



The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Connecting us in community and in Christ



May 2021

Ascension Day

May 13 is the Feast of the Ascension. According to the book of Acts, Jesus appeared in his resurrected form to his disciples over a 40-day period, then he was taken bodily up to heaven. There was then a 10-day period before Jesus' promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. So, we celebrate the Ascension on the fortieth day after Easter.

Theologically, the Ascension completes the Incarnation cycle. As St. John put it, "In the beginning was the Word..." Then, of course, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This enfleshment of God's eternal Word is what we call the Incarnation. The image here is of Jesus coming down from heaven in his divinity, taking on human flesh when he was born in Bethlehem, and then after his death and resurrection, carrying that human flesh with him back into heaven. In Jesus, the divine and the human meet. Both of those natures are what rise up into the cloud as Luke describes it in Acts chapter one. There Jesus, the Son, takes his place at God the Father's right hand. From that place of honor Jesus reigns, and from there he will return.

Just before his ascension, Jesus' disciples asked him if it was the time for his kingdom to be established on earth. Jesus replied that it was not for them, or even him, to know the timing of these things. He does promise them that the Spirit will soon be poured out upon them and they will receive power when that happens. The Spirit is how Jesus fulfills his promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age. The Holy Spirit is present in the world, even as Jesus remains with God. He has gone before us to prepare a place for us and will return to take us to himself.

The Ascension reminds us of both Jesus' pre-existent divine nature and his human nature, both of which have ascended to heaven. The promise to return and bring us to where he is amounts to a promise that we will be like him. We will be transformed in our humanness to be like Jesus is. In other words, we will have an element of divinity, that will give us eternal existence with God. In the Ascension we see both the universality of Jesus' rule and authority, and the particularity of his being born and having lived in a certain time at a certain place.

This fun holy day that falls between the major feasts of Easter and Pentecost gives us the opportunity to contemplate the phenomenon of Incarnation. We can reflect on what it means that Jesus sits at the right hand of God, a phrase we say regularly in our Creed but rarely talk about. We can think about that action of Jesus bringing divinity into this broken world and then taking humanity into heaven, thereby blazing a way for us to follow. Finally, we can look ahead to the celebration of Pentecost when we remember the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit that still moves in this world and maintains our connection to God and Jesus.

We will not have an Ascension service this year, but the Confirmation service will be on the eve of Ascension. That service is open only to family members of those being confirmed, received, or reaffirming their baptismal vows. You can join us through the live stream on Facebook.

WORSHIP UPDATES

Outdoor Services

5:00 Sundays May 2, May 9, and May 16 The Pavilion at Millbrook Marsh

We are not ready to be indoors yet, but we will add in-person outdoor services to our worship schedule in May. Our 10 a.m. Eucharist will continue in its current format on Facebook live.



Starting on May 2, we will meet at 5 p.m. at the pavilion at Millbrook Marsh (right next to the barn). Obviously, dress for the weather. It is best to bring your own lawn chair. There are picnic tables under the pavilion, but they will fill up quickly. Masks will be required although we are outdoors. It's probably best to bring your own hand sanitizer, too. We will have some, but if you have your own you won't have to leave your seat. This service will be in the 5:00 style, very informal, and a little shorter. We do not anticipate limiting attendance, but do ask, at least for now, that you sign up in advance to help us plan for worship off-site. (see link below)

Link for directions: https://goo.gl/maps/6Rku4EeoRQiC8mDd7

Link to sign up for May 2 (new signup each week): https://forms.gle/znk4B1fygkP2CrQi6

Confirmation Live Stream
Wednesday, May 12 - 7 p.m.
The Barn at Millbrook Marsh and Facebook Live

Last year, our last Sunday with in-person services was March 15. We were scheduled to have a visit from our bishop and celebrate Confirmations on March 17. So, as it turned out, Confirmation was the first service canceled. We've been able to reschedule Bishop Scanlan's visit for a weekday evening, May 12. Those to be Confirmed, Received, and Reaffirmed will gather with their families inside the barn at Millbrook Marsh for the service. Everyone else can join us on the Facebook Livestream.

In the meantime, please pray for those to be Confirmed: Madi Christopher, Marshall Dawson, Elisa Edgar, Marlee Kwasnica, Duncan Loviscky, Kaleigh McGarry, Simon Murphy, Ainsley Paulsen, Charlotte Wunz, and Michele Diaz; those to be Received: Gregg Rogers, Lucy Rogers, and Linda Jordan; and those who will

Reaffirm their baptismal vows: James LeBreton.

Pentecost Service and Baptisms Sunday, May 23 - 10 a.m. 226 Strawberry Hill Road, Centre Hall

We had such a lovely service on Easter Day at senior warden Scott Strouse's property that we decided to go back for Pentecost on May 23. Like Easter, the 10 a.m. Pentecost service will be open for people to attend in person, **and** it will be livestreamed on Facebook. We plan to celebrate baptisms at this service.

If you have someone to be baptized, please contact the church office to make arrangements.



Link for map and directions: https://goo.gl/maps/WMisM95jBrQpqYJR6

Watch your email for a signup form.

Don't forget to wear **RED!**

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



March 2021

	March	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2021 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 36,865	\$ 172,161	37%	\$ 460,288
Total Operating Income	\$ 39,072	\$ 178,681	37%	\$ 487,488
Total Operating Expense	\$ 40,342	\$ 126,551	25%	\$ 506,242
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,270)	\$ 52,129		

^{*}Includes pledges, plate offerings, and special holiday offerings.

VESTRY UPDATE, Kevin Lowe, Clerk of the Vestry



May 2021

With no particularly pressing matters at hand, the vestry did not meet in April. The financial position of the parish remains strong, in keeping with our typical year-to-date-position, and the vestry is grateful for ongoing pledges and contributions. The Trinity House ad-hoc committee continues to meet weekly, in conjunction with Property Committee, to oversee the renovations and repairs needed in order to bring Trinity House up to code; those repairs are nearing completion.

Vestry meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and are always open to all parishioners. Please contact me (kevinlowe33@gmail.com) for the Zoom link prior to the meeting if you would like to attend. Approved vestry minutes are available on our website ("Clergy, Staff & Vestry" under the "About Us" tab).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poetry Contest: Deadline for Submissions ExtendedTo May 15



We recently extended the deadline for submissions to May 15! If you have been planning to enter, there is still time! There is also more time to help spread the word. See the St. Andrew's Arts Blog for more details about submission rules.

Last month we put out a request for sponsors in the *Net* and received an immediate response. Please join us in thanking and supporting all of our sponsors listed below.

Category & Prize	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Adult First Prize	\$250	Stephen and Jenny Miska
Adult Second Prize	\$100	Mimi Coppersmith
Adult Judge's Choice and	\$50	Paige and Mary Andrew
Honoraria for judges	\$200	
Youth First Prize	\$250	Dennis & Allison Shea
Youth Second Prize	\$100	Webster's Bookstore Café
Youth Judge's Choice	\$50	Saints Café
Poetry Reading and Antholo	Central PA Festival of the Arts	
to be Arts Fest events		



Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Rain date: Saturday, May 22)

It's been many months since we last were able to gather and do some work to give grounds around the church and Trinity House some TLC. It is time to change that! Join parishioners for a resumption of cleanup days!

This first event will be held on **Saturday, May 15.** This outdoor work will allow for appropriate distancing and wearing masks is a requirement for the safety of all. Tasks will consist of weeding, leaf raking, pruning, and similar tasks around the church, and if time also around Trinity House grounds and parking area. No experience necessary! Bring a leaf rake and similar yard-work tools, your favorite gloves, and dress appropriately for the weather. Drinks and snacks will also be available!

We need you! to get the full list of projects completed! RSVPs are requested to Paige Andrew: (pga19@hotmail.com or pga2@psu.edu) or Sarah K. Lowe: (<u>sek175@gmail.com</u>).

PLEASE contact us in advance and as soon as possible!

FORMATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Youth

Our Confirmation and J2A groups are (cautiously) returning to periodic inperson gatherings outside as Spring arrives. The J2A group met in leader Deborah Morton's yard for a fire and game, and the Confirmation group walked the Spring Creek Canyon trail. What a blessing to be physically together!







Thank You Teachers and Leaders!

A very heart-felt thank you goes out to all the teachers and leaders in our Christian education program for whatever kind of involvement you were able to manage this past year! We will formally recognize you during the 10:00 worship service on May 16th.

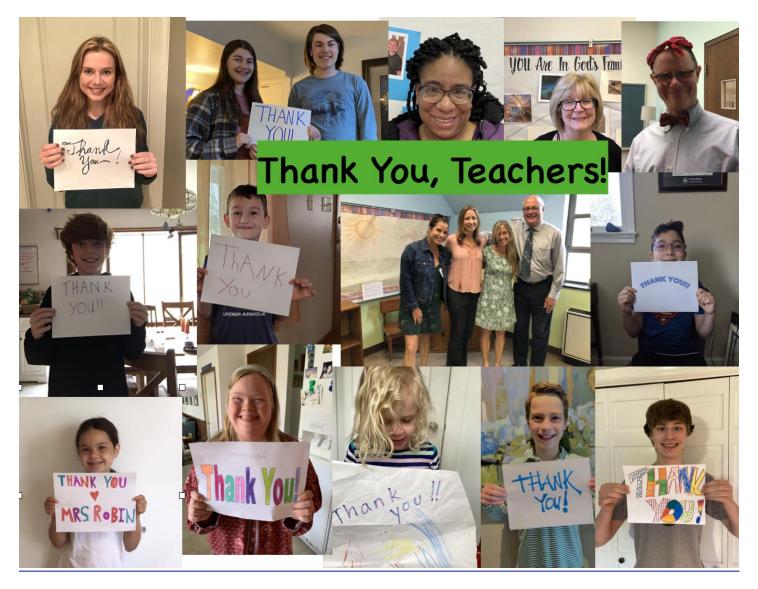
I feel like we were able to maintain, and even in some cases *grow*, our community of children and youth despite the barriers. Bless you for caring for this part of our St. Andrew's family and for sharing your faith in so many ways!

- Kathy Hickner

Godly Play - Darlene Nordoff, Julie Wunz, Liz King, Marisa Ferger, Meira Minard, Paul Humphreys3rd-6th Class - Michele Hamilton, Pam Couch, Robin Bastress, Ted Christopher

J2A - Deborah Morton, Kelley Paulsen, Kerry Small

Confirmation - Bekki Dawson-Rigas, Christina Ford, Jason McCloskey, Kathryn Yahner, Kevin Lowe, Marion Schwartz



Teachers and Leaders for 2021-2022 - This is the Time!

Robin Bastress and Kathy Hickner are thinking ahead to the fall and ready to start gathering teachers and leaders in anticipation of welcoming back children and youth in some capacity! This is fun and rewarding work and a chance to dig in to your faith and be part of a vital group of folks at St. Andrew's. So if you have been thinking about joining the children or youth on Sundays, we would be thrilled to hear from you! youth@standrewsc.org. Commitments are often no more than two Sundays each month from mid-September to late May.

Recognition of 2021 Graduates

It's time to celebrate our graduates! We will post photographs and a brief description of accomplishments and plans for anyone in our parish graduating from high school, college or graduate programs. We will publish our graduates in the June newsletter and recognize them during the 10:00 worship service on June 6th. Please send graduates' photos and bios to Kathy Hickner at youth@standrewsc.org by Monday May 17th. Thank you!

class of 2021

Compassionate Life

Compassionate Life is finishing up its reading of Amy-Jill Levine's *Short Stories of Jesus* and planning to meet outdoors as much as possible in May. Our discussion was so intriguing at the Arboretum last month that the garden volunteers weeding near our circle chimed in!

Contact Kathy Hickner if you'd like to be added to our email contact list. youth@standrewsc.org.





Adult Forum

Sundays, 9 a.m. - 9:45, on Zoom Join Zoom meeting at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8763410820 Or dial 301-715-8592; Meeting ID 876 341 0820

May 2: NO FORUM

May 9: Curt Knouse

The Pandemic's Effects on the Programs of Interfaith Human Services



The current pandemic has affected not only us and our ministries here at St. Andrew's, but also those of our church neighbors and our local service agencies. Interfaith Human Services (IHS) is a local collaborative nonprofit, supported by 27 local faith communities (including St. Andrew's), that works to meet the social and economic needs of Centre County residents. In this forum, Curt Knouse, executive director of Interfaith Human Services, will share his view of the interfaith programs of IHS and how the organization has worked to adapt to our current challenges.



May 16: Joan Bouchard

Confessions of a Born-Again Episcopalian

In this sharing of her faith story, Joan Bouchard will trace her spiritual life for us: from the day that 7-year-old Joan met God in an empty Methodist church sanctuary, to her first communion in an Episcopal Church at age 17, through the tough decision of following God's plan for her as she gave up her Foreign Service appointment to become a teacher—and then on to EFM, 10 years as a teaching missioner in Honduras, and being called to a new mission field here in State College.

May 23: Jason McCloskey

Why You Should Have Voted for Bartolomé de las Casas in the Lent Madness Bracket Last Month (Or Not)!

You may have noticed that Bartolomé de las Casas (1484-1566) was one of the saints competing in Lent Madness this year. This talk is for anyone who wondered who Bartolomé was and how he made the field. It's also for anyone who didn't wonder those things. A few spoilers: he was a Spanish Dominican friar who lived in the Indies (aka Colonial Latin America) and wrote prolifically in defense of the rights of the Native Americans. He became known as the "Defender of the Indians." In this talk, Jason McCloskey will lead us in a brief look at Bartolomé's biography and discussion of his most influential and polemical writings in the context of colonization and religion. We will also discuss his controversial legacy and how people have regarded him in subsequent centuries and today.



May 30: **NO FORUM**

World-Wide Prayer Initiative- Thy Kingdom Come May 13 – May 23

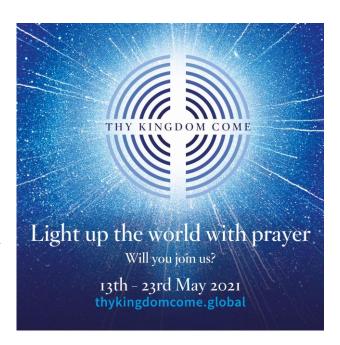
Thy Kingdom Come is a worldwide Anglican call to prayer taking place between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday....Thursday May 13-Sunday May 23.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." - Archbishop Justin Welby

Christians around the world are invited to pray that more people will come to know Jesus.

During this time, we are inviting you to pray intentionally for 5 people who you do NOT usually pray for (i.e., not the usual family, clergy, friends unless God calls you to include them) ... and pray for God's spirit to work in their lives and for them to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

There are resources online at thykingdomcome.global



On the Thy Kingdom Come website you can register and have your light added to the map as we light up the world with our prayers. I did it!

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, The Community Café has been very active and continues to function with the support of the diocese because food distribution programs have been allowed to operate.

In this regard, we have established a well-run system where our volunteers operate in socially-distanced bubbles, the main goal being is that if someone gets sick, only one team has to quarantine. The cooking has been broken up into several teams, over several days, and we have been lucky because no one has been diagnosed with Covid this past year.



Perhaps the most important news is that we have served an average of 150 meals a week, which means 7800 meals this year have gone out to the community. We have had several new patrons and families; some have mentioned to us that they have never had to use the services of a food distribution program before. The Café also knows that the 'Community' part of the Café is incredibly important. We offer the little extras that make us so special such as Christmas cookies and pies at Thanksgiving, and we have been known to hand a young family a box of ice pops in summer.

We are simply very proud of our continued operation especially during this year when there has been a great deal of economic uncertainty and stress.

The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts has been cancelled again this year which means the Café will lose income from the pie and ice cream sale, approximately two to three thousand dollars over four days. This is a blow, but one that we are confident we can recover from as we have exciting news. This year, for the second time, the Café will participate in Centre Gives, the Centre Foundation's 36-hour online giving event set to begin on May 11 at 9 a.m. and conclude on May 12 at 9 p.m. This event is designed to support the great work of local nonprofits serving Centre County. This is a still a new endeavor for us, and so we will have to forge new territory, hope to reach as many people as we can, and hopefully do better than we did last year.



You can check out the website and view our profile at: https://centregives.org/ We could use some volunteers who are savvy with social media, can help put together some videos, or perhaps have worked with a Centre Gives non-profit to help us brainstorm the best and most effective ways to reach out to people outside of the St. Andrew's parish. If you would like to help, please contact Sharon Rovansek at srovansek@comcast.net.

As always, we are very grateful for the support of the parish and all volunteers. If you have general questions about the Café, or would like to volunteer in the future, please contact Ron Rovansek at rrovansek@pacewater.com.

FAITH IN ACTION

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, May 7, 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Canterbury Hall

Schedule online at redcrossblood.org or Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



The need for blood is critical. Please sign up today.

If you've received a COVID-19 vaccine, you'll need to provide the manufacturer name when you come to donate. You are encouraged to bring your vaccine card or printout if you received one. In most cases, there is no deferral time for individuals who received a COVID-19 vaccine if they are symptom free and feeling well at the time of donation. This applies to donors vaccinated with a vaccine manufactured by AstraZeneca, Janssen/J&J, Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer.

If you have questions, contact the Red Cross.

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light 2021 Bike Trip for Climate Justice

May 8 - May 30

INFORMATION and REGISTRATION
https://www.paiplbiketrip.com/what-is-the-ride
STATE COLLEGE ROUTES
https://www.paiplbiketrip.com/state-college-routes



"Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light envisions a stable climate where humans live in right and just relationship, interconnected with a healthy, thriving, natural world. Our mission is to inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change." Their annual Bike Trip aims to raise money and awareness and to advocate for issues of climate justice. Here are some ways you can be involved in this year's event.

SATURDAY, MAY 8th – 7 p.m. on Zoom

Virtual Opening Ceremonies and Kickoff Event

Kick off the event with prayer, song, and a blessing for the cyclists and the planet Earth – including an appearance by the Rev. Jeffrey Packard!

SUNDAY, MAY 9th - MAY 30th

Ride One Hundred Miles

COVID Safety Protocols required PA IPL to re-imagine the Annual Bike Trip as a Bike Ride, exploring six routes in PA: Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, and State College. Each Route includes three rides emphasizing three topic areas: Eco Solutions, Eco Challenges, and Eco Beauty. State College area routes include: Purdue Mountain Loop, Circleville Bike Path and Deerfield Loops, Scotia Loop, Lower Trail or The Union County Rail Trail. Ride (or walk) any 100 miles of bike routes in the State College / Central PA area

between May 8 - 30 and document your experiences. (Riding or walking 4.7 miles per day for 3 weeks equals 100 miles.)

If you register to ride, let us know so we can help you recruit sponsors!

If you cannot ride yourself, you can sponsor a specific rider or riders (maybe from St. Andrew's!), your region, or the entire PA IPL bike ride. You can make a difference in PA by helping at least one Rider meet their \$250 Goal!

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 22nd & 23rd

Advocacy Weekend of Action

PA IPL will provide you with templates for phone calls, emails, and letters so that you can confidently contact your Senators, Representatives, and the local news media to share your passion on the topics.

SUNDAY, MAY 30th

Closing Ceremonies - Celebrate the riders and their accomplishments!



Habitat for Humanity volunteer opportunities

We recently received an email from Nick Scipione, a Family Services Intern at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County (HFHGCC.) Habitat is currently looking for volunteers to help in their mission of providing affordable housing to our community and asked us to share this information.



Opportunity #1

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore. This is the area where the current need for volunteers is the greatest. The ReStore sells donated home improvement items and materials to the public at largely discounted prices and 100% of the profit goes to HFHGCC to purchase building supplies and materials that they need for the homes they build. Volunteers at the ReStore assist in cleaning and stocking merchandise, assisting customers with purchases, assisting donors with donation drop-offs, facility and landscaping upkeep, metal scrapping/recycling, and a variety of other tasks.

Opportunity #2

Volunteers are needed to work alongside partner families and a Habitat Construction Supervisor to build and renovate the homes the families will own at the end of the process.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities or want more information about how you can help provide affordable housing for families in Centre County, call (814) 353-2390 or email Habitat at volunteer@habitatgcc.org.

Job Opportunities at Interfaith Human Services (IHS)



Interfaith Human Services is currently seeking applicants for the following positions:

- **Coordinator** of our Free Furniture and Appliance Program (part-time)
- Case Manager (full-time) submit resume with cover letter

Both are paid positions

Details can be found at: https://www.interfaithhumanservices.org/openings/ or contact Executive Director, Curt Knouse at director@interfaithhumanservices.org

Centre Gives Is Coming!

May 11, 9 a.m. to May 12, 9 p.m.



After you make your donation to the Community Café, you may want to consider including another worthy non-profit like IHS in your Centre Gives support this year.

Interfaith Human Services would like to remind everyone that Centre Gives is only a few weeks away. The online donation event sponsored by the Centre Foundation begins May 11 at 9 a.m. and ends May 12 at 9 p.m. If you would like to support IHS visit the link address below between these times. Gifts given will help IHS receive a portion of the "stretch pool.



https://centregives.org/organizations/52-interfaith-human-services

GROUPS, MINISTRIES, & COMMITTEES

This is not a comprehensive listing; regularly scheduled meetings and events are included only if they submitted an item for publication. For complete and updated listings, please check your Sunday bulletin or weekly email

KNITTING MINISTRY

Sunday, May 9, 11:15 a.m. Via Zoom



"Knitting Ministry will meet on Sunday, May 9, 11:15 - 12:15 via Zoom. Join us! Settle down with your needles and yarn in front of your computer camera and log on! We knit cozy, useful items for Knitting4Peace (News and patterns at https://www.knitting4peace.org/). If you would like to come please email and she will send you a Zoom invitation link. Mark your calendars for the second Sunday of each month through June 2021.

FRIDAY FILMS

Friday, May 14, 7 p.m. Via Zoom

Friday Films returns in May with a unique experimental program. Participants will watch the 2020 Academy Award winning film, *Parasite*, at home and then we will join together via Zoom to discuss this great film. Directed by Bong Joon-Ho, *Parasite* is the first foreign language film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture, along with Best International Feature, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Director for Bong Joon-ho.



The film takes the audience into the world of two South Korean families, one rich and gullible, the other poor but resourceful, yet they come together under the same roof in this brilliant, darkly comic satire, a teasing upstairs/downstairs parable about haves and have-nots, status and aspiration. Part satire, screwball farce, black comedy and horror, this film will give us much to discuss.

Attendance is limited to 16, so if you would like to join in, please let us know by sending an email to srovansek@comcast.net.

Please join us on Friday, May 14, at 7PM to have a fun conversation.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m. Rock Garden at St. Andrew's

For the month of April, the St. Andrew's Book Club met online and discussed Jessica Bruder's nonfiction narrative *Nomadland*, which has just been made into a three-time Academy Awardwinning film starring Frances McDormand.

For the month of May, we have decided to read Sylvia Plath's disturbing 1963 classic *The Bell Jar*. Please bring a lawn chair and join us on May 25 at 7 p.m. in the rock garden behind St. Andrew's for an outdoor discussion. If inclement weather is forecast, the Book Group meeting will be held online. Hope to see you then!



If we have to meet online, the link to join is here: https://meet.google.com/zpv-yfvz-pxw

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Greg Paulsen	11 Sarah Klinetob Lowe	19 John Bagby
4 Greg Ruberto	13 Greg Loviscky	20 JudithAnn Rule
5 Carolyn Holt	13 Molly Wells	21 Judy Mitchell
7 David Frego-Bliek	13 Mavis Stapleford	21 David Packard
8 Kevin Lowe	14 Jenna Ruberto	22 Marcia Saiers
8 Caroline Shea	14 Janet Engeman	23 Fran Budris
9 Elliot Johnson-Pritchett	14 Gretchen Heim	24 Leah Patzkowsky
9 David Gericke	16 Carol McKeever	25 William Hartmann
9 Jean Stump	17 Harold O'Connor	26 Robin Tate
10 Kevin McGarry	17 Caitlin Osborne	27 John deCarle
10 James LeBreton	17 Marc Rigas	29 Todd King
11 George Chisholm	18 Christie Orr	30 Barb Downs

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a May birthday and don't see your name listed, we probably do not have that information in our records. Please contact the office – we may be missing other information, too.

Those For Whom We Pray

Teri, Dick, Molly, Sandy, Mavis, Don, Joan, Jane, Sandy, Denise, Kevin, Diane, Sara, Emily, David, Robbie, Vicki, Frank, Stu, Barbara, Mavis, Michael, Stephanie, Tom, Mark, Gernilee, Carolyn, Anthony, Myong Oh

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Sean

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