

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

May 2021



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

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

Attendance
April 25th

Virtual viewing 339



**Church office will be
closed for Memorial Day
on May 31st**



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GILBERT



Limited Opening of Campus

Worship Services
(limited numbers)

Limited numbers includes wearing a mask on campus,
virtual check in and
prayer request only from your device only.

At 8:30 and 10:00

Sunday services will be livestreamed on Facebook and You Tube
at 10:00 am.

Any changes in this schedule will be put in the
Weekly Enews and the website for the latest news.

FIRST GILBERT

REOPENING

Guidelines

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, First Gilbert has created a reopening plan that was designed to provide a safe transition between closure and full services. It was created at the direction of Desert Southwest Conference Bishop Bob Hoshibata and East District Superintendent N. Susan Brims. This plan outlines mandatory steps that everyone must follow as the church reopens.

A summary of this plan follows, please contact the office at secretary@gilbertumc.org for the latest information.

Online Worship

Each service will be livestreamed and recorded for later viewing on the church website: gilbertumc.org/sermons

Requirements for In-Person Worship

- Total in-person attendance is limited
- Reserve seats through church website: gilbertumc.org
- If you have not done so already, complete the Covenant viewable here: gilbertumc.org/first-gilbert-covenant/
- Check in at the table on the patio when you arrive
- Masks must be worn at all times for those 6 or older
- Observe 6' social distancing between family groups
- Don't shake hands, hug or touch others
- Follow all instructions from the ushers and staff
- Please use the hand sanitizer provided
- Do not attend if you have tested positive for COVID, or were exposed to someone who has tested positive
- Do not attend if you are feeling sick
- No food or drink; beverages and snacks not served
- Sunday School and the Nursery will not be available
- Please keep children with you at all times

If an individual cannot wear a mask then we are required to suspend the service and the congregation will be dismissed. Your patience and cooperation is appreciated!



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PHOENIX AREA
1550 E MEADOWBROOK AVENUE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85014-4040



A word from Bishop Bob March 17, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,
Last night (March 16, 2021), eight people were killed, including six Asian-American women, outside Atlanta, GA. During this season of Lent, we weep and we cry out at the continued acts of hate toward Asians and Asian-Americans and of all people of color who have been victim to violence based in racism.

This violent act and others like it stand at the intersections of unnecessary violence against persons based on race, class, gender, misogyny, xenophobia, and fueled by the long legacy of white supremacy culture and imperialism both in the U.S. and beyond. Mainstream media is only scratching the surface on the harm that has been done and continues to be done. Unfortunately, the stories of many events go unreported because of the fear of retaliation and further harm; for not wanting to be seen as “causing a fuss”; or the lack of trust in those who are to protect and serve all people. This is harm upon harm and silences even further those who suffer.

We are reminded of our baptismal covenant to “Resist evil and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves...” Here is one tangible occurrence of evil that Christ calls us to resist.

We must speak out for our Asian siblings in Christ. We must take swift and direct action in calling out these acts of hate. We must confront the ways that harm presents itself: whether it be “innocent” re-telling of jokes, to perpetuating racist rhetoric related to COVID-19, or violent actions to innocent people, we must acknowledge that these are things that fuel bias and prejudice against those of Asian heritage. We must join others in putting a stop to the harm.

Our Lenten journey calls us to enter into a time of self-examination. A time to encounter the ways we have strayed from God, the distractions that keep us from that which is elemental and essential to our lives. In many ways, the COVID-19 pandemic has propelled us into a year-long examination. We grieve the loss of “normal”. We are angry at this unsettling of this struggle. It’s hard to feel God in this time. We are experiencing collective grief, collective sorrow. And yet. God is with us in this darkness.

As people of faith, we must be willing to enter into those places of discomfort in order to

Speak the truth in love. To listen for learning and greater understanding. To advocate for those who cannot or do not for fear of their own safety. To push back and explain why certain behaviors can no longer be tolerated.

It begins with me. It begins with each of us. Since last summer, the Appointive Cabinet has engaged in covenantal dialogue around issues of racism. We have explored texts that help us to examine our own biases and areas of privilege. I have uncovered areas where I need to do more work. I invite you to commit to engaging in the challenging and on-going work of self-examination and reflection. As a Lenten practice, perhaps you find time each day or week to do this. Perhaps you invite a close friend or family member to join you.

In The United Methodist Church, the Asian American Language Ministry Plan released a joint statement condemning the rise of anti-Asian violence in the U.S. Rev. John Oda, who directs the Asian American Language Ministry Plan said:

“This ongoing, rising violence and hatred which sadly includes the recent murders in Atlanta of eight Asian American women – this violence is not just an Asian American concern. This is not an African American concern, a Hispanic/Latino concern, a Native American concern or a Pacific Islander concern. This increase in violence, these shootings in Atlanta are a concern for ALL Christians; for anyone who is striving to live out the tenets of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are a concern for all of us are seeking to fulfill His commandment to love one another. The United Methodist Church has a moral obligation to be vocally and visibly outraged at these recent murders in Atlanta and this precipitous rise in violence and hatred against the Asian American community.”

I have given my full support to this statement and have signed onto it with many of my colleagues in ministry. I ask you to read it and prayerfully share it.

The Desert Southwest Conference RACE Coalition has provided several opportunities for raising awareness and education about anti-racism. The 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge is an excellent place to start. In the month of May, the RACE Coalition will focus on Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage month. I, along with Asian clergy and lay people in our conference will share our experiences of how we've experienced racism in our communities and yes, in our churches. I encourage you to use and engage with all of the materials that will be offered soon on the RACE Coalition website.

I invite us to pray fervently for the communities of color, especially Asian communities, where violence has not ceased. Pray for those who perpetuate violence, that they may be transformed by God's peace and seek reconciliation with those whom they have harmed. Pray for those who are apathetic to these events where their privilege and fear keeps them from engaging in the work of anti-racism, may their eyes and ears and hearts be opened and moved to action.

My commitment, our commitment to the work of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion must be stronger than ever before. In what ways will you join me?

Bishop Bob

Continuing our partnership with Gilbert Elementary Schools

It is near the end of school and the need is great for the snacks to be replenished and the cupboard is in need of filling up. Help us to fill up the snack and meals cupboard. Here is the list of needed items:



******All food items must be individually packaged******



- Gatorade
- Granola Bars/Breakfast Bars
- Pop Tarts
- Peanut Butter-filled or Cheese-filled Crackers
- Cups of Mac'n Cheese (just add H2O)



- Cheez-Its
- Goldfish
- Fruit Snacks



Covid 19

It's Emotional Effects on Young Children

Over the last year, there has been much in the news, news papers & news about the emotional toll Covid -19 has had on adults & older children. However there has been little concerning young children. A large majority of people didn't think young children suffered from anxiety & depression. We have found over the last year this is not the case. We just need to be able to identify it & help the child through it.

Since children under the age of 5 most likely will not be able to verbalize their fears, it's up to the parents & adults around the child to be able to spot the behaviors of fear, anxiety & depression. The following behaviors are some but not all to watch for.

Regression in milestones such as bed wetting or accidents after the child is fully potty trained

Sleep disturbances like difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep.

Feeding issues such as more spitting up, bowel changes or stomach pain

Fussiness or clinginess

Frustration behaviors like hitting, biting or increase in tantrums

Play themes of illness & death.

Irritability

Urgently wanting something that doesn't satisfy the child

As we come out of lock down & life begins to return to normal, these anxiety & fears don't just go away. There are roles for family, community & Medicine to play in helping the child through these times.

Children mirror their parents, so it is very important that parents care for themselves in order to project a positive outlook. Limit, or in the case of very young children, exclude TV or radio news. You may think they are playing, but they hear what's said & see the images. Maintain contact with family & friends through apps. like zoom or Skype. As lock down goes away, resume activities with other children & family. Don't neglect routine Dr. visits or check ups





VBS TEAM

Registration is open!
Space is limited sign up NOW!
Please follow the links to reserve your
spot at this year's VBS!
July 12th-16th from 8am-12noon,
Monday-Friday.
This is open to preschool 3's thru
incoming 6th graders.
Youth and adults can volunteer as well!

Register today!

Preschool News

www.gilbertpreschool.com



FUMC of Gilbert Preschool



Gilbert preschool



@gilpreschool

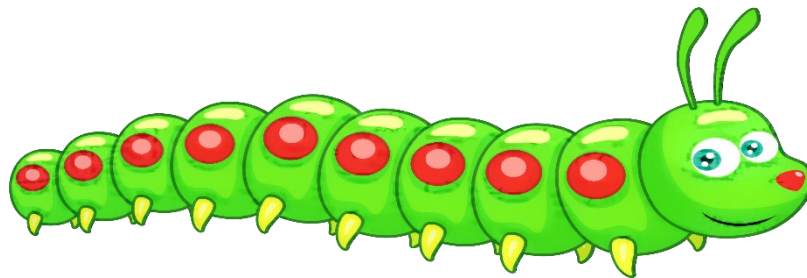


REGISTER NOW!

Our preschool is now full for the 2021-2022 school year. We feel very blessed and excited for the new and returning families that will be with us next year. We do have a waitlist started and will still offer tours to any interested families.

What have we been up to?

Our preschoolers had a busy month. We learned about the life cycle of a caterpillar and even had the opportunity to watch real caterpillars turn into butterflies in our classrooms. The children loved seeing them fly off when we released them outside. We also had real worms come to the classroom for some up close investigating before releasing them into our garden. Speaking of the garden, we picked the remainder of our vegetables and enjoyed yummy carrots at snack time. Spring has been full of beautiful changes and exciting science!



Preschoolers with Heart (Missions)

Our preschoolers did some “spring cleaning” in March and donated their own gently used toys. We will be delivering them to the UMOM Shelter in hopes that they might be loved by some children in need!

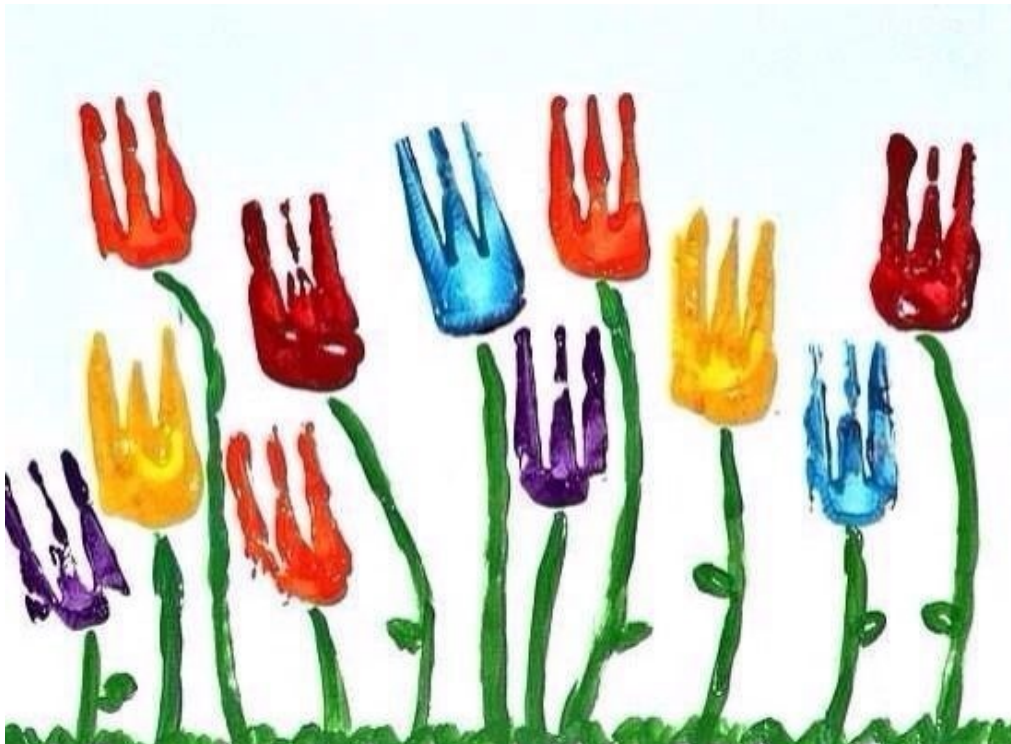
Next Month

During the month of May we will learn about the letter Mm as we celebrate our moms! The children will also be learning some songs for our patriotic show at the end of the school year. The children love performing and we are excited they will have the opportunity to show off their hard work.



Spring Project Fun

Grab a paper plate and add a few different colors of paint. Let the kids use plastic forks to stamp different color tulips.



If you have any questions about the preschool, please email preschool@gilbertumc.org or call 480-892-9166. Directors Lora Norris or Betsy Marlinga would love to speak with you!

May 2021 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

Preschool and Kinder



Jump! Jump!

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Because we live in an imperfect world, it is hard to understand what perfect is. But, God's way is perfect. God can see where we cannot. God has the power to make a way where there is no way. God loves us, and we can trust God's way.

Core Insight:

TRUTH

Connection

WEEK ONE: In the Garden* —Genesis 1:31,2:8-3:24

WEEK TWO: Jonah — Jonah 1:1-3:10

WEEK THREE: Naaman—2Kings5:1-14

WEEK FOUR: Josiah (young King)— 2 Chronicles 34

WEEK FIVE: Gideon's Army—Judges 7:1-8

BOTTOM LINE: God's way is perfect

"God's way is perfect." 2Samuel 22:31 NIV

Sunday School Schedule

IN person Sunday School
During the 10:00 am
Service
Nursery available both
services

Wednesday
Wilds Zoom
4 pm on
Wednesday



1ST-6th Graders

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

.God makes plans and follows through with them, including the plan to send Jesus to rescue us! We can show commitment too. The best way? We can work on growing our relationship with Jesus with faith practices.



CORE INSIGHTS

Faith • Connection

WEEK ONE: Training to Win the Prize— 1Corinthians 9:24-27

BOTTOM LINE: Keep practicing what matters most.

WEEK TWO: The Wise and Foolish Builders — Matthew 7:24-29

BOTTOM LINE: Practice hearing what God says.

WEEK THREE: Model Prayer — Luke 11:1-14

BOTTOM LINE: Practice praying to God.

WEEK FOUR: Peter Says That Jesus is the Messiah. — Matthew 16:13-20

BOTTOM LINE: Practice talking to God.

WEEK FIVE: Widow's Mite—Mark 12:41-44

BOTTOM LINE: Practice living for God.

"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

Mission:

We are not collecting yet.



Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School April 18th
Sr. High Youth Room
During the 10am Service

**Vincent de Paul Mesa Garden
April 17th and May 15th**



Come volunteer at the Garden on Sat's 4/17 and 5/15
8-10:30/11am.

Click Here to sign up. April 17th

we will be staining/painting wood, so please wear
painting clothes.

Meet at the garden, however if you need a ride, just
email youthministry@gilbertumc.org to arrange for
carpool. Bring a mask, water, sunscreen, and some work
gloves (we have extras if you don't have any).

Upcoming Youth Activities... Save the Date

May 2nd, Bowling

Time and Location TBD (likely 3-5pm)

[Sign Up Here](#)



May 16th Next Youth Council Meeting 11am-12 pm

June 6th Swim Party at Bose House

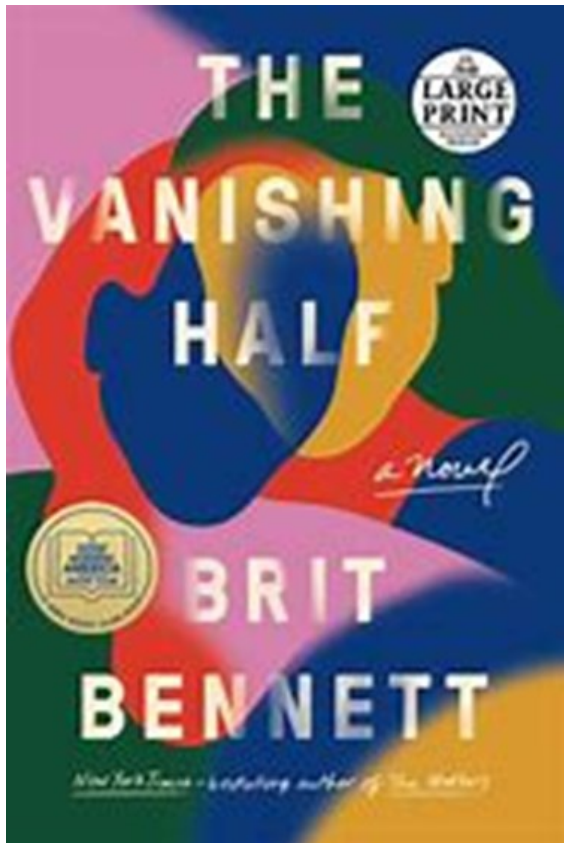
Come Celebrate the End of the School Year and
Kick-off to Summer. This will also be the
welcome event for incoming Jr. High Students.

[Sign up here](#)



Follow us on Instagram@fumcyouth

The whole leadership team and youth leaders are keeping you and your family in our prayers each week.
Please reach out if you need anything youthministry@gilbertumc.org !



The Book Corner

May's Book is the Vanishing Half by Brit Bennet. Betty Larson will be leading the review of this historical fiction which was published in 2020.

The Book Club will meet
May 20th at 11:30 in
Room 130 and on zoom.

June's book is Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, a theological book.

With July's book The House of Kennedy by James Patterson, a non fiction book



What to honor a graduate in your life?

Calling all 2021 Graduates! We'd like to recognize all of our high school and beyond graduates! Please email the student's full name, school, degree, plans for post grad (ie: college at xxx school) and best contact info (Parent name, email, phone, address), along with a photo of the graduate to youthministry@gilbertumc.org by Friday May 7th.



Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:
(all small groups are contingent on Bishop Bob and the CDC
recommendations.)

- In person limited seating continues !!!! Masks will be worn, convent signed and social distancing with no hugging, hand shaking or taking off of masks. This will continue as long as covid numbers do not spike. Please be respectful and reverent in the sanctuary. Please RSVP on our website each Monday.
- You can still donate to send a kid to camp. Simply note on the memo part of your check or donate online and mark camp fund and amount you want to donate.
- Mother's Day is May the 9th.
- Preschool's Year End Program will be held Tuesday May 18th at 5:30 for Session 1 and 6:30 for session 2 in the Sanctuary.
- Memorial services for Suzzann (Sue) Todd will be held on May 22 at 2:00 pm in sanctuary and activity center after service.
- Memorial services for the Julie Brooks will be held on June 6th at 1:30 pm in the sanctuary and activity center after the service.
- Save the Date for VBS July 12-16!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If you like to volunteer please email





Prayers for those in need

During this time of uncertainty we will 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 request please mark **pastors only** and it will be given to the pastors.

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

Your
Prayer Team



Looking for Gently Used Laptops & Computers

Have you bought a new computer, tablet, or laptop recently? If so, you may have your “old” equipment laying around and taking up space. Donate them to Church’s IT program and help us refresh some of the computer equipment around the church campus.

Concerned about your data? We will securely wipe your computer before using it, or give you a CD that you can use to wipe it yourself. Drop off computers and laptops at the Church Office.

Questions? Contact Philip Tesarek at ITSupport@gilbertumc.org or (480) 510-4588. Thank you!



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

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"



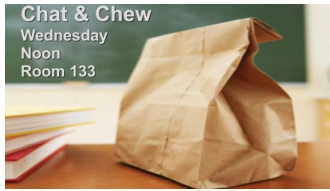
May Calendar of Events 2021

(All studies and small groups are contingent on Bishop Bob and the CDC recommendations.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Grief share Every Saturday 9:00-10:30 am
2 Communion Sunday 	3	4 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 	5 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Zoom Night Bible study 6:30	6 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30 	7	8
9 Mother's day 	10	11 Tues Morning Bible 9:15	12 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	13 shawl Ministry 1:00 	14	15 Mens Breakfast 8-9:30 
16	17	18 Tues Morn. Bible 9:15 Preschool year end program 5:30 & 6:30	19 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	20 Book Club 11:00 	21	22 Suzzann (Sue) Todd Memorial 2pm
23	24	25 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 	26 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	27	28	29
30 	31 Memorial day Church office closed					

June Calendar of Events 2021

(All studies and small groups are contingent on Bishop Bob and the CDC recommendations.)



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

6 Communion Sunday

7

1 Tuesday
Morning Bible Study 9:15

2

3 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30

4

5 grief share
Every Saturday 9:00-10:30
Julie Brooks Memorial 1:30pm

13

14 Youth week of service through 19th



8 Tues Morning Bible 9:15

9 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30

10 Shawl Ministry 1:00



11 UMC Annual conference through Sunday 13th

12

20 Father's Day

21 Family Promise Week (Pending) 20th-27th

22 Tuesday morning Bible study 9:15

23 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30

24

25

26 Jo Asplin Memorial 11:00 am

27

28



study 9:015

30 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30



Birthdays / Anniversaries

May Birthdays



Joyce Steiner	2
Joyce Brown	3
Michael Clark	3
Heather Nicks	3
Mary Beth Ondulich	3
Ana Trinidad	3
JoAnn Mannion	4
Angela Mittner	4
Shawna Palmer	4
Marty Province	4
Simon A. Daugherty	5
Brian Fischer	5
Joyce Metcalf	5
Denise M Staley	5
Alix Haugen	7
Abby Ramsey	7
Stan Gill	9
Jason Rempel	9
Paige Shanks	10
Bill Warren	10
Richard Cantwell	11
Bruce Bettis	12
Ricky Zeilstra	12
Steven Burks	14
Michael Harris	14
Jim Ramsey	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
Jim Wilkins	26
Joe Mayne	27
Signory K Mutach	27
Jason 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
4	Collen and David Gripentrog II	24
5	Singla Jamdira and Justin Kopp	3
11	Paige and Richard Cantwell	47
12	Jennifer and Nicholas Karavakis	9
14	Jimmie and Jacob Galvin	5
19	Nancy and Alan Ball	31
24	Liza and Joe Strazz	24
29	Kim and Derek Updegraff	22
31	January and Matthew Rizzo	15