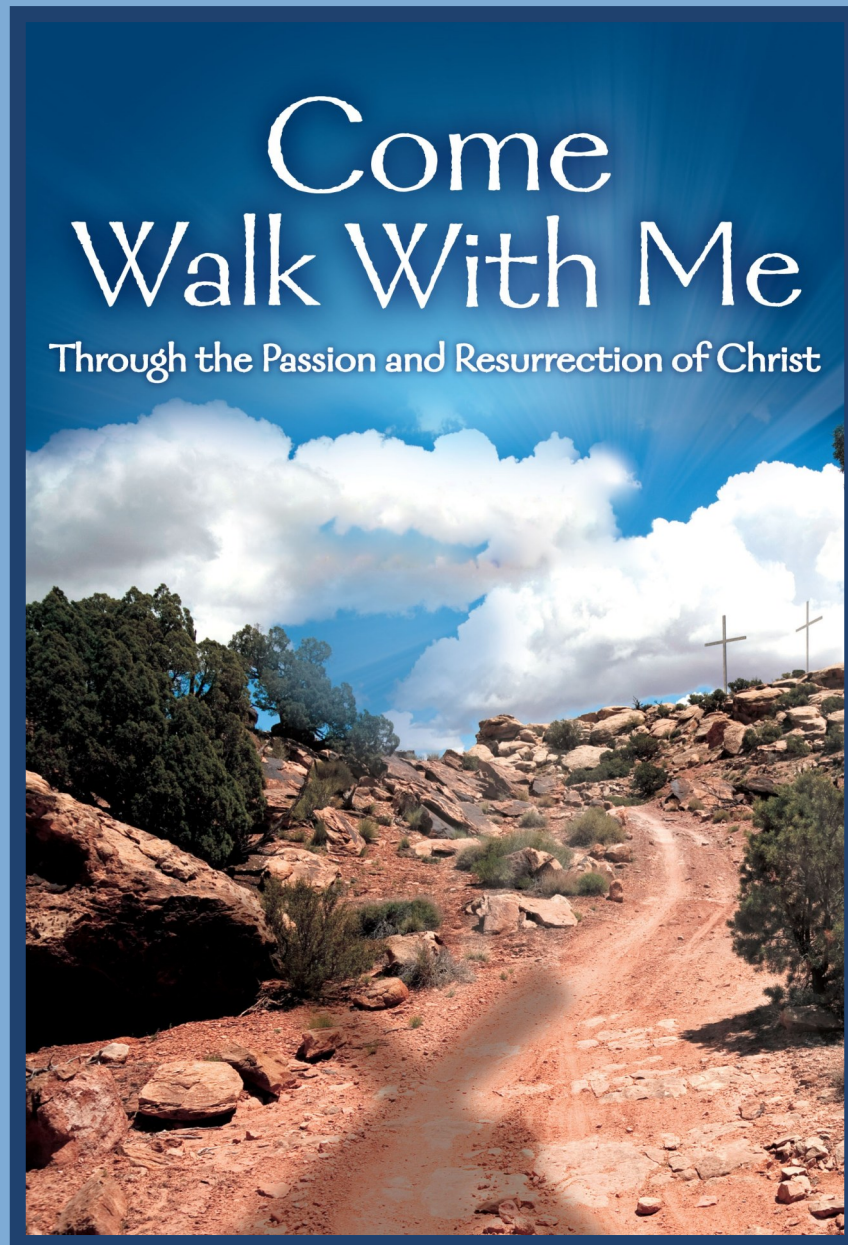


The River of Life United Methodist Church  
Chancel Choir presents  
an Easter Musical Celebration

April 13, 2025  
9:30 am & 3:00 pm  
2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI



Come  
Walk With Me

Through the Passion and Resurrection of Christ

The Current of The River of Life

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

April 2025

Vol. 42 Issue #04

# River of Life United Methodist Church

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus*

*Worship Location - 2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511*

*Office Location - 2375 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511*

*Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm*

## STAFF

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608-482-0021

**Kelly Lutzow**

608-362-8866

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**Office Manager**

*Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com*

**Director of Music**

**Pianist**

**IT-Production Manager**

**Teaching Pastor**

## LAY LEADERSHIP 2024

**Ad Council Chairperson**

Open

**Annual Conference Lay Members**

Bob Scheets & Carol Scheets

**Armed Intruder Chairperson**

Barb Kuska

**Board of Trustees Chairperson**

Kathy Rodgers

**Decorating Committee Chairperson**

Tracy Maxwell

**Finance Chairperson**

Open

**Hospitality Chairperson**

Diane Gemignani

**Lay Leader**

Pat Sands

**Memorials and Wills Chairperson**

Marietta Axmear

**MCCI Implementation Team**

Pastor Brenda

**Missions Committee Co-Chairpersons**

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

**Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson**

Kelly Clark

**Tech Team Chairperson**

Derek Bergh

**Youth Ministry Team Chairperson**

Karen Parssinen



**Sick or out of town for the weekend?**

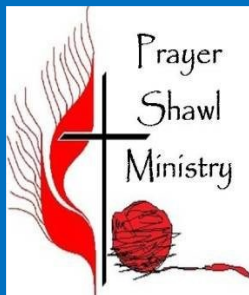
The Sunday morning Service is on the website, on Facebook, and also on our YouTube channel.

**Remember to "Like" us on Facebook at**

[www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc](http://www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc)

**And on Youtube at**

<https://www.youtube.com/@riveroflifeumcbeloit4853/streams>



Please contact the office if you or a friend would like a prayer shawl. We have many shawls to share.



# From the Pastor's Desk



How did you get through that giant wind storm from a couple of weeks ago? Did you have any property damage?

We had a couple of small things that we had to take care of, then a couple of days after the storm, we noticed that the 4x4 foot egress window in the closed-off mechanical room of our basement had blown in! The whole window, frame and all! That window is mostly below grade with a large window well around it. That must have been some strange wind to blow it in!

The wind can be very powerful! I am grateful that it didn't do more damage, that we didn't have a tornado, and that we don't live where there are hurricanes.

The wind can also be helpful, drying clothes on a clothesline and turning turbines to create electricity. It can also be lovely, blowing leaves gently and creating a cooling breeze on a hot day.

In the Bible, the Hebrew word for "wind" is the same word as "spirit," including the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be gentle and lovely, helping us to feel warm, cared for, and loved by God. The Holy spirit can be helpful, strengthening us to do important work in loving people. The Holy Spirit can also move powerfully. It was the Holy Spirit's power that raised Jesus from the dead. We are praying for that power of the Holy Spirit to do miracles in our church and in our lives.

Have you prepared yourself for that power? If you are praying our Breakthrough Prayer and really mean it, the Holy Spirit power may come with a jolt!

Keep praying our Breakthrough Prayer! We will have a marvelous April. There will be fun activities along with the Cantata, Holy Week and Easter. Through all of it, keep praying that Breakthrough Prayer! Things have been bubbling. Let's see how strong of a Holy Spirit gust will come our way!

I'll see you in church, where we pray for each other and our church,

Love, Pastor Brenda

## Help for the Stewardship Team

### Alternative Ways of Giving

*How much do you feel called to return to God to say “thank you” for the blessings you’ve received? In reviewing your finances and taxes for the year ahead, we invite you to consider the following creative options for meeting your charitable giving goals.*

Your Gift	How to Make that Gift	Your Benefits
Appreciated stock, securities, or other assets	Donate stock, securities, or mutual fund shares through the Foundation at no fee.	An income tax deduction and avoidance of capital gains tax. This allows you to make a larger gift than if you made it with cash.
Direct gift of up to \$108,000 from Traditional or Roth IRA	If you’re 70-1/2 or older, ask your IRA administrator to make a gift directly to the church or another charity from your Traditional or Roth IRA.	You can make a generous gift that is tax-free and can count for the mandatory minimum withdrawal from your IRA. It is a direct gift to charity, which means you do not pay income tax on the withdrawal. Nor does it affect your Social Security income.
Deferred Gift from an IRA or other Retirement Plan	Name the church or another charity as a beneficiary of the remaining assets after your lifetime.	You’ll be able to leave your less heavily taxed assets to family, and others that you love.
Real Estate	Donate property to the church through the Foundation.	Avoid capital gains taxes, receive an immediate charitable deduction, and possibly establish a life income trust.

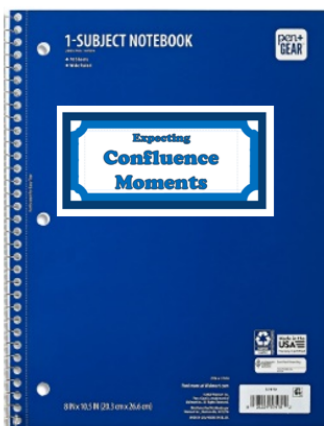
**For ideas on how to maximize the impact of your giving contact:**

Questions? Contact Rev. Krystal Goodger, President, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at 608-837-9582 or email [kgoodger@wumf.org](mailto:kgoodger@wumf.org).



Please cut out this Breakthrough Prayer Card and keep for your reference. People we prayed for this month will be conveniently listed on the back of the card once cut out.

**Holy Spirit, release your resurrection power. Break through our doubts and hesitations, bringing miracles of new hopes, new dreams, and new possibilities for our church and in our own lives. Empower us with boldness to follow where you lead us, beyond all that we could ask or imagine.**



### **During Lent You Are Encouraged To Expect Confluence Moments!**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. During Lent we are going to be bold in our expectations that God is going to bring us new hopes, new dreams, and new possibilities!

Each day, spend some time reading your Bible, reading a devotional, or just speaking your heart in prayer. Then spend 5-10 minutes being quiet, expecting God make God's self known in your meeting there.

If your mind wanders, which it will, you may want to think of yourself as a leaf on a stream, floating along, as it comes to the river of God's presence.

Write down anything you thought or felt during that time.

In what way might God break through your doubts and hesitations during this time? How might God call you to follow where he leads you? How might you find this time utterly amazing?!

## People we are praying for



† Ace	† Jim	† Matt
† Ace	† John	† Ron
† Ann	† Kerri	† Rose
† Austin	† Kristen	† Shane
† Barb	† Linda	
† Charley	† Lyfe	
† Doug	† Mark	
† Doug	† Marlene	

## Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

+ Bob Lang

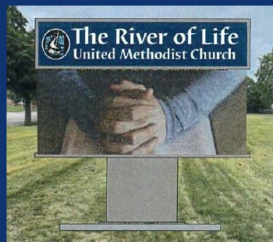
### *Fresh Flowers for the Sanctuary*



Would you like to provide flowers for worship?

You may bring in flowers for no reason, or there can be a sentence in the bulletin that states the special occasion for which the flowers are being provided.

Look for the flower sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



**Our new electronic sign is being put on hold due to an expected change in ordinances in the City of Beloit.**



# Hobby Club Alert!!!

## Satisfy your “need for speed”

- April 13, 12:00-1:30 pm
- Miniature electric race cars
  - 3 sizes/scales: HO, 1:43, 1:32
- Racing for all ages/skill levels
- 6+ speedways set up for your enjoyment
- Take a Sunday drive or compete with your “frienemies”
- ROLUMC Beloit Center of Speed in Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, Sunday, Sunday - BE THERE!!!!**



We will continue planning to meet the second Sunday of each month. Carol Connors will be our presenter on May 11. We always look forward to her presentations and are looking forward to welcoming her home!

In March we painted rocks like Easter Eggs and had a great time! Future leaders include Patti Novy, who will teach us a small quilting project, Kelly Lutzow will lead a diamond painting craft.

If you have a craft or hobby to share and would be willing to lead, please contact Kelly Lutzow or Pat Sands to get on the schedule. We look forward to seeing you May 11 !



## Midwest Mission Adult Mission Trip

The first wave of the Adult Mission Trip left on Sunday afternoon, Mar. 23. The second wave left on Wednesday morning, Mar. 26. They will be excited to share their experiences in the next Current.

Carol Allen

Bruce Cawkins

Margaret Hansen

Jerry Parsons

Barb Sheffield

Darlene Breden

Lora Cawkins

Kelly Lutzow

Sarah Parsons

Ellen Butchart

Diane Gemignani

Bob Novy

Tish Polzin



## Knit & Crochet With A Mission

April 30th at 1:00

Office Workroom



All knitters & crocheters are invited!

Questions? Call Sandy Ovist at

608-362-6583







## Confluence Moments Videos!

A Confluence Moment is a time when God's Spirit and our spirit flow together in such a way that there is no doubt that we have had an experience of God. To help others see how God is working in their lives, won't you make a video of a Confluence Moment you have had?

Please make a horizontal video, less than three minutes in length and send it to Pastor Brenda. We will be sharing these videos in worship and putting them on our YouTube page. Blessed videoing!

## Hospitality Fellowship

Thank you to all the people who helped with snacks this past February and March!

Lora Cawkins

Joan Michels

Karla Clark

Cindy Ferger

Pat Sands

Marlene Sturdevant

Kathy Weiser

Lynn Caple

Marge Johnson

Carol Allen

Kaitlyn Peters

Cindy Peters

Diane Gemignani

Sarah Parsons

The kids and adults in the Tutoring Program

Everyone who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring

There are lots of opportunities to sign up to bring snacks this spring. The Sign-up clipboard is either at the end of the snack table or on the counter by the recycle bin. When you sign up, it helps to pair up with someone. Or you can sign your name, and soon someone else will sign up to join you. You don't have to completely fill the table with food. Keep it simple. We will gladly eat and enjoy whatever you bring! Thank you for considering this!



We could use extra donations of snacks on Sunday, April 13, when we have the Cantata. There will be extra people during Fellowship. You can drop your items off in the kitchen. Thank you!

Did you hear about the  
Hopscotch Easter Jam  
at River of Life United  
Methodist Church on  
April 16?

What?

Please join us at

5:30 Free Dinner  
6:15 Crafts and Games  
6:45 Egg Hunt

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit WI

[www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com)



## Guess Who I Saw! \*\*

A friend was telling me about visiting her cousin in Clinton. She helped her cousin get ready to see Elvis who was visiting her care facility. She showed me a photo, and I said, "I know her!!"

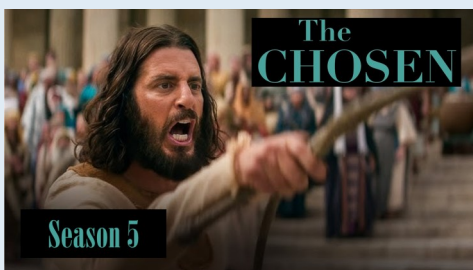
Mary Meech! I knew Mary back in the 1980's. She and her parents, Byron and Wyona Meech, used to attend the early (8:00 am!) service in the chapel of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC downtown. Dale and I attended that service with our toddlers. We tried to keep them quiet and entertained. The Meech family always made us feel welcome, and they enjoyed having children at the early service.

I also remember Mary as the manager at the Speedway gas station on Milwaukee Rd. in Beloit.

If you would like to send a card or visit Mary, her address is:  
709 Meadow Park Dr. Rm 215  
Clinton, WI 53525.



\*\* If anyone gets to see a former church member or a church member who participates from home, please ask them if they would like their picture shared with the congregation. We love to see how people are doing and we love to reminisce! Just send the photo to Diane Gemignani with a brief description, and she can get it ready for the next Current. Send the information and photo through email [Dianegem23@gmail.com](mailto:Dianegem23@gmail.com), or text 608-290-5274.



Season 5 of "The Chosen" is at the Beloit Classic Cinemas! The seven episodes (three separate movie times) will be about Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Contact Bob Parssinen if you would like to go to the theater with the group from River of Life.

# Sleeping Mat Work Days

It has been a year!! April 17th was the first time that people started to weave sleeping mats at a circle meeting and our first mat was completed May 7th. 17 sleeping mats have been completed at the time writing this article.

Many, many people have been involved in this project. A LOT of learning and work has happened since then. People have:

- † had great fellowship
- † learned to weave
- † taught others to weave
- † cut and looped many bags
- † discovered and tweaked new ideas to help us
- † added a second loom
- † saved bags
- † told their friends about the project.

We now have people involved in our church who weren't before. They are saving bags for us and coming to weave with us. People have been served who do not have a bed at night with a small bit of comfort and protection. Sleeping mats have been given to Stateline Works of Mercy, Salvation Army, 1st UMC in Appleton and have some yet to give.

We are excited to start our next year of weaving. Would you like to join us? We work from 9:30-11:30. You can come anytime during that time slot. There are several jobs and you can choose what you'd like to learn to do. Do you want to weave before or after worship on Sunday? Ask any of the current weavers to get you started if you don't know what to do.

**April weaving times are**

- † **Friday the 4th**
- † **Wednesday the 9th**
- † **Friday the 18th**
- † **Wednesday the 23rd**
- † **and Friday, May 2nd**

Questions? see Diane Gemignani or Sarah Parsons





## **LOOSE COINS**

### **April -- Caritas**

April Loose Coins will go to Caritas, the community resource center founded 50 years ago by several Beloit churches, including ours. Caritas offers the largest food pantry in the area, as well as a diaper pantry and community garden, serving families in the entire state line area.

Our Caritas representative, Pat Sands, reports that collections are coming in, but the needs are always great. Caritas serves over 700 families per month, providing healthy food offerings like fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and a variety of protein sources. Families can access the food pantry and the diaper pantry twice a month.

Soon the community garden program will start up for the year. It provides seeds, plants, tools, and training, along with a plot in the community garden so that families can learn how to provide their own food.

### **May -- Conference Ingathering for Midwest Mission**

Just a heads up for May.

During the month of May we will be collecting both Loose Coins donations and toiletries items for the Conference Ingathering, to benefit Midwest Mission.

The Ingathering is a collection sponsored by the Wisconsin Annual Conference to aid a charity selected by the Conference. They have chosen Midwest Mission again this year. Each church is asked to collect cash and in-kind donations in May and deliver them to Annual Conference in early June.

We will be collecting toiletries items for the Personal Dignity Kits that Midwest Mission sends out. More information will follow in the May Current, but you may remember the usual items: hand towel, washcloth, single tooth brush, single bar of soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion.

Thank you as always for your generosity! You may give to the Loose Coins offering in any of these ways: Drop your change in the offering plate, include a check or bills marked for Loose Coins, click on the Donate button on the church website (<https://www.rolumcwi.com>), or scan the QR code below with the camera on your cell phone.

-- Ellen Butchart



### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30 am via Zoom. **Contact Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.**

This group is studying the book of Daniel.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:15 pm in person, in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall.

***This group is watching and discussing "Jesus And His Jewish Influences" by Great Courses.***

### SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Saturday Morning Bible study meets on Zoom at 7:30 am. Bob Parssinen leads the group using videos from "The Bible Project."

**Contact Bob or Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.**

### SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 11:00 am in the Middle School Room. Video clips from "The Chosen" and "The Bible Project" combine with scripture to fuel lively discussions.



**Join us for tutoring on  
Wednesdays at 3:30!**

**Make a difference in children's lives!  
Wednesdays after school!**



**I would LOVE to be a tutor!**



**I would LOVE to provide snacks!**

**Contact Karen Parssinen today!**



## AN APRIL DAY

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May.  
But if you so much as dare to speak,  
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,  
A wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle  
of March.

Robert Frost

**Firm**

**Focus**

**Core Strength  
&**

**Friendly**



**Tuesday & Thursday 9:00—10:00**

A low-impact exercise class has begun in our Fellowship Hall. Focus is on improving balance through core strengthening. Class is on Tuesday

Issue deadline:

**April 28**

The next newsletter  
will be available on

**May 4**

## Circle Calendar

All women are invited to become a member of a Circle. We encourage you to come and enjoy fellowship with the ROLUMC women's community. Here are the meeting times, dates and contact persons. Please join us for a time of joy, learning, and service.

Martha Circle Wednesday April 16 at 9:30 at Carol Braukhoff's home

**Martha Circle:** 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.  
For details contact: Carol Braukhoff  
608-299-8738

**Mary Circle:** 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.  
For details contact: Jacque Patch  
608-362-7729

# April Calendar

April 1	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team
April 2		NO WATR - Spring Break
April 4	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
April 7	5:00 PM	Bell Choir
April 9	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
April 12	10:00 AM	Cantata Rehearsal
April 13	9:30 AM	Come Walk With Me Easter Cantata
April 13	12:00 PM	Hobby Club - Bob Parssinen Model Car Racing
April 13	3:00 PM	Come Walk With Me Easter Cantata
April 14	5:00 PM	Bell Choir
April 15	5:00 PM	Finance Meeting
April 16	9:30 AM	Martha's Circle - Carol Braukhoff hosting
April 18	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
April 20		Easter Sunday
April 22	4:00 PM	Hospitality Meeting
April 23	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
April 28	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
April 29	11:00 AM	Missions Committee Meeting
April 30	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
May 2	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
May 4		Special Sunday: Native American Ministries
May 6	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team

## Sunday

9:30 am Sunday Worship  
11:00 am "The Chosen" Bible Study

## Monday

12:30 pm Card Club (FH)

## Tuesday

9:00 am Exercise Group  
10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH)  
1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)

## Wednesday

10:30 am Adult Bible Study (Zoom)  
3:30 pm Tutoring  
5:30 pm WATR Dinner  
6:15 pm Adult Bible Study (FH)

## Thursday

9:00 am Exercise Group  
4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Friday

—

## Saturday

7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)  
5:30 pm Saturday Worship



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**April 3**

Bob Parssinen

**April 5**

Tom Alverson  
Carol Allen

**April 6**

Carol Scheets

**April 7**

Paige Parish  
Pam Sylvester  
Kim Kuska

**April 9**

Frankie Ward  
Nora Strother

**April 10**

Sarah Parsons

**April 12**

Sheryl Horvath

**April 4**

Bettie Jo Bussie

**April 15**

Donna Hammett

**April 16**

Ray Hartje

**April 19**

Jon Butchart  
David Clark  
Marvin Miller

**April 21**

Barbara Kuska  
Kathy Allen

**April 22**

Tom Hamlett

**April 23**

Joan Michels

**April 24**

Kelly Clark

**April 25**

Judy Paddock  
Phil Story

**April 29**

David Robinette

**May 1**

Shelby Ward  
Dennis Boschma  
Liam Woody  
Elzbieta Strother

**May 2**

Alan Wilson

**May 4**

Kathy Smith  
Jacob Christensen  
Dallas Conniff

**May 5**

Linda Matthews

**May 7**

Laverne Hays  
Fran Patch

**May 8**

Mindy White

**May 9**

David Carlson

**May 13**

Diane Mitchell

**May 16**

Trey Caple

**May 19**

Julie Day

**May 23**

Steve Austin

**May 24**

Jacque Patch

**May 25**

Diane Kittelson

**May 26**

Eva Hoff

**May 29**

Tony Bachim  
Dale Gemignani  
Corrine Jersild

**May 30**

Claire Parsons  
Charlotte Jacobson  
Kennedy Maxwell

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

**April 5**

Brenda & Dan Whitford

**April 11**

Dale & Diane Gemignani

**April 17**

David & Mary Haas

**April 30**

John & Cheri Butchart

**May 1**

Doug & Tina Henthorn

**May 12**

Dallas & Ashley Conniff

**May 26**

Tom & Joan Michels

**May 31**

Robert & Patti Novy