

Celebrating
220 Years
In 2011

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

March 2011

Edited By George Hoag

Greetings and Blessings from Pastor Sanchez

It sure seems like the year is running along quickly. And so we approach another beautiful season for the church. Welcome to the 40 day spiritual journey called Lent. Every year the question arises from someone, "What is Lent?" Lent began as a time of preparation for new members and those seeking to return to the church after being away. At first it was just the time from Good Friday until Easter Sunday Morning. It later grew to be the 40 days before Easter beginning with Ash Wednesday. Most importantly it should be seen as a time of reconciliation to God and the Church.

When we are reconciled in a relationship, we put aside the things that have kept us apart. It may be something hurtful, or an attitude we have carried. It may be a misunderstanding or an unforgiven debt. Normally an act of apology and forgiveness must occur before we are brought back into a positive relationship. Often reconciliation requires that one or both parties give up some sort of attitude or opinion about the other.

Several Lenten traditions may help us in our own acts of reconciliation.

Continued on Page 4

Worship In March

March 6—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Changed*; Matthew 17:1-9, Exodus 24:12-18

March 9 (Ash Wednesday)—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Doing Lent*; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, Joel 2:12-18

March 13—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Suffering (Temptation)*; Matthew 4:1-11, Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

March 20—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Endurance*; John 3:1-17, Genesis 12:1-4

March 27—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *(A Holy) Character*; Romans 5:1-11, Exodus 17:1-7

In Concert

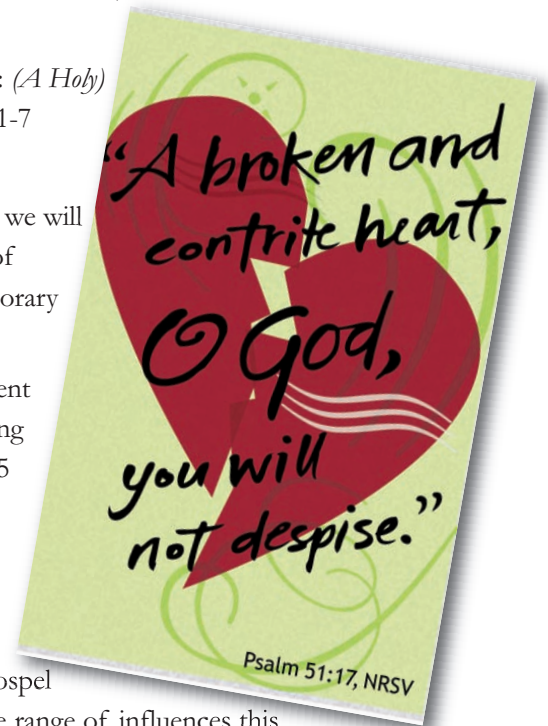
Under the direction of June Barile we will present in March the first in a series of sanctuary concerts featuring contemporary Christian artists.

On March 26 at 7:00 p.m. we present the Patchogue based group Rev 7 along with a special guest. There will be a \$5 donation at the door.

Remarkably gifted, Allen and Leah Cuffey are unquestionably two of the brightest new artists on the Christian Contemporary and Contemporary Gospel music scene today. Drawing on a wide range of influences this husband and wife duo showcase their remarkable collective talents as songwriters, producers and vocalists.



Their music is emotionally charged and more importantly spiritually provoking. Each song is a testimony of praise and worship which instantly connects the listener with their life experiences, their faith and their ministry. Those who truly listen will be led to a place of intimacy in worship with God's love.



Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

For the Family of Friends of Christine Quinn, Carrol Georke, Ralph Jackson, Elizabeth Kelly, Brian Weeks, Lana Smith, Taylor Drenzyk's Grandfather, and George (Martha Campanile's brother.)

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Christy Wood, Lois Wood, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Bob Pignataro, Holly Nelson, Elizabeth Biederman's cousin, Jody, that Jody has a healthy delivery and Dylan has no kidney complications at birth, Don De LaVergne (Linda Werner's nephew), Kevin O'Donnell for comfort and healing over the loss of a loved one, Lisa Prince, the family of Alex Pearson, he is in a nursing home, he is the father-in-law of Lenny Pearson, Joan, the Neuman family, Nancy Rogers for comfort and healing, Barry Burrell's sister, Wildredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice) and Monica, Patrick Keena, Joel Furman, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen and Walt Stawecki's mother, Theresa Rubano, Sofia and her family, Marge Miller. Megan Prince, Dayne Davis, John Casale, Courtney Sweeney (Pat Carlson's daughter), Our Troops and Veterans, Dean and family, Jean Eid, Rachel Nason, Crysalis Flights in 2011, girls, boys, team and caterpillars. All those who have lost their jobs, and Eileen Paduano.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, John Vanderzalm, Sharon Kaminski, Layden John Clark, Candice Sweeney, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Pastor John from Bellport UMC, Peter Moor (Kathie Lori's father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, John Layton, Phil Ianello.

These at Home:

Betty Hansley, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Mike Welsh, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, John Casale, Mr. O'Keefe, Don Miller, Lorraine Greco, Dottie Lynaugh. Paul Rice, Sharon Kaminski, Becky Kolacki, Emily Navidad and former Patchogue Village Justice, Donald Howie.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue.

Kitty Brunnemer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934.

Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg., Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205.

Nancy Rogers in I.C.F. , S. #1, wing C, 283 Route 25A, Shoreham, NY 11786

Connie Halliwell, Bethany 202 , Our Lady of Consolation 111 Beach Drive, West Islip, NY 11795.

Rachel Nason in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Stewardship

Even in the depths of one of the coldest and unusually high snow falls, we still serve our community. The harsh weather has not diminished the needs in Patchogue. AA, NA, ESL, Recovery and Wesley Dinners serve Patchogue and our church is there for them.

This winter is like the ones in the good old days. The news services listed the local snowfall, thus far, at almost sixty inches. One large snow storm alone cost our church over \$1000. With so many other storms this year the total cost so far is over \$3000. We gratefully thank those who have donated towards snow removal. The donation basket is on the usher's table at the north entrance to the sanctuary. Please continue to help us deal with this unexpected expense.

We would like to thank Lenny Pearson and her son Robert, for continuing to dig out the sidewalk going to the handicap ramp. If you can help in clearing snow, please call the office (475-0381) or Dave Hollowell (475-5339) and we will work with you to make our outside stairs and sidewalks safe.

Lift up your church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

The Saint Valentines Dinner-Dance was a great success. Steve Rice proposed the fund raiser two years ago and it has become the premier winter event. All proceeds go to the Trustees to be used for church repairs and maintenance Steve with the help of his mom, Betty Rice, Eleanor Prince, and Denise Whalen, made this event memorable. We would like to thank Mike Amodio, Mr. Entertainment, for the great tunes and his own trumpet playing and singing. Thank you Steve and all those who worked on the event.

Steve Rice is our coordinator of ushers. He obtains ushers for each Sunday for more than a year. If you like meeting new parishioners and greeting old friends, please call Steve at 445-7977 or Chris in the office at 475-0381 and tell them when you would like to usher. You will be glad you did.

The Healing Service is held on every third Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m., weather permitting, in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Selma Graham leads the service with prayers for family or friends. Pastor Sanchez assists and with Ken Miller, provides inspirational music. Hands on healing (if requested) make these services "powerful," in Pastor's words. Come join us and help to heal friends, family, or yourself. See you there!!

Bonnie Abbott continues searching for grants to support our church. With Federal and State cutbacks in funding programs, it is tough work. She hopes to find local foundations that can help with the installation of a new boiler. This would make our church greener and a lot more energy efficient.

The Shawl Ministry provided three new shawls blessed at our Feb. 6 service.

Kathy Loris made a shawl for each of her parents. The other was for Lorraine Greco, who is battling cancer. A prayer is said for the intended person with each stitch. I have sat behind Denise Whalen as she listened to the service and crocheted. If you know of a church, family member, or friend in need of a shawl, please call Denise (evenings) at 730-3647.

Ed Klingel, President of Trustees, requests that members of the congregation continue to donate money to the Trustees through the HOPE Campaign envelopes. Other than the Valentines Dance or a grant, the Restoring Hope envelopes are the only income of the Trustees who are responsible for the upkeep of our buildings. With past budget-and-giving shortfalls, the Trustees had to band-aid existing problems. For example, we were able to do a third of the parsonage roof two years ago. The other two thirds continued to disintegrate. We now have to re-roof that portion ASAP. Please continue to donate through the Hope Campaign envelopes and keep our beloved Pastor and family safe and dry.

Spring is coming and it shows in the many events coming up. The MYF, under the leadership of Carla Gibson, would like you to come to their Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner on March 18 at 7 PM. A donation of \$5 per person or \$12 per family will provide spaghetti with homemade sauce, meatballs and garlic bread. No RSVP is needed. Come support our MYF in raising money for their mission project. This dinner kicks off their 30 Hour Famine and sleep over at the church through Saturday night. Our MYF will be asking members to sponsor them by

the hour to raise money to lessen world hunger. Let us break bread together and support our youth in this worthwhile endeavor.

The MYF will have a retreat at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island, on April 1, 2 & 3. Carla would like all those planning to attend, to contact her as soon as possible. Her telephone number is 750-3557.

With spring comes Easter and our most sacred days in our faith. Bob Prince and his volunteers will prepare a great breakfast for us on Palm Sunday, April 17.

Please plan on joining us on that date. Following Palm Sunday will be the Easter Plant Sale on Good Friday, April 22nd and Saturday the 23rd. All are welcome to help to make this fund raiser a success. The money raised by these fund raisers goes to the United Methodist Men's Club. They provide scholarships, host the June picnic and give remaining money to the church. Come join us as a volunteer or buy flowers for loved ones.

Your fidelity in supporting our church is an inspiration. With "hard times" during the economy, members of the Finance Committee worry about paying the mounting bills. But, with the Grace of God, we were able to end the 2010 without the need to tap our endowment. This is all due to you! All the pledges were brought up to date. One angel really helped us out with a generous contribution in November. Praise be to God. May God bless you and keep you.

—David Hollowell

The deadline for the April issue of **TheLINK** is Mar. 11. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Greetings and Blessings (From Page 1)

First of all let's consider the ashes on Ash Wednesday. The ashes are a sign of grief, a sign of repentance (change of attitude), and a sign that we are mortal. "From dust you were formed and to dust you will return." In the bigger scene of things, a reminder of who we are, we die and decay back into the earth from which Adam and Eve were formed. The ashes bring us back into touch with this. From a more practical and obvious view, we all have dirt marks on us. Not one of us can proclaim to be perfectly clean.

The second tradition is one our Catholic friends talk about a lot. You might have heard of: "Giving up something for Lent." Usually it is something like chocolate or meat or cigarettes. The sacrifice often makes no tangible difference to the world. Here's the thing; if you are going to give up something, and if we are in a season of reconciliation, then it seems we should really give up something that separates us from God and from other human beings.

This is not an easy decision. First we need to confess that we are alienated and need reconciliation. Second we need to confess things that get in the way of having a healthy relationship. Finally we need to act on it; humbly acting to overcome our divisions and seeking reconciliation. All of these need God's power to accomplish. They require time of prayer, courage, and self examination. Don't rashly pick something to give up this year. Spend the season reflecting on these questions. Then with God's help, act and seek reconciliation.

Patchogue UMC family and friends, as we journey toward full reconciliation with one another and then with God, may God bless you and may you be able to "Give it up to God."

Audio/Visual Ministry

When this congregation was founded 220 years ago, the gospel was spread by itinerant ministers. Times have changed. Now, much of our input comes electronically. We're trying to keep up.

For several months, our Sunday services have been recorded on computer with the sermons posted weekly to the internet. These can be accessed, anywhere in the world, with a click on our website. People in far off places are doing that.

Now we plan to expand to video. The audio and video of each service will soon be streamed live on the internet. In addition, Pastor Sanchez is also posting to our website periodic video devotional messages

This expansion is putting pressure on our one person A/V department (me) so if you, or someone you know, is interested in audio/video production, please tell us.

—George Hoag

The Bay Area Chorus of BAFFA under the direction of Martha Campanile, Choral Director, will present its concert "The Art of the Spiritual" at the United Methodist Church of Patchogue at 4:00 p.m. on March 27. Admission is free, but donations are greatly received.

What's Cool In Sunday School

I'm starting to put together a program for Vacation Bible School (VBS). I can't do it by myself so I am asking for help. If anyone is interested in volunteering in any way, please let me know. I am going to need teachers, assistant teachers, or if you would love to help out behind the scenes and help me get this idea off the ground, please call me at (631) 730-8520. Like the pageant, I've never done this before, so we'll all learn as we go along. Thank you for your continued support of our Sunday School.

I hope everyone got to look at our new Sunday School bulletin board. I will be updating it so if you want to take any of your children's photographs from it, feel free to do so.

—Elizabeth Biederman, Supt.

The Sunday School is starting a group for youth who are in 6th-9th grade. The leaders of the group will be Raquel Miller, Debbie Watson, and Lori Purificato. The focus of the youth group will be to bring the middle school youth of the church together for fun, fellowship, and missions. We will have monthly meetings and special activities. We will also get together with the 9th-12th grade youth group for special activities. Our first activity was an ice skating trip to the Rinx on February 13th. If you are interested in making new friends or hanging out with old ones, please join us for fun, fellowship, and missions. For more information please contact Raquel Miller at (631) 747-0652. Let's have fun together as we grow in faith and friendship

—Raquel Miller, Middle School Youth Group Leader

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>2</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study	<i>3</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>4</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School <i>Counters: Linda Werner and Dave Hollowell</i>	<i>7</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>8</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>11</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee <i>Counters: Lenny Pear- son and TBD</i>	<i>14</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>15</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>16</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study	<i>17</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>18</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery 7:00 p.m.— Spaghetti Dinner MYF 30 Hour Fam- ine through Saturday	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School <i>Counters: Carolyn Willis Falvey and Kate Weber</i>	<i>21</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>22</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>23</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study	<i>24</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>25</i> 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	<i>26</i> 7:00 p.m.—Rev 7 Contemporary Chris- tian Concert in Sanc- tuary
<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Church Council 4:00 p.m.—BAFFA Concert 7:00 p.m.—Healing Service <i>Counters: Brenda Klingel and Joanne Shadbolt</i>	<i>28</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>29</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>30</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study	<i>31</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal		

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Campbell.

"I have a math test tomorrow, Sir, and I'd be grateful if you could bring supernatural forces to bear."

Save The Date

Golf Classic 2011
May 25
Calverton Links
1:00 PM Shotgun Start

Includes Lunch, Beverage Cart,
Cocktail Hour,
Choice of Steak or Lobster Dinner

UMW

March is Women's History Month and the UMW will observe it with a program entitled: Women's History Month -UMW Style, on March 19th, at 9:30am. Refreshments will be served.

All are welcome.

At the end of 2010, two women of our church were honored by the UMW and presented with special pins in recognition of their faithful efforts on behalf of United Methodist Women. Lorraine Brenner and Betty Rice are the ladies who prepare, set up, and serve at coffee hour every Sunday. Lorraine is also the treasurer of our local unit. Both have busy lives with family and work, yet both give generously of their time and hard work to UMW and to the church community. They really are faithful servants of Jesus, giving of themselves freely, helping to build up the body of Christ. Thank you ladies!

—**Barbara Becker**

We Act in Society

Taking an active stance in society is nothing new for followers of John Wesley. He set the example for us to combine personal and social piety. Ever since predecessor churches to United Methodism flourished in the United States, we have been known as a denomination involved with people's lives, with political and social struggles, having local to international mission implications. Such involvement is an expression of the personal change we experience in our baptism and conversion.

The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking

justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other "mind-makers-up" that exist in our society.

Excerpt from The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2008. Copyright © 2008 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

To help guide our thinking and acting about how we live in and are engaged in ministry in the world, The United Methodist Church has created statements to guide the church in its efforts to create a world of justice.

"Our Social Creed" is a basic statement of our convictions about the fundamental relationships between God, God's creation and humanity. This basic statement is expanded in a more lengthy statement called the "Social Principles." This statement explains more fully how United Methodists are called to live in the world. Part of our Book of Discipline, the "Social Principles" serve as a guide to official church action and our individual witness.

Preface

The Social Principles are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions.

—**United Methodist News Service**

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Recently, someone told me how beautiful our church was, talking, I knew about the church building. And, of course, it is beautiful, with the exquisite Tiffany windows, the amazing extant pipe organ, the carved pews and soaring arches. I always admire the artistry and craftsmanship that reflect the commitments of that long ago congregation to build an inspiring place in which to worship God. And I am aware of the constant struggle to maintain and preserve it.

But I also know that while the building houses the church, it is not the church. The church is a living, breathing community of human beings, that could conceivably worship in a shack or an open field. (Granted, that doesn't sound too appealing, especially this winter.) Nor is the church a closed circle, facing inward. The church community should be a fluid entity, that faces outward, with welcoming arms, always making room for others. The church community should be one that recognizes the inherent value of every human being, as well as all created life, and sees no difference between those that are 'members' and those that are not. There should be no gap between 'us' and 'them'; in fact, there should only be 'we'. A beautiful church is one that reflects the abundant and generous love of God in all we do, in our every action, our every behavior. One of my favorite quotes is from St. Francis of Assisi, who said, "Preach the Gospel at all times; if necessary, use words."

—**Barbara Becker**

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-363-2163

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Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
Supervised Nursery during worship.

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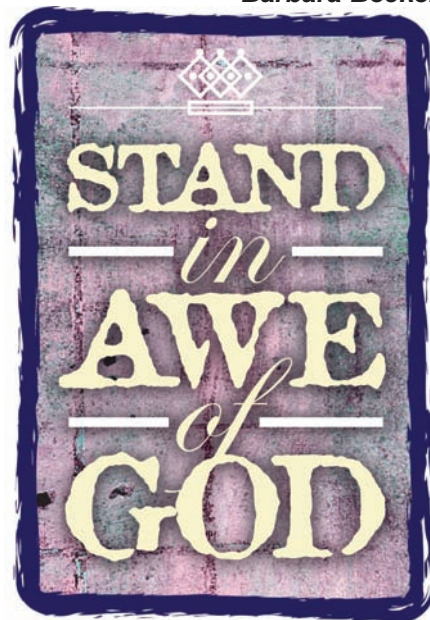


Wesley Dinners

Following a visit by Cinthia Del Rosario of Island Harvest, our Wesley Dinners program has been approved to participate in their food distribution program. This means we will be able to receive substantial amounts of non-perishable foods, as well as occasional fresh foods, to utilize in serving our guests at the monthly dinners, allowing us to stretch our budget further. At specific times of the year, Island Harvest also has special distributions, such as for Thanksgiving. One of the closets at the back of the stage, formerly used by UMW, was cleaned and now serves as additional storage. We also completed an inventory of all supplies in stock. Perhaps in the not too distant future, we can increase our monthly dinner to a bi-weekly one. !!!?

As always, thanks to all the wonderful people who help in so many ways to support and carry out this ministry of our church.

—Barbara Becker



Ecclesiastes 5:7b, NIV



- | | | |
|------|-----|--------------------|
| | 3/1 | Erin Bohenek |
| | 3/5 | Brett Dorfman |
| | | Jessica Forsys |
| | | Matthew Lazzarino |
| 3/6 | | Matthew Lambruschi |
| | | John Rogers |
| 3/7 | | Courtney Shadbolt |
| 3/9 | | Kyle Jacobsen |
| 3/10 | | Thomas Wassmer |
| 3/11 | | Heather Malito |
| | | Leanna Stone |
| 3/12 | | Isabel Chae |
| 3/14 | | Jack Ryan |
| 3/19 | | Marguerite Abate |
| | | Joseph Brewer |
| 3/23 | | Jacob Zelenka |
| 3/27 | | Matthew Zotos |
| | | Michael Check Jr. |
| 3/28 | | Nicholas Okun |