homeschool Community



Flowers
Flower Bar



Pizzas
Domino's



Preschool News

www.gilbertpreschool.com



REGISTER NOW!

We are NOW enrolling students for the 2020-2021 school year.

Our preschool has classes for ages 2, 3, and 4/5 year olds! During this time we usually receive many calls for information and take families for tours to complete enrollment for the upcoming school year. This year, things are different! We need your help to spread the word about our wonderful church preschool! The community can now enjoy a tour of our church preschool online! Please visit <https://youtu.be/xQLCuksNOBc> to see the tour and share with friends and family! There is so much information on the preschool website, and we are always available to return calls and schedule tours!

What have we been up to?

As you know, AZ school were closed for the remainder of the school year after Spring Break. This was quite a surprise for the preschool staff, families, and students! We have been connecting and communicating regularly with our families through emails and social media. The teachers have all made videos while reading favorite books and we made a video waving to say hello to the students and families while social distancing. Take a look on our Facebook page and watch these videos online!

What should parents do with preschoolers during this time?

It can often be a struggle at times like these to limit the amount of screen time that young children get, especially when parents are trying to work from home and help older children with online learning. The most important thing to do with preschoolers is to keep reading and singing with them, have fun playful conversations, and let them play! Let them dress up and pretend to go to work, open a restaurant, or pretend to be doctors and nurses. It's also a great time to go outside and get large motor exercise! Children love to play tag, ride bikes or scooters, learn to skip, and hop around on one or two legs. Small motor activities such as coloring, drawing, cutting with scissors under supervision, painting, lacing, and writing practice in whatever form are all great activities. Building is a great way to spend some time! Use blocks, legos, plastic cups, boxes, dominos, or even sturdy books to make castles, car garages, or the tallest towers. This is also a great time to focus on helping your preschooler become more independent. Take some time each day to start working on a self-help skill such as buttoning a shirt or pants, zipping up a zipper, putting on shoes and socks, brushing

teeth and hair, or washing their own hair during bath time. Choose one skill at a time and don't push too hard. It will come! Enjoy watching your preschooler learn and grow during this time together

Coronavirus (COVID-19): How to Talk to Your Child

From Kidshealth.org

Find Out What Your Child Already Knows

Ask questions geared to your child's age level. For older kids, you might ask, "What are you hearing about coronavirus? What questions do you have?" For younger children, you could say, "Do you have questions about the new sickness that's going around?" This gives you a chance to learn how much kids know — and to find out if they're hearing the wrong information.

Follow your child's lead. Some kids may want to spend time talking. But if your kids don't seem interested or don't ask a lot of questions, that's OK.

Offer Comfort — and Honesty

Focus on helping your child feel safe, but be truthful. Don't offer more detail than your child is interested in. For example, if kids ask about stores closing, address their questions. But if the topic doesn't come up, there's no need to raise it.

If your child asks about something and you don't know the answer, say so. Use the question as a chance to find out together. Check the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](https://www.cdc.gov) for up-to-date, reliable information about coronavirus (COVID-19). That way, you have the facts and kids don't see headlines about deaths and other scary information.

Speak calmly and reassuringly. Explain that most people who get sick feel like they have a cold or the flu. Kids pick up on it when parents worry. So when you talk about coronavirus and the news, use a calm voice and try not to seem upset.

Give kids space to share their fears. It's natural for kids to worry, "Could I be next? Could that happen to me?" Let your child know that kids don't seem to get as sick as adults. Let them know they can always come to you for answers or to talk about what scares them.

Know when they need guidance. Be aware of how your kids get news and information, especially older kids who go online. Point them to age-appropriate content so they don't end up finding news shows or outlets that scare them or have incorrect information.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the preschool, please contact Lora Norris or Adrienne Mesa at 480 892 9166 or preschool@gilbertumc.org.



May 2020 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

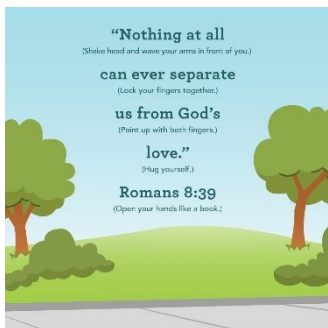
Preschool and Kinder



We are using a lemonade stand theme this month to welcome in the warmer days and

introduce preschoolers to the amazing truth that God loves me. We want preschoolers to know that God has put a lot of planning and creating and love into each of them. And, just like you can't separate the water from the sugar from the lemon juice once you mix them, NOTHING can separate us from God's love.

Throughout the month our preschoolers will hear how the Bible teaches us that God made us in His image, has a plan for us, and will never stop loving us. So, think a lot of love and a little lemon – mix it all together and we will get an entire month of God loves me! Our prayer is that every preschooler will walk away knowing that God



Mission:

We will start collecting for the food bank!! Bring in canned food or cereal for our local food banks!



1ST-6th Graders



Throughout the Bible, we read about all sorts of people who showed determination in the face of hardship and difficulty. They relied on God's strength to get them through it. Even Jesus Himself endured through the pain of the cross so that we would be able to have a forever relationship with God. When it comes to the situations in our own lives, God gives us the Holy Spirit to empower us to keep going, even when life gets difficult.



Zoom Sunday School Schedule

preschool/kinder 8:30-9

1st-3rd 10:45-11:30

4th-6th 11:30-12:15





Youth Communications
TEXT MESSAGE UPDATES & REMINDERS
Youth updates via Remind app.
TEXT: @fumcgil to 81010 Youth News.
Make sure we have your email &
permission to send to that address

Class of 2020!

Help us celebrate our
FUMCG graduates!

If you have a high school, college, or beyond graduate please reach out to youth@gilbertumc.org so we can recognize you in the next month.





Summer Camp at Mingus Mountain

This is a camp run by the Desert Southwest United Methodist Conference. Enjoy the cool pines just north of Prescott, AZ. There are camps for 3rd-12th grades throughout the summer. Please visit the website for more details, and email Shayla with any other questions. <http://www.dsccamps.org/summer-camps.html>

Mingus Mountain Camp

- Elementary I Camp (grades 3-6) - June 1-6
- Junior High I Camp (grades 6-9) - June 1-6
- Senior High Ecology Camp (grades 9-12+) - June 1-6
- Youth Mission Camp @ Trinity Heights UMC (grades 7-12+) - June 14-19
- Elementary II Camp (grades 3-6) - June 22-27
- Junior High II Camp (grades 6-9) - June 22-27
- Senior High Spiritual Formation Camp (grades 9-12+) - June 22-27
- ◆ Elementary III Camp (grades 3-6) - June 29-July 4
- ◆ Junior High III Camp (grades 6-9) - June 29-July 4
- ◆ Senior High Camp (grades 9-12+) - June 29-July 4





WHILE WE CAN'T MEET
AS A CHURCH, WE CAN
BE THE CHURCH



WWW.GILBERTUMC.ORG

[f FB.COM/FUMCofGilbert](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert)

STAY UP TO DATE

Follow us on facebook or go to our website to see the most current church information:

- Church News
- Renovation Updates
- Upcoming Events



Richard Morrison



Ed Stressman & Steve Barnett



Carol Smith & Chris Peterson

I  **MY**
CHURCH

Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:

(all small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

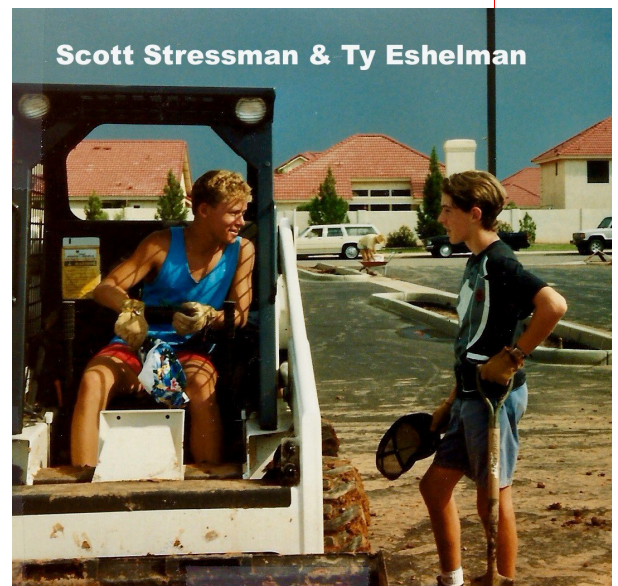
Send in your pictures with Mom to celebrate them on mothers day share on facebook or send to webmaster@gilbertumc.org. Before May 5th.


Calling all Graduates of 2020 Please send all graduates of high school, undergraduate or above to youthministry@gilbertumc.org so we can Celebrate them in the June Evangel.

Save the Date for VBS July 13-17, 2020 9:00 to Noon (note change in date) We will need Volunteers and donations for this ministry to the community. Contact Janelle at ChildrensMinistry@gilbertumcorg

Please send in your pictures with Mom

Send in your pictures of your mom and you to either First United Methodist Church Facebook page or to webmaster@gilbertumc.org By May 5th!





MEN'S MINISTRY
Monthly
Breakfast

FELLOWSHIP · FAITH · BACON



Every 3rd Saturday of the Month
 May 16th
 At 7:30 AM
 In the Activity Center

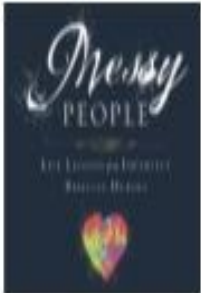
- Come enjoy a hearty breakfast
- Spiritual growth and support
- Personal testimonial and life sharing



TUESDAY MORNING
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

JOIN US OR INVITE A FRIEND!
 MEETS MOST TUESDAYS AT 9:30AM AT
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GILBERT

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
 CONTACT CHRISTY AT ROBERCH1@YAHOO.COM



Now Studying:
 "MESSY PEOPLE" BY
 JENNIFER COWART

NEXT MEETING ON MARCH 24,
 STUDYING RAHAB



*Join us for fellowship and
 service!*

First Thursdays 9:30 am
 First United Methodist Church of Gilbert
 331 South Cooper Road,
 Gilbert AZ 85233
 Call 480-892-9166 for

(all small groups will be contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a ministry outreach First United Methodist Church of Gilbert provides to educate children about God. Children learn about Jesus through fun, age-appropriate activities. Vacation Bible School helps children build a lifetime of memories and friendships. Children will enjoy stories from the Bible, singing, crafts, games, snacks, and exciting skits.

Children ages 3 years (must be potty trained) through those entering 6th grade in the fall of 2020

You don't have to be a church member to attend VBS

JULY 13-17,2020 from 9am - 12pm **NOTE CHANGE IN DATE**

Cost:

February 1 – April 30 : \$30 per child/\$75 Family Max

May 1 – June 1 : \$35 per child/\$75 Family Max

After reserving your child's spot on Eventbrite, payment will be required by going to the FUMCG payment site: <https://bitly.com/gilbertgiving> before your registration is complete.

Financial assistance is available upon request, please email for more information.





Prayers for those in need

During this time of uncertainty we will be still be praying for those in need so please either call or email prayer requests and we will send them out to our dedicated prayer team. The office number is 480-892-9166 or the email prayers@gilbertumc.org. If it is pastors only please mark **pastors only** and it will go only to pastors.

And we will be praying for all the concerns and praises.
Your prayer team



Purses for Moms

The Missions Committee is collecting new or gently used purses filled with goodies this Mother's Day to donate to moms in local domestic violence and family shelters. We will be working in conjunction with organizations such as UMOM and Shoebox Ministry. There will be a donation box in the activity center. Please collect at home and we will announce when to bring all donations to the church. Don't forget to double check your purse to remove your personal items. We will also accept empty purses or just the items to fill them. Suggestions for what to include are cosmetics, scented lotions, bath gels, manicure & pedicure items, jewelry, hair accessories, and toiletries.





Congregational Care Support Groups
For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Diamond at pastordiamond@gilbertumc.org or 480-892-9166



Grief Share Support Group will be online now

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them.

This support group. Led by Kay Pealstrom


is meeting on Saturdays from 9am-10:30am



Living Hope Support Group

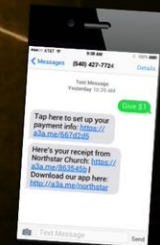
A group for those experiencing trauma or dealing with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. (Small groups are contingent on the CDC guidelines)

Text-to-Give

- † Text 480-712-1057
- † Enter amount with \$ sign
for example: 

For first usage only:

- † Register with link provided
- † Click "Process"



May Calendar of Events 2020

(all studies and small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

			Chat & Chew Noon		1 May Day	2 Griefshare 9:00-10:30 Every Saturday
3	4	5 Tues Morning Bible Study 	6 Chat & Chew Noon	7 National Day of Prayer Women's Fellowship 9:30 am 	8	9
10 Mothers Day 	11	12 Tues Morning Bible Study	13 Chat & Chew Noon	14 shawl meeting 1PM 	15	16 Men's Breakfast 8-9:30 
17	18	19 Tues Morning Bible Study 	20 Chat & Chew Noon	21 book club 11AM 	22	23
24  31	25 Memorial Day	26 Tuesday Morning Bible Study	27 Chat & Chew Noon	28	29	30

June Calendar of Events 2020

(all studies and small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

	1	2	3 Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in	4 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30 am 	5	6 Griefshare 9:00-10:30 Every Saturday
7	8	9 Tues Morning Bible Study 	10 Chat N Chew Noon	11 Shawl ministry 1pm 	12	13
14	15	16 Tues Morning Bible Study	17 Chat N Chew 18 Noon	18 Book Club 11AM 	19	20 Men's breakfast 8-9:30 am 
21 Father's Day 	22	23 Tues Morning Bible Study 	24 Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in	25	26	27
28	29	30 Tues Morning Bible Study	Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in			

May Birthdays



Joyce Steiner	2
Joyce Brown	3
Michael Clark	3
Heather Nicks	3
Mary Beth Ondulich	3
Ryan Sovchik	3
Anna Trinidad	3
JoAnn Mannion	4
Angela Mittner	4
Shawna Palmer	4
Marty Province	4
Simon Addison Daugherty	5
Brian Fischer	5
Joyce Metcalf	5
Denise M Staley	5
Abby Ramsey	7
Stan Gill	9
Jason Rempel	9
Paige Shanks	10
Richard Cantwell	11
Bruce Bettis	12
Ricky Zeilstra	12
Steven Burks	14
Michael Harris	14
Gunter Scharff	14
Cade Burks	15
Garry Disch	16
Rebekah Alls	18
Rachel Buhnerkempe	18
Chris Thompson	21

Nathaniel Koenig	22
Pam Turner	22
Linda Hartmann	25
Alaina Tesarek	26
Ashley Utton	26
Grace Wiemers	26
Jim Wilkins	26
Joe Mayne	27
Signory K Mutach	27
Janet Bose	29
Michael Crann	30
Kyle Hanson	30
Judy Haugen	30
Katelyn Clark	31
Jimmie Galvin	31
Judy Strom	31



May Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
04	Colleen and David Gripentrog	23
05	Singlia and Justin Kopp	02
06	Ashley and Trevor Askeland	04
11	Paige and Richard Cantwell	46
12	Jennifer and Nicholas Karavakis	08
14	Jimmie and Jacob Galvin	04
19	Nancy and Alan Ball	30
24	Lisa and Joe Strazz	23
26	Margaret and Tom Knoll	41
29	Jo and Ron Goslar	16
29	Kim and Derek Updegraff	21
31	January and Matthew Rizzo	14