



JOY Newsletter

October 2023

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

A Pause to Celebrate

I found September to be filled with amazing events at our church. I just wanted to pause to reflect on a few of them, including the day with Habitat for Humanity, the Fall Welcome Picnic, Wednesday Night Faith, Food and Friendship, the United Women of Faith Fall Luncheon, The North Shore School for Seniors, Milwaukee area church leadership planning, a wonderful variety of small groups, the amazing Chancel Choir being back up and singing, the Praise Team continuing to bring great meaning to the worship experience, the Saturday service providing an incredible and thoughtful worship experience, and each week a visit to Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood...to name a few. This church has incredible opportunities for living out our mission to "love God, care for each other, and serve the world."

Well, I need to take a moment to reflect on all that has happened here in these days at our church. In preparation for our "Won't You Be My Neighbor" worship series, I watched an interview made with Tom Hanks, who played Mr. Rogers in a recent movie. For some reason, the interviewer asked Tom Hanks if he, like Mr. Rogers, prayed. His response was, "Well I offer a very simple prayer, 'Thank you God.'" If you would like to see some pictures of a few of these events, pause and take a look at our website gallery. Craig Walker just updated the gallery with some wonderful pictures...they tell the story of what God is doing through the life of our church...and join me in giving thanks for the good that is happening.

We may not be able to be involved in all the ministry opportunities, but my hope is that we will intentionally seek out the opportunities in the coming weeks that are important to our spiritual, emotional, and relational well-being. The other reality is that a new month is now starting, and weekend services come with an incredible regularity. In October we will be exploring a "F.A.I.T.H. that Works." This series will hopefully be an encouragement for you to grow and mature a faith that works for you, a faith that works for God, and a faith that works for the benefit of others.

*Let the message of Christ
dwell among you richly as you
teach and admonish one another
with all wisdom through psalms,
hymns, and songs from the Spirit,
singing to God with gratitude
in your hearts.*

*And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father
through him.*

(Colossians 3:16-17)

Pausing to say, "Thank you God,
for all You are doing in and through
the people of this church,"

Pastor Gary

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

819 E. Silver Spring Dr. Whitefish Bay ~ umcwfb.org ~ 414- 964-2424

Series: F.A.I.T.H. that Works! **Supporting a Culture of Christian Vitality** **October 2023 Series**

In this series we will explore the importance of supporting, celebrating, and developing a culture of Christian vitality. Research shows that vital congregations have a healthy culture that supports the church's mission and vision. We will explore our culture (both what we celebrate being, and what we seek to develop) in an effort to continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ at UMCWFB. F.A.I.T.H. is an acronym for the five different values that can guide our faith to work...work for God, work for others and work for ourselves.

Sunday, October 8 Title: **F**un-Loving

We begin this series by exploring the importance of being a value driven culture. Why are values Important, and what role do they play in how we live together in Christian community and how we care for the world around us? Is fun-loving really a biblical Christian value?



Sunday, October 15 Title: **A**ction Oriented

We value faith in action. It is that simple. We want to be a witness of God's activity in our life. Faith is not a noun, but a verb. Let's explore what that means for us in light of God's Word.

Sunday, October 22 Title: **I**n the Moment for Christ; In the Power of the Holy Spirit

We celebrate God's grace and love in the moment, because in the moment is where life happens...no more being caught in the past or simply longing for the future, but in thanking God for the blessing of living in the moment.

Sunday, October 29 Title: **T**hankful Spirit

A vital value for a healthy church culture rests in our ability to be thankful. Not easy to do when life gets tough, but it is a disposition to carry us through the hard times and live to the fullest in the moment. Current research shows the power of a thankful spirit for not only a community's health, but personal health as well.

Sunday, November 5 Title: **H**ospitable to Others

Hospitality can be defined as "the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way." In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers." Hospitality is a virtue that is both commanded and commended throughout Scripture. This is also All Saints' Day Sunday, where we will honor those loved ones who have passed away.

Taizé Worship Schedule Updates!

Mark your Calendars!

October 6 - No Taizé

November 3, 7:00 p.m.

December 1, 7:00 p.m.

Taizé is usually held the first Friday of each month. Due to family conflicts, the schedule has changed a bit. We look forward to returning to the monthly schedule in November.

Taizé Worship is quiet, meditative, consisting of candles, dim lighting, simple music, Scripture, and prayer.



Saturday Worship Events

September 14, Pizza and Dessert Stories after the 5 p.m. worship service.



All Church Meeting ~ Sunday, November 12, after 10:30 worship

Greetings from the Accountable Leadership Board (ALB) and Church Staff. Please mark on your calendar an All-Church Meeting after 10:30 worship on **November 12** with hope you find this quarterly update helpful as we renew our commitment to be followers of Jesus Christ who **Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve in the World.** Furthermore, it will be on LIVESTREAM so everyone can watch.



“Explore the Bay” Information Sessions

Are you interested in learning more about the life, mission, and people of UMCWFB?

Join us for one of our upcoming information sessions. The class will also provide an opportunity for becoming a church member.

**Sunday, October 15,
at 11:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, October 18,
from 6-7:00 p.m.**

Location: Walnut Room
For questions or to RSVP,
please contact Jenny Fisher
(jfisher@umcwfb.org)

Calling all Veterans and Active Military Members!

We are organizing a tribute to veterans and active military members at our worship service on **November 12**, which is the weekend of Veteran’s Day. If you or a loved one is a veteran or active military member, please let us know so we can honor you. Please send the following information to Jenny Fisher (jfisher@umcwfb.org)

- *Name*
- *Branch of military*
- *Dates of service*
- *Photo from time of service (if available)*
- *Interest in participating in our worship service on November 12?*



Coming to UMC of WFB! Leading Worship Lay Servant Class

Read more here: [A Certified Lay Speaker required class](#)

Are you interested in learning more about United Methodist Worship?
Pastor Gary Holmes will be offering a Leading Worship Lay Servant Class later this fall.
It's open to anyone in the Wisconsin Conference of the
United Methodist Church, including you!

This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group, class, organization, or congregation in worship.
The course is grounded in the classic patterns of Christian worship
and includes opportunities to create and practice elements of worship together.

When: **Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., October 19 - November 16**

Where: United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, 819 E. Silver Spring Dr.,

Phone: 414-962-2424

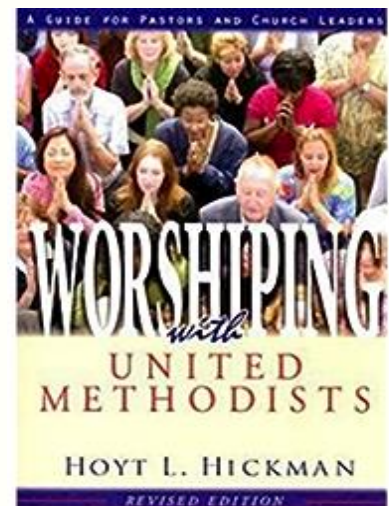
Email: gholmes@umcwfb.org

Contact: Pastor Gary Holmes

Register by: October 19, 2023 (sooner is better)
All classes are taught IN PERSON.

Participants must purchase their own book.

Book: *Worshiping with United Methodists* by Hoyt L. Hickman,
revised edition available via
[The Upper Room Store & Resource Library -
Worshiping with United Methodists.](#)



United Women in Faith

September 12 luncheon was fun AND informative

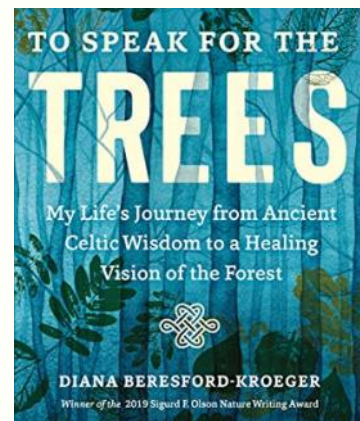
The United Women in Faith Fall Luncheon brought members and guests together to learn more about the group's "Circles" (small groups), get to know Pastor Gary Holmes better with a Q&A and enjoy a salad buffet prepared by Claudia Circle. (Attendees were clamoring for recipes!) Fellowship Hall was transformed by the display of beautiful quilts created by members of Claudia Circle. A luncheon high point was a game that had tables competing against each other based on the contents of attendees' purses. After answering some serious and not-so-serious questions, Pastor Gary played his guitar and had everyone singing a song that ended the luncheon with smiles all around.



UWF continued

Deborah Reading Circle ponders the link between ancient tradition and cutting-edge research

Once again, Deborah Reading Circle is reading about trees. The October book, *To Speak For the Trees* by Diana Beresford-Kroeger, weaves Celtic traditions with her PhD degree in biology. There are fascinating connections between ancient Celtic knowledge and present-day scientific data. Deborah Reading Circle meets at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3** for the discussion of *To Speak for the Trees*. Join us in the Walnut Room at church as we discuss and share a sweet treat. For more information, contact Sally Jipson at swjip@hotmail.com.



Now is the time to flex your creative muscles for Holiday Fair

With October's cooler weather bringing us inside more, it's a great time to create those fabulous homemade items that make the Holiday Fair such a success. Also, now is the time to mark your calendar and invite your friends to join you at the fair on **Saturday, November 11**. The fair is a great time to connect with friends and get a jump on Christmas shopping. From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., explore the cookie walk as well as homemade soups, pickles, and layered jars. Unique knitted items and handcrafted treasures also will be available for browsing and buying. All funds raised go to UWF supported programs and missions.



Care

Companion Ministry

It's the little things, the smallest kindness...come be a part of the Companion Ministry for our Homebound



Prayerfully consider how you might benefit from being a companion to a member who is no longer able to physically come to church. Your friendship and caring conversation are all that is asked.

If you or a loved one is in need of a companion, let us know that as well. We will match up companions as volunteers permit.
Pat Wisialowski 414-964-2424 x224 pwisialowski@umcwfb.org

By gratefully receiving another's care we call forth community and provide our caregivers an opportunity to give their own gifts of compassion, care, love, and service. - Henri Nouwen

Welcome

Fall Welcome Picnic Celebration

The Holy Spirit showed up in an incredible way for our fall worship kick-off and our Fall Welcome Picnic on September 10.

We enjoyed beautiful weather, soul-feeding spiritual worship, joyful music, delicious food, and heart-warming fellowship. We loved seeing our members and guests enjoying time together.

Our ministry team did a wonderful job of showcasing ways for community members to get connected in our faith community and serve in the world. We are especially thankful to our dedicated planning teams and volunteers that made the picnic such a success. Praise be to God for an amazing day to begin a new season of faith-building worship and community fellowship!



Wednesday Night Faith, Food, and Friendship Kick-Off a Success!!

We are overjoyed that hundreds of community members have joined us for our first month of our new season of Wednesday Night Faith, Food, and Friendship (formerly called Wednesday Night Live)!

We are thrilled to welcome a new chef, Frankie Sanchez, Owner and Head Chef at Sabrosa Cafe and Gallery. Chef Frankie has been preparing delicious, unique meals for people to enjoy dinner together.

Our kids' choir and children's ministry programs are off to a fun, successful, start and our faith-focused adult classes have been overflowing with abundant attendance. We are hosting an informational session for people who are interested in learning more about becoming a member at UMCWFB on **Wednesday, October 18, from 6-7:00 p.m.**

Thanks be to God so many families and community members join us for midweek faith enhancement. A heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers that make each week such a thriving success!!



Fall Church Clean-up

Please mark your calendar to join us on **Saturday, November 4, 8:30-11:30 a.m.** for fall clean-up of our church grounds.



Early Music Now Concert

The Early Music Now concert featuring Aperi Animam brought just over 100 people into our Sanctuary on Thursday, September 14.

Mae Mobley, our resident church dog, approved of the vocal ensemble's selections.

North Shore School for Seniors begins second term this month

We are rolling! North Shore School for Seniors' first term got off to a strong start in September. Registration is ongoing and first term classes continue to launch during the beginning of October. After a break on **October 16 and 17**, the second term begins **October 23 and 24** then continues through **November 13 and 14**.

While many classes continue from the first term, topics for courses during the second term range from Interior Design to Podcasts to Estabrook Park. Or you can delve into playwright Neil Simon, the History of Jazz, 70 Years of Comedy in the US, and the Monarch Butterfly in Wisconsin and Beyond.

Catalogs listing all classes in this outreach program of our church are available at the church office. Online information on all classes and online registration is available at nss4s.org.





Men's Ministry Golf Outing – Saturday, October 7, at 10 a.m.

Join us on October 7 for the Men's Ministry return to the MEE-KWON golf outing in the morning. Playing 9 holes and having the award ceremony (no pressure with scramble format) during lunch - which leaves a good part of the day remaining for family and other activities. **RSVP with Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net).**

Pickleball - Saturday, October 14, at 1 p.m.

Plan to come to the Oaks of Shorewood (3900 N. Estabrook Pky.) to play pickleball from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, with a gathering at Corner Bakery Cafe (1305 E. Capitol Dr.) starting at noon for lunch. **Please let Mike Rupp (mjrrmr@gmail.com) know you will be there.**



Habitat Volunteers for Friday, October 20



Our church has the opportunity to build and raise those constructed frame walls for a new house in the King Park neighborhood. We are looking for 6 volunteers from the church - women and men - for our mission, Habitat.

Please look at your calendar and let Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net) know you can be there soon - so that we can meet Habitat's request for notification of the volunteers ten days prior to the word day. Thank you to all the church members who have volunteered.

Breakfast with Pastor Gary Holmes – Saturday, October 21

A Saturday morning breakfast in Fellowship Hall with Pastor Gary Holmes will be served on October 21 with **fellowship starting at 7 a.m., breakfast at 7:30 a.m., and our program at 8 a.m.** Don't miss this opportunity to hear and ask Pastor Gary your questions about our church and plans for the future, Pastor Gary's background that brought him to Whitefish Bay, plus other questions you have for him.

The morning breakfast is an opportunity for fellowship with men of the church while leaving most of Saturday for your family and weekend activities. **Please let Dick Steinmetz (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com) know you will be there.**





COME HELP UNLOAD
**THE PUMPKINS
ARE COMING!**

THURS, OCT 5TH
FROM 3:45 TO 4:30PM

THEN, VOLUNTEER TO **HELP SELL** THESE
GORGEOUS GOURDS. [CLICK HERE](#) TO SIGN UP.
COSTUMES WELCOME! SHIFTS LAST 1½ HRS.

WEEKDAYS FROM 3 TO 6PM
WEEKENDS FROM 10AM TO 6PM

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

DECORATE YOUR TRUNK AND **TRUNK OR TREAT**
WITH UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES.
OCTOBER 31ST FROM 4 TO 7PM.
CONTACT AJONES@UMCWFB.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

UNABLE TO ATTEND THE EVENT?
DONATIONS OF CANDY ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
DROP IN BIN AT UMCWFB.

Mission of the Month/Loose Change Offering **This month your donations go to** **United Methodist Children's Services, Inc. (UMCS)**

Founded in 1962, United Methodist Children's Services of WI (UMCS) found its home in Milwaukee's Washington Park neighborhood in the early 1990s. For more than 30 years UMCS has served the housing, supportive service, and community needs of this vibrant and beautiful neighborhood. As an anchor institution of the neighborhood, they pride themselves on connecting individuals and families with resources to meet their basic needs so that they can focus on their goals for the future. Specifically they provide child care through their "Growing Tree Children's Center," have a food bank that is open twice weekly, and have provided housing for 72 families.



Their community engagement is so broad that they have many needs for volunteers. This includes needing volunteers to help out in their food center on Mondays and Wednesdays in 2-hour shifts from noon to 4 p.m. During these hours they welcome volunteers to bring meals, snacks, and juices for the clients to enjoy while shopping. Larger groups can be scheduled to work in their indoor facility or around the grounds painting, cleaning up, and landscaping. During the year they host special events where they always need help. If you are interested in any of these opportunities you can call them directly at 414-344-1818 or contact Don Lybeck at 414-807-5789.



Marvin Pratt Fall Tutors

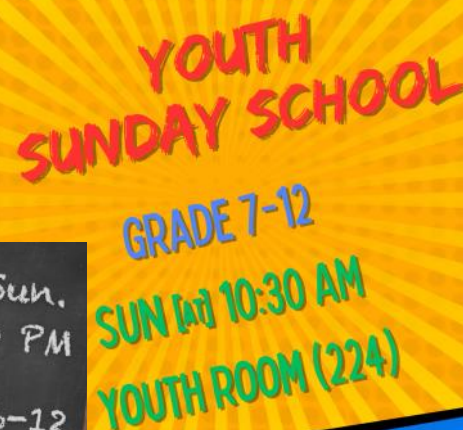
We are ready for our 32nd year of tutoring at Marvin Pratt School. We had a get together in September to pick up our folders and assignments for the Fall Semester of tutoring grades K-3 thru 5th Grade in reading and math. We're excited that the school is now accredited as an IB (International Baccalaureate) school, only one of 5,000 around the world. For more information, email Loretto Steinmetz at ldsteinmetz@wi.rr.com.

Kids & Youth



KIDS' SUNDAY School

9 & 10:30 AM
Meets on 2nd Floor (221)



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

GRADE 7-12
SUN 10:30 AM
YOUTH ROOM (224)



YOUTH GROUP

love
care
serve

Every Sun.
3-4:30 PM
Grade 6-12

Rm. 224



**Intergenerational
FAMILY GAME NIGHT
& nacho bar**

OCTOBER 15 | 6-7:30 PM



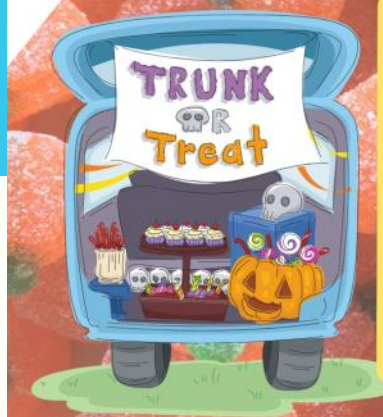
**Wednesday night
CHILDREN'S Choir**

Meal 5 PM | Choir 5:45-7 PM
In the Sanctuary

3rd-8th Grade | 5:45-6:30
4k-2nd Grade | 6:30-7 PM



Family Serving Opportunity



OCTOBER 31 | 4-7 PM

- CARS DECORATED!
- FACE PAINTING!
- GREETERS!
- FOOD SERVERS!
- CANDY DONATIONS!

Notes from the Board

On September 19, the Accountable Leadership Board met for the regular monthly meeting. In attendance were ALB members Don Behrens, Nancy Anderson, Craig Walker, Jeff McClellan, Tom Van Cleave, Chelsea Montague, Samantha Gundrum, as well as Pastor Gary Holmes, Nell Nash, Jenny Fisher, Laurie Jeffery, Roger Stafford, Mary Paull, Roanne Barnes, Beth Groble and Dick Steinmetz.

Opening Prayer and Consent Agenda

Nancy opened the meeting with a prayer and a moving testimonial on her faith journey. Jeff has volunteered to provide the prayer/testimonial for October's meeting.

ALB approved the August meeting minutes and Trustees report by consent.

Devotion and Pastor's Report

Pastor Gary warmed up the group with two questions: Who's the most famous person you've ever met/how? And what would the title of your autobiography be? The answers led to a discussion around leadership and the qualities we look for in a leader. Jesus has been described as the most influential leader ever. From John 14:7 *If you really know me, you will know my father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.*

Pastor Gary reported that he has continued to feel the affirmation and support from the congregation. He is leading his staff and lay leaders on seven foundational areas of church systems as referenced in a book entitled *Building Worship Bridges*.

Church staff is looking for continued ways to celebrate noting that we will have one service on the **Sunday, November 19** prior to Thanksgiving so that we can all worship together, followed by a celebration with pie. Jenny is looking for someone to lead that event. In addition, there will be one worship service on the mornings of **December 24 and December 31**.

Mission Statement and Core Values / Leadership Team Actions

The Leadership Discernment team will reconvene on October 14 to link the identified actions to behaviors that match up with our vision to Love God, Care for each other, and Serve in the world. There will be a rollout and communication to the congregation of the Spiritual Journey Framework in the fall around the season of Lent.

SPRT Updates

Don noted that several members of SPRT will be leaving after serving their 3-year term and there is a need for new members. Jeff has recently been added to the team.

If you have an interest in serving on the SPRT, please reach out to Don Behrens.

Frankie Sanchez has been contracted to provide meals for Wednesday Night Faith, Food, and Friendship. A volunteer is doing the food ordering and shopping for the meal programs. In celebration, the first night of the Faith, Food, and Friendship meal program was a roaring success with over 100+ attendees. It was noted that good things happen when we all work together.

Quarterly Fall All-Church Meeting

After discussion, it was agreed to hold a Fall All-Church Meeting. Please see the announcement forthcoming on a date in November and opportunities for the congregation to provide suggestions for topics to be included in the agenda.

Financial Report

Based on August Operating Financials through period two, we are off to a good start to the year. A key driver was pledge contributions where some members have paid their pledge for the full year that resulted in a favorable year-to-date budget position of \$61,807.

Two ministries were asked to present to help the ALB understand how their objective(s) fit into the mission statement of Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve in the World.

Foundation and Memorials

Roanne Barnes presented an overview of the different funds encompassing the \$2 million endowment: A Common fund; a Maintenance fund; the Huse fund (designated for youth); the Robertson fund (designated for music); the Siegel fund (designated for hospitality); and the Sharratt fund (designated for UMCOR). Disbursements follow a formula; for 2023 it is approximately \$52,000 that is available. Examples of granted requests include Rally Day, new card tables, WNL kids' meals, Believe Again, supplies for an outdoor stable, and worship livestreaming. The committee is open to proposals for items not in the church budget. To request funds, send a grant request to the team including information like purpose, amount requested, how the rest of the expense will be funded.

Lydia's Treasure

Mary Paull provided a brief history of its beginning in 1990 on a cart supporting the fair trade market program and moved to its current location from the Narthex expansion in 1999. Because of the interest of fair-trade products, Lydia's expanded their offering to include Thistle Farms products, artist designed cards, Hughes' chocolates, and gently-used products. Lydia's first disbursement was in 2016 supporting eight different missions as well as a tithe to the UMCWFB operating budget. Since Lydia's first year, 26 different missions and ministries, predominantly in Milwaukee, have received over \$61,000. Lydia's team consists of 14 volunteers to help maintain the appearance and inventory and "woman" the shop during set hours as well as special occasions.

Closing Prayer and Plans for Next Meeting

Tom closed the meeting with a prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 17** with the Closed Session beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room for ALB members, and the General Session will begin around 6:30 p.m. where all are welcome. A key event with a missionary is planned that requires a change in our normal starting times. A ZOOM option will be provided.



Birthdays for October

J. D.	Davis	10/01	Laurie	Douglass	10/18
Jack E.	Boehm	10/02	Kelley	Daugherty	10/18
William A.	Rinehart II	10/02	Carleen	Sook	10/18
Sandra	Hansen	10/03	Anne	Summers	10/18
Margaret	Lybeck-Smoak	10/03	Elliot	Hatch	10/19
Jeff	Woods	10/03	Michael	Rupp	10/20
Bennett	Feix	10/04	Ruth	Alt	10/20
Nancy	Anderson	10/05	Samuel	Zhang	10/20
Thomas	Groose	10/05	Kathleen	Smith	10/21
Emily Camille	Henley	10/05	David	Hokeness	10/21
Mary	Paull	10/06	Joyce	Owusu-Ayim	10/21
Heather	Kotecki	10/06	Jason	Janczak	10/21
Lynette	Janssen	10/07	Samuel	Aeschbacher	10/23
Barbara	Margenau	10/07	Suzie	Webster	10/24
Tabetha	Steege	10/07	Scott	Chiappetta	10/25
Dylan M.	Rice	10/08	Robert	Batchelder	10/26
Anthony	Mortellaro	10/09	Jodi	Lambert-Belke	10/27
Evan Jacob	Hawkins	10/10	Lisa	Kurtz	10/28
Kyle	Trimble	10/12	Jamison S.	Gaffney	10/28
Chris	Felix	10/12	Leona	Jordan	10/29
Richard	Marx	10/13	Betsy	Fruncek	10/29
Mary	Middleton	10/14	Roger	Koenke	10/29
Wes	Manko	10/14	Jennifer	Boehm	10/29
Laurie	Jeffery	10/14	Sarah	Milia	10/29
Melanie	Berg	10/16	Charles	Ward	10/30
			Dennis	Funk	10/31