



**Northwest Hills Church**  
 9334 Fort Street, Omaha NE 68134  
 Phone: 402 572-8392  
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[www.northwesthills.com](http://www.northwesthills.com)

Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor  
 Suzy Parsons, Director of Christian Education  
 Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 50 No. 09  
 August 25, 2022

Barb Renicker, Music Director  
 Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

## September 2022

<b>September 4</b> 	<b>9:30 AM Worship/Communion</b> <b>(no Sunday School)</b> <b>1-4 PM Chin Church</b>
<b>September 11</b>  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</b>	<b>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 AM Team Spirit Sunday!</b> <b>11:00 AM Worship</b> <b>1-4 PM Chin Church</b> 
<b>September 18</b> 	<b>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 AM Worship</b> <b>1-4 PM Chin Church</b>
<b>September 25</b> 	<b>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 AM Worship</b> <b>1-4 PM Chin Church</b>



The Church Office will be closed  
 Monday, September 5th in observance of the  
 Labor Day Holiday

**GET READY!** Sunday, September 11th will be  
 "Team Spirit" Sunday! We invite you to wear  
 your favorite team apparel and bring a "tailgate"  
 dish to share with others. It can be any sport as  
 we kick off Fall Sports. Join in the fun in the  
 Commons! — The Fellowship Committee



Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the  
 next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

# Thank You

*"A HUGE thank you to our friends at Northwest Hills UCC for your support and prayers and love from Mert and family. Also to Pastor Alex for healing words, and to Sarah Circle and others for their services." - The Jacobsen Family*

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:** We gather Weds. at 10 AM Room 128. All are welcome! Come join us for great discussion and fellowship around the Word of God!

**WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will meet Thursday, September 1st at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Devotions by Ruth Negus; dessert will be provided by Kathy Copper and Marilyn Walton. Questions? Call Kathleen Hammond, 402-981-3630.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will tour "The Furniture Project" facility on Tuesday, September 6th, delivering blanket donations collected during August. We'll meet there at 11:00 AM (10808 "J" Street). Lunch will follow at Jason's Deli (12320 "L" Street). Please call Ginger Broyles at 402.312.5126 with any questions.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet Tues., September 20, 2022 at 1:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Devotions by Beth Perley; dessert provided by Judy Cratty. Mission project for September collection will be stuffing and canned or jarred gravy.

**SARAH CIRCLE** will meet Thursday, September 22nd at 6:30 PM in Room 128. For any questions, call Terri Burright, 402-659-6913.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** The next meeting will be Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM in Room 128.

**RECYCLING:** After taking home altar flowers, once you have enjoyed your flowers for as long as they lasted, please return the green containers/bases to the church. Look for the marked basket in the Commons to drop them off. We will clean and get them back to HyVee (see attached picture as an example). HyVee will give us a discount on our altar flower orders when we turn these back in! Thanks for helping us recycle and save a few dollars!



## MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

The men of Northwest Hills Church will be getting together again for a Men's Ministry Breakfast! We will meet **Saturday, September 3rd at 9:00 AM in the Commons**. It is a "BYOB: Bring Your Own Breakfast" or you can eat breakfast before you come. Mark your calendars to plan on attending for a great time of fellowship!

## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!!

Our next craft afternoon will be **Tuesday, September 13, 2022 in Room 128. CRAFTERS! AND** please join the Craft Fair Crafters every Wednesday 1:00-3:00 PM in Room 128 from now until the October 15th Craft Fair! Join in fun and fellowship! We have only one more Tuesday craft fair session and we need more crafts for a great sale in October. Bring a craft or come to help paint and assemble kits. No experience necessary! Please bring any finished crafts to be priced. Questions? Call Leigh Powell at 402-680-1366."

**LOOKING AHEAD:** There WILL BE a "White Elephant" sale at the Craft Fair (it was a HUGE success last year!). However, items can only be brought to the church Sunday, October 2nd and 9th. White Elephant donations will be placed in Room 128 (choir room/community room). Please, no clothes. Questions? Please contact Terri Burright, 402-659-6913.



Our **CANASTA CLUB** is hosting the salad luncheon on September 15th at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please arrive in time to start playing by 10:00 AM. Cost for lunch is \$8.00. There will be raffles and door prizes. If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer at 402-392-0418 or 402-999-1052.

We still need subs (men or women). Please contact Lois Gapen at 402-572-6792 or Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068.



MISSION & SERVICE  
SEPTEMBER COLLECTION

We had such an amazing turnout to last year's "Trunk or Treat" that we are getting a head start for this year's event! This is such a great opportunity to be a witness to the neighborhood! We will again be holding the event in the back church parking lot:  
**SIGN UP DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1ST!** Our planned date is Sunday, October 23rd from 4-6 PM. If weather is a problem, our "back up" date will be October 30th. "Trunk or Treat" offers neighborhood kids and families a safe alternative or start to their house-to-house journey for treats. Clipboards will be available at the display in the Commons to sign up for a variety of help and activities, along with a bin to collect candy. It will take many hands to make this a successful event again this year! Questions? Please contact Kathy Caito, Mission & Service Chair, for details.



**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please help us help you: Northwest Hills Church would like to have an updated emergency contact for YOU. Please call or email Cheryl with this update at 402-572-8392 or [cheryl@northwesthills.com](mailto:cheryl@northwesthills.com). This information will be kept confidential in the church office. Thank you in advance for your help!



**Looking Ahead: Neighbors in Need Offering**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports various ministries of justice and compassion. We will receive the NIN offering on Sunday, October 2 as part of our World Communion Sunday celebration. Look for more information about NIN and this year's focused projects coming soon.



Prayer chain requests can be called to Lois Gapen at (402) 572-6792 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

*Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We are always encouraged to hear when our loved ones are much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:*

Continued Prayer Requests: Drew Botsakos, Sandy Christopherson, Carol Scott, Connie Klaumann, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Barb Karstens, Jeff Walton, Susie Ryan, Cierra Ervin, Kelly Pitts, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marti Elias

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Sharon Kirby (Janet Delehoy's sister-in-law), Gail Schroeder, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Gail Formanack (friend of Bev Ambrosius), Paul Nitsick, Gary Dutton, David Arthur (friend of the Vincents), Susan Higginson, Vicki Nolan, (Leigh Powell's sister), Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Tracy Else

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***"He sent His Word, and healed them"***

— ***Psalm 107:20***

***"But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
he was bruised for our iniquities: the  
chastisement of our peace was upon him;  
and with his stripes we are healed."***

— ***Isaiah 53:5***



# FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a millennial, I'll admit I spend more time on the internet and social media than I should. Because I'm on social media a lot, I've noticed people write and comment more and more cruel and hurtful words. Do you remember the old adage, "Sticks and stone may break my bones, but words can never hurt me"? I've never bought into that saying. Words can be powerful weapons against someone. As Christians, we are told to watch what we say. The Bible is filled with warnings about the power of our tongues.

In Scripture, the tongue is compared to a sharpened razor (Psalm 52:2) and said to not be easily controlled (James 3:6-8). It can either build up or tear down, pour out blessings or throw out scathing curses. Words have a serious impact on us and others. They can follow us around for our whole lives, penetrating deep into the heart. You can say a million wonderful things about someone, but one hurtful word may erase all of what was previously said in an instant.

The apostle James uses three images when writing about the tongue. The first two are a bit in a horse's mouth and a ship's rudder (James 3:4-5a). Both help steer one direction or another, just like how both the words and actions of ourselves and others shape and guide us. The third image is of a spark (3:5b-6). A spark can quickly turn into a raging fire if left unchecked. The same can be of our tongues. Our words can spread beyond our control and leave us powerless to stop the consequences or undo damage. For example, an unfounded rumor might ruin a person's reputation if found false. For good or for evil, our words have power.

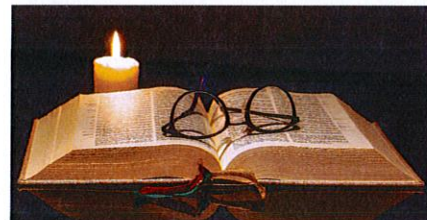
We should follow Scripture's teaching and think twice before we speak ("Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak..." James 1:19). We should listen thoroughly before answering ("To answer before listening—that is folly and shame" Proverbs 18:13). We should speak truthfully ("Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment" Proverbs 12:19). We should speak courteously and kindly ("Let your conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" Colossians 4:6). And our words should be sweet ("Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones" Proverbs 16:24).

Our words matter. That's why we must be careful with what we say. May we use our tongue, with God's help, to build others up and give glory to God. May our prayer be that of the psalmist, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

(Psalm 19:14)

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Alex*



## Sermon Topics and Scriptures for September

### Jonah

#### September 2022 Sermon Series

Jonah is often viewed as a funny little children's story told in Sunday school. But there's more to Jonah's story than him and the whale. Join us this September as we dive into the wild adventures of the reluctant prophet.

September 4 – Jonah 1, "Running from God"  
September 11 – Jonah 2, "In the Bowels of Despair"  
September 18 – Jonah 3, "Going with Reluctance"  
September 25 – Jonah 4, "Jonah's Judgement; God's Grace"



## NORTHWEST HILLS SINGLES & FRIENDS!

Usually, we like to go to the melodrama at Mahoney State Park for our September activity. Unfortunately, the melodramas will not be performed in September this year. Our September activity will be held on

**Saturday, September 24, 2022 11:30 AM**

at a new Mexican restaurant, "Hacienda Real," located on the southeast corner of 78th and Cass (425 N. 78th Street), across the street from Discount Tires. We have the party room reserved and we are looking forward to trying something new! Calls will be made to see if you will be available to come.

Sherry Mitchell (402-619-8869 cell)/

Sharon Huber, Hostesses



**HACIENDA REAL**



## Suzy's Summer Soiree



All ladies of the church are invited to Suzy's Lakehouse, 439 Waterloo Drive Waterloo, NE for a celebration of summer: Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship & desserts. Carpooling is suggested!



## Northwest Hills Preschool



*SPROUT, BLOOM, GROW*



### Preschool Registration

We are still enrolling students for the fall. If you have neighbors, friends or relatives with children ages 3-5, Northwest Hills offers a great preschool program Monday-Friday. Cost is \$175/month for Monday through Friday classes, and \$125/month for M-W-F classes. Registration forms are available in the church office and visits can be

scheduled with the church office. **Class starts Tuesday, September 6th!**

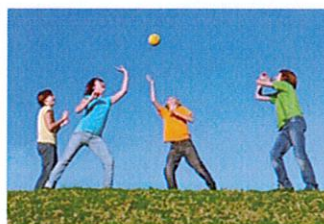


## EPIC Youth Group

### Outdoor Game Night & Fire Pit

EPIC Youth will meet on Sunday, September 18th from 6:30-8:00 PM at church for pizza and outdoor games. Bring your favorite game to share with your friends.

We'll have s'mores by the firepit!



## Revisiting Our History.....

*One of our members suggested, as space allowed, sharing bits of Northwest Hills United Church of Christ history in the Newsletter. What a great idea! We've had some new folks joining our NWH family on a regular basis, so we'll be sharing a bit of our heritage as we wind down 2022 (can you believe it?!)*

*The following are excerpts from the 2015 50th Anniversary booklet. Enjoy!*

**Our Purpose:** Our purpose is to fulfill God's ministry through the loving spirit and teachings of Christ.

Born of a marriage of churches and denominations, Northwest Hills Church is a diverse people growing in a changing world and united by a common goal of loving and sharing in the life of Jesus.

It is our goal to accomplish our mission by encouraging affirmation of faith as it relates to contemporary living. Through Christian Education for all ages, we are dedicated to promoting individual and family growth in an attitude of involvement, mutual support, and application of Christ-like values.

By Reaching out to others, at home and around the world, with love and respect, support and acceptance, we are committed to bringing some measure of relief to all forms of human suffering and ignorance. We seek to contribute responsible leadership in times of crisis, whether that crisis be individual, local, or global.

Awareness is an avenue along which our ministry also chooses travel. The exchange of timely and appropriate information and usage of the church facilities to nourish and participate in concerns, important within the community, is a significant function of Northwest Hills.

We plan to support the challenges of this mission through responsible stewardship, emphasizing free and unreserved giving of our time, talent and treasure for the work of our Lord.

To this mission, we, the people of Northwest Hills Church United Church of Christ pledge ourselves.

**Mission Statement:** In response to the invitation of God, we join others in joyfully receiving, participating in, and sharing in the love, forgiveness, and hope available to all through faith in Jesus Christ. In harmony with God's purposes as revealed in the scriptures, through the Holy Spirit and in Jesus Christ, we find fulfillment for our lives through the meaningful use of our God-given abilities and resources in our daily lives, in worship, and in service to others.

**History of Northwest Hills Church United Church of Christ, 9334 Fort Street:** Northwest Hills Church is a member of the United Church of Christ. The denomination was brought into being by a merger of the Congregational Christian with Evangelical and Reformed Church in the U.S.A. at the national level in 1957. In Nebraska 1962, a vote was taken at the Annual Conference to effect the merger.

The congregation of Northwest Hills United Church of Christ came about through the merger of four small churches. They were: First Congregational Church of Irvington and Third Congregational (Plymouth) Church of Omaha who merged forming Northwest Congregational Church UCC in 1961. Western Hills United Church of Christ merged with them in 1968 and the name was changed to Northwest Hills Church United Church of Christ. Finally, in 1995, Central Park Congregational Church became a part of the fellowship.

The membership has been added to in a variety of ways through the years: people moving into the area; others who shared like backgrounds; some came by invitation from members; and others through the ministry of the pastoral staff during times of deep need.

There are a number of reasons we have all found our way together, as a body of Christ at Northwest Hills Church. The primary purpose, of course, is to make more effective a common witness to Christ as well as to fulfill the spiritual needs of persons in the community, and to serve the Lord while advancing God's kingdom in the world.

### 50 YEARS

*God has blessed our church for 50 years  
It has stood the test of time  
How precious to remember  
All the years we've left behind*

*As we welcome each new year  
With more memories to find  
We know that God will be with us  
As he is the tie that binds*

*The people here embrace you  
And there is so much love  
This church has many blessings  
Raining down from above*

*A place we come to bow our heads  
For oh so many years  
And thank God for all he has done  
And ask for guidance for our fears*

*With God in the middle  
Friends and family all around  
This is a wonderful church home  
In which we have all found*

*Just for a smile.....*

Three brothers age 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together.

One night the 96 year old draws a bath, puts his foot in and pauses. He yells down the stairs, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know, I'll come up and see." He starts up the stairs and pauses, then he yells, "Was I going up the stairs or coming down?"

The 92 year old was sitting at the kitchen table having coffee listening to his brothers. He shakes his head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." He knocks on wood for good luck. He then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."



"If you honk at me .025 seconds after the light turns green I'm going to put my vehicle in park, change my oil, adjust my tire pressure, read a book and build a lego set." 🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪

Once there was a little boy who lived in the country. They had to use an outhouse, and the little boy hated it because it was hot in the summer, cold in the winter and stank all the time. The outhouse was sitting on the bank of a creek and the boy determined that one day he would push that outhouse into the creek.

One day after a spring rain, the creek was swollen so the little boy decided today was the day to push the outhouse into the creek. So he got a large stick and started pushing. Finally, the outhouse toppled into the creek and floated away.



That night his dad told him they were going to the woodshed after supper. Knowing that meant a spanking, the little boy asked why. The dad replied, "Someone pushed the outhouse into the creek today. It was you, wasn't it, son?" The boy answered yes.

Then he thought a moment and said, "Dad, I read in school today that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree and didn't get into trouble because he told the truth."

The dad replied, "Well, son, George Washington's father wasn't in that cherry tree."



**We** all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. So I'm not fat, I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me!

**That's my story and I'm sticking to it!**

Jesus, Moses, and an old bearded guy were playing golf. On the first tee, Moses shanked his ball into a lake. He parted the water and hit his ball onto the green. Jesus teed off, hitting his ball into another water hazard. But he walked on water and stroked his ball just short of the cup. Then the old man with the beard stepped up for his tee shot. He hit the ball with tremendous force, but hooked it badly. The ball bounced off the clubhouse roof, hit the cart path, and rolled down a hill into a pond, coming to rest on a lily pad. A frog hopped over and picked up the ball, then an eagle swooped down, snatched the frog, and flew over the green. The frog dropped the ball, and it rolled into the cup for a hole in one. Moses turned to Jesus and said, "I hate playing golf with your dad."



**I WANT TO GO TO CHURCH.**

**Not for traditions.**

**Not for show.**

**Not for entertainment.**

**BUT TO WORSHIP MY GOD.**

**@Love, the Only Thing**

**Expecting Him to speak to me.**

**Gathering with others who love**

**Him, as we are called to do.**

**Spending time in prayer.**

**Praising Him through music, as they did long ago.**

**Confessing my sins and struggles.**

**Laying down my burdens, knowing that He will willingly take them.**

**Thanking Him for the most precious gifts in my life.**

**Begging Him to soften the hearts of those who haven't accepted Him.**

**Feeling His never-ending perfect love wash over me.**

**I WANT TO GO TO CHURCH.**

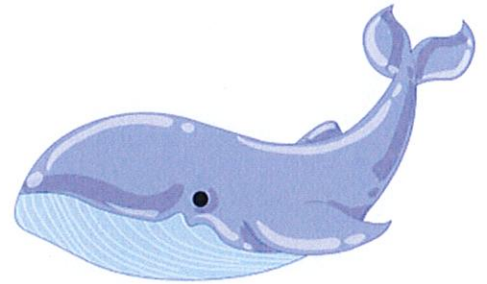
# September 2022



## PK-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Regular Sunday School will start up again on September 11th and. Sunday School will meet in Room 19A. The format will continue to be a Bible story, craft, and snack.

September 4:	No Sunday School
September 11:	Jonah who?
September 18:	Jonah's Directions
September 25:	Jonah's Consequences



## EPIC Youth EPIC Re-charge

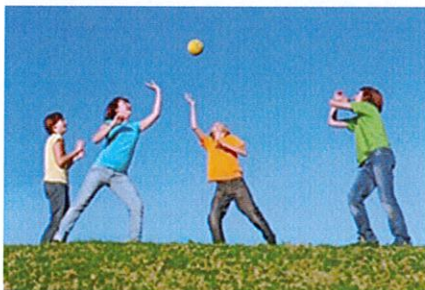
September 4:	Join your families for Communion
September 11:	Right or wrong?
September 18:	Following Directions
September 25:	Consequences

EPIC Youth Group

## Outdoor Game Night & Fire Pit

EPIC Youth will meet on Sunday, September 18th from 6:30-8:00 PM at church for pizza and outdoor games. Bring your favorite game to share with your friends.

We'll have s'mores by the firepit!



# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12 Women's Assoc.—FH 7-9 Old Dominion Dancers-FH	2 9 AM Men's Breakfast—C	3
4 9:30 Worship/Communion (no Sunday School) 1-4 Chin Church-S	5 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 6:45 PM AA Mtg. - FH	6 PRESCHOOL STARTS 11 AM Ruth Circle 7 PM Scouts -	7 10 AM Bible Study—128 1-3 Crafts-128 6:30 PM Choir Starts Up again	8 7 PM Church Council Mtg. -128 7-9 Old Dominion Dancers-FH	9	10
11 9:30 Worship/SS 10:30 Team Spirit Sunday!-C 11:00 Worship 1-4 Chin Church-S TEAM SPIRIT SUNDAY! NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12 6:45 PM AA Mtg. - FH	13 1-3 Crafters-128 7 PM Bell Practice starts up again 7 PM Scouts—FH	14 10 AM Bible Study—128 12-3 Kensington-C 1-3 Crafts-128 6:30 PM Choir	15 10-2 Card Party/ Salad Lunch-FH 7-9 Old Dominion Dancers-FH	16 1 PM Suzy's Soirée @ the Lake House	17
18 9:30 Worship/SS 11:00 Worship 1-4 Chin Church-S 6:30-8 Youth Outdoor Game Night & Fire Pit	19 6:45 PM AA Mtg. - FH	20 1:15 PM Hannah Circle—FH 7 PM Bells 7 PM Scouts-FH	21 10 AM Bible Study—128 1-3 Crafts-128 6:30 PM Choir	22 6:30 PM Sarah Circle—128 7-9 Old Dominion Dancers-FH	23	24 11:30 Singles & Friends at Hacienda Real, 78th & Cass 12-4 Old Dominion Dancers—FH
25 9:30 Worship/SS 11:00 Worship 1-4 Chin Church-S	26 6:45 PM AA Mtg. - FH	27 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Bells 7 PM Scouts-FH	28 10 AM Bible Study—128 1-3 Crafts-128 6:30 PM Choir	29	30	S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH  
9334 FORT STREET  
OMAHA NE 68134**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1	Cierra Ervin	10	Maliha Standley	20	Piper Marxsen
1	Ralph Hawkins	10	Gwen Volmer	21	Marti Elias
1	Carrie Novak	11	Samantha Peck	23	Gene Barnhill
1	Jerry Peck	13	David Taylor	23	Jessi Buckley
3	George Bilger	15	Paula Markuson	24	Gerry Conry
6	Alexis Beberniss	17	Ashley Truckenbrod	24	Bruce Cratty
6	Kimberley Wheels	18	Brad Beal	25	Chad Meador
7	Barbi Beberniss	18	Jacoby Granados	26	Ruth Negus
7	Bill Parsons	18	Zoe Granados	27	Cheyenne Myers
7	Marlene Roberts	19	Wesley Bertch	29	Collin Henkel
8	Lauren Carrick	19	Jo Morton		

## **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

1	Nate & Rita Merriam	9	Mike & Jessi Buckley	22	Ron & Nikki Heim
2	Dennis & Nancy Ressel	9	Ernest & Judy Summers	25	Tim & Melissa Brusnahan
4	Matthew & Cindy Key	10	Mike & Jean McKimmey	28	Richard & Linda Stricker
4	Kevin & Juli Meador	10	Kevin & Heather Antoniak	30	Andy & Carrie Novak
6	John & Connie Anderson	10	Doug & Carla Dudley		
8	Jerry & Barb May	20	Gary & Annie Kuti		