

Make your Online Donation Do More



For those that are donating using on line options learn what you can do so more of your donation gets to the church. *See page 4*

Climb aboard for our trip down Route 66



Elder Bob Harick describes the changes coming to our adult education programs as we encourage everyone to put the T in TEAMS in action. *See page 5*

Jubilee Initiatives



Board of Elders Chairman, John Gingrich, shares updates on major Board initiatives that help will help set the foundation for our

Jubilee year and the next 50 years!

See page 6

Ash Wednesday, set for Feb 14



Senior Associate Pastor Jordan Medas talks to us about the meaning of Lent and describes opportunities

for the entire family to Know Christ through our Wednesday Night Lenten programs. *See page 8*

Interested in getting on a TEAM?



Elder for Congregational Care, Mike Green, identifies ministry opportunities that are simple to participate in and fundamental to Making

Christ Known. *See page 11*



Cantata Choir

T.E.A.M.S on display

Christmas at the Church embodied the TEAMS vision as church members hosted the community and family during the second annual Christmas Festival and Christmas Cantata performances.

Over 50 volunteers helped to organize and support the Christmas Festival, which is an opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to come to the church to fellowship with activities designed for the whole family to enjoy. Both indoor and outdoor activities allowed visitors to see the entire church facility and meet and interact with members. There were young children's activities in the lower level, Christmas cookie decorating in Fellowship Hall, and outside, you could ice skate, ride a train, bounce house, and refuel with food trucks.

Leaders consistently commented on how responsive members were to volunteer their time. Volunteers remarked on how

they enjoyed meeting and talking with guests and meeting fellow members they did not know. As one volunteer commented, "It is a great opportunity for people that attend different services to come together and get to know each other as you work together."

Congregational artistic talents were displayed at this year's Christmas Cantata as the choir performed Christmas Colors. This year's Cantata was written by Worship Minister Kevin Paxton and church member Gil Elvgren, using the gifts God has given them to bring the sermon series The Colors of Christmas to life in the telling of Jesus's birth. The Cantata was performed in the Worship Center, allowing for a unique lighting and sound experience. With each color of Christmas, narrators Gil Elvgren and Donna Blackistone dawned the color, while the background

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T.E.A.M.S.

Continued from page 1

lighting changed as they passionately told the story with the Choir performing. Long time attendees commented on this performance being one of the best they have experienced since attending the annual performances.



Singing and snapping choir.



Gil Elvgren and Donna Blackistone narrating Colors.



Kathy Pellegrin and Makela Paxton accompanied choir.



Our cookie elves assisting in decorating.



Even a visit by Santa gave big smiles.



Ice skating elves waiting for participants.

From our Senior Pastor

Route 66 Don't Be the Town of "Not Much in Between"

"...to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."
(Ephesians 3:19 NRSV)



Rev. Adam Colson

Along the famous historic Route 66 Highway, there is a small town in north-western Dallam County called Texline. The town is named for its location next to the New Mexico and Texas state line. For many years, both states have been disputing whether the town belongs to New Mexico or Texas. The simmering dispute seems out of place as there is little in Texline. It had a grandiose beginning in the late 1800s. A new railroad line had been installed along the border, and Texline was the thriving town at the center of the new railway. Many shops, hotels, churches, and businesses went up in the little town almost overnight. The entertainment industry rushed to Main Street Texline to "get in" on the new booming economy. But as happened with many of the towns and tourist destinations along Route 66, within a few years, most of the shops had closed, and the town's population shriveled. The latest census numbers have the population at 507. David Egner wrote Texline "has a city limits sign at one end, another at the other end, and not much in between." He then says, "What a shame if that description could be given of our spiritual journey!"

Our Christian journey begins when we understand what Jesus has done for us and take hold of his wonderful gift of Salvation. It ends when we enter into the "joy of our reward" in heaven. So what happens in between? As a church, we have committed ourselves through our motto to "Know Christ and to Make Christ Known." That is what should be happening in between. We should be doing all in our power to know Christ more through studying his word, going through the Bible and allowing it to go through us, and by dedicating ourselves to prayer. Over the next 3-4 years, we as a church will be journeying through a sermon series called "Route 66". We will travel through the 66 books of the Bible, digging deep into what the scriptures teach us about life and the world in which we live. We will learn together and grow together to broaden our Biblical worldview. At the same time, we will use the scriptures to help us see how we, as a church, should be making Christ known to our families, neighbors, and communities.

The Apostle Paul prayed that believers would "be filled to the measure of the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). He wanted them to know life "to the full" (John 10:10). God desires to give us a marvelous beginning with salvation and a great ending in Glory, but he also wants us to have so much in between. My prayer for you is the same thing I pray for myself, "God, may we know you, the power of your resurrection, and join in the fellowship of your sufferings as we make you known!"

As we celebrate our Jubilee (50-year anniversary) in 2024, we want to take time to celebrate what God has already done, but we also look with great anticipation and obedience to what God is calling us to do for the next 50 years. The universal church in America has lost significant ground in the church-to-population ratio. There are more than 273 million people in North America who are without Christ. As a community, mission-focused church, LOWC has identified four areas to concentrate on in the coming years. We encourage every church attendee to move from simply attending to joining the T.E.A.M. In our desire to "Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known", we are committing as a church to:

Continued on page 4

Men's CHILI Cook-OFF
SATURDAY, MARCH 9
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
FRIENDSHIP HALL
CONTACT PASTOR MODISSETTE
FOR MORE INFO @ 540-972-9060

Route 66

Continued from page 3

T: Teaching the Word of God powerfully, Spirit-led, unapologetically, so that all who come through our doors will experience “Knowing Christ”. Our Route 66 series will help us with this commitment.

E: Evangelizing our neighbors, families, and those in our community with God’s message of love, hope, and peace that is the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ so that we can be “Making Christ Known”.

A: Actuating Art by bringing artistic ideas to life using the creativity God created in us (we are all made in the image of our Creator God). We will seek to glorify and worship God through action, movement, and implementation of all creative means available (visual arts, performing arts, and musical arts). We will use our talents to draw others to Jesus Christ.

M: Missioning to the lost world. Using all means necessary (medical, dental, evangelistic, carpentry, sports, benevolence, mental and emotional care, and justice), we will support, take, and send the message of Salvation to a lost and dying world.

By this, all will know that we are followers of Christ. Climb on board, join the TEAM, and buckle up as we travel down Route 66. I look forward to taking this journey with you!



Are you looking to join the **T.E.A.M.**? On Sunday, Feb 4, the Gathering Place will be filled with displays from each Elder describing their ministries. Stop by between services, meet the Elders and their leadership teams, and discover what opportunities are available to join the **T.E.A.M.** See you Sunday!

Direct Deposit is cost effective

1 Cor 9:7 tells us, “*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*” Here at The Lake of the Woods Church, we have a great many cheerful givers who **willingly give of their time, talent, and treasure.** Last year, we received over \$1,395,000* in total donations. Most of this was offerings to the general fund; money that keeps the doors open, pastors and other employees paid, the plant running, services conducted, people in need being helped, and events happening. Other income such as facility rent, interest earnings, and miscellaneous income helped to support other programs with an added \$32,000.

Most of our giving comes through written checks (including those sent through banking systems), cash, and direct deductions from checking accounts. However, Online donations totaled about \$363,000, with most of that going to the general fund (*normal operations money*) and a portion specified for things like **The Living Water Clinic, Children’s and Youth Ministries, or Community Outreach.**

These Online donations come to us by those who link over from our website or scan the QR code in the weekly bulletin. This quick and convenient method of giving has been a real boon to LOWC, especially since COVID hit four years ago. God loves these cheerful givers as well as all others, and if this method works for you, we hope you will keep on giving. **However, you may not realize that we paid over \$9,000 for this service last year alone.** These are funds that could be released to accomplish more in the community. Because direct deposit funds are fully realized to our accounts, **donors can do more by making the same donation through our Direct Deposit program.**

How do you do this? Just complete our form, tell us how much to deduct monthly, and provide a voided check to the LOWC Treasurer. **Around the 10th of each month, this amount will be automatically deducted from your checking account.** You can change or stop the deduction amount simply by notifying the treasurer. **Using this approach will eliminate fees, and an additional 2.5% will contribute even more savings!** Please consider this alternate means of giving if it could work for you.

**All amounts are approximate annual totals*

T.E.A.M. in Action

Embarking on a journey of renewal in Adult Education Ministries

As we joyfully step into the church's Jubilee year, we are thrilled to announce the revitalization of our Adult Education Ministries. In this spirit of renewal, we are introducing some positive changes to enhance your learning experience.

Firstly, our beloved Small Groups **will now be known as Home Groups**. Each Home Group will have a designated Coordinator responsible for reporting monthly attendance and any group openings to the Elder for Adult Education. The studies within Home Groups, just like before, **will continue to be approved by the pastoral staff**.

In addition to Home Groups, we are introducing new Small Groups led by dedicated teachers. All groups will follow a curriculum approved by our pastors, ensuring a consistent and enriching learning experience for our entire church community. We are more than willing to provide training for teachers and offer teaching materials as aids to facilitate the learning process. Teachers will be able to submit attendance records and join monthly Zoom meetings with the Elder for Adult Education

For those who have been enjoying our current Bible studies, Sunday School Classes, and Book Club Groups, fear not! These will continue as usual.

Excitingly, we have plans for new Bible Studies, with a vision to involve every member of our congregation in at least one Home Group, Small Group, Bible Study, or Sunday School class, alongside our vibrant Men's and Women's ministries. Our commitment is to support every adult in knowing Christ and making Him known in their community.

Anticipate transformation within our church as we embark on the Route 66 sermon series, placing a strong emphasis on Bible-focused studies for adults, youth, and children. Stay tuned to the CrossCurrent newsletter and weekly bulletin for exciting Adult Education opportunities.

Should you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to the Elder for Adult Education at adulted@lowchurch.org. **Your participation and engagement are crucial as we embark on this inspiring journey together.**



Save
the
Date

April 27, 2024
Women's Retreat
Hope - an anchor for the soul
Watch for more details...

Ellie Lofaro will
be returning as our
speaker.

WE HAVE THIS hope
AS AN anchor FOR THE SOUL,
FIRM AND SECURE.
— Hebrews 6:19 —

A detailed illustration of a dark blue anchor surrounded by a variety of colorful flowers, including pink roses, orange peonies, and smaller blue and white blossoms, all set against a white background.

Message from the Board of Elders

Embracing a jubilee of new beginnings and spiritual growth

This is a wonderful time – a time of new beginnings or at least building on the legacy of our 50 years – our Jubilee. We are beginning our journey for the next 50 years as a church. We are excited to be on Route 66 learning more about our God and enjoying Him even more. He calls us to be with Him – to follow Him – that is what T.E.A.M. is all about. Being a follower of Christ is about *Knowing Christ* in such a dynamic way that our lives are forever changed. He commands us to be His witnesses which is *Making Christ Known* as our response to His new life in us.

This year we have set an exciting journey before us. Let me update you on a few ongoing initiatives.. We are opening our Outreach Center (Center) on Route 20 to enhance our partnership with the Living Water Community Clinic (Clinic) and the community. As approved by the Congregation, the Board of Elders authorized the Trustees to sign a one-year lease for the space located next to the Clinic. We are working diligently to set up a committee to oversee the operation of the Center. The committee will be chaired by the Elder for Community Outreach, Ron Morris.. There are lots of details to be worked out in the coming days to include buildout of the space. We will have an update in February.

We will be installing a much-needed elevator and increasing access to our church for those with physical challenges. In 2023, the Board of Elders began investigating the feasibility of adding an elevator to the church. When the worship center and the lower level were built, an elevator shaft was created so that an elevator could be added in the future. Since its construction, the technology and building codes have changed significantly, so while the physical shaft exists, it must be evaluated against current codes and equipment. Therefore, we hired an architect firm to do a detailed review of our current structures and identify all required modifications and associated costs. We will report in February the results of the architect's work.

We are seeking to expand participation in our various Bible studies and numerous volunteer activities. On February 4th we will have **T.E.A.M. Day** where each Elder's ministry team will have tables in the Gathering Place to allow you to

learn more about where God is at work in your Church. Of course, we will continue with our outstanding Children and Youth Programs and many other ministries.

This year presents unique opportunities for God to work through us, accomplishing His work in our Church, the community, and around the world. *Are you ready to grow in Christ by being part of the T.E.A.M.?*

In Him we have our being,
John Gingrich, Chairman

50 YEARS JUBILEE
T eaching E vangelizing A ctualizing art M issioning



Celebrate
EASTER

at

Lake of the Woods Church
50 YEARS JUBILEE
Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

Easter Services:
7 a.m., Lake of the Woods - Clubhouse Point
8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m.,
The Lake of the Woods Church

Meet your Elders, Trustees and Treasurers for 2024

Board of Elders Chairman



John Gingrich

Vice Chair, Elder of Worship



Dan Schofield

Admin., Budget & Tech. Elder



Barbara Schach

Adult Education Elder



Bob Harick

Buildings & Grounds Elder



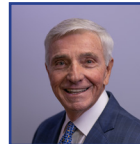
Joe Roth

Communication Elder



Erich Wachendorf

Community Outreach Elder



Ron Morris

Congregational Care Elder



Mike Green

Missions Elder



Jared Bueng

Young Families & Childre Elder



Kristen Ulrey

Youth Elder



Beth Richards

Board of Trustees Chairman



Dan Porter

Board of Trustees



Vijay Paul

Board of Trustees



Jim Nellis

Treasurer



Tom Tower

Assistant Treasurer



Donna Valentine

Assistant Treasurer



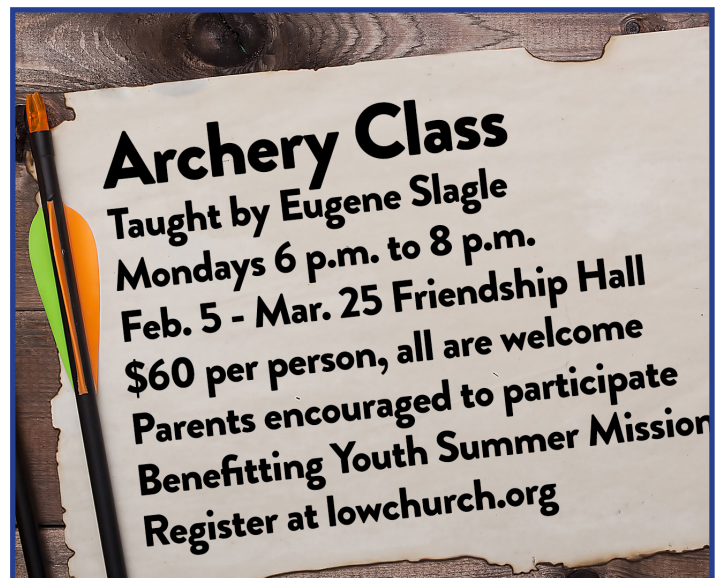
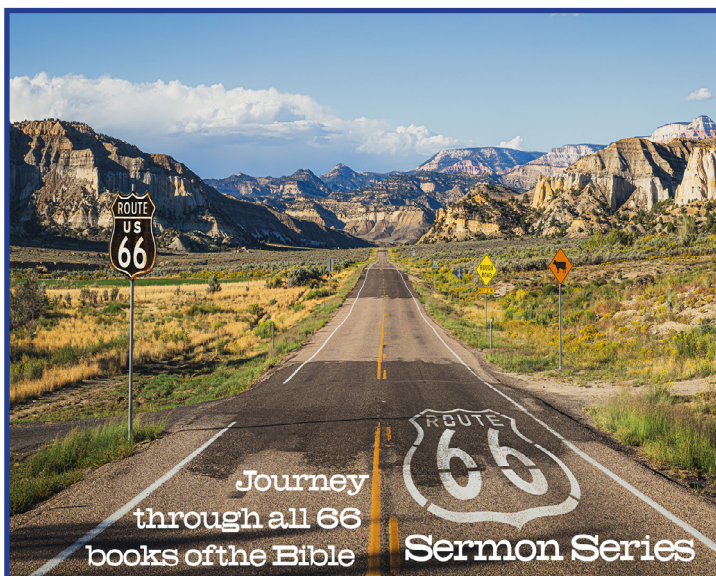
Diane Rivenburg

Assistant Treasurer

Olin Greene

photo unavailable

To contact any of the officers go to the church's web page and just click on their picture.



Knowing Christ during Lent

Dear Church Family,

As we eagerly await the sacred season of Lent, we warmly extend an invitation to your entire family to join us for a poignant and contemplative Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This solemn gathering marks the commencement of our Lenten journey—an opportune period for introspection, repentance, and drawing closer to God.

Post-Ash Wednesday, our church family will unite every Wednesday evening for a series of meaningful events. Commencing at 5:30 p.m. in the Friendship Hall, the weekly Lenten Soup Suppers offer a chance for warm fellowship and nourishment. Following these communal meals, a reflective Communion service at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary will allow us to partake in the sacrament that unites us as one body in Christ.

At 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday, we invite you to engage in a Lenten study based on Gary Thomas' book, titled "Sacred Pathways"—a spiritual exploration to understand our unique ways of connecting with God. Simultaneously, we are delighted to announce dedicated Lenten studies for teens and children starting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, offering age-appropriate and engaging opportunities for spiritual exploration.

This Lenten season calls for not only sacrifices but also an embrace of renewal and transformation. Each Wednesday evening, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 14th, promises a multifaceted experience tailored for every member of our church family. Join us as we collectively journey towards a deeper understanding of our sacred pathways and a fortified relationship with God.

May this Lenten season foster reflection, growth, and unity within our church community.

Rev. Jordan Medas
Senior Associate Pastor

Sacred Pathways

**A Lenten study based on the book
by Gary Thomas.**

How do you best connect with God?

Who, in the Bible, connects the same way?

How do others connect with God?

**Find out Wednesdays, Feb. 21 - Mar. 20,
at 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**Join us for Soup Suppers
beginning at 5:30 p.m.
each Wednesday night in Fellowship Hall.**

**Young Families
Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 24
1 P.M. TO 2 P.M.
Meet in Friendship Hall**



Missions update...

Missioning in Action

In early August 2023, wildfires tore through Maui, killing over 100 people and damaging/destroying over 3,000 structures. The Church Missions team partnered with Samaritan Purse, an international relief organization, and your generosity provided funding to support their relief efforts. Those efforts recently concluded, and here is what they accomplished: 700 Volunteers completed 929 work orders for site clean up, 41 Tons of relief supplies were airlifted to the area, Chaplains prayed with 10,000 residents, and 102 people came to faith in Christ!



Photo credit Matthew Thayer; via AP News - Just no words.



Samaritain Purse worker shifts through rubble.



Workers from Samaritain Purse help with rebuilding.

Prayer for Missions

Our Father and our God, your Word reminds us of your special concern for the poor, the homeless, and those facing adversity. We pray for those living under bridges or in make-shift tent villages, and for those who have too little to eat. Bless our ministry to the destitute through our partner, the Thurman Brisben Center, and give them the gift of hope as they learn to put their trust in you. We ask this in Jesus' name. *Amen*

GOT A HURT,
HABIT OR
HANG-UP?

**CELEBRATE
RECOVERY**
A CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM



Come join us on Wednesday Nights!

Dinner starts at 5:30 until 6:30 p.m.

Worship starts at 6:30 p.m.

Groups til 8 p.m.

All Welcome!

T.E.A.M. upcoming events...

Calendar for church activities for the next 90 days...

FEB	MAR	APR
4 th – TEAM Sunday	24 th – Egg Hunt	16 th – TRIAD Conf
14 th – Ash Weds Service	29 th – Good Friday Service	19 th /20 th – Home Helps
21 st – Lent Study Series	31 st EASTER 7am Sunrise Svc	27 th – Women's Retreat



Friday Prayer Service

9 a.m. Sanctuary

For more information contact
Mike and Linda Green at mkkkj@msn.com
All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Congregational Care provides many opportunities to serve

Congregational Care at The Lake of the Woods Church (LOWC) consists of many ministries that address the needs of the Congregation through support groups, Chaplains, and Congregational event ministries. As you prayerfully consider T.E.A.M., here are ministries for your consideration:

Our church-wide Friday Morning Prayer Ministry is led by Mike & Linda Green and everyone is invited to attend on Friday mornings at 9 a.m. We pray for our Church Pastors, Elders, Staff, ministries and missions. We also pray for individual members who need our prayers. Please come and join us. You bless others, and you will be blessed!

Greeters – Greeting is fundamental to our Sunday services, led by Terry Maple. Greeting is a great place to get to know church members, and you are the first person a newcomer meets. We have greeters for all three services. There are many slots to fill, and serving here is so fun!

The Welcome Center is the place where newcomers to our church can find out more about who we are as a church. Vicki Wachendorf leads this ministry and volunteers staff the center after each service. Each volunteer serves one service about once every three months.

Celebrate Recovery is one of our newer support ministries celebrating their one-year anniversary on Feb 7. Led by Kip and Marsha Metzger, they meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

Can you identify with any of these?

Fear, panic, worry, lying, unforgiveness, resentment, pornography, pride, grief, guilt, shame, divorce, low self-esteem, depression, pain, anger, over-eating, people pleasing, marital/relationship issues, betrayal, job loss, stress, worry, anxiety, loneliness... The list goes on and on and on.

Living in a broken world, we all deal with pain and hurt. No one has the ability, nor should they have to face their hurts alone.

Celebrate Recovery is a biblically balanced approach to help bring sustainable recovery and healing to our hurts. It guides us toward new healthy truths and life-giving habits as we repair our broken relationships and allow Jesus to RECOVER us. (Luke 15:21-24)

A testimony from one of our attendees:

"At 68 years young, I was dealing (poorly) with hopelessness: coming out of a 13-year relationship that I thought would last forever. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired, of living and doing things "MY way" – a way that always failed me.

Deep inside, I felt like there had to be something different. Seven months ago, I was introduced to Celebrate Recovery at LOW church and started coming. Soon after, I realized something was very different about myself...as did others.

For the first time EVER, I spoke the words "I know God loves ME" and meant it. That had never happened before...

It's because of CR and the small groups there, along with a newfound trust in God, that my thinking began to change. I feel a huge sense of Love from God and others now. I am very grateful that CR is showing me a road less traveled. A road that begins with the realization that God IS REAL and loves me so much.

I am learning just how much Jesus can heal your worst pain or hardship if you just trust him to unleash his Love and abundance onto you.

CR works folks, don't you owe to yourself to find out?" –

All our ministries will be on display on Feb 4 for T.E.A.M. Sunday.



THREE WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 GIVE BY MAIL (OR DROP OFF)**
(Cash, Check)
1 Church Lane
Locust Grove, VA 22508
- 2 GIVE ONLINE**
(Checking, Debit/Credit)
www.lowchurch.org/give
- 3 GIVE BY TEXT MESSAGE**
(Checking, Debit/Credit)
Text "GIVE" and any amount to
540-625-1492

THE LAKE OF THE WOODS CHURCH

February Birthdays

1 Christian Colson	Minda Edmiston
Robert Harrington	18 Sandy Roth
Steve Johnston	19 Kathy Flanagan
2 Christopher Robertson	20 John Bowles
Clayton Cangelosi	Jordan Medas
3 Frances Lynch	Krista Simpson
4 Betty Lewis	Mark Everhart
Bonnie Snoddy	21 Angie Neely
5 Jeremy Tidman	Cecilia Rios
Kathleen Olmstead	Eva Rico
6 Anne Milligan	22 Diane Blackwell
Deanna Jones	Evelyn Anderson
Mildred Davis	John Nash
Timothy Riffe	23 Janice Williams
7 Ginny Biggs	Jason Mitchel
Jody Puckett	Joyce davis
Linda Green	Phyllis Palestri
Louise Fletcher	24 Mike Kranz
Ryan Flanders	25 Barbara Rakes
8 Benny Taylor	Diane Kennon
Scott Connell	Franklin Farrel
9 Debbie Jockin	Sonya Walsh
Michelle Grgurovich	26 Alexandra Greenan
Wendy Brooks	Roger Anderson
10 James Davis	27 Deborah Greeno
Michael Rieley	28 Barbara Consentino
12 Allen Gwaltney	Michael Tidman
Deo Hardman	Olivia Craft
13 Charm Fletcher	29 Michael Rugless
Irene Robinson	
Robert Dwyer	
14 Vince Cangelosi	
15 Don Smith	
16 Cassidy Perez	
Michael Daymude	
Wendy Gwaltney	
17 Christy West	
17 Jeannie Dietz	
Judy Swarthout	
William Aegan	
18 Carol Twedt	
Dan Porter	
18 Heather Amore	

February Anniversaries

1 Steve & Janice Johnston	14 Randy Whitehead & Susan Barnes
2 Lawrence & Martha Adams	
5 James & Josephine Davis	23-Feb Kevin & Kristen Maris
13 Jack & Toni Ruther	24 Kyle & Susanne Breckenridge-Helsel
Ed & Jennifer Suche	



Please remember in your prayers the following members of our congregation who are ill or in the hospital:

Heather Austin
Mark Blattert
Lindsay Cole
Carl Cornwell
Susan Dyer
John Hughes
Carol Lee
Bud Lewis
Clark Munsell
Rick Nelson
Dave O'Hara
Selena Rave
Shelly Seymour
Martha Somerville
Henrick Thode

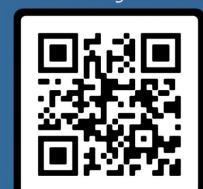
Steve Bell
Connie Chapin
Johanna Colson
Danny Delongis
Joyce Hetrick
Olivia Knights
Greg Leitz
Janice Mackes
Ann Nadwodney
Tom & Lois Northam
Mary & Lonnie Paxton
John & Ann Sawyer
Linda Sipe
Beth Sundberg
Rose Tuminaro

WELCOME!
 NEW? NEED INFO?
 SCAN HERE



or go to lowchurch.org

WE GIVE because
GOD GAVE FIRST
 Scan here to give online.



or go to lowchurch.org/give