

March 2022

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA
FAIRMONT, MN 56031-1776

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Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



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*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

How to reach us....

Church Office
507-235-5382

Hours: Tuesday—Friday
9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

E-mail

uccsecretary319@gmail.com

Web Site Address

www.fairmontucc.org

Rev. Cory Germain
Minister

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

Rev. Cory Germain

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday 12:30 p.m. through
evening meetings & activities

Thursday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Rev. Cory's phone: 507-399-8282

Worship Hours

Sunday School 9:15

Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.

FIRST CONGO NEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA; FAIRMONT, MN 56031

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

The Reverend's Ruminations - March 2022

Here we stand, already on the edge of Lent, staring down another snowstorm and cold snap, which reminds us that winter still has plenty of adventure to offer. I pray that you and your family are staying warm and healthy! We have enjoyed seeing quite a few in worship services over the last few weeks, and hope that area COVID numbers continue to trend downward. We still very much encourage masks to be worn at church, but you will notice a few additions to our service that remind us just how long we've been experiencing restrictions to "the way it was." What we'd like to call normalcy is a very nebulous term these days, but each little bit helps brighten our outlook.

As we lean expectantly into **LENT**, I encourage you to return to one of the special observances that sets this church season apart: **a mid-week Lenten service each Wednesday at 5:30**. These will **begin on March 2nd with the traditional Ash Wednesday service**, which includes the imposition of ashes—a mark meant to recall the symbolic role of ashes in the Bible. Ashes are present in several biblical stories, such as when Job repented his questioning of God's judgement, declaring, "...therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). In Old Testament times, the grief-stricken would often exchange their normal robes for rough burlap sackcloth and cover themselves in ashes for a period of isolation and mourning after the loss of a loved one. Jesus later connected repentance and the mourning of loss as he called new believers to repent and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

Throughout the month and into the first week of April, our mid-week Lenten services will feature a unique and engaging format—one that will need a few volunteers to be successful. I've chosen a "dramatic dialogue" sermon series by Rev. Scott Bryte called ***Dateline: Jerusalem***, which seeks to bring you closer to the action of Holy Week in a TV news-magazine format featuring interviews with six eyewitnesses including Pontius Pilate, Caiaphas, Peter, Mary Magdalene, John, and the Centurion. If you'd be willing to read as one of these characters (no line memorization required), please contact me to let me know which Wednesdays you're available.

As I'm sure you're aware, there is also a little holiday observed by many on March 17: St. Patrick's Day. But rather than brush it off as a day glorifying an excess of green beer, I thought you might enjoy a brief history of his religious significance, drawn from *Biography.com*:

The man who would come to be known as Saint Patrick, apostle and patron saint of Ireland, was born in Britain around 386 A.D. Much of his early life is unknown to historians and can't be verified, but when Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by Irish pirates who brought him to Ireland and sold him into slavery. His job was to tend the sheep of his master, Milchu, a high priest of Druidism (a Pagan sect that held major religious influence over the country at the time). Patrick came to view his enslavement as God's test of his faith. During his six years of captivity, he became deeply devoted to Christianity through constant prayer. In a vision, he saw the children of pagan Ireland reaching out their hands to him, and grew increasingly determined to convert the Irish to Christianity.

After escaping enslavement and making a harrowing, roundabout trip home to his family, he eventually went to Auxerre, France, where he studied and entered the priesthood under the guidance of the missionary Saint Germain [no relation that I'm aware of!]. He was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Auxerre around 418 A.D. By 432 A.D. he was ordained as a bishop, and soon sent by Pope Celestine I to Ireland to spread the gospel to non-believers while also providing support to the small community of Christians living there.


Recognizing the history of spiritual practices already in place, Patrick is credited with incorporating nature-oriented pagan rituals into church practices. It's believed that he may have introduced the Celtic cross, which combined a native sun-worshipping symbology with that of the Christian cross. Legend also holds that Patrick drove away all the snakes from Ireland, and introduced the Holy Trinity to the Irish through the familiar 3-leaved shamrock. March 17, 461 A.D. is cited as the date of Patrick's death—a primarily Catholic religious holiday that has been observed ever since and grown to include many "honorary Irishmen."

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Yours in Christ, *Rev. Cory Germain*

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Ash Wed</i> 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Ash Wed Svc 6:15 Diaconate	3 11:30 MRCI HH/FS reserved 6:00 TOPS FS Rm	4	5
6 Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	7	8 10:00 Lakeview Communion 7:00 Facilities Board	9 4:00 Confirm 5:15 Mission 5:30 Lenten Svc 6:30 CE Board	10 5:15 Hospitality Board 11:30 MRCI HH/FS reserved 6:00 TOPS FS Rm	11 9:00 Council Agenda Items Due	12
13 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	14	15 10:00 Goldfinch Communion 4:30 PEO HH&K reserved	16 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten Svc 5:45 Church Council	17 11:30 MRCI HH/FS reserved 6:00 TOPS FS Rm	18 9:00 April Newsletter Items Due	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	21	22	23 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Lenten Svc	24 11:30 MRCI HH/FS reserved 6:00 TOPS FS Rm	25	26
27 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection	28 5:30 Parent To Parent	29	30 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal 5:30 Lenten Svc	31 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI HH/FS reserved 6:00 TOPS FS Rm		



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 2-16-2022**

Members Present: Ellen Germain, Catherine Johnson, Larry Thompson, Cathy Celander, Robbin Celander, Marilyn Forstrom Kay Campe, Abigail Roiger, Sue Kruse. Ex-officio members present: Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer. Visitor: Joyce Jorgenson

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Abigail Roiger. Pastor Cory led with devotions and prayer.

Treasurer's Report: Catherine reported that 2022 is off to a good start with a number of 2022 pledges being paid in full. A stock gift of \$9500 received at the end of the year has been added to the Operating Reserve as has the earnings from our Endowment Fund. Edward Jones funds were down in January after having done well for most of 2021. Our Edward Jones Rep. will be asked to meet and update the Council before summer. It was recommended to move the Parsonage funds be moved to Operating Reserve.

Finance Business: The Brotherhood Mutual (company that carries our building insurance) rep is from Owatonna. He has called on Pastor Cory and Robbin and Dean will contact him soon to visit about our coverage.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Germain reported on his activities including two funerals and upcoming Airlift Wing drills.

Board Reports

Christian Education: Ellen reported on plans being made for new curriculum next year, bell playing, Confirmation families to serve March Community Meal and VBS in June and July

Hospitality: Cathy reported that the Board had a work meeting and planned their Community Meal.

Facilities: Larry reported that they also held a work day. It was too windy that day to install the new Food Library outside of the front of the church.

Diaconate: Sue reported that they delivered flowers to shut ins for Valentine's Day.

Mission: No Report

Worship: Will hold their February/March meeting on Feb. 23, 2022. The children interested in being Acolytes will be trained next week and a Sign up Genius will be shared with parents.

Old Business

COVID protocol changes were discussed. The Council would like to have the Diaconate look into a more "normal" form of Communion as soon as possible. Offering will be collected in pews with minimal contact.

The Time, Talent and Faith survey is on the website, will be available in narthex and email to members with email addresses.

The MN Conference Clergy Care Grant which we applied for last month was approved and the \$500 was received.

No new business

The meeting was adjourned and Pastor Cory closed with prayers

Submitted by Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk Pro Tem

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
23-Jan	Memory of Lori Marushin		Wanda Johnson
23-Jan	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Kenneth & Joy Rachuy
23-Jan	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Pat & Randy Rowan
23-Jan	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
23-Jan	Memory of Charles F Draper		Jon & Cheryl Rippke
30-Jan	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Jane Kotewa
6-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
6-Feb	Memory of Beverly Pugh		Marilyn Forstrom
6-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams		MaryDon Kislingbury
6-Feb	Memory of Beverly Pugh		Lyle & Charlene Norris
6-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	General	Pat & Randy Rowan
6-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
6-Feb	Memory of Beverly Pugh		Margaret Weaver
6-Feb	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	CE Camp Fund	Diane Bents
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Free Community Meal	Tim & Kay Campe
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Dolores Gronewald
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Donna & Dean Grotte
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Donna & Dean Grotte
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Joyce Jorgenson
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	John & Sherry Larson
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Lyle & Charlene Norris
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Lyle & Charlene Norris
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Kenneth & Joy Rachuy
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Daniel & Debra Thate
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Stephen Urban
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
13-Feb	Memory of Joan Adams	Starfish	Jodie Whitmore
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Elaine Zoeller
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Facilities
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Starfish	Mike & Lori Thate
13-Feb	Memory of Tranna Urban	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe



The Worship Board will be arranging for altar flowers. If there is a Sunday that would have a special meaning to you and you would like to provide the flowers, please sign up on the large calendar by the coat closet with your name and who the flowers are in memory/ honor of. Please know we appreciate your sharing your special memories with us! Please contact Janine Draper at 507-236-3499.

2022 Time, Talent & Faith Survey

First Congregational UCC, Fairmont, MN

Time, Talent & Faith Survey 2022

Name

Phone

Worship

- Audio-Video Camera
- Greeter
- Liturgist/Reader
- Sanctuary Decorations-Christmas, Easter, general
- Usher
- Children's Message
- Acolyte Organizer
- Acolyte
- Adult Choir
- Children's Bell Choir
- Chimes Choir
- Instrument(s) _____
- Special Music _____
- Ideas _____



Diaconate

- Bake Communion Bread
- CARE Team
- Visitor Follow-up
- Hospital/Shut-in Visitation
- Prayer Chain
- Provide Transportation
- Card Ministry



Christian Education

- Adult Sunday School Leader
- Youth Event Leader
- Adventure Group
- Sunday School Teacher
- Confirmation Assistant
- Vacation Bible School Helper
- Christmas Program
- Costume Closet Assistant
- Activity Planner
- Driver
- Mentor
- Snacks for SS and Confirmation
- VBS planner
- VBS helper
- Children's Bell Leader
- Ideas _____



Financial

- Stewardship Moment
- Fundraiser ideas
- _____
- _____
- Grant Writer
- Financial Secretary
- Ideas _____



Please check any items you are interested in. Feel free to add other talents you have that you would be willing to share with your church family. You can return this to the office, to any council or board member.


2022 Time, Talent & Faith Survey

Time, Talent & Faith Survey 2022



Name

Phone

Missions



- Food Shelf collection & delivery
- Deliver Meals on Wheels
- Mission Moment
- Kids Against Hunger Food Pack
- Sewing
- Knitting/Crocheting 
- Help with Community Meal
- Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup
- Free Little Pantry – Upkeep & fill
- Cross Stitch, Embroidery
- Relay for Life Team (American Cancer Society)
- Need more info for volunteering for Summer Hunger, Kinship, Heaven's Table, Habitat, CREST
- Ideas _____

Hospitality



- Sunday Coffee Prep 
- Kitchen Help
- Dish Washer
- Grocery Shopper
- Bake 
- Funeral Worker
- Funeral Co-ordinator(s)

- Wedding Co-ordinator
- "Deep" Cleaners
- Help with fundraiser food
- Help with Harvest Festival
- Take Recycling
- Ideas _____

Facilities

- Carpentry Work 
- Electrical Work
- Gardening
- Painting
- Raking 
- Other _____

Administrative

- Office Help 
- Special mail help
- Mail Newsletter
- Computer Maintenance
- Website Maintenance
- Facebook Page Maintenance
- Email updates
- Photographer 
- Historical
- Sign Creator
- Ideas _____

Other Ideas . . .

Please check any items you are interested in. Feel free to add other talents you have that you would be willing to share with your church family. You can turn this in to the office, to any council or board member.

THIS 'N THAT

GRATITUDE

Just a little thank you...
...for everything!

Don and Shelby

Thank you Catherine, Cindy, Pauline, Kathy and Marilyn for folding and sealing the February Newsletters!

Feb 14, 2022

Thank you so much for sending me Valentine flowers and a lovely card! It lifted my heart to know that my church was thinking of me.

Valentine's Day reminds me of how much I miss all of your smiling faces. When all of this covid scare is over I will be back.

God's blessings on you all.

Ginny Riedesel



Would you like to help give the newsletter a name? Please drop off or email suggestions to the church office!

HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report as of 20 February 2022

During the last eight weeks \$28,903.65 (19.27%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 30 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$116,977.19 (77.98%) toward the 14th \$150,000 goal. Based on history, \$150,000 should be reached around the 17th of April 2022.

During the same eight weeks, \$10,623.51 (7.08%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 59 weeks, Fareway is at \$77,910.9 (51.94) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal. It will still take over a year to reach the \$150,000.

This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Any Fairmont Fareway and Hy-Vee food store register slip can be used. Even slips from Hy-Vee Gas, Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward the goal. Thanks to all who bring/mail the slips to the Church, or mailing them to me or even dropping them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help.

Reported by;
Jim Bock



DENNIS THE MENACE



"I TOOK AFTER YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY TODAY."

Christian Education



Christian Education News

Follow CE on Facebook- First Congregational UCC Sunday School

Sunday School meets at 9:15 in the Sunday School area on the upper level of the church.

Summer Camp: Since the MN Conference no longer has Pilgrim Point camp, our church will pay up to \$100 per child/ youth member to attend any faith based camp they chose. Early registration for many camps opens in March. Some of our children are planning to attend camps at the Lakeshore Center at Okoboji or at Ingham Lake Bible Camp. Information went home with the Sunday School and Confirmation students. Contact Catherine Johnson at 507-236-1457 to arrange for the scholarship.

March Community Meal: Thanks to the Confirmation Students and their families for serving the March Community Meal

Play Bells: on March 6th the children will play bells during the worship service

Mission Minute

Blessing Box offering for March is the Minnesota Food Drive. Both food and money donated during the March campaign supports our local food shelf, Heaven's Table. By doing this in conjunction with Minnesota Food Share during their March campaign, the local money donated is matched. There will be boxes by the front door and in the back of the sanctuary for food items throughout the month of March.



More information about Heaven's Table Food Shelf can be found at:

www.facebook.com/heavenstablefoodshelf/

More information about Minnesota Food Share can be found at:

<https://gmcc.org/minnesota-foodshare/>

rightnow MEDIA

***Worship services from First Congregational UCC are available (and searchable by date) alongside the other great content on the rightnow MEDIA website & app!**



As I've said in the past, there is something for everyone on RNM, from preschoolers to seniors! Last month I highlighted the bible study that the adult Sunday School class has started, so this time around I'd like to promote something for the kids to enjoy during the remaining cold winter days of March. Our Administrative Assistant Ann recently shared a delightful photo of her two granddaughters enjoying their current favorite shows on **rightnow** MEDIA. First up is **Adventures in Booga Booga Land**. Here is a brief description of this animated series:

Best friends Marty the Monkey and Gerard the Giraffe learn how to make better choices every day with the help of their friends through their adventures in Booga Booga Land. Through a slew of odd jobs, Marty and Gerard teach the parables of Jesus in a way that children love.

Ann's other granddaughter has enjoyed the **Bibleman** series, a show that originated as a live-action production and enjoyed at least two iterations (including books) before becoming an animated series in 2016. 26 sessions are available on **rightnow** MEDIA, following the triumphs and adventures of Bibleman and his trusty teammates as they fight evil with biblical truths and scriptural quotes sure to inspire your child's positive interaction with the Bible. Check out **Bibleman: The Animated Adventures**, including such titles as "Pulverizing the Plans of the Prince of Pride," "Halting the Hateful Mind of Mister Malevolent," or "Lighting Up the Shadow of Doubt."



***Do you still need to sign up for a FREE rightnow MEDIA account?**

There are 3 convenient ways:

Go to <https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>

Text **FCONG** to **49775**, or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera or code reader:



Once logged in to your **FREE** account, now updated to rightnow MEDIA 3.0, you can click directly on "First Congregational UCC" near the top of the page to access the "Fairmont Worship Services" channel, or "Pastor Cory's Picks"—which is where you'll find videos I've recommended here, as well as others that interest me. Stay tuned... the list changes as I discover new picks! As I challenged you above, if you've discovered a show or video on **rightnow** MEDIA that you think others would enjoy, email me and I'll promote it in next month's column.

~ Pastor Cory

INTERVIEW WITH DON & SHELBY MARKS

by Lee Hanning

Shelby was born in Mauston, Wisconsin and went to school there until the third grade when she and her family moved to Welcome, Minnesota. She attended school there and graduated in 1954.

She was raised by her mother Gladys and step-father Gordon Baker. She met Don Marks through "Single Again". They dated for six months and married in 1982.

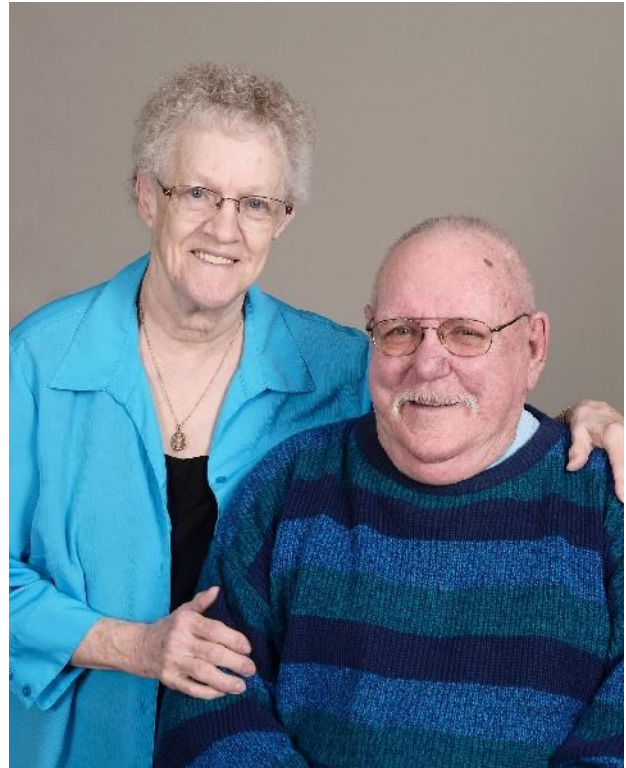
Don was born in Britt, Iowa. He went to school in Algona, Iowa and Mora, Minnesota. He went to work at 15 years of age working for a farmer who had 32 cows. Then he went to work at the grain elevator in Winnebago, Minnesota.

His brother and nephew talked him into going to "Single Again". When they walked in, he saw Shelby and said, "I'm going to marry that gal!" They told him "You don't even know her!"

Guess what: Don & Shelby married 6 months later in 1982 at Grace Lutheran in Fairmont. They attended Salvation Army Corps where Don was Corps Sgt. Major who substitutes for the minister.

They left there and came to First Congregational UCC. They just love our church family and Rev. Cory Germain!

Shelby's children are Michael in Jackson, Mary Ann in Welcome, and Brenda in Sargent.



Don's two sisters live in Granada: Carol Barrett and Janey Risk. Don loved to fish with grandson Paul every year until he graduated. They have a granddaughter Jackie. They also enjoy their six great-granddaughters!

Don has a very humorous look upon life! Shelby was so enjoyable to visit with during our interview. What a pleasant way to spend our time together on the phone!

Reuben Sandwich Casserole



*Calling all recipes!
Send your favorite
recipes in to the office.*

Description

All the things you love about Reubens in an easy-to-make layered casserole!

Ingredients

- 4 pounds Corned Beef Brisket
- ½ cups Thousand Island Salad Dressing
- 12 slices Swiss Cheese
- 1 can (16 Oz. Size) Sauerkraut, Rinsed And Drained
- ½ cups Butter, Melted
- 10 slices Rye Bread, Cut Into Cubes

Preparation

Place corned beef brisket, fat side up, in an oven safe dish with 2 inches of water in the bottom. Cover and cook for 4 hours at 325°F. Remove foil for the last 15 minutes of baking time. Remove beef from the oven and increase oven temperature to 350°F.

Allow beef to cool a bit, then place on cutting board and cube it.

Sprinkle all but 1 cup beef cubes (these are extra, just freeze or eat them) in an deep 9×13 baking dish. I used a Pampered Chef Deep Dish Rectangular Baker and it just fit.

Drizzle Thousand Island salad dressing over the top. Cover the dressing layer with slices of Swiss cheese, then rinsed and drained Sauerkraut.

Melt butter and toss bread cubes in it before topping the casserole with them. Bake casserole at 350°F for 30 minutes.

This tastes best the day it is made.

Make from St Patrick's Day corned beef leftovers, . . . or maybe instead of!

Anniversaries

March 3	Robert & Alexis Thate	4 yrs
March 17	Vince & Angela Vaughn	8 yrs
March 29	Jim & Judie Orr	37 yrs



Birthdays

Mar 1	Greg Grotte	Mar 12	Jayden Huset
Mar 2	Barb Bock	Mar 14	Jim Grotte
	Dave Wallien	Mar 15	Donna Mitchell
	Sophia Brummond	Mar 18	Darwin Kuhlert
Mar 3	Jennifer Grefe	Mar 20	Kerstin Johnson
	Bill Thompson	Mar 23	Brad Cone
Mar 4	Dimitrie Osmundson	Mar 24	Sandy Abraham
Mar 5	Faye Draper		Michael Meschke
Mar 6	Ann Hartmann		Deb Thate
Mar 7	Becky Phillips	Mar 27	Clint Forstrom
Mar 8	Erin True	Mar 28	Rorik Cain
	Nanci Skog		Verna Lunz
Mar 10	Tabb Meyer	Mar 29	Randy Kruse
	Koda Massey	Mar 30	Jennifer Weaver
	Kira Massey		Amy Derrera
			Ken Rachuy