



# Journey Connection

**Modified Journey Connection #12 2021**

**Mission Statement of Immanuel Church**

To be and to make Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world.

**YES...WELCOME TO IMMANUEL CHURCH,  
EVEN THOUGH WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT GATHERING!**

We at Immanuel are on a **joyful journey** – with Jesus...regardless of the current situation, – to disclose His presence in the world...especially during this challenging time, - and His love for all people...whether they are acting irrationally or not. With humility, we invite **everyone** to join us - of course respectfully keeping your distance, **regardless** of their relationship with Jesus, and even if they doubt His reality; together we will get through this COVID-19 pandemic! And, we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, family status, or the brokenness of their lives. Yes, even the closet hoarders are welcome! On this journey there are no judgments – just Jesus. Whoever you are, **you are welcome** to join us in Spirit!

If you desire a calming conversation during this time of hysteria or could use a peaceful prayer while wrestling with isolation, please contact Pastor Rich or Jenny Landowski at **262-334-2886**. You could also leave us an email message at [pastor@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelwestbend.org) or [director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org) ; we would welcome a time to connect with you!

**Immanuel's**  
**BREAKING**  
**NEWS ALERT**





This is the  
day, that  
the Lord  
hath made!

Sunday, June  
6<sup>th</sup>; let us  
**REJOICE** and  
gather in it!



I'll be sure we're ready!!!!

# THOUGHTS FROM OUR, PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

As we begin to prepare our sanctuary for regathering, we recognize that this process of coming together for corporate worship again will be one that evolves over time. Certainly, it won't be jumping back into what we remember prior to March of 2020; some things will slowly get back to "normal", while other things will become our "new normal". Knowing most of us have created our own "personal normal" over the past 15 months, transitioning back, although we are all eager to do so, will take time, patience, and a respect for the greater good. In an effort to help you ease out of the routine you may now be accustomed to of worshiping in the comfort of your own home, and back into the sanctuary, we will designate our first day back as...

## JAMMIE SUNDAY

### June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 9:00am & 10:30am

\*watch for details on what regathering for Worship at Immanuel will look like.

In Faithfulness, In Service  
~Jenny



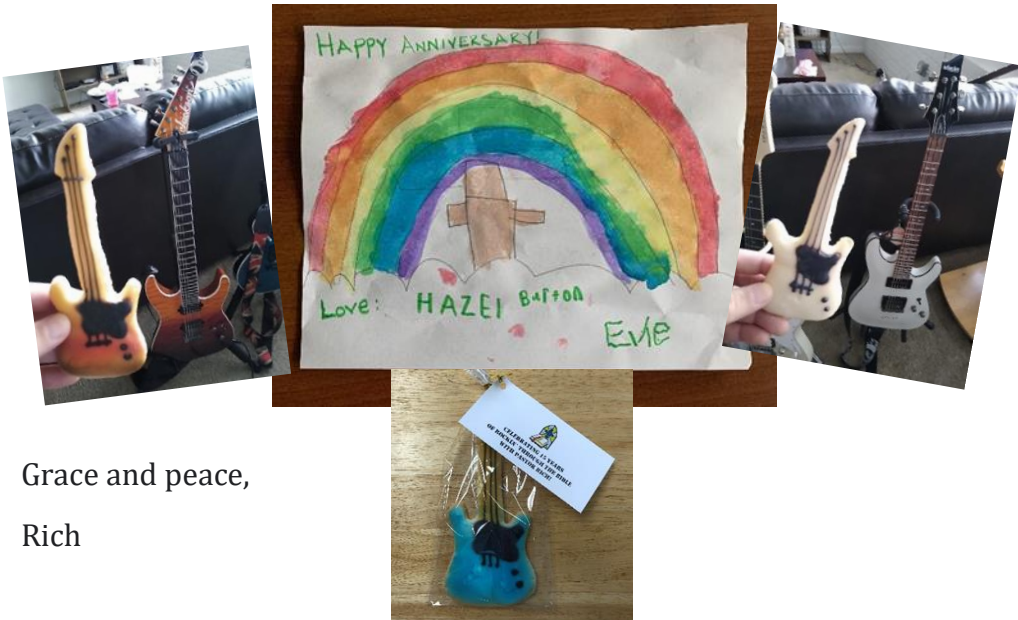


# A WORD, OR TWO, FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

Springtime is always a beautiful season. The newness of life breaking forth combined with the hope and joy of celebrating the Easter season brings a much-needed sense of renewal and refreshment. Combine this with the very real possibility of regathering soon and you have the perfect combination to lift the spirits. New beginnings are before us and I hope we all have the patience and courage necessary to lean into this new season.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the cards, gifts, treats you provided me in celebration of my 15 years of service at Immanuel. It was such a surprise to have my daughter Carmen show up at our drive-thru communion. And your kind comments and encouraging words throughout the day brought joy to my heart. The ice cream cake was fantastic and the guitar cookies made by Kathy Thielke were both visually stunning and amazingly tasty. (And to top it off, she made the extra effort to design the cookies to look just like my guitars, as you can see in the photos provided.) Thank you, thank you, thank you for your love and support. It has been – and continues to be – my great joy to serve Immanuel UCC. You are the best!



Grace and peace,  
Rich

# Easter Drive-up Communion





Our next Drive-up Communion will be on  
Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am-noon.  
We hope you will join us!

**Staying connected with Immanuel through social media...**

Website – <https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/>

Facebook – Immanuel United Church of Christ

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelUCCWestBend>



# On behalf of our President...

## An update from Immanuel's Lay Leadership

Greetings from Immanuel's leadership team. At this point in time, I am reminded of a verse from the song Truckin' by the Grateful Dead, that goes "lately, it occurs to me what a long, strange trip it's been." The president's message in the last Journey Connection was to have been my last. After the Zoom Spring congregational meeting, it had been the plan to reorganize Consistory on Thursday, April 8, 2021. However, staff health concerns and a COVID outbreak among members forced putting this off until Thursday, May 13, 2021. So, here you are with the same Consistory and the same president until next month. Remember, if you want to make God laugh, just tell Him your plans. And so, the "trip" continues.

Continuing on this trip, it is still the plan for the new Consistory to deal with a number of issues. First, electing new officers. Second, recruiting an additional Elder. Third, finding a new Treasurer. Fourth, considering a plan for re-gathering. Fifth, dealing with a number of staff issues once a plan for re-gathering is settled on. In looking back down the road of this strange trip; remember we had to pivot from conducting worship and church governance in a normal fashion to having to figure out how to conduct both while keeping all members safe. The staff over this year worked long, hard and imaginatively to keep worship; all areas of faith works; missions and the business of Immanuel up and running. The way was not always clear and it was not easy to discover the way forward, but everyone persevered and Immanuel continued to move forward. My hope is that no matter what happened, your leadership team was trying to do the best for Immanuel by being supportive of all the efforts by all involved to keep us together and moving forward on this trip. So, "keep on truckin" down "the long and winding road that leads to your door" (apologize to the Beatles).

Doug Stewart  
262-338-4059

[das4672@charter.net](mailto:das4672@charter.net)

blessed  
thankful  
grateful



## Property Update

Thank you, Jan Nesladek, for once again blessing us with your creative gifts. This beautiful mural will greet all who enter our church through the parking lot doors.



## Adopt a Church Garden

What joy it is to look outside and see the beautiful Spring flowers blossoming around the church; it's a reminder that it's that time of year to start thinking about our church gardens! With our location being in the main area of Downtown West Bend, the beauty of our gardens is a gift to all who go by and we count on volunteers to help with their upkeep. Currently we have some of the gardens maintained by the same people who have helped in the past, but we could use a few extra hands. If you would be interested in Adopting a Church Garden to tend on your own, or if you would be willing to lend a green thumb to assist one of our other volunteers to co-garden, please let me know. Thanks for considering!



Jenny Landowski 334-2886 or [director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org)

**Thank you for your support...**

## **Wacky Tacky Talent Show**

**To everyone who performed an act,  
help put the show together,  
or contributed to the Blanket Breaks!  
We appreciate you!!**

## **Italian Dinner**

**To everyone who donated food,  
prepared food, sold meals,  
or bought meals!  
We appreciate you!!**

## **BUCKET RAFFLE**

**To everyone who donated  
a Basket, Gift Certificates,  
or purchased a Raffle Ticket!  
We appreciate you!!**

**Your generosity brought in \$640 from  
Italian Dinner Sales, \$654 from Bucket  
Raffle Sales, and to date, \$745.42 in  
Blanket Break donations. Grand Total  
\$2,039.42**

**\*\*If you didn't get a chance to catch the Show yet, you can view it on  
our YouTube Channel:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8e5L1Ie\\_zU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8e5L1Ie_zU)**

**Cash and checks can be dropped off at Immanuel Church or made  
securely online: <https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/>**

# BUCKET RAFFLE WINNERS



1. **Amazon Gift Certificate:** - Johanna Landowski
2. **Choco lotta Basket:** Doug and Jean Stewart
3. **Garden Treasures:** Anne Marie O'Brien
4. **Puzzle Mania:** Kaitlin and Jordan Petrin
5. **Snacks and Spirits:** Natalie Thielke and Mike Bohan
6. **Game Galore:** Natalie Thielke and Mike Bohan





# Farwell to the Uecker Family

After a very long period of job hunting, Kim accepted a position in Iowa; a move that will be good for their whole family. However, that means our Worship Team Leader, Mark will no longer be blessing us with his musical gifts. We certainly thank Mark for his many years of service on our Worship Team and pray they find a new church home where he can continue to play for Jesus!



If you'd like to send them a card to wish them well, here is their new address.

The Uecker Family  
1220 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Muscatine, IA 52761

**What a blessing this whole group is to our church family!**



# Full Shelf Pantry

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good he has given you.

Deuteronomy 8:10

In support of West Bend's Full Shelf Pantry throughout the month of April, we will be collecting

## Mac & Cheese



Items can be placed in the bins outside the main office, or cash/checks (payable to Immanuel) can be put in your giving envelope

with notation designated to Food Pantry.

Any questions see Jenny or Johanna Landowski

## SonShine Gals

The SonShine Gals will be wrapping up their study on C.S. Lewis's book Mere

Christianity on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Rich will be leading us in discussion that day.

Next book, to be determined.

Regular gatherings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 10:00am.



We have now made arrangements for members to join us via Zoom.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Landowski

\*masks are required at our gatherings

# JAM TIME ACTIVITY

A special "thank you" to Shannon Flaherty, our Confirmands, and our J.A.M. Time Shine Brites, for providing the beautifully decorated wooden crosses for us to hand out to our church family on Easter Sunday! They are certainly treasured gifts! Christ has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!!





# JAM Time Easter Blessings

What a delightful surprise it was to our JAM Time Shine Brites when they each received a special Easter Basket from a church family member! We are so grateful for all the projects they have blessed our congregation with throughout this time of COVID, it was fun to be able to give them something special in return! A huge "thank you" to everyone who put one together!!









**Made  
with  
Love!**





# CONFIRMATION

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, we had the privilege of welcoming Eliana Halfman and Kathryn Hartley into our church community as they confirmed their faith. These two gals have spent significant time over the past 2 years, under the leadership of both Chris Arndt and Johanna Landowski, studying the scriptures, discussing questions of faith, and nurturing their journey with Jesus. Kathryn and Eliana were both asked to prepare a few words to share during the service; below you can read what they wrote. Since we were not able to gather as a congregation for Confirmation Sunday and celebrate with them, we have included their mailing addresses in case you would like to send them a greeting. Please join us in welcoming these two young ladies into our church family.



Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and Courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Hello, my name is Kathryn. After each confirmation class we always would say Thomas Merton's prayer. In the prayer it says, "I have no idea where I am going nor do I really know myself, but I know that God will be with me through it all and help me along the way". I really feel this prayer explains where I am at with my life and my relationship with God. Thank you all for your love and support throughout my Faith Journey!

**Kathryn Hartley**

**839 Birchwood Dr. #3**

**West Bend, 53095**



Mathew 25:1-3 The Parable of the Ten Virgins: *"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them."*

Hi, my name is Elana. and I chose the scripture verses Mathew 25:1-3 due to its meaningful disposition. The five foolish bridesmaids were ostracized by the fact that they weren't prepared for the delay of the bridegroom. Out of the ten

bridesmaids, five of them, unlike their foolish counter parts, equips substance for the aforementioned lamps. With the coming faith, you need the persistence and intellect of the wise bridesmaids. Confirmation and Sunday School make bright minds flourish in the way of God.

**Elana Halfman**

**260 W. Rossman St**

**Hartford, WI 53027**



# SHINE...

Shine just finished its series on racism and discrimination. It was a very informative topic for all involved (Including me). However, after such a heavy topic, we are now going to turn our attention to something different. Something lighter.

What is this topic you ask?

I have no clue!

But I will by next Tuesday when we meet again!

Join us downstairs every Tuesday from 6-7.

Guests are welcome. Friends are welcome. Even random strangers off the street are welcome.

We'd love to see you!



Any questions can be directed to me at my new contact email:

[shine@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:shine@immanuelwestbend.org)

Chris Witt

262.745.7703



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Donations can be included in your regular church envelope or through Immanuel Church's online giving. Please specify UCC Strengthen the Church.

# ~Joyful Journeys, Inc.~

An outreach ministry founded and operated  
by members of Immanuel Church.

**OUR MISSION:** *to establish and or operate programs and facilities that will assist impoverished and needy people whose lives are challenged by current life circumstances, by helping to provide for their immediate basic needs and to bring them hope and promise for a brighter future.*

**Matthew 25:40** "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

## INDIA NEWS



### ~~"April Awareness"~~ "May Mindfulness"

As many of you know, April brought on challenges beyond our control at Immanuel Church, therefore we are shifting "April Awareness" to "May Mindfulness". Along with this shift, we have decided to highlight a different part of our Joyful Journeys Ministry in India each week.

**Kicking us off, Week 1...**

**MAY MINDFULNESS**  
Highlighting Joyful Journeys India Ministries  
*Joyful Journeys India - COVID-19 Relief Fund*



Providing aid to individuals and families within the village of Madhavapatnam and beyond who are in crisis during the Coronavirus pandemic.



As COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc on the world, we recognize that currently India is being hit especially hard. Just as when the pandemic first began, lockdowns in villages, can mean basic necessities, like food, are harder to acquire. Simple hygiene products and items that would help prevent the spread of the virus including masks, soap, and hand sanitizer can be almost impossible to come by for underprivileged individuals. Through the generous donations in support of the Joyful Journeys India~COVID-19 Relief Fund (JJI~CRF), and with the help of village officials, we have been able to purchase these items and distribute them within Madhavapatnam and beyond, and will continue to do so as long as our resources allow. Now in addition to those needs, as vaccines are becoming available in this area, we hope to provide monetary assistance to ensure that those in the village who want to be vaccinated, but may not have the funds to do so, will be able to get the shot, if desired.

Please consider joining us in our efforts to help the individuals and families within this community, and hopefully eradicate the coronavirus.

Checks made out to Joyful Journeys and designated to JJI~CRF can be mailed to Joyful Journeys Inc., 501 Walnut Street, West Bend WI 53095 or visit our **newly updated website** to securely donate online. <https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/> As with all other monetary contributions to Joyful Journeys Inc., 100% of your donation will go directly to the designated cause.

**WATCH FOR DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING...**

**WEEK 2 – MARSHALL SCHOOL; EDUCATING 450 CHILDREN**  
**WEEK 3 – CUTTING & TAILORING AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY**  
**WEEK 4 – OLDESTERS**  
**WEEK 5 – HOUSE PASTORS**

## **Update on Boy's Dorm**

Prior to recent lockdowns in India due to COVID, the Boy's Dorm project was off to a great start! It is very exciting to not only see the structural growth happening within our Joyful Journeys Hostel program, but to know how many daily wage workers throughout the village have been able to work on this project is another blessing of this ministry! We look forward to starting things up again once COVID restrictions lighten up.

**\$15,00 down...\$10,000 more to go!**

If you are interested in contributing to the completion of this project, you may do so online through Joyful Journeys Website <https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/>, or send a check made out to Joyful Journeys. Please be sure to designate your donation to: Boys Dorm.



If you'd like to see some great short video snippets on how the construction process is coming along, check out Immanuel UCC-West Bend's YouTube page; you'll be amazed!!  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQjMFJ2pUMi79UirP8xXvLw>

# Circle of Friends News

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## Bundles of Undies, Sacks of Socks Easter Baskets

Thank you to everyone who donated to our sock and underwear drive; your contributions will certainly help restock the bins at the Circle of Friends Shoppe!



# Volunteers Needed!



Coming out of hibernation and looking for ways to serve?

Do you have a couple hours a month free?

Well, do we have the opportunities for you!!

Our Circle of Friends Ministry needs **YOU!!**

We are currently looking for individuals who would be interested in being part of a team that sorts through donations, as well as folks who could work at the Shoppe. If either of these areas sounds like it might be a good fit for you, please contact me and I'd be happy to go over details.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this. ~Jenny Landowski  
262-334-2886 or [director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org)





# Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge

Thank you to Immanuel "Shine Brides", young and older for helping Mr. Bob serve those within the Milwaukee Community that are homeless or in need of support. Your time upfront and behind the scenes is greatly appreciate!



Don't forget we're always collecting donations for making hygiene packets. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, and lotion can be brought to Immanuel Church and dropped in the designated bin.

# *Tending the Flock*



PLEASE KEEP OUR IMMANUEL CHURCH FAMILY IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE LISTED BELOW. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE, OR WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE PRAYER REQUESTS.

## **Shut-ins:**

Bill Altschwager, Julie Pulda, Garnet Schneider, Shirley Dow, Jerry Kuckuk, Marge Bergemann, Marian Kachel, Judy Muelling and Norm Fedderly.

## **Health Concerns:**

Pastor Rich, Bruce Kapanke, Rev. Jim Schleif, Ed Muelling, Doug Stewart, and Johanna Landowski, Wayne Seideman

## **Those who are suffering from depression and/or addiction**

## **Serving in the military:**

Jackson Raad, Rebecca Gerard Shanahan and her husband, David.

## **Continuing their education:**

Rebecca Kempfer-Witt, Lexi McCrillis, Simon Uecker, Owen Vincent, Ella Gustafson, Julia Stier, Evan Patten and Kiley Komro.

## **Member in Discernment:**

Emma Landowski

## **Mourning the loss of a loved one:**

Robert & Jenny Landowski (Robert's brother), Valerie & Bruce Kapanke (Valerie's sister and Bruce's brother), Rosemary & Wayne Seideman (Rosemary's brother)

## **Death:**

**Patricia Backey** was called home to be with the Lord on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. A Celebration of Life was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> Myrhum - Patten Funeral and Cremation Service in Kewaskum.

**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
501 Walnut Street, West Bend, WI 53095 (262-334-2886)  
Email address: [office@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:office@immanuelwestbend.org)  
Immanuel Website: [www.immanuelwestbend.org](http://www.immanuelwestbend.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/](http://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/)

**MINISTERS:** All of us

**PASTOR:** Reverend Richard Vincent ([pastor@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelwestbend.org))

**PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES:** Jenny Landowski  
([director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org))

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Johanna Landowski ([office@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:office@immanuelwestbend.org))

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Cindy Komro ([finance@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:finance@immanuelwestbend.org))

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:** Rachel Gumm  
([excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org))

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES and CONFIRMATION LEADER:**

Johanna Landowski ([youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org))

**Youth Director** Chris Witt ([shine@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:shine@immanuelwestbend.org))

**ORGANIST/ BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Marlene Wondergem

**SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Marlene Wondergem ([studio\\_543@yahoo.com](mailto:studio_543@yahoo.com))

**WORSHIP TEAM LEADER:**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Terry Christie ([christieeric35@gmail.com](mailto:christieeric35@gmail.com))

**Custodian:** Sophia Landowski

**CHILDCARE SUPERVISORS:** Mindy Stein, Maggie McCann, Kendra Lepak

**ELDERS:** Doug Stewart (President), Jan Nesladek (Vice President),  
Rob Sheehy, Elaine Radzinski

**DEACONS:** Dave Hammen, Scott Gluck, Jane Kosednar, Alan Olsen,  
Liz Ratzburg (Treasurer), Tracy Halfman

*Immanuel's Team*





# BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY & JUNE

Jonathan Elliott 1<sup>st</sup>  
Kael Lutter 1<sup>st</sup>  
Harley Pieffle 1<sup>st</sup>  
Rich Vincent 1<sup>st</sup>  
Mike Mattek 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Madison Schmitt 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Rhett Russell 4<sup>th</sup>  
Stuart Swanson 6<sup>th</sup>  
Kevin Frederick 8<sup>th</sup>  
Owen Gluck 8<sup>th</sup>  
May Naab 9<sup>th</sup>  
Lora Buck 12<sup>th</sup>  
Emilie Witt 12<sup>th</sup>  
Valerie Pabon 14<sup>th</sup>  
Pat Otten 15<sup>th</sup>  
Emily Frederick 18<sup>th</sup>  
Patricia Sommer 19<sup>th</sup>  
Braeden House 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Kelton Kreis 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Julia Raad 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Garnet Schneider 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Jessica Myers 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Mary Jo Norgel 27<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Gustafson 28<sup>th</sup>  
Donald Maurer 29<sup>th</sup>

Louise Aplin 1<sup>st</sup>  
Nan Myers 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sam Gerard 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Judy Piaro 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Nora Gerard 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wayne Seideman 7<sup>th</sup>  
DeDe Emory 8<sup>th</sup>  
Brady Player 10<sup>th</sup>  
Johanna Halfman 12<sup>th</sup>  
Brenden Arndt 13<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Komro 15<sup>th</sup>  
Audrey Schowalter 15<sup>th</sup>  
Marilyn Stier 15<sup>th</sup>  
Terry Christie 16<sup>th</sup>  
Rosemary Seideman 16<sup>th</sup>  
Indy Swanson 16<sup>th</sup>  
Ryan Depies Johnson 18<sup>th</sup>  
Ella Gustafson 18<sup>th</sup>  
Jackie Nieman 18<sup>th</sup>  
Kathy Thielke 18<sup>th</sup>  
Johanna Landowski 19<sup>th</sup>  
Al Olsen 19<sup>th</sup>  
Big Bob Landowski 20<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Tackes 21<sup>st</sup>  
James Valdes 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Carol King 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Riley Tanner 25<sup>th</sup>  
Kailyn Komro 28<sup>th</sup>  
Michal Gerard 30<sup>th</sup>  
Olivia Gluck 30<sup>th</sup>  
Wendy Wilson 30<sup>th</sup>

