# Celebrating 220 Years Ju 2011 The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

#### May 2011



This month I want to give my precious daughter this space so that she might share her testimony, as an example to all of persistence and determination. Jelixa has been accepted at Oneonta College and

#### will soon be leaving us. Here's Jelixa's Essay: Reaching Your Goals: Challenges

My life has always been full of surprises. As a little girl I never thought I would end up as a pastor's daughter. When I was around nine years old my father became a pastor, little did I know that the adventure had just started. When my father started as a pastor we were living in Puerto Rico, where I was born. My family was a part of my father's first church for about five years. In 2006 we found out that my father had been asked to be a pastor at a church in Franklin Square, New York. I had mixed emotions at the time. I was excited about living in New York, excited about seeing snow for the first time in my life, and I was excited about living in a place that I always dreamed of visiting.

Although I was excited I was also very scared, I asked myself many questions such as: What about my family, my grandparents, my aunts and uncles, my cousins, my friends? Can I just leave them all behind? Will I fit in? What if all of a sudden I couldn't remember how to speak English? Will I make any friends? Next thing I knew there was no time for worrying because I was on a plane on my way to JFK airport and there was no turning back.

Once I started school in New York I realized how much I loved it, I was glad that I made friends very fast and I was having no problems understanding my new teachers, which was one of my biggest fears. I loved my father's new church, everyone made us feel like we were part of their family, and they made us feel welcomed. Little did I know that I wasn't going to be living in this new place for much longer. In 2009 my father got a call that informed him that in two weeks we were being moved to a different church. My entire family was devastated as this came as a surprise. No one wanted to move, I wanted to finish high school there with all my friends, my brother loved his school and didn't want to leave, my mother a couple of days earlier had been informed that she had gotten her dream job ten minutes away from the house, she was devastated, and my father loved his church as well as the rest of us.

#### Edited By George Hoag

It was harder than ever to say goodbye to all my friends. We moved to Central Islip, New York then. New house, new friends, new school, this is when I realized and finally accepted that this was part of my life; this is the way we live. A year later we were placed at a different church in Patchogue, New York; this is where I live currently. I love my new place and I am glad that I will spend my senior year in a great school, surrounded by great friends, and attending a new loving church.

Even though being a Pastor's daughter comes with some sacrifices, I am glad that I can be part of the experience. Due to the fact that I am a Pastor's daughter I have gotten the opportunity to see different places, meet different people, have new experiences that have made me who I am today, and made some long lasting friendships with very important people in my life. Being a pastor's daughter has put some challenges in my way that have only taught me life lessons, and have helped me become a stronger more focused person. I've been through many challenges I have always looked at the bigger picture and nothing has prevented me from overcoming any problems to reach my goals in life.

—Jelixa Sanchez

Relating People to Jesus Christ and God's Word

# circle of Concern

#### For Bereavement:

For the Family and Friends of Constance Halliwell. For the Family and Friends of Robert Pignataro. For the Family and Friends of Robert L. Bransford, Sr. For the Family and Friends of Salvatore Lentini. For the Family and Friends of Roy Anderson. For the Family and Friends of Vincent Vilar. For the thousands of individuals who lost their lives in Japan.

#### For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Christy Wood, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Holly Nelson, 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, Wildredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice), Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen,

Walt Stawecki's mother, Theresa Rubano, Sofia and her family, Megan Prince, Dayne Davis , John Casale, Courtney Sweeney (Pat Carlson's daughter), Our Troops and Veterans, Dean and family, Jean Eid, Rachel Nason, all those who have lost their jobs, Eileen Paduano, Carlos Alvarado, for the Nations of Africa, Tim and Paul, Christine, Mr. Bralla, Pete and Carol Moore, prayers of comfort for police and fireman and all those who risk their lives to make ours safe and better, Glenn Hollins., Raquel Miller, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, George Werner, Irene Catalino, for all the people of Japan, Libya and other middle Eastern Countries. Amanda Lee Domale's brothers: one is in Afganistan and the other is leaving for Iraq, Bonnie Abbott's upcoming operation, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna.

#### These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, 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 Loris' father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Carol Georke, Emily, Sue Buck, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D , Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Mr. Tallon, Angelo, Eddie Leddin (Bob and Elenor 's nephew), Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Jim Pew, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Grace Richardson (Dianne Adone's mother), Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother), David Vincent, Pat.

#### 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, Lorraine Greco, Paul Rice, Sharon Kaminski, Emily Navidad, former Patchogue Village Justice Donald Howi , John Layton, Grace Richardson, the Moultre Family, William Loris Sr., Dave Hollowell, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Lenny Pearson, Marilyn Franco, Richard Sangiovanni, Muriel Vilar, Janet Higby., Gary Olsen (Gail and George Hoag's friend.)

\* Please contact the Church Office if someone should be removed or added.

# These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

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

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.

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

Pray for our church and her future directions!

If you haven't been getting e-mail messages from us, it means we don't have your address. Please send your email info to patchogueumc@yahoo.com or call the church office.

The deadline for the June issue of *TheLINK* is May 13 Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

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

### **Stewardship**

Now that we have celebrated Easter and Christ's resurrection, let us continue on with doing the Lord's work. Many good things are happening at church. We are receiving grants that are helping our financial situation and to feed the hungry.

At Bible Study on Mar. 23, while a sleet and lightening storm raged, a woman entered Wesley Hall. She asked if we knew of somewhere that her friend could take shelter for the night. Since we can not house people overnight at the church, our group did not have an answer to her plea. The best we could think of was for them to go to the 5th Precinct for help. After she left, we realized that information for helping people in need of shelter should be posted at the church. A bulletin board with that information is now placed next to the outside door near the office. It is not recommended that you transport anyone you do not know in your car. If the shelters listed cannot help or pick up the person, you can call the 5th Precinct and they will send a car, by priority, to transport the person to a shelter.

People occasionally come to the office asking for emergency food when the Food Pantry is not open. At the next Bible Study, Debbie and Don Kolacki discussed this situation and suggested assembling emergency food bags. Chris, our Administrative Assistant, had talked to Debbie about this, and had already contacted a small Girl Scout Troop and later a Boy Scout Troop. With the need for food bags addressed, the need for hygiene products was answered by the State Department of Social Services. They will be sending us hygiene packets that we can pass out with the emergency food bags. If in the near future you are in church and someone comes to the door asking for food or shelter, please go into the tall wood cabinet (opposite the office door) and give them emergency supplies.Thank you.

We have a vibrant and dedicated MYF in our church. In March they hosted a Meatball & Spaghetti Dinner and thirty-hour famine, raising \$850 for Haitian Relief. This mission project was planned before the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. April found them at a District wide MYF Retreat at Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island. We had eighteen of our youth plus a number of parents join in that great event. Carla Gibson would like to thank all who helped to make this a success. Our youth would like to thank those members of the congregation who provided funds to help make this weekend possible for all of them to go.

The MYF enjoy the fun events scheduled for each month. In May they will have an indoor laser tag event, the date to be announced. They also work hard to support our church and its programs. Each month several youth volunteer to help at the Wesley Dinners. They worked at the Palm Sunday Breakfast and the Easter plant sale They will be involved in the Dinner Theater on May 14. Many of us older members appreciate their energy, enthusiasm and help at the many events each year. The MYF had to postpone the trip to Six Flags, Great Adventure in June due to the conflicts with so many other events.

There are a large number of hard working individuals who define our church. Janice LeBlanc prepares the LINK each month for mailing. Janice, together with June Barile and Valerie Ward helped our church with its first major Chinese Auction and all those since. Their passion is Cat Placement & Rescue. They would like to thank all who have donated food, bedding or money for our furry friends. At any one time they are taking care of some seventy cats.

The Chinese Auction this Fall will be held in Wesley Hall. By using our own facility we hope to maximize the income from this fund raiser. June would like everyone to begin thinking of items that can be used in this next event. If you have items that you cannot store until the fall, please bring them to church and we will find a place for them. If you need them picked up, please call the office 475-0381 or Dave Hollowell, 475-5339, and we will make arrangements to pick them up. Thanks.

June organized our first Christian Music Concert on March 26, 2011. It was a great night with seven talented musicians and singers that had us singing and dancing in the aisles. The group Rev 7, Hill & Ward and the sensational Patrizia Delorenzo made it truly a night to remember. The concert was recorded and telecast live on the internet (U Stream). This concert was the first in a series that June will bring to our church.

Our internet angel is Bonnie Abbott. She has been busy contacting any group or individual who might help our church and its many programs. There are several grants pending from large Corporations. We did receive a \$10,000 grant from the Knapp/Swezey Foundation partly

Continued on Page 7

#### **The Quiet Ministries**

As you know, I have the privilege of serving as your Financial Secretary. It is a job that requires a certain amount of diligence, a modicum of training in the fine art of accounting, but most importantly, a sense of humor. It also requires me to stand up in church periodically to ask for money, which is way out of my comfort zone. I guess that's where the humor comes in.

It is a commitment—or a ministry, if you will—that I do to the best of my ability, because it's a part of the life and needs of our church. The other side of the coin is that, while I am pretty good with numbers, I am often sorely lacking in people skills, compassion, and humility, and to learn these traits I have to rely on all of you. This learning often comes in the darndest fashion, and I'd like to share one of these "quiet ministries" that has made a true and wonderful difference in my life.

Last summer I went in for what I thought would be a pretty straightforward medical procedure-the biopsy of some lymph nodes around my heart that were inflamed. Unbeknownst to me or anyone else, I also had (and have) a significant heart issue, which manifested itself as heart failure right there on the operating room table. For the next three months, it was just a whirlwind of fun and discovery for me.

However, God blessed me with miracles during that time. I was given the twin gifts of forgiving myself and letting go of resentments towards others – if you've never struggled with either of them, you can't begin to know the freedom of having them removed. And, after over 50 years, for the first time I truly allowed Jesus into my heart, with all the joys and peace that have resulted. Not all the time, and nowhere near perfectly, but enough to make a difference.

But as you all know, God does most of his work through other people. In this case, it was the Prayer Shawl ministry of Kathie Loris and Denise Whalen. I will never forget seeing the two shawls up on the alter (light blue and rust-colored), and thinking to myself "I love the rust-colored shawl – I wonder who gets that one?" When Denise presented it to me, I was blown away, overcome with emotion, almost in tears, and feeling very, very humble. And in that very simple yet elegant gift, I once again felt the touch and grace of God.

#### "God blessed me with miracles"

That shawl is on my bed at home. Maybe, a la "Mr. Mom", it's my "wubbie". Sometimes, when it's cold, I lay it across my chest. Other times I just touch it, smile, and think of all of you. And last night, when I was having a big problem with the seemingly simple act of just drawing a breath, I clutched it to my chest and prayed, and that's how I went to sleep. It is a simple, unselfish, beautiful gift, and it has made a very real and powerful difference in my life.

I've never had a church that I really thought of as my own. While I may disagree and squabble with some of you from time to time, it doesn't affect the underlying love and appreciation I have for all of you. I guess I'm simply trying to thank you all for doing the many little things that, with God's touch, become big things–and when you get right down to it, isn't that what a ministry really is?

#### **Wesley Dinners**

Our first food distribution from Island Harvest was quite interesting. Not knowing what to expect, five of us, in three vehicles, showed up on that Thursday morning at the Bellport Outlet. We were at least a half hour early, but the day was mild and sunny, and the company was good. When the truck arrived, we signed in, took our turn with the other churches and organizations who were there, and were pleasantly surprised to receive twelve boxes of fresh chicken cutlets! Believe me, that's a lot of chicken! That enabled our chef, Steve Shadbolt, to provide a wonderful meal of chicken piccata the following week, Mar. 24, and, since the freezers are still stocked with the thin sliced cutlets, we can anticipate some more delicious chicken dinners.

At the last meeting of the Steering Committee, we decided to project expanding our monthly dinners to twice monthly, beginning in September of this year. Therefore, Wesley Dinners would take place on the 2nd and 4th Thurdays of each month. Before we get there, however, certain things need to be in place. We need to have an alternate chef and sous chef. Steve and Lenny are awesome, but we don't want to burn them out. We need to be sure there are sufficient volunteers to fill the other work duties, and, last but not least, we have to be sure we have enough financial and food resources to cover both dinners.

#### Update on Loaves and Fishes

Thanks to the initiative of church member Bonnie Abbott, we are hoping to receive a grant of \$2,000 from county legislator Jack Eddington's office. This will help us achieve that goal of twice monthly dinners.

#### —Barbara Becker

—Tom Bracken

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School Counters: Linda Werner and Dave Hollowell	2 7 р.т.—АА	3 10 a.mNoon- Food Pantry 6:30 p.mESL 7:00 p.mAA 7:30 p.m Recovery	4	5 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	7
8 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School Counters: Lenny Pear- son and Carol Kirshner	9 7 p.m.—AA	<b>10</b> a.mNoon- Food Pantry <b>6:30</b> p.mESL <b>7:00</b> p.mAA <b>7:30</b> p.m Recovery	11	12	13 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	14 5:00 p.m.—Dinner Theatre
<b>15</b> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee <i>Counters: Carolyn</i> <i>Willis Falvey and Kate</i> <i>Weber</i>	16 7 p.m.—AA	<b>17</b> <b>10 a.m.–Noon</b> — Food Pantry <b>6:30 p.m.</b> —ESL <b>7:00 p.m.</b> —AA <b>7:30 p.m.</b> — Recovery	18	19 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	20 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	21 9:30 a.m.—UMW
22 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School Counters: Brenda Klingel and Joanne Shadbolt	23 7 p.m.—AA	24 10 a.mNoon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	25 11:30 a.m.—Golf Outing, Calverton Links	26 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00 p.m.—NA 7:00 p.m.— Recovery	28
29 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School Counters: Ed Klingel and TBD	<u>30</u> 7 р.т.—АА	<b>31</b> <b>10 a.mNoon</b> - Food Pantry <b>6:30 p.m.</b> -ESL <b>7:00 p.m.</b> -AA <b>7:30 p.m.</b> - Recovery				

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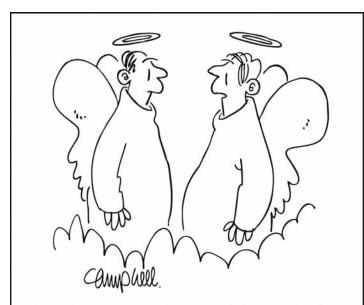
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Our Thanks To Anthony Prudente and Sign-A-Rama 125 A Medford Ave., Patchogue 631-447-500 For their generous donation of signage supporting our Wesley Dinners



"They kept asking if I wanted fries with that, and I didn't want to seem rude ...."





# **Dinner And A Show**

The church will be hosting its first murder mystery dinner theater at 5 PM on Saturday, May l4. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$40 per couple. Food donations, especially desserts, will be gladly accepted and will bring a \$5 discount on your ticket. Our MYF will be participating. Child care will be available..

The play "A Family to Die For" was written by Lawrence Boddy. Larry's roots in Patchogue go back many generations. He is donating his play, production expertise, recruiting actors who will donate their talents, and is one of the main characters. There are a few female parts available for members of our congregation. If interested or for more information please call me at 475-5339. Please invite your friends to join you. Enjoy a great fun night out, while raising money to replace our 100 year-old tired old boiler. See you there.

—Dave Hollowell

Golf Classic 2011 May 25 Calverton Links 1:00 PM Shotgun Start 3 Hole-in-One Contests Includes Lunch, Beverage Cart, Cocktail Hour, Choice of Steak or Lobster Dinner

## Hearings on Radicalization of Muslims Condemned

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United Methodist General Board of Church & Society is among more than 20 faith groups that stood "shoulder to shoulder" to protest the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security's series of hearings examining "radicalization" in the American Muslim community.

The faith leaders announced their objection March 10, following the committee's first hearing. They said "Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values" is a campaign of national faith-based organizations and religious denominations to promote tolerance and put an end to anti-Muslim bigotry.

We stand united with all Americans in urging our elected representatives to act, not against a single, unfairly maligned group.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., chair of the Committee on Homeland Security, has been accused of "modern-day McCarthyism." Dozens of civil rights, national security and faith-based organizations have objected to the singling out of one community of faith, charging that it is contrary to the U.S. value of religious freedom.

After introducing "Shoulder-to-Shoulder" at a press conference, its proponents said they would spend the afternoon and early evening meeting with members of Congress and White House officials. They intended to express their concerns about rising anti-Muslim rhetoric and sentiment, particularly from representatives of government.

The faith leaders said they gathered to "affirm that we stand united with all Americans in urging our elected representatives to act, not against a single, unfairly maligned group, but against all forms of violence and extremism that endanger our security."

#### False witness

They called it false witness to assert that Muslims as a broad group are not deeply devoted to America's safety and the peaceful interaction of its entire citizenry.

The rationale for these hearings rests on an assertion that the American Muslim community has failed to support American law enforcement in its efforts against terrorism, according to the faith leaders. They said this assertion is false, and cited a study by Duke University indicating that "the largest single source of initial information" in helping prevent terrorist attacks were members of the Muslim community.

"We urge the members of our government as well as citizens of good will to refrain from passing judgment on religious or faith groups based on the actions of the few who pervert their spiritual traditions through acts of violence and hostile rhetoric," the faith leaders said. "We believe that politicians, cultural figures and members of the media are never justified in exploiting religious differences in order to advance ideological or political aims."

Endorsers of "Shoulder-to-Shoulder" include American Baptist Churches USA, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Islamic Society of North America, National Council of Churches, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalist Assn. of Congregations, Sojourners, The United Church of Christ, and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

-United Methodist Board of Church and Society

## **Stewardship (from Page 3)**

through Bonnie's efforts. Another grant of \$2000 is expected to support our Wesley Dinners through a request by County Legislator Jack Eddington. Thank you Bonnie and keep on searching.

The Knapp/Swezey Foundation's grant has provided the funds to promote another matching grant campaign. A few years ago the generous gift of \$10,000 from an anonymous church member, allowed us to have our first matching grant campaign.

Tom Bracken, our Finance Secretary, championed the last campaign. It ended successfully with more than \$10,000 being raised. Tom is running this matching grant campaign and using "bricks" to fill an outline of the church. These will be in \$50, \$100 or larger amount bricks. Already \$1,350 had been donated for the new campaign. Please buy your brick and let us match this new grant.

Our major fund raiser for the church is the Golf Outing. This will be our sixth Outing and will be held at the Calverton Links on May 25. Each year we need volunteers to make gift baskets that are auctioned off at the dinner. Linda Werner is coordinating the basket making and would appreciate hearing from you. Please call her at 730-3674 or talk to her at church. There will be a 1 PM shotgun start. The package includes lunch, beverage cart, cocktail hour and choice of steak or Lobster dinner. If you would like to play or know of someone who might, please invite them to join us. For more information call the office 475-0381. Join us for a really great day in the sun.

-Dave Hollowell

**The United Methodist Church of Patchogue** 10 Church Street, Patchogue, NY 11772



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.

#### Address Service Requested



# **United Methodist Women**

On April 1, 2011, a very dear lady, Connie Halliwell, passed from this physical world into the spiritual. In addition to being a loving mother and matriarch of her large extended family, Connie was an integral part of UMW for many years. Twice president, missions coordinator, fair organizer, she was part of that wonderful generation of women in this church that had (and have) an unshakeable commitment to mission and to serving others. She worked hard to do God's work, and did so with grace, kindness, and unfailing good humor. We will miss her radiant smile and generous spirit (and great hats).

A reminder: On June 11, at 4 p.m., the UMW will present a high tea for all women of the church, of all ages. In addition to enjoying a variety of teas, yummy scones and other tasty treats, we will have a program which will celebrate the awesome women who have gone before us, and culminate with a lively auction.

Another reminder: Our regular May meeting will be on May 21, 9:30 a.m. All welcome.

Final reminder: Ladies, look for the invitation to the 2nd Mother's Day Lunchless Luncheon. For the nominal sum of \$10.00, you can remain home in your jammies, and consider all the good you are doing.



5/1 Christopher McGrath Jr. 5/2 Kelli Pearson 6 5/4

Thomas DeCrescenzo 5/5 Emma Hillman 5/6 Raymond Butler Dana Butler 5/8 Justine Lazzarino 5/9 Kelsy O'Reilly 5/11 Noah Lyons 5/13 Meggan Kryssing 5/15 Hannah Gross 5/22 Zachary Long 5/23 Amanda Rose 5/24 Kevin Leahy 5/27 Conor McGrath 5/30 Laela Mutha

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