



JOY Newsletter

January 2023

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

Looking Ahead in 2023

Our church seems to be experiencing a renewal of spirit after the pandemic. Worship attendance in person and online is up. The Sanctuary's main floor and balcony were packed for Believe Again: A Christmas Extravaganza. Wednesday Night Live has been popular with an average of 75 people each week, 40 children in choir, and well attended adult classes. Because of this, the board has decided to continue staffing our food ministry for Wednesday Night Live which serves both member and several attending nonmember families. It also staffs our food missions and church meal events. Because of disappointing experience in previous years, the food ministry was not included in this year's budget, but we are trusting the church will support it.

While we have had over 300 in the Sanctuary for worship on a weekend, we have also had 60-100 experiencing a significant portion or all of the worship online, a sizable congregation in its own right. Given the increase in online worship attendance, the Accountable Leadership Board has approved the proposal of a major upgrade of our worship technology, to be submitted to the Foundation and Memorial Committee and the Future Fund. I also think it is time to find ways to make our online worshippers feel more a part of the congregation. This will either require additional staff positions or the offer of unpaid leadership.

The staff have noticed the energy of the congregation and the support of the community and

are talking about it being time to do the Journey to Bethlehem again for Christmas 2023. It is a traditional ministry of the church and major production requiring the engagement and organization of many more people than were involved in "Believe Again" this year. For this to be successful, we will have to begin as early as next month and get more community families involved. Our teams are also active in giving attention to our branding, communication, and marketing to enhance the consistency of our internal and external communications.

The trustees are continuing their attention to the welcoming character of the Narthex, a landscaping a solution to the drainage issues, and possible installation of solar panels that could save \$5500-6000 a year in energy costs.

There are good reasons to be excited about being part of this church and where it is moving. Our influence is felt not only by our members, but in the North Shore community, and through the churches and communities of Milwaukee and the state. New models are needed for churches serving communities after the pandemic, and we have the people who can create them. I trust the members and friends of the church will find the place most fitting for their engagement and will keep the leadership informed of their talent and passion.

2023 is an exciting time to be alive and engaged in Christ's church for the community.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Don Francis

LOVE GOD, CARE FOR EACH OTHER, AND SERVE IN THE WORLD

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
819 E. Silver Spring Dr. Whitefish Bay ~ umcwfb.org ~ 414- 964-2424



Seeing: Discover the evidence of New Life!

Our January Message Series starting January 8
5PM Saturday | 9 & 10:30 AM Sunday

LEARN MORE



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, February 11 9am-4pm
at the beautiful Siena Center
on Lake Michigan in Racine

SAVE
THE DATE

Wednesday

Night

five

STARTING JANUARY 11, 5:30-7:30 PM
OUR MIDWEEK LEARNING,
SERVING, AND FELLOWSHIP TIME.
CHILDREN'S MUSICAL
REHEARSALS BEGIN!

DINNER AVAILABLE:

\$10 adults, and a suggested donation of \$5 for children

Welcome New Members!

Received on Christmas Day: Jason Janczak and Ann Pier

Next New Member Information Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2023 in the Walnut Room
following the 10:30 service.

For questions, please contact Pat Wisialowski, pwisialowski@umcwfb.org
414-964-2424, ext. 224



Sign up
here!

Signup Genesis

As worship services continue to grow in attendance,
we need ushers and other hospitality volunteers.
Go to "Featured Events" on our website to sign up, or click [HERE](#).

First Friday of the Month Taizé Worship

Join us for our Taizé worship service on
January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Start the new year with quiet prayer.

**This will be a service of renewal on the
Day of Epiphany!**

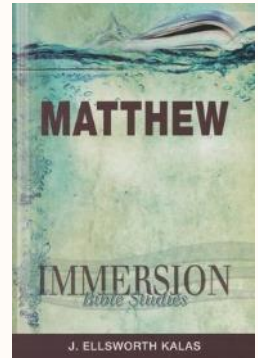


Women Offering Worship returns on January 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for half-hour worship in the Chapel with a new year filled with faith-lifts, friendships, fabulous book study discussions, and a sisterhood second to none. Two new classes begin the following Thursday at 10:15 a.m. Eight-week study of *Immersion: The Book of Matthew* by J. Ellsworth Kala meets in the Walnut Room. There will also be a study in the Wesley Room and via zoom, at this writing, the title has not been determined.

Watch the eJoy and umcwfb.org/adult/women's ministry for details.

Lenten studies will begin **February 23**. Twenty-five years of faith & friend building on Thursday mornings. Contact Nell with questions – she's got answers! nnash@umcwfb.org



Ladies – Save the Date!

Women's Retreat at Siena Center on Lake Michigan

Join us at the Siena Center in Racine from **9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 11** with retreat leaders Pat Wisialowski and Sue Stanley. It's been a long time since we were able to retreat together. Be sure to invite a friend.

Register with Nell Nash at nnash@umcwfb.org.
\$30 registration fee includes lunch and a fabulous day.

Groups

Racial Diversity Happenings

The Nicolet Rec Dept., in partnership with Bay Bridge and the Redress Movement (born out of Richard Rothstein's best-selling *Color of Law* book), is offering 2 new courses: **Implicit Bias** and **Roots of Racism: Housing Segregation in the United States**.

Implicit Bias will run the evening of **February 1**
and **Roots of Racism** will run the evening of **March 1**.

Both sessions will include a variety of approaches, including co-facilitator presentation, video, small and large group discussion, and listening pairs.

Registration is now open and space is limited.

[Register for \(Let's Talk About\) Implicit Bias](#), enter Activity Code 232112

[Register for Roots of Racism: Housing Segregation in the United States](#),
enter Activity Code 232113.

Implicit Bias: This 2-hour session will introduce the topic of implicit bias and, using examples from Whitefish Bay, explore how implicit bias impacts us all and how, by building awareness of it in ourselves and our society, we can begin to work against it.

Roots of Racism: Housing Segregation in the US: This 2-hour training with housing equity advocates from The Redress Movement will look at the history of racism in the United States through the lens of housing and focusing on Milwaukee County and the North Shore and explore how these practices continue to impact housing trends and choices today.



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Save the Date for a New Book Study!

Starting February 15, our team will be leading a 6-week book study as part of Wednesday Night Live programming. *Saving Us, A Climate Scientist's*

Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World (Katherine Hayhoe, 2021) is an excellent book to help us understand how our world is changing and how we can collaborate to find solutions. As Christians, we are to be faithful stewards of God's creation. Please join us to learn and share together how we can make a positive difference for our planet.

Watch for details coming in February JOY and future eJOYs.

Missions

January 2023 Mission of the Month University Christian Ministries



University Christian Ministries (UCM) is a multi-denominational campus ministry which seeks to serve students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). The United Methodists are one of four denominations that support UCM. That support comes from the four denominations, local churches, and from individuals who value our mission to students at UWM.

Our new Executive Director and Campus Minister, Aaron Shoppa, began at UCM in September. Aaron and the Board of Directors that includes Dick Steinmetz and Mike Rupp are rethinking the mission of UCM. We are excited to continue to provide spiritual nourishment and community to the students of UWM. We seek to be a place where people of all backgrounds, those residing on campus and those commuting, can find their place in God's story and can explore how their career and life ambitions might meet the needs of God's people and creation.

In November we directed our food support to Northcott Neighborhood House with our Thanksgiving Express effort.

It was a huge success. Over \$2,400 of cash was donated in addition to all the bags of food. Thanks for all for your support. Unfortunately, the need for families to obtain nutritious food continues past the holiday.



Please resume food and cash donations for our support of the pantries at United Methodist Children's Services and MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary. Food may be placed in the bins in the Narthex. Cash donations should designate "food panty support." Thanks from the Mission Team.

Learn to Succeed Tutors have been working this Fall at Marvin Pratt tutoring the K-3 thru 5th grade children in math and reading. If anyone would like to help out this next semester at the school, which is at 5131 N. Green Bay Rd., we would love to have you. **The school resumes on Tuesday, January 3,** and we have **openings** on whichever day you would like from either **9:30 - 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 - 2 p.m.** Call Loretto Steinmetz at 414-550-2957 to learn more about the program. You may choose which grade level works for you. The children need you, and the teachers truly appreciate your help.

Additionally, thank you to those who donated the boxes of crayons to the students in the K-5 classes at Marvin Pratt for Christmas. They were very well received.

Missions

VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE



A New Year's Resolution: Donate Blood!

Our next Blood Drive is **Thursday, January 5, from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. Get the new year started right by donating if you are able. It only takes about an hour. As an added incentive this month, all donors will be entered for a chance to win an SUV.

Sign up at the office counter. Or call or text Jim Schacht any time before the blood drive at 414-332-2834. Or sign up online at <https://bit.ly/umcjan2023>.



Thank you for record holiday sales & great donations in Lydia's Treasure!

So many amazing finds. We'll be back on Monday's during NSS4S exercise classes, Wednesday evenings during choir practices, Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings before and after worship. Stop in and stock up on luscious lotions, colorful notecards, Thistle Farms soy candles along with gently read books and puzzles to banish dry hands, the dark nights and while away these winter days. Every purchase, every day, supports mission in *at least one way!* Contact Lydia at mpaull@wi.rr.com to join the team or get a personal shopping time.

Tree of Love

On behalf of the Next Door Foundation and the United Methodist Children's Services and our Mission Committee we'd like to thank all of you who participated in this year's virtual Tree of Love event. You made the event an outstanding success by purchasing gifts for all 101 children from the Next Door Foundation gift list and (85) \$25 Walmart gift certificates for all the families living at United Methodist Children's Services. Your generosity will make Christmas much brighter for all the recipients.



Narthex Update

The Narthex Team is planning to have a preliminary design and work scope in January for discussion with the congregation. As we talked with many of you, we received great information about the need to refresh the room to be more welcoming, provide locations for casual fellowship, and use the space more efficiently. We also heard that Lydia's is vital and should not move. Lydia's will stay in place. Thanks to everyone who spent time with us. We also know we couldn't hear from everyone, so if you have ideas you would like to add, I encourage you to send them to me at craigwalker@wi.rr.com. The team is very excited about the possibilities and look forward to sharing them with you.

Groups

MEN'S MINISTRY

Marquette Basketball Game - Saturday, January 7 at 1 p.m.

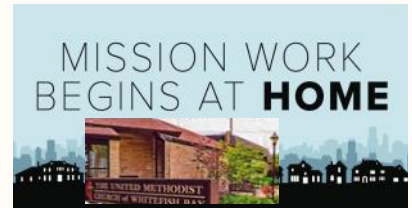
A chance for the whole family to see Big East Basketball with the Georgetown Hoyas at the Fiserv Forum in the afternoon. Marquette basketball team is now in the Top 25 - good basketball in a special facility.



Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net) has discounted student tickets for \$20. Let Don know you will be there, and arrange to get your tickets so we can enjoy great basketball together.

Mission at Home - Saturday, January 21 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Men's Ministry sponsors this annual opportunity for members (men, women, youth) to help with the maintenance and repair of our church building - **things that we can do so that the church does not need to pay a contractor.**



Please put Saturday, Jan. 21 on your calendar and let Dick Steinmetz (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com) know that you can be there.

Continental Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Projects include room/hall painting, Sanctuary refurbishing (scratch removal, repairs, wood oiling, etc.), Costume/Prop Room, Storage Areas, repairing, organizing and more. Thanks for your time.



Habitat for Humanity - Saturday, January 28

We will build frames to be used to build the Habitat houses this summer, but this is a January build that is inside at a warehouse.

Let Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net) know you can be there.

Groups

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF luncheon celebrates joys of Christmas

The UWF Christmas Luncheon, held on December 14, was a celebration of the holidays and being together as members and guests filled Fellowship Hall.

Tables were beautifully decorated and guests served by table hostesses. As Rena Szewczuga read the nativity story, each table passed a package to the left and then to the right. At the end, the person holding the package opened it to reveal a lovely dish towel, monogrammed with an evergreen-design cross, and the words "United Women in Faith." What a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas! Many thanks to Neil Bubke who played Christmas carols for a sing-a-long and for initiating the group photo included with this story.

A delicious meal was prepared by Leona Jordan and Lynn Bennett with the help of Lionel. Recipes for the menu were drawn from the church cookbook.

As a bonus, items from November's Holiday Fair were available for purchase, and \$800 was raised for mission.

A heart-felt appreciation to all who participated and helped make this event a memorable time filled with joy and laughter.



Events

UWF continued

Souper Bowl fundraiser makes the Big Game event better

Enjoy the big game on **February 12** by leaving the cooking to United Women in Faith!

Flavors this year are Creamy Potato, Curried Red Lentil, French Onion, Matzoh Ball, and Southwest Chicken.

Soups are still \$10 per quart, with an extra sales incentive to “try two.” For every two quarts ordered, one can of soup will be donated to MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary.

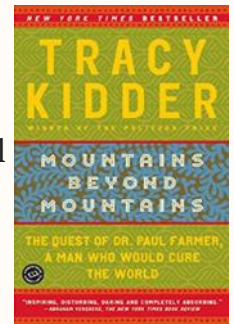
Orders will be taken during the three weeks prior to the sale – after worship services and online to Suekdaugherty@gmail.com.



Start the new year with a 'reading resolution'

The Deborah Reading Circle welcomes all to join the conversation on the first Tuesday of each month. On **January 3**, *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles will be discussed at an in-person meeting in the Walnut Room at 7 p.m.

The **February 7 meeting will be via Zoom**, to talk about *Mountains, Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Pail Farmer* by Tracy Kidder. Please contact Sally Jipson at swjip@hotmail.com for more information.

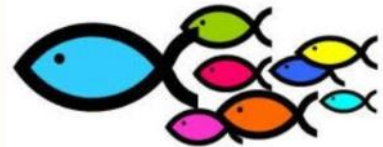


Save the Date –

Sign up begins Feb. 1 for North Shore School for Seniors

Class info and online registration for North Shore School for Seniors is at nss4s.org beginning Feb. 1, with brochures available at United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay (UMCWFB), 819 E. Silver Spring Dr. **The spring session is March 6-March 28 (first term) and April 17-May 9 (second term), with classes meeting from one to eight times at UMCWFB.** “Motion Mondays” feature exercise classes while Tuesday classes cover 20+ topics.

Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone 414-292-0960. The school is an outreach ministry of UMCWFB, and all classes meet at church.





This January, Christmas themes....



...give way to summer dreams!!

Look for registrations in February!!

Children's Musical | April 21

Our children's spring musical will be performed at the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay on **Sunday, April 21 at 9 and 10:30 a.m.**



Lake Lucerne Camp | Kids Ages 7-11 | June 18-21



We want to kick off the summer with our children's camp at Lake Lucerne. Kids will have the opportunity to learn about our creator while surrounded by creation. This camp is designed especially for us and is an amazing way for our congregation to love and lead our kids through story, worship, and recreation. We are looking for volunteers to make this a great experience and welcome camp veterans and newbies alike!

Youth

Youth Quest Camp | Grade 6-12 | June 25-30

Quest is a remarkable, ridiculously fun, re-imagined way for youth groups and youth leaders to experience God, encounter Christ, grow closer as a group, and refocus! This program is designed to equip and train youth and their adult leaders for ministry in their church and community. This camp is designed for kids middle and high school youth and is located at Green Lake Conference Center.



Appalachia Service Project | High School | July 15-23



Save the date! Our next adventure with **Appalachia Service Project will be from July 16-24**, so mark your calendars. ASP is open to all current 8th graders through current high school seniors. We also need adult and youth leaders to accompany us on the trip. This is a great opportunity for adults and kids to have an experience they can share for a lifetime.

Vacation Bible School | PreK - 4th Grade | July 30-August 4

Think about the weirdest animals you know. What noise does an aardvark make? Is an axolotl really smiling? Are glass frogs made of real glass? Is a wombat a type of bat? It's wild that God helps each animal grow and thrive... and us, too! Wild Life is 4-day adventure where kids discover how special they are to God and how wild it is that they can share their story, use their gifts, spend time with God, and spend time with others. This will be a four day VBS, Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., with a family celebration on Friday evening at 6 p.m.! Cost is \$20, but space is limited so register today.



Questions? Contact Pastor Andrew:
ajones@umcwfb.org | 314-691-7378

Notes from the Board

Board Comings and Goings

In December, Kathy Schluter retired from the Board after serving as chair for the last seven years and Tom Van Cleave joined the board. Tom has been a member of the church for 5 years and is a member of Trustees. Tom is committed to serving our church and gave a moving faith testimony at the All-Church meeting. Tom is retired from Johnson Controls and is married to Suzie.

New Board officers are Brady Henderson, chair, Nancy Anderson, Treasurer, and Lori Aeschbacher, Secretary.

Commitment to Our Mission

The Board discussed what it means to be committed and accountable to the mission of the church. Pastor Don noted that churches that have neglected or deemphasized their primary mission to spread God's word, even to do other good work, are dying. Our church's mission is to grow committed followers of Jesus. We discussed whether and how our actions advance our church's mission. We also asked what parts of our church were underutilized in fulfilling our mission and thought it might be our congregation.

Ministry Leader Meeting

Scott Carlson, Director of Congregational Development for the Conference, led a workshop on outreach for 25 ministry leaders and 5 staff on December 3. Scott emphasized the importance of reaching out and building relationships outside the church (Jesus didn't die for a building - it is just a tool), of identifying who might want an invitation to visit the church and exploring new ways to communicate with them, and of focusing on activities that further the mission of the church (ask if the activity furthers the mission; if it doesn't, don't do it). Future meetings are being considered.

Proposal for Livestream Upgrade

The Board approved a proposal for an upgrade of our livestream system. Our livestream system is the system we use to provide on-line worship. It was essential during the pandemic when the church was shut down and is still heavily used today. During Advent, household online worship attendance was 184 on 11/27, 122 on 12/4, 160 on 12/11 and 140 on 12/18. However, the system is old and has experienced several failures this year. We hired two consultants to diagnose the problem and offer solutions. They determined that our software requires too much processing power to process all of the information it receives during a worship service. The recommendation that the Board approved will replace the software-based system with a hardware-based system. A hardware-based system will be simpler, require less processing power and be compatible with any software. The upgrade will last for 8-10 years and require staff training and a tech assistant (possibly a college student) on Sundays to help operate it. The cost of the upgrade will be \$40,980.50. If an additional internet line is needed, the cost would increase by about \$2500.

The Board also approved the replacement of two of the four pocket microphones used by the pastors and two lamps for our projection screen at a combined cost of \$3,337.50.

The total cost of the hardware based system and the new mics and lamps would range from \$44,318 to \$46,818. The cost will be covered by a grant from the Foundation & Memorials Committee and the Future Fund.

Pastors Don and Andrew are also discussing ways to better include the online members in our ministry and are creating a small team to develop a proposal for online giving.

Future and Funding of WNL

Last summer, the Board approved an operating budget without funding for a Food Ministry because of uncertainty about the future of Wednesday Night Live. We agreed to revisit the issue in December when we could review the results of this fall's WNL and decide whether and how to continue the program into 2023.

Pastor Don reported that WNL ran for 13 weeks in the fall and was attended by 567 adults and 414 children. There were also 12 new families several of whom have also attended worship and performed in 'Believe Again'. Three classes are already planned for 2023 winter/spring. In the absence of a staff person to lead WNL, Pastor Don has been organizing the classes.

The cost of the food for WNL is paid for by the \$10 adult charge and the food account has a surplus of \$2193. In addition, there is \$2175 remaining in the Foundation & Memorials grant to provide free children's meals. However, the salaries for our Food Director and Assistant (Ron Jordan and Lynn Bennett) are not funded. The annual compensation for Ron and Lynn is estimated to be \$31,445. Although most of Ron's time is spent on WNL, he also spends some time shopping for our food mission events and helping with Sunday hospitality and other ministry events. The Board agreed that WNL should continue as is for the remainder of the program year. The Board also recommended that a special appeal and/or monthly mission giving be dedicated to WNL and any shortfall be paid from surpluses accumulated from prior years. Finally, depending on our finances and staffing, our Food Ministry may need to be rethought next year.

Branding Update

Karina Henderson held a branding session for ALB and other ministry leaders on December 18. She asked for reactions to several questions, including what is the personality of the church, what makes the church stand out, what does the community know us for and what do we do well compared to other churches. She is considering sending the survey to other church members and expects to complete her work by summer. It was emphasized that branding and strategic planning go hand in hand and should be coordinated.

Trustees Report

A Mission at Home is scheduled for **January 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** A revised plan for the Narthex renovation, including the projected cost, is expected in January.

Solar Panels

We have received a bid of \$125,889 for solar panels on the roof. If we qualify for a federal rebate of \$7500 and incentive payment of \$38,000, the net cost would be reduced to \$80,647. Aside from reducing our carbon footprint, it is estimated that the solar panels would reduce our energy costs by \$250,000 over 30 years. We are working with John Daugherty who is a member of the church.

Technology Report

The Marketing & Communications Team has agreed to assist with the transition to the

Notes

new website. Georgia Lindfors and Kathy Walker will work with Anne Eversfield on content and technology issues. Suggestions for the website included a photo library, a directory, and an ALB page. In addition, content for certain ministries was lost in the initial transition and must be completely replaced. If you have web design experience and are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kathy Schluter.

Financial Update

The operating budget deficit increased from \$4,819 in October to \$25,770 in November. This is due in part to lower than projected pledge payments. We are counting on our traditionally high December revenue to pay the final \$28,000 of the Conference apportionment and provide a sufficient surplus to counteract the lean winter months until Lent and Easter.

The Capital Fund stood at \$57,154 and Properties Capital Funds at \$213,507. The Future Fund balance was unchanged at \$91,620.

Reconciling Ministry

The Board discussed the process to become a Reconciling Church and asked the Reconciling Ministry Team for a proposal to educate and prepare for such a decision. A Reconciling Church is one that is understanding, welcoming, and supportive of the LGBTQ community. The requirements include a welcoming statement with a commitment to advocacy and approval by 75% of those attending a charge conference. The timing may be right because a determination of the denominational position on LGBTQ issues could come in the next two years and other churches in our Conference have become reconciling.

Our next ALB meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Wesley Room. A Zoom option will be provided. All are welcome.



Birthdays for January

Jacob	Donovan	01/01	Alexander G.	Boehm	01/17
Steve	Jefferson	01/01	Ryan	Ballentine	01/18
Jean	Hidde	01/03	Ania	Kotecki	01/18
Sue	Mortellaro	01/03	Norva	McCutcheon	01/19
Karin Bloom	Welstead	01/04	Cynthia	Boock	01/20
Daniel	Montague	01/04	Erik	Haglund	01/20
John	Daugherty	01/05	Peter	Van Volkinburg	01/20
Keralyn	Bolliger	01/06	Joann	Cochran	01/21
Stephen	Scheil	01/06	Linda	Mazumdar	01/21
Peter T	McMahon	01/06	David	Melbye	01/21
Kathy	Thomson	01/07	Susan	Patrick	01/22
Peggy	Mulligan	01/07	Benjamin	Sincoular	01/22
Nathan Grey	Kurtz	01/07	Annette	Buor	01/22
Jennifer	Kunde	01/07	Paul	Jacobson	01/23
Zachaeus	Moore-Freeman	01/07	Mary	LaFrombois	01/23
Heather	Pokey	01/08	Jennie	Plaster	01/23
Steve	Mortonson	01/09	Christine	Martin	01/23
Connor	Trimble	01/09	Sarahnetta G.	Mike	01/23
Diane	Wais	01/10	Lois	Kailhofer	01/24
Roger	Stafford	01/10	Sadie	Barnes	01/24
Jeffrey	Ballentine	01/10	Daniel	Morse	01/25
Aaron	Gorham	01/10	Griffin	Hentzen	01/25
Katherine	Thomson	01/11	Elizabeth	Freuck	01/26
Richard	Jones	01/12	Martha	Kriefall	01/26
Craig	Walker	01/12	Joan	Robertson	01/27
Alex	Rinehart	01/12	Chris	Kitchen	01/27
Teresa	McClellan	01/13	Jackson V.	Speed	01/28
Luke	Trebatoski	01/14	Lori	Aeschbacher	01/29
John	Krezoski	01/15	Emily	Chou	01/29
Jacquelyn	Oliveira	01/15	Claire	Starling	01/29
Crystal	Stinemates	01/16	David	Anderson	01/30
Helen	Proffit	01/17	Mary Myers	Read	01/30
			Jenny	Fisher	01/30