

The Missive

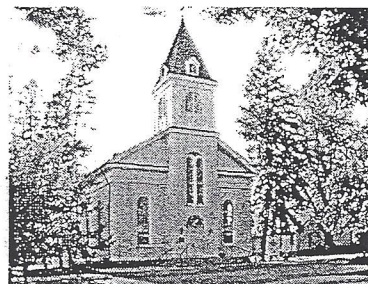
November 2014

First Presbyterian Church

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Volume 48, Number 11, Monthly



"20 Questions"

This was one of the games that the kids liked to play on car trips, in fact it is one that my cousins would play with my brother and I when we came for visits. When we would play, whatever we were thinking of had to fit in the categories of "Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral." Now we would know that the way to win this game is to work together—the first person asks, is it Animal? If it is the second person would ask, is it a Mammal? If it is the third person would ask, does it live in North America? That way we could narrow it down quickly. My cousin Andy was difficult to play with because instead of narrowing it down, he would quickly jump in with random guesses—"Is it a kangaroo?" or "Is it a moose?" We would yell at him that he wasn't being helpful, but that's what he was thinking of.

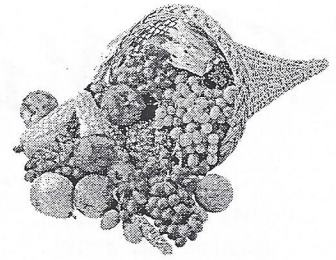
We want to play 20 Questions at the church this year, and we want to know what you are thinking of. I'm asking you to come up with a question that intrigues you, bothers you, or just interests you. Instead of Animal, Vegetable or Mineral, I'm hoping that you will come up with questions that have to deal with the Bible, the church, faith, and God. We'll pick 20 of these questions and try to address one of them each Sunday in Adult Sunday School. We'll publish a list of these questions along with the dates each one will be asked, so you will know when your questions will be dealt with. I hope you notice that I uses the words "address, asked, and dealt with" in reference to the questions and not "answered." I'm not promising any answers, but I am promising that we will discuss them openly, honestly and with room for lots of opinion.


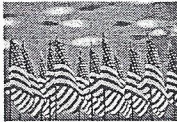

We have some questions already. "Who wrote the Bible? Why does God allow suffering and evil? Why are there so many religions?"—are some of the questions that have been asked. We've also received "Why don't the Cubs win? Why don't (or why do) we trust the government?" I think we may skip those, not because I don't have an opinion, but my opinion probably isn't worth anything in these areas! If you have a question, please let me know. You can call me, email me (RevMarkJ@tds.net), or just tell me at church. We'll put your question in with the others and come up with 20 to talk about during Sunday School. I hope you will come and play.

Grace and Peace,



Mark

November 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 12:00-5:00 Baby Shower in GPR
2 9:00 Special Session 9:45 Worship - Communion 11:10 Sunday School 12:00 Youth Choir 12:30 Rake-N-Run	3 1:30 Office Staff 4:00 Care Team 6:00 Boy Scouts	4 10:00 Connected Threads 	5 1:00 PW Meeting 10:00 Endowment Meeting	6 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir	7	8
9 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:10 Sunday School 12:00 Youth Choir 12:30 Tribe - Pack College Boxes	10 1:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	11 10:00 Connected Threads 	12 7:00 Session 7:00 Cub Leaders	13 9:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir	14 9:00—?? Jack & Jill in GPR	15
16 9:45 Worship 11:10 Sunday School 12:00 Youth Choir 12:30 Tribe - Faith with Mark 1:00 Girl Scouts	17 1:30 Office Staff 4:00 Care Team 6:00 Boy Scouts	18 10:00 Connected Threads	19 7:00 Committee Meetings	20 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Pack Meeting	21	22
23 9:45 Worship 11:10 Sunday School 12:00 Youth Choir 12:30 Tribe - Leadership	24 1:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	25 10:00 Connected Threads	26 9:30 Flower Group in White Room 7:00 Chancel Choir	27 	28 <i>Office Closed</i> Black Friday Shoppers - be careful!	29 9:00 Deacons decorate sanctuary
30 9:45 Worship <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>						

November Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teacher/Crafter</u>
2	Curtis	 Hart T Osborne V Osborne 	Sutherland Coverly	Alspach	Simon/Ruser
9	E & M Davis		C & J Gibson Beckers		Inman/Osborne
16	Fiordalis		Urban	Odar	Mandrell/ J.Gibson
23	Hooks		Hubbard VOLUNTEER		Hart/Gauthier
30	Alspach		Lovequist Knibloe		Happy Thanksgiving!

Serving Communion

Please remember that only ordained elders and deacons should serve communion.

November 2

Tom Stegink
Andrea Trautman
Terry Vantine
Cheryl Wank
Darcy Wank
Donna Webb
Tunis Willemstyn
Jerry Wittwer
Lib Wittwer

December 7

Jilisa Williams
Mike Wright
Nancy Wright
Brian Young
Teresa Young
Phyllis Youse
Marilyn Alman
Andy Alspach
Lynn Bakker

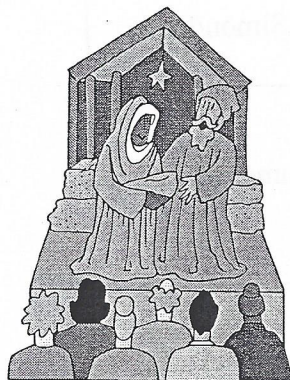
January 4

Sandy Barts
Jon Brignall
Tina Brignall
Barbara Brundage
Heidi Bryant
Mary Ellen Bryer
Dave Butler
Theresa Butler
Ed Calkins

We rely on many members and friends to help Sundays run smoothly and be a good worship experience for those attending our church. If for some reason you are not able to help on the day originally selected, please find a replacement or someone to trade with, and let the church office know. The yearly list of volunteers can be found at www.fpcrich.com, under "Living the Faith", then "volunteer schedule". Or call Julie for a list of names. Thank you!

Calling All Kids...

We have a stupendous Christmas program coming up,
and we need ALL KIDS!!!



PRESCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

Not only will there be wonderful music in our program, but wonderful singing!! This musical needs YOU!! Rehearsals will begin in November, with the Christmas program being December 14th.

We'd also like to gather, to sing carols during Wassailing (12/4), so let's get going on this!!

Meredith Alspach is the one to contact with questions or comments - 629-9772.



T-Shirt Order Form



We want to have t-shirts that children, youth, and adults can wear, to ALL of our cool functions! Please have orders/money in the office by November 16.

CHILDREN

XS (2-4) _____

Small (6-8) _____

Medium (10-12) _____

Large (14-16) _____

ADULT

Small _____

Medium _____

Large _____

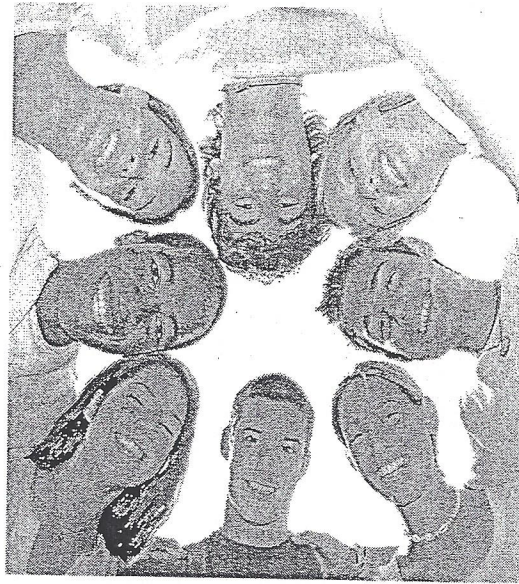
X-Large _____

All shirts - \$8.00
except XX-large

\$9.50 - XX-Large _____

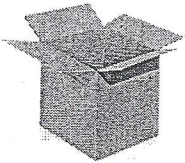
November

Tribe



6th-8th Junior High
9th-12th Senior High

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, TRIBE BEGINS AT 12:30
WITH LUNCH AT THE CHURCH, AND ENDS AT 2:30.



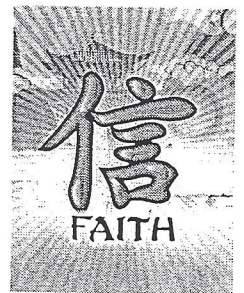
2nd Rake-n-Run - late day

9th Pack College Boxes

16th Faith, with Mark

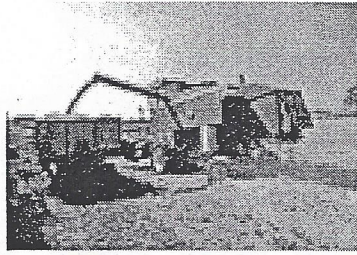
23rd Leadership

30th HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



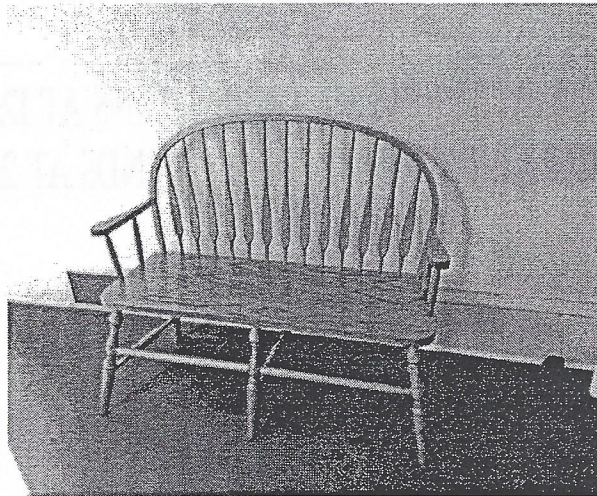
Parents and friends, please remember to sign up for Tribe lunches!!
We need to feed these wonderful kids before they go out and have FUN!!

"WE PLANTED THE SEED—NOW WE ARE REAPING THE HARVEST"



IN 2013, WE PLANTED THE SEED—THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR ENDOWMENT FUND WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION. (The First Presbyterian Church of Richland Endowment Fund, Account # 1021202930)

IN 2014, WE ARE REAPING THE HARVEST—EARNINGS FROM OUR ENDOWMENT FUND WERE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW BENCH FOR OUR NARTHEX.



Purchased with Endowment Fund Earnings—October 2014

OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

"It is like the seed put in the soil - the more one sows, the greater the harvest."

American Author: Orison Swett Marden

Presbyterian Women

*PW meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the church,
The next meeting is November 5th. EVERY WOMAN is welcome.*



THANK OFFERING

The **Thank Offering** began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey, of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "**thank offering** to her Lord." A day was set aside for meetings that were to be a "concert of prayer and praise and the gathering of the **Thank Offering**." The gifts presented at those meetings represented much soul-searching and self-sacrifice on the part of many women. The impact was immeasurable. It has been said that women's giving saved the worldwide missionary movement at that time. The thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, but a "**thank offering** to her Lord" continued to be an important part of women's giving by United Presbyterian Women. This expression of thanksgiving now is an important part of Presbyterian Women.

At least 40% of the **Thank Offering** receipts are allocated for health ministries. These funds are sent to hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's family. The remainder of the offering is used to fund proposals that deal with issues such as child care, the elderly, violence, hopelessness and injustice.

You will find a **Thank Offering** envelope included with this issue of the *MISSIVE*. We will be receiving the offerings during the church service on November 16, or you can turn them into the church office.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SALE!!

Presbyterian Women are so thankful for the support we receive from our church members and friends each Rummage Sale. Your donations of time, sale items, food for the workers—and the wonderful fellowship we enjoy helps make the sale a success. But most important are the funds raised, about \$4250 for Presbyterian Women's mission giving, plus, of course, the great buys all of our shoppers find. Due to the abundance of clothing donated for the sale, we were able to provide needed clothes to: The Hands of God Store at the Gull Lake Area Community Church, Ministry with Community, the Gospel Mission, and the Salvation Army. We hope you will all take time to help with our next sale in the Spring of 2015!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This year there will be independent lessons taught on various subjects throughout the year. We will not be meeting every month. We hope you will join us for a different approach to Bible Study this coming year!



PW PURPOSE: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

This and that....


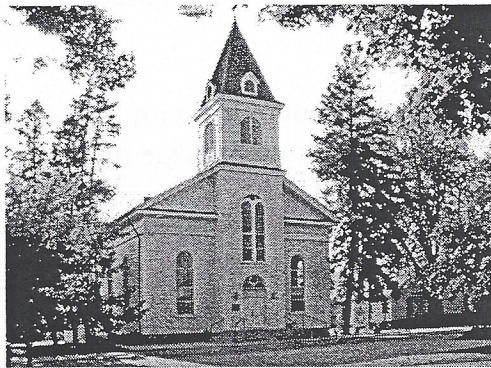
The Property Committee wants to know if anyone has a contact with an upholsterer? They are looking into redoing the pew cushions, and the fabric behind the cross.

And many thanks to those who've already responded!

Our MITTEN TREE will be going up the 4th! It will sit in the Fireplace Room, just waiting to completely fill up with new or handmade hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. It's sad to think, but the items from our Mitten Tree may be the only Christmas gifts some children will receive. We're working with the Gospel Mission and Family & Children's Services. FCS needs the items early, so please have your gifts here by December 8th. Items received after that will head to the Mission. Thank you so much!

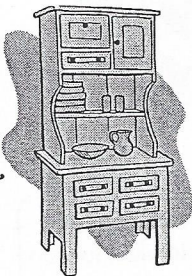
Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for November

11/3	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus</i>	<i>Beulah M. Ryan</i>
11/25	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Tony and Becky Anniversary</i>
11/29	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Ted and Lois Oosterhout</i>



THE FOOD PANTRY is putting together 10 Thanksgiving baskets this year, and will happily take donations of turkeys, boxed stuffing, cranberry sauce, jarred gravy, 5lb potatoes, green beans, cream of mushroom soup, corn, rolls/doz, aluminum roasting pan, redi-whip, pumpkin pie, canned sweet potatoes, marshmallows, apples and oranges, Meijer or Hardings cloth shopping bag, and holiday cookies (for kids who don't like pumpkin pie!). Please leave items in Julie's office, or in the kitchen with a note. Thanks!!

FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER



DAILY FOOD PANTRY

HOT & COLD CEREAL
TUNA

ANY AND ALL PERSONAL ITEMS

Please save your paper bags too! We use a lot of them! Thanks.

THE MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO.....

WASSAILING IS COMING!!!



Join us for fellowship and a delicious warm cup of our world famous wassail, at least in Richland! December 4th is the kick-off to the holiday season. If you would like to help this evening with kitchen duties, escorting our guests through our church, and cleaning up, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the Gull Prairie Room, or see Janet Fonger or Judy Ruser.



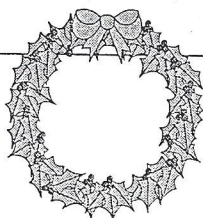
Christmas Party! Save The Date

The Membership and Fellowship Committee cordially invite all adults to join in our annual Church Christmas Party, to be held at the church on Saturday, December 13th at 6:00. This year we will enjoy fellowship, food, fun, and games!

We ask for appetizers and desserts to be shared. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gull Prairie Room. Drinks will be supplied.

This evening will be good, ole-time fun, with parlor games, teams, and prizes for winners and losers! More information to come.

Mark your calendars NOW!!!



Missionary Report for November 2014 Missive

Dear all, I have arrived safely in Kenya. I had trouble in London with my flight and I was forced to purchase a ticket from Kenya airways. I will give you details on that later.

My computer broken down and I tried to fix it in Nairobi but the technician was unsuccessful.

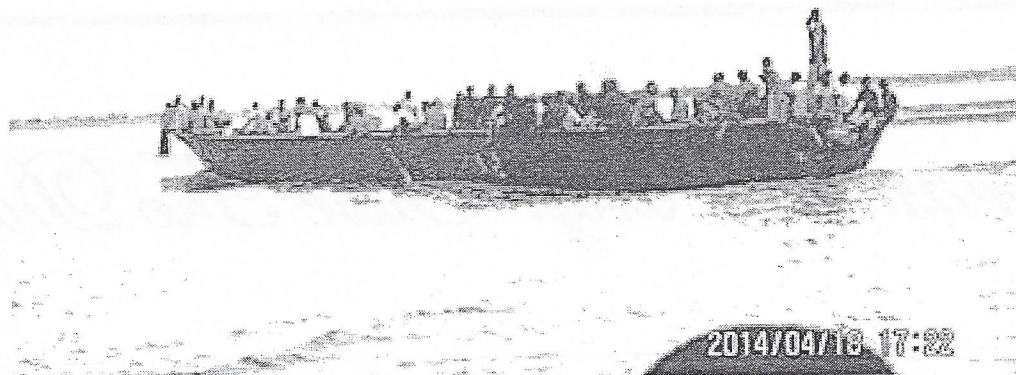
I will try another technician in Juba to look at my computer.

Mom and the siblings are doing well. My little niece is doing wonderful. I sent pictures to Abraham and he will share them with you.

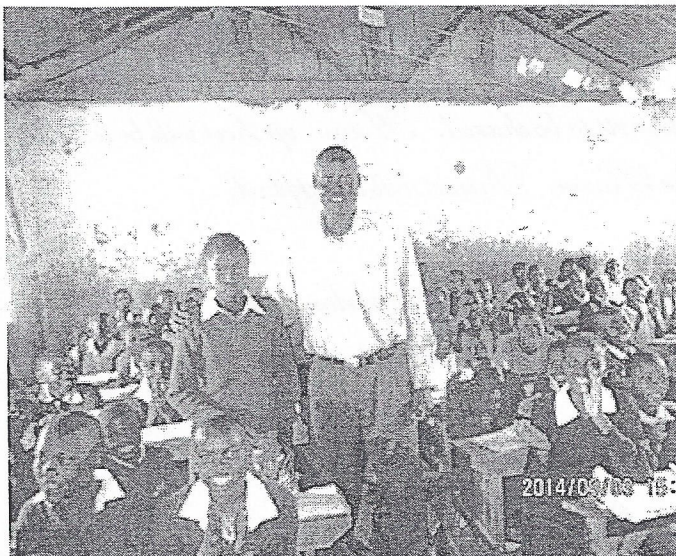
I am going to South Sudan on Tuesday, October 14 and I am asking you to pray for my travels.

Thanks, Deng/Samuel

People traveling with motorboat going to IDP camp. The boat is suppose to take 15-20 people but they put up to 40 people in mini boat



In Kenya, Deng visited his niece, Monica, in her classroom and nephew, Thon Alier, Jr., at his mother's home.



A Season of Festivity

The annual season of festivity will soon spread its great wings upon us, culminating with the celebration of Christmas and the New Year. I have known people who, sadly, genuinely detest this time of year for it holds too many disturbing memories for them. For me, however, it has always been a time of Promise, of Hope. After all, it is the season of the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

But I get ahead of my story, for before what I call The Blessed Season arrives we have a month of other services that precede it. Since this is a column about the music of the church, here is what's in store for you from the choir.

By the time you read this we will have probably already sung **Ralph Vaughan Williams's** stirring setting of *For All the Saints*, the musical centerpiece for All Saints' Day which we celebrate on Sunday, November 2.

On November 9, in keeping with the readings for that day, you will experience **Andre Thomas's** knee-slapping, foot-tapping spiritual, *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning!*

Then on November 16 you will be uplifted by a stirring English anthem the choir recently acquired, and which will be a first hearing in this church: *All My Hope On God Is Founded*. **Herbert Howells** composed this uplifting work. Three years ago I was privileged to touch his gravestone in the floor of Westminster Abbey.

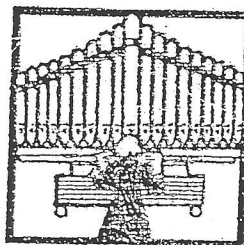
Then on November 23, Christ the King Sunday, and the culmination of the church's liturgical year, we have planned **Parry's** magnificent music in an arrangement that frames the poetry of **William Blake**, *And All The Earth Shall Own Him Lord*, music for which Hollywood created an expanded audience of millions in the film, *Chariots of Fire*. Since this is the beginning of the week in which we celebrate the traditional American Thanksgiving, the choir also plans to sing a rousing Thanksgiving offertory by **Craig Curry**. **David McKay Williams's** *Christus Rex* (Christ the King) will

also be heard that day as the introit and choral amen. The church's new year starts on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, when you will begin to hear the traditional music of the season. New to us this year will be *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old* in an arrangement of an American folk tune by the unstoppable duo of **Alice Parker** and **Robert Shaw**. Also new this year will be the anthem *Christus Paradox* by the former Hope College professor, **Alfred V. Fedak**.

Additional music of the season will be sung on the Sundays preceding Christmas. On Sunday, December 21, New York City's Metropolitan Opera baritone **Kenneth Young** returns.

Then on Christmas Eve, we will begin with a setting new to us of *All is Well* by **Joseph Graham**. Also new this year is a setting by the Canadian **Healey Willan** of the old French carol, *Whence Comes This Lovely Fragrance?*. A third offering by the choir will be *O Magnum Mysterium* (O Great Mystery) by **Gerald Near**. One of our former choir directors, **Chris Hathaway**, will be back that night to sing. **Kenneth Young** will also be back, and trumpeter **Mike McMinn** will play service music and join in on the carols.

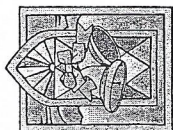
I hope you're able to be in church to experience these and other spiritual offerings.



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November Anniversaries



- 3 Ed and Marne Courtney ~41
- 7 Katie and Naté Schrauben ~5
- 4 Harold and Joyce Dishon ~28
- 23 Sandy and Vince Carahaly ~12
- 23 Mike and Dana Sullivan ~29
- 25 Becky and Tony Jones ~8
- 30 Jim and Sherry Stallings ~46



and Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Donna Odar | 18 Caitlin Kamernan |
| 1 Samantha Steele Gay | 20 Kate Kelly |
| 3 Andy Ambrosio | 20 Taraynn Lloyd |
| 3 Lynn Bakker | 20 Jennie MacQuarrie |
| 3 Steve Knowlton | 21 Thelma Alrick |
| 4 Lib Wittwer | 21 Jill Steele |
| 5 Theresa Butler | 22 BJ Hooks |
| 7 Dick Davis | 22 Carmen Janson |
| 7 Dave Kreager | 22 Jennifer McQuater |
| 8 Lois Nafziger | 23 Lynn Hittle |
| 8 Justin Perigo | 23 Allison Hope |
| 9 Dave Butler | 23 Sherry Stallings |
| 9 Chelsea Martin | 24 Joan Romyak |
| 11 Jon Brignall | 25 Ken Sunden |
| 11 Rachel Sage | 26 Beth Nolin |
| 12 Ethan Storer | 26 Daniel Snyder |
| 13 Dick Chormann | 27 Alexandria Howard |
| 13 Brad Hittle | 27 Janet Kelly |
| 13 Hannah Rose Kilbourne | 27 Katie Knowlton |
| 13 Cole Schott | 27 Marilyn Rhodes |
| 13 Jacob Schott | 27 Jaime Snow |
| 17 Angela Hittle | 30 Willard Curtis |
| 18 Lori Hildenbrand | 30 Bob Nash |
| 18 Glenn Rhodes | 30 Brendan Sage |

